

THE BIBLE IS;
40 AUTHORS, 66 BOOKS CONTAINING 774,746
WORDS WITH ONE STORY TO TELL!

The Bible is a book of contrast between **light** and **darkness**.

Light is **life**, but darkness is **death**!

The light of life draws unto God, but darkness drives away.

- GENESIS 1:3-5, 26-31 & GENESIS 3:8-24

Eternal God creates by Word, light appears, and darkness is divided.
Unashamed, man enjoys the light, sin drives man to darkness and shame.

- JOHN 1:1-5

History repeats, God intervenes:
Christ enters the world- God's light to men!

- REVELATION 20-21:4

Darkness is dealt with!
The old story is complete, the new story begins!

"And the One sitting on the throne said, 'look I am making all things new.' And then He said to me, 'write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.' And He also said, 'It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give the springs of the water of life without change. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be My children. But cowards who turn away from Me, and unbelievers, and the corrupt, and murderers, and the immoral, and those who practice witchcraft, and idol worshipers, and all liars- their doom is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death." *Revelation 21:5-8*

*"Yes, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all."*

Revelation 22:21

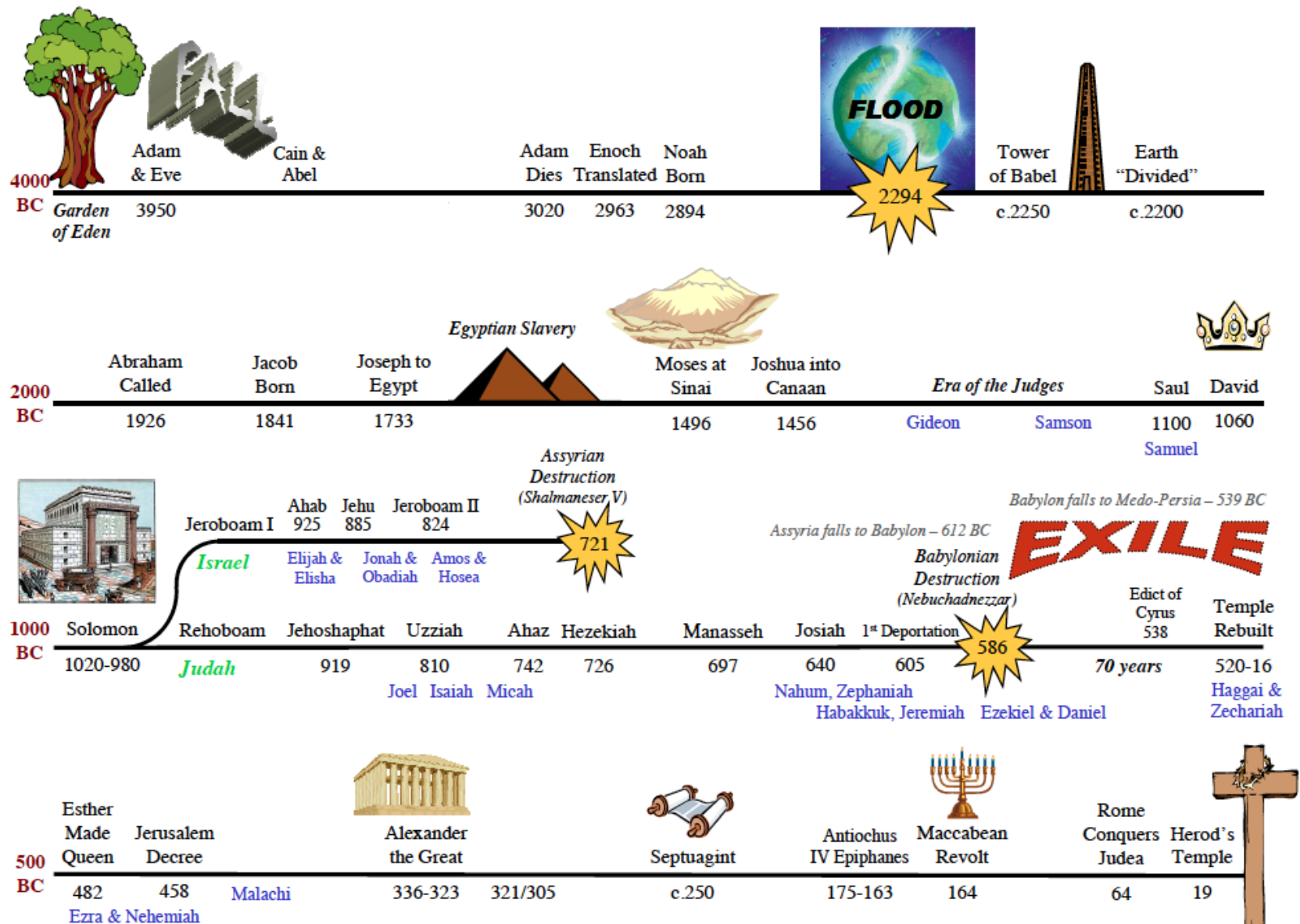
The Bible Map

Like a large grocery store, the Bible is diverse. Each book of the Bible, like each aisle of the store offers diverse information and teaching. Within each book are separate chapters, just as each aisle has many different shelves. With great diversity, it's amazing to know that each book and chapter compliments the next. There are no contradictory teachings in God's Word.

Each book, and each chapter is important, but not all books or chapters are particularly relevant for every teaching. The better we know the layout of our Bible, the better we will be able to find and use relevant teaching. What we need is a Bible Map...

Let's start with the two largest divisions in the Scripture—
The Old and New Testament.

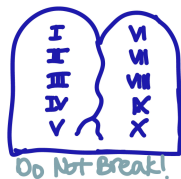
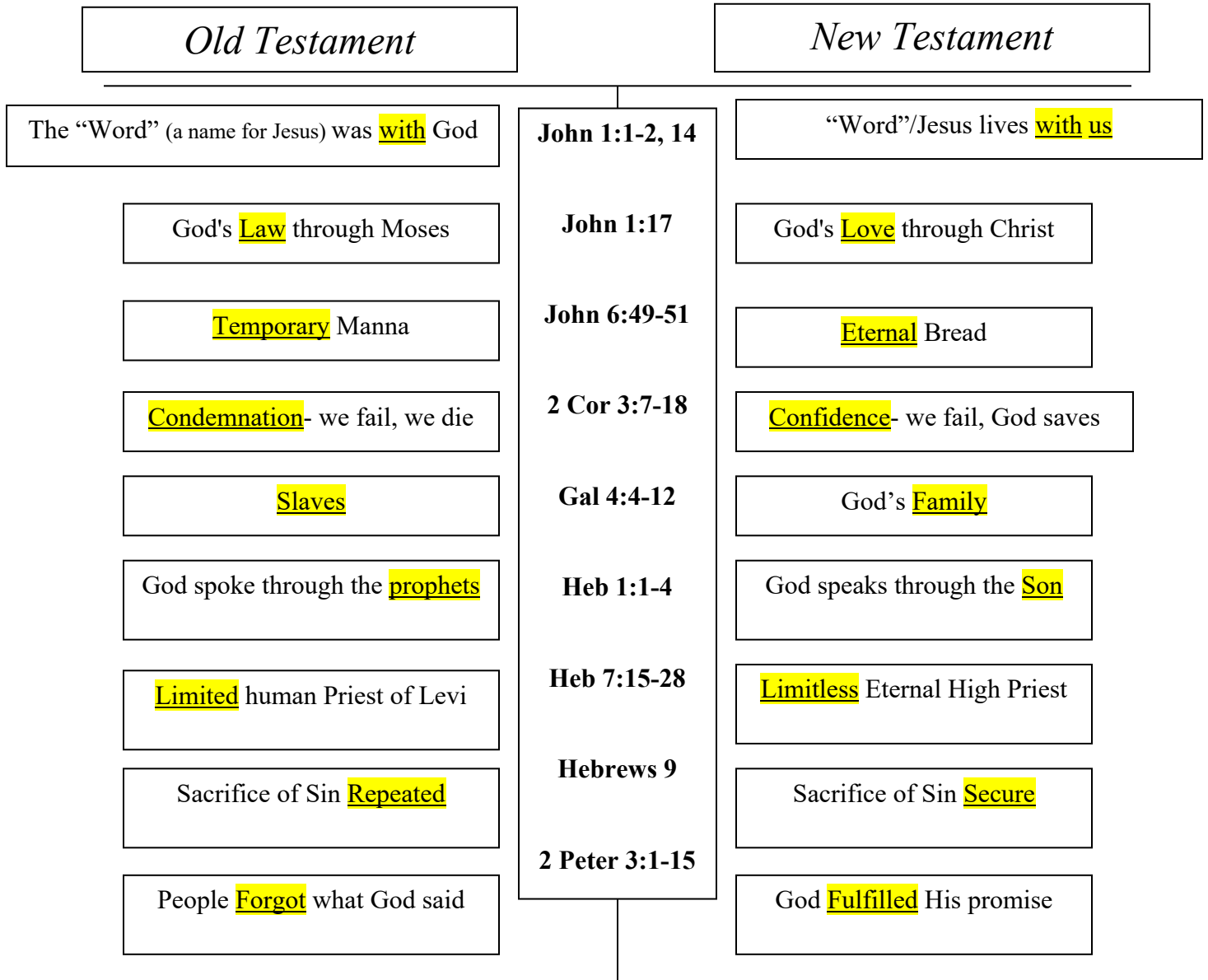
- What is the central teaching of the **Old Testament**?
 - Who were its authors?
 - Who is its audience?
-
- What is the central teaching of the **New Testament**?
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 - Who is its audience?



The Relationship between the Testaments

JESUS CONNECTS IT ALL.

"Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith..." 1 Timothy 3:16



The Old Testament

The OT is the first 2/3rds of the Bible. It covers over 4000 years of history. With 39 books, it shows that sin brings pain and separates humanity from God. Try as we may, in the Old Testament, people can't stay right with God. God's Laws of stone, the 10 commandments instruct people on how to live the perfect life, but no one is able, and as a result, all are guilty of sin. Pre-incarnate Jesus is seen in over 300 prophecies. From the Garden of Eden, the flood, the exile, the 10 Commandments, the Tabernacle, the Temple and the Passover Lamb, Jesus is woven into the Old Testament tapestry.

The Old Testament Scriptures are written in four styles. Some books contain more than one style. It's important to remember when reading the Bible that the books are not always listed in Chronological order:

- Law (nearly all O.T. books contain some part of God's Laws)
- History (Genesis – Esther)
- Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)
- Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi)

Genesis- *"In the Beginning".*

- Creation/ The fall of man (sin).
- Early years of Israel.

Exodus- *"Redemption- God saves".*

- By God's power, Moses leads the people of Israel out of Egypt.
- God gives His people His law (10 commandments) at Mt Sinai.

Leviticus- *"Worship".*

- God gives the priests and people rules to live by.
- "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" (19:2).

Numbers- *"The record of Wanderings- life in circles"*

- 40 years in the wilderness.
- Life just outside the Promise Land.

Deuteronomy- *"Covenant Renewal".*

- Remember God's promise.
- Personal responsibility.
- What God has done, what God expects, what God will do.

Joshua- *"Victory and Responsibility".*

- Israel takes the Promise Land.
- Faith in action.

Judges- *"Up's and Down's".*

- Backsliding and gracious deliverance.
- Faith in one generation, rejection in the next.

Ruth- *"Preservation for God's faithful".*

- Many worship false Gods, one worships the True God.

1 Samuel- *"Times of Change".*

- God's chosen leader rejected, a king is appointed.
- God's people want to be like the "other" people.

2 Samuel- *"King David, a man after God's own heart".*

- Good times in Israel.
- Humanity of man; the sin of David.
- The grace of God to those who love Him.

1 & 2 Kings- "Rise and Fall".

- Solomon is King.
- A Temple for God.
- Obedience and blessing (1 Kings 9:4-5).
- Apostasy and judgment (1 Kings 11:11).

1 Chronicles- "God's editorial on history".

- A look back at the royal line and reign of David.

2 Chronicles- "Unity under God".

- The temple is central to life.
- A closer look at Judah and its righteous kings.

Ezra- "Restore and Reform".

- The temple of God is restored.
- The faithful remnant struggle to reform their lives.

Nehemiah- "Security and hard work".

- Jerusalem's city walls are rebuilt.
- The Jews resettle.

Esther- "God at work behind the scenes".

- The Jew Ester is used to save her nation and lead Persia as queen.
- Haman conspires against the Jews and is hung in his gallows.

Job- "Triumph through trial".

- Job loses family, friends and his health.
- Job questions and cries out to God.
- Job keeps a God perspective and submits to authority.
- Job is blessed again.

Psalms- "Songs from the heart".

- Prayers to God.
- Prophecy of God's future provision.

Proverbs- "Wisdom of man".

- Advice for daily living.

Ecclesiastes "A life without God is no life at all".

- Life spent away from God is meaningless.

Song of Solomon- *"Love".*

- Love and sexuality between a man and woman.

Isaiah- *"Prophecy of the coming Savior- a call to come back".*

Jeremiah- *"God's rebellious people".*

- Deserving of God's anger.
- Disaster ahead.
- God still loves His people.

Lamentations- *"God suffers when we suffer".*

- Consequence and mercy.

Ezekiel- *"Announcing Judgment".*

- Israel needs a new heart and a new spirit.

Daniel- *"God's Devine control".*

- True worship is personal worship.
- God never abandons those who worship Him.

Hosea- *"God loves the prostitute".*

- Guilty, yet God still loves.

Joel- *"Plagues we bring upon our selves".*

- Promise of the Holy Spirit.

Amos- *"Punishment for God's people".*

- Complacency and worthless religion.

Obadiah- *"Punishment for those who appose God's people".*

Jonah- *"All can be saved".*

- Missionary journey- Jonah resists God's plan.
- God loves the lost when the lost love Him.

Micah- *"Judgment and pardon".*

- The Lord will be King.

Nahum- *"Vengeance belongs to God".*

Habakkuk- *"Evil is on top today, but God will triumph".*

Zephaniah- *"Wake up and come back".*

- Judgment for some, joy for others.

Haggai- *"Finish what you start- rebuilding the Temple".*

- Priorities.

Zechariah- *"Hope will come with Messiah".*

- visions of the coming Saviour.

Malachi- *"All must Honor His name".*

The New Testament- It's the rest of the story! **God's evidence of Grace**

Introduction to the NT:

The New Testament is God's beautiful revelation, giving perspective and complete understanding to the Old. It is **not a contradiction** to the Old, **but a further explanation of Gods heart**. In the words of Paul Harvey, "it's the rest of the story!"

In many ways, studying the Bible is like solving an equation, "a complex of variable factors." – Webster's Dictionary.

Ask any math teacher and they'll tell you, before an equation can be solved, the natural laws of mathematics must be followed, and assumptions must be put aside.

$5x+2=$ isn't an equation, it's incomplete. In the same way, the Old Testament is incomplete, an unknowable because it lacks a part essential to the equation.

$5x+2=12$ is an equation. See the difference?

In this analogy, 12 represents the New Testament. Without the Old Testament, "12" seems random, inapplicable. But when the Old and New Testaments of the Bible come together, it's no longer isolated expressions, but an equation just asking to be solved!

Understanding the NT:

The NT begins with the four **Gospels**, also called the Books of 'Good News'. They are Good News because they tell of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our much-needed Savior— Jesus Christ!

The book of **Acts** follows the Gospels and gives details about the Church. Reading Acts is like watching scenes from a play. Each 'act' talks more about this true-life story of early Christians; how their faith changed the world!

The books known as the **Epistles** written by the apostle Paul, Peter, James, and John come next. These books are follow-up letters that teach, correct, and encourage Christians on how to live out faith in Jesus.

The last book of the New Testament is **Revelation**. Revelation literally means the "**unveiling**". This book offers a "special blessing" to anyone who reads and keeps its words. What kind of blessing? Confidence! Revelation is a book of prophecy. The dictionary defines prophecy as: "prediction with assurance on the basis of supernatural knowledge." A prophecy is only as good as the one giving it. When God gives a prophecy, it's way more than a prediction, it's assurance! When God says something, He means it. If He says it will happen, it will. Prophecy is God's way of putting His Word to the test.

Since the prophecies of Revelation were given, believers have looked to see how God was working in their time, and to see how He would work in the future. Believers know, in the struggle between good and evil, our good God wins!

Revelation shows what the end of earth's story will look like, and it encourages believers to keep putting their trust in God. As time passes, each and every prophecy in Revelation will come true. Many already have! When Biblical prophecy is fulfilled, believers are encouraged! God gives us prophecy not as a secret code, or some mystical drama to watch unfold, but so that believers keep focused on the big picture- God's at work; He loves His creation and will do whatever it takes to work all things together for good. How should we study Revelation? Some think studying Revelation means decoding things that God's has left cryptic. Not only is that approach incorrect, is misguided and dangerously wrong; wrong because it hijacks the point of prophecy. Trying to "decode" is as wrong as reading into Jesus' parables. Just as parables were given to teach a lesson, not to tell us every detail of the story, prophecy is given to give us a big picture understanding of God's ways. When studying Revelation, keep the emphasis where it belongs- on the "deeper things" of the faith, our sin and Jesus' sacrifice to make us right! Revelation 2:24-25 says, **"I will ask nothing more of you except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come."** God doesn't expect us to understand every detail in Revelation, but to trust that He is in control!

Understanding the New Testament World:

Throughout the Old Testament, the Bible seems to center around the Nation of Israel. From its conception with Abraham to its occupation and loss, the Jewish community plays the starring roll. In the New Testament, the world is different. Israel is once again in bondage, but not under the occupation of one particular kingdom surrounded by other kingdoms. This time the known world is controlled by one empire, the Romans.

How did this happen and why is it important?

- 500 BC- the Latin's form the Republic of Rome.
 - 390 BC- the Gaul's invade and destroy the city of Rome.
 - 265BC- the Italics drive out the Gaul's and expand the borders and control of Italy.
 - 264-146 BC- the Punic Wars between Carthage and Rome. Hannibal attacks with elephants but Rome responds with the phalanx and running shoes.
 - 146 BC- Macedonia given over to Rome
 - 65-64BC- The Roman Republic dies- it was over extended.
 - 48-44 BC- Julius Cesar dissolves the consulate and declares himself as emperor.
 - 44-30 BC- civil war
- *200 years of peace- Pax Romana; interrupted by an insurrection of the Jews in AD 60 which was quickly crushed.

God used world conditions to prepare the way and to further the message of the Gospel!

Matthew- *"The life of Christ from a Jewish perspective".*

Mark- *"The life of Christ- in person, work and teaching".*

- Written to Christians in Rome and to believers everywhere.

Luke- *"The life of Christ- a portrait of Jesus work".*

- Written by a Gentile physician.

John- *"The life of Christ- God became man".*

Acts- *"Christian Roots- the beginning of the Church Age".*

- The sequel to the book of Luke.

Romans- *"The big picture of Christian faith".*

- Fundamentals of Human Life.
- Fundamentals of the Faith.
- Fundamentals of New Life.

1 & 2 Corinthians- *"Christians in a corrupt society".*

- The old life is gone, a new life has begun.

Galatians- *"Freedom in Christ fulfils the Law".*

Ephesians- *"Growing strong in Christ- Spiritual Body Building".*

- Believers working together.
- Parallels Colossians.

Philippians- *"The source of True Joy".*

Colossians- *"Believers have all they need in Jesus".*

- Parallels Ephesians.

1&2 Thessalonians- *"Christ will return".*

- A detailed explanation of Christ's second coming.

1&2 Timothy- *"Encouragement and Instruction for a young Christian Leader".*

Titus- *"Instructions for a Healthy Church".*

Philemon- *"Forgiveness- imitate Christ Jesus".*

Hebrews- *"The Old Testament explained".*

- *The Just shall live by faith.*

James- *"Faith, Love, Wisdom and Wealth".*

- *A more practical than doctrinal guide to life.*

1&2 Peter- *"Crave, Cry and Come to Christ- continue to grow".*

1,2,3 John- *"Love as a litmus test".*

- True faith.
- Beware of false teachers.
- Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.

Jude- *"Stay Alert".*

- Remember what you were taught.
- Rescue those who have fallen.

Revelation- *"A revealing from God to creation".*

- Visions of the end of this age.

The following New Testament Timeline depicts many prophetic events that have yet to happen. Some Christians disagree about the order of some of the future events recorded in the Book of Revelation.

The following timeline depicts what is known as a "pre-tribulation" timeline.

For a more detailed pictorial account of these events, I recommend "*The New Panorama Bible Study Course*"-
#1, 'The Plan of the Ages' by Alfred Thompson Eade. I recommend his resource because of its strong Biblical support and because of the quality of its timeline illustrations. I find his resource a great help in visualizing the prophetic books of the Bible.

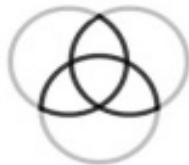
Remember, only God knows with perfect certainty how His plan for the ages will play out.

Tew Testament Gospel Timeline

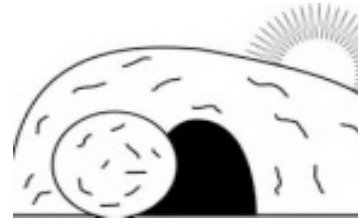


Birth of Jesus Christ

Ministry of Jesus on earth



Jesus resurrection



B.C. 5 or 4

About 30
years of age

A.D. (Anno Domini) meaning 'in the year of our Lord'



Jesus Crucifixion



Jesus ascension



Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

The Church Age



Descent of the
Holy Spirit at
Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21



Christian
Persecution

325 - 1500 A. D



Church
Reformation

1500 – 1650 A. D.

Great Period of World Wide Evangelism



The Bible is translated
in the language of
the people, global
missions seeks to
bring the Word to the
uttermost parts of the
earth!



1 Thesalonians 4:13-18
Christians will be caught up
to the clouds!



Judgement Seat of Christ
1 Cor 3:13-15



Marriage Supper of the Lamb
Rev 19:7-10

Dispensation of the Holy Spirit

The Rapture

Events in Heaven

World Wide Tribulation



Manifestation and
reign of the
Antichrist

Revelation 20:5



"...There will be a
time of distress such
as has not happened
from the beginning of
nations until then..."
Daniel 12:1



Battle of Armageddon
Rev 19:17-21

Revelation 20:1-3

The Final Judgement



Jesus is King of
Kings and Lord of
Lords!

Rev 11:15

Millennial Reign of Christ



Satan let loose.



Satan sent to the Eternal
Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:7-9



New Heaven &
Earth where
Believers will
dwell with God
forever!

2 Peter 3:7-13 & Revelations 21:5

