



# THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 3  
REBELLION & JUDGES

OCTOBER 5 – NOVEMBER 1, 2025

## IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS NOTHING.

Then, in a declaration that shook eternity  
—God said,

“LET THERE BE LIGHT”

Before time began, a story was written...

A story of creation and chaos, of covenants and kings, of exiles and redeemers, of battles—both seen and unseen.

Across the pages of Scripture, woven through generations, one narrative emerges—GRAND in scope, eternal in significance.

This is not just ancient history. This is not just a book.

**This... is the heart of God moving through every page, every person, every promise.**

From Genesis to Revelation, The Grand Narrative is our story—A journey from darkness to light, from brokenness to restoration,

From the garden... to the grave... to glory.

*To glory*

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OCTOBER 5, 2025

# CROSSING THE JORDAN: THE PROMISED LAND

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Joshua 3-4

## **KEY VERSE:**

Psalms 105:5

## **BIG IDEA:**

God wants us to remember  
all of the great things He has  
done for us.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### CROSSING THE JORDAN: THE PROMISED LAND

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Can you recall a meaningful milestone or “crossing” moment in your life? How did that experience shape you or your faith?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Joshua 3-4 (NIV)
- Psalm 105:5 (NIV) — “Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced”



## MAIN POINTS:

1. God goes before us and makes a way, even when obstacles seem impossible.
2. God calls us to step out in faith, trusting in His promises.
3. God desires that we remember and celebrate His mighty works in our lives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What "Jordan Rivers" are you facing in your life right now, and how might God be leading you to trust Him?
2. Read Joshua 3:15-17. How did the Israelites demonstrate faith, and why was stepping into the water significant?
3. What are some practical ways we can "set up stones of remembrance" today to remind ourselves and others of God's goodness?
4. How can sharing our stories of God's faithfulness impact others in our church or community?
5. What is one area where you want to remember God's past faithfulness to give you courage for something new?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God is faithful to lead His people into new seasons and challenges.
2. Stepping out in faith often requires us to move before we see God's provision.
3. Marking spiritual milestones is vital for our own growth and future generations.
4. Remembering God's works helps us strengthen our trust in Him.
5. Sharing what God has done encourages and builds up the whole community.

## NEXT STEPS:

1. Reflect this week on one area where God has brought you through; write down what you learned.
2. Memorize Psalm 105:5 (NIV) and recite it when facing challenges.
3. Pair up with a group member to share stories of God's faithfulness and pray for one another's current challenges.
4. Set aside time as a group or individual for thanksgiving prayer, remembering what God has done.
5. Brainstorm together a way to visibly "mark" or celebrate a recent victory or answer to prayer as a reminder to share with others.

# WEEK 10

## OCTOBER 6

**Reading** Joshua 13-14 - Land division begins

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## OCTOBER 7

**Reading** Joshua 15-17 - Tribal territories

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## OCTOBER 8

**Reading** Joshua 18-19 - More land division

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**OCTOBER 9**

**Reading**    Joshua 20-21 - Cities of refuge

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**OCTOBER 10**

**Reading**    Joshua 22 - Eastern tribes return

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**OCTOBER 11**

**Reading**    Joshua 23-24 - Joshua's farewell

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OCTOBER 12, 2025

# THE JUDGES: DEBORAH

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Judges 4-5

## **KEY VERSE:**

Psalms 145:3

## **BIG IDEA:**

God is sovereign and worthy  
of our praise.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### THE JUDGES - DEBORAH

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Can you think of a time when someone unexpected made a big difference in your life or community? How did that impact you?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Judges 4-5
- Psalm 145:3 (NIV)



## MAIN POINTS:

1. Even in times of chaos, God raises up unlikely leaders.
2. Deborah's courage and faith point us to God's sovereignty.
3. God alone deserves our praise for victories and deliverance.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you seen God use someone you wouldn't expect to make a positive impact? How did that affect your faith?
2. What do Judges 4 and 5 reveal about Deborah's character and leadership style? How did her faith influence those around her?
3. In what situations do you find it hard to trust God's sovereignty? How can Deborah's story encourage you in those times?
4. Why is praise important after a victory or answered prayer? How does Psalm 145:3 (NIV) reinforce this?
5. What is one area this week where you can intentionally recognize and praise God's hand at work?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God often works through unexpected people and situations
2. Faith, obedience, and courage open the way for God's power.
3. True leadership points others back to God.
4. After every victory, our response should be praise.
5. God's greatness is beyond our understanding—He is always worthy of praise (Psalm 145:3 NIV: "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.").

## NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify one challenge where you can choose trust over fear this week.
2. Memorize Psalm 145:3 (NIV) and reflect on what it means daily.
3. Partner with someone in your group to pray for bold faith, like Deborah.
4. Set aside five minutes each day to praise God, regardless of circumstances.
5. Find a way to serve or support someone who might be unnoticed or underestimated in your community.

# WEEK 11

## OCTOBER 13

**Reading** Judges 1-2 - Initial victories

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## OCTOBER 14

**Reading** Judges 3-4 - First judges

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## OCTOBER 15

**Reading** Judges 5-6 - Deborah and Gideon

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**OCTOBER 16**

**Reading** Judges 7-8 - Gideon's victory

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**OCTOBER 17**

**Reading** Judges 9-10 - Abimelech

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**OCTOBER 18**

**Reading** Judges 11-12 - Jephthah

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OCTOBER 19, 2025

# THE JUDGES: GIDEON

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Judges 6-7

## **KEY VERSE:**

Psalm 115:1

## **BIG IDEA:**

God is great, so we should  
give Him all the glory.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### THE JUDGES: GIDEON - GIVING GOD THE GLORY

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Can you think of a time when someone else received credit for something you did, or when you had to set aside your own pride for the good of a team or family? How did you feel in that moment?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Judges 6-7
- Psalm 115:1 (NIV)

## MAIN POINTS:

1. Gideon's humble beginnings and God's unlikely choice
2. God's plan to reduce Gideon's army to show His power
3. Victory belongs to God, so all glory goes to Him

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you felt unqualified or inadequate, like Gideon? How did God use you in that situation?
2. Read Judges 7:2 (NIV). Why did God want to reduce the number of soldiers with Gideon, and what does that reveal about God's character?
3. How can we practically give God the glory in our daily lives, especially in seasons of success?
4. What are some ways pride or self-reliance can get in the way of honoring God's work?
5. This week, what is one area where you need to step back and let God receive the credit, even if it's hard?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God intentionally chooses unlikely and ordinary people so His greatness will shine through.
2. Our limitations do not limit God—His power is made perfect in our weakness.
3. True success is measured by God's work, not personal achievement.
4. Giving God the glory keeps our hearts humble and focused on His purposes.
5. "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1 NIV).

## NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify a recent success or answered prayer and intentionally thank God for it publicly this week.
2. Memorize or meditate on Psalm 115:1 (NIV).
3. Share with your accountability partner one area where you struggle to give God the glory, and ask for support.
4. Dedicate time each day this week to prayer, specifically asking God to increase your humility and awareness of His work.
5. Look for a way to serve others this week where your name is not at the front—do something anonymously or that gives God all the credit.

# WEEK 12

## OCTOBER 20

**Reading** Judges 13-14 - Samson's beginning

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## OCTOBER 21

**Reading** Judges 15-16 - Samson's end

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## OCTOBER 22

**Reading** Judges 17-18 - Micah and Dan

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**OCTOBER 23**

**Reading** Judges 19-21 - Benjamin's war

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**OCTOBER 24**

**Reading** 1 Samuel 1-3 - Samuel's birth and call

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**OCTOBER 25**

**Reading** 1 Samuel 4-6 - Ark captured

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OCTOBER 26, 2025

# THE JUDGES: SAMSON

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Judges 13-16

## **KEY VERSE:**

James 1:19-20

## **BIG IDEA:**

God loves righteousness and wants us to control our anger.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### THE JUDGES: SAMSON - CONTROLLING OUR ANGER

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Think about a recent situation that made you angry. How did you react, and what was the outcome?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Judges 13-16
- James 1:19-20 (NIV)

## MAIN POINTS:

1. Samson was chosen by God but struggled with self-control, especially in the area of anger.
2. Unchecked anger led Samson to make poor decisions with serious consequences.
3. God's desire is for us to pursue righteousness and control our anger.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways do you relate to Samson's challenges with anger or self-control?
2. According to James 1:19-20, why is it important to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"?
3. What practical strategies can help us control our anger before it controls us?
4. How can your past responses to anger be opportunities for growth in your faith and relationships?
5. What steps will you take this week to invite God into your moments of frustration or anger?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God calls us to a higher standard than our emotions.
2. Anger left unchecked can disrupt God's plans for our lives.
3. True strength comes not from physical power, but from surrendering our impulses to God.
4. Righteousness is seen in our ability to listen and seek self-control.
5. With God's help, our weaknesses can become testimonies of His grace.

## NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify one area where you tend to struggle with anger, and ask God for help daily in this area.
2. Memorize James 1:19-20 (NIV): "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."
3. Partner with a group member for encouragement and accountability about anger this week.
4. Commit to praying before reacting when frustration arises.
5. Find a way to bless someone you've felt angry toward, demonstrating the love and self-control God calls us to.

# WEEK 13

## OCTOBER 27

**Reading** 1 Samuel 7-8 - Samuel leads Israel

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## OCTOBER 28

**Reading** 1 Samuel 9-10 - Saul chosen king

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## OCTOBER 29

**Reading** 1 Samuel 11-12 - Saul's kingship

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**OCTOBER 30**

**Reading**    1 Samuel 13-14 - Saul's disobedience

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**OCTOBER 31**

**Reading**    1 Samuel 15-16 - David anointed

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**NOVEMBER 1**

**Reading**    1 Samuel 17-18 - David and Goliath

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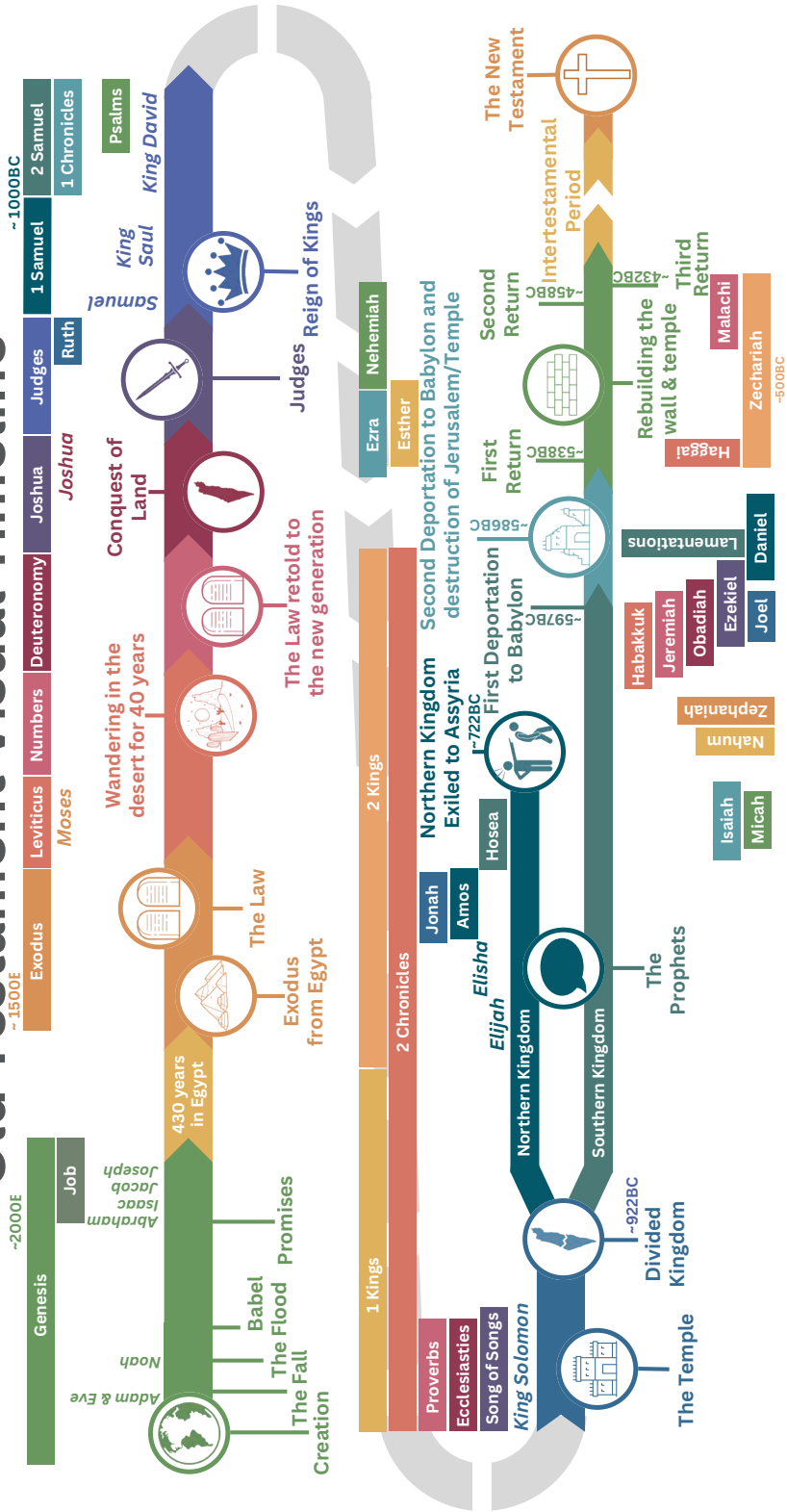
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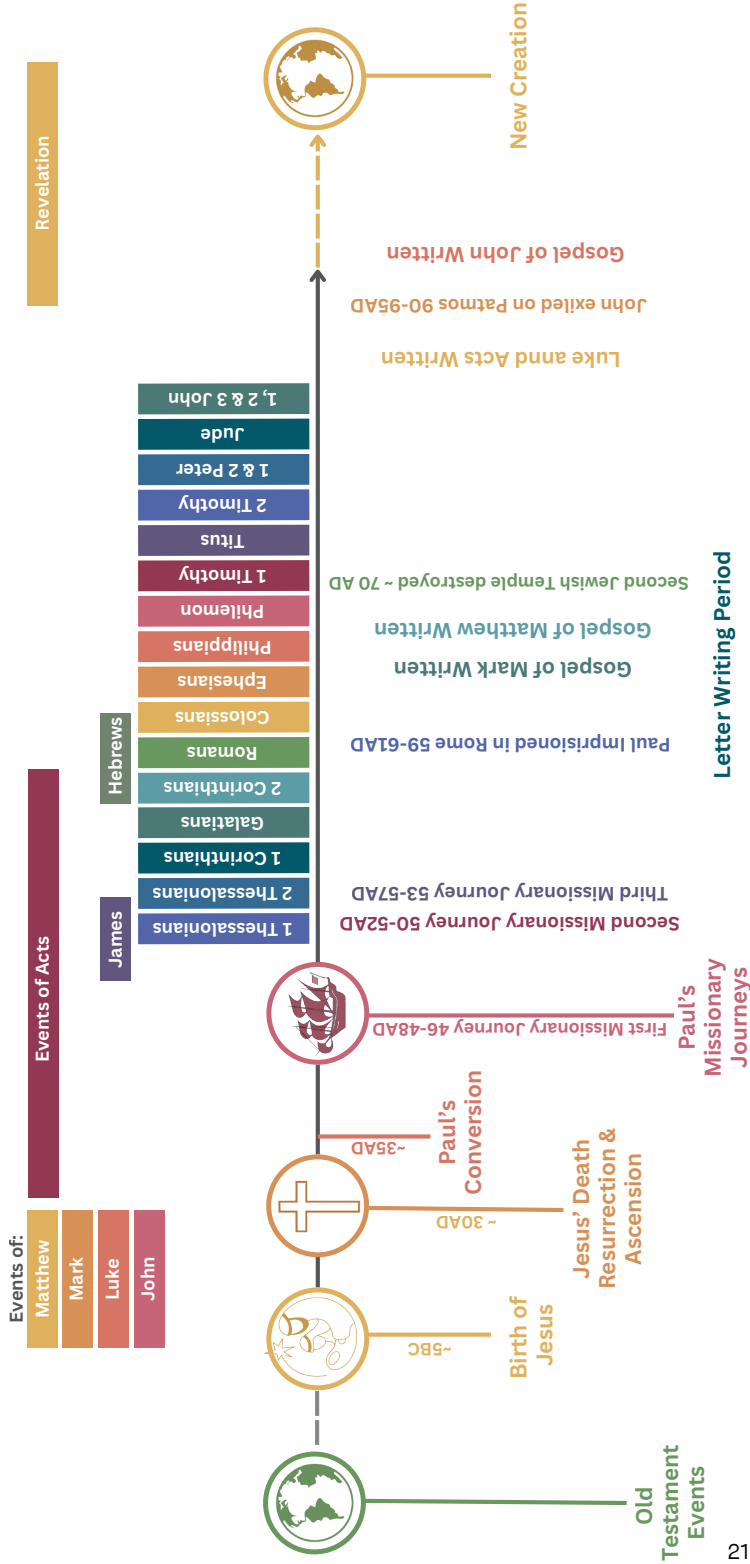
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# Old Testament Visual Timeline



# New Testament Graphic Timeline



## NOTES

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