

DECEMBER 7 , 2025 - JANUARY 3, 2026

THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 5
THE MESSIAH



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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DECEMBER 7, 2025

ISAIAH AND THE BURNING COAL

BIBLE BASIS:

Isaiah 53

KEY VERSE:

1 Peter 2:24

BIG IDEA:

Jesus died for our sins, so we
can live for righteousness.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

ISAIAH AND THE BURNING COAL

OPENING QUESTION:

Can you remember a time when you realized you needed a second chance? How did it feel to be given that opportunity?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Isaiah 53 (NIV)
- 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Isaiah's Prophecy: The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
2. The Cleansing Power of Jesus' Sacrifice (1 Peter 2:24)
3. Living in Righteousness Because of Grace

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does knowing that Jesus died to cleanse your sins personally impact your daily life?
2. Read Isaiah 53 together. What specific descriptions of the "suffering servant" stand out to you, and why are they significant?
3. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." What does it look like to "live for righteousness" in practical terms?
4. In what ways can our group support one another in turning away from sin and embracing God's righteousness?
5. Where do you sense God is challenging you to trust more deeply in His forgiveness or to live more boldly for Him?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, taking our punishment upon Himself.
2. God doesn't just forgive; He purifies and empowers us to live differently.
3. We are called to respond to Christ's sacrifice by pursuing righteous living.
4. The imagery of the burning coal reminds us that God initiates our cleansing.
5. Living for righteousness means both turning from sin and actively living out God's love.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Spend time this week reflecting on Isaiah 53 and confessing any sins, asking God for a "burning coal" moment of cleansing.
2. Memorize 1 Peter 2:24 as a reminder of what Jesus has finished for you.
3. Connect with a trusted friend or accountability partner to encourage each other in making righteous choices.
4. Set aside time daily for prayer, thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and asking for the Holy Spirit's help to live righteously.
5. Look for one way to serve or bless someone this week as an expression of God's righteousness at work through you.

WEEK 19

DECEMBER 8

Reading Ezra 6:13-22; 7:1-28 - Temple completed; Ezra commissioned

DECEMBER 9

Reading Ezra 8:1-36 - Ezra's journey to Jerusalem

DECEMBER 10

Reading Ezra 9:1-15; 10:1-17 - Prayer and reformation

DECEMBER 11

Reading Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-20 – Nehemiah's mission

DECEMBER 12

Reading Nehemiah 3:1-32; 4:1-23 – Wall rebuilding; Opposition

DECEMBER 13

Reading Nehemiah 5:1-19; 6:1-19 – Internal problems; Wall completed

DECEMBER 14, 2025

AN ANGEL ANNOUNCES THE COMING BIRTH

BIBLE BASIS:

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25

KEY VERSE:

Luke 1:45

BIG IDEA:

God blesses those who
believe His promises.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

AN ANGEL ANNOUNCES THE COMING BIRTH

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever received news that seemed hard to believe?
How did you respond?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Luke 1:26-56
- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:45 NIV "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

MAIN POINTS:

1. God communicates His promises in unexpected ways (Luke 1:26-38).
2. Belief and obedience open the door for God's blessings (Luke 1:38, 1:45).
3. God's promises are fulfilled, even when circumstances seem impossible (Matthew 1:18-25).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you found it hardest to believe God's promises? What helped you in that season?
2. What stands out to you about Mary's response to the angel's message in Luke 1:38 (NIV)?
3. How can you cultivate a heart of obedience and trust like Joseph and Mary in your own life?
4. As a group, what can we learn from Mary and Joseph about facing unexpected challenges?
5. This week, what is one promise of God you want to trust more deeply, and how will you act on that faith?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God often speaks to us in ways and at times we least expect.
2. Trusting God's word leads to blessing, even when it doesn't make sense to us.
3. Obedience may require courage and faith beyond what we think we have.
4. God is faithful to fulfill His promises, regardless of our circumstances.
5. We are part of God's unfolding story when we respond to Him in faith.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Individual Action Step: Identify one promise of God to believe and act upon this week.
2. Scripture Memory/Study Step: Memorize Luke 1:45 (NIV) together as a group.
3. Accountability Step: Share your step of obedience with someone in the group; check in next week.
4. Prayer/Spiritual Discipline Step: Pray for increased faith and courage to trust God's promises daily.
5. Community Engagement Step: Encourage someone outside your group who is struggling to believe or trust God's plan.

WEEK 20

DECEMBER 15

Reading Mark – Bible Project



DECEMBER 16

Reading Luke – Bible Project



DECEMBER 17

Reading John – Bible Project



DECEMBER 18

Reading Luke 1-2 | The birth announcements of John and Jesus; Jesus' birth in Bethlehem

DECEMBER 19

Reading Matthew 1-2 | Jesus' genealogy; birth from Joseph's perspective; visit of the Magi

DECEMBER 20

Reading Matthew 3-4, Luke 3 | John the Baptist's ministry; Jesus' baptism and temptation

DECEMBER 21, 2025

THE SHEPHERDS PROCLAIM: JESUS IS BORN

BIBLE BASIS:

Luke 2:1-21

KEY VERSE:

Luke 2:17

BIG IDEA:

Jesus is God's gift to the world, so we can share that gift with others.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE SHEPHERDS PROCLAIM: JESUS IS BORN

OPENING QUESTION:

What is the best gift you've ever received, and how did you feel when you wanted to share the excitement with someone else?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Luke 2:1-21 (NIV)
- Key Verse: Luke 2:17 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. God chose ordinary people—the shepherds—to first receive the good news of Jesus' birth.
2. The birth of Jesus is a gift for everyone, not just a select few.
3. The shepherds responded to the gift by spreading the word and glorifying God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does remembering Jesus as God's gift change the way you celebrate Christmas?
2. Read Luke 2:17 (NIV): "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child." What stands out to you about the shepherds' response?
3. What are some practical ways you can share the good news of Jesus this season?
4. How can our group support each other in being bold and joyful about sharing Jesus, as the shepherds were?
5. What is one area where you need God's help to become more open in sharing your faith?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God uses ordinary people to proclaim extraordinary news.
2. Jesus is a gift intended for all people—no one is left out.
3. The natural response to God's gift is to share the good news.
4. Sharing faith is an act of worship and praise.
5. Living out the message of Jesus brings glory to God and joy to us.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Think of one friend or family member you can share the story of Jesus' birth with this week.
2. Memorize Luke 2:17 (NIV) together as a group.
3. Partner up to pray for opportunities and courage to share the good news.
4. Spend time in prayer, thanking God for the gift of Jesus and asking for a heart like the shepherds.
5. As a group, plan a practical outreach or act of kindness to demonstrate God's love in your community during this Christmas season.

WEEK 21

DECEMBER 22

Reading

Mark 1, John 1-2 | Jesus begins His ministry; first disciples; water into wine

DECEMBER 23

Reading

Matthew 5-6 | Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes, Lord's Prayer, true righteousness

DECEMBER 24

Reading

Matthew 7-8 | Conclusion of Sermon; Jesus' healing miracles begin

DECEMBER 25

Reading Matthew 9-10 | More miracles; calling of Matthew; sending out the twelve

DECEMBER 26

Reading Matthew 11-12 | Jesus and John the Baptist; conflicts with Pharisees

DECEMBER 27

Reading Matthew 13, Mark 2-3 | Parables of the Kingdom; growing opposition

DECEMBER 28, 2025

SIMEON AND ANNA

BIBLE BASIS:

Luke 2:22-40

KEY VERSE:

1 Sam 26:23

BIG IDEA:

God is faithful to His people and
He rewards those who are
faithful to Him.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

SIMEON AND ANNA - GOD'S REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS

OPENING QUESTION:

Can you recall a time in your life when you faithfully waited on God for something important? What did you learn about God and yourself during that season?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)
- 1 Samuel 26:23 (NIV): "The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed."

MAIN POINTS:

1. God is Faithful to His Promises
2. Faithfulness Brings Reward
3. Our Patient Waiting Honors God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where are you currently asked to wait or be faithful in your life? How does Simeon or Anna's example encourage you?
2. What stands out to you about Simeon's or Anna's response to seeing Jesus in Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)?
3. What are some practical ways you can cultivate faithfulness and patient waiting in your everyday life?
4. How can our group better support each other in seasons of waiting or uncertainty?
5. In what areas of life can you take a step of faith this week to show your trust in God's promises?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God always fulfills His promises in His timing.
2. Faithful waiting is an act of worship and trust.
3. God sees and honors the faithfulness of His people, even in obscurity.
4. True satisfaction and joy are found in God's promises fulfilled.
5. We are called to remain steadfast and expectant throughout our journey.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Individual Action Step: Identify an area where you need to exercise faithfulness and ask God for strength to persevere this week.
2. Scripture Memory/Study Step: Memorize 1 Samuel 26:23 (NIV).
3. Accountability Step: Pair up with someone in the group to check in on how you're handling waiting and faithfulness in the coming week.
4. Prayer/Spiritual Discipline Step: Spend time each day this week thanking God for His faithfulness and praying for patience in your own waiting seasons.
5. Community Engagement Step: Reach out to someone you know who is in a long season of waiting—encourage them with a note, prayer, or visit.

WEEK 22

DECEMBER 29

Reading

Matthew 14, Mark 4 | John's death; feeding 5000; Jesus walks on water

DECEMBER 30

Reading

Matthew 15-16 | True defilement; Peter's confession of Christ

DECEMBER 31

Reading

Matthew 17-18 | Transfiguration; temple tax; church discipline

JANUARY 1

Reading Matthew 19-20 | Teaching on divorce; rich young ruler; laborers in vineyard

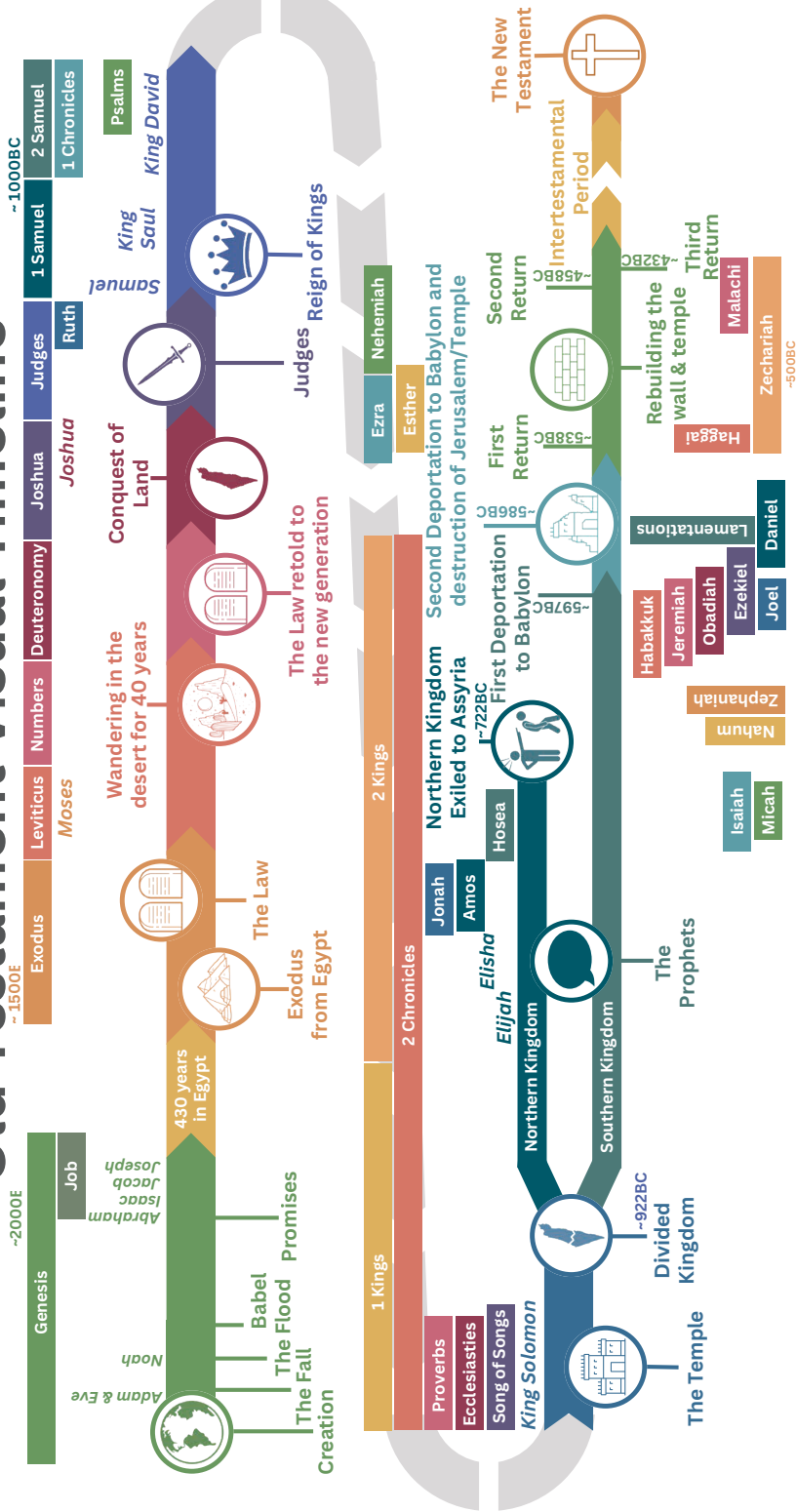
JANUARY 2

Reading Matthew 21-22 | Triumphal entry; cleansing temple; conflicts with leaders

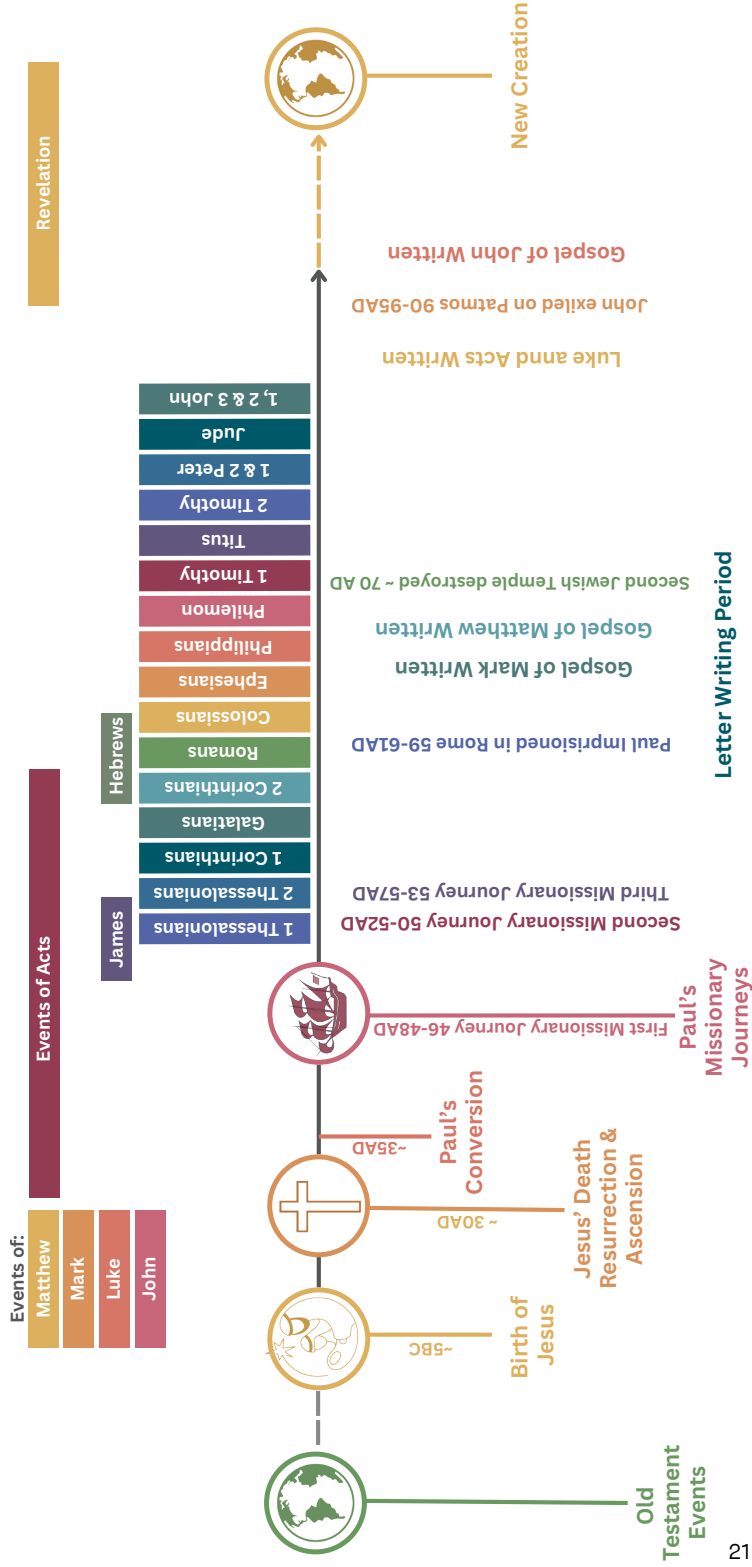
JANUARY 3

Reading Matthew 23-24 | Seven woes to Pharisees; signs of the end times

Old Testament Visual Timeline



New Testament Graphic Timeline



NOTES





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