

# A Very Quick Review of the Bible

(Genesis - Revelation)

by

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You and I have gone through reviews of the whole Bible together before, haven't we? But let's see if we can do a different kind of review, and it will be a very quick review, one that only takes a few minutes. Okay?

This time let's do the review by going through the Bible book by book. There are 66 books in all in the Bible.

We'll start, of course, with the Old Testament books which were all written before Jesus came to earth. There are 39 books in the Old Testament. The first 17 books of the Old Testament are mostly stories, true stories, history.

The first book in the Bible, the book of Genesis, tells the true story about the beginning of everything. It tells when the Lord God created everything in the heavens and the earth -- the sun, moon, and stars, dry land, plants, animals, and Adam and Eve. Later it tells about Noah and the flood. After that it tells about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (also called Israel), and his 12 sons and explains how during the famine, the family went to Egypt where Joseph had become so important.

The next book, the book of Exodus, tells how the Lord had Moses lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, and then the Lord gives some rules to Moses for them. And it tells how they build the Tabernacle just the way the Lord told them to build it.

The book of Leviticus mostly tells other laws that the Lord gives to the children of Israel after they had left Egypt. We call all of these rules and laws, the Law of Moses.

Next, the book of Numbers gives stories of the 40 years the children of Israel were in the wilderness with the Lord leading them and taking care of them.

The book of Deuteronomy is at the end of the 40 years in the wilderness and is when Moses is almost ready to die, and he goes over the Lord's rules with the children of Israel.

Then the book of Joshua tells when Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land of Canaan and they conquer the land as the Lord had told them to do.

The book of Judges tells about how the children of Israel would sometimes forget the Lord, then enemies would conquer them, then they would be sorry and turn to the Lord, and the Lord would send a judge (someone like Gideon or Samson) who would deliver them from their enemies. Lots of exciting stories!

The book of Ruth is a short book that tells about one family which lived during the time of the judges. Ruth becomes a great-great-great-grandmother of Jesus when many years later Jesus was here on earth.

The book of I Samuel tells how the children of Israel wanted a man to be their king rather than the Lord. Samuel was the last judge, and the Lord had Samuel give them Saul as their first king. Later Saul disobeyed the Lord, and God said that David would be the next king, so Saul tries to kill David.

The book of II Samuel tells about when David was king after Saul died.

The books of I and II Kings tell about after David dies. They tell when Solomon was king and how he built the temple. Then they tell how after Solomon died, that the Jewish nation broke into 2 parts, 10 tribes (called Israel) to the north and 2 tribes (called Judah) to the south. They then tell mostly about the 10 northern tribes (Israel) and how they turned from the Lord and began worshipping idols, so finally the Lord let Assyria come and conquer them.

The book of I Chronicles also tells about David when he was king of all of the Jews.

The book of II Chronicles also tells about Solomon and how he built the temple and also that the Jewish nation breaks into 2 parts. Then it tells about the 2 southern tribes (Judah). At first they follow the Lord, but then they begin worshipping idols, too. After a long time the Lord lets the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) come and conquer them. Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and the temple and takes the people away as captives to Babylon where they will be for 70 years.

The book of Ezra tells how after the 70 years, King Cyrus of Persia lets the children of Israel go back to Jerusalem to rebuild it.

The book of Nehemiah tells of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple there.

The book of Esther tells when the Jewish girl Esther becomes the Queen of Persia and saves the Jews from being killed by wicked Haman.

After telling this history, next in the Old Testament come 5 books which are called Poetry.

The book of Job tells about a godly man (Job) who had his faith tried by the devil.

The book of Psalms is the hymn book of the children of Israel. Many of the Psalms were written by King David.

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes were written by King Solomon and are full of wise advice.

The book of Song of Solomon, also written by Solomon, sounds like a song that a husband might sing to his much beloved wife.

Next in the Old Testament come 17 books of prophecy, First, the 5 books (4 of them long) of what we call the Major (longer) Prophets.

The book of Isaiah is written mainly to the southern kingdom of Judah and is full of warnings to the Jews to stop worshipping false gods and also has prophecies, some for the Jews during the time of the kings, and some for the future, for both the first and second comings of Jesus.

The book of Jeremiah, was also written to Judah, and has warnings and prophecies, both for that time and for the future. Jeremiah also wrote the book of Lamentations as he mourned over the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

The book of Ezekiel tells about the exile of Judah and has many prophecies, including ones that have not yet been fulfilled but will be in the future.

The book of Daniel has stories about Daniel as he served under the kings of Babylon and later the Medes and Persian. And it is full of prophecies, some of which have not yet been fulfilled but will be in the future.

Next come the 12 books called the Minor (shorter) Prophets, the books of Hosea through Malachi. These are shorter books of prophecy. One of them is the book of Jonah. I won't go through all 12 of them. They contain prophecies both for the time they were written and for the future.

Then we come to the New Testament, which is written after Jesus came to earth. There are 27 books in the New Testament. The first 5 are history, stories.

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the true stories about when Jesus, the Son of God, was on earth. Only Matthew and Luke tell about when He was born (what we call the Christmas story), but they all 4 tell about when He was about 30 years old and He preached and did miracles. They all 4 also tell about when Jesus (who had never sinned) died on the cross for our sins and that 3 days later He was alive again, resurrected (what we celebrate at Easter time). These 4 books are called the Gospels. Gospel means good news, and these give the good news of how we can be saved from our sins by trusting in Jesus.

The book of The Acts of the Apostles (usually just called Acts) tells about when Jesus went back to heaven and then what the apostles did after that, taking the Gospel all

over. This is where we find the many stories about the apostle Paul.

Next come 21 books which are called the epistles or letters. The first 13 letters (Romans through Philemon) were all written by the apostle Paul. I don't know who wrote the next letter (Hebrews), but the other 7 letters were written by the men they are named after (James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, and Jude). These all contain good advice for Christians, and some have prophecies of when the Lord Jesus will someday return to earth and be King of everyone.

Finally, the last book of the Bible, Revelation, was written down by the apostle John and is full of prophecies for the future. It gives details of the return of the Lord Jesus and what will happen then and also of the new heavens and the new earth and the New Jerusalem (where there will never be sadness or death again).

So, the Old Testament (Genesis through Malachi) leads up to when Jesus would come to earth the first time and die for our sins, making a way for us to be saved from our sins and be able to go to heaven when we die. How? By trusting in the Lord Jesus to save us from our sins. The Old Testament has many prophecies about when Jesus would come the first time to die for our sins, but it has even more prophecies about when the Lord Jesus is coming back again someday to be King of everyone.

Then the New Testament (Matthew through Revelation) tells about when Jesus, the Son of God, was here on earth and how after He went back to heaven that the apostles took the Gospel all over. Yes, it tells us how we may be saved from our sins and go to heaven someday, and it also tells us how to live good lives that are pleasing to God. And it tells about when the Lord Jesus will come back again someday and be King.

I hope this has helped you remember the order of the Bible (God's word) and what it tells about. The Bible is the most important book in the whole world, isn't it?!