

A Guide to Bible Study

Helpful Tips and Resources

WELCOME

The Word Speaks Digital Library was created to serve as a helpful resource for studying God's Word on your own, with a friend or in a small group. It is our prayer that your knowledge and love of the Bible will deepen, your desire for our Savior will grow and your time spent in prayer will be deeply meaningful.

As you begin, please take a moment to look through the ***Guide to Bible Study***. It is filled with helpful tips and practical insights to support and enrich your time in Scripture.

The digital library includes:

1. An Inductive Study of Scripture
2. A Study of Who God Is
3. Intentional Prayer Journal

Bible Study Tips

- DETERMINE A TIME AND PLACE YOU WILL STUDY GOD'S WORD

It seems so trivial, yet it is so important. We must plan a time and determine a place that we carve out and protect to study God's Word.

- HAVE A DESIGNATED PLACE TO TAKE NOTES AS YOU STUDY

This could be a notebook, journal, or a copy of the text that is double spaced with margins to write in.

- READ AND REREAD

Reading through a portion of Scripture several times will increase your comprehension. Read it in several translations for further depth and insight.

- PRAY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER YOU STUDY

The Holy Spirit who inspired Scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21) is our counselor and will help us understand the deep meaning of the words He moved men to write. We can boldly ask for help! The Psalmist prayed "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18), and "Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works...Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart" (Psalm 119:27, 34).

We do not have to rely on our own understanding; we can begin with and intertwine our study with prayer for insight, understanding and the help we need to apply it.

- INVESTIGATE KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Identify key words and phrases; note which words are repeated. Look up key words in an English Dictionary for a thorough understanding. Synonyms can offer a deeper understanding.

- MEDITATE (THINK DEEPLY ABOUT, REFLECT) ON THE PASSAGE

God told Joshua the key to success would be to meditate on His Word day and night (Joshua 1:8). The Psalmist declares in Psalm 1:1-2 that "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."

- TAKE NOTE OF TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

Considering the placement of transition words in the text helps us see the connection between concepts and phrases. Be on the lookout for words such as: *but, therefore, because, for,* etc. Similarly, the first verse of a new chapter often correlates with the last portion of the preceding chapter.

• UNDERSTAND WHAT GENRE OF SCRIPTURE YOU ARE STUDYING

Genre	Books	Questions to Ask
Law: Written to establish God's expectations of man.	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	What does each command teach about who God is?
Historical Literature: Informs us of particular people, places, and times within the biblical narrative.	Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Acts	Read it like a factual retelling of actual events. Look for big picture concepts that point you to God's work, instead of immediate applications.
Wisdom Literature: Written to convey principles, give instruction and wisdom.	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes	Look for principles for wise living and purpose for life.
Poetry: Uses various manners of literary devices, including metaphors, similes, symbolism, and parallelism.	Psalms, Song of Songs, Lamentations	Where can I take my joy and grief? How do I approach God in every area of life?
Gospel Narrative: Biographical narratives about Jesus.	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	What can I learn about Jesus?
Epistle: Letters written by apostles to individuals or churches.	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude	Ask who this letter was written to and why? Consider the instruction, rebuke, correction, and explanation that is given and how it applies to you.

<p>Prophecy: Old Testament books that made predictions about Israel's future and warnings based on those predictions.</p>	<p>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micha, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</p>	<p>Look for layers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context • Current application • Future events
<p>Apocalyptic Literature: Specific form of prophecy that tells us of events yet to occur.</p>	<p>Daniel, Revelation</p>	<p>Look for uses of symbolism and imagery.</p>

• **CROSS REFERENCE**

Look up the cross-references listed in your Bible (they are located in the margin or at the bottom of the page). Cross-references are other places in Scripture those particular words or phrases appear. These passages will enhance your understanding of the passage you are studying.

• **SUMMARIZE PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

Summarize the passage in your own words. Don't worry if it isn't perfect. Doing this exercise will help you to hone in on the meaning of what is being said.

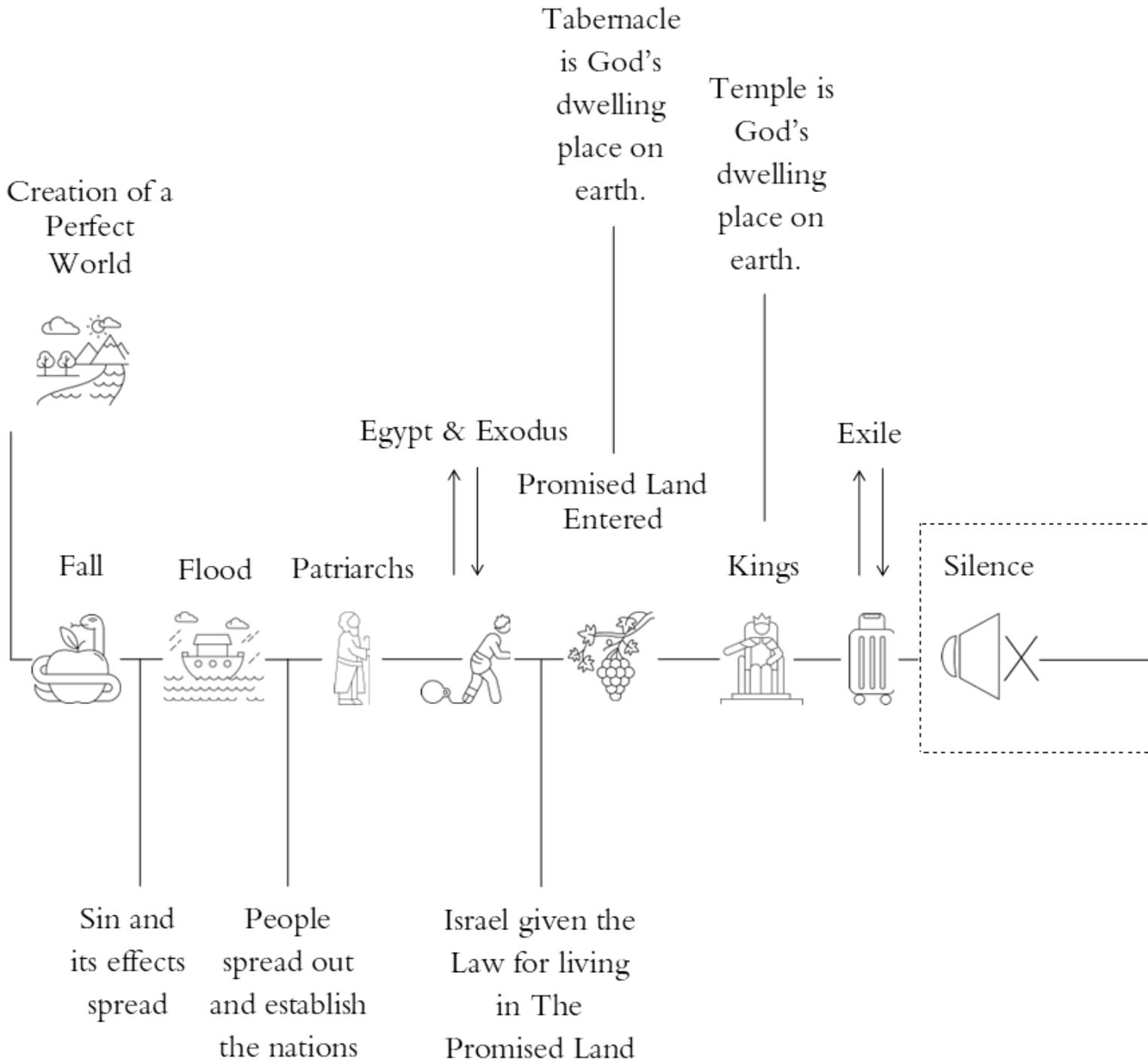
• **USE A RELIABLE TRANSLATION**

Suggested translations: Christian Standard Bible (CSB), English Standard Version (ESV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), New King James Version (NKJV)
 Other helpful translations: Easy-to-Read Version (ESV), Amplified Bible (AMP), New English translation (NET)

• **USE OF COMMENTARIES**

After Investing time using the Bible Study skills already mentioned and prayerfully considering the text; if parts seem confusing, commentaries maybe helpful as a secondary approach.

Bible Timeline



God comes to earth to dwell as a man, in the person of Jesus Christ.

God comes to earth through the Holy Spirit. Believers are God's dwelling place on earth.

Perfect World Restored



Incarnation

Crucifixion, Resurrection & Ascension

Pentecost

Church

Jesus Comes Again



People spread out and go to the nations.

Timeline of Old Testament Books

<i>Year Written</i>	<i>Old Testament Books</i>
Earliest, but date unknown	JOB
1445-1405 BC	GENESIS
1445-1405 BC	EXODUS
1445-1405 BC	LEVITICUS
1445-1405 BC	NUMBERS
1445-1405 BC	DEUTERONOMY
1410-450 BC	PSALMS
1405-1385 BC	JOSHUA
1043 BC	JUDGES
1030-1010 BC	RUTH
971-686 BC	SONG OF SONGS
971-686 BC	PROVERBS
940-931 BC	ECCLESIASTES
931-722 BC	1 & 2 SAMUEL
850-840 BC	OBADIAH
840-835 BC	JOEL
775 BC	JONAH
750 BC	AMOS
750-710 BC	HOSEA
735-710 BC	MICAH
700-681 BC	ISAIAH
650 BC	NAHUM
635-625 BC	ZEPHANIAH
615-605 BC	HABAKKUK

590-570 BC	EZEKIEL
586 BC	LAMENTATIONS
586-570 BC	JEREMIAH
561-538 BC	1 & 2 KINGS
536-530 BC	DANIEL
520 BC	HAGGAI
480-470 BC	ZECHARIAH
457-444 BC	EZRA
450-430 BC	1 & 2 CHRONICLES
450-331 BC	ESTHER
433-424 BC	MALACHI
424-400 BC	NEHEMIAH

Timeline of the Early Church and New Testament Books

- 5 BC Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
- 4 BC Jesus' family flees to Egypt to escape from Herod's plan to kill Jesus (Matthew. 2:13-18). Jesus' family returns to Nazareth (Matthew. 2:19-23).
- AD 8 Jesus (age 12) interacts with the teacher in the temple (Luke 2:41-50).
- AD 8-28/30 Jesus works as a carpenter in Nazareth.
- AD 28-29 John the Baptist begins his ministry around the Jordan River (John 1:19). Jesus begins His ministry in Judea, but soon focuses His effort in Galilee.
- AD 30-33 Jesus returns to Judea, is crucified, and resurrected. James the brother of Jesus, becomes a believer (1Corinthians 15:7; Acts 12:17). Jesus ascends to the Father's right hand (Acts 1). Jesus' first followers receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and begin to proclaim the gospel (Acts 2).
- AD 33-34 Paul witnesses the resurrected Christ on the way to Damascus and is commissioned as an apostle to the nations (Acts 9; Galatians 1:15-16).
- AD 36-37 Paul meets with Peter in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-30; Galatians 1:18).
- AD 40-45 **James writes his letter to believers outside Palestine** (James 1:1). King Agrippa kills James the brother of John (Acts 12:2) and imprisons Peter (Acts 12:3).
- AD 44-47 Paul's first Missionary Journey with Barnabas (Acts 13:4-14:26).
- AD 48 **Paul writes Galatians** (Acts 14:26-28).
- AD 49-51 Paul's second Missionary Journey with Silas (Acts 15:36-18:22). **Paul writes 1-2 Thessalonians.**
- AD 52-57 Paul's third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:17).

- AD 52-55 Paul ministers in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20). **Mark writes the Gospel of Mark. Matthew writes the Gospel of Matthew. Paul writes 1 Corinthians.**
- AD 54 Priscilla and Aquila return to Rome and host a church in their home.
- AD 54-68 Nero reigns.
- AD 55 **Paul writes 2 Corinthians.**
- AD 56 **Paul writes Romans.**
- AD 57-59 Paul is imprisoned and transferred to Caesarea (Acts 23:23-24, 33-34). Paul begins voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-2), he is shipwrecked for three months on the island of Malta (Acts 27:39-28:10).
- AD 60-70 **The letter to Hebrews is written.**
- AD 62 James, the brother of Jesus, is executed. **Peter writes 1 Peter.**
- AD 62-64 Paul arrives in Rome and remains under house arrest (Acts 28:16-31). **Paul writes Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon. Luke writes the Gospel of Luke and Acts.** Paul is released. **Paul writes 1 Timothy. Paul writes Titus.**
- AD 63-64 Work on the temple complex is complete.
- AD 64 Fire in Rome; Nero blames and kills many Christians. **Peter writes 2 Peter. Jude writes Jude. Paul writes 2 Timothy.** Paul and Peter are martyred in Rome.
- AD 67 John migrates to Ephesus with Mary, Jesus' mother.
- AD 68 Nero commits suicide.
- AD 70 **John writes the Gospel of John.**
- AD 95 **John writes 1, 2, & 3 John.**
- AD 96 **John writes Revelation.**

100 Names for Jesus

A LIVING STONE

1 Peter 2:4

ADVOCATE

1 John 2:1

ALPHA & OMEGA

Revelation 1:8

ANOINTED

Acts 4:27

AUTHOR & FINISHER OF OUR FAITH HIDDEN MANNA

Hebrews 12:2

AUTHOR OF SALVATION

Hebrews 5:9

BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:35

BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY

Hebrews 1:3

CHIEF SHEPHERD

1 Peter 5:4

COUNSELOR

Isaiah 9:6

DELIVERER

Romans 11:26

EMANUEL

Matthew 1:23

ETERNAL LIFE

1 John 5:20

EVERLASTING FATHER

Isaiah 9:6

EVERLASTING GOD

Isaiah 40:28

FAITHFUL & TRUE

Revelation 19:11

FAITHFUL WITNESS

Revelation 1:5

GIFT OF GOD

John 4:10

GOD MY SAVIOR

Luke 1:47

GOD WITH US

Matthew 1:23

GREAT SHEPHERD

Hebrews 13:20

HE THAT LIVETH

Revelation 1:18

HIDDEN MANNA

Revelation 2:17

HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 3:10

HOLY ONE OF GOD

Mark 1:24

HORN OF SALVATION

Luke 1:69

I AM

John 8:24

IMAGE OF GOD

2 Corinthians 4:4

JESUS

Matthew 1:1

JUDGE

Acts 17:31

LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12; 9:5

LILY OF THE VALLEYS

Song of Songs 2:1

LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Revelation 5:5

LORD

Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 2:20

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

Revelation 4:8

LORD OF ALL

Acts 10:36

LORD OF GLORY

1 Corinthians 2:8

LORD OF THE SABBATH

Luke 6:5

MAN OF HEAVEN

1 Cor.inthians15:48

MASTER

John 13:13

MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 9:15

MESSIAH

John 1:41; 4:25

MIGHTY GOD

Isaiah 9:6

MORNING STAR

Revelation 22:16

OUR HUSBAND

2 Corinthians 11:2

POWER OF GOD

1 Corinthians 1:24

PRINCE OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:6

PROPHET

Acts 3:22

REDEEMER

Isaiah 59:20

ROSE OF SHARON

Song of Songs 2:1

SAVIOR

Luke 2:11; John 4:42; Acts 5:31; 13:21

SEED OF ABRAHAM

Galatians 3:16; 19

SERVANT OF THE FATHER

Matthew 12:18

SON OF MAN

Mark 10:33; John 8:28

SON OF THE MOST HIGH

Mark 5:7; Luke 8:28

THE AMEN

Revelation 3:14

THE HIGHEST

Luke 1:76

THE LIFE

John 14:6; Colossians 3:4

THE JUST

1 Peter 3:18

THE MERCY SEAT (PROFITATION
OF OUR SINS)

Romans 3:25

THE RESURECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:25

THE SACRIFICE

Ephesians 5:20

THE TRUTH

John 1:14; 14:6

THE VINE

John 15:5

THE WAY

John 14:6

THE WORD

John 1:1

TREE OF LIFE

Revelation 2:7

TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

John 16:32

TRUE VINE

John 15:1

WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME

Revelation 4:8

WISDOM OF GOD

1 Corinthians 1:24

WONDERFUL

Isaiah 9:6

WORD OF GOD

Revelation 19:13

