

# B90+ DIGITAL GUIDEBOOK

Bible in 90 Days Plus • Weekly Discussion Sessions

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Bible in 90 Days Plus (B90+) Digital GuideBook. This guide is a critical component of the B90+ emailed curriculum. It will guide individuals or members of a small group on a journey through God's Word in just 90 days.

Literally thousands have preceded you on this journey. For many, it was a life changing experience. We fully anticipate that it will have a similar effect on your life.

We at Scripture Awakening are excited to partner with you and provide the resources you'll need to successfully read the Bible from cover-to-cover and grow in a deeper relationship with the living God.

The program overview which follows will provide additional information about some of the resources which are available through a variety of media to suit your individual and group requirements.

Be sure and check out the latest information at our website: [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com).

May God richly bless you as you journey through His Word.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Campbell

Founder & President • Scripture Awakening

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# Overview

The Bible in 90 Days (B90) is both an individual and group-oriented Bible reading curriculum which helps people read through the entire Bible in 90 days. Since its inception by Ted Cooper in 2002, hundreds of thousands of people have successfully completed B90, including churches, prisons, drug rehabilitation missions, and neighborhood studies. The program has been updated with a Bible in 90 Days Plus (B90+) option employing additional methods of content delivery and engagement.

More options mean more opportunities to tailor the program to meet individual and group needs. But those options can also be a bit confusing to new users. Here's a quick outline of the key program components and ways you or your small group may want to use them. These B90+ materials are available from ScriptureAwakening.com as a subscription service or for purchase of physical media.

## Program Components

The Bible is the basic text for the B90 program using your choice of versions and media. The daily B90 reading schedule (see Appendix 1) outlines the readings for each day. A softcover printed NIV Bible with clear indications of the beginning and ending of each daily reading is available. Your enjoyment and benefit from the readings can be greatly enhanced through the use of these additional resources.

1. **Bible in 90 Days Plus (B90+)** features daily commentaries which provide a synopsis of each day's B90 readings. Delivered via email that can be read (or listened to), B90+ is based on our time-tested *read, study, live* format. B90+ will encourage and motivate individuals during their daily readings. [Purchase](#)
2. **B90+ Digital GuideBook.** This resource organizes the daily readings into fourteen 7-day segments (sessions) which help participants see a larger picture of Scripture. This guide is particularly well suited for small groups who meet weekly to discuss what they have been reading.
3. **The Essential Snapshot Videos.** These 25-30 minute videos support each of the weekly sessions and focus on a key specific area (morality, philosophy, theology, etc.) which provides reasonable proof for the divine inspiration of Scripture and confidence that the Bible's origins and content are trustworthy. [Access](#)

## Curriculum Options

Individuals and small group participants are highly encouraged to subscribe to **Bible in 90 Days Plus**. The B90+ daily email automation series costs \$19.95 and provides essential encouragement to complete the daily readings on schedule.

## Individuals

1. In addition to **B90+**, individuals are encouraged to view the weekly **Essential Snapshot videos**. These videos will help summarize the week's readings and allow the viewer to gain a greater appreciation for why they should trust the Bible.
2. The **Digital GuideBook** is also a valuable resource even for those not in a small group.

## Small Groups

1. Small groups can take full advantage of the complete integration of all the program components. Individuals within the group should receive the daily **B90+** commentaries while the entire group employs the **Digital GuideBook** to facilitate their weekly meetings and viewing the **Essential Snapshot videos**.
2. All the B90+ materials work equally as well for both in-person and online (Zoom-type) small group meetings.
3. Recommendations for hosting small groups can be found at Appendix 2: Best Practices for Small Groups.

## Further Information

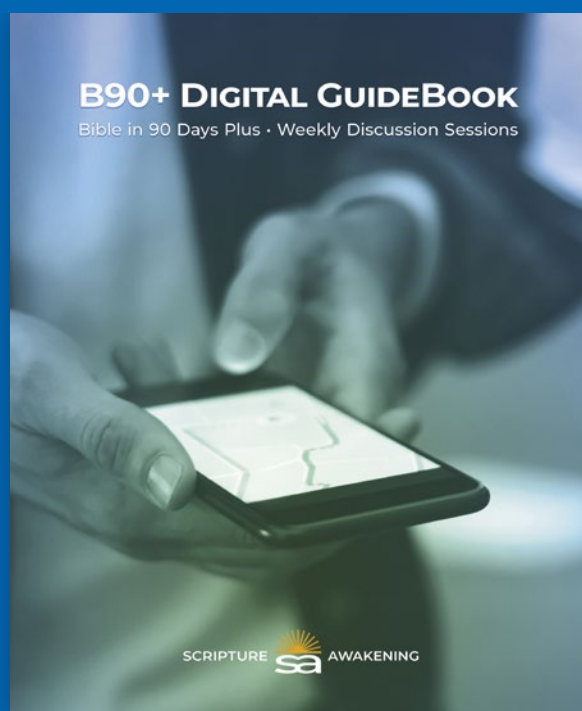
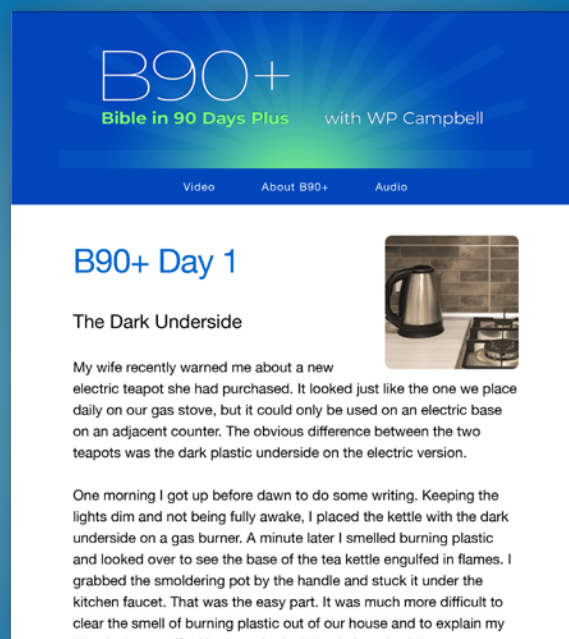
Go to [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com) for additional information concerning the Bible in 90 Days as well as other resources to assist you in your spiritual growth to maturity.



## Bible in 90 Days *Plus*

B90+ (digital) features our time-tested “Read-Study-Live” format. The **read** section links you to reading 12 pages of Scripture daily. The **study** (reflect) section features Biblical commentary and insights. The **live** (respond) section challenges you to apply Scripture to your life. B90+ emails are delivered daily to your computer or mobile device anywhere. Includes: one-minute synopsis videos, daily coaching tips, and more. It's everything that Bible in 90 Days (traditional) provides, *plus!*

**Subscribe at [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com)**



## B90+ Digital GuideBook

Your journey through Scripture will be enhanced by the B90+ Digital GuideBook and ensures that you won't miss anything critical along the way. This resource organizes the daily readings into seven-day segments (sessions) which help you see the larger picture and prepare for the daily B90+ reading. The GuideBook is particularly well suited for a small group that meets weekly to discuss what you have read from God's Word.

**Download at [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com)**

## Essential Snapshot Videos

This 14-week video teaching series was designed and produced to serve as a companion to B90+. Teaching topics cover the Pentateuch, Israel's history, Poetry, Prophecy, Gospels, Letters, right through to Revelation. Each week a new video corresponds to and expands your understanding of the B90+ readings. Packed with interesting facts, perspectives, and essential insights, these teachings will help you gain a better grasp of the Scriptures.

**Access at [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com)**



# Program Outline

## B90/B90+ Integrated Reading Plan (see Appendix 1)

<b><u>Session</u></b>	<b><u>Days</u></b>	<b><u>Beginning</u></b>		<b><u>Ending</u></b>
<b>1</b>		Introduction & Welcome		
<b>2</b>	1-7	Genesis 1:1	—	Leviticus 4:26
<b>3</b>	8-14	Leviticus 4:27	—	Deuteronomy 28:14
<b>4</b>	15-21	Deuteronomy 28:15	—	2 Samuel 3:21
<b>5</b>	22-28	2 Samuel 3:22	—	1 Chronicles 5:26
<b>6</b>	29-35	1 Chronicles 6:1	—	Esther 10:3
<b>7</b>	36-42	Job 1:1	—	Psalms 102:28
<b>8</b>	43-49	Psalms 103:1	—	Isaiah 14:32
<b>9</b>	50-56	Isaiah 15:1	—	Jeremiah 31:22
<b>10</b>	57-63	Jeremiah 31:23	—	Daniel 5:30
<b>11</b>	64-70	Daniel 6:1	—	Matthew 23:39
<b>12</b>	71-77	Matthew 24:1	—	Acts 4:37
<b>13</b>	78-84	Acts 5:1	—	Titus 3:15
<b>14</b>	85-90	Philemon 1	—	Revelation 22:21



# Frequently Asked Questions

A number of frequently asked questions have surfaced regarding this Bible reading program. Here are some of the more common queries and answers:

## **Q: Should I do anything before I start reading each day?**

**A:** We recommend that you say a brief, silent prayer, such as this: “Gracious Father, thank You for the gift I hold in my hands. May Your Spirit fill me and interpret Your precious words for me as I read. In the name of Your Son Jesus I pray. Amen.”

## **Q: Which Bible/version should I use?**

**A:** Use the Bible version your group decides on. This helps with consistency in answering questions and referencing Scripture. You may use your personal Bible; however, there are advantages to using the softcover Bible in 90 Days (available in NIV only at [ScriptureAwakening.com/product/bible-in-90-days-bible-softcover/](http://ScriptureAwakening.com/product/bible-in-90-days-bible-softcover/)). For example, readings are designated clearly with a “start here” and “end here” dividing the Bible up by 12-page increments. When all participants use this Bible, it is easier to answer questions or reference a Scripture by referring to a page number.

## **Q. Can I listen to a Bible App instead of reading daily?**

**A:** We recommend that you read each day instead of listening to your daily readings on an app. Studies have shown that one remembers more of the content by reading it versus listening to it. However, some who struggle with reading may find it is helpful to listen along as they read.

## **Q: How much will I read each day?**

**A:** Each day you’ll read through the passages detailed in the “B90 Integrated Reading Plan” found in Appendix 1. If using the Bible in 90 Days, you will read 12 pages a day and on Day 1 you start with page 1, on Day 2 you will read another 12 pages that day (and so on.) The readings will take between 30-90 minutes depending on how quickly you read. At the end of 90 days, you’ll have read the whole Bible from cover to cover. We encourage you to alleviate distractions so that you can reach your goal of *reading each word attentively*. (There is a Overview reading option of reading just one chapter of Scripture per day. However, we encourage you to read the entire Bible, and only use the Overview option if really necessary; if so then we hope you will read the whole Bible sometime in the future).

## **Q: When should I read?**

**A:** That’s completely up to you. Some will read first thing in the morning, before getting out of bed. Others will make it the last thing they do each night. Still others will read

at various times during the day and/or night. Many have found it beneficial to read at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Some will read their daily quota all at once. Others will space their reading throughout the day, reading a page or two in several sittings. Try more than one approach. Once you find a good pattern for your life, you may decide to maintain this pattern for daily prayer and Bible study even after you complete this read through the Bible.

**Q: What if I get behind?**

**A:** It happens, we know, but try your best not to get behind. But if you do, there is one very *important* rule about catching up: Do not skip any pages! There are two reasons for this: (1) If you skip anything, by definition, you will not have read from cover to cover, which is an important part of this process. (2) If you skip anything, you are unlikely to go back and read what you skipped, so, again, you won't end up reading the entire Bible. If you get behind, just read some extra pages each day until you've caught back up to the class.

**Q: What if I get *way* behind?**

**A:** If you happen to get more than a day or two behind, then set aside a large block of time during one day—Sundays are good for this—and just “plow through” the reading. This may seem more like a *chore* than a spiritual experience, but you might be surprised by the insights you glean. As importantly, after a day (or so) of reading this way, you'll be caught up! Remember, too, that God's work sometimes seems like, well, *work*. Reading the Bible from cover to cover *is* a challenge; however, when this challenge is met, you'll be glad that you persevered.



# **SESSION 1**

## **THE JOURNEY BEGINS**

### **INTRODUCTION**



# Session 1 • The Journey Begins

**Days:** None

**Reading:** No readings prior to this Session

Congratulations! You have made a commitment to attentively and thoughtfully read through the Bible in 90 days. Many have found this to be a life changing experience. Our prayer is that it may similarly impact you as you encounter the eternal God through His living Word.

## Expectation

While B90 and B90+ are reading and not study programs, our hope is that through this program you will gain a much better understanding of the Bible and the God who is revealed through it. We believe that:

*Consistent daily Bible reading with an openness to the revelation of the Holy Spirit brings increased understanding of God, resulting in spiritual rebirth and continued growth.*

Hence the importance of a personal commitment to complete all the readings with, if possible, the added support of weekly meetings with others who are likewise reading through the Bible.

## Initial Discussion

1. Have you ever tried to read the entire Bible before? Why or why not?
2. If you have tried to read the Bible in its entirety, what challenges did you face in fulfilling your desire? How far did you get?
3. Why did you decide to make the commitment to read the Bible in 90 days now?
4. Do you have any specific expectations for the next 90 days? Explain.

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #1 • Introduction (Claim: Inspiration)

Your reading through the Bible in 90 Days can be enhanced by this weekly video series titled, The Essential Snapshot. In this introductory video, you will discover 12 reasons to believe the Bible can be trusted as the inspired Word of God. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?

2. Do you agree with the common idea that the Bible is filled with the words of men and women but is not the Word of God? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. The Bible claims to be inspired by God—a human book with a divine Author. Are there teachers or books or influences in your life that especially challenge this thought? Explain.
4. Conversely, are there teachers or books or influences in your life that have helped you to trust the Bible? If so, which?
5. Do any verses from the Bible help you to believe the Bible is God’s Word? If so, which?
6. The video identifies 12 areas that individuals often struggle with in terms of trusting the Bible: Cosmology, Typology, Morality, Glory, Chronology, Philosophy, Psychology, Prophecy, Probability, Archaeology, Biography, and Theology. Based on your initial thoughts or impressions, which of these areas might especially interest you? Why?

## Looking Ahead

As you prepare to begin your readings, consider the following questions.

1. What concerns do you have about completing all the readings? Note: The “Frequently Asked Questions” may be helpful in addressing some of these concerns.
2. What should you do if you find that you are too busy to complete your readings? How might participation in a small group or other support group help you stay on track?

This coming week’s reading introduces you to the first three books of the Bible, to the Pentateuch itself (the five books of Moses), and to the Old Testament at large.

The narrative chronicles creation, the fall of man, the devastating global flood, and the confusion at the Tower of Babel. God then selects the family of Abraham through whom He will begin to reestablish His relationship with mankind. But that family must first grow to a nation while remaining uncorrupted by pagan beliefs during a 430 period of bondage and enslavement in Egypt. Moses is then called to both deliver and to give them God’s Law that they might learn what it means to be God’s chosen people.

Chronologically, the narrative moves from eternity past, to around the year 1444 BC. Geographically, the story begins in the cosmos and ends at the foot of Mount Sinai.



# **SESSION 2**

## **PENTATEUCH, PART I**

### **BEGINNINGS**



# Session 2 • Pentateuch, Part I

**Days:** 1-7

**Reading:** Genesis 1:1 to Leviticus 4:26

Congratulations! You have completed the first week of readings. Making a commitment and getting started are essential steps in accomplishing any worthwhile goal. Please share any tips or techniques you used to help complete your daily reading requirements.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the narrative you have read so far, beginning with creation and ending with the initial giving of the Law at Mount Sinai?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #2 • Beginnings (Cosmology)

Without a good beginning, a story fails. This has never been truer than in the Bible, the most influential story ever told. The beginnings of the Bible, highlighted in Genesis and Exodus, provide the foundation for the rest of the Bible. Central to it all is the creation account, which has been a source of contention among believers and a place for attack by critics of Scripture. When we look more closely, however, the beginnings of the Bible provide strong evidence that it is God's Word. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. The creation account and modern theories about the world's beginnings appear to many to be in conflict to some and to harmonize for others. Why is it important to focus on the who and why rather than the what and when of creation as we ponder the beginnings of the universe and humanity?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Satan's strategy has not changed since his initial attack on Eve—he questions God's words and appeals to our carnal desires. How can we best prepare ourselves to counter these attacks?
4. God appears to favor some individual over others. He chooses to bless Abraham and

his family while condemning others (i.e., Sodom and Gomorrah, etc.) to destruction. How is this explained particularly in light of God's own description of Himself as loving, merciful, and forgiving, yet also righteous and just?

5. Isaac repeated the same sin as his father, Abraham, by claiming his wife was his sister. This illustrates how character failings are often passed down from generation to generation—like father, like son. What can we do to ensure that potential “generational failings (or curses)” are not passed on to our own children (i.e., how can we “break the cycle”)?
6. Joseph was sold into slavery, falsely accused, and served 13 years before he was elevated to a position of greatness. God was able to use him because of how he responded to his trials—developing the ability to lead and manage at a high level. As you think about challenges in your life, do you think that “trials” may be God's means of preparing you likewise for greater godliness and fruitfulness? Explain.
7. Why is Moses so reluctant to act as God's chosen instrument to bring the Israelites out of Egypt? Were his excuses justified? How did God resolve or mitigate them? What are some of the excuses we typically offer when God calls us?
8. The Israelite's bondage and enslavement in Egypt for 430 years appears outwardly as a terrible ordeal. However, like an embryo's growth and development in its mother's womb, so was this Egyptian experience essential for the growth of the family of Jacob until they would be birthed as a nation through their Exodus experience. As you look at the world around you, do you sometimes feel it's all falling apart? How might the story of the Israelites encourage you to believe God still reigns and has a purpose for it all?
9. When God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6-7 ESV). What does God's self-description mean to you? Why do you think He emphasized His character and not His attributes (omnipotence, omniscience, omni-present, etc.)?

## Looking Ahead

Having received the Law at the base of Mount Sinai, the Israelites are ready to begin their journey to the Promised Land. Their journey soon turns into a 40-year tragedy as they lose faith, rebel, and refuse to go into the land. After the succeeding generation is finally poised to take possession of their inheritance, Moses must prepare them to succeed where their parents had failed, but under Joshua's leadership.



# **SESSION 3**

## **PENTATEUCH, PART II**

### **PATTERNS**



# Session 3 • Pentateuch, Part II

**Days:** 8-14

**Reading:** Leviticus 4:27 to Deuteronomy 28:14

Nice job! You have completed the first two weeks of readings and made it through a major challenge with the book of Leviticus—a book that often frustrates first-time readers. You should find the rest of the readings of the Old Testament’s historical books to be less difficult.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the narrative you have read this week, beginning with the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai and ending with Moses’ sermons to the next generation of Israelites on the plains of Moab?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #3 • Patterns (Topology)

The Old Testament is embedded with patterns that foreshadow the coming of Christ. Through stories, symbols, people, and events, an amazing picture of God’s plan for salvation was placed before the world so that by the time Christ was revealed, those who knew Scripture could be certain that God’s plan was being fulfilled. Today, we call these incredible patterns in the Old Testament “typology.” One who understands what typology is and how it functions will find yet another strong reason to trust in God’s inspired Word. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. In your own words, what is “typology” as found in the Old Testament? Why is it important?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. In what way does the visualization of the Tabernacle aid in your understanding of your relationship with God and what you must do to approach Him?
4. The Book of Leviticus helps us understand the process of becoming holy as we draw near to God and allow His spirit to change us from within. How do you define

holiness? Why do you think it's important that we take seriously how we live with respect to that standard? Explain.

5. Leviticus contains a portion of the 613 commandments presented in the books of the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Do you believe that any of the Levitical guidelines are still relevant for our day? If so, how might we discern which are still relevant?
6. The Law established annual ceremonial observances (festivals) to memorialize essential truths. From your perspective, what effect has the "commercialization" of our current celebrations detracted from their proper significance? What should we do to restore their correct meaning?
7. The Book of Numbers dramatically recounts Israel's continued rebellion against God in the wilderness and the tragic consequences that followed. The Exodus generation never learned an important lesson—to trust God even when things become difficult and we don't understand why (I Corinthians 10:1-13). How might we apply this lesson for today?
8. Balaam was prevented from cursing the Israelites, but his advice was used to entice them into idolatrous worship and sexual immorality which caused God to afflict them with a plague. In what ways is the problem of sexual sin becoming paramount in the Western world, even among God's people? What is the outcome of such compromise?
9. Deuteronomy is Moses' address to the Israelites on the Plains of Moab where he offered repeated reminders to remember God's ways in order that they might survive and thrive in the years ahead. Why is it important to remind yourself of God's goodness, provision, and faithfulness in the past? What traditions or techniques have you found helpful in doing that?

## Looking Ahead

Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites finally enter, conquer, and settle the Promised Land. Disobedience, however, leads to 300-plus years of repeated oppression by their enemies and intermittent deliverance through God's appointed judges (deliverers). Wanting to be like the nations around them, the people demand a king and soon find themselves ruled by a paranoid madman, King Saul. His successor, David, finally takes the throne and strives to unite the people as one.



# SESSION 4

## HISTORY, PART I

### MORALITY UNMASKED



# Session 4 • History, Part I

**Days:** 15-21

**Reading:** Deuteronomy 28:15 to 2 Samuel 3:21

Congratulations! You have completed the first three weeks of readings. You are almost one-quarter of the way through! By now you should have developed a good pattern of daily Bible reading or listening time. Keep it up!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the narrative you have read this week, beginning with the death of Moses and ending with the initial reign of King David over the tribe of Judah?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #4 • Morality Unmasked (Morality)

Why in the book of Joshua does God sanction the annihilation of entire Canaanite tribes? Do these stories make God a moral monster? Or might there be another answer? In this study, we will peel back the mask of human morality to see the heart and plan of God, not only for people in the Old Testament but for all time and eternity. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you think the general human sense of right and wrong is evidence of a higher moral being (God)? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Moses is considered to be the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. Yet, as a consequence of his failing to honor God at the Waters of Meribah, he was not permitted to enter the Promised Land. From your perspective, was this punishment justified? Why or why not?
4. As Joshua assumed the mantle of leadership from Moses, he was encouraged to be strong and courageous because the LORD would be with him. How have you responded to significant changes in your life—with fear and anxiety or with God's

peace in your heart? What are some things you can do to better cope with change in the future?

5. The Book of Judges provides a dramatic contrast between God's strength and mankind's weakness as the Israelites repeatedly "did what was right in their own eyes," and fell into sin and oppression by their enemies, only to be rescued by God when they repented and cried out to Him. What moral lessons can we learn from the book of Judges for our day?
6. Samson's unwillingness to live by the requirements of the Nazarite vow and his inability to control his carnal desires made him an unlikely candidate to lead the Israelites against the Philistines. What is the primary message you should draw from Samson's life? Why?
7. Boaz played a critical role in the story of Ruth. His love for Ruth and willingness to serve as her kinsman-redeemer resolved the conflict in the story and made possible the restoration of Naomi's position in society and good fortune. How does the concept of kinsman-redeemer help us understand the mediating work of Christ on our behalf, despite our moral failures?
8. The LORD called Samuel three times before he learned to recognize God's voice. How has reading God's Word helped you learn to recognize His voice? Are there specific passages where He has seemed to speak to you specifically?
9. Saul's reign initially began well with victory over his enemies. However, his divided heart soon caused him to fall into disobedience by acting to please his subjects and not the LORD. Contrast his life with David's. Do you think these two lives illustrate that behavior and morality is shaped by one's relationship with God (or lack thereof)? Why or why not?

## Looking Ahead

The unified kingdom reaches its zenith under David and Solomon. Internal stresses, however, fracture the kingdom along tribal lines. Despite repeated prophetic warnings, both the northern and southern kingdom continue their disobedience to the covenant leading to decline and ultimately their complete destruction by Assyria and Babylon.

**Optional:** As you read about all the kings of Israel and Judah in the books of 1 and 2 Kings, fill in the diagram on the following page indicating which kings "did right in the eyes of the LORD" and which did not.

# Patterns in 1 & 2 Kings

Instructions: As you read 1 Kings and 2 Kings, mark the diagram below with a check (✓) next to the names of the kings who “do right in the eyes of the LORD” and an (X) next to the names of the kings who don’t.

Northern King (Israel)	Does or does not do right in the eyes of the LORD	Southern King (Judah)	Does or does not do right in the eyes of the LORD
Jeroboam I		Rehoboam	
Nadab		Abijah	
Baasha		Asa	
Elah		Jehoshaphat	
Zimri		Jehoram	
Tibni		Ahaziah	
Omri		Athaliah (Queen)	
Ahab		Joash	
Ahaziah		Amaziah	
Joram		Azariah (Uzziah)	
Jehu		Jotham	
Jehoahaz		Ahaz	
Joash/Jehoash		Hezekiah	
Jeroboam II		Manasseh	
Zechariah		Amon	
Shallum		Josiah	
Menahem		Jehoahaz	
Pekahiah		Jehoiakim	
Peka		Jehoiachin	
Hoshea		Zedekiah	



# SESSION 5

**HISTORY, PART II**  
**GOD'S PRESENCE**

# Session 5 • History, Part II

**Days:** 22-28

**Reading:** 2 Samuel 3:22 to 1 Chronicles 5:26

Congratulations! You've completed reading almost a third of the Bible! You are well on your way to reading through the entire Bible in 90 days. Stay with it!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the narrative you read this week beginning with the early reign of King David through the destruction of the southern kingdom by the Babylonians?

**Optional:** If you filled out the table of the kings from last session during the week, check your answers with each other. Traditionally, only eight kings are considered to have “done right in the eyes of the LORD” (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah (Uzziah), Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah). All were from the southern kingdom of Judah.

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #5 • God's Presence (Glory)

Some evidences for the Divine inspiration of Scripture are direct and to the point. Others, like God's presence through history, require more careful reflection and a personal pursuit for answers. When reading about the Old Testament Temple, for example, the question naturally arises: “Is it possible to experience God's presence in a similar manner today?” The answer depends on you. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you often find yourself yearning to see more of God's glory? Why do you think God doesn't choose to reveal His full glory every day for everyone?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. God punished David, his family, and the nation severely for his sin with Bathsheba and against Uriah. Do you think He was too harsh? Why or why not?

4. Solomon started off well but eventually used his God-given wisdom to create a national system of support for his extended royal family and the worship of false gods. Rather than serving the nation, the nation served him. What steps could Solomon have taken to guard his heart and stay right with God?
5. The “sin of Jeroboam” (1 Kings 12:25-33; 13:33-34 the establishment of a counterfeit religious system) caused him and all his successors to “do evil in the sight of the LORD” (1 Kings 15:34). Eventually, the people became so accustomed to the counterfeit that they forgot what true presence and worship of the only true God was like. Do you think we are in danger of the same tendencies today? Why or why not?
6. Both Elijah and Elisha knew God’s presence; they were recognized as true prophets, and their messages were repeatedly confirmed by miraculous signs. Over time, however, their words went unheeded and they were effectively ignored by both national leaders and the people. If a prophet of the same stature were to appear today, how do you think we would receive them?
7. Following the destruction of Israel, the Assyrians threatened to attack Judah as well. King Hezekiah’s passionate prayer so moved God that He delivered His people and struck down Sennacherib’s army. Have you ever experienced a time when your heart-felt prayers seemed to bring God close to accomplish His purpose? Explain.
8. Both the northern and southern kingdoms brought about their own destruction. God, in His mercy, had given them numerous warnings and time to repent before He took away His protection. From your perspective, what are some practical reasons God allowed them to be taken into exile? What are the implications for nations, cities, and even individuals today?
9. From your readings thus far, why is it so important that the people of God seek the presence of God?

## Looking Ahead

The recounting of the history of the kingdom continues with the reign of David and Solomon over a unified kingdom that climaxes in the construction of a magnificent temple. Tragically, Solomon’s sin opens the way for the kingdom’s division. The new southern kingdom of Judah is led by a succession of both “good” and “bad” kings, perpetuating its ultimate destruction by the Babylonians and the exile of its people.

Following the Persians conquest of the Babylonians, Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah each lead a remnant back to Jerusalem. They rebuild the Temple, encourage the people to be faithful to God, and reconstruct the walls of Jerusalem. Strikingly, God uses the faithfulness of a young girl, Esther, and her uncle, to thwart a diabolical plot against the Jews who remain behind in exile.





# SESSION 6

**HISTORY, PART III**  
**GOD'S PLAN**



# Session 6 • History, Part III

**Days:** 29-35

**Reading:** 1 Chronicles 6:1 to Esther 10:3

Congratulations! You have completed reading the entire historical narrative portion of the Old Testament. This material is an essential foundation for understanding the poetical and prophetic books to come.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the narrative you read this week, beginning with some key genealogies and ending with the final return of the Jews under governor Nehemiah?

**Optional:** Consider using “Supplemental Material: Recapping the Events of the Old Testament” included at the end of this session outline as an aid for further discussion on the overall historical narrative.

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #6 • God’s Plan (Chronology)

The Books of 1 & 2 Chronicles may seem boring and even irrelevant to the average reader. Why the long, mundane lists of names and genealogies, for example? When we look more deeply, we discover these books, along with the history that follows in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, are foundational not only to the Biblical narrative but to the way the world views time. Based on the linear understanding of time, history was recorded, science was birthed, and our lives have meaning. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Our readings give us a sense that God is accomplishing His plan, even when it is unseen. Do you believe that as you trust and rest in the LORD your moments will be filled with eternal purpose? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Why are the detailed genealogies in the first part of 1 Chronicles essential to the Biblical story? How do they encourage trust in both the accuracy and reliability of

the Bible?

4. Although King David could not construct the Temple during his reign, he took meticulous care in the planning and preparation necessary for its completion under Solomon. What does this illustrate about the importance of a shared vision which allows God's purposes to be accomplished across multiple generations? Have you observed or been a part of similar circumstances in your own life? Explain.
5. Chronicles emphasizes God's spiritual rule through the enduring work of the Levites and priests in the Temple in sharp contrast to the declining spiritual condition of the kings who bring the nation down. Spiritual leaders do make a difference! How does this thought encourage you today?
6. The first returnees under Zerubbabel quickly became discouraged when opposition arose to the rebuilding of the Temple; the returnees soon abandoned the work. Over a decade later, prophets Haggai and Zechariah challenged them to rise up and get the job done. Describe a time in your life when encouragement from others was just what you needed to obey God in an important aspect of your life.
7. Ezra's life presents an example of the mature believer's walk. He balanced what he learned from Scripture with obedience. He also drew from his learnings to teach others. Balancing learning with obedience and service, he avoided the pride, legalism, and hypocrisy that so easily grips our souls. Examine your life. How can you be more like Ezra? Be specific.
8. Nehemiah was given the task to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He faced opposition on every front and yet succeeded in his monumental task. What were some of his "secrets to success" that you could add to your own leadership toolbox?
9. Even though God is never specifically mentioned in the book of Esther, His unseen hand is at work behind the scenes orchestrating events to protect and preserve His people—even those who chose not to return back to Israel with the "remnant." What does this tell you about God and His plan?

## Looking Ahead

This coming week transitions from the historical narrative in the first 17 books of the Old Testament to the five Poetical Books. Whereas the Pentateuch and Historical Books focused on the past, the Poetical Books focus on living in the present and address many issues of contemporary concern.

Hebrew poetry is not primarily based on meter or rhyme but on parallel structure. This writing style creates reinforced, complemented, contrasted, or restated thoughts often through the use of imagery thus helping us to more fully appreciate the intent and feelings of the original authors.

One of the earliest books in the entire Bible, Job, considers the problem of apparent unjust suffering. It contrasts man's limited human perspectives and misconceptions about evil with God's divine wisdom and sovereignty.

The book of Psalms provides an anthology of prayers and hymns, often set to music, for individual or corporate worship.

## Notes

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# Supplemental Material • Key Events from the Old Testament

- God creates everything, including humans, to live in perfect relationship with Him.
- God places Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, makes them responsible for overseeing the animals and working the land, and gives them unfettered access to the entire Garden of Eden except for one tree: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Adam and Eve are enticed, tempted by the serpent, and then fall to temptation by eating from the tree that God had told them to leave alone.
- God responds by punishing them. He makes them mortal (which they weren't before), and He banishes them from the Garden of Eden.
- But things don't go very well outside the Garden. A lot of begetting goes on, but people soon forget about God. So God chooses a righteous man, has him build an ark and load it with his family, his in-laws, and a sampling of animals. Then God floods the world, killing all other living beings.
- Noah's family exits the ark, begets some more, and soon a group of people decide to build a tower toward the sky in yet another attempt to become like God. God confuses their language, and they then scatter all over the earth.
- It is at this point that we start to get the idea that there might be a plan for rescuing at least some humans from the mess that was started in the Garden of Eden.
- God chooses Abraham as the leader of a chosen people, makes certain promises to them, and keeps those promises. Then God starts doing some things to show His power and to give the people confidence in His ability to protect and bless them.
- For instance, He leads them out of slavery in Egypt. He gives them 10 laws to live by and promises that they will soon live together in a fertile land as His people. They will need to trust God to help them overcome the inhabitants of that land.
- But the people don't have enough faith. They may want to believe, but a negative report from a group of spies leaves them fearful and doubtful.
- So God punishes them; He has them wander in the wilderness for another 38 years, until all but two of the original group that He had rescued from Egypt are dead.
- After this time, God prepares them to enter the Promised Land. Through Moses, He delivers explicit instructions on what they are to do and how they are to do it. He also warns them what will happen if they don't follow through.

- As we know, the people do enter the Promised Land, led by Joshua, and God helps them defeat the inhabitants of that land. However, contrary to God's direct orders, they fail to completely wipe out their enemies.
- This last reality leads to trouble, as God's people intermarry with the pagan people of the new land. This leads the people away from God and toward pagan gods in direct conflict with the very first commandment: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3 NIV, ESV). God's repeated warnings through the prophets that idolatry would become their downfall became a reality.
- At this point, we're arriving at the age of the Judges. The further the people turn from God, the worse their circumstances become. And so begins a negative cycle of events: First, God lets Israel's enemies overrun them. Then they plead with God, and He raises up a strong, God-fearing leader, empowering that individual to carry out His deliverance. After that, Israel is at peace for 40 to 80 years. But the people turn away when they don't have that strong, God-fearing leader. Their circumstances deteriorate again, and the cycle continues.
- Finally, the people plead for a king so they can be like all the other nations. God has already warned them—way back in Deuteronomy—that a human king is not a good idea. But He finally relents and tells Samuel to search for the man He has selected as their king.
- King Saul starts well but ends poorly, and the glory years of Israel then ensue through the reigns of David and Solomon. But in their humanness, they demonstrate some fatal faults. In the end, they lay the groundwork for a political kingdom that is tragically short-lived. The kingdom splits into Israel and Judah.
- None of the 20 kings of Israel does what is right in the eyes of God. And God responds by letting Assyria defeat Israel in 722 BC. The scattered survivors disappear from recorded history.
- Of the 19 kings and 1 queen of Judah, only a handful did what is right in the eyes of God. The kings who forgot God led the people astray, and God allowed the Babylonians to destroy Judah and exile its people to Babylon.





# SESSION 7

**POETRY, PART I  
FACING EVIL**



# Session 7 • Poetry, Part I

**Days:** 36-42

**Reading:** Job 1:1 to Psalm 102:28

This week you began reading the five poetical books of the Old Testament. The historical books focus on the past while the poetical books address questions of practical concern for living in the present. Keep up the good work, you are almost halfway done!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the portion of the poetical books you have read so far—from Job through a large section of the Psalms?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #7 • Facing Evil (Philosophy)

What do you tell a person who refuses to trust in God because of suffering in the world? This lesson offers reasonable and Biblical answer to one of the oldest and greatest conundrums people face when thinking about God: the problem of evil. Humans face evil on two main fronts: intellectual and emotional. This Scriptural snapshot offers insights about both through insights from Job and the Psalms. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. If someone asked, “How can you believe in a supposed all-powerful and all-loving God when there’s so much evil in the world?”—how would you answer them?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. The existence of evil and suffering in the world has caused some people to completely reject God. Do you know of such people? Have you successfully helped anyone over this hurdle, or has anyone helped you in this regard? Explain.
4. Rather than provide empathetic support to ease Job’s pain, his friends pointed out his weaknesses and offered theological explanations for his suffering. What are some ways they could have truly been of assistance? From your own experiences,

when have you been helped or been a source of help to others during difficult times?

5. Job never really learned the cause of his suffering but choose to trust in God's sovereign rule over creation despite difficult personal circumstances. How have you learned to trust God in both the highs and lows of your life?
6. The daily Bible in 90 Days Plus commentaries provided a number of possible ways to categorize the Psalms: by book, type, author, function, and size. Do you find any one of these methods of viewing the Psalms to be particularly helpful for your understanding and appreciation of them? Explain.
7. David is considered to be "a man after God's own heart." What are some aspects of his life and words in the Psalms that are indicative of a close personal and intimate walk with the LORD? How does this inspire or encourage you?
8. Many of the Psalms are laments where the authors cry out to God from a position of deep personal distress or emotional pain. What can we learn from the Psalms about receiving God's strength and help in times of doubt, depression, or even despair?
9. Is there a Psalm that you consider a favorite or one that was particularly striking or significant to you this week? Why do you think you have been especially impacted by that Psalm?

## Looking Ahead

This coming week's readings conclude the Poetical Books and transition to the Prophetic Books with the first of the Major Prophets.

The book of Psalms appropriately concludes with five grand Hallelujah (Praise the LORD) psalms highlighting one of its overall themes—praise. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs, primarily authored by King Solomon, show us how to live wisely and purposefully in the world, how to express love in marriage, and how to honor the God whose love transcends even that found in the best of marriages.

The Prophetic Books provide God's perspective on many of the events from the historical narrative. As those who "speak for God," the prophets uniquely provide God's evaluation of the current situation (forthtelling) and offer insight into God's intended future blessings and judgments (foretelling). As the first of the major prophets, Isaiah offers a power message of imminent judgment along with the promise of future salvation through the ministry of the coming Messiah.



# SESSION 8

**POETRY, PART II**  
**THE BEST LIFE**

# Session 8 • Poetry, Part II

**Days:** 43-49

**Reading:** Psalm 103:1 to Isaiah 14:32

Today a special congratulations is in order! You have completed reading half of the entire Bible. That's a major milestone to be sure. Take a few moments to encourage others in your group who have made it this far as well.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the portion of Scripture that you read this week, beginning with the conclusion of the Psalms and ending with the first book of the major prophets?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #8 • The Best Life (Psychology)

People often avoid the Bible and its teachings to be free from rules and restraints. True freedom, fulfillment, and contentment in life however, are more likely to be ours when we embrace the guidelines found in the poetic and wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Understood correctly, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs help us to live life in its fullness. According to the seventeenth century mathematician and physicist, Blaise Pascal, this idea is worth betting on. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you believe the Bible shows us how to live our lives to their fullness? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. One recurring theme in the Psalms is love for God's Word. Some Christians claim to believe in God but do not follow or embrace the teachings of the Bible. Is it possible to really love God without loving God's Word? Why or why not?
4. Psalm 139 shows God's intimate care for each of us. Do you find God's attributes,

such as His omnipresence and omniscience, to be both comforting and disturbing at the same time? Explain.

5. Proverbs repeatedly states that “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” Why do you think this is so? What does it mean, practically, for you to fear God and love God at the same time?
6. We each make decisions every day. For this, we need wisdom. List or describe a few of the practical instructions offered by Proverbs that you have found most helpful for setting priorities and making decisions.
7. The author of Ecclesiastes attempted to find purpose and meaning in life through knowledge, pleasure, accomplishments, and material possessions. In the end, he concluded that life is meaningless apart from God. Do you share his sentiments? Explain.
8. Song of Solomon describes the love story between Solomon and his young bride: their courtship, marriage, and early marital struggles. Why do you think a whole book in the Bible is devoted to romantic love? What is the point of it?
9. In Isaiah 6, the prophet is asked by God, “Who will go for us?” Isaiah offered himself. At the same time, he recognized his own sinfulness and unworthiness. Do you believe God is likewise calling you to be His ambassador to this generation? If so, how does this make you feel?

## Looking Ahead

Isaiah, considered by many to be “the Shakespeare of the prophets,” continues his prophetic ministry. This coming week’s readings conclude Isaiah’s prophecies to the nation of Judah while prophetically looking ahead to the future restoration of the kingdom under the Messiah.

A half-century after Isaiah’s ministry, God calls Jeremiah to minister to the nation of Judah in her final days. The growing power and ambition of the Babylonians has become the latest threat to the nation. Despite Jeremiah’s impassioned pleas for national repentance, her leaders refuse to either listen or respond, breaking his heart.



# SESSION 9

## MAJOR PROPHETS, PART I TESTING PROPHECY





# Session 9 • Major Prophets, Part I

**Days:** 50-56

**Reading:** Isaiah 15:1 to Jeremiah 31:22

A one-mile race is often run on a quarter-mile track. The third lap can often be one of the most difficult as the runners' tire but the end is not yet in sight. Similarly, after crossing the midway point in your readings, you are encouraged to press on through the major and minor prophets to the end of the Old Testament. The New Testament is just up ahead! Stay with it!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the portions of the prophetic books of Isaiah and Jeremiah you have read so far?

**Optional:** The table entitled *Putting the Prophets in Their Place* included at the end of this session may be of assistance in understanding and appreciating the prophets and their messages.

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #9 • Testing Prophecy (Prophecy)

Is predictive prophecy in the Bible evidence of God's existence or a product of human longings that led to delusions and the manipulation of Biblical manuscripts? There are means by which we can test prophecy to find out—and the results are astonishing. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. What truth or promise from the video teaching most encouraged you to trust that God has the future in His hands? Explain.

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. In chapter 29, Isaiah offered a warning (later quoted by Jesus regarding the Pharisees) that the people were just going through the motions of religious ritual while their hearts were far away from the LORD. What are some ways you have

found to maintain a right relationship with God so that you might not fall into the traps of hypocrisy or self-righteousness?

4. Isaiah 36-37 recount Sennacherib's (the king of Assyria) invasion of Judah, during which Sennacherib's envoy tauntingly questioned whom Judah should trust. From your perspective, in whom or what have we as a nation appeared to place our trust (military might, economic strength, political alliances, etc.)? What might we do to change our allegiances, if necessary?
5. As noted in the daily commentaries, the first 39 chapters of Isaiah focus on God's confrontation of Judah for her sin (the need for salvation) while the final 27 chapters focus on God's promised comfort (through His deliverance). It is nearly a universal truth that the books of the Bible offer God's people hope even in the direst situations. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the highest), how strong is your hope quotient these days? Do you think your reading through the Bible can help you raise it up a notch or two? Explain.
6. Isaiah's prophecies in chapters 40-66 provide some of the most detailed descriptions of the coming Messiah in all of Scripture. How does Jesus' complete fulfillment of those prophecies as "suffering servant" give you confidence in His promise to return soon as our "Sovereign LORD and King"?
7. Jeremiah was called from a young age to a life of service and ministry to the LORD where he suffered continual rejection, intense persecution, and physical mistreatment. What inspires you most about his life and his perseverance despite such discouraging circumstances?
8. One of the key object lessons for Jeremiah was that of the potter and the clay (chapters 18 and 19). Are there any ways in which you have recently learned to trust the potter (God) enough to yield yourself to His shaping and molding of your person and plans? Explain.
9. Jeremiah's messages from God were rejected by both the leaders and the people; they chose instead to believe the lies of the false prophets. Such messages reinforced what they wanted to hear. How might we train our senses to discern truth from falsehood given the many sources of conflicting information today?

## Looking Ahead

Jeremiah chronicles how, following the death of good King Josiah, Judah's next four kings refuse to respond to God's messenger or His message, leading the nation to its ultimate doom and destruction. Providing warnings of God's imminent judgment, Jeremiah suffers intense persecution and finally witnesses the downfall of Jerusalem and its magnificent Temple. He then composes a series of mournful laments, expressing the deep anguish and grief experienced by all of God's people.

Meanwhile, among the captives already in Babylon, Ezekiel and Daniel minister to the exiled Jewish community and the Babylonian king. Despite their adverse circumstances, these prophets proclaim that God is still in control, fulfilling His plan.

## Notes

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# Putting the Prophets in Their Place

Book	Era	Audience	Theme(s)
<b>Isaiah</b> (chs. 1–39)	Pre-Exile c. 700 BC?	Judah	Judgment against Judah and Israel; prophecies of promise and blessing; judgments against nations
<b>Isaiah</b> (chs. 40–55)	Exile c. 680 BC?	Judah	Deliverance and restoration of Israel; the servant’s ministry; God’s call to salvation
<b>Isaiah</b> (chs. 56–66)	Uncertain	Judah	Condemnation of wicked; worship; restoration; everlasting deliverance, everlasting judgment
<b>Jeremiah</b>	Pre-Exile 7th/6th century BC	Judah	Warnings and exhortations; his suffering; fall of Jerusalem; judgment against nations
<b>Lamentations</b> (Jeremiah)	Pre-Exile/Exile c. 580 BC	Judah	Laments over destruction of Jerusalem
<b>Ezekiel</b>	Exile 6th century BC	Jews in Babylon	God’s sovereignty over creation, people, nations, and history; God’s holiness; judgment against Judah and pagan nations; God’s future work in history
<b>Daniel</b>	Exile c. 530 BC?	Jews in Babylon	Prayer; spiritual warfare; living by God’s standards in a hostile environment; God’s sovereignty
<b>Hosea</b>	Pre-Exile 8th century BC	Israel	Just as Hosea is betrayed by his beloved, God is betrayed by His beloved Israel; loving commitment can overcome betrayal
<b>Joel</b>	Pre-Exile Uncertain	Judah	God’s people have a choice: keep doing wrong and be judged, or repent and receive God’s forgiveness and salvation

Book	Era	Audience	Theme(s)
<b>Amos</b>	Pre-Exile 8th century BC	Israel	Israel ignores what matters to God—justice, compassion, and worship from the heart—and God’s impending judgment
<b>Obadiah</b>	Pre-Exile c. 587 BC	Edom	Edomites, who treated Israel unjustly, now face God’s anger
<b>Jonah</b>	Pre-Exile 8th century BC	Assyria	God’s forgiveness of us; our need to forgive others
<b>Micah</b>	Pre-Exile 8th century BC	Judah	God’s judgment for idolatry and oppression; His mercy for the obedient; our need to show mercy; the coming Messiah
<b>Nahum</b>	Pre-Exile 7th century BC	Assyria	The judgment of Assyria and its capital, Nineveh
<b>Habakkuk</b>	Pre-Exile 7th century BC	Judah	Is God ignoring evil or will He settle the score?
<b>Zephaniah</b>	Pre-Exile 7th century BC	Judah	Judgment day is coming; closing promise
<b>Haggai</b>	Post-Exile 6th century BC	Jews in Jerusalem	God’s blessings and what the Jews did to hinder them; Jews rebuild the Temple
<b>Zechariah</b>	Post-Exile 6th/5th (?) century BC	Jews in Jerusalem	God’s encouragement to exiles who return from Babylon; prophecies about the coming Messiah; salvation
<b>Malachi</b>	Post-Exile 5th/4th (?) century BC	Jews in Jerusalem	God’s readiness to replace the Old Covenant with the new; prophecies about the Messiah who will usher in the New Covenant



# SESSION 10

## MAJOR PROPHETS, PART II AGAINST THE ODDS



# Session 10 • Major Prophets, Part II

**Days:** 57-63

**Reading:** Jeremiah 31:23 to Daniel 5:30

This week you completed reading just over two-thirds of the entire Bible! As you read, did you realize that Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible in terms of number of words in its original language? Keep up the great work. You have less than a month to go to reach your goal!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the portion of the prophetic books you read this week from the conclusion of Jeremiah to the beginning of Daniel?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #10 • Against the Odds (Probability)

The five books of the major prophets (Isaiah through Daniel) make predictions about the Temple in Jerusalem that fly against all odds. Their notion that the Temple will be resurrected causes some scholars to assume the books are not predictive after all, but contain material written after the fact. When we examine historic, extra-Biblical accounts, however, the picture begins to come into focus: There are many specific, predictive prophecies with confirmed fulfillments in the Bible—even skeptics should take notice. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you find predictive Biblical prophecy to be convincing evidence that the God of the Bible is for real? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Jeremiah warned God's people to repent lest they fall under God's judgment. Again and again, the people refused to return to God until finally the prophet realized their exile by the Babylonians was inevitable. He then implored the people to accept God's punishment lest they make their situation even worse. Why do you think we humans often seem bent on learning the hard way? Can you think of other examples in Scripture or in your own life where this was true? Explain.



4. In Jeremiah 32, the prophet declared that the LORD will make “a new covenant” with His people—one that will be written on their hearts. From your perspective, what were some of the limitations and inadequacies of the original covenant (the Law) that necessitated a new one? What are some of the benefits of the New Covenant that we can enjoy today?
5. In the midst of his heart-wrenching lamentations, Jeremiah boldly declared “Great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:23 ESV, NIV). Why is it important that we learn, like Jeremiah, to look “up” to the LORD as our source of strength and deliverance rather than live “down” in the dumps due to our circumstances? What tips have you found to help make this possible in your life?
6. The lament of Ezekiel 28:12-19 is often related to Satan. Proverbs tell us that, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18, ESV). What things can you do to keep a humble spirit before God and others?
7. As Ezekiel prophesied over a valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37, God did the impossible and miraculously brought the bones back to life. In context, what do you think God was promising through this vision? Does this vivid illustration also help you visualize how God might do great things in your life as you trust Him, pray, and seek to be faithful?
8. Daniel and his three friends refused to compromise their moral and religious beliefs in Babylon, right down to their prayer practices and dietary observances—even at the potential cost of their lives. Thus did “little” things set them apart from the crowd. In what ways do you or should you be more focused on such bold obedience and faithfulness in the seemingly small things?
9. Daniel and his friends walked with integrity, even when facing the king’s wrath and a fiery furnace. Their faith caused even Gentiles to proclaim: “Your God is God!” Thus did “big” steps of faith set them apart from the other advisors and administrators. How might you do the same in your life?

## Looking Ahead

The readings this coming week conclude the major prophets and continue through all the minor prophets. The writings of the minor prophets address four primary audiences (Judah, Israel, Assyria, and Edom) during three different time periods (before the exile, during the exile, and after the exile). Despite their distinct emphases, the minor prophets share common themes: they confront sinful practices, call the people back to their covenant relationship with the LORD, alert the nation of coming judgment, and prepare God’s people for the coming Messiah.

After 400 years of silence and in the fullness of time, the promised Messiah was born. Matthew emphasizes His role as the long-awaited king from the line of David. He details

how His life is a fulfillment of numerous Old Testament prophecies that authenticate His identity.

**Note:** See the following supplemental material on The Intertestamental Period as a quick reference concerning critical events which occurred between the Old and New Testaments.

## Notes

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# Supplemental Material

## The Intertestamental Period

### Summary

The period between the Old and New Testament is variously called the “Intertestamental Period,” the “Time Between the Testaments,” or the “Silent Years.” Most Protestants declare these years silent regarding revelations from God. Catholic and Orthodox Christians, however, generally accept a list of 14 apocryphal books describing this gap between the Testaments as God’s inspired Word. Protestants acknowledge these 14 books, often called “The Apocrypha,” as beneficial for historic content but do not place them on par with the rest of Scripture.

Regardless of one’s view of the Apocrypha, an understanding of the period between Malachi and John the Baptist can provide insight about the historical and cultural setting of the New Testament and how God used the Intertestamental Period to prepare the way for the promised Messiah.

### The Intertestamental Time Periods

The four centuries between the Testaments can be separated into four distinct time periods based on governmental influences over Jerusalem.

#### **Persian Period** (425 to 333 BC)

The Old Testament closes during the period of the Persian Empire. Unlike the Assyrians and the Babylonians who preceded them, the Persians were generally tolerant toward the Jews and allowed them to remain in their homeland. Over time, Persian kings even granted increased political power and religious authority to the Jewish High Priest.

#### **Greek Period** (333 to 164 BC)

Alexander the Great and his Macedonian army conquered Persia and marked out an empire from Greece to Northwestern India in a relatively few short years. After his untimely death, his generals divided the kingdom among themselves, fighting over some of the contested areas, including Judea. In an effort to retain control of the empire, they imposed Greek language and culture throughout the region (Hellenism). As a result, trade increased and standards of living improved, but the language, religion, and cultural practices of the Jews were threatened.

Initially, two ruling dynasties competed for control over Judea: the Seleucids in Syria, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia, and the Ptolemies in Egypt. These kingdoms fought for over 100 years until the Seleucids prevailed. As predicted in the latter chapters of Daniel, the Seleucid ruler, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, desecrated the Temple in 168 BC and forced the priests to offer sacrifices to Greek gods.

## **Hasmonaean Period (164 to 63 BC)**

The priestly family of the Maccabees refused to participate in the demanded sacrifices and began an armed uprising against the Seleucids. They ultimately triumphed and gained a degree of political independence. Their successors established the Hasmonaean dynasty over Judea.

## **Roman Period (63 BC and beyond)**

Pompey the Great conquered Jerusalem in 63 BC and about 20 years later, the Roman Senate appointed Herod the Great as King of the Jews. Herod was an Idumean—a descendant of Esau. To gain favor with the Jews, Herod rebuilt and expanded the Jewish Temple. He also constructed a palace at Caesarea Maritima and built fortifications at numerous sites, such as Masada and Herodium. Despite his bodyguard of 2,000 soldiers, Herod was haunted by an irrational paranoia about threats to his reign. He murdered anyone he suspected might oppose him, including many of his own family members and staff.

## **Religious and Political Sects**

During this 400-year period, a number of religious and political sects arose.

### **Jewish Sects**

**Pharisees.** “The pious or separated” ones. They rejected all forms of Hellenization and steadfastly adhered to even the smallest provisions of the Jewish Law.

**Sadducees.** An “elite” priestly aristocracy. They focused on Temple administration and ritual while enjoying positions of wealth and influence within the existing political order.

**Essenes.** Withdrawing from society, this sect sought to escape the corrupting influences of the Graeco-Roman world through a monastic lifestyle devoted to the study of Scripture and manual labor.

### **Political Sects**

**Herodians.** Secular opportunists who supported Herod. They gained positions of influence and material wealth by cooperating with the Romans. Their fellow Jews hated them.

**Zealots.** Fanatics opposed to Roman rule. These Jewish nationalists were determined to resist Rome at all costs and actively sought opportunities for armed insurrection.

### **Other Groups**

**Sanhedrin.** The Jewish ruling council. Led by the High Priest, this 71-member group of priests, elders, and scribes was the final court of appeal for religious offenses.

**Publicans.** Tax collectors for the Romans. Seen as “tools of the oppressors” by the other Jews, the Publicans were resisted, ridiculed, and even excommunicated from Jewish society.



# SESSION 11

## MINOR PROPHETS THE CONNECTION



# Session 11 • Minor Prophets

**Days:** 64-70

**Reading:** Daniel 6:1 to Matthew 23:39

A very special congratulations is in order! You have completed the entire Old Testament and are well on your way in the New Testament. Additionally, you are more than three-fourths of the way towards completion of the entire Bible. Keep it up, you are on the final lap.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the readings this week from the end of Daniel through all the minor prophets and ending with almost all of Matthew?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #11 • The Connection (Archaeology)

The minor prophets carry a major hope in their hearts as they look into the future. They long for the people of God to be prepared for the coming Messiah, that the Temple of God might be reclaimed. Malachi, the last of the 12, promised a day would come when a messenger would appear, like Elijah, to prepare the people to meet their Messiah. This lesson offers insights about ways in which prophetic hope for a renewed Temple was fulfilled in Christ, and how archaeology gives evidence that Malachi's hope was grounded in actual historic, space-time events. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you find archaeology to confirm the truth of Scripture in some manner? Explain.

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue. You may note there are more options than usual due to the large number of books covered this week.

3. Several of Daniel's visions were alarming and caused him sleepless nights. Has God's truth ever impacted you in such a profound manner? Does Daniel's reaction to God's revelation give a sense of authenticity to the book? Explain.
4. Hosea and Amos ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel during a period of

relative peace and prosperity characterized by selfish and uncaring leaders and spiritually complacent people. God attempted to woo both the leaders and the general populace back by His everlasting and unfailing love while warning them of coming judgment if they failed to repent. What aspect of God's enduring love do you find most compelling and attractive? Why do you think so many fail to respond to it?

5. Jonah reluctantly called the Ninevites to repentance resulting in a great revival in Nineveh. One hundred years later, the Ninevites had returned to their sinful ways and Nahum warned them once again of God's coming judgment. What can you learn about the character of God from His work through these prophets and His treatment of the Ninevites?
6. Joel and Zephaniah both emphasized the coming "day of the LORD." When you think of that phrase, what comes to mind? What practical steps should we all take to prepare for that final day?
7. Obadiah's message of impending judgment and doom on Edom reveals the danger of hubris—excessive pride and an attitude of self-sufficiency. What are some ways you have found to guard against this tendency, particularly when things are going well in your life?
8. Micah 6:8 provides a tremendous insight into what a life that is truly pleasing to God looks like. From your perspective, what does it mean to "do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"
9. Have you ever felt like Habakkuk and wondered why God does not appear to be doing more to protect and reward the righteous and punish the wicked? Are you satisfied with God's response to Habakkuk's complaint?
10. Haggai and Zechariah were called to exhort the returned remnant to get their priorities straight and complete the rebuilding of the Temple—not through their own might or power but by God's spirit. Have there been times in your life when you tried to accomplish God's purposes through your own strength only to realize that God's power was essential for achieving success? Explain.
11. Malachi spoke to a generation that approached God with a sense of obligation rather than devotion. As a result, rather than serve God from their hearts, their faith became rigid and resentful. How might you encourage a Christian whose walk with God has become a burden rather than a blessing?
12. Matthew quoted more prophecy from the Old Testament than the other Gospel writers to help us make the connection between the testaments and between our lives and God. In what ways have you made the connection?



## Looking Ahead

The New Testament continues with the four Gospel (“good news”) accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The first three authors, Matthew, Mark, and Luke provide synoptic accounts (“seeing together”) since they employ a significant amount of similar material. The fourth author, John, provides a supplementary account which is mostly new and unique.

The authors focus on the three years of Jesus ministry with particular emphasis on His final week in Jerusalem (Passion Week) leading to His death, burial, and resurrection. Written to different audiences with distinct themes, the four accounts provide a compelling case that Jesus was who He claimed to be—the promised Messiah and only Son of God.

The book of Acts continues the narrative with Christs’ ascension and the coming of the promised Holy Spirit.

**Optional.** Some critics focus on apparent “discrepancies” in the Gospel accounts to attack their accuracy and validity. During your readings this week, consider the following table “Comparing the Resurrection Accounts” and come prepared to discuss why you think they differ.

## Notes

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# Comparing the Resurrection Accounts

Who went to the tomb?	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Mary Magdalene	x	x	x	x
“Other” Mary	x			
Mary, mother of James		x	x	
Salome		x		
Joanna			x	
Peter			x	x
“The disciple Jesus loved”				x
What did they see there?				
No body of Jesus	x	x	x	x
Guards	x			
Violent earthquake, angel of LORD rolls back stone and sits on it	x			
Stone already rolled away		x	x	x
Young man in white robe		x		
Two men in gleaming clothes standing			x	
Peter and John: Strips of linen and burial cloth				x
Two angels in white seated where Jesus had been				x
Jesus	x			x
What were they told to do?				
Look at place where Jesus had been	x	x		
Tell disciples to meet Him in Galilee	x			
Tell disciples and Peter to meet Him in Galilee		x		
Jesus tells Mary: “Don’t hold me. Tell my brothers I am returning to my Father and your Father”				x



# SESSION 12

**GOSPELS**  
**LIKE NO OTHER**

# Session 12 • Gospels

**Days:** 71-77

**Reading:** Matthew 24:1 to Acts 4:37

Great work this week as you completed reading the four Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. You only have two weeks left until you complete the entire Bible—the end is definitely in sight! Take time to encourage others who have joined you on this journey so you can all finish together.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life continuing to the coming of the Holy Spirit which followed His ascension?
4. At the end of last session, you were given a table showing similarities and differences in the Gospel accounts of the resurrection. How might you account for these differences? Do the varying narratives make you more or less confident in the accuracy of the accounts?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #12 • Like No Other (Biography)

No biographical sketch has impacted the world as has that of Jesus Christ. So unique and inspiring was His life that one Gospel story would not have been enough. Four New Testament accounts each provide essential insight about who Christ was and how He lived. Together, they explain why the life of a single person could impact not only His world, but the entire world, through the ages. The more we study and understand the Gospels, the clearer it becomes that Jesus must have been God's Son. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. How does the life of Christ as demonstrated in the Gospels help you to know and obey God?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Matthew presents a compelling case that Jesus was the promised Messiah and

coming king. Despite all the evidence, both the Jewish leaders and the majority of the people rejected Him. If Jesus came onto the scene in human flesh once again today, how do you think we would receive Him? Explain.

4. How does Mark's portrayal of Jesus as the selfless "servant" affect your expectations of how you will be treated by the world as one of His followers? What "rights" did you give up when you became a Christian, if any?
5. In Mark 10 and beyond, Jesus offers a dramatic comparison of physical and spiritual blindness. Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted because he clearly understood his physical condition. In contrast, the Pharisees were unaware of their own spiritual blindness and did not realize just how desperately they needed Jesus. How might we discern areas of our own spiritual sightedness today?
6. Luke's depicts Jesus as the perfect man who came to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10 NIV). When did you first sense that He came to save you personally?
7. The Gospels contain almost 40 different parables. Is there a particular parable that has been especially challenging or encouraging for you? Explain.
8. John's Gospel unapologetically portrays Jesus as divine—the one and only Son of God. From your perspective, was Jesus more than just an ordinary human being? Provide rationale for your answer.
9. In the book of Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost dramatically impacted the disciples. They were transformed from fearful and timid disciples to bold, confident, and articulate ambassadors for Christ. Why do you think the Holy Spirit made such a difference? Are there any similar life-altering transformations that you have witnessed or are familiar with? Explain.

## Looking Ahead

The story of the growth of the Early Church continues in the book of Acts. The message of the Gospel continues to expand outward from Jerusalem, to nearby regions, and ultimately to Rome itself.

This week's readings contain 12 of Paul's 13 epistles, titled by addressee (to churches then individuals), and generally ordered by length. Within our reading there are two major subgroups of epistles: the Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon) written during Paul's first imprisonment and the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) written to young pastors.

**Optional resource.** As you continue in your reading of the book of Acts this coming week, use the diagram below as a timeline of the life of Paul as well as other key events.

# Timeline of the Life of Paul

Year(s)	Event
<b>46-47</b>	Paul's 1st missionary journey
<b>48-51</b>	Paul's 2nd missionary journey
<b>53</b>	Paul's 3rd missionary journey begins
<b>58</b>	Paul imprisoned in Caesarea
<b>62</b>	Paul arrives in Rome
<b>66</b>	Paul dies?
<b>67</b>	Jewish Revolt
<b>70</b>	Temple destroyed
<b>AD 100</b>	John dies?



# SESSION 13

**HISTORY & PAULINE EPISTLES**  
**KNOWING GOD**



# Session 13 • History & Pauline Epistles

**Days:** 78-84

**Reading:** Acts 5:1 to Titus 3:15

Wow! You have completed reading through the New Testament historical books (Gospels and Acts) and the first 13 of Paul's 14 epistles. With one week to go and two "Grace Days" included in the schedule, you are encouraged to complete all your readings this coming week even, if you have fallen a bit behind. Keep up your excellent effort to the end!

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the readings this week from the conclusion of Acts through all of the Pauline Epistles except Philemon? You may want to use the timeline provided at the end of last session as a framework for your response.

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #13 • Knowing God (Theology)

Theology is a word that causes some people's eyes to glaze over. But when we really think about our ability to "study God," which is what theology is all about, it can be one of the most mysterious, exciting and challenging ventures of our lives. It is to such an adventure that Paul's letters in the New Testament invite us. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. What insights from the video would you like to explore further with the group?
2. Do you think the study of God (theology) is an important aspect of the Christian life? Why or why not?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Acts 10 recounts the inclusion of Gentiles into previously exclusive Jewish household of faith. Are there any people you would find difficult to welcome into the Kingdom of God through the open doors of your heart, your home, or your church? Explain.
4. "Righteousness" is a central theme in Romans. Do you tend to think of righteousness as something you do for God or a gift God gives to you? Explain.

5. If we really know God, we will follow Him, even in hard times. When faced with a rebellious faction in the Corinthian Church, Paul found need to defend his apostolic credentials. He explained that those who follow Christ must be faithful to the LORD, even if it requires suffering for the faith. How would you evaluate yourself in this regard?
6. To know God is to know His mercy and love. The early Galatian churches struggled to reconcile their new faith in Christ with their traditional Jewish practices under the Law. Paul asserted that they were justified by faith alone and not through works of the flesh. How have you learned to avoid trying to please God through your own human efforts and instead relied upon His unconditional forgiveness, mercy, and grace?
7. Three of Paul's prison epistles, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, boldly proclaim the triumphant Church, the triumphant Christian, and the triumphant Christ. Recalling these were written while Paul was forced to languish in prison, can you think of times in your life when you were forced to slow down and experienced special grace and spiritual growth as a result?
8. Some believers in the Thessalonian Church were misled and confused regarding the anticipated return of Christ. In his two letters to them, Paul provided specific details on what they should expect and how they should act until the LORD's appearing. How might deeper understanding about the LORD's imminent return motivate you to give God your best today?
9. Paul, writing to each of his two young protégés, Timothy and Titus, outlined key qualifications for church leaders, all evidences of one who truly knows God (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-16). Do you believe these qualifications are important not only for leaders in Paul's day but for your life as well? Explain.

## Looking Ahead

This week's readings will bring us to the close of the New Testament and the entire Bible. They begin with Paul's final epistle, followed by the eight General Epistles, and conclude with the single prophetic book of the New Testament: Revelation.

The General, or Non-Pauline epistles, were written by five different authors. Each offers a unique perspective on practical Christian living. Unlike their Pauline counterparts, the General Epistles are titled by their authors rather than their addressees (with the exception of Hebrews). They share a number of common themes: coping with persecution, dealing with false teachers, engaging in hospitality, and the dynamic between works and faith.

The Bible appropriately culminates with a final prophetic vision unveiled in the book of Revelation. This book anticipates a coming period of tribulation, followed by Christ's return and His millennial reign on earth, leading ultimately to a new heaven and new earth.



# SESSION 14

## GENERAL EPISTLES & PROPHECY ONE LAST THING



# Session 14 • General Epistles & Prophecy

**Days:** 85-90

**Reading:** Philemon 1 to Revelation 22:21

You did it! Three short months ago you began your journey through the Bible and now you have reached your goal of attentively reading every word from cover to cover (or if you chose the overview mode, of reading a chapter a day). It's time to celebrate with all those in your group who have also finished. Finally, take some time to commit or recommit to a lifetime of Bible reading and study as you continue to grow and mature as a Christian.

## Initial Discussion

1. Did anything particularly surprise you during your readings this week?
2. Are there any burning questions or issues from the readings that you would like to address up front?
3. How might we summarize the final portion of Bible you read this week, from the last of the Pauline Epistles through the General (Non-Pauline) Epistles and ending with the prophetic book of Revelation?
4. What is the most significant thing that you have learned about God and your relationship with Him through reading His Word these last 90 days?

## Watch Video: The Essential Snapshot #14 • One Last Thing (Continuity)

The most significant evidence for the existence and workings of God is not found in any one area that we have studied thus far, but rather through the compilation of all 12. Logic alone cannot pull these varied topics together. However, our intuition, if rightly understood, can. And once we see the grand picture, the essential snapshot, we must do one last thing to make it our own. [Watch](#)

## Continue the Dialogue

Discuss the following two questions, particularly as they pertain to the video.

1. Do you agree with the notion that it's not so much one truth that motivates us to believe in God and His Word but the combination of all 12 truths we studied in this series (and potentially many others)? Why or why not?
2. The video talked about "one last thing"—the challenge to make a personal relationship with God our number one priority? How did you or do you embrace this challenge?

As time permits, select from the following questions to continue the dialogue.

3. Philemon reminds us that even a sin as heinous as slavery can be overcome through time with God's truth and love. What words or truths in Paul's letter to Philemon might have laid the foundation for the eventual eradication of slavery in many nations?
4. The author of Hebrews exhorts his readers, who were undergoing persecution, not to abandon their faith and fall back into Judaism but to press on to maturity in Christ. What encouraging words might you give to a fellow believer who is struggling under difficult circumstances?
5. James emphasizes the importance of works as evidence of a living faith. How would you describe the proper relationship between faith and works? What are the implications in terms of your Christian walk?
6. Peter's epistles address two serious issues for the Early Church: how to respond to persecution from without and how to counter false teachers from within. From your experience, which is the greater challenge for the Church today? Explain.
7. The three epistles of John encourage believers to stay true by remaining close to God and His Word while disassociating themselves from those whose contrary teachings divide and weaken the body. Do the swirling agendas of the world tend to distract you from core teachings about God's love, light, and truth? If so, what practical things can you do to keep your focus on the LORD and His Word in the months ahead?
8. Jude challenged fellow believers to "contend for the faith," particularly when confronted with dangerous false teachers. Have you ever had to take a difficult stand for the faith? If so, what did you learn from your experience?
9. Does the description of the end times in Revelation make you feel more concerned or confident about the future? Explain.

## Looking Ahead

Your journey through the Bible has only just begun. Go to [ScriptureAwakening.com](http://ScriptureAwakening.com) for other resources you can use to Read, Study, and Live God's Word every day.

## Appendix 1

# B90/B90+ Integrated Reading Plan

This chart integrates the traditional Bible in 90 Days full reading schedule with the B90+ digital version, which includes the B90+ Overview reading option and lesson commentaries, plus the traditional B90 Participant's Guide weekly small group session\* outline.

**KEY**  
B90 = Bible in 90 Days Traditional  
B90+ (Plus) = Digital Version  
SGS\* = Small Group Sessions  
\*B90 Session 1 is conducted before the readings begin.

Day	B90 Full Reading	B90+ Overview	B90+ Commentary	SGS	Day	B90 Full Reading	B90+ Overview	B90+ Commentary	SGS
1	Gen 1–15	Gen 3	The Dark Underside	Session 2	46	Pro 12–22	Pro 12	Gleaning Wisdom	Session 8
2	Gen 16–28	Gen 22	Imperfect Leaders		47	Pro 23–Ecc 5	Ecc 1	The Fulfilled Life	
3	Gen 29–40	Gen 37	Dreams & Destiny		48	Ecc 6–Isa 1	Song 8	Real Love	
4	Gen 41–Exo 2	Gen 49	Startling Predictions		49	Isa 2–14	Isa 6	A Vision of God	
5	Exo 3–15	Exo 12	Your Way Out		50	Isa 15–29:10	Isa 20	The Naked Truth	Session 9
6	Exo 16–29	Exo 19	Introducing God		51	Isa 29:11–41:29	Isa 40	Supernatural Comfort	
7	Exo 30–Lev 4:26	Exo 32	The Golden Cow		52	Isa 42–52	Isa 45	Reading Backward	
8	Lev 4:27–16:14	Lev 10	Consuming Fire	Session 3	53	Isa 53–65	Isa 53	The Great Motivator	
9	Lev 16:15–Num 1	Lev 19	Who's in the Details?		54	Isa 66–Jer 8	Jer 1	Not Too Young	
10	Num 2–11	Num 3	Any Old Lead Pipe		55	Jer 9–20	Jer 9	A Time to Weep	
11	Num 12–23	Num 14	Our Rebellion		56	Jer 21–31:22	Jer 25	Chaos, Chronos, or Kairos?	
12	Num 24–36	Num 25	Bad as Balaam		57	Jer 31:23–44:30	Jer 36	God's Enduring Word	
13	Deu 1–11	Deu 4	Memory Matters		58	Jer 45–51	Jer 51	Alas Babylon	Session 10
14	Deu 12–28:14	Deu 19	Your Refuge		59	Jer 52–Eze 6	Lam 3	Growth Through Grief	
15	Deu 28:15–Jos 6	Jos 1	Facing Change	Session 4	60	Eze 7–20	Eze 16	By All Means	
16	Jos 7–19	Jos 14	Inspiring Courage		61	Eze 21–31	Eze 28	The Greatest Fall	
17	Jos 20–Jud 7	Jud 7	In Your Weakness		62	Eze 32–42	Eze 40	God's Manifest Presence	
18	Jud 8–19	Jud 16	Issues of the Heart		63	Eze 43–Dan 5	Dan 4	God is in Control	
19	Jud 20–1Sam 8	1Sam 1	Giving Birth		64	Dan 6–Hos 7	Dan 9	Switching the Rules	Session 11
20	1Sam 9–20:17	1Sam 15	Enemy of the Best		65	Hos 8–Amo 4	Hos 14	Amazing Love	
21	1Sam 20:18–2Sam 3:21	1Sam 26	No Quick Fixes		66	Amo 5–Mic 7	Amo 9	The Day of the Lord	
22	2Sam 3:22–16:23	2Sam 11	Truth or Consequences	Session 5	67	Nah 1–Zec 3	Hab 3	Hope on Display	
23	2Sam 17–1Kng 1	2Sam 24	Finishing Well		68	Zec 4–Mal 4	Zec 4	Motivation to Get Moving	
24	1Kng 2–10	1Kng 3	The Summit of Success		69	Mat 1–12	Mat 1	Another Genealogy	
25	1Kng 11–21	1Kng 11	The Footpath of Failure		70	Mat 13–23	Mat 13	The Kingdom Calls	
26	1Kng 22–2Kng 9	2Kng 5	The Greatest Power		71	Mat 24–Mark 5	Mat 25	Ready for the End	Session 12
27	2Kng 10–20	2Kng 20	Touching God's Heart		72	Mark 6–15:20	Mark 10	Why the Four?	
28	2Kng 21–1Chr 5	2Kng 21	When God Says "Enough"		73	Mark 15:21–Luke 8	Luke 1	The Healer's Heart	
29	1Chr 6–17	1Chr 9	Why All the Lists?	Session 6	74	Luke 9–18	Luke 15	Radical Compassion	
30	1Chr 18–2Chr 1	1Chr 28	Catch the Context		75	Luke 19–John 4	John 1	Unity in Diversity	
31	2Chr 2–17	2Chr 16	Supernatural Support		76	John 5–13	John 13	Kingdom Hospitality	
32	2Chr 18–31	2Chr 26	Humble Yourself		77	John 14–Acts 4	John 21	Surprise Endings	
33	2Chr 32–Ezr 7	Ezr 7	Why Church?		78	Acts 5–15	Acts 10	God's Welcome Mat	Session 13
34	Ezr 8–Neh 9	Neh 2	Rebuild for God		79	Acts 16–27	Acts 16	Unstoppable	
35	Neh 10–Est 10	Est 7	On Stage		80	Acts 28–Rom 14	Rom 8	Inseparable	
36	Job 1–19	Job 1	Asking Why	Session 7	81	Rom 15–1Cor 14	1Cor 1	The Sinking Ship	
37	Job 20–36	Job 23	Behind the Façade		82	1Cor 15–Gal 3	2Cor 11	True Credentials	
38	Job 37–Psa 17	Psa 1	Planted to Grow		83	Gal 4–Col 4	Col 1	The Jeweled Necklace	
39	Psa 18–37	Psa 19	God's Big Net		84	1Ths 1–Tit 3	2Tim 4	What Matters in the End	
40	Psa 38–60	Psa 42	Dealing with Depression		85	Phi–Jam 2	Heb 12	Refined by Reality	Session 14
41	Psa 61–78	Psa 73	Praise in Hard Times		86	Jam 3–3John	2Pet 2	Stay True	
42	Psa 79–102	Psa 100	Earnest Worship		87	Jude–Rev 17	Rev 1	Treasures Unveiled	
43	Psa 103–119:72	Psa 119	God's Love Letter	Session 8	88	Rev 18–22	Rev 22	The Best Ending	
44	Psa 119:73–146:10	Psa 139	God Knows All		89	Grace Day	Grace Day	Continue the Journey	
45	Psa 147–Pro 11	Pro 1	Wisdom Speaks		90	Grace Day	Grace Day	What's Next?	



# Best Practices for Small Groups

### About Small Groups

Meeting weekly in small groups to discuss the daily readings and commentaries as well as view an insightful video has the potential to make the B90/B90+ experience even more meaningful.

**Group Size:** Experience has shown that a group size of 10–12 people works best. If your group is significantly larger, we suggest you create additional small groups.

**Group Leaders:** Each group should have its own facilitator/leader. It is good to also have at least one back-up facilitator in case the primary facilitator is absent. If you have several groups meeting at one time, decide who will be responsible for facilitating the larger group gatherings for the welcome time and so forth.

### About Facilitator/Leaders

These lessons are designed to easily be used by a first-time leader as well as an experienced leader. The ideal small group facilitator/leader should have:

- a hunger for God’s Word and a deep desire to see others grow in their knowledge of God and His Word,
- a commitment to the group, emphasizing seeing the program through to the end,
- the ability to facilitate and moderate discussion rather than teach, and
- a willingness to follow the **Small Group Rules of Engagement** (found later in this GuideBook).

As facilitator, pray for your small group. Spend time preparing your own lesson (you should attempt to think through and answer all of the non-video specific questions before the class) and be thinking about how to present the questions to the group. Group members should be encouraged to at least preview the questions before each class. Even better, encourage them to find time to outline their responses to the questions on their own. One of the

goals of this approach is to encourage participants to develop the habit of delving into Scripture and studying on a regular basis.

You are not expected to be a Biblical expert. You are a *facilitator*, so *resist* the attempt to teach. You are there to guide the group, keep them on track, and avoid getting caught up in doctrinal debates. If you want to facilitate the group with a broadened background knowledge, see our “Background Study Option” below.

Recognize that not everyone is comfortable answering questions. Gently keep discussion going by asking questions like, “Does anyone else have something to add?” It can be helpful at times to have a volunteer read Scripture texts that are referred to in the questions.

Recognize and affirm all who contribute to the discussion. Do not dismiss someone’s answer as wrong. If an answer is obviously off-base, thank them for their answer, then ask what others think. Remind the group to let Scripture interpret Scripture.

If you feel that a certain statement or question is inappropriate for your group, you may omit it or at least recognize that not everyone needs to answer it. However, do not be afraid of letting the group tackle tough topics.

### Background Study Options

Again, facilitators are not expected to be Biblical experts. If the group looks to you for an answer you do not have, it is perfectly fine to say, “I’m not sure. Perhaps we can all think about that one and bring it up again next week?” Or, “Let’s bring this one up to the larger group when there is time allotted for such discussion.” Or, “Let’s see if this doesn’t answer itself over the weeks as we continue our study. Remember, the Bible interprets itself.”

For extra study, you may wish to approach your pastor or to read commentaries and use other resources. The internet contains a wealth of information...and also disinformation. Some



internet sites that provide reliable (and free) commentaries and articles include: biblegateway.com, biblestudytools.com, biblehub.com, and blueletterbible.org.

Another useful source of general Biblical knowledge is *The Essential Bible Companion*, by the same contributors of our *Bible in 90 Days* study series: John Walton, Mark Strauss, and Ted Cooper Jr., Zondervan Publishing (also available as an e-book).

## Leading the Class

(Suggested Lesson Plans)

### First Class

Decide where you want to meet weekly and decide on a time. These meetings are structured to be approximately 90 minutes long. Once this has been done, actively publicize the B90/B90+ study throughout all your circles—at your church, workplace, friends, family, social media, etc. There are some free publicity aids on our website at [ScriptureAwakening.com/b90/freebies/](http://ScriptureAwakening.com/b90/freebies/). (If the study is being done by the entire congregation, recruit facilitators for each group and have one facilitator designated to lead the opening session as a larger group and the closing session when all come back together.)

Be sure that every participant has downloaded the electronic version or has a printed copy of the study at least one week prior to the first small group meeting. Have everyone answer the initial discussion questions in preparation for the first gathering of the group(s).

The first class is unique in that a little more time is spent on introductions and explanations of how the classes will function.

1. Opening prayer, welcome, and introduction of members (13 minutes)

Note: Entire church groups meet together for opening prayer only and then break into their small groups for the welcome and introduction of members.

- a. Think of something brief each participant could say about themselves such as: “Tell us

something unique about yourself.”

- b. Use the **Initial Discussion** questions as an aid to understanding why the participants joined this study and what they expect to get out of it.
  - c. Remind them to keep their answers brief (one minute or less).
2. Give an overview of the B90/B90+ program (7 minutes)
    - a. Inform the class of how many weeks it will take to cover the study and the date of the last class.
    - b. Discuss the format of the B90/B90+ study and ask if there are any questions.
    - c. Review the **Small Group Rules of Engagement** which are located at the end of this Appendix.
  3. View the introductory **Essential Snapshot** video (24 minutes)
  4. Discuss the **Continue the Dialogue** questions (35 minutes)
    - a. Have the group consider and respond to the first two video-specific questions.
    - b. Ask if there are any initial thoughts or questions they would like to discuss with the group.
    - c. Address as many **Continue the Dialogue** questions as time permits.

Optional: For an entire church, allow an extra 10-15 minutes for the groups to come back together at a specified time so that each group can share a high-light of their small group discussion.
  5. Preview the readings for the next week by reading the **Looking Ahead** section (5 minutes)
  6. Closing prayer (5 minutes)
    - a. If time is short, then as the leader, pray for the group.
    - b. If you have more time, you may ask if there are any prayer requests and either pray on

behalf of the group or open it up for the group to pray.

7. If you are providing printed copies of lessons to participants, distribute the lesson for next week.
8. Dismissal

### **Subsequent Classes**

1. Opening prayer, welcome, and introduction of any new participants (10 minutes)  
  
Note: Entire church groups meet together for opening prayer only and then break into their small groups for all that follows:
  - a. If there are new members, have them introduce themselves. Remind them to be brief (one minute or less).
  - b. Think of a good ice-breaker that somehow relates to the study. For example, if you are studying “The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20,” you may ask, “Why do you think Exodus or the Ten Commandments are important?” Or, “How do the Ten Commandments relate to the cross of Jesus Christ?” Remind them to keep their answers short. Set a time limit for this opening section; not everyone needs to answer.
  - c. If you think it’s necessary, remind the group of the **Small Group Rules of Engagement** at the end of this Guide.
2. Use the **Introduction** and **Initial Discussion** questions to set the stage for the lesson (5 minutes)
3. Watch **The Essential Snapshot** video (30 minutes)
4. Discuss the **Continue the Dialogue** questions (35 minutes)
  - a. Have the group consider and respond to the first two video specific questions.
  - b. Ask if there are any of the remaining questions they would like to discuss with the group.
  - c. Address as many questions as time permits.  
  
Recommended: For an entire church, allow

and extra 10-15 minutes for the groups to come back together at a specified time. Allow each group to share an insight of their small group discussion.

5. Preview the readings for the next week by reading the **Looking Ahead** section (5 minutes)
6. Closing prayer (5 minutes)
  - a. If time is short, then as the leader, pray for the group.
  - b. If you have more time, you may ask if there are any prayer requests and either pray on behalf of the group or open it up for the group to pray.
7. Dismissal

### **Small Group Rules of Engagement**

It is important to treat one another in Christian love. These “Golden Rules” will be helpful, so read them aloud during the first class; thereafter, refer to them as needed by the group.

1. Begin each reading/study session with prayer, expecting God to speak to you through His Word.
2. Come prepared for each week’s session by completing the reading and the study questions.
3. Your small group will have a facilitator. Please be respectful of the facilitator’s leadership.
4. The facilitator’s responsibility is to guide or shepherd the discussions. Do not expect your facilitator to be an expert on Scripture—each group member should seek the answers from Scripture on his/her own.
5. Each group member is invited to join the discussion but should not feel required to do so. If called upon, it is okay to say, “Thank you, but I would prefer to pass on answering that question.”
6. Alternatively, do not dominate a discussion. Time is limited, so please be sensitive to everyone in the group to help ensure that each person has the opportunity to participate.

7. Respect everyone's answers and views on Scripture. However, let Scripture interpret Scripture and expect the Holy Spirit to speak/teach through His written Word.
8. In preparation for each lesson, you are encouraged to read through and answer the questions *in advance*, but not expected to do extra study or research. If you wish to dig deeper, then here are a few helpful resources:
  - Go to [ScriptureAwakening.com/b90/](http://ScriptureAwakening.com/b90/) for key tips and guidelines for best use of B90/B90+ study series in your small group or whole church.
  - The internet contains a wealth of information (and sometimes disinformation). Some useful Bible study sites include: [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com), [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com), and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org).
  - *The Essential Bible Study Companion* (hard copy) by John Walton, Mark Strauss, and Ted Cooper Jr., Zondervan Publishing (also available as an e-book).

