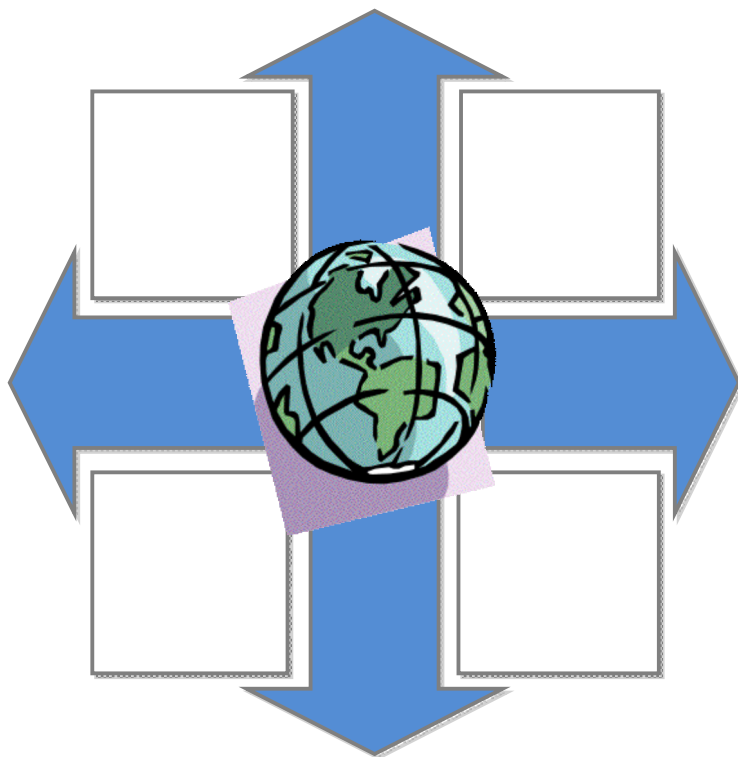


Light of the World

Ministries



“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;”

-II Timothy 3:16

*one year
Daily Bible Reading Plan*

one year
Daily Bible Reading
Plan

Congratulations on your commitment to read through the Bible this year. God's Word is ALIVE! There is no Book like it. As you read, you will be touched and changed through the personal message of His Word to you. The intention of including extra material in the Bible Reading Programme is to help the Word become vivid in your mind's eye; to allow you to feel what the writers may have felt or to imagine more accurately political situations of that day. A greater understanding in this manner helps to make the Bible more applicable to life today. Life and culture today is very different in some ways, but throughout generations, mothers have loved their babies, man has sought to improve his life, sorrow of death have overwhelmed and the joy of victory has been shouted. In many ways, Bible times are not so different from life as we know it today.

If you have never read your Bible through, this is an exciting way to do so:

1. You will read a Psalm or a Proverb each day
2. You will read the Gospels twice
3. You will read the Old Testament in chronological order.

If you miss a day, skip the reading for that day and continue with the current day's reading. When you have more time, you can catch up. If you try to read two or three days at a time, you may get discouraged and quit. Don't get discouraged!

- Write down key verses – paraphrasing key verses in your own words helps bring relevance to your own life.
- Memorize key verses or passages
- Hide God's Word in your heart!

The primary way God speaks to His children is through His Word. If you are not spending time daily reading His Word, you are neglecting His main source of guidance for you.

As you read through your Bible, write down notes of what God speaks to you and the scripture reference God used to speak that Word to you. Have a notebook and pen ready every time you approach His Word – *Expect* to hear from Him!

Pray before and after your reading time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. He is faithful and rewards those who diligently seek Him. Keep the Word fresh by anticipating hearing from the very Author Himself during your devotion time. It is not merely a daily ritual, but a time to read God's "letter" to you personally. It is unsearchable and limitless. You can read the Word over and over and find layer upon layer of truth, understanding and revelation into the knowledge of Him. What a privilege it is to serve a God who allows and *wants* us to KNOW HIM.

A few key facts will help the Bible to come alive and "fit together." The entire Bible is God's plan of redemption for mankind. Adam sold God's creation to Satan through disobedience, and God's Word is a revelation of His Master Plan to bring the Saviour into the World to "redeem," or buy back Man to His original plan – to be God's Family.

Approximate dates of People in Old Testament History:

Adam	4000 BC
Noah and the Flood	2400 BC
Abraham	2000 BC
Jacob (Israel)	1900 BC
Moses, the Exodus	1400 BC
King David	1013 BC
Judah taken Captive by Babylon	606 BC
Return to Jerusalem from Babylon	536 BC
Esther Queen of Persia	478 BC
Ezra goes to Jerusalem	457 BC
Nehemiah rebuilds the Wall	444 BC

Approximate Dates of Periods of Old Testament History

Pre-Flood (Anti-Diluvian)	4000 – 2400 BC (1600 years)
Flood to Abraham	2400 – 2000 BC (400 years)
Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob	2000 – 1800 BC (200 years)
Judges	1800 – 1400 BC (400 years)
Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)	1053 – 933 BC (120 years)
Divided Kingdom	933 – 721 BC (200 years)
Captivity of Judah	606 – 536 BC (70 years)
Restoration	536 – 432 BC (100 years)

A little Bible Trivia:

There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. There are 1189 chapters in the Bible – 929 in the Old Testament and 260 in the New. The longest chapter is Psalm 119 and the shortest is Psalm 117, which is also the center chapter of the Bible.

Old Testament History takes place over a time span of approximately **4000 years**. **Genesis** itself represents approximately **2000 years**. The **New Testament** takes place over approximately **100 years**.

History of the Early World		History of Israel				History of the Messiah	History of the Early Church		
Pre-Flood	After the Flood	The People	The Land	The Kingdom	The Remnant	The Life of Christ	In Jerusalem	In Judea and Samaria	To All the Earth
Genesis 1-11		Over 38 Books				Matthew – John	Acts - Revelation		

The Old Testament can be divided into History, Poetry and Prophetic books. History is found in the books of Genesis through Esther. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are called the “Poetry Books,” And Isaiah through Lamentations are all Prophetic books.

Why Israel and The Jewish People?

The purpose of the Word of God is for Him to reveal Himself to man. God desired that all people and all nations would know His plan of Redemption so He chose a people to whom He could reveal Himself and in turn, this People would tell the whole world. This was God’s plan for Israel, the Jewish nation.

The Bible In Brief...

God **created Adam** and **Eve** for companionship and so that He would have a Family to demonstrate His love to. When they disobeyed, the family relationship was severed by sin and God’s Plan of Redemption went into effect. He initiated the beginning of an earthly family who would bring the Saviour into the world.

Just before the **flood**, God saw that EVERY intent and thought of man was now corrupt except for one man, **Noah**. God began His plan afresh with this man and his family. Four hundred years after Noah, God spoke to **Abraham** about his descendents. They would be as many as the stars in the heaven and the sands of the seas.

Abraham's son, **Isaac** and his grandson, **Jacob** were given this promise by God to carry on. Jacob's had **twelve sons** and his name was changed to **Israel**.

Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery in **Egypt**, but because of Joseph's obedience and trust in God, the *family* of Israel who numbered 70, came to live in Egypt, and after 400 years, they grew to be the **nation of Israel** numbering several million people.

God promised to bring Israel into their **Promised Land, the land of Canaan**. Under the leadership of **Moses**, they began their journey to their land and received the Ten Commandments. Because of unbelief, they delayed their entrance into their land and **Joshua** succeeded Moses as Israel's leader.

After taking possession of most of Canaan, Israel decided they wanted to have a **king** like other nations. Israel chose **Saul** because of his kingly appearance. But God's choice was **David**. Under the leadership of David, Israel flourished because of David's tender heart toward God. David's son, **Solomon** reigned after David died. During this period in Israel's history, most of the poetry books of the Old Testament were written.

At the end of Solomon's life, there was a **division of the Kingdom**. The **Northern Kingdom**, made up of 10 tribes, continued to be known as Israel and the **Southern Kingdom**, made up of Judah and Benjamin, became known as Judah. Both nations went through cycles of obedience and disobedience to God; good leaders and evil leaders. **Prophets** of God spoke the Word of the Lord to both nations – to warn them, and to plead with them to return to Him. All of the prophetic books could be inserted

throughout the history books of the Old Testament (which is how this Bible Reading Plan is arranged).

Ultimately, Israel was taken captive by **Assyria** and never regained their independence. Judah was taken captive by **Babylon** for 70 years, and then released by the king of Babylon to return to **Jerusalem**. They rebuilt the **temple** and rebuilt the city. Here ends the Old Testament History. No prophet spoke after Malachi until 400 years later, when **John the Baptist** arrived to announce that the **Messiah**, the **Lamb of God** has come.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see that God's plan of redemption was given first to the Jew, but not exclusively for the Jew. God intended for the Jewish people to spread this **Good News** to all people. This is what Jesus taught His **disciples**, and is revealed through the work of the **apostles** in the New Testament, together with a greater understanding of the purpose of Jesus coming.

A fuller, clearer picture of God's Redemptive plan is revealed in the **letters of Paul** and other apostles. It is now the responsibility of all **Believers** to "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel..." and the Good News is that God is not holding sin against any person. He desires all to be saved and to become part of **His Family – God's original intent** for mankind. A Family to whom He may demonstrate His love!

As you open the Word to begin reading with regularity, you will find fuller, deeper and clearer revelation of God's plan for you personally as well as a greater understanding of the character of our Heavenly Father.

January

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalms 1	Matthew 1	Genesis 1-2
2	Psalms 2	Matthew 2	Genesis 3-4
3	Psalms 3	Matthew 3	Genesis 5-6
4	Psalms 4	Matthew 4	Genesis 7-8
5	Psalms 5	Matthew 5	Genesis 9-10
6	Psalms 6	Matthew 6	Genesis 11-12
7	Psalms 7	Matthew 7	Genesis 13-14
8	Psalms 8	Matthew 8	Genesis 15-16
9	Psalms 9	Matthew 9	Genesis 17-18
10	Psalms 10	Matthew 10	Genesis 19-20
11	Psalms 11	Matthew 11	Genesis 21-22
12	Psalms 12	Matthew 12	Genesis 23-24
13	Psalms 13	Matthew 13	Genesis 25-26
14	Psalms 14	Matthew 14	Genesis 27-28
15	Psalms 15	Matthew 15	Genesis 29-30
16	Psalms 16	Matthew 16	Genesis 31-32
17	Psalms 17	Matthew 17	Genesis 33-34
18	Psalms 18	Matthew 18	Genesis 35-36
19	Psalms 19	Matthew 19	Genesis 37-38
20	Psalms 20	Matthew 20	Genesis 39-40
21	Psalms 21	Matthew 21	Genesis 41-42
22	Psalms 22	Matthew 22	Genesis 43-44
23	Psalms 23	Matthew 23	Genesis 45-46
24	Psalms 24	Matthew 24	Genesis 47-48
25	Psalms 25	Matthew 25	Genesis 49-50
26	Psalms 26	Matthew 26	Exodus 1-2
27	Psalms 27	Matthew 27	Exodus 3-4
28	Psalms 28	Matthew 28	Exodus 5-6
29	Psalms 29	Acts 1	Exodus 7-8
30	Psalms 30	Acts 2	Exodus 9-10
31	Psalms 31	Acts 3	Exodus 11-12

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Genesis is believed to have been written by Moses, either solely by divine revelation from God and from ancient documents handed down by Moses' forefathers. The close of Genesis is 300 years before Moses.

Who Created God? Is a question asked by every child. Genesis shows us that there are things we cannot conceive – the beginning of time, the end of time, the boundaries of space. In faith we accept that a power higher than ourselves, God, created all. Mind-boggling: Our galaxy, the Milky Way is 200,000 light years across (200,000 x 186,000) and has 30 billion suns. Scientists know of at least 100,000 galaxies like the Milky Way.

The four **Gospels** were written with much of the same information, but to a different audience.

Matthew is written specifically with the Jew in mind. It gives the most references to Old Testament scripture, which the Jewish people held dearly and knew well. Matthew, who was a tax collector, emphasizes Jesus the Messiah.

February

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalm 32	Acts 4	Exodus 13-14
2	Psalm 33	Acts 5	Exodus 15-16
3	Psalm 34	Acts 6	Exodus 17-18
4	Psalm 35	Acts 7	Exodus 19-20
5	Psalm 36	Acts 8	Exodus 21-22
6	Psalm 37	Acts 9	Exodus 23-24
7	Psalm 38	Acts 10	Exodus 25-26
8	Psalm 39	Acts 11	Exodus 27-28
9	Psalm 40	Acts 12	Exodus 29-30
10	Psalm 41	Acts 13	Exodus 31-32
11	Psalm 42	Acts 14	Exodus 33-34
12	Psalm 43	Acts 15	Exodus 35-36
13	Psalm 44	Acts 16	Exodus 37-38
14	Psalm 45	Acts 17	Exodus 39-40
15	Psalm 46	Acts 18	Leviticus 1-3
16	Psalm 47	Acts 19	Leviticus 4-5
17	Psalm 48	Acts 20	Leviticus 6-7
18	Psalm 49	Acts 21	Leviticus 8-9
19	Psalm 50	Acts 22	Leviticus 10-11
20	Psalm 51	Acts 23	Leviticus 12-13
21	Psalm 52	Acts 24	Leviticus 14-15
22	Psalm 53	Acts 25	Leviticus 16-17
23	Psalm 54	Acts 26	Leviticus 18-19
24	Psalm 55	Acts 27	Leviticus 20-21
25	Psalm 56	Acts 28	Leviticus 22-23
26	Psalm 57	Mark 1	Leviticus 24-25
27	Psalm 58	Mark 2	Leviticus 26-27
28	Psalm 59	Mark 3	Numbers 1-2

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Seventy-three of the **Psalms** are attributed to David, 12 to Asaph, 11 to the sons of Korah, 2 to Solomon, 1 to Moses and 1 to Ethan. 50 are anonymous, some of which were most likely written by David. We see Psalms of trust, praise, rejoicing, and mercy.

Moses' life and work are the subject matter for the books of **Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers** and **Deuteronomy**. Between the death of Joseph at the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus, 300 years pass by. The Israelites increased greatly in Egypt.

The word "**Leviticus**" means, "pertaining to the Levites." This book contains the laws regulating their service in the Temple. The Levites were descendents of Levi, one of the 12 sons of Israel, who were set apart for the work of God. They were supported by the tithes of the people. Of the Levites, Aaron's family and sons were set apart to be priests. The rest of the Levites were to be assistants to the priests. The duties of the priests were to care for the tabernacle and to be teachers, scribes, musicians, officers and judges.

The book of **Acts** we find the expansion of the Gospel beyond the Jewish nationality. Paul is also known as the "Apostle to the Gentiles" although he himself was a Jew. The author of Acts does not name himself, but uses the personal pronoun, "I" indicating Luke as the author.

March

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalms 60	Mark 4	Numbers 3-4
2	Psalms 61	Mark 5	Numbers 5-6
3	Psalms 62	Mark 6	Numbers 7-8
4	Psalms 63	Mark 7	Numbers 9-10
5	Psalms 64	Mark 8	Numbers 11-12
6	Psalms 65	Mark 9	Numbers 13-14
7	Psalms 66	Mark 10	Numbers 15-16
8	Psalms 67	Mark 11	Numbers 17-18
9	Psalms 68	Mark 12	Numbers 19-20
10	Psalms 69	Mark 13	Numbers 21-22
11	Psalms 70	Mark 14	Numbers 23-24
12	Psalms 71	Mark 15	Numbers 25-26
13	Psalms 72	Mark 16	Numbers 27-28
14	Psalms 73	Romans 1	Numbers 29-30
15	Psalms 74	Romans 2	Numbers 31-32
16	Psalms 75	Romans 3	Numbers 33-34
17	Psalms 76	Romans 4	Numbers 35-36
18	Psalms 77	Romans 5	Deuteronomy 1-2
19	Psalms 78	Romans 6	Deuteronomy 3-4
20	Psalms 79	Romans 7	Deuteronomy 5-6
21	Psalms 80	Romans 8	Deuteronomy 7-8
22	Psalms 81	Romans 9	Deuteronomy 9-10
23	Psalms 82	Romans 10	Deuteronomy 11-12
24	Psalms 83	Romans 11	Deuteronomy 13-14
25	Psalms 84	Romans 12	Deuteronomy 15-16
26	Psalms 85	Romans 13	Deuteronomy 17-18
27	Psalms 86	Romans 14	Deuteronomy 19-20
28	Psalms 87	Romans 15	Deuteronomy 21-22
29	Psalms 88	Romans 16	Deuteronomy 23-24
30	Psalms 89	Luke 1	Deuteronomy 25
31	Psalms 90	Luke 2	Deuteronomy 26-27

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Psalms** were written to be sung. Instruments mentioned in the Psalms are stringed instruments, flute, pipe, horn, trumpet, instruments to be beaten, the timbrel and cymbal. David had an orchestra of 4,000 for which he made the instruments.

Mark's style of portraying the works of Jesus indicates that his audience was the Roman Gentile, who esteemed government and power. He omits most of Jesus' *teachings* and narrates His *doings* instead. More miracles are noted in Mark than in the other Gospels.

Many of the New Testament books are referred to as "epistles." An **Epistle** is a letter. The epistle of Romans is simply a letter that Paul wrote to the church at Rome.

Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was the chief expounder of the Gospel to the world. **Romans** is his most complete explanation of the purpose of Jesus' coming and the Plan of Redemption. His primary goal in this epistle is to establish the fact that man's right-standing before God does not come by keeping the Law of Moses (the 10 Commandments). It is not possible for man to perfectly keep the Law. Man's ability to stand before God without guilt and shame comes completely because of the work of Christ.

Numbers is named after the censuses taken after the children of Israel left Egypt. In this book, God instructs every detail with military precision, including arrangement of the tribes surrounding the tabernacle. It also contains laws pertaining to lepers, repayment, adultery. The Israelites came to within eyesight of the Promised Land and because of the discouraging word of the spies, turned back to the desert. Caleb and Joshua were the only 2 of the 600,000 men over 20 who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. How could the desert support 3 million people? ONLY by the miraculous intervention of God.

April

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalm 91	Luke 3	Deuteronomy 28
2	Psalm 92	Luke 4	Deuteronomy 29-30
3	Psalm 93	Luke 5	Deuteronomy 31-32
4	Psalm 94	Luke 6	Deuteronomy 33-34
5	Psalm 95	Luke 7	Joshua 1-2
6	Psalm 96	Luke 8	Joshua 3-4
7	Psalm 97	Luke 9	Joshua 5-6
8	Psalm 98	Luke 10	Joshua 7-8
9	Psalm 99	Luke 11	Joshua 9-10
10	Psalm 100	Luke 12	Joshua 11-12
11	Psalm 101	Luke 13	Joshua 13-14
12	Psalm 102	Luke 14	Joshua 15-16
13	Psalm 103	Luke 15	Joshua 17-18
14	Psalm 104	Luke 16	Joshua 19-20
15	Psalm 105	Luke 17	Joshua 21-22
16	Psalm 106	Luke 18	Joshua 23-24
17	Psalm 107	Luke 19	Judges 1-2
18	Psalm 108	Luke 20	Judges 3-4
19	Psalm 109	Luke 21	Judges 5-6
20	Psalm 110	Luke 22	Judges 7-8
21	Psalm 111	Luke 23	Judges 9-10
22	Psalm 112	Luke 24	Judges 11-12
23	Psalm 113	I Corinthians 1	Judges 13-14
24	Psalm 114	I Corinthians 2	Judges 15-17
25	Psalm 115	I Corinthians 3	Judges 18-19
26	Psalm 116	I Corinthians 4	Judges 20-21
27	Psalm 117	I Corinthians 5	Ruth 1-2
28	Psalm 118	I Corinthians 6	Ruth 3-4
29	Psalm 119:1-88	I Corinthians 7	I Samuel 1-2
30	Psalm 119:89-176	I Corinthians 8	I Samuel 3-4

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Luke, a Physician, portrayed Jesus as the perfect, ideal Man, indicating that his audience was the Greek Philosophers who appreciated culture, philosophy, reason, beauty and education. Luke's Gospel has been called "the Most Beautiful Book Ever Written." Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the "synoptic Gospels" because they give the same general view of Christ's life. John's Gospel was written later and gives deeper understanding into the life of Christ, His teachings and His purpose.

A delegation was sent to Paul asking questions about serious problems and disorders that had arisen in the church at Corinth. Paul responded with the letter, **I Corinthians**.

Deuteronomy means, "repetition of the law." On the eve of Israel's entrance into Canaan, these laws were rehearsed and expounded. Read for yourself the most important law, stated in 10:12, 11:1, 13 and 22 then repeated by Jesus in Matthew 22:37.

Joshua was given leadership of Israel after Moses and was given the assignment of leading them into the Promised Land. They destroyed kings, defeated enemies and witnessed many miraculous military victories. The Promised Land is not foreshadowing heaven, but rather, every believer's inheritance given to him as a child of God.

May

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalm 120	I Corinthians 9	I Samuel 5-7
2	Psalm 121	I Corinthians 10	I Samuel 8 -9
3	Psalm 122	I Corinthians 11	I Samuel 10-11
4	Psalm 123	I Corinthians 12	I Samuel 12-13
5	Psalm 124	I Corinthians 13	I Samuel 14-15
6	Psalm 125	I Corinthians 14	I Samuel 16-17
7	Psalm 126	I Corinthians 15	I Samuel 18-19
8	Psalm 127	I Corinthians 16	I Samuel 20-21
9	Psalm 128	II Corinthians 1	I Samuel 22-23
10	Psalm 129	II Corinthians 2	I Samuel 24-25
11	Psalm 130	II Corinthians 3	I Samuel 26-27
12	Psalm 131	II Corinthians 4	I Samuel 28-29
13	Psalm 132	II Corinthians 5	I Samuel 30-31
14	Psalm 133	II Corinthians 6	I Chronicles 1-2
15	Psalm 134	II Corinthians 7	I Chronicles 3-4
16	Psalm 135	II Corinthians 8	I Chronicles 5-7
17	Psalm 136	II Corinthians 9	I Chronicles 8-10
18	Psalm 137	II Corinthians 10	II Samuel 1-2
19	Psalm 138	II Corinthians 11	II Samuel 3-4
20	Psalm 139	II Corinthians 12	II Samuel 5-6
21	Psalm 140	II Corinthians 13	II Samuel 7-8
22	Psalm 141	John 1	II Samuel 9-10
23	Psalm 142	John 2	II Samuel 11-12
24	Psalm 143	John 3	II Samuel 13-14
25	Psalm 144	John 4	II Samuel 15-16
26	Psalm 145	John 5	II Samuel 17-18
27	Psalm 146	John 6	II Samuel 19-20
28	Psalm 147	John 7	II Samuel 21-22
29	Psalm 148	John 8	II Samuel 23-24
30	Psalm 149	John 9	I Kings 1-2
31	Psalm 150	John 10	I Chronicles 11-12

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 72, 89, 110, 118 and 132 are referred to as Messianic Psalms. They were written a thousand years before Christ, and contain references to Christ which cannot be applied to any other person in history.

II Corinthians is written as proof of his apostleship, and continues with instruction pertaining to church government and behaviour within the church.

God's intent was for man was to be ruled as a Theocracy, by God Himself, through **Judges** He chose. People yet rebelled and committed idolatry. **Ruth** was a Moabite woman (an idolatrous nation who worshipped by child sacrifice) who became the great-grandmother of King David, and an ancestor of the Messiah. This due to her devotion to the true God.

Samuel, born a Levite to Hannah, prophesies the reign of David as King over Israel. It is here that Israel moves officially from a "Theocracy" to a "Monarchy." Saul was the people's choice of a King. God's choice was David. Psalm 32 and 51 are said to have been written by David after his adultery and murder.

June

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Proverbs 1	John 11	I Chronicles 13-15
2	Proverbs 2	John 12	I Chronicles 16-17
3	Proverbs 3	John 13	I Chronicles 18-19
4	Proverbs 4	John 14	I Chronicles 20-22
5	Proverbs 5	John 15	I Chronicles 23-24
6	Proverbs 6	John 16	I Chronicles 25-26
7	Proverbs 7	John 17	I Chronicles 27-29
8	Proverbs 8	John 18	I Kings 3-4
9	Proverbs 9	John 19	Song of Solomon 1-3
10	Proverbs 10	John 20	Song of Solomon 4-6
11	Proverbs 11	John 21	Song of Solomon 7-8
12	Proverbs 12	Galatians 1	I Kings 5-6
13	Proverbs 13	Galatians 2	I Kings 7-8
14	Proverbs 14	Galatians 3	I Kings 9-10
15	Proverbs 15	Galatians 4	II Chronicles 1-3
16	Proverbs 16	Galatians 5	II Chronicles 4-5
17	Proverbs 17	Galatians 6	II Chronicles 6-7
18	Proverbs 18	Ephesians 1	Ecclesiastes 1-2
19	Proverbs 19	Ephesians 2	Ecclesiastes 3-5
20	Proverbs 20	Ephesians 3	Ecclesiastes 6-7
21	Proverbs 21	Ephesians 4	Ecclesiastes 8-9
22	Proverbs 22	Ephesians 5	Ecclesiastes 10-12
23	Proverbs 23	Ephesians 6	II Chronicles 8-9
24	Proverbs 24	Philippians 1	I Kings 11-12
25	Proverbs 25	Philippians 2	I Kings 13-14
26	Proverbs 26	Philippians 3	II Chronicles 10-11
27	Proverbs 27	Philippians 4	II Chronicles 12-13
28	Proverbs 28	Colossians 1	II Chronicles 14-15
29	Proverbs 29	Colossians 2	II Chronicles 16-17
30	Proverbs 30	Colossians 3	II Chronicles 18-19

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Books of Poetry including **Proverbs**, **Song of Solomon** and **Ecclesiastes**, were written particularly during the reigns of David and Solomon. A Proverb is a short saying designed to teach by repeating practical thoughts that would be easily remembered. Solomon was a scientist, a political ruler, a business man, a poet, a moralist and a preacher. Yet, he came to the conclusion that “all is vanity” in the book of **Ecclesiastes**. **The Song of Solomon** is his best work - a love song about wedded love. There is a parallel meaning illustrating the love of Christ for His Church.

In **Galatians** Paul writes to clarify that salvation is by Grace, not by the Law of Moses. While in prison in Rome, he wrote **Ephesians**. In this book, Paul emphasizes oneness of the Body of Christ – Jews and Gentiles alike. Many Jews who had followed prescribed laws and rituals and practices had a difficult time accepting that Gentiles and Jews could be equal partakers of Faith in Christ. Its emphasis is upon the Body. **Philippians** is one of Paul’s most personal letters, also written from his prison cell to the church at Philippi. He wrote this epistle as a letter of thanks for their generous offering sent to him. **Colossians** and **Ephesians** were written at the same time. While **Ephesians** emphasizes the Body, **Colossians** emphasizes Christ, the head of the Body.

I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles: I and II Kings were originally written as one book and cover the reign of Solomon through Judah’s Captivity by Babylon. It opens with Solomon reigning and the Kingdom in its glory and II Kings closes with Judah’s captivity.

I and II Chronicles tell the same story and end at the same point of the history of Israel, but give special attention to the reigns of David, Solomon and subsequent kings of Judah. **Kings** gives a parallel account of Israel and Judah while **Chronicles** tells of the same period of history as pertains primarily to the Kingdom of David.

July

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Proverbs 31	Colossians 4	I Kings 15-16
2	Psalms 1	Matthew 1	I Kings 17-18
3	Psalms 2	Matthew 2	I Kings 19-20
4	Psalms 3	Matthew 3	I Kings 21-22
5	Psalms 4	Matthew 4	II Chronicles 20-21
6	Psalms 5	Matthew 5	II Kings 1-2
7	Psalms 6	Matthew 6	II Kings 3-4
8	Psalms 7	Matthew 7	II Kings 5-6
9	Psalms 8	Matthew 8	II Kings 7-8
10	Psalms 9	Matthew 9	Obadiah 1
11	Psalms 10	Matthew 10	II Chronicles 22
12	Psalms 11	Matthew 11	Joel 1-3
13	Psalms 12	Matthew 12	II Kings 9-10
14	Psalms 13	Matthew 13	II Kings 11-12
15	Psalms 14	Matthew 14	II Kings 13-14
16	Psalms 15	Matthew 15	Jonah 1-4
17	Psalms 16	Matthew 16	Amos 1-2
18	Psalms 17	Matthew 17	Amos 3-5
19	Psalms 18	Matthew 18	Amos 6-7
20	Psalms 19	Matthew 19	Amos 8-9
21	Psalms 20	Matthew 20	II Chronicles 23-24
22	Psalms 21	Matthew 21	II Chronicles 25-26
23	Psalms 22	Matthew 22	Isaiah 1-2
24	Psalms 23	Matthew 23	Isaiah 3-4
25	Psalms 24	Matthew 24	Isaiah 5-6
26	Psalms 25	Matthew 25	II Chronicles 27-28
27	Psalms 26	Matthew 26	II Kings 15-16
28	Psalms 27	Matthew 27	Isaiah 7-8
29	Psalms 28	Matthew 28	Isaiah 9-10
30	Psalms 29	I Thessalonians 1	Isaiah 11-12
31	Psalms 30	I Thessalonians 2	Isaiah 13-14

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Psalm 22 is a Psalm of the Crucifixion, **Psalm 23** is a Shepherd's Psalm and **Psalm 24** tells of the King's arrival. These three can be looked at as the past work of the Messiah (22), the Present work of the Messiah (23) and the future coming of the Messiah (24).

Paul began a church at Thessalonica, but it is believed he was only there for only a short time. He preached, but not long enough to fully instruct the new church. By this time, Christians were suffering great persecution and some had been martyred. The question of the Lord's Second coming is addressed in this epistle as a result of questions the remaining believers had concerning those who had died before the Second Coming. Would they see heaven? Paul assured them that there was no disadvantage to those who die before His Second Coming.

The Edomites, descendents of Esau, were enemies of the Jews, perpetuating the enmity between Jacob and Esau. They invaded Jerusalem several times and **Obadiah** prophesied that the Edomites would one day be cut off and remembered no more. **Joel** is a prophecy of coming judgment upon Judah for their wicked idolatry under the rule of Joash or Uzziah. Peter quotes Joel in Acts 2 foretelling of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **Jonah** was reluctant to obey God in warning an enemy nation, Assyria, already in the process of exterminating Israel. Jesus gave credit to Jonah's "fish story" by referring to it in Mt 12:39-41. **Amos** was a prophet of Judah with a message for Israel. God loves all and warns of impending doom when sin is abounding. Elisha and Jonah overlapped with Amos and Joel. **Hosea** may have carried on the work of Amos. As **Amos** was closing his work, **Isaiah** and **Micah** came on the scene.

August

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalm 31	I Thessalonians 3	Isaiah 15-16
2	Psalm 32	I Thessalonians 4	Isaiah 17-18
3	Psalm 33	I Thessalonians 5	Isaiah 19-20
4	Psalm 34	I Thessalonians 6	Isaiah 21-22
5	Psalm 35	II Thess 1-2	Isaiah 23-24
6	Psalm 36	II Thess 3-4	Isaiah 25-26
7	Psalm 37	I Timothy 1	Isaiah 27-28
8	Psalm 38	I Timothy 2	Isaiah 29-30
9	Psalm 39	I Timothy 3	Isaiah 31-32
10	Psalm 40	I Timothy 4	Isaiah 33-34
11	Psalm 41	I Timothy 5	Isaiah 35-36
12	Psalm 42	I Timothy 6	Isaiah 37-38
13	Psalm 43	II Timothy 1	Isaiah 39-40
14	Psalm 44	II Timothy 2	Isaiah 41-42
15	Psalm 45	II Timothy 3	Isaiah 43-44
16	Psalm 46	II Timothy 4	Isaiah 45-46
17	Psalm 47	Titus 1	Isaiah 47-48
18	Psalm 48	Titus 2	Isaiah 49-50
19	Psalm 49	Titus 3	Isaiah 51-52
20	Psalm 50	Philemon 1	Isaiah 53-54
21	Psalm 51	Mark 1	Isaiah 55-56
22	Psalm 52	Mark 2	Isaiah 57-58
23	Psalm 53	Mark 3	Isaiah 59-60
24	Psalm 54	Mark 4	Isaiah 61-62
25	Psalm 55	Mark 5	Isaiah 63-64
26	Psalm 56	Mark 6	Isaiah 65-66
27	Psalm 57	Mark 7	II Kings 17
28	Psalm 58	Mark 8	II Kings 18-19
29	Psalm 59	Mark 9	II Chronicles 29-30
30	Psalm 60	Mark 10	II Chronicles 31-32
31	Psalm 61	Mark 11	Hosea 1-3

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

The honesty of human sorrow and man's cry to God for help contained within many of the **Psalms** are an example to the Believer today. We can pour out our hearts in all honesty to God and then allow the Truth of His Word to comfort us and lift us again.

Isaiah is known as the "Messianic Prophet." This book is filled with the idea that the Jewish nation was to be a Messianic Nation to the world, that through this nation, a Saviour would come to redeem mankind. Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament more than any other prophet. He is believed to have been fastened between two planks and "sawn asunder", suffering a horrible death as a martyr.

Hosea's message was to the Northern Kingdom, Israel, with reference to the Southern Kingdom, Judah, as well. Hosea was commanded of God to take a "wife of whoredom." Israel as God's "bride" had forsaken God, giving herself to the worship of other gods, as a married woman giving herself to another man. Hosea was commanded by God to take such a wife as a symbol of God's love for wayward Israel, willing to bring her back time and time again.

II Thessalonians gives further instructions regarding the Lord's Second Coming and was written a very short time after the first letter. **I and II Timothy and Titus** are known as the Pastoral epistles. Paul loved Timothy dearly and wrote these letters as instruction to young ministers. Timothy's work was mainly with the "bishops" or "elders" over various churches. **II Timothy** and **I Peter** were both written as Christians were being persecuted severely and cruelly by Nero. Historians tell of Nero having Christians tied in the skins of animals and thrown to wild animals; Christians being crucified and burned at the stake to light Nero's garden at night. **Philemon** was one of Paul's converts at Colossae. Onesimus was a slave who belonged to Philemon and who stole from him. After he stole the money, Onesimus ran away to Rome and found Paul. Paul wrote this letter encouraging Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Paul himself was willing to repay his debt.

Four Epistles were written by Paul from **prison**. As you read Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon, keep this in mind!

September

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalms 62	Mark 12	Hosea 4-5
2	Psalms 63	Mark 13	Hosea 6-7
3	Psalms 64	Mark 14	Hosea 8-10
4	Psalms 65	Mark 15	Hosea 11-12
5	Psalms 66	Mark 16	Hosea 13-14
6	Psalms 67	Hebrews 1	Micah 1-2
7	Psalms 68	Hebrews 2	Micah 3-5
8	Psalms 69	Hebrews 3	Micah 6-7
9	Psalms 70	Hebrews 4	II Kings 20-21
10	Psalms 71	Hebrews 5	II Chronicles 33-34
11	Psalms 72	Hebrews 6	Zephaniah 1-3
12	Psalms 73	Hebrews 7	Nahum 1-3
13	Psalms 74	Hebrews 8	II Chronicles 35
14	Psalms 75	Hebrews 9	Habakkuk 1-3
15	Psalms 76	Hebrews 10	*Jeremiah 1-2
16	Psalms 77	Hebrews 11	Jeremiah 3-4
17	Psalms 78	Hebrews 12	Jeremiah 5-6
18	Psalms 79	Hebrews 13	Jeremiah 11-12
19	Psalms 80	Luke 1	Jeremiah 26
20	Psalms 81	Luke 2	Jeremiah 7-8
21	Psalms 82	Luke 3	Jeremiah 9-10
22	Psalms 83	Luke 4	Jeremiah 14-15
23	Psalms 84	Luke 5	Jeremiah 16-17
24	Psalms 85	Luke 6	Jeremiah 18-20
25	Psalms 86	Luke 7	Jeremiah 35-36
26	Psalms 87	Luke 8	Jeremiah 13, 22
27	Psalms 88	Luke 9	Jeremiah 23-24
28	Psalms 89	Luke 10	II Kings 22-23
29	Psalms 90	Luke 11	II Chronicles 36:1-8
30	Psalms 91	Luke 12	Daniel 1-2

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Psalms** are arranged in five books. Some are Messianic, some historical, some are psalms of penitents, some resounding Hallelujah many times. Psalm 91 is a Psalm of protection and is one to be read often and committed to memory.

Hebrews is addressed to no person or group of people specifically nor is the author stated. Many believe the author to be Paul and because of the many references to the sacrifices and Old Testament quotations. Hebrews is a companion book in content to the book of Romans.

Micah prophesied to both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. Jotham and Hezekiah were good kings and Ahaz, extremely wicked. Micah witnessed the falling away from the truth as well as the return and recovery to a godly life.

Two prophets had to do with Nineveh: **Nahum** and Jonah. Jonah, about 150 years earlier, was a ministry of mercy. **Nahum's** was a message of doom. We see God prolonging the day of grace for a nation, imploring them to return before impending doom occurred. **Habakkuk** prophesied to the Southern Kingdom before their captivity to the Babylonians (Chaldeans). **Jeremiah** lived about 100 years after Isaiah. Isaiah prophesied to Judah concerning Assyria's attempt to take Judah captive and Judah heeded and were saved from captivity. Jeremiah warned of being taken captive by Babylon. Judah did not heed and they were taken captive. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Ezekiel, who was a younger priest, preaching among the captives in Babylon; Daniel, working in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar; Habakkuk and Zephaniah who were helping Jeremiah in Jerusalem; Nahum who was at the same time predicting the fall of Nineveh; and Obadiah predicting the ruin of Edom.

October

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalms 92	Luke 13	Daniel 3-4
2	Psalms 93	Luke 14	Daniel 5-6
3	Psalms 94	Luke 15	Daniel 7-8
4	Psalms 95	Luke 16	Daniel 9-10
5	Psalms 96	Luke 17	Daniel 11-12
6	Psalms 97	Luke 18	II Kings 24-25
7	Psalms 98	Luke 19	II Chronicles 36:9-10, Ezekiel 1
8	Psalms 99	Luke 20	Ezekiel 2-3
9	Psalms 100	Luke 21	Ezekiel 4-6
10	Psalms 101	Luke 22	Ezekiel 7-8
11	Psalms 102	Luke 23	Ezekiel 9-10
12	Psalms 103	Luke 24	Ezekiel 11-12
13	Psalms 104	James 1	Ezekiel 13-14
14	Psalms 105	James 2	Ezekiel 15-16
15	Psalms 106	James 3	Ezekiel 17-18
16	Psalms 107	James 4	Ezekiel 19-20
17	Psalms 108	James 5	Ezekiel 21-22
18	Psalms 109	I Peter 1	Ezekiel 23-24
19	Psalms 110	I Peter 2	Ezekiel 25-26
20	Psalms 111	I Peter 3	Ezekiel 27-28
21	Psalms 112	I Peter 4	Ezekiel 29-30
22	Psalms 113	I Peter 5	Ezekiel 31-32
23	Psalms 114	II Peter 1	Ezekiel 33-34
24	Psalms 115	II Peter 2	Ezekiel 35-36
25	Psalms 116	II Peter 3	Ezekiel 37-38
26	Psalms 117	I John 1	Ezekiel 39-40
27	Psalms 118	I John 2	Ezekiel 41-42
28	Psalms 119:1-88	I John 3	Ezekiel 43-44
29	Psalms 119:89-176	I John 4	Ezekiel 45-46
30	Psalms 120	I John 5	Ezekiel 47-48
31	Psalms 121	II John 1	Jeremiah 45, 25

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

This month we read **Psalm 119**. Take note of the words referring to the Word of God: using the words Law, Ordinance, Ways, Judgments, Testimony, Statutes, Precepts, Commandments, Word, Ways. Notice the benefits associated with obedience to the Word of God.

Two apostles were named **James**. The brother of Jesus was named **James** and was overseer of the Judean Church. He is commonly regarded to be the author of this book. He was known as an unusually good man and named "James the Just" by his countrymen. His knees were said to be calloused like a camel's because of the hours he spent on his knees in prayer. Many Jews were converting to Christianity. Historians record that as James was dying as a result of stoning, he prayed on his knees, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." His epistle has been likened to the Proverbs of the New Testament. It is full of wisdom for everyday Christian life.

I and II Peter are written to a persecuted church. Political leaders had given permission to authorities to persecute at the slightest occasion. Yet this epistle is uplifting and encouraging. Persecution tends to further Christianity rather than quench it.

The apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, **I , II and III John** and Revelation. His authorship is not specifically noted in this epistle, but it is undisputed that the Apostle John is the author. Christianity was 60-70 years old at this time and other philosophies and religions began to infiltrate Christian teachings. John refutes this mixture of beliefs and reminds the Believer of the Truth. **II John** is a warning against false teachers.

Daniel was brought to Babylon as a young Jewish Captive. Nebuchadnezzar was the chief builder of the Babylonian Empire and ruled 45 of its 70 years. Daniel is a prophetic book pertaining to end times. **Ezekiel** was also a prophet of captivity. Daniel had been in Babylon 9 years when Ezekiel arrived. Daniel in the palace, Ezekiel in the country. Many of Ezekiel's revelations are repeated in the book of Revelation. The key phrase of this book, found 62 times is, "they shall know that I am God."

November

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Psalms 122	III John 1	Jeremiah 46-47
2	Psalms 123	Jude 1	Jeremiah 48-49
3	Psalms 124	John 1	II Chronicles 36:11-21, Jeremiah 27
4	Psalms 125	John 2	Jeremiah 28-29
5	Psalms 126	John 3	Jeremiah 50-51
6	Psalms 127	John 4	Jeremiah 30-31
7	Psalms 128	John 5	Jeremiah 32-33
8	Psalms 129	John 6	Jeremiah 21, 34
9	Psalms 130	John 7	Jeremiah 37-38
10	Psalms 131	John 8	Jeremiah 39, 52
11	Psalms 132	John 9	Jeremiah 40-42
12	Psalms 133	John 10	Jeremiah 43-44
13	Psalms 134	John 11	Lamentations 1-2
14	Psalms 135	John 12	Lamentations 3
15	Psalms 136	John 13	Lamentations 4-5
16	Psalms 137	John 14	II Chronicles 36:22-23
17	Psalms 138	John 15	Ezra 1-2
18	Psalms 139	John 16	Ezra 3-4
19	Psalms 140	John 17	Haggai 1-2
20	Psalms 141	John 18	Zechariah 1-3
21	Psalms 142	John 19	Zechariah 4-6
22	Psalms 143	John 20	Zechariah 7-8
23	Psalms 144	John 21	Zechariah 9-10
24	Psalms 145	Revelation 1	Zechariah 11-12
25	Psalms 146	Revelation 2	Zechariah 13-14
26	Psalms 147	Revelation 3	Ezra 5-6
27	Psalms 148	Revelation 4	Esther 1-2
28	Psalms 149	Revelation 5	Esther 3-4
29	Psalms 150	Revelation 6	Esther 5-6
30	Proverbs 1	Revelation 7	Esther 7-8

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

There are two Judas's mentioned in the Bible. One being the apostle and the other, Jesus' brother. The latter is regarded as the writer of **Jude**. Jude is very plain in his address to false teachers within the church.

Lamentations could be described as a later addition to the book of Jeremiah. It tells of Jeremiah's sorrow over the destruction of the city of Jerusalem.

The last two verses of II Chronicles are the same as the first two verses of **Ezra**, probably because Chronicles and Ezra were originally one book. A proclamation had been made allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem was made shortly after Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall for the king. King Darius was friendly to the Jews and used money from the king's treasury to finance the rebuilding of the temple, completed within 4 years. Rebuilding the city went on for another 70 years.

Queen Esther enters Jewish History at this point. (*see below) her marriage to the king of Persia (Babylon) gave privileges to the Jews. The King's son, Artaxerxes, Queen Esther's step son, is now reigning. Ezra is a priest who went to Jerusalem to teach the Law of God, to beautify the temple and restore the temple service. Ezra found the Jewish people in idolatrous worship, marrying idol worshippers. This little, preserved remnant was doing exactly what had caused them to come into captivity years before.

Haggai, **Zechariah**, and Malachi are the prophets speaking to the Jewish people after they returned to Jerusalem from captivity. Haggai and Zechariah aided in rebuilding the temple and Malachi is associated with Nehemiah, nearly 100 years later in rebuilding the wall.

*Queen Esther married Ahasaurus, also called Xerxes. His son, Artaxerxes reigned in 536 when the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem, making Queen Esther, a Jew, the step-mother-in-law to the king of Babylon.

December

Day	Psalms/Proverbs	New Testament	Old Testament
1	Proverbs 2	Revelation 8	Esther 9-10
2	Proverbs 3	Revelation 9	Ezra 7-8
3	Proverbs 4	Revelation 10	Ezra 9-10
4	Proverbs 5	Revelation 11	Nehemiah 1-3
5	Proverbs 6	Revelation 12	Nehemiah 4-5
6	Proverbs 7	Revelation 13	Nehemiah 6-7
7	Proverbs 8	Revelation 14	Nehemiah 8-9
8	Proverbs 9	Revelation 15	Nehemiah 10-11
9	Proverbs 10	Revelation 16	Nehemiah 12-13
10	Proverbs 11	Revelation 17	Malachi 1-2
11	Proverbs 12	Revelation 18	Malachi 3-4
12	Proverbs 13	Revelation 19	*Job 1-2
13	Proverbs 14	Revelation 20	Job 3-5
14	Proverbs 15	Revelation 21	Job 6-7
15	Proverbs 16	Revelation 22	Job 8-10
16	Proverbs 17	Hebrews 11	Job 11-12
17	Proverbs 18	Hebrews 12	Job 16-14
18	Proverbs 19	Acts 2	Job 15-17
19	Proverbs 20	I Corinthians 11	Job 18-19
20	Proverbs 21	I Corinthians 12	Job 20-21
21	Proverbs 22	I Corinthians 13	Job 22-24
22	Proverbs 23	I Corinthians 14	Job 25-26
23	Proverbs 24	I Corinthians 15	Job 27-28
24	Proverbs 25	Luke 1	Job 29-31
25	Proverbs 26	Luke 2	Job 32-33
26	Proverbs 27	Luke 3	Job 34-35
27	Proverbs 28	Luke 4	Job 36-37
28	Proverbs 29	Philippians 1	Job 38-39
29	Proverbs 30	Philippians 2	Job 40-41
30	Proverbs 31	Philippians 3	Job 42
31	Psalms 91	Philippians 4	Psalms 111, 113

This Month's BIBLE BACKGROUND

Revelation gives the ending to the story of the entire Bible telling of the final VICTORY of Christ and His Church – all Believers! According to the book's first statement, the Author is God Himself, given by an angel to John, who wrote it down. The book can be divided into two parts: "The things which are..." Chapters 1-3 pertaining to the 7 churches and what was happening in John's day; and "The things which shall be hereafter..." Chapters 4-22. The book of Revelation contains symbolism, some of which we do not yet understand the meaning. As you read, give close attention to the worship given to God, the wonder of Heaven and be mindful of the fact that we will spend eternity here with Him.

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem 13 years after Ezra. Ezra was a priest teaching God's Word to the people. Nehemiah was a civil governor with authority from the King of Persia to rebuild the wall and restore Jerusalem as a fortified city. The Jews had been home nearly 100 years and had made very little progress because of invasions. Nehemiah was the cup bearer to Artaxerxes, Queen Esther's step-son.

Malachi was a prophet living at the same time as Nehemiah. At this time, God's chosen people have become so corrupt that His word no longer has an effect upon them. After God spoke to Malachi, only 400 years later was another prophet sent to speak – John the Baptist.

Job is the first of the Poetical books and he may have been a lived at the same time as Moses, and possibly earlier. As we read through the book of Job, it is important to remember who is speaking. We find Job and his three "friends" conversing and then God begins to speak. All conversations are truly recorded, but not all statements made by man or the devil are true statements. God is always good; Satan is the destroyer; God is the Life-giver. Sickness and calamity are never good and therefore the happenings in Job's life are attributed to the devil not our Good God. These truths found in the Word of God are never contradicted.

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