

# Bible 101

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# What is the Bible?

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- Collection of 66 books that constitute the Scripture of the Christian churches. Jews accept only the first part of the Bible, the OT. Roman Catholics add apocryphal books to those adopted by other Christian bodies. The word “Bible” derives from the Greek *biblia* (“books”), which, though plural, came to be used as a singular noun and to stand for the collection which Christians regard as the Word of God.
- Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Bible,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 295.

# The Origin of the word Bible

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- *Biblos*, a Greek word meaning originally the inner bark of the \*papyrus plant, came to refer first to the paper made from the bark and then to the \*scroll and the \*codex and eventually to the whole collection of \*OT and \*NT books. *Biblion* (pl. *biblia*) was the diminutive, meaning a scroll. In the \*lxx both singular and plural were used to denote any kind of written document, but Christianity from the beginning retained the plural to denote the Hebrew Scriptures plus the books which went to make up the NT, thus creating a closed and fixed list of books (or \*canon) with authority for faith, and usually referred to as 'Scriptures'. \*Chrysostom appears to have been the first to use the word *biblia* of the OT and NT together in this way.
- Alec Gilmore, "Bible," A Concise Dictionary of Bible Origins and Interpretation (London; New York: T&T Clark, 2006), 22.

# Biblical Structure

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- The Bible is divided into OT and NT. Of course there were no OT and NT before the coming of Christ, only one collection of sacred writings. But after the apostles and their associates produced another body of sacred literature, the church began to refer to the OT and NT. Actually “testament” is the translation of a Greek word that might better be rendered “covenant.”
- Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Bible,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 295.

Law
  Poetry/Wisdom
  Minor Prophets

History
  Major Prophets

Genesis  
 Exodus  
 Leviticus  
 Numbers  
 Deuteronomy

Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth  
 1 Samuel  
 2 Samuel  
 1 Kings  
 2 Kings  
 1 Chronicles  
 2 Chronicles  
 Ezra  
 Nehemiah  
 Esther

Job  
 Psalms  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes  
 Song of Solomon

Isaiah  
 Jeremiah  
 Lamentations  
 Ezekiel  
 Daniel

Hosea  
 Joel  
 Amos  
 Obadiah  
 Jonah  
 Micah  
 Nahum  
 Habakkuk  
 Zephaniah  
 Haggai  
 Zechariah  
 Malachi

Gospels
  Letters of Paul
  Prophecy

History
  General Letters

Matthew  
 Mark  
 Luke  
 John

Acts

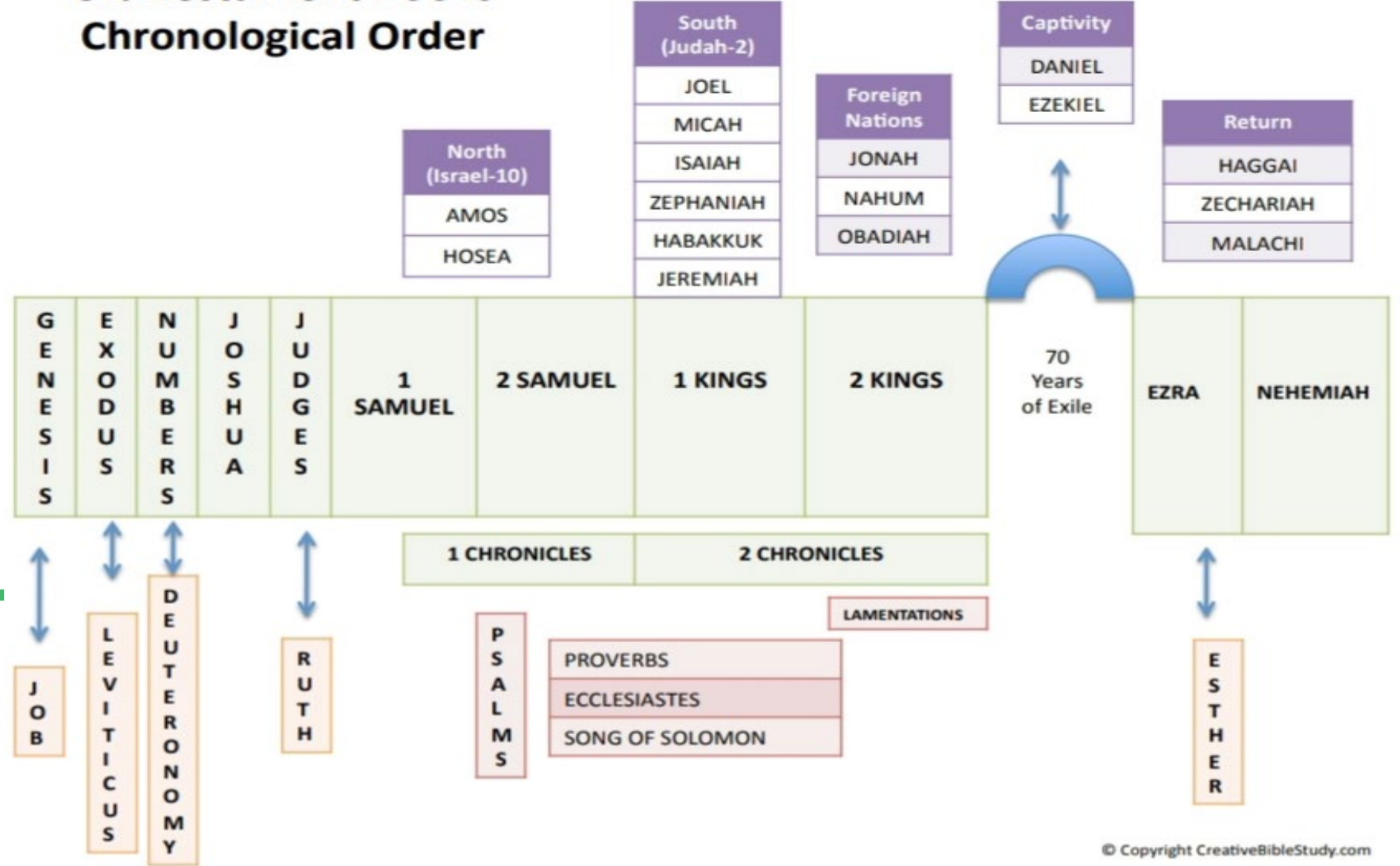
Romans  
 1 Corinthians  
 2 Corinthians  
 Galatians  
 Ephesians  
 Philippians  
 Colossians  
 1 Thessalonians  
 2 Thessalonians  
 1 Timothy  
 2 Timothy  
 Titus  
 Philemon

Hebrews  
 James  
 1 Peter  
 2 Peter  
 1 John  
 2 John  
 3 John  
 Jude

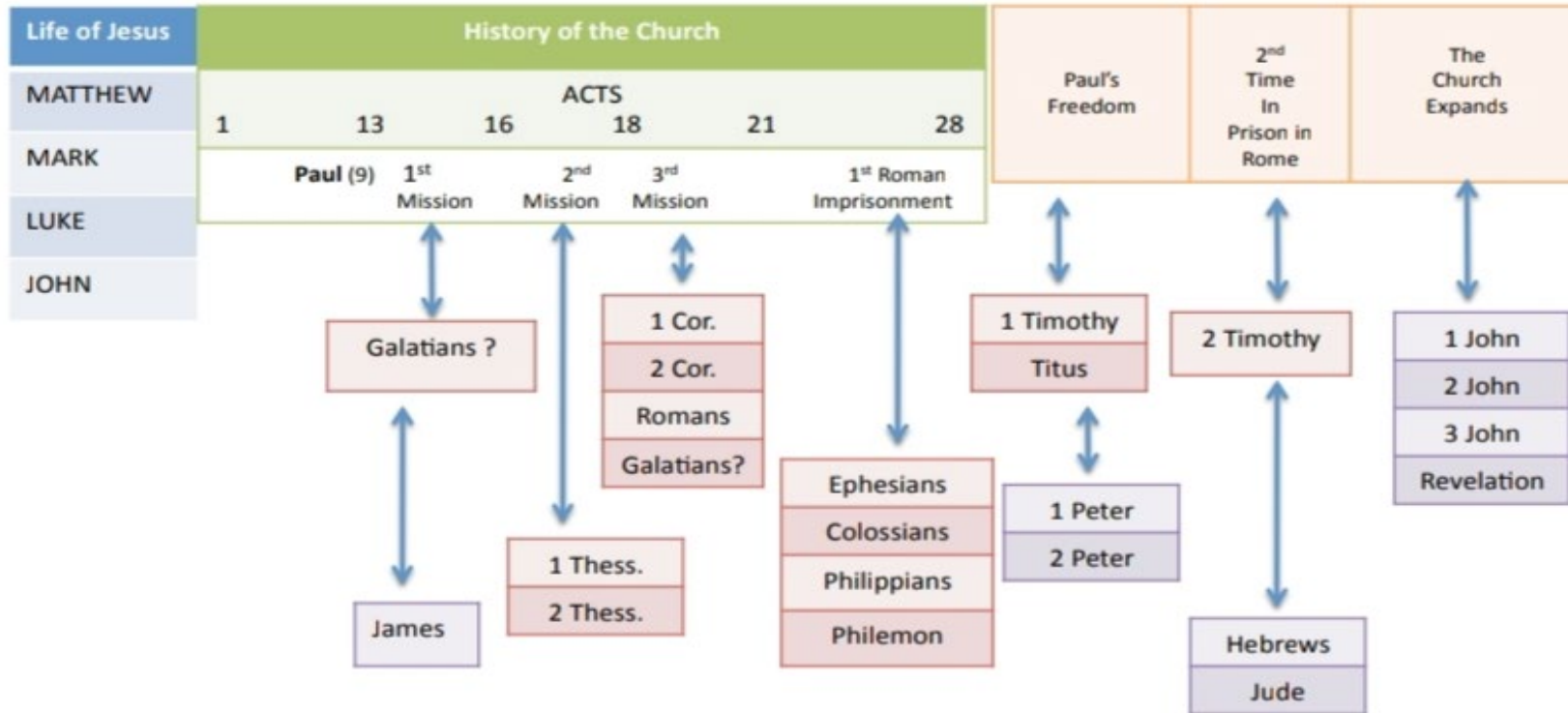
Revelation

# OT Order

## Old Testament Books Chronological Order



## New Testament Books Chronological Order



# NT Order



# NT Stages of Development

STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON																												
BOOKS OF THE CANON	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN	ACTS	ROMANS	1 CORINTHIANS	2 CORINTHIANS	GALATIANS	EPHESIANS	PHILIPPIANS	COLOSSIANS	1 THESSALONIANS	2 THESSALONIANS	1 TIMOTHY	2 TIMOTHY	TITUS	PHILEMON	HEBREWS	JAMES	1 PETER	2 PETER	1 JOHN	2 JOHN	3 JOHN	JUDE	REVELATION	
Quoted by Irenaeus (ca. A.D. 130–200), Bishop of Lyons, in his work <i>Against Heresies</i>																												
Listed in the <i>Muratorian Canon</i> (ca. A.D. 170–210) –a Latin manuscript																												
Listed by Eusebius (ca. A.D. 260–340), in his work <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> , 3.25																						*		*		*	*	*
Listed by Athanasius Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, in his thirty-ninth Paschal Letter (A.D. 367)																												
List is "closed" by Council of Carthage (A.D. 397)																												

GOSPELS

BOOK OF HISTORY  
OF THE EARLY CHURCH

LETTERS OF PAUL  
(probably collected before the end of the first century)

LETTER BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR

GENERAL, OR "CATHOLIC," LETTERS

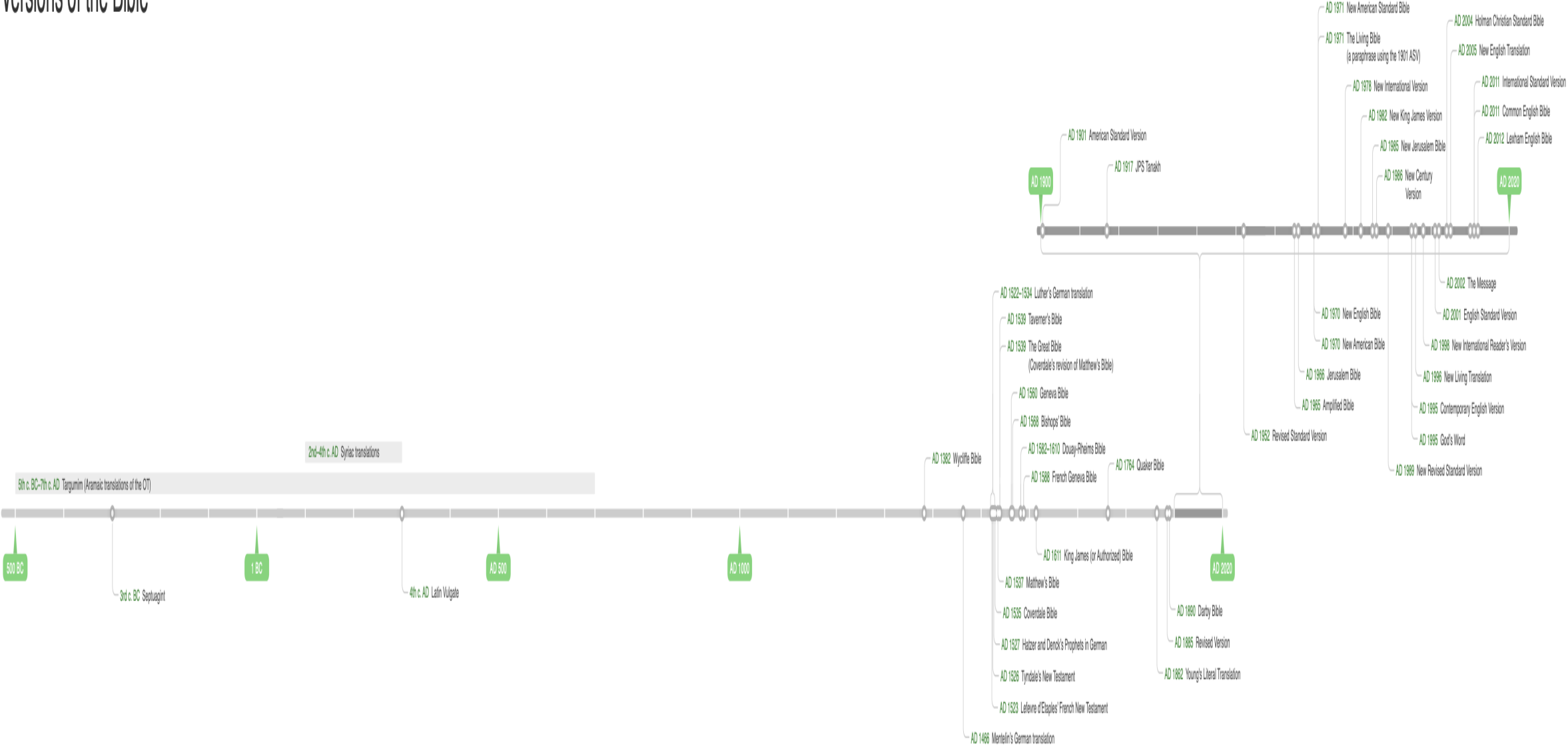
BOOK OF PROPHECY

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"Disputed Books"  
(not yet universally  
accepted)—according  
to Eusebius



# Versions of the Bible



# Is the Bible Fact or Fiction?

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- **The Bible is a combination of historical events, Myth and parable.**
- A **historical event** can be defined as any occurrence from the past regardless of significance, with the term "history" an umbrella term relating to past events and any associated memories, discoveries, collections, organizations, presentations, and/or interpretations of them.
- **Myth** is a folklore genre consisting of narratives that play a fundamental role in a society, such as foundational tales or origin myths. Since "myth" is widely used to imply that a story is not objectively true, the identification of a narrative as a myth can be highly controversial.
- A **parable** is a succinct, didactic story, in prose or verse, that illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles.

# Example of History, Myth and parable in Bible

History Jeremiah 39:1-2

Myth Genesis 1:1-29

Parable Mark 4:1-9

# Importance of Reading the Bible

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Psalms 119:130

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Job 23:6

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Matt 5:17-19

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1 Tim 4:13

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Heb 4:12-13