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Old Testament Overview

Overview: The Old Testament is the story of how God brought the world into existence, worked through a group selected to be His people, and revealed His plan through Jesus Christ to redeem the world of their sin.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALsluAKBZ-c&t=1s>

Genesis

Author: Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses as the author.

Original audience: The Israelite people who were wandering in the wilderness.

Date written: 1450-1410 B.C while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness.

Setting: The region presently known as the Middle East

Purpose: To record God's creation of the world and Man, the entrance of Sin into the world, and trace the origins of God's people through His covenant with Abraham and his family.

Bible Project video part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefVfodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=2

Bible Project video part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefVfodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=3

Exodus

Author: Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses as the author.

Original audience: The Israelite people wandering in the wilderness

Date written: 1450-1410 B.C while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness

Setting: Egypt. God's people, once highly favored in the land, are now slaves. God is about to set them free.

Purpose: To recount how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt and developed them as a nation.

Bible Project video part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH_aojNJM3E&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefVfodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=4

Bible Project video part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=5

Leviticus

Author: Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses as the author.

Original audience: The Israelite people wandering in the wilderness

Date written: 1450-1410 B.C while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness

Setting: At the foot of Mount Sinai. God is teaching the Israelites how to live as holy people.

Purpose: To provide the Israelites with a guide for Holy living and outline proper worship

Bible Project video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ-FekWUZzE&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=6

Numbers

Author: Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses as the author.

Original audience: The Israelite people wandering in the wilderness

Date written: 1450-1410 B.C while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness

Setting: The vast wilderness of the Sinai region, as well as lands just south and east of Canaan.

Purpose: To tell the story of how the Israelites prepare to enter the promised land, how they sinned and were punished, and how they prepared to try again

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlIrMZFqo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=7

Deuteronomy

Author: Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses as the author.

Original audience: The new generation of Israelites about to enter the promised land

Date written: 1406 BC

Setting: The east side of the Jordan River, in view of Canaan.

Purpose: To remind the people of what God has done and encourage them to rededicate their lives to Him.

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5QEH9bH8AU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeVFodkI9J_WEATHCwRZ0u&index=8

Joshua

Author: Joshua

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: 1407-1367 BC

Setting: Canaan, also called the Promised Land, which occupied the same general geographical territory as modern-day Israel.

Purpose: to provide a history of the of Israel's conquest of the promised land.

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqJIFF_eU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=9

Judges

Author: Samuel

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: unknown

Setting: The land of Canaan, often referred to as the Promised Land and later known as the land of Israel. God had helped the Israelites conquer Canaan, which had been inhabited by a host of wicked nations. But they put themselves in danger of losing the Promised Land because they compromised their convictions and disobeyed God.

Purpose: to show that God's judgement against sin is certain and that His forgiveness of sin and restoration to relationship are just as certain for those who repent.

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=10

Ruth

Author: Unknown. Possibly Samuel

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: sometime after the period of judges 1375-1050 BC

Setting: A dark time in Israel's history when people lived to please themselves, not God.

Purpose: To show how three people remained strong in character and true to God even when the society around them was collapsing

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=35

1 Samuel

Author: Possibly Samuel with additions by Gad and Nathan

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: unknown

Setting: Begins in the days of the judges and describes Israel's transition from a theocracy (led by God) to a monarchy (led by a king).

Purpose: To record the life of Samuel, Israel's last judge; the reign and decline of Saul, Israel's first king; and the choice and preparation of David, Israel's greatest king.

Bible project video 1 Samuel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJOju5Dw0V0&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=11

2 Samuel

Author: Unknown; some have suggested that Nathan's son Zabud may have been the author and the book also includes the writings of Nathan and Gad

Original Audience: The people of Israel

Date written: 930 BC, soon after David's reign

Setting: The land of Israel under David's rule.

Purpose: To record the history of David's reign; to demonstrate effective leadership under God; to reveal that one person can make a difference; to show the personal qualities that please God; to depict David as an imperfect leader of an imperfect kingdom who acted as a foreshadowing of Christ, the ideal leader of a new and perfect kingdom.

Bible Project video 2 Samuel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvoWDXNDJgs&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATQCwRZ0u&index=12

Kings

Author: Unknown. Jewish tradition points to possibly Jeremiah or a group of prophets

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: Unknown

Setting of 1 Kings: The once great nation of Israel turned into a land divided not only physically but also spiritually

Purpose of 1 Kings: To contrast the lives of those who live for God and those who refuse to do so through the history of the kings of Israel and Judah

Setting of 2 Kings: The once united nation of Israel after having been divided into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, for over a century.

Purpose of 2 Kings: to demonstrate the fate that awaits all who refuse to make God their true leader

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVFW3wbi9pk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=13

Chronicles

Author: The Chronicler. Most likely Ezra

Original audience: The exiles who had returned from captivity

Date written 1 Chronicles: approximately 430 BC, recording events that occurred from about 1000 to 960 BC

Setting 1 Chronicles: First Chronicles parallels 2 Samuel and serves as a commentary on it. Written after the exile from a priestly point of view. 1 Chronicles emphasizes the religious history of Judah and Israel.

Purpose of 1 Chronicles: To unify God's people, to trace the Davidic line, and to teach that genuine worship ought to be the center of individual and community life

Date written 2 Chronicles: Around 430 BC, recording events from the start of Solomon's reign in 970 BC to the start of the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC

Setting 2 Chronicles: Second Chronicles parallels 1 and 2 Kings and serves as their commentary. Originally 1 and 2 Chronicles were one book. It was written after the Exile from a priestly perspective, highlighting the importance of the temple and the religious revivals in Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel is virtually ignored in this history.

Purpose of 2 Chronicles: To unify the nation around true worship of God by showing His standard for judging kings; the righteous kings of Judah and the religious revivals under their rule are highlighted, and the sins of the evil kings are exposed.

Bible Project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR7xaHv3Ias&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=41

Ezra

Author: Ezra

Original audience: The exiles who returned from captivity

Date written: Around 450 BC, recording events from about 538 to 450; possibly begun earlier in Babylon and finished in Jerusalem.

Setting: Follows 2 Chronicles as a history of the Jewish people, recording their return to the land after their captivity

Purpose: To show God's faithfulness and the way he kept his promise to restore his people to their land

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=40

Nehemiah

Author: Nehemiah

Original audience: The exiles who returned from captivity.

Date written: Approximately 445-432 BC.

Setting: Zerubbabel led the first return to Jerusalem in 538 BC. In 458, Ezra led the second return. Finally, in 445, Nehemiah returned with the third group of exiles to rebuild the city walls.

Purpose: To record the history of the third return to Jerusalem after captivity, telling how the walls were rebuilt and the people were renewed in their faith.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=40

Esther

Author: Unknown

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: Approximately 470 BC

Setting: Although Esther follows Nehemiah in the Bible, its events occurred about 30 years prior to those recorded in that book. The story is set in the Persian Empire, and most of the action takes place in the king's palace in Susa, a Persian capital.

Purpose: To demonstrate God's sovereignty and his loving care for his people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=38

Job

Author: unknown. Possibly Job or Solomon

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: Unknown; records events that probably occurred during the time of the patriarchs, approximately 2000-1800 BC

Setting: The land us Uz, probably located northeast of Palestine, near the desert land between Damascus and the Euphrates River.

Purpose: To demonstrate God's sovereignty and the meaning of true faith, and to address the question "why do the righteous suffer?"

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQwnH8th_fs&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=33

Psalms

Author: David (73), Asaph (12), Sons of Korah (12), Solomon (2), Moses, Heman, Ethan (1 each)

Original audience: The people of Israel

Date written: Between the time of Moses and the Babylonian captivity.

Setting: For the most part, the psalms were not intended to be narrations of historical events. Often, however, they parallel events in history, such as David's flight from Saul and his sin with Bathsheba.

Purpose: To provide poetry for the expression of praise, worship, and confession to God.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9phNEaPrv8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=31

Proverbs

Author: Mostly Solomon, with Agur and Lemuel each contributing one of the later sections.

Original audience: The people of Israel.

Date written: Solomon wrote and compiled most of these proverbs early in his reign.

Setting: Rather than being fixed to a particular location, Proverbs provides universal wisdom. It is a book of wise sayings, a textbook for teaching people how to live godly lives through the repetition of wise thoughts.

Purpose: To teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline, and a prudent life and how to do what is right, just, and fair. In short, to apply divine wisdom to daily life and to provide moral instruction.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmYV8GNAIM&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=32

Ecclesiastes

Author: Solomon

Original audience: Solomon's subjects in particular, and all people in general.

Date written: Probably around 935 BC, late in Solomon's life.

Setting: The reflections in this book arose as King Solomon looked back on his life, some of which has been lived apart from God.

Purpose: To spare future generations the bitterness of learning through their own experience that life apart from God is meaningless.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrsQ1tc-2wk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=37

Song of Songs

Author: Solomon

Original audience: The people of Israel in particular, and all people in general.

Date written: Probably early in Solomon's reign.

Setting: Israel- Shulammite woman's garden and the king's palace.

Purpose: To tell of the love between a bridegroom (King Solomon) and his bride, to affirm the sanctity of marriage, and to picture God's love for his people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KC7xE4fgOw&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=34

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah

Original audience: The people of the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

Date written: The events of Isaiah 1-39 occurred during Isaiah's ministry, so they were probably written about 700 BC. Isaiah 40-66, however, may have been written near the end of Isaia's life, about 681 BC.

Setting: Mainly Jerusalem.

Purpose: To call the nation of Judah back to God and to tell of God's salvation through the Messiah..

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TzdEPuqqQg&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=15

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah

Original audience: Judah and its capital city, Jerusalem.

Date written: During Jeremiah's ministry, approximately 627-586 BC.

Setting: Jeremiah ministered under Judah's last five kings- Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. The nation was sliding quickly toward destruction and was eventually conquered by Babylon in 586 BC. The prophet Zephaniah preceded Jeremiah, and Habakkuk was Jeremiah's contemporary.

Purpose: To urge God's people to turn from their sins and back to God.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSK36cHbrk0&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=16

Lamentations

Author: Jeremiah

Original audience: The exiled people of Judah.

Date written: Soon after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Setting: Just after Jerusalem had been destroyed by Babylon and its people killed, tortured, or taken captive.

Purpose: To teach the people that to disobey God is to invite disaster, and to show that God mourns with his people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8GDFPdaQZQ&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeEVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=36

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel, son of Buzi, a Zadokite priest.

Original audience: The Jews in captivity in Babylon.

Date written: approximately 571 BC.

Setting: Ezekiel was a younger contemporary of Jeremiah. While Jeremiah ministered to the people still in Judah, Ezekiel prophesied to those already exiled in Babylonia after the defeat of Jehoiachin. He had been taken there in 597 BC.

Purpose: To announce God's judgment on Israel and other nations and to foretell the eventual salvation of God's people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-CIPu1nko8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=17

Daniel

Author: Daniel

Original audience: The other captives in Babylon.

Date written: Approximately 536 BC, recording events that occurred from about 605 to 535 BC.

Setting: Daniel had been taken captive and deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. There he served in the government for about 70 years during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus.

Purpose: To give a historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity in Babylon and to show that God is in control of heaven and earth, directing the forces of nature, the destiny of nations, and the care of His people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cSC9uobtPM&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=39

Hosea

Author: Hosea

Original audience: The people of Israel in the northern kingdom.

Date written: Approximately 715 BC, recording events from about 753 to 715 BC.

Setting: Hosea began his ministry during the end of the prosperous but morally declining reign of Jeroboam 2 of Israel (the upper classes were doing well for themselves, but they were oppressing the poor). He prophesied until shortly after the fall of Samaria in 722 BC.

Purpose: To illustrate God's love for his sinful people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE6SZ1ogOVU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=19

Joel

Author: Joel

Original audience: The people of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Probably during the time Joel prophesied, most likely from approximately 835 to 796 BC.

Setting: The people of Judah had become prosperous and complacent. Taking God for granted, they had turned to self-centeredness, idolatry, and sin. Joel warned them that this kind of lifestyle would inevitably bring God's judgment.

Purpose: To warn the people of Judah of God's impending judgement because of their sins and to urge them to turn back to God.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQLazbgz90c&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=20

Amos

Author: Amos

Original audience: The people of Israel in the northern kingdom.

Date written: Probably during the reigns of Jeroboam 2 of Israel and Uzziah of Judah. Approximately 760-750 BC.

Setting: The wealthy people of Israel were enjoying peace and prosperity. They were quite complacent and were oppressing the poor, even selling them into slavery. Soon, however, Israel would be conquered by Assyria, and the rich would themselves become slaves.

Purpose: To pronounce God's judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom, for their complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGgWaPGpGz4&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeefFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=21

Obadiah

Author: Obadiah, though very little is known about this man, whose name means "servant, or worshiper of the Lord".

Original audience: The Edomites and the people of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Possibly during the reign of Jehoram in Judah (855-841 BC) or possibly during Jeremiah's ministry (627-586 BC).

Setting: Historically, Edom had constantly harassed the Israelites. Prior to the time this book was written, they had participated in attacks against Judah. Given the dates above, this prophecy came after the division of Israel into the northern and southern kingdoms and before Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah in 586 BC.

Purpose: To show that God judges those who have harmed His people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4ogCrEoG5s&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=22

Jonah

Author: anonymous. If Jonah did not write it, he was the source of the material.

Original audience: The people of Israel.

Date written: Approximately 785-760 BC.

Setting: Jonah preceded Amos and ministered under Jeroboam 2, Israel's most powerful king (793-753 BC). Assyria was Israel's great enemy; they conquered Israel in 722 BC. Nineveh's repentance must have been short-lived because the city was destroyed in 612 BC.

Purpose: To show the extent of God's grace – that the message of salvation is for all people.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLIabZc0O4c&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=23

Micah

Author: Micah, a native of Moresheth, near Gath, about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Original audience: The people of Israel in the northern kingdom and the people of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Possibly during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (742-687 BC).

Setting: The political situation is described in 2 Kings 15-20 and 2 Chronicles 26-30. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.

Purpose: To warn God's people of the coming judgement and to offer pardon to all who would repent.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFUUEcylwLc&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=24

Nahum

Author: Nahum

Original audience: The people of Nineveh and of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Sometime during Nahum's prophetic ministry (probably between 663 and 612 BC).

Setting: This particular prophecy took place after the fall of Thebes in 663 BC.

Purpose: To pronounce God's judgement on Assyria and to comfort Judah with this truth.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y30DanA5EhU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=25

Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk

Original audience: The people of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Between 612 and 588 BC.

Setting: Babylon was becoming the dominant world power, and Judah would soon feel Babylon's destructive force.

Purpose: To show that God is still in control of the world despite the apparent triumph of evil.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPMaRqGJPUU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=26

Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah

Original audience: The people of Judah in the southern kingdom.

Date written: Probably near the end of Zephaniah's ministry (640-621 BC). When King Josiah's great reforms began.

Setting: King Josiah of Judah was attempting to reverse the evil trends set by the two previous kings of Judah 0 Manasseh and Amon. Josiah was able to extend his influence because no strong superpower was dominating the world at that time (Assyria was declining rapidly). Zephaniah's prophecy may have been the motivating factor in Josiah's reform. Zephaniah was also a contemporary of Jeremiah.

Purpose: To shake the people of Judah out of their complacency and urge them to return to God.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFZknKPNvz8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=27

Haggai

Author: Haggai

Original audience: The people living in Jerusalem who had returned from exile.

Date written: 520 BC.

Setting: The temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed in 586 BC. Cyrus (the Persian king) had allowed the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild their temple in 538 BC. They had begun the work but had been unable to complete it. Through the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah, the temple was completed (520-515 BC).

Purpose: To call the people to complete the rebuilding of the temple.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPvv_xcX-U&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=28

Zechariah

Author: Zechariah

Original audience: The Jews in Jerusalem who had returned from their captivity in Babylon.

Date written: Zechariah 1 through 8 were written from approximately 520 to 518 BC. Zechariah 9 through 14 were written around 480 BC.

Setting: The exiles had returned from Babylon to rebuild the temple, but the work had been thwarted and stalled. Haggai and Zechariah confronted the people with their task and encouraged them to complete it.

Purpose: To give hope to God's people by revealing God's future deliverance through the Messiah.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_106IfO6Kc0&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=29

Malachi

Author: Malachi

Original audience: The people of Jerusalem.

Date written: Approximately 430 BC.

Setting: Malachi, Haggai, and Zechariah were postexilic prophets to Judah (the southern kingdom). Haggai and Zechariah rebuked the people for their failure to rebuild the temple. Malachi confronted them with their neglect of the temple and their false and profane worship.

Purpose: To confront the people with their sins and to help restore their relationship with God.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPGShWZ4Jvk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=30

New Testament Overview:

Overview: The New Testament is a historical record of the birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the creation of the Church, and the future second coming of Jesus.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0BrP8bqj0c&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=1>

Matthew

Author: Matthew

Original audience: Jews

Date written: between AD 60-65

Setting: Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. This Gospel forms the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments because of its emphasis on the fulfillment of prophecy.

Purpose: To show the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed and promised eternal King

Bible project video part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Dv4-n6OYGI&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=2>

Bible project video part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGCF3OPWN14&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=3>

Mark

Author: Mark

Original audience: Christians in Rome

Date written: Between Ad 55-65

Setting: The Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar. The empire, with its common language and excellent transportation and communication systems, was ripe to hear Jesus' message, which spread quickly from nation to nation.

Purpose: To present the person, work, and teaching Jesus and show that He came to be a suffering servant.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGHqu9-DtXk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=4>

Luke

Author: Luke

Original audience: Theophilus and the Gentiles

Date written: approximately AD 60

Setting: Luke wrote from Rome or possibly from Caesarea.

Purpose: To provide a detailed, accurate account of the life of Jesus Christ, presenting Him as our healer.

Bible project video part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dCIxzr0&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=7

Bible project video part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=8

John

Author: John

Original audience: New Christians and searching non-Christians.

Date written: between AD 85-90.

Setting: Written after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and before John's exile to the island of Patmos.

Purpose: To prove that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior for all who put their faith in Him.

Bible project video part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=5>

Bible project video part 2:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUFh_wOsauk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=6

Acts

Author: Luke

Original audience: Theophilus (those who love God)

Date written: Approximately AD 60

Setting: Acts is the connecting link between Christ's life and the life of the church, between the Gospels and the New Testament letters.

Purpose: To give an account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth and growth of the Christian church.

Bible project video part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=9>

Bible project video part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpjL0Q&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=10>

Romans

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Christians in Rome who were made up of Jews and Gentiles.

Date written: AD 57.

Setting: Apparently Paul had finished his work in the east, and he planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain after first bringing a collection to Jerusalem for the poor Christians there. The Roman church was mostly Jewish but also contained a great number of Gentiles.

Purpose: To explain to the church in Rome what the righteousness of God means, and how to live it out.

Bible project video part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=11

Bible project video part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SVTl4Xa5fY&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=12>

1 Corinthians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church at Corinth who was dealing with many divisions in their church and gross immorality that was tolerated and even approved of by the church.

Date written: About AD 55 during Paul's third missionary journey.

Setting: Corinth was a major cosmopolitan city, a seaport and major trade center, it was the most important city in Achaia. It was also filled with idolatry and immorality. The church was largely made up of Gentiles. Paul had established this church on his second missionary journey.

Purpose: To identify problems in the Corinthians church, to offer solutions, and to teach the believers how to live for Christ in a corrupt society.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiHf8klCCc4&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=13>

2 Corinthians

Author: Paul

Original audience: the Church in Corinth who at this time was entertaining false teachers and questioning Paul's ministry as an Apostle.

Date written: between AD 55-57.

Setting: Paul had already written three letters to the Corinthians (two which are now lost). In 1 Corinthians (the second of these letters), he used strong words to correct and teach. Most of the church had responded in the right spirit; some people, however, were denying Paul's authority and questioning his motives.

Purpose: To affirm Paul's ministry, defend his authority as an apostle, and refute the false teachers in Corinth.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lfPK2vfC54&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=14>

Galatians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Churches in Galatia who were being taught a false gospel by the Judaizers.

Date written: AD 49.

Setting: The most pressing controversy in the early church was the relationship of new believers, particularly Gentiles, to the Jewish laws. This was especially a problem for converts and for the young churches Paul had founded on his first missionary journey. Paul wrote to correct this problem.

Purpose: To refute the Judaizers who taught that Gentile believers must obey the Jewish law in order to be saved, and to call Christians to faith and freedom in Christ.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmx4UjRFp0M&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=15>

Ephesians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church in Ephesus and other surrounding churches.

Date written: AD 60 while Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

Setting: Ephesians was not written to confront any heresy or problem in the churches but rather was sent to strengthen and encourage them. Paul had spent over three years with the Ephesian church and was very close to them. Because this letter contains no specific references to people or problems in the Ephesian church, Paul may have intended this letter to be circulated to all the churches in the area.

Purpose: To strengthen the believers in Ephesus in their Christian faith by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=16>

Philippians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church in Philippi.

Date written: AD 61 while Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

Setting: Paul and his companions had started the church in Philippi on his second missionary journey. This was the first church established in Europe. The Philippian church had sent a gift with Epaphroditus (one of their members) to be delivered to Paul. Paul was in a Roman prison at the time. He wrote this letter to thank them for their gift and to encourage them in their faith.

Purpose: To thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent and to strengthen these believers by showing them that true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE9qqW1-BkU&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=17>

Colossians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church in Colossae who were hearing many false teachers.

Date written: AD 60 while Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

Setting: Paul had never visited Colossae. Evidently, the church had been founded by Epaphras and other converts from Paul's missionary travels. But the church had since been infiltrated by religious relativism, with some believers attempting to combine elements of paganism and secular philosophy with Christian doctrine. Paul confronts these false teachings and affirms the sufficiency of Christ.

Purpose: To combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Christ.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXlDxQsvc&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHd hY2kPR&index=18>

1 Thessalonians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church in Thessalonica

Date written: AD 51.

Setting: The church in Thessalonica was very young, established only two or three months before this letter was written. These Christians needed to mature in their faith. In addition, there was a misunderstanding concerning Christ's second coming. Some thought he would return immediately and thus were confused when their loved ones died before he did. Meanwhile, the believers were being persecuted.

Purpose: To strengthen the Thessalonian Christians in their faith and give them assurance of Christ's return.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No7Nq6IX23c&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=19>

2 Thessalonians

Author: Paul

Original audience: The Church in Thessalonica.

Date written: AD 51-52. Shortly after 1 Thessalonians.

Setting: Many in the church were confused about the timing of Christ's return. Because of mounting persecution, they thought the Day of the Lord must be imminent, and they took Paul's first letter to mean that the Second Coming would be at any moment. This misunderstanding caused many to persist in being idle and disorderly, with the excuse of waiting for Christ's return.

Purpose: To clear up the confusion about the second coming of Christ.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbPBDKOn1cc&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=20>

1 Timothy

Author: Paul

Original audience: Timothy

Date written: AD 64. Just before Paul was imprisoned in Rome a final time.

Setting: Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions. Paul had sent him to the church in Ephesus to counter the false teaching that had arisen there. And he served as a leader in that church for a time. Paul hoped to visit Timothy, but in the meantime, he wrote this letter to give him practical advice about ministry.

Purpose: To encourage and teach Timothy, a young leader.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RoqnGcEjcs&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=21>

2 Timothy

Author: Paul

Original audience: Timothy

Date written: AD 66-67 during Paul's final imprisonment in Rome.

Setting: Paul was virtually alone in prison; only Luke was with him. Paul wrote this letter to pass the torch of faith to the new generation of church leaders. He also asked for visits from his friends and for his scrolls, especially the parchments, possibly parts of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and other biblical manuscripts.

Purpose: To give final instructions and encouragement to Timothy, pastor of the church in Ephesus.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urlvnxCaL00&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=22>

Titus

Author: Paul

Original audience: Titus

Date written: AD 64

Setting: Paul left Titus to organize and oversee the churches on Crete. This letter tells Titus how to do this job.

Purpose: To advise Titus in his responsibility of supervising the churches on the island of Crete.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUEYCVXJM3k&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=23>

Philemon

Author: Paul

Original audience: Philemon, a wealthy member of the Colossian church.

Date written: AD 60 during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome.

Setting: Slavery was very common in the Roman Empire, and evidently some Christians had slaves. Paul does not condemn the institution of slavery in his writings, but he makes a radical statement by calling the slave Onesimus Philemon's brother in Christ.

Purpose: To convince Philemon to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and to accept him as a brother in the faith.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW9Q3Jt6Yvk&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=24>

Hebrews

Author: Unknown

Original audience: Hebrew Christians who have been considering a return to Judaism.

Date written: AD 70 before the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

Setting: These Jewish Christians were probably undergoing fierce persecution, socially and physically, both from Jews and from Romans. Christ had not returned to establish his kingdom, and the people needed to be reassured that the Gospel is true and that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

Purpose: To present the sufficiency and superiority of Christ.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=25>

James

Author: James (the brother of Jesus)

Original audience: Jewish Christians living in Gentile communities outside Judea.

Date written: AD 49

Setting: This letter expresses James's concern for persecuted Christians who were once part of the Jerusalem church.

Purpose: To expose hypocritical practices and to teach how Christians should live.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn-hLHWwRYY&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=26>

1 Peter

Author: Peter

Original audience: Christians scattered throughout Rome who were being persecuted for their faith.

Date written: AD 64

Setting: Peter was probably in Rome when the great persecution under Emperor Nero began. Throughout the Roman Empire, Christians were being tortured and killed for their faith.

Purpose: To offer encouragement to suffering Christians.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhP7AZQlzCg&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=27>

2 Peter

Author: Peter

Original audience: The entire church.

Date written: AD 67. 3 years after 1 Peter.

Setting: Peter knew that his time on earth was limited, so he wrote about what was on his heart, warning believers of what would happen when he was gone, especially about the presence of false teachers. He reminded his readers of the unchanging truth of the Gospel.

Purpose: To warn Christians about false teachers and to exhort them to grow in their faith in and knowledge of Christ.

Bible project video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWLv_ITyKYc&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=28

1 John

Author: John

Original audience: Several Gentile congregations.

Date written: Between AD 85-90.

Setting: John was an older man and perhaps the only surviving apostle. He had not yet been banished to the island of Patmos, where he would live in exile. As an eyewitness of Christ, he wrote authoritatively to give the new generation of believers assurance and confidence in God and in their faith.

Purpose: To reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teachings.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3QkE6nKylM&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=29>

2 John

Author: John

Original audience: The lady chosen by God and her children (possibly a local church).

Date written: Between AD 85-90.

Setting: One interpretation is that this woman and her family were involved in one of the churches that John was overseeing and had developed a strong friendship with John. John was warning of the false teachers who were becoming prevalent in some of the churches.

Purpose: To emphasize the basics of following Christ's truth and love, and to warn against false teachers.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3QkE6nKylM&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdY2kPR&index=29>

3 John

Author: John

Original audience: Gaius, a prominent Christian in a church known to John.

Date written: Between AD 85-90.

Setting: Church leaders traveled from town to town helping establish new congregations. They depended on the hospitality of fellow believers. Gaius was one who welcomed these leaders into his home.

Purpose: To commend Gaius for his hospitality and encourage him in his Christian life.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3QkE6nKylM&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=29>

Jude

Author: Jude

Original audience: Jewish Christians

Date written: AD 65

Setting: From the first century on, the church has been threatened by heresy and false teaching. We must always be on our guard.

Purpose: To remind the church of the need for constant vigilance, to keep strong in the faith, and to oppose heresy.

Bible project video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UoCmakZmys&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=30>

Revelation

Author: John

Original audience: The seven churches in Asia and all believers everywhere.

Date written: AD 95

Setting: Most interpreters believe the seven churches of Asia to whom John wrote were experiencing persecution under Emperor Domitian. The Roman authorities had evidently exiled John to the island of Patmos (off the coast of Asia). John, who had been an eyewitness of the incarnate Christ, had a vision of the glorified Christ. God also revealed to John what would take place in the future – the coming judgement and the ultimate triumph of God over evil.

Purpose: To reveal the full identity of Jesus Christ and to give warning and hope to believers.

Bible project video part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=31>

Bible project video part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=32>