

# OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

## OLD TESTAMENT

### TORAH

#### 'The Law'

*Literature: Narrative/Law Code*

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus  
Numbers, Deuteronomy

Where It Fits: Origin of the nation of Israel/Detailed laws and instructions for them.

How to Read: Approach with curiosity. Some of this is irrelevant but gives you a glimpse into God's heart and character.

### HISTORICAL BOOKS

*Literature: Narrative*

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

Where It Fits: Entire history of Israel as a nation up to their return from exile.

How to Read: Birds eye view of how sin can spiral into destruction. Be introspective about your own shortcomings.

### WISDOM/POETRY

*Literature: Poetry/ Song*

Job, Psalms  
Proverbs,  
Ecclesiastes,  
Song of Songs

Where It Fits: It doesn't. Collected wisdom of Israel throughout their history.

How to Read: For people wanting to explore questions regarding God's justice, the meaning of life, and wisdom.

### PROPHETS

*Literature: Narrative/ Poetry*

Major: Isaiah, Jeremiah  
Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor: Hosea, Joel, Amos,  
Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,  
Habukkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai,  
Zechariah, Malachi

Where It Fits: Different places within the events of the historical books (Pre Exile, Mid Exile, Post Exile). Collected teachings of prophets who existed during these times. Fills in the silhouette of what the messiah will look like.

How to Read: The job of the prophet is to point Israel back to the law and to remind them of the consequences of their disobedience. Not just about predicting the future.

## NEW TESTAMENT

### GOSPELS/ACTS

*Literature: Narrative*

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts

Where It Fits: Biographies of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The ministry and church planting work of the 12 Apostles.

How to Read: Read the gospels slowly. Jesus will challenge you. John is vastly different from the other gospels. Don't let this scare you but be prepared. The book of acts gives us a glimpse into the first churches ever planted. We should take notes.

### EPISTLES

#### "Letters"

*Literature: Letter*

Romans  
1 & 2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 & 2 Thessalonians  
1 & 2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1 & 2 Peter  
1, 2, & John  
Jude

Where It Fits: Letters from the apostles to the 1st century churches. Some are encouraging, some are theological, some are harsh rebukes.

How to Read: These books will provide the most direct application for your life today. These letters are designed to be read in one sitting. Be aware of the structure of the book when reading individual sections.

### REVELATION

*Literature: Apocalyptic*

Revelation

Where It Fits: The end of the story. How God is fulfilling His promises in the Old Testament to set up an eternal kingdom of peace and righteousness, restoring humanity to its identity and purpose in the world.

How to Read: This book is complex and loaded with imagery and metaphor. Don't divide with people over interpretation. The main point is that Jesus is coming back to restore the earth and bring His presence in full to the earth.