

## **Lesson 1: Intro & Overview**

Read Psalm 19

### **Slide 1: Goals Intro Overview**

- 1) What do you want to learn?
- 2) Know the first 75% of the Bible better
- 3) Love Geography
- 4) Love Storyline
- 5) Love our grandparents in the faith

#### **Q: What do you want to learn?**

**Hack:** Lots of reading - audio (ESV Bible App comes with an audio reader)

Read Bible in a month!

Read one book over and over

Get a ESV Study Bible, Reformation Study Bible, MacArthur - and read intros and notes

Can't instantly make you understand, takes time

Plan: Overview of each book, themes, stories, theology

**Hack:** The Bible Project - excellent resource but be careful! They deny crucial doctrines.

YouTube: The Bible Project, Expedition Bible

### **Slide 2: Posture - Reading the OT well (from Daniel Block, PhD)**

- 1) Treat the Bible as Scripture, not an artifact.
- 2) Read with the goal that your life is changed, not just to check a box. The Law of the Lord revives the soul.
- 3) Let the Bible say what it says - even (especially) the hard things.
- 4) Read the Bible holistically (we are Christians, read with Christ in mind)
- 5) Don't be a slave to our long held view of the Bible (dispensational, covenant, old earth, young earth, etc). Be open
- 6) Understand progressive revelation and where you are in that process. Timeline as well as revealed Scripture. Abraham didn't have the law or the NT and doesn't act like he does.
- 7) Trust what Scripture says (sola scriptura) more than your own opinions or the opinions of trusted scholars.

#### **Geography:**

Having maps handy is helpful

- What is Dan to Beersheba?
- Where are the enemies? Moab, Ammon, Edom, Egypt, Philistines?
- Drive Thru History map, make a copy of the map in your Bible as a book mark.
- Things in Israel were small. Israel = Idaho panhandle. Ancient Jerusalem = Costco or a little bigger.

### **Slide 3: Books - Table of Contents**

The order is not inspired

The arrangement is not chronological, but logical

The arrangement is simply to help us

Hebrew Bible ( <i>tanakh</i> )	Protestant Bible
<b>Books of Moses (<i>torah</i>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genesis</li> <li>Exodus</li> <li>Leviticus</li> <li>Numbers</li> <li>Deuteronomy</li> </ul>	<b>Law (Pentateuch)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genesis</li> <li>Exodus</li> <li>Leviticus</li> <li>Numbers</li> <li>Deuteronomy</li> </ul>
<b>Prophets (<i>nevi'im</i>)</b> <b>Former</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joshua</li> <li>Judges</li> <li>Samuel</li> <li>Kings</li> </ul> <b>Latter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isaiah</li> <li>Jeremiah</li> <li>Ezekiel</li> <li>The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</li> </ul>	<b>Historical Books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joshua</li> <li>Judges</li> <li>Ruth</li> <li>Samuel (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>Kings (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>Chronicles (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>Ezra</li> <li>Nehemiah</li> <li>Esther</li> </ul>
	<b>Wisdom Books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job</li> <li>Psalms</li> <li>Proverbs</li> <li>Ecclesiastes</li> <li>Song of Solomon</li> </ul>
<b>Writings (<i>khetuvim</i>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psalms</li> <li>Proverbs</li> <li>Job</li> <li>Song of Solomon</li> <li>Ruth</li> <li>Lamentations</li> <li>Ecclesiastes</li> <li>Esther</li> <li>Daniel</li> <li>Ezra-Nehemiah</li> <li>Chronicles</li> </ul>	<b>Prophets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isaiah</li> <li>Jeremiah</li> <li>Lamentations</li> <li>Ezekiel</li> <li>Daniel</li> <li>The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</li> </ul>

## Lesson 2: Timeline / Covenants

### Slide 4: Timeline: Hebrews 11

- Just flipping open our Bible randomly is one of the easiest ways to get confused.
- Example: What if we blended the history of America, rather than approach it chronologically?

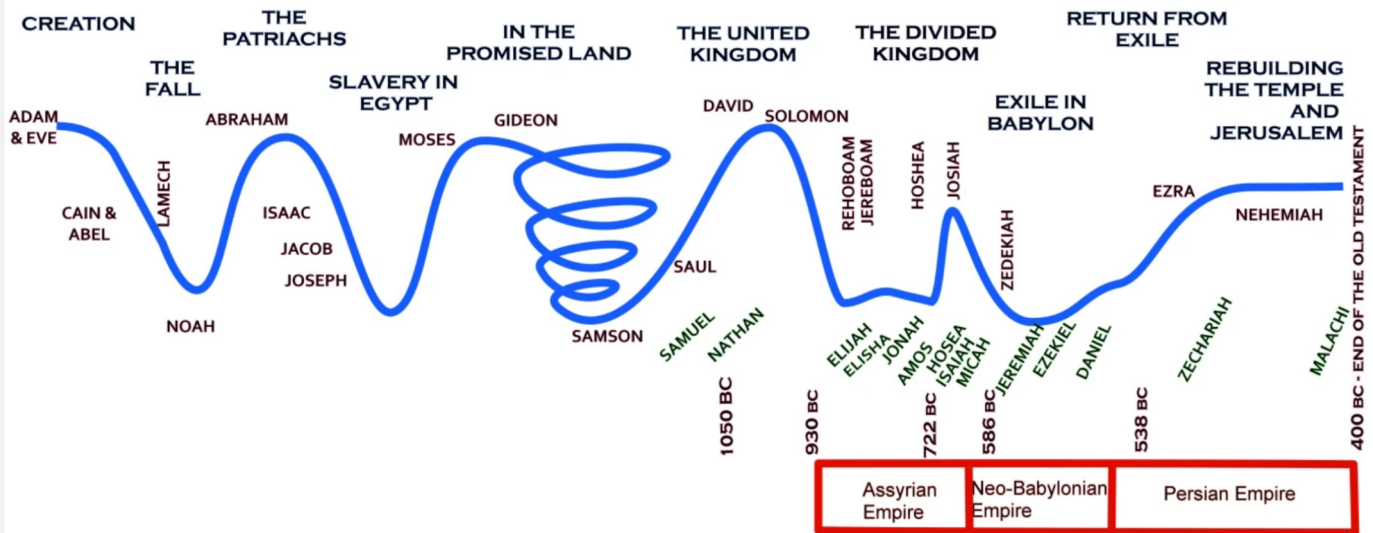


Image from: <https://stuarthoughton.wordpress.com/2015/02/13/an-old-testament-timeline/>

**Hack:** Egermeier's  
Key Dates (Young Earth perspective):

Creation: 4000 BC  
Flood: 2500 BC  
Abraham: 2200 BC  
Exodus: 1450 BC  
Judges: 1400-1050 BC  
David: 1000 BC  
Exile: 600 BC (597/586BC)  
Malachi: 400 BC

- OT is not just a history -> it's a history of salvation.

Covenants:

- The OT is couched in a series of covenants.
- I'm not a covenant theology adherent, but I acknowledge covenants guide the course of history.
- **Slide:** Definition: Hebrew: berith: May be related to Akkadian biritu, "clasp, fetter," hence "bond."
- Greek: diathēkē - Classical Greek: The disposition of property by means of a will and testament. Biblical Greek: It is used theologically of both divine and human covenants (some exceptions).

- Our definition: A Covenant is a formally confirmed agreement between two or more parties that creates, activates, or governs a relationship that does not exist naturally or a natural relationship that may have been broken or disintegrated.
- Covenant of Redemption - **John 17:4-5, Titus 1:1-3, Hebrews 13:20**
- Covenant of Grace: **Gen 3:15,**
- Covenant of Works - Made between God and Adam. **Genesis 2:16-17** (covenant language); **Hosea 6:7** clear covenant violation, **Rom 5:12-19** Adam and Christ are contrasted as covenant heads.
- Noahic: 9:8-17; never rescinded.
- Abrahamic: Gen 12:1-3; never rescinded; entered into thru faith in Jesus (**Gal 3:7-9**).
- Mosaic: Exodus 19:5-6, Exodus 31:16-17
- Davidic: 2 Samuel 7:8-17
- New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34
- God regularly reveals himself as the covenant keeping God. Exodus 34:6-7 -> Jonah 4:1-4
- Romans 6, no longer under Moses, under Christ.
- Romans 4: Faith in Christ is our entrance into Abraham's covenant.

So we look at the OT to change us and as our guide to history. But we look at it knowing the theological architecture. God is telling us this story on purpose. He's moving in a direction he wants us to see.

## Covenant Theology

Covenant theology (CT) is the Reformed position that sees history through the lens of covenant, specifically the unfolding/expansion of God's covenant of grace. CT holds that salvation is best understood through continuity, thus the New Covenant is essentially an expansion of the Abrahamic Covenant, and the church is an expansion/continuation of Israel.

## Covenant Theology IN A NUT SHELL

### Three Covenants | One People

Covenant *of* **REDEMPTION** (Pre-creation)

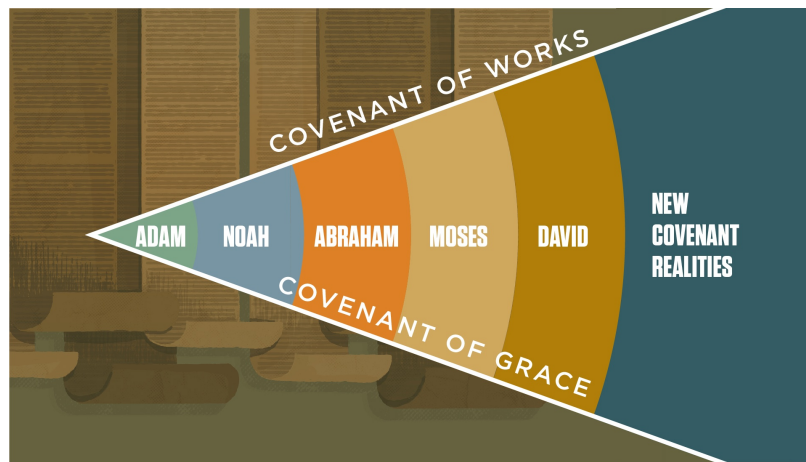
Covenant *of* **WORKS** (Pre-Fall)

Covenant *of* **GRACE** (Post-Fall)

• *Biblical Covenants are expansions*

The Covenants find their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

Israel becomes the Church



“Each covenant in time is an expansion or progression of the covenant of grace, as the object of saving faith is more clearly revealed. Meanwhile, the covenant of works is operating in the background, reminding us of the impossibility of approaching God by our own efforts.

In CT, the overarching story is the progression of revelation toward Jesus, who fulfills all covenantal promises. The church stands in the long line of faithful people who have been recipients through faith of the covenant of grace, and thus the church is rightly identified as believing Israel.” - Imagines and text by Jessie Johnson “The Cripplegate” Blog (<https://thecripplegate.com/covenantalism-vs-dispensationalism-part-1-covenantalism/>)

### Lesson 3: Genesis 1-11

#### Slide; Crucial stats

Written: Moses - NT authors frequently cite Moses as the author of all the books.

Moses lived ~1,450 BC

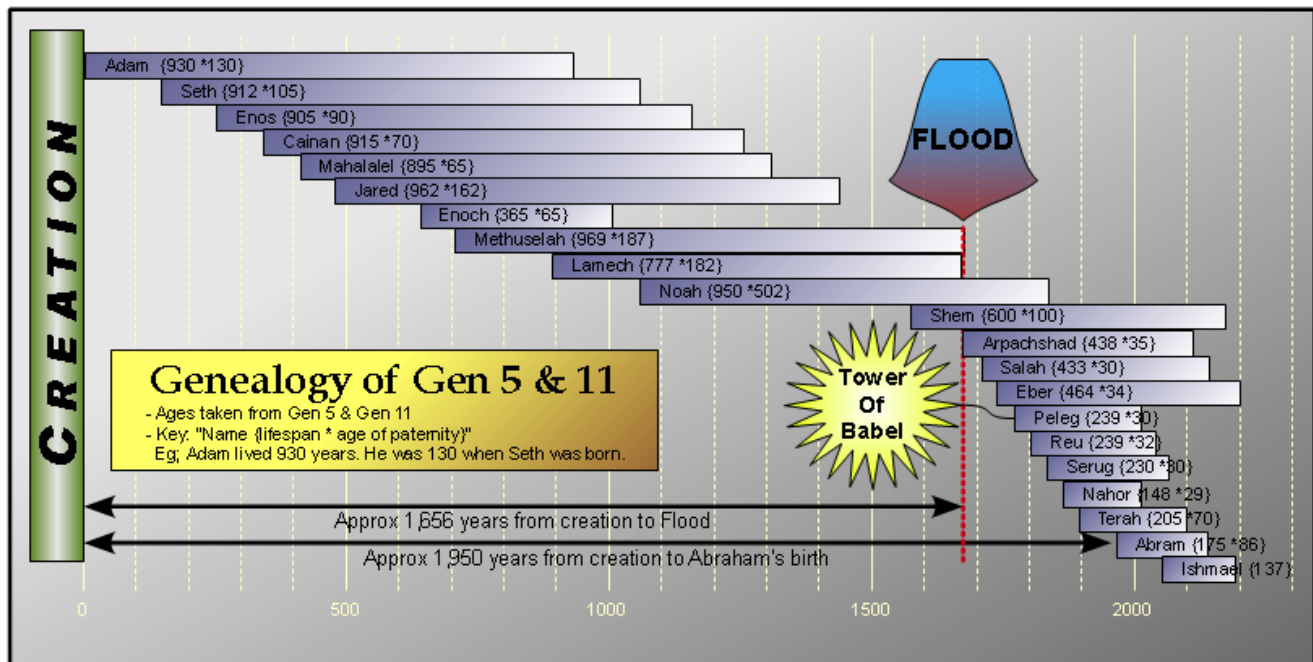
Dates Covered: 4,000BC - 2200BC

Essential for all biblical doctrine

#### Slide: Genesis 1-11/12-50

- overview of division

- Read 12:1-3



We get the date of the earth and the dates of the Bible from doing simple math from genealogies.

If you haven't read Genesis in a while, you need to!

#### Themes:

God - who is he? Creator, promise giver, judge, eternal,

Disorder -> order

Origins - how did we get here?

What is a human (anthropology)?

What is the difference between humans and animals?

What is the relationship and responsibility of man with animals?

Meaning of life/what is man's purpose.

Marriage

Children

Sin

Sex/sexual sin

Death

Flood

Nations/languages

Covenants

Patriarchs

Divine historical record of Israel - this is a theological road map for Israel as they enter the Promised Land for where they (and their enemies) came from.

Options for reading the creation story:

Literal history

No indication from Moses or anyone else that poetry stops and history begins

Evening/Morning repeated

Yom = days

Exodus 20: Sabbath is based on a 6 day creation cycle

There are words for epochs or long periods - not used

Genealogies indicate Adam was first

Theology indicates Adam was first (sin entered through Adam)

No mention anywhere of other humans or creation stories

Poetry

Parallelism - Parallelism suggests poetry, not literal

Problem - many poems are literal (Paul Revere's ride)

Gap Theory: Mostly debunked, but occasionally still used as an explainer

Doesn't explain the text

Doesn't explain secular science.

## Lesson 4: Genesis 12-50

Remember: Theological History of the World

Covenant Promise: 12:1-3

Covenant Renewed: 15

Patriarchs:

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

12 Tribes

Abraham: Genesis 12-25

- Joshua 24:1-2 - Idolator in early life.
- **Covenant Genesis 15**

Isaac: Genesis 21-26

- Relatively short in the Genesis narrative
- Sacrifice of Isaac Gen 22
- **Covenant Genesis 26:1-5**

Jacob - "Israel" Genesis 25-35

- **Covenant 32:22-32**

12 Tribes - Genesis 29:31-30:24

- **Covenant:** Scepter shall not pass from Judah Genesis 49:9-12

Esau: 36

Judah and Tamar - Genesis 38

- What are some wrong conclusions we could come to?
- How are we to understand this incident?

Joseph/Egypt: Genesis 37-50

**Covenant 50:20-26**



## Lesson 5: Exodus

Author: Moses

What do we know about Exodus?

- Themes?
  - God is faithful
  - War of the gods
  - Stubbornness of People
  - God has ethical requirements
  - God cares about the specifics of worship
- Content?

### 1. Exodus: Chapters 1-15

#### **Read 1:1-14**

What was a blessing and protection has become a curse  
God knows

#### **Read 2:23-25**

### 2. Law: Chapters 16-24

#### **Read 20:1-17**

Ten Commandments (Words)  
Inverse - You shall not steal = you shall be generous; You shall not = you shall  
Sabbath?

#### **Read 21:6**

#### **Read 21:12-21**

#### **Read 21:33-22:6**

Punishments: fines, beating, death, restitution, exile, sacrifices.

How do we apply the Law as Christians? Or do we?

#### **Rom. 7:7-12**

### 3. Tabernacle 25-40

#### **Read 25:1-9**

God wants worship to be very carefully measured  
He doesn't have less demands in the NC, he expects more - grace gives us the ability to obey more precisely.  
Danger of spiritualizing every tent peg and rope and distance

**Read 31:1-11** The first Spirit filled people in the Bible were metallurgists. God gifts people with all kinds of gifts.

**Read 31:12-18** - What do we do with the Sabbath? **Heb 4?**

**Read 40:34-38**

## **Lesson 6: Leviticus**

Q: What do we know about Leviticus?

Q: Why is it so hard to read through?

Exodus: Exodus -> Law -> Tabernacle

Leviticus Answers:

- What do we do with the Tabernacle?
- What if we fail in the Law?
- How does a holy God live among a wretched people?

Outline:

Chapter 1-7: Sacrifices

**Read 4:1-12**

Chapter 8-10: Priestly Line of Aaron

**Read 10:1-7**

Chapter 11-15: Purity Rituals (Not Moral Issues)

**Read 11:1-12**

Chapter 16-17: Day of Atonement

Chapter 18-22: Purity of Conduct

**Read 19:9-18**

Chapter 23-25: Feasts and Release

**Read 23:1-14**

Chapter 26-27: Blessings, Cursings, Vows

## **Lesson 7: Numbers and Deuteronomy**

### **Numbers**

Hebrew: "In the Wilderness" - 2 week tour turns into 40 year tragedy

Exodus: Exodus -> Law -> Tabernacle

Leviticus: How does a holy God dwell with wretched people

Numbers: What happened next? Disobedience

### **1) Chapters 1-12: Mt. Sinai:**

#### **A) Census Read 1:42-46**

Problem of large numbers: Modern scholars object to the large numbers recorded in the Exodus event.

- 1) How could there be a population of over 2-3 million Jews in the desert?
- 2) Israel is said to have been small (Deut. 7:6-7, 21, Exodus 23:29-30).
- 3) The word "thousand" could mean "group" or "tribe."

Answers:

- 1) Israel is said to have grown exceedingly great, more than all the people in Egypt (Exo. 1:1-7). Mathematically 2-3 million would be easy to achieve in 400 years with God's grace.
- 2) The numbers we have are census numbers. By definition, care would have been taken to ensure accuracy. Further, different lists add up to the same number (Num. 1:46, 2:32).
- 3) A word can have multiple meanings, but the context of a census drives us to believe it's thousands.

#### **B) Encampment with Yahweh in the middle Read 2:1-4**

### **2) Chapters 13-19: Wilderness in Paran**

A) Spies fail - **Read 13:1-3, 13:25-14:4**  
- 40 years: **Read 14:20-35**

B) Koran's Rebellion (chapter 16)- Overthrow Moses, Ground Swallows up for rebels

### **3) Chapters 20-36: Moab**

A) Bronze Serpent **Read 21:4-9**

B) Sihon and Og defeated **Read 21:21-35**  
- This is a big deal in the OT

C) Balak & Balaam Chapter 22-24

## **Deuteronomy**

### **“Second Law”**

Probably a sermon or set of sermons preached by Moses after the 40 years of wandering.  
The last book of Moses before the Israelites enter the Promised Land  
God has renewed his grace and covenant with Israel

Suzerain/Vassal Treaty: Treaty between a king and subjects.  
Used by Hittites, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt.

1) Intro 1:1-5

2) History of Relationship (Prologue): 1:6-4:49

3) General Principles 5:1-11:32 (10 Commands, Israel's need for humility, Israel to love God)

4) Specific Principles 12:1-26:19 (Laws, feasts, leaders, justice, war, morality, marriage, tithes)

5) Consequences 27:1-28:68 (blessings and curses)

\*\* Covenant Renewal in Moab 29:1-31:8 (Joshua will lead after Moses)

6) Regular reading of the Treaty 31:9-29

7) Witnesses 32:1-47

---

\*\* Moses's blessing and death 33:1-34:12

\*\* not part of a Suzerain Vassal Treat

## **Lesson 8: Joshua**

Intro:

- Historical books: Joshua - 2 Chronicles (Life in the Promised Land 1400-400BC)

### **Chapter 1: Commission - Read 1:1-9 (Charge)**

### **Chapters 2-12: Entering the Land**

- A. Jericho 2-6 **Read 2:1-7 (Lying), Read 5:13-15 (Theophany)**
- B. Ai 7-8 **Read 7:22-26 (Punishment)**
- C. Gibeonites 9-10:28 **Read 9:11-21 (Deception), Read 10:12-15 (Miracles)**
- D. Conquest of Southern Canaan 10:29-43
- E. Conquest of Northern Canaan 11
- F. Historical Recap 12
  - i. Kings Moses Defeated 12:1-6
  - ii. Kings Joshua Defeated 12:7-24

### **Chapter 13-19: Dividing the Land**

- A. Inheritances for the 12 tribes 13-19:39
- B. Inheritance for Joshua 19:49-51
- C. Cities of Refuge 20 **Read 20 (Manslaughter)**
- D. Cities for Levi 21 **Read 21:43-45, 23:14-16 (Land)**
- E. Eastern Tribes and Scandal **Read 24:14-15 (Choose)**

### **Chapter 23-24: Joshua's Charge & Covenant Renewal**