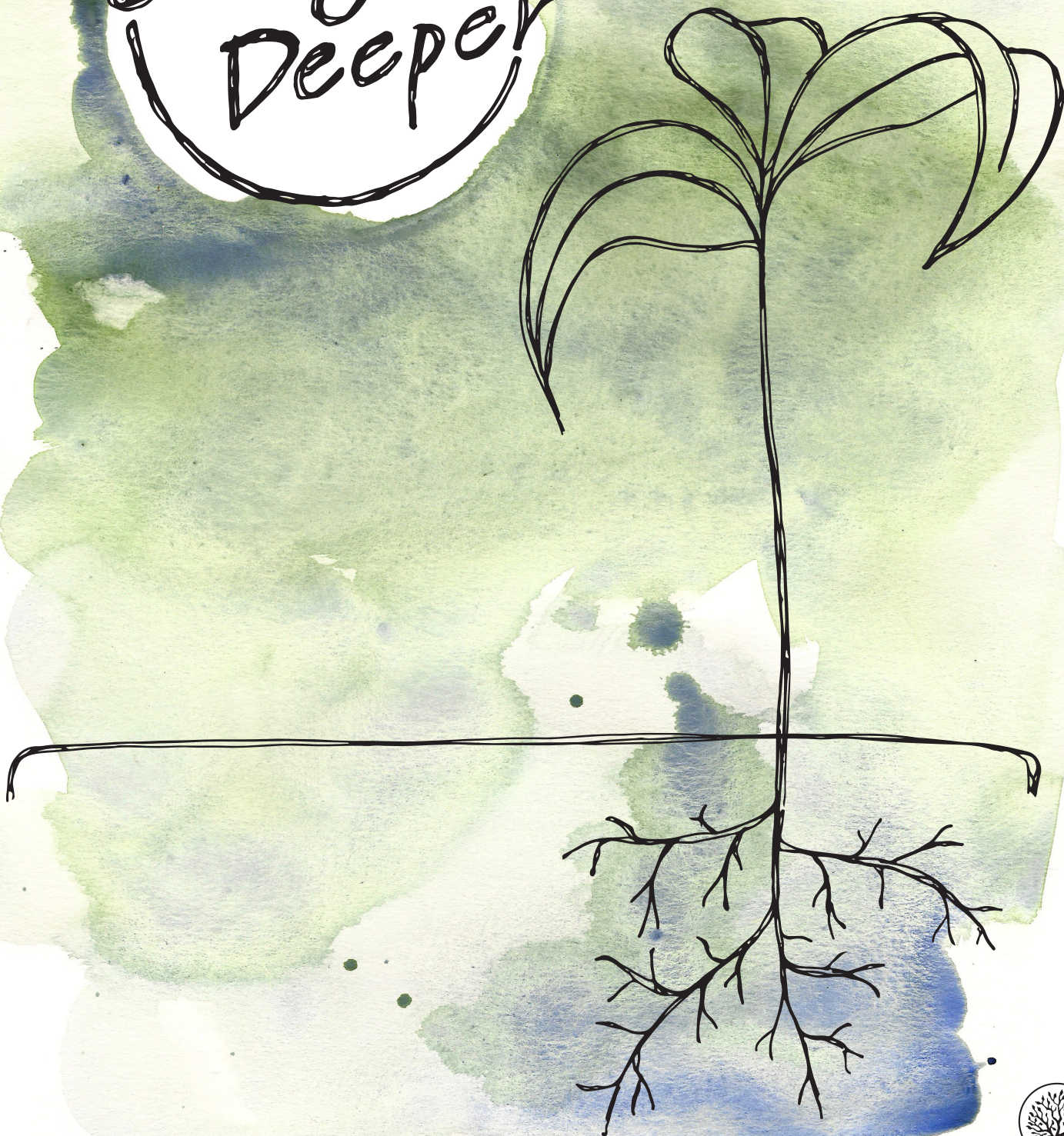


Going
Deeper





Welcome to Going Deeper!

At Marysville Grace, one of the core components of our mission is to “Learn It.” The it is the Gospel. We believe that, as Christians, we have to know the Gospel, and knowing the Gospel starts with knowing who God is. We need to know who He is, what He has done for us, and what that means in our lives.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

FOUR PROPOSITIONAL TRUTHS

BIBLE OVERVIEW

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

BASICS FOR PROPER INTERPRETATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this class then is to develop a deeper and more lasting understanding of the Bible and to build a Biblical **baseline.**

BASELINE: A MINIMUM STARTING POINT USED FOR COMPARISONS.

This will allow us compare truth and error and come to a proper understanding of the Bible.

FOUR PROPOSITIONAL TRUTHS

1. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO PEOPLE.

- The Bible is **one message** from God to the world.
- The **Truth** about God is revealed in God's Word.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" MATTHEW 4:4

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." ROMANS 1:17

GOD DESIRES TO COMMUNICATE HIMSELF TO US,
AND THE BIBLE IS ONE OF THE WAYS HE DOES THIS.

2. THE BIBLE IS THE AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES.

- The Bible is our final authority for **faith** and **conduct**.


All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

- The Bible stands on its **own authority**. It is self-attesting.

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. DEUTERONOMY 4:2

- The Bible is the inspiration of God, not man, and is therefore **perfect**.

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does. JAMES 1:25



GOD NOT ONLY GIVES US INSIGHT INTO HIMSELF
THROUGH THE BIBLE, BUT ALSO, A MANUAL FOR WISDOM
AND MORALITY IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

3. THERE IS A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE.

INTERPRETATION: METHODS USED TO RENDER TRUE MEANING

- There is one accurate **interpretation** but many accurate **applications** of Scripture.

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 PETER 3:16

- Our goal in studying a text should be to come to the **correct** interpretation of that text and then to an **appropriate** application.



GOD GAVE US THE SCRIPTURES TO
INCREASE CLARITY, NOT DIMINISH IT.

4. THE BIBLE IS SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.

- The Bible is not understood through **human effort**, wisdom, or scientific methods, but also through the **Holy Spirit**.

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 PETER 1:19-21

- As it is God's message, The Holy Spirit is **critical** in both the **writing** of the words and in the **understanding** of the meaning.

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a

mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” - the things God has prepared for those who love him - these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. 1 CORINTHIANS 2

- In order to fully understand God's Word, we must have **God's Spirit**.



THIS DISTINGUISHES THE BIBLE FROM ANY OTHER BOOK IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE ITS UNDERSTANDING SUPERSEDES INTELLIGENCE OR LEARNING.

BIBLE OVERVIEW

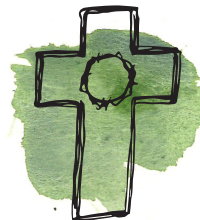
THE MAJOR STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE AND OF HISTORY CAN BE SUMMARIZED WITH FOUR MOVEMENTS:



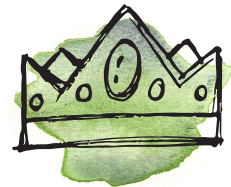
Creation



Fall



Redemption



Restoration

In order to build a biblical-theological framework for understanding God's mission, the church's mission, and the church's mission to the nations, one must first understand the unified biblical narrative, including its four major plot movements--creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. - David Nelson

CREATION

Genesis 1-2

God is creator and makes the world and everything in the world. God makes man in His own image, His own likeness. There is no sin in the world and the consequences of sin are not yet present.

Main Idea: God's Glory Shared with Humanity

FALL

Genesis 3

Adam and Eve are led astray by the serpent. Eve eats of the fruit that has been forbidden by God, and Adam also ate of the fruit. In this way sin entered the world and one of the many natural consequences of sin, death, also entered the world. Mankind's relationship with God is changed.

Main Idea: Man's Sin

REDEMPTION

Galatians 4:4-6

God reveals a plan in Genesis 3 to send His Son, Jesus, to redeem people from sin. The Bible from Genesis 3 all the way to Revelation follows a storyline of redemption. The world preparing for Jesus, the world receiving Jesus and the world after Jesus came. He is God's master plan to save us.

Main Idea: Jesus

RESTORATION

Book of Revelation

Sin and evil will be judged and paid for in full. People will either go to eternal separation from God or dwell eternally in God's presence. All things, including nature, will be restored or made new. Sin, tears, pain, and suffering will never be in the world again.

Main Idea: Peace and Righteousness

THESE ARE THE FOUR MAIN PROGRESSIONS OF HISTORY,
WHICH ARE ALL EXPLAINED AND DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE.
WE MUST LOOK THROUGH THEIR LENS FOR BOTH THE
BIBLE AND OUR LIVES TO MAKE SENSE.

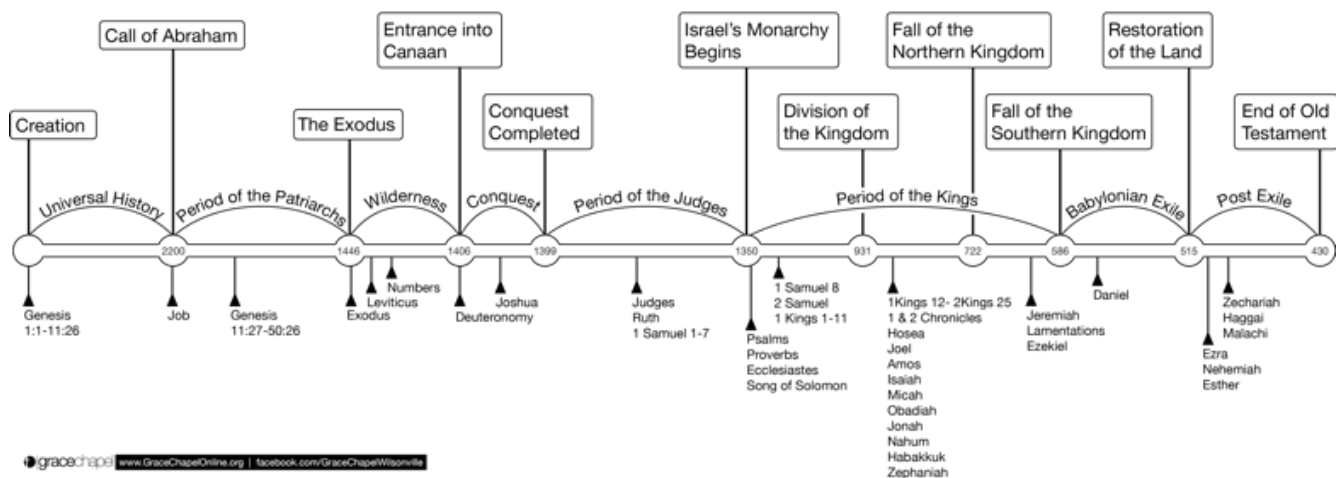


OLD TESTAMENT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Epochs
- OT Personalities
- Covenants
- Kingdoms

EPOCHS



CREATION | Genesis 1-2

God creates man, the world, and everything in the world.

CRISIS | Genesis 3

Man sins against God, and the relationship changes. Man is kicked out of the Garden of Eden and now deals with the present reality of the consequences of sin.

COVENANT | Genesis 3:15

God makes a covenant that he will ultimately bring salvation to man to restore the relationship.

FLOOD | Genesis 6

God sends a flood to purge the earth of unrighteousness. Noah, his family, and male and female of each animal are saved to continue the story of redemption.

CALL | Genesis 12

God calls Abraham to go leave his country and go to a new land and become the father of a nation, Israel.

EGYPT | Genesis 37-Exodus 12

The nation of Israel grows in Egypt and eventually becomes enslaved by the Egyptians.

LAW | Exodus 20–36

The law is given to Moses, and God gives instructions and laws by which the nation of Israel must abide.

TABERNACLE | Exodus 36–40

The tabernacle is set up as a way of temporary atonement for sin.

CONQUEST | Deuteronomy 2–Joshua 24

The nation of Israel enters the promised land, spreads out, and conquers rival nations and people groups in order to occupy the land. Sometimes they follow God's instructions; other times they do not.

JUDGES | Judges 1–1 Samuel 8

The nation of Israel is now spread out in the boundaries of the promised land and is ruled by Judges. They have difficulties along the way with other people groups because they do not follow God's instructions. There is no temple and no king.

KINGDOM | 1 Samuel 8–1 Kings 11

Israel asks God for a king. First Saul, then David followed by Solomon, are Israel's kings.

REBELLION | 1 Kings 11

Solomon turns away from the Lord and is led astray to worship other gods. He dies and, with his death, the nation of Israel rebels against God.

DIVISION | 1 Kings 12

The kingdom is split and divided into north and south, each with different kings. From this time on, all of the kings in the north and most of the kings in the south do not follow God.

EXILE | 2 Kings 25–Daniel

First the northern kingdom then, eventually, the southern kingdom are both conquered, and much of the Israelite nation is exiled to Babylon.

RETURN | Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Israel is eventually allowed to return to the land and to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall and the city, but they remain under the rule of other nations.

SILENCE | Zechariah, Haggai, Malachi

Israel enters a period of silence for over 400 years. During this time, God does not speak through prophets or signs until the time of Jesus. The birth of Jesus marks the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament.

OT PERSONALITIES

FOR TEACHER: Students do not have any description/personalities given. Encourage them to write down what stands out about these familiar people.

ADAM & EVE | Genesis 2-4

The first man and woman, father and mother of mankind. Adam was by God from dust and Eve was made by God from one of Adam's ribs. Through their choices, death and sin entered the world.

NOAH | Genesis 6-9

A righteous man and the builder of the Ark, God preserved mankind through Noah and his family when the rest of the earth was destroyed by flood.

ABRAHAM | Genesis 12-25

The father of the nation of Israel. Father of Ishmael and Isaac. Answered God's call to go to a new land and passed God's test of faithfulness.

ISAAC | Genesis 24-28

The son of Abraham and the father of Jacob and Esau. He is deceived into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.

JACOB | Genesis 25-50

The son of Isaac and the father of 12 sons who will become the 12 tribes of Israel. One of these sons is Joseph who ends up bringing his father and brothers to Egypt. Jacob dies in Egypt.

JOSEPH | Genesis 30-50

One of the 12 sons of Jacob. He is sold by his brothers out of jealousy into slavery, ends up in Egypt and eventually second in command of the country. Becomes wealthy and brings his whole family (the eventual nation of Israel) to Egypt.

MOSES | Exodus 2-Deuteronomy 34

The deliverer of Israel. Brings Israel out of Egypt and out of slavery, receives the law from God. Wanders through the desert for 40 years and eventually is allowed to lead Israel to the promised land but not into it.

JOSHUA | Deuteronomy 31-Joshua 24

Successor of Moses. Led Israel successfully into the promised land. Marched around the walls of Jericho. Faithfully led Israel to follow God all the days of his life.

RUTH | Ruth 1-4

A Moabite convert to Judaism. Her first husband died, and she followed her mother-in-law to Israel, eventually marrying Boaz from the tribe of Judah. She would become the great grandmother of King David and carry on the line of Christ.

SAMUEL | 1 Samuel 1-25

The last of the judges and the first of the prophets, Samuel was also a priest and anointed the first two kings of Israel (Saul and David). He is a true servant of God and carries out God's message and plans for many years.

DAVID | 1 Samuel 16-1 Kings 2

The second king of Israel set up and chosen by God after Saul (Israel's first king) failed to serve God. Though David sins, he repents and leads Israel to follow God's commands. He defeats many rival nations and conquers Jerusalem, builds a palace there and establishes Israel as a kingdom. He is father to Solomon.

SOLOMON | 2 Samuel 11-1 Kings 11

The son of David and Bathsheba and the third king of Israel. He is the Builder of the 1st Temple in Jerusalem. He has unparalleled riches and wisdom but turns away from serving God only in the later years of his life. After Solomon, the kingdom becomes divided.

ELIJAH | 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2

The most famous of God's Prophets, sent to the Northern kingdom and people to call them to repentance. Calls fire down from heaven to show the true God and destroys the prophets of Baal.

ESTHER | Esther 1-10

A Jewish girl of great beauty who becomes queen. God uses Esther to save the Jewish race from annihilation.

DANIEL | Daniel 1-12

One of God's great servants who rises to prominence with secular kings during the exile of Israel. Interprets dreams and serves as an advisor to several different kings. Survives the lion's den and goes on to prophesy about many things in the book of Daniel.

COVENANTS



ADAMIC | GENESIS 3

God says to the serpent:

- Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals.
- You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
- I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers.
- He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

God says to Eve:

- I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.
- Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

God says to Adam:

- Cursed is the ground because of you.
- Through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.
- It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field.
- By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground.

Main Idea: Consequences for Sin but Redemption Secured.

Sign: Seed (or, a Son)

NOAHIC | GENESIS 9

God makes a covenant with Noah to never again destroy the earth with a flood. He makes this covenant not based on anything from Noah or that Noah has to fulfill, but purely on His faithfulness and mercy.

Main Idea: God's Mercy

Sign: Rainbow

ABRAHAMIC | GENESIS 12:1-3

God makes a covenant with Abram which he asks one thing and promises three major components. He asks Abram to "Leave your country, your people and your Father's household and go..." He Promises to Abram:

- He will show him the Land (promised land).
- He will make him into a great nation and bless him and make his name great.
- All the peoples on the earth will be blessed through him.

Main Idea: Nation of Israel, God's Faithfulness to Mankind

Sign: Circumcision

MOSAIC | EXODUS 19-24

A covenant given at Mount Sinai by God through Moses to the Nation of Israel, it includes the giving of the law and the ten commandments and has some conditional promises to the nation of Israel in continuing the covenant given to Abraham. Also gives the sacrificial system that will be fulfilled in Jesus.

Main Idea: God's Holiness

Sign: Blood

DAVIDIC | 2 SAMUEL 7

God makes a covenant with David that through him He will establish His kingdom and that through David's line will come the king who reigns forever. This promise and covenant is fulfilled ultimately in Jesus who comes through the line of David.

Main Idea: Eternal Kingdom

Sign: The Everlasting Throne

FUTURE NEW COVENANT | EZEKIEL 36:22-23 & JEREMIAH 31:33

God promises to make a new covenant with His chosen people. He promises to write His law on their hearts, to forgive their iniquity, remember their sin no more, and that they will be His people and He will be their God.

Main Idea: God's Holiness and Glory

Sign: Messiah, Holy Spirit

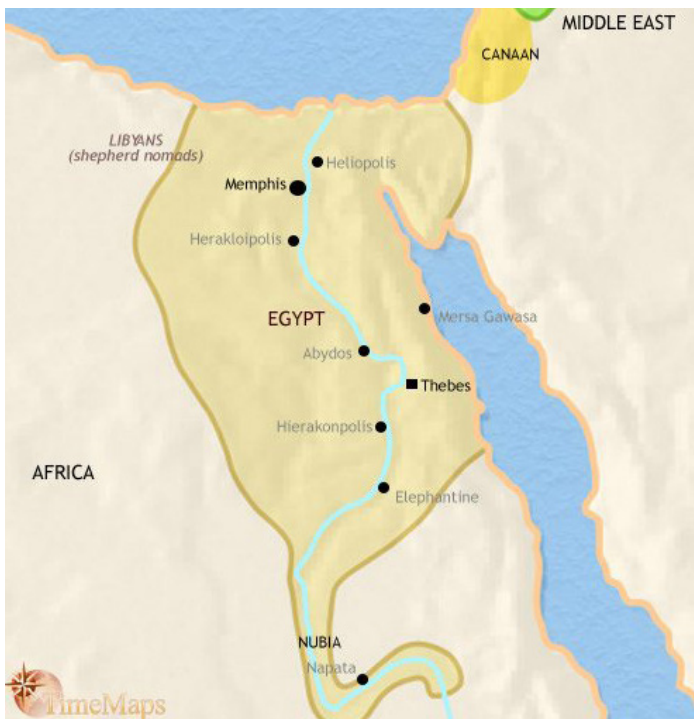
KINGDOMS



ISRAEL

1407 BC–605 BC

1407 BC Israel enters the promised land and begins occupation with Joshua. In 1011 BC David becomes king and expands the kingdom, the kingdom reaches its height under Solomon. In 931 BC the kingdom splits into Northern and Southern kingdoms. In 605 BC Israel is no longer a Sovereign kingdom and is ruled by Babylon who destroy the temple in 586 BC.



ANCIENT EGYPT

3150 BC–332 BC

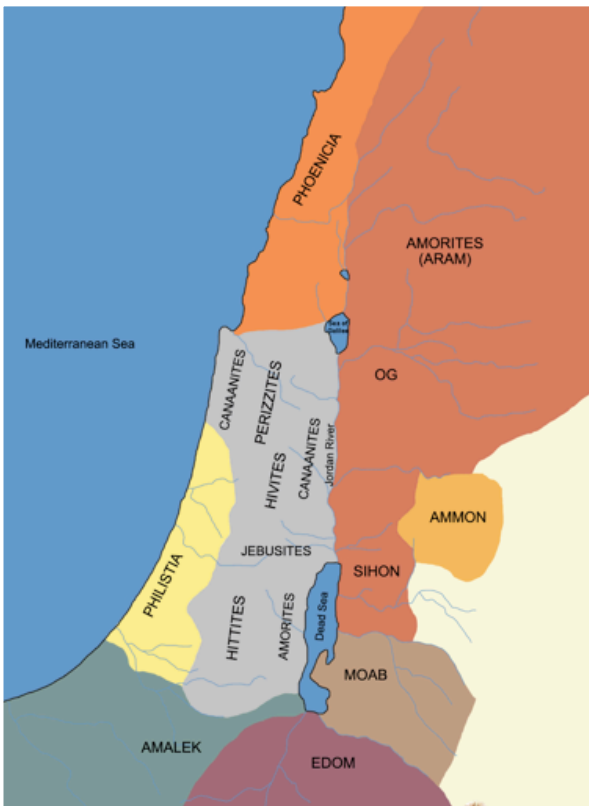
The unified kingdom of Egypt spans around 3,000 years until it was defeated by Alexander the Great in the year 332 BC. It is ruled by many different Pharaohs and dynasties. It is very important in the ancient world both in culture, trade, education and Biblical significance. Most prominently in Biblical history when the Hebrew nation moves to Egypt under Joseph around 1875 BC, grows into a nation and eventually a nation of slaves for the Egyptian Pharaohs and then is led out of captivity by the prophet Moses in 1445 BC.



PHILISTIA

1200 BC–604 BC

The kingdom of Philistia was made up of 5 major cities. The Philistines are often at war with Israel in the Old Testament. The kingdom fell to Babylon and its cities were conquered or destroyed in 604 BC.



CANAAN

APPROXIMATELY 2400–1400 BC

The Canaanites were descendants of Noah's grandson Canaan (son of Ham). They settled in the region near the Mediterranean Sea that would later become Israel. They were defeated in Joshua's conquest of the promised land around 1399- 1407 BC. However, pockets of them remained and continued to live in or around Israel.



ASSYRIA

HEIGHT OF POWER

884 BC–608 BC

Sometimes called the NeoAssyrian period, the Assyrians started to grow in power around 900 BC. Their kingdom lasted around 300 years and grew to be the dominate power in the world. They conquered and destroyed Israel and were known to be a brutal people. They were ultimately conquered by the Babylonians.



BABYLON

608 BC–539 BC

The Babylonian empire at its height was short but powerful. The most famous king was Nebuchadnezzar who was a contemporary of Daniel. The Babylonians captured and deported Jews and eventually destroyed Jerusalem including the temple in 586 BC. Jeremiah was a major prophet during this time. The Babylonians were conquered by the Persians in 539 BC.

PERSIA

539 BC–330 BC

The Persian empire lasted roughly 200 years and was again the dominant world power. Under the Persians, the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their city and its walls. The books of Daniel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah take place under this rule, along with the minor prophets of Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi. The Persians were conquered by Alexander the Great around 330 BC.



NEW TESTAMENT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Themes & Timelines**
- **NT Personalities**
- **NT World**

THEMES & TIMELINES

GOSPELS

Approximately 4 BCE–30 AD

Matthew

Portrait: **King**

Characteristic: **Royalty**

Matthew was a tax collector and one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Matthew writes his gospel primarily to Jewish Christians. He is seeking to establish Jesus as the Messiah who fulfills all the Old Testament prophecies. He groups material both chronologically and by subject matter. He quotes the Old Testament more than any other author in the New Testament. (Halley, 559, 578).

Mark

Portrait: **Servant**

Characteristic: **Ministry**

Mark was the cousin of Barnabas. He is sometimes referred to as John Mark, we know that he had a close relationship with Peter and may have derived much his gospel from Peter's accounts. The Gospel of Mark emphasizes action over teaching and Mark highlights Jesus' ministry and His miracles. His gospel is probably directed to a non-Jewish audience, perhaps the church in Rome. He characterizes Jesus as the servant and because of the orientation of action and events over teaching, the storylines move quickly (Halley, 560, 621–622)

Luke

Portrait: **Son of Man**

Characteristic: **Humanity**

Luke was a physician and was the author of both the gospel of Luke as well as the book of Acts. He traveled with and was a companion of the apostle Paul. Luke's gospel emphasizes the humanity of Jesus, particularly His compassion towards the suffering, the weak and the outcast of society. Luke presents Jesus the son of man who brings to mankind salvation. He most likely

writes his gospel to a Greek audience. His gospel is therefore orderly and classically minded and the most literary of all the gospels. He refers to various classes of people as well as women and children more than any other gospel writer. (Halley, 560, 644)

John

Portrait: Son of God

Characteristic: Deity

John was one of the Jesus disciples and one of Jesus' closest friends on earth. He may have been a cousin of Jesus and was present for many of even the most intimate or private accounts. He is also the author of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and the book of Revelation. His gospel has a special emphasis on Jesus' Deity and the unity of the Trinity. He highlights more of what Jesus said rather than what He did. Perhaps originally written for the church in Ephesus. (Halley 559–560, 685–686)

ACTS

Approximately AD 30–AD 67

- **The Holy Spirit Comes**
- **The Early Church Begins**
- **The Gospel is Spread**

EPISTLES / LETTERS

Approximately AD 48–AD 65

- **Persecution of the Church**
- **Directives for Living Everyday Christian Life**
- **The Spread of the Gospel**

REVELATION

Approximately AD 90

- **The Hope for the Church**
- **The Bride of Christ**
- **Future Prophetic Events**
- **Jesus Returns and Rules and Reigns as King**

NT PERSONALITIES

JESUS

The Son of God, promised Messiah, and Savior of the world. He was born of the virgin Mary and began His earthly ministry around the age of thirty. He was crucified, died, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day.

PETER

One of the twelve disciples of Jesus. He was part of the "inner 3" (Peter, James, and John.) He grew up in Galilee and was a fisherman.

PAUL

He was known as Saul before His conversion. Paul grew up in Tarsus as a Roman citizen, but he studied under Gamaliel in Jerusalem. Paul was a zealous Pharisee who opposed Christianity before Jesus appeared to Him, changed Him, and called Him to be an apostle to the Gentiles. (Williams, 411)

THE APOSTLES

This primarily refers to the 12 disciples whom Jesus called. However, Matthias replaced Judas who betrayed Jesus. To be an apostle, one had to receive a call from God and be a witness to the resurrection of Christ. Aside from the 12 disciples, Paul, Barnabas, James, Andronicus, and Junias were also called Apostles.

PASTORS / TEACHERS / MISSIONARIES

Timothy

He grew up in Lystra and probably became a Christian during Paul's first missionary journey. Paul included Timothy in his travels and eventually left Timothy in **Ephesus** to lead the church there. (Williams, 558-559)

Barnabas

Also known as the "son of **encouragement**" because of his warmheartedness, generosity, and spiritual insight. He was related to John Mark and accompanied Paul on missionary journeys. (Williams, 53-54)

Titus

A **Gentile** companion of Paul. Titus represented Paul in Corinth and eventually ended up leading the church in Crete. (Williams, 561)

Apollos

An **eloquent teacher** who knew Jesus and the Old Testament well. He taught in Corinth where some people claimed to follow His teaching. (Williams, 23)

Luke

A **physician** by trade and the writer of Luke and Acts. He accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys.

NT WORLD

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH



(1st-2nd Century AD)

1. **Antioch, Pisidia** Acts 13:14; Galatians 1:2
2. **Antioch, Syria** Acts 11:26 (Paul's home base)
3. **Athens** Acts 17:34
4. **Babylon** 1 Peter 5:13; Acts 2:9
5. **Berea** Acts 17:11
6. **Caesarea** Acts 10:1,48
7. **Cenchrea** Romans 16:1
8. **Colossae** Colossians 1:2
9. **Corinth** Acts 18:1
10. **Crete** Titus 1:5
11. **Cyrene** Acts 11:20
12. **Damascus** Acts 9:19
13. **Derbe** Acts 14:20; Galatians 1:2
14. **Ephesus** Acts 18:19
15. **Hierapolis** Colossians 4:13
16. **Iconium** Acts 14:1; Galatians 1:2
17. **Jerusalem** Acts 2:5
18. **Joppa** Acts 9:36, 38
19. **Laodicea** Revelation 1:11, Colossians 4:15
20. **Lydda** Acts 9:32
21. **Lystra** Acts 14:6; Galatians 1:2
22. **Pergamum** Revelation 1:11
23. **Philadelphia** Revelation 1:11
24. **Philippi** Acts 16:12
25. **Puteoli, Italy** Acts 28:13-14
26. **Rome** Romans 1:7
27. **Sardis** Revelation 1:11
28. **Sharon** Acts 9:35
29. **Smyrna** Revelation 1:11
30. **Tarsus** Acts 9:30
31. **Thessalonica** Acts 17:1
32. **Thyatira** Revelation 1:11; Acts 16:14
33. **Troas** Acts 20:6-7

KINGDOMS

Greek Empire



The Greeks ruled the known world from 331–146 BC, after conquering the Persians. The Greeks desired to “Hellenize” or influence all other nations with their culture in order to dominate the known world. This helped set the stage for the New Testament and the spreading of the gospel through the Greek language.

Roman Empire



Rome conquered the Greeks in 146 BC and continued to rise to power. As the Roman Empire began to expand, Rome governed their new territories as provinces or client-kingdoms. Judea was ruled as a client-kingdom under Herod the Great (37–4 BC). Rome continued to govern Judea throughout Jesus’ lifetime and would eventually fall to the Goths in the late 4th Century. (Halley, 65)

BASICS FOR PROPER INTERPRETATION

GENRE AND CONTEXT

GENRE

Historical Narrative

This genre communicates a true story that normally follows a **chronological** timeline. Historical narratives have a main character and highlight what they said or did in a specific historical context. All four Gospels are historical narratives that focus on the life of Jesus and recount much of what He said and did. (Hendricks, 211)

Law

This genre is found primarily throughout the **first five books** of the Bible. Laws or commands are given by God and include stipulations or terms. Blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience are often explicitly explained in connection with the commands. Leviticus and Deuteronomy are examples of this genre.

Prophecy

In this genre, an individual communicates the **words of God**. God chooses His spokesman and they speak His words to the people. Prophecy contains both foretelling and forthtelling. Foretelling refers to future events that will happen, and forthtelling is an admonition or warning to abide by God's established covenant. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are all considered Prophecy. (Virkler, 168–169)

Wisdom Literature

This mainly communicates **wisdom for life** in a practical way. The writer normally addresses a younger audience to give wisdom and insight. Proverbs are commonly used throughout wisdom literature, and parallelism is one of their distinct literary characteristics. A proverb quickly and effectively communicates a nugget of truth that addresses an individual's behavior. Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes are all considered wisdom literature. (Hendricks, 214–215)

Poetry

Hebrew poetry is different than English poetry. English poetry utilizes rhymes and cadence while Hebrew poetry utilizes **imagery** and **parallelism**. Similes, metaphors, and personification are common uses for imagery. Parallelism is seen as a relationship between two or more lines. For example, "for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish" (Ps 1:6). Poetry is located throughout the Old Testament and is heavily present throughout Psalms and Proverbs.

Gospel

This is a historical narrative centered on the **life of Jesus**. It describes what Jesus said and did throughout His earthly ministry and gives an account to His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

The first four books of the New Testament are Gospels

Epistles

These are **letters** to specific audiences and give specific directives for godly living. Many have been written by Paul and are found in the New Testament.

Apocalyptic

This genre's primary focus is the **revelation** or uncovering of something that has been hidden. Often, this is associated with the end times. Apocalyptic literature frequently uses figurative and symbolic language. Daniel and Revelation are both examples of Apocalyptic literature.

CONTEXT

Interpretation begins by understanding the context of the passage.

Immediate Context

The relationship of an **immediate** verse or passage to the **larger** passage surrounding it. (Virkler, 80)

Inclusive Context

The relationship of a verse or passage to the **broader unity** of the book. "To understand a paragraph or subsection, we must explain how it develops out of what precedes it and relates to what follows it." (Robinson, 34)

Author and Date

Who wrote it and when did they write it?

Audience

Those to whom the author wrote.

Historical / Cultural Context

- **Era**
What time period did this take place? What are the implications of that time period?
- **Geography**
Where did it take place? What is the implication of the location?
- **Politics**
Who or what nation was in power? What was the political climate? What were the fears and/or aspirations of the current world powers?

- **Language**

What was the dominate language of the time period? How is that significant?

Purpose

Why was the book written?

Themes

What is the overarching thought or image the author is trying to communicate or portray?

EXAMPLE

Matthew's Gospel - Jesus is Emmanuel, the Messiah, the Savior of God's people) (Köstenberger, Kellum, Quarles, 179)

Genre

A literary style that is governed by certain **characteristics**.

EXAMPLE

Poetry uses much imagery and metaphors, while Historical Narratives specifically document main characters, what they said or did, and include times and dates.)

INTERPRETATION METHODS

THERE IS A CORRECT WAY TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 PETER 3:16

1. Interpretation equals *rightly dividing* the Word of Truth.

- **Inspiration**

"God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings." (Ryrie, 81)

-

Inerrant

"...completely trustworthy, reliable, and without error in its original form." (Hendricks, 25)

- **Authoritative**

Since the Bible is God's message to us, it is the final authority for faith and conduct.

2. If there is a correct way to interpret the Bible, we must use an interpretation *method*.

We start with seeking the answer to the question, "What was God's intent for this passage?" We believe there are 3 proper methods to answer that question:

- **LITERAL**

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes **common** sense, seek no other sense." Use the literal interpretation unless there is a good reason not to. (Hendricks, 259-260)

EXAMPLE

Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." MARK 12:7

- **FIGURATIVE**

Use the figurative when the **passage** tells you to do so or if the literal sense is not **appropriate**.

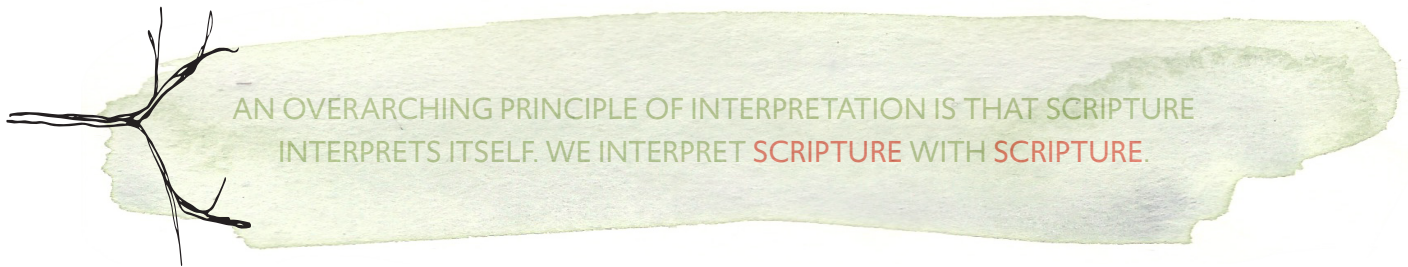
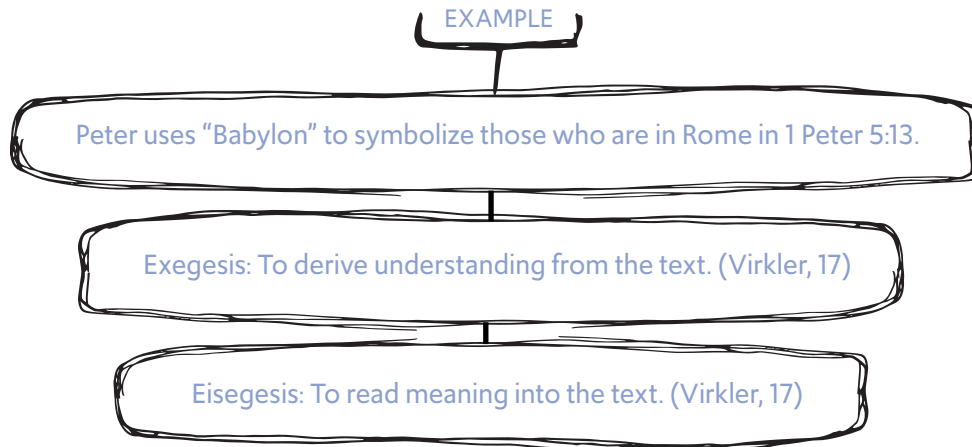
EXAMPLES

Dreams and visions in the book of Daniel.

Jesus talking about His sacrificial death to the religious leaders in John 6:53-55.

• SYMBOLIC

Use the symbolic sense when the literal **doesn't make sense**.



3. **Improper Interpretation Methods:**

CLASSIC

A method that says truth can be discovered by how closely it corresponds to **reality**. In other words, truth that is proposed must have **facts** and **evidences** that correspond to the experiences of everyday life. Truth must have an appropriate entity validating the proposition.

RELATIVISM

A theory that knowledge is relative to the limited nature of the **mind** and the conditions of knowing. A view that ethical truths depend on the individuals and groups holding them.

MODERNISM

A tendency in theology to accommodate traditional religious teaching to **contemporary** thought and, especially, to devalue **supernatural** elements.

POSTMODERNISM

A theory that involves a **radical reappraisal** of modern assumptions about culture, identity, history, or language.

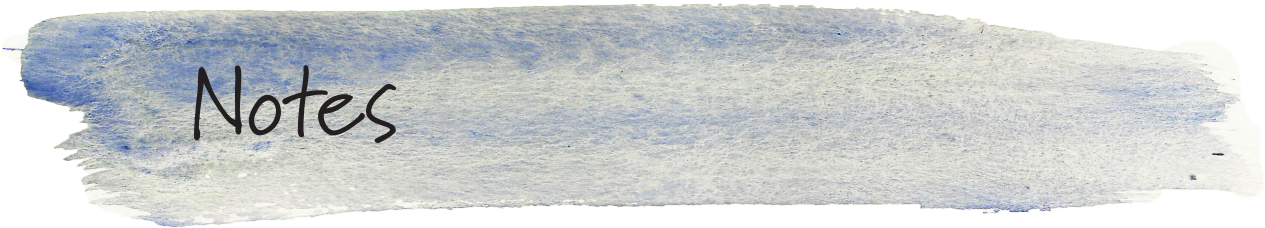
INTERPRETATION TOOLS

1. STUDY BACKWARDS

- **Word**
- **Sentence**
- **Paragraph**
- **Passage**
- **Book**

2. R.C. SPROUL GUIDELINES

- Read it like you would any other book.
- Read it as a **journey**.
- Interpret the narrative by the **didactic** (what it was intended to teach).
- Interpret the **implicit** by the **explicit**.
- Pay close attention to the meaning of individual words.
- Know the difference between **law** and **proverbial** teaching.
- Interpret the difference between the **letter** of the law and **spirit** of the law.
- Parables are not **allegories**.



Notes

A series of horizontal blue lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a template for handwritten notes.



marysville grace

OUR MISSION

LEARN IT

We believe that, as Christians, we have to know the Gospel, and knowing the Gospel starts with knowing who God is. We need to know who He is and what He has done for us, and what that means in our lives.

LIVE IT

We believe that being a Christian means living out the Gospel in community with each other - that we must both know others and allow ourselves to be known. It is in our relationships that we begin to apply the principles of the Christian life.

GIVE IT

We believe that the Gospel is meant to be given - that it compels us as Christians to serve each other and to share with the world. To give freely that which has been given to us, and to love each other and our community with the love of Jesus.

CHURCH BUILDING:

17240 AMRINE WOOD ROAD,
MARYSVILLE, OH 43040

MINISTRY CENTER:

315 W 5TH STREET,
MARYSVILLE, OH 43040

937-642-4733

MARYSVILLEGRACE.ORG