

BIBLE BLOCKS

FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY

BIBLICAL TIMELINES IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT



CREATION PATRIARCHS EXODUS KINGDOM EXILE JESUS CHURCH



Discover the big picture of Scripture in historical order—God's unfolding plan from Genesis to Revelation.

- ✓ From Creation to the New Creation
- ✓ Key events, people, and turning points
- ✓ God's redemptive plan through time
- ✓ See how every part connects

BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY ANCHORED IN THE STORY



Explore the lands, cities, and routes of the Bible to see how geography shapes and reveals God's plan.

- ✓ Where key events happened
- ✓ How geography impacts the story
- ✓ Visualize journeys, battles, and borders
- ✓ Bringing Scripture to life

PEOPLES AND GROUPS OF THE BIBLE



Understand the key peoples, nations, and groups God uses throughout Scripture to accomplish His purposes.

- ✓ Nations, tribes, and ethnic groups
- ✓ Their role in God's plan
- ✓ Allies, adversaries, and neighbors
- ✓ God's redemptive work among all peoples



ONE STORY. ONE GOD. ONE PLAN OF REDEMPTION.



INSPIRED REVELATION

THE BIBLE IS ONE COHERENT SET OF 66 WRITINGS
THAT TELLS A NARRATIVE STORY FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION.
THE STORY IS ANCHORED IN GOD'S REDEPTIVE PLAN.



1

THE BIBLICAL TEXT

What God has written



The 66 books of the Bible—
divinely inspired, preserved,
and trustworthy.

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and for
training in righteousness."*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16



2

THE STORY IT TELLS

God's unfolding narrative



From Creation to New Creation,
the Bible tells one grand story—
God's plan to redeem His people
and restore all things.

*"These things are written that you may
believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son
of God, and that by believing you may
have life in His name."*

JOHN 20:31



3

THE MESSAGE OF THE STORY

God's truth for His people



The story reveals God's character,
His promises, His redemption,
and His call to faith, repentance,
and obedience.

*"For the message of the cross is
foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the
power of God."*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18



4

THE MEANING OF THE MESSAGE

God's purpose for our lives



The message shows us how to live
today in light of eternity—
for God's glory and our good.

*"For we are His workmanship, created
in Christ Jesus for good works, which
God prepared beforehand, that we
should walk in them."*

EPHESIANS 2:10



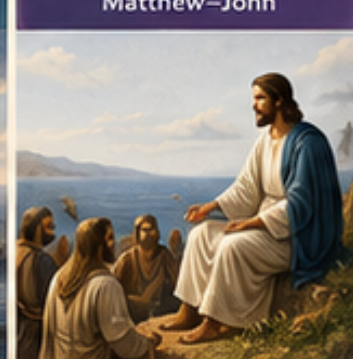
THE **TEXT** TELLS THE **STORY**. THE STORY REVEALS THE **MESSAGE**
AND THE MESSAGE DEFINES THE **MEANING**.



THE BIBLICAL TIMELINE

GOD'S PLAN FROM CREATION TO REVELATION

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... and all families on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2-3

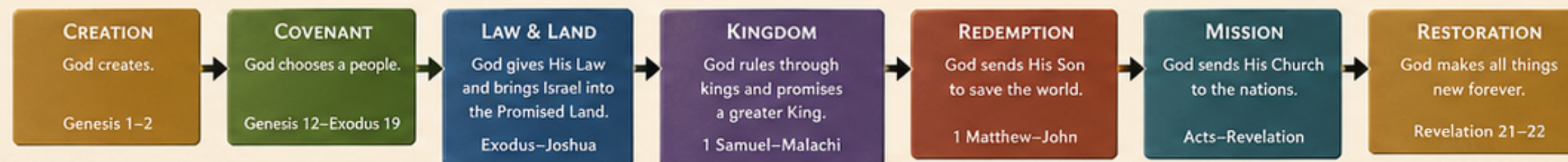
1. CREATION Genesis 1-2	2. THE PATRIARCHS Genesis 12-50	3. EXODUS & LAW Exodus-Deuteronomy	4. CONQUEST & SETTLEMENT Joshua-Judges	5. UNITED MONARCHY 1 Samuel-2 Chronicles	6. DIVIDED KINGDOM 1 Kings 12-2 Kings	7. EXILE 2 Kings 17, 25 Daniel, Jeremiah	8. RETURN & RESTORATION Ezra-Nehemiah	9. INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD ~400 Years	10. THE GOSPEL & JESUS CHRIST Matthew-John	11. THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY Acts-Revelation
										
God creates everything and it is good.	God calls Abraham and establishes His covenant. Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.	God delivers Israel from Egypt, gives the Law at Sinai.	Israel enters the Promised Land and begins to settle.	Israel has kings—Saul, David, and Solomon. God's kingdom is established in Jerusalem.	The kingdom divides into Israel (north) and Judah (south).	Israel is taken captive by Assyria. Judah is taken captive by Babylon. God's people face judgment.	God brings His people back. The temple and the walls are rebuilt.	A time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Messiah.	The Messiah comes! Jesus lives, dies, rises, and offers salvation to all who believe.	The Gospel is preached to the world. The Church is born and grows.
KEY BOOKS: Genesis	KEY BOOKS: Genesis	KEY BOOKS: Exodus-Deuteronomy	KEY BOOKS: Joshua-Judges	KEY BOOKS: 1-2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles	KEY BOOKS: 1-2 Kings, 2 Chronicles	KEY BOOKS: Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezekiel	KEY BOOKS: Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	KEY BOOKS: (No new OT books) History: Persian, Greek, Roman rule	KEY BOOKS: Matthew-John	KEY BOOKS: Acts, Paul's Letters, Revelation



KEY THEMES THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

- God's Covenant Faithfulness
- God's Presence With His People
- Sin and Redemption
- God's Promises Fulfilled
- Hope of a New Creation

THE BIG PICTURE



"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

ALL SCRIPTURE POINTS TO CHRIST

- The Seed (Gen. 3:15)
- The Promised Land (Deut. 30:5)
- The Davidic King (2 Sam. 7:12-16)
- The Suffering Servant (Isa. 53)
- The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34)
- The Resurrection (Ps. 16:10)
- The New Creation (Isa. 65:17; Rev. 21:1)



FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION, ONE STORY—GOD'S REDEEMING PLAN THROUGH HIS PEOPLE FOR HIS GLORY.



TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOREVER! AMEN.

SESSION 3 TIMELINE

TWO KINGDOMS, THREE EMPIRES

(1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

SESSION THREE TIMELINE

TWO KINGDOMS, THREE EMPIRES

Text → Story → Message → Meaning

THE BIG STORY

From Solomon's united kingdom to exile and return, God's people face division, idolatry, empire, judgment—and unfailing mercy.

God raises up prophets, preserves a remnant, and keeps His promises alive through every season.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JEREMIAH 29:11



1 THE KINGDOM SPLITS

931 B.C.

One nation becomes two, and the north never has a good king.



- 931 BC The Kingdom is Divided (1 Kings 12, 13)
- 874 BC Ahab's wicked reign (1 Kings 16:29–33)

2 ELIJAH & ELISHA VS. BAAL

863–849 B.C.

Prophets confront state-sponsored idolatry.



- 863 BC Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)
- 851 BC Elisha Taken up to Heaven (2 Kings 2)
- 849 BC The Healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5)

3 ASSYRIAN THREAT & FALL OF ISRAEL

753–701 B.C.

The northern kingdom is warned, then erased.



- 753 BC Hosea's Prophecies (Hosea 1–14)
- 739 BC Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption (Isaiah 1–5)
- 725 BC Hoshea the Last King of Israel (2 Kings 17)
- 722 BC Israel Led into Captivity (2 Kings 17:6)
- 701 BC Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem (2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chronicles 32)

4 BABYLON & THE FALL OF JUDAH

627–586 B.C.

Jeremiah warns Judah; Babylon does the rest.



- 627 BC The Call of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1)
- 605 BC Daniel Refuses the King's Portion (Daniel 1)
- 593 BC Ezekiel's Prophecy at Chebar (Ezekiel 1)
- 586 BC The Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25, Jeremiah 52)

5 EXILE, DANIEL & THE RETURN

539–430 B.C.

Captivity, then a slow rebuilding, then silence.



- 539 BC Daniel Interprets Handwriting on the Wall (Daniel 5)
- 537 BC The Proclamation of Cyrus (Ezra 1)
- 515 BC Completion and Dedication of the Temple (Ezra 6:16)
- 478 BC Esther Becomes Queen (Esther 2)
- 458 BC Ezra Journeys to Jerusalem (Ezra 7)
- 445 BC Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles (Nehemiah 1)
- 430 BC The Word of the LORD by Malachi (Malachi 1–4)



THE TEXT

Prophets, kings, and writings record God's faithfulness and His people's choices.



THE STORY

Division, idolatry, empire, exile, and return—God works through every season of history.



THE MESSAGE

God is holy and just. He disciplines sin but never abandons His covenant promises.



THE MEANING

Our hope is in God's faithful plan that leads to redemption and the coming of His Messiah.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

Text → Story → Message → Meaning | <https://bibleblocks.netlify.app>

SESSION 3

TWO KINGDOMS, THREE EMPIRES

(1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

1

THE KINGDOM SPLITS

1 KINGS 12–16 — ONE NATION BECOMES TWO,
AND THE NORTH NEVER HAS A GOOD KING.

THE STORY

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam rejected the people's request for lighter tax burdens. The northern tribes rebelled and chose Jeroboam as their king, forming the Kingdom of Israel in the north.

Rehoboam remained king in Judah in the south. From that day forward, Israel in the north never had a good king—leading the people into idolatry and away from God.

“So the king heeded not the people; for the thing was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam ... So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.”

1 KINGS 12:15, 19



931 BC — THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED (1 KINGS 12, 13)

ISRAEL

(NORTHERN KINGDOM)

10 Tribes

- Capital: Samaria
- First King: Jeroboam
- Idolatry introduced (1 Kings 12:28–33)

Mediterranean Sea

ISRAEL
(Samaria ★)

Dan

JUDAH

(SOUTHERN KINGDOM)

JERUSALEM ★

JUDAH

(SOUTHERN KINGDOM)

2 Tribes

- Capital: Jerusalem
- King: Rehoboam
- Remains loyal to the house of David

Dead Sea

Ezion-geber

KEY EVENTS (1 KINGS 12–16)



931 BC

The Kingdom is Divided
1 Kings 12, 13

Rehoboam's harsh response leads to rebellion. Jeroboam becomes king of Israel in the north.



874 BC

Ahab's wicked reign
1 Kings 16:29–33

Ahab leads Israel into deep idolatry and injustice.



The Pattern Continues

Israel (north) never has a good king; Judah (south) has some good kings but still struggles with disobedience.

“There was none like unto Jeroboam, who did turn aside from following the LORD, and made Israel to sin.”

1 KINGS 12:30

THE MESSAGE

When leaders reject God's ways, division and decline follow. Idolatry promises security but brings spiritual ruin.

THE MEANING

God's people are called to trust His leadership, reject idolatry, and remain faithful—because true blessing comes from following Him alone.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

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SESSION 3
TWO KINGDOMS,
THREE EMPIRES
(1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

2

ELIJAH & ELISHA VS. BAAL

1 KINGS 17 – 2 KINGS 5 —
PROPHETS CONFRONT STATE-SPONSORED IDOLATRY.



THE STORY

Israel had turned away from the LORD and followed Baal. King Ahab and Jezebel promoted idolatry, even building altars to Baal. God raised up Elijah and later Elisha—prophets who called Israel back to the true God.

Through bold faith, miracles, and God's power, they confronted evil and revealed the LORD's sovereignty over all.

"How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

1 KINGS 18:21



863 BC
ELIJAH ON
MOUNT CARMEL
1 KINGS 18



Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal. Fire from heaven proves that the LORD is God.

851 BC
ELIJAH TAKEN UP
TO HEAVEN
2 KINGS 2



Elijah is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Elisha receives a double portion of his spirit.

849 BC
THE HEALING
OF NAAMAN
2 KINGS 5



Elisha heals Naaman, a Syrian commander, showing God's mercy even to outsiders.

KEY EVENTS (1 KINGS 17 – 2 KINGS 5)



863 BC

Elijah on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18

Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal. Fire from heaven proves the LORD alone is God.



851 BC

Elijah Taken up to Heaven

2 Kings 2

Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind and chariot of fire. Elisha becomes his successor.



849 BC

The Healing of Naaman

2 Kings 5

Elisha heals Naaman of leprosy, revealing the LORD's power and compassion.

"For thus says the LORD:
I am the LORD, I do not change."

MALACHI 3:6

THE MESSAGE



Idolatry is rebellion against God. The LORD alone is powerful, faithful, and worthy of worship.

THE MEANING



God raises faithful servants to call His people back. His power brings judgment on evil and mercy to all who turn to Him.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

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SESSION 3 TWO KINGDOMS, THREE EMPIRES

(1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

3

ASSYRIAN THREAT & THE FALL OF ISRAEL

753–701 B.C. — THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IS
WARNED, THEN ERASED.



THE STORY

Israel, the northern kingdom, persisted in idolatry and injustice. God sent His prophets to warn them: “Return to the LORD.” But the leaders refused. Assyria, rising in power, became God’s instrument of judgment. In 722 B.C., the kingdom of Israel was conquered, its people deported, and the nation disappeared from history.

“For because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.”

HOSEA 4:6

753 BC
HOSEA'S
PROPHECIES
HOSEA 1–14



Hosea calls Israel to repentance, warning of God’s coming judgment and exile.

739 BC
ISAIAH COMPLAINS
OF ZION'S
CORRUPTION
ISAIAH 1–5



Isaiah exposes Israel’s sin and calls for justice, faithfulness, and return to God.

725 BC
HOSHEA
THE LAST KING
OF ISRAEL
2 KINGS 17



Hoshea reigns during a time of chaos, rebellion, and Assyrian pressure.

722 BC
ISRAEL LED
INTO CAPTIVITY
2 KINGS 17:6



Samaria falls to Assyria. The people are deported and Israel as a nation ceases to exist.

701 BC
SENNACHERIB
THREATENS
JERUSALEM
2 KINGS 18,
ISAIAH 36,
2 CHRONICLES 32



Assyria then turns its eyes on Judah, but God defends Jerusalem miraculously.

KEY EVENTS (753–701 B.C.)



753 BC
Hosea’s Prophecies (Hosea 1–14)
God warns Israel through Hosea of judgment and exile.



739 BC
Isaiah Complains of Zion’s Corruption (Isaiah 1–5)
A call to repentance and justice before destruction comes.



725 BC
Hoshea the Last King of Israel (2 Kings 17)
Israel’s final king as the nation descends into rebellion.



722 BC
Israel Led into Captivity (2 Kings 17:6)
Samaria falls; the people are scattered among the nations.



701 BC
Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem (2 Kings 18; Isaiah 36; 2 Chronicles 32)
Assyria threatens Judah, but God delivers Jerusalem.

THE MESSAGE



Rejection of God leads to judgment. Idolatry and injustice break a nation and bring captivity.

THE MEANING



God is holy and just. He disciplines His people, but His purposes continue. Judgment is real, but so is His faithfulness to His covenant.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

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SESSION 3
TWO KINGDOMS,
THREE EMPIRES
 (1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

4

BABYLON & THE FALL OF JUDAH

627–586 B.C. — JEREMIAH WARNS JUDAH;
 BABYLON DOES THE REST.

THE STORY

Judah had prophets who called the people to repent, but most leaders refused to listen.

Jeremiah warned that because of idolatry, injustice, and covenant unfaithfulness, Babylon would come as God's instrument of judgment.

The warnings were ignored. The city fell, the temple was destroyed, and the people were carried into exile.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not listened to My words, behold, I will send and take My servants the Nations... and they will destroy this house and fill it with dead bodies."

JEREMIAH 25:9



627 BC
THE CALL OF JEREMIAH
 JEREMIAH 1



God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations and to warn Judah.

605 BC
DANIEL REFUSES THE KING'S PORTION
 DANIEL 1



Daniel and his friends remain faithful to God, refusing to defile themselves with the king's food.

593 BC
EZEKIEL'S PROPHECY AT CHEBAR
 EZEKIEL 1



Ezekiel receives visions of God's glory and messages of judgment and hope during the exile.

586 BC
THE FALL OF JERUSALEM
 2 KINGS 25;
 JEREMIAH 52



Jerusalem is besieged, the temple is destroyed, and the people are led into captivity in Babylon.

KEY EVENTS (627–586 B.C.)



627 BC
The Call of Jeremiah
 Jeremiah 1
 God calls Jeremiah to speak His words of warning and hope to Judah.



605 BC
Daniel Refuses the King's Portion
 Daniel 1
 Daniel and his friends choose faithfulness over compromise.



593 BC
Ezekiel's Prophecy at Chebar
 Ezekiel 1
 Ezekiel sees God's glory and prophesies to exiles and Israel alike.



586 BC
The Fall of Jerusalem
 2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 52
 Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the temple; Judah's people are taken into exile.

"Zedekiah was taken in the ninth year of his reign... and his eyes were put out, and he was bound with chains to go to Babylon."
 2 KINGS 25:7

THE MESSAGE

Persistent disobedience brings inevitable judgment. God's warnings are never empty — His patience is great, but His justice is sure.

THE MEANING

God is sovereign in judgment and mercy. Even in exile, His plan continues toward redemption and restoration.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

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SESSION 3
TWO KINGDOMS,
THREE EMPIRES
 (1 KINGS 12 – MALACHI 4)

5

EXILE, DANIEL & THE RETURN

539–430 B.C. — CAPTIVITY, THEN A SLOW REBUILDING,
 THEN SILENCE.

THE STORY

After Judah fell, God's people were carried into Babylon—but God was still at work.

Daniel remained faithful in a foreign land. God judged pride in Babylon and raised up Cyrus to set His people free.

The exiles returned and rebuilt the temple. Later, leaders like Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah helped restore the people and the city.

The final word in this era comes from Malachi—urging God's people to return to faithfulness once more.

"I will bring you back from where I have sent you into exile... and I will cause you to dwell in this place."

JEREMIAH 29:14

539 BC
DANIEL
INTERPRETS
HANDWRITING
ON THE WALL
DANIEL 5



Babylon's king is overthrown in one night. Daniel gives God the glory for revealing the future.

537 BC
THE
PROCLAMATION
OF CYRUS
EZRA 1



Cyrus, king of Persia, proclaims freedom for God's people and orders the temple treasures returned.

515 BC
COMPLETION
AND DEDICATION
OF THE TEMPLE
EZRA 6:16



After years of work and opposition, the temple is completed and dedicated with joy and praise.

478 BC
ESTHER
BECOMES
QUEEN
ESTHER 2



God raises Esther "for such a time as this" to protect His people from destruction.

458 BC
EZRA JOURNEYS
TO JERUSALEM
EZRA 7



Ezra, a teacher of the Law, leads a group back to Jerusalem to teach and restore worship.

445 BC
NEHEMIAH'S
PRAYER FOR
THE EXILES
NEHEMIAH 1



Nehemiah learns of Jerusalem's ruins and prays for God's mercy and a way to help.

430 BC
THE WORD OF
THE LORD BY
MALACHI
MALACHI 1–4



The prophetic word closes the era, calling the people back to faithfulness before the silence.

KEY EVENTS (539–430 B.C.)



539 BC
Daniel Interprets
Handwriting on the Wall
 Daniel 5
 God judges Babylon's pride and establishes His kingdom.



537 BC
The Proclamation of Cyrus
 Ezra 1
 Cyrus frees the exiles and orders the temple rebuilt.



515 BC
Completion and Dedication of the Temple
 Ezra 6:16
 The temple is completed and dedicated to the LORD.



478 BC
Esther Becomes Queen
 Esther 2
 God positions Esther to save His people.



458 BC
Ezra Journeys to Jerusalem
 Ezra 7
 Ezra brings God's Word and revives the people's faith.



445 BC
Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles
 Nehemiah 1
 Nehemiah's heart breaks



430 BC
The Word of the LORD by Malachi
 Malachi 1–4
 The final Old Testament book calls for repentance.

THE MESSAGE

God is sovereign over nations and history. He keeps His promises, restores His people, and calls them back to Himself.

THE MEANING

Even in exile, God is at work. He opens doors, raises up leaders, and brings His people home to renew His covenant with them.

THROUGH IT ALL, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO HIS COVENANT AND HIS PLAN.

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