

1. Creation

Scriptures:	Genesis 1-2
Focal point:	Creation of all Things
Principal characters:	God, Adam, Eve
Primary events:	Six Days of Creation Institution of the Free Will of Man Institution of Marriage and the Family

First day: The creation of *light* - Genesis 1:2-5

Second day: The separating of the *waters* - Genesis 1:6-8

Third day: The creation of *plant* life - Genesis 1:9-13

- These verses totally refute the harmful doctrine of *theistic* evolution.

Fourth day: The creation of the sun, moon, and stars - Genesis 1:14-19

- These heavenly bodies were to function in a three-fold manner:
 - As *signs* Psalm 8:3; Romans 1:19-20
 - As *seasons*
 - As *lights*

Fifth day: The creation of *fish* and fowl - Genesis 1:20-23

Sixth day: The creation of land creatures and *man* - Genesis 1:24-31

Seventh day: God *rests* - Genesis 2:1-3

- This is the only time God is seen resting until Revelation 21. Why? Because of the *sin* of mankind. Sin broke God's rest with mankind.

In Conclusion:

- Did all of this take place in literal 24-hour days?

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” **Exodus 20:11**

“It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”

Exodus 31:17

“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” **Psalm 33:6-9**

- Whether we believe the Bible’s record of creation is a **faith** issue.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Hebrews 11:3

- None of us were there – so, by faith we accept God’s Word, or by faith we accept the man-made theory of **evolution**.

2. Corruption

Scriptures:	Genesis 3-5
Focal point:	The Fall of Mankind into Sin
Principal characters:	Satan, Eve, Adam, and God
Primary events:	The Temptation of Eve The Rebellion of Adam The Corruption of All Things

The subtlety of Satan

- He speaks through the **serpent**. Genesis 3:1
- He begins by **doubting** God's Word. Genesis 3:1
"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
James 4:7
- He ends by **denying** God's Word. Genesis 3:4

The sin of Adam

- He becomes the first human **sinner**. Genesis 3:6
"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned..." **Romans 5:12**
- He attempts to **hide** his nakedness before God. Genesis 3:7
- He attempts to **hide** himself from God. Genesis 3:8
"Oh God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee." **Psalms 69:5**

The redemption of God - Genesis 3:9-24

- Because of man's sin, we see His redemptive attributes:
 - His **holiness**, as God deals with sin. Genesis 3:14-18
 - His **grace**, as God deals with sinners.
 - In **seeking** out Adam. Genesis 3:9

- In promising Adam and Eve a **Savior**. Genesis 3:15
- In **clothing** them by a sacrifice. Genesis 3:21
- In removing them from the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:24

The murder of *Abel* - Genesis 4

The ministry of *Enoch* - Genesis 5:21-24

- He is the first recorded **preacher**, and he preaches on the coming judgment.
“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” **Jude 14-15**

3. Catastrophe

Scriptures:	Genesis 6-10
Focal point:	The Great Flood
Principal characters:	Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth
Primary events:	The Wickedness of Man Building of the Ark The Great Flood The Condemnation of All Things

The conditions prior to the Flood

- A great **population** explosion took place. Genesis 6:1
- There was an outpouring of **satanic** activity. Genesis 6:2, 4
- All humanity had become **wicked** and violent. Genesis 6:5, 11-12
“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.” Romans 2:14-15
- God revealed His decision to destroy mankind in **120** years. Genesis 6:3, 6-7, 13

The deliverance of Noah through the Flood

- Noah found **“grace in the eyes of the Lord.”** Genesis 6:8
“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” Hebrews 11:7
- Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives boarded the **ark**. Genesis 7:1
“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.” 2 Peter 2:5

- The Flood passed and the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. Noah was told to “*be fruitful, and multiply.*” **Genesis 8:15-17, 9:1**
- God established a rainbow covenant with Noah. Genesis 9:9-17

The tragedy following the Flood

- Noah became **drunk** from his own vineyard and exposed himself within his tent. Genesis 9:20-23
- Noah died at the age of **950**. Genesis 9:28-29
 - The ultimate tragedy in his life may be seen by the fact that no spiritual accomplishments whatsoever are recorded during his final **350** years.

4. Confusion

Scriptures:	Genesis 10:8-12, 11:1-9
Focal point:	The Tower of Babel
Principal characters:	Nimrod, God
Primary events:	Gathering of the People Building of the Tower Confusion of Languages and Disbursement

After the Flood, God commanded man to *scatter* abroad, replenish and fill the earth. Genesis 8:17, 9:1, 7

- In Genesis 11:1-9, mankind rebelled, and under their world leader, Nimrod, decided to construct a tower that would reach into the *heavens*.

Babylon was a city conceived in *rebellion*, the seat of the first great apostasy (falling away from God).

- Babylon, in the Bible, is the *root* of organized evil and rebellion. It will continue, either nationally or spiritually, to exert influence until the time of its destruction in Revelation 17 and 18.

What was God's response? God came down and confounded the *language* of the people so that they could not understand each other.

Genesis 11:5-9

- This brought the building project to a halt because the builders could no longer *understand* each other's speech.
- This caused them to separate from each other and relocate to different areas of the earth. Here we have the *origin* of languages and nations.

5. Call of Abraham

Scriptures:	Genesis 12-50; Job
Focal point:	Birth of the Hebrew Nation (Israel)
Principal characters:	Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, Joseph and His Eleven Brothers
Primary events:	Call of Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees Isaac, the Son of Promise is Born Jacob and Esau The Life of Joseph

After the tower of *Babel*, the entire world degenerated and became idolatrous.

God, in His grace, did not destroy the nations, but chose to deal graciously with them. God singled out one man and decided to start over. His name was *Abraham*.

- He was to be the father of a nation of people that God would call His own.
Genesis 12:1-3
- This nation is identified as *Israel* in the Scriptures.
- From Abraham came his son Isaac, Isaac's son Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons.
From these twelve sons came the twelve *tribes* of Israel.

To Abraham and his descendants were given the wonderful *promises* of God.

“Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.” Romans 15:8

“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.” **Romans 9:4-5**

- The promises included:

– A **land** called Canaan.

“And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Genesis 15:17-18

– A **nation** known as Israel.

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.” **Genesis 12:2**

– Worldwide **blessing**.

“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” **Genesis 12:3**

6. Carrying Burdens

Scriptures:	Exodus 1-14
Focal point:	Israel's Deliverance from Egyptian Bondage
Principal characters:	Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh
Primary events:	Enslavement of the Jews Birth of Moses The Call of Moses at the Burning Bush The Ten Plagues Crossing the Red Sea

The enslavement of the Jews.

- Abraham was certainly a man of faith, but there was a steady degeneration of his descendants until the nation of Israel ended up as mere **slaves** in Egypt.

The birth and call of Moses.

- Moses was born of godly parents who **hid** him for three months.
- Through a miraculous set of events, God delivered Moses and allowed him to grow up and be **educated** in Pharaoh's court.
- When Moses was forty, he was forced to **flee** from the land of Egypt because Pharaoh desired to kill him. Moses had identified himself with his people, Israel. *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."* **Hebrews 11:24-27**
- Forty years later, Moses received a divine call to **return** to Egypt and deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage.

The ten plagues.

- Moses and Aaron marched right in to Pharaoh and told him God's demand, "*Let my people go.*"
- Pharaoh refused (Exodus 5:2), so this led to a showdown between the Lord God and the pagan **gods** of Egypt. Through God's power, Moses called down ten plagues on Egypt.
- What was the result of these plagues?
 - At midnight, April 14th, the death angel passed over Egypt and took every **firstborn** son from all unprotected homes, including Pharaoh himself.
 - During the early morning hours of the 15th, all Israel crossed the border of **Egypt**.

7. Camp

Scriptures:	Exodus 15 - Deuteronomy 34
Focal point:	Forty Years of Wandering in the Wilderness
Principal characters:	Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb
Primary events:	The Law Given at Mt. Sinai (Ten Commandments) The Tabernacle Built The Unbelief of Israel at Kadesh-Barnea Moses Dies in Moab

1. After leaving Egypt, Israel traveled to Mt. Sinai, where they would remain for almost a year.
2. It was during this time that God gave to Israel “the **law**,” consisting of 613 specific commands for Israel to follow. Part of this law was the **Ten** Commandments.
3. The Bible is clear, the law was not meant to **justify** anyone before God, nor could it.
 - *“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” **Acts 13:39***
 - *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” **Galatians 2:16***
 - *“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**” **Galatians 3:11***
4. After giving them their law, God’s plan was to lead the nation of Israel into their promised land and raise them up as a **light** to all the other nations, that they might know the true God.
5. But, upon arriving at Kadesh-Barnea, Israel exhibited total **unbelief** in their God and refused to obey God’s command to enter the land. Numbers 13-14
6. God’s punishment was that Israel would be forced to **wander** aimlessly in the wilderness for the next 40 years, until all the adults over 20 years old died.

7. The only exceptions to this were **Joshua** and Caleb. They were men of great faith.
Numbers 14:6-9
8. At the end of these forty years, their great leader, **Moses**, died in Moab.
Deuteronomy 34:1-5

8. Conquest

Scriptures:	Joshua 1 - I Samuel 9
Focal point:	Possessing the Land of Canaan
Principal characters:	Joshua, Samuel, and the Other Judges
Primary events:	Israel's Occupation and Division of the Promised Land Chaotic Rule Under the Judges

The Appointment of Joshua

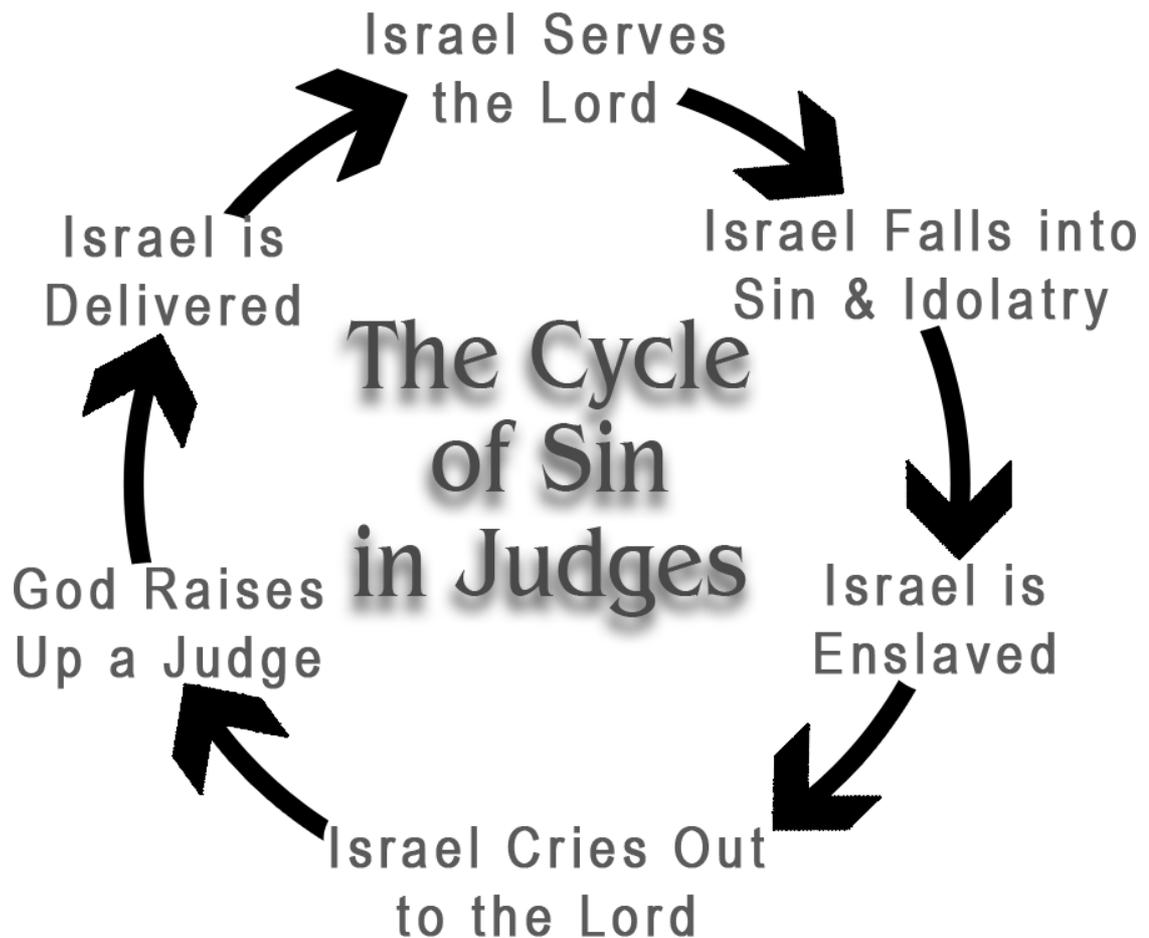
- After the death of Moses, God set up Joshua to take command of His people, and to lead them on to **possess** their land. Joshua 1:1-9
- After **seven** years of conquest, Joshua then divided the land, each tribe receiving its appointed allotment. Joshua 13-21
- When entering the land, God gave the people uncompromising instructions to **destroy** the Canaanites, and warned them of the consequences if they didn't. Numbers 33:51-52, 55-56
 - Israel **failed** to keep God's command.

The Period of the Judges

- With no God-appointed leaders since Joshua, at critical periods when Israel was oppressed by the people of the land, God intervened by raising up **judges** to deliver the people.
- The history of the judges time period was a repetitious cycle of:
 - **Backsliding**
 - Chastisement
 - Repentance
 - **Deliverance**
- Example: Judges 3:12-15, 29-30

The Call of Samuel

- God raised up the boy Samuel to be a prophet/priest of Israel, that He might again make His *will* known to His confused and wayward people. I Samuel 3:11-21, 4:1
- Samuel was one of the *godliest* men in Scripture, and Israel looked to him for leadership. I Samuel 7:7-10, 15-17



9. Crown

Scriptures:	I Samuel 10 through 2 Chronicles 36; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Hosea through Zephaniah; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon
Focal point:	The Kingdom of Israel
Principal characters:	Saul, David, Solomon, Remaining Kings, Elijah, Other Prophets
Primary events:	The United Kingdom The Davidic Covenant The Divided Kingdom of Judah and Israel The Single Kingdom of Judah

Israel went from a theocracy (governed directly by God) to a monarchy (governed by one person).

- Fearful of the aggressive nations around them, they demanded a **king**, that they might unify, as the other nations did, under a visible leader. I Samuel 8
- For the first 120 years of its existence, the kingdom of Israel was united under one king.
 - First, **Saul** for 40 years (1 Samuel 9-31)
 - Second, **David** for 40 years (2 Samuel 1 - 1 Kings 2)
 - Third, **Solomon** for 40 years (1 Kings 2-11)
- David fills more pages of **history**, poetry, and prophecy than any other Old Testament character.

The Davidic Covenant

- This is a promise made by God to David, recorded in I Samuel 7:12-16.
- The provisions of the Davidic Covenant were:
 - David would have a **son** who would succeed him (Solomon).
 - God would establish his **kingdom**.
 - He would build a **house** (the temple) unto God.

- The throne of his kingdom would be established by God, **forever**.
- The crucified, risen, and ascended “*seed of David according to the flesh*” shall **return**, and God shall give to Him “*the throne of his father David.*”

Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-30, 15:14-17

The kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms after Solomon’s death.

- The kingdom of **Israel** (ten tribes).
- The kingdom of **Judah** (two tribes).

10. Captivity

Scriptures:	2 Kings 17, 25; Jeremiah (parts); Lamentations; Daniel; Ezekiel
Focal point:	Captivities of Israel and Judah
Principal characters:	Daniel, Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar
Primary events:	Apostasy and captivity of Israel by Assyria Apostasy and captivity of Judah by Babylon Destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians

The captivity of Israel

- The northern kingdom of Israel (ten tribes) lasted for **250** years after the division.
- Not one of Israel's nineteen kings was a **godly** man, in spite of the faithful pleading of the prophets of God.
- It all culminated with God's **judgment**. The ten tribes were overthrown in 722 B.C. after repeated invasions by the Assyrians. 2 Kings 17:7-18

The captivity of Judah

- The southern kingdom of Judah (two tribes) lasted for **400** years after its separation from the ten tribes.
- It was governed by 20 kings, all of whom were the lineal descendants of King David. Some were **godly**, some were not.
- But, eventually, the same divine indictment was pronounced, "*Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord.*" 2 Kings 17:19-20
- It all culminated with God's judgment. The king of **Babylon**, Nebuchadnezzar, attacked Jerusalem and destroyed it in 586 B.C. 2 Chronicles 36:15-21
- Judah would remain in Babylonian captivity for **70** years.
- Prophets like Jeremiah had tried to **warn** the people of Judah, but he was scorned and persecuted. Now all of his prophecies were tragically and surely fulfilled.

11. Construction

Scriptures:	Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi
Focal point:	Rebuilding of Jerusalem
Principal characters:	Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, King of Persia
Primary events:	Babylon Overthrown by Persia Zerubbabel Rebuilds the Temple Ezra Re-establishes the Temple Worship and the Law Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall of Jerusalem

King Cyrus issued a proclamation allowing Jews to *return* to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of God. Ezra 1:3

- The decree of Cyrus brought an official ***end*** to the captivity.

The first company returned under Zerubbabel, a *prince* of Judah.

- The group consisted of less than 50,000 people.
- Because of opposition and spiritual indifference, the work was caused to cease for about **16** years.
- The people got busy building again, and about five years later the ***temple*** was completed and dedicated with great joy.

The second expedition was led by *Ezra*, a scribe, about 78 years after Zerubbabel's return.

The final expedition was led by Nehemiah, whose burden was to rebuild the *walls* of the city.

- Nehemiah declared, "Let us arise and build." With enthusiasm, prayer, and hard work, they ***finished*** the colossal task. Everybody did their part!

Imagine what could be accomplished if every believer found his place and had a mind and a will to work with ***united*** devotion for the cause of Christ. Nehemiah 6:15-16

12. Conception

Scriptures: Matthew 1-26; Mark 1-14; Luke 1-22;
John 1-18

Focal Point: Birth and life of Christ

Principal Characters: Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the Apostles

Primary Events:

- Gabriel Appears to Joseph and Mary
- Jesus is Born of a Virgin
- Jesus Lives a Perfect, Sinless Life, Fulfilling all of the Old Testament Prophecies Concerning the Messiah

Introduction:

1. After 400 silent years since the close of the Old Testament Scriptures, we see the New Testament Scriptures commence with the announcement of the birth of Jesus, who will "*save His people from their sins.*"
2. Jesus came as the fulfillment of the many prophecies that foretold a Messiah would one day come to Israel.
3. During the 400-year period between the testaments, **Greece** ruled the world for a time, and brought a common language to the civilized world.
4. After this, **Rome** emerged as the world superpower, and with its great technological advancement, built roads that connected the world physically in a way that Greece had culturally.
5. This was the "*fulness of the time*" for God's Messiah to be born. The message of Christ could be spread rapidly and in a **common** language.

There are four gospels, each having its own distinctive viewpoint and presentation of Christ as "the anointed One."

- Matthew - ***The Jews***
- Mark - ***The Romans***
- Luke - ***The Greeks***
- John - ***The world as a whole***

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was born of a *virgin*.

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

- The virgin birth must be accepted by ***faith***, not by reason.
Luke 1:34-35, 37
- When Jesus entered this world, it was ***God*** becoming man. Matthew 1:23;
John 1:1, 14; I Timothy 3:16

Of our Lord's infancy, only four events are recorded in the gospels.

- The circumcision, eight days after His ***birth*** - Luke 2:21
- The presentation in the ***temple*** - Luke 2:22-24
- The visit of the ***wise*** men - Matthew 2:1-12
- The ***flight*** into Egypt - Matthew 2:13-15

There is only one event recorded concerning the *boyhood* of Jesus.

Luke 2:39-52

The next 18 years of Jesus' life are passed in holy *silence* until His baptism by John. Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus' earthly ministry began in John 2:1-12 with the miracle at the marriage in Cana of Galilee. It was followed by:

- The ***healing*** of the sick.
- The calling of His disciples.
- ***Teaching*** the multitudes.
- His parables and discourses.
- His demonstration of ***power*** over nature, demons, and death.

Jesus Christ showed Himself as a spotless, *sinless* example in every way. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:22; I John 3:5

In Conclusion:

1. It is crucial that you rightly divide God's Word when reading and studying the four gospels.
 - Reading of Christ's earthly life and ministry is a tremendous blessing, but we must remember the **purpose** of Christ's earthly ministry.
 - Jesus came to minister to His people, Israel (Matthew 15:24) and to save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21
 - During the gospels, there was still "*the middle wall of partition*" between Israel and gentiles, with Israel enjoying great spiritual privilege.
 - Matthew through John is not the **grace** dispensation that we live in today. The law of Moses was still in effect (Matthew 5:17-19), therefore they were still operating under the Old Testament law. The New Testament could not take effect until **after** the blood was shed by Christ. Hebrews 9:15-16
2. Three important things are happening simultaneously in the gospels:
 - Christ is calling His people, Israel, to **repentance**.
 - Christ is preparing the "*little flock*" of believing Israel for the future time of **wrath** and their coming **kingdom** to earth.
 - Christ is preparing to offer Himself as a sacrifice for **sin**.
3. Of course, hidden in God was a **secret** that God would eventually reveal, years later, to the apostle Paul. This mystery that God revealed involved a time of unprecedented grace for the world in which God would offer salvation and grace to all people on an absolutely **equal** basis.

13 - Cross

Scriptures: Matthew 26-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24;
John 19-21; Acts 1

Focal point: Christ's Sacrifice for Sin

Principal characters: Jesus, Pontius Pilate, King Herod,
The Disciples of Christ

Primary events: Jesus:

- Is betrayed in the garden by Judas Iscariot
- Is falsely tried and wrongly convicted
- Is crucified on Golgotha (Calvary)
- Resurrected after three days
- Shows himself alive for nearly 40 days
- Ascends back to heaven

The betrayal and arrest of Jesus

- During the last year of the ministry of Jesus, the Jewish leaders had become exceedingly hostile towards Him, and had taken counsel to **kill** Him.
Matthew 26:4
- **Judas** led them to Christ's retreat, in the deep shade of the olive trees in Gethsemane, where Jesus surrendered Himself without resistance, was bound, and taken into the city. Matthew 26:47-56

The trial of Jesus

- The so-called "trial" of Jesus was a shameful and illegal mockery of **justice**.
Matthew 26:59-68

The crucifixion of Christ

- Jesus was hanging on the cross less than **nine** hours after His arrest.
- The One hanging there, though sinless, was struck with the full lightning bolt of God's **wrath**.

- Jesus Christ was man's **substitute**, dying our death, and bearing our sins in our place.
- After the darkness passed, Jesus cried, "*It is finished.*" The ultimate and final **price** for sin had been paid in full.
 - Now, mankind's sins can justly be **forgiven**, and mankind can be reconciled to a holy God. Colossians 1:20-21

The resurrection of Christ

- Jesus declared, "*I am the resurrection, and the life.*" John 11:25
- When Jesus came forth from the tomb on the third day, it simply **confirmed** and proved this. Matthew 28:1-8
- There are **ten** recorded appearances of Christ after His resurrection. He was seen of over **500** people. 1 Corinthians 15:4-8
- After this, Jesus gave a few final commissions to His disciples. He then ascended back to heaven, where He is now seated at the **right** hand of the Father. Acts 1:6-11; Ephesians 1:20-23

14 - Church

- Scriptures:**
- Romans through Philemon
 - Acts (transitional book from law to grace, from Peter to Paul, from Israel to the church)

- Focal point:**
- The Gospel of Grace Being Preached in All the World

- Principal characters:**
- Jesus Christ (Head of the church)
 - Paul
 - The Body of Christ

- Primary events:**
- Holy Spirit Given to Indwell Believers
 - The Salvation of Paul on the Road to Damascus
 - The Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations
 - The Founding of Local Churches
 - Apostasy in the End

Israel fails to be the *light* of the world.

- After the crucifixion of their Christ, Israel continued to **rebel** against God and persecute Christ's Spirit-filled followers. Acts 2-8
- It was prophesied that at this time God would pour out His **wrath** on a rebellious world. Psalm 2:1-5, 110:1-3

God reveals the riches of His grace.

- Instead of releasing His wrath on His enemies, God dispensed **grace** to a lost and dying world.
- This period is called "*the dispensation of the grace of God.*" Ephesians 3:2
- This mystery was revealed to the apostle **Paul**. Ephesians 3:1-3

A new creation, the *church*, is brought into existence.

- The church is the **body** of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:29-32

The book of Acts reveals to us the *transitional* time period from Israel to the church (body of Christ).

God spoke through Paul to give *thirteen* books of the Bible specifically to the church (body of Christ).

- These books are *Romans* through Philemon.
- Clearly, the *mission* of the church is to take the good news of Jesus Christ to every person. Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Colossians 1:9

15 - Catching Up

- Scriptures:**
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - Philippians 3:20-21

- Focal point:**
- The Rapture of the Church

- Principal characters:**
- Christ
 - All Believers in the Body of Christ

- Primary events:**
- The Trumpet Sounding
 - The Dead in Christ Resurrected
 - The Living Saints are Changed
 - All of the Saved Receive Glorified Bodies
 - All of the Saved Stand Before the Judgment Seat of Christ

What is the rapture?

- The rapture refers to the time when the body of Christ will be **caught** up together to meet Jesus in the air and live with Him for eternity. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Who will be raptured?

- The **dead** in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Those which are **alive** on the earth and in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

What will happen at the rapture?

- Christ will descend from heaven with a **shout**.
- The Lord meets all the saints in the **air** and “*so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

When will the rapture occur?

- The Bible teaches that the rapture is imminent. This simply means that it could happen at any **moment**. 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Titus 2:13
 - *“So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 1:7
 - *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 3:20

What will happen immediately following the rapture?

- Every Christian will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, giving **account** for how they lived their Christian lives.
 - *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - *“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* Romans 14:10-12

What does the rapture mean to the Christian?

- It means that death is not the **end**. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- It means we will be **reunited** with our saved loved ones. 1 Thessalonians 4:14
- It means we will receive a new, eternal **body**. Philippians 3:20-21
- It means sin, Satan, and the world can never break our **fellowship** with Christ again. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- It means we will receive eternal **rewards** for our faithful service. 1 Corinthians 3:12-14; Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 6:6-8

16 - Chastisement

- Scriptures:**
- Revelation 1-19
 - Matthew 24:3-51
 - Many of the Old Testament Prophets

- Focal point:**
- The Seven Years of Tribulation on the Earth

- Principal characters:**
- The Lamb of God (Jesus Christ)
 - The Antichrist
 - Those Left Behind on the Earth

- Primary events:**
- The Seal Judgments
 - The Trumpet Judgments
 - The Activities of the Antichrist
 - The Vial Judgments

After the church age is concluded at the rapture, there will be a time of God's *wrath* on the inhabitants of the earth. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

- This time of wrath will last seven years. Daniel 9:27
 - The first 3 ½ years are called the beginning of *sorrows*. Matthew 24:8
 - The last 3 ½ years are called the *great* tribulation. Matthew 24:21

The purpose of these seven years of wrath is twofold.

- To bring *judgment* upon the ungodly nations.
- To chastise Israel for their sin and purge a believing remnant, preparing them for their future *kingdom*. Jeremiah 30:7-17; cf. Zechariah 13:8-9
- Both of these purposes are seen in Isaiah 26:16-21.

In Revelation 5-19, we are taken through this time of wrath *four* times, each time concluding with the return of Christ to earth.

There will be an unholy trinity that will institute a one-world government during this time. Revelation 16:13

- The **dragon** (Satan) - cf. Revelation 12:9
- The **beast** (antichrist) - cf. Revelation 13:1-10
- The **false** prophet - cf. Revelation 13:11-18

This time of wrath will be an unprecedented time of wickedness, lawlessness, and horror, but there is some good news.

- There will be 144,000 **Jews** that will be sealed by God and kept safe. Revelation 7:1-8
- There will be a great multitude of believers from all **nations** that will be saved through this time of judgment. Revelation 7:9-17

17 - Coming of Christ

- Scriptures:**
- Revelation 19
 - Matthew 24:29-25:46
 - Zechariah 14:1-7
 - Much of the Old Testament Prophecies

- Focal Point:**
- The Physical Return of Christ to Earth

- Principal Characters:**
- Jesus Christ
 - Angels
 - Armies in Heaven
 - The Antichrist

- Primary Events:**
- The Battle of Armageddon
 - The Physical Return of Christ to Earth
 - The Judgment of the Nations

Prophecy culminates and reaches its fulfillment in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth.

It is at this time Christ will make all things right, and complete *peace* will be brought to this earth.

Revelation 19:11-21 is a detailed account of Christ's return. It teaches us four facts concerning His return to earth.

- Jesus is coming back to make **war** with the ungodly. cf. Joel 3:9, 11, 12, 14, 16
 - *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”* 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9
- Jesus is coming back to judge the **ungodly**.
 - *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their*

hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 14-15

- *“For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.” Isaiah 34:8*
- *“Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire... And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.” Isaiah 30:27, 30*
- *“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.” Isaiah 66:15-16*
- Jesus is coming back to **deliver** His people (Israel).
 - Christ returns to the earth to deliver Israel and fulfill His covenant **promises** with them and establish their kingdom on earth forever. Psalm 89:28-37; Joel 2:30-32, 3:2, 15-17, 20
 - *“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” Romans 11:26-27*
 - *“He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance.” Psalm 105:8-11*
- Jesus is coming back to **rule** and reign over this world. Psalm 2; Zechariah 14:1-4, 9, 16-19; Matthew 25

18 - Coronation

- Scriptures:**
- Revelation 20:1-6
 - Zechariah 14:8-9, 16-21
 - Many Portions of the Old Testament Prophets

- Focal Point:**
- The 1,000-Year Reign of Christ on Earth

- Principal Characters:**
- Jesus
 - Israel
 - The Nations

- Primary Events:**
- The Binding of Satan for 1,000 Years
 - The Cleansing of the Earth
 - The Righteous Physical Reign of Christ

Notes:

1. When Christ returns to the earth, Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit for **1,000** years. Revelation 20:1-3
2. Christ will set up His **kingdom** on this earth for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:1-6
 - The center of His kingdom will be Jerusalem. Micah 4:2
 - *“Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain... And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.”* Zechariah 8:3, 21-22, 14:16

3. Israel will be regathered and given the entire land area of Palestine, never to be **removed** again (Amos 9:14-15; Jeremiah 23:6; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Isaiah 11:10-12; Micah 4:6-7), and will live under a **new** covenant. Jeremiah 31:31-37; Hebrews 8:7-13; Ezekiel 36:16-38
4. All **nations** will worship the King, Jesus Christ. Psalm 72:11, 17; Isaiah 2:2-3; Zechariah 14:16
5. **War** will be abolished. Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3
6. Righteousness and justice will **prevail**. Psalm 72:7; Jeremiah 23:5-6
7. Nature will be **tamed**. Isaiah 11:6-8
8. There will be a resurrection **before** the 1,000-year kingdom. Revelation 20:4-6

19 - Condemnation

- Scriptures:**
- Revelation 20:7-15
 - 2 Peter 3:7-12
- Focal Point:**
- The Final Judgment
- Principal Characters:**
- God
 - Satan
 - The Unsaved
- Primary Events:**
- The Destruction of the Present Earth
 - The Doom of Satan
 - The Great White Throne Judgment

Notes:

1. At the end of Christ's 1,000 year kingdom, Satan will be **loosed**.
Revelation 20:7-8
2. Sadly, **many** people will follow Satan in his rebellion against Christ, but will be immediately **destroyed**. Revelation 20:9
3. Satan will be **cast** into the lake of fire for eternity. Revelation 20:10
4. The Great White Throne Judgment will occur. Revelation 20:11-15
 - This is a judgment of all **unsaved** people throughout the ages.
5. The present earth will be destroyed by **fire**. 2 Peter 3:10-13; Hebrews 1:10-12

20 - Consummation - Part 1

- Scriptures:** ● Revelation 21-22
- Focal Point:** ● The Eternal State
- Principal Characters:** ● God
- The Saved of All Ages
- Primary Events:** ● The New Heaven and New Earth
- God, "All in All"

Notes:

9. There will be three new places that God will create for the saved to dwell in for eternity. Revelation 21:1-2
- New **heaven**
 - New **earth**
 - New **city** (New Jerusalem)
10. God Himself will come and **dwell** with mankind throughout eternity. Revelation 21:3
11. The holy city, New Jerusalem, will come down from God out of heaven. This city will forever dwell on the new **earth**.
- This city is strongly associated with God's program for **Israel**. Revelation 21:12, 14
 - This city is filled with the **glory** of God. Revelation 21:11
 - This city is magnificent in beauty. Revelation 21:11-21
 - This city is approximately **1500** miles in length, breadth, and height. Revelation 21:15-17
 - Jesus is the **light** of this city. Revelation 21:23
 - In this city is the river of **life** and tree of life. Revelation 22:1-2

12. On the new earth will also dwell kings and **nations**. Revelation 21:24-26, 22:2
13. The new earth and New Jerusalem are primarily a fulfillment of God's covenant and **promises** to the nation of Israel.
 - God promised Israel that they would be planted in their land, **never** to be removed again. Ezekiel 37:25-27; Revelation 21:3
 - God promised that the throne of David would be established **forever** (2 Samuel 7:8-16). This promise will be fulfilled with Christ reigning in the New Jerusalem for all eternity.
Revelation 21:23, 22:3
 - Abraham, the father of Israel, was promised a city whose builder and maker was **God** (Hebrews 11:10, 16). This promise will be fulfilled in the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:2
 - God promised Israel that His glory would rise upon them and be a light to all the Gentile **nations** and kings (Isaiah 59:20-60:3). This promise will be fulfilled. Revelation 21:23-24a
 - God promised Israel that the Gentile nations would come to her for **blessing** (Isaiah 60:5). This promise will be fulfilled.
Revelation 21:24-26
 - God promised Israel that there would come a time when there would be no **weeping** in Jerusalem (Isaiah 65:17-19). This promise will be fulfilled. Revelation 21:4

20 - Consummation - Part 2

Scriptures: ● Revelation 21-22

Focal Point: ● The Eternal State

Principal Characters: ● God
● The Saved of All Ages

Primary Events: ● The New Heaven and New Earth
● God, "All in All"

Notes:

14. God not only has a purpose for the new earth, but He also has a definite purpose for the new **heaven**. Revelation 21:1
15. God's purpose for the new heaven involves the **church**, the body of Christ.
 - Our eternal **blessings** are said to be located in the heavenlies. Ephesians 1:3
 - Our conversation (citizenship) is in the heavenlies. Philippians 3:20
 - We have an eternal **house** in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1-2
 - We are part of a heavenly **kingdom**. 2 Timothy 4:18
16. A few other thoughts about the church's eternal inheritance in the heavenlies:
 - In eternity, we will display God's **wisdom** to the angelic host in heavenly places. Ephesians 3:10
 - In eternity, we will **rule** and reign over God's angelic creation. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
 - We will be occupying the **heavens** of the New Jerusalem.

- We will help to give **light** to the New Jerusalem and to the entire earth. Revelation 21:23-25, 22:5; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6, 17; Colossians 3:4; 1 Corinthians 15:41-44, 49