

The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

Introduction

1. Many Christians do not realize that the books of the Bible are not listed in chronological order.
2. The books of the Bible are arranged according to topical content.
 - In the Old Testament, the groupings are:
 - Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
 - History (Joshua – Esther).
 - Wisdom (Job – Song of Solomon).
 - Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi).
 - In the New Testament, the groupings are:
 - Earthly ministry of Christ (Matthew – John).
 - History (Acts).
 - Epistles.
 - Paul's epistles to the church, the body of Christ (Romans - Philemon)
 - Hebrew - Jewish epistles (Hebrews – Jude)
 - Prophecy (Revelation).
3. Think of the Bible as a library full of books that are grouped according to their content. **Illustration:** our library
4. Over the next few weeks, we will provide a chronological overview of the entire Bible using a method called the “Twenty C’s.”
 - Each major section of the Bible will begin with the letter “C.”
 - This will assist the Bible student in placing Bible books and events in their proper time period.
 - It will make it easy to understand and remember.

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

1. First day: the creation of light. 1:2-5
 - The Holy Spirit moved upon the earth. From this omnipotent energy source began to flow our energy waves - waves of heat and sound magnetism.

- Thus, the created universe was energized. The earth rotating on its axis also began at this time. Both energy and matter were now present in the space/mass/time framework.
2. Second day: the separating of the waters. 1:6-8
 - This water was in two forms:
 - Regular land-based water in shallow ocean, river, and lake beds.
 - Atmospheric water in the form of invisible translucent vapor.
 3. Third day: the creation of plant life. 1:9-13
 - Lush, green vegetation and exotic flowers now graced the newly emerged dry ground.
 - These verses alone totally refute the harmful doctrine of theistic evolution, which says life began eons ago from a glob of scum floating on some remote ocean surface.
 - To the contrary, Moses tells us life was supernaturally created on the third day of creation and began on dry ground.
 4. Fourth day: the creation of the sun, moon, and stars. 1:14-19
 - On the first day, God created physical light. On the fourth day He created special light sources.
 - These heavenly bodies are to function in a three-fold manner:
 - As signs – they teach and remind men of God’s creative work. **Psalm 8:3; Romans 1:19-20**
 - As seasons – they function as a calendar, dividing seasons, days, and years, enabling men to accurately plan their work.
 - As lights - to light the created earth.
 5. Fifth day: the creation of fish and fowl. 1:20-23
 - Imagine – He created tiny hummingbirds and massive whales, some of which can weigh 150 tons and are 110 feet long (heavier than a modern day Boeing 737).
 6. Sixth day: the creation of land creatures and man. 1:24-31
 - Notice 1:26. This is the first strong evidence of the Trinity (God is three distinct persons in one).
 - Notice a few things about the creation of man:
 - He was made in the image of God and possessed the highest kind of life.
 - He was to subdue the earth and fill it. 1:28
 - He was encouraged to enjoy the Tree of Life and all other trees of creation, except one. 2:9, 16
 - He was forbidden to partake of the “*tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*” Yet he was given the free will to decide and choose. 2:17
 - He was to name all the animals. He had free will to choose every animal's name. God did not interfere or supersede Adam's decisions. 2:19
 - He was given a wife (2:18-25). Here were the first of four great institutions given by God to man: free will of man, marriage and family, human government, and the church.

7. Seventh day: God rests. 2:1-3
 - God didn't collapse in weariness. It means He took up residence with mankind and tabernacled (dwelt) with man.
 - This is the only time God is seen resting until Revelation 21. Why? Because of the sin of mankind – it broke God's rest with mankind.

In Conclusion

1. Here we have in 56 simple but sublime verses, the concise but complete account of creation. Although these verses are scientifically accurate, it was not written in a detailed scientific manner. It was written primarily for our understanding and faith.
2. In 1:1 we are told what God did.
3. The remaining 55 verses tell us **how** He went about doing all that He said He did.
4. Did all of this take place in literal 24-hour days? You'd better believe it!
Exodus 20:11, 31:17; Psalm 33:6-9
5. Whether we believe the Bible's record of creation is a faith issue. **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.

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2 - Corruption

Scriptures:	Genesis 3-5
Focal Point:	The Fall of Mankind into Sin
Principal Characters:	Satan, Adam, Eve, God
Primary Events:	The Temptation of Eve The Rebellion of Adam The Corruption of All Things

1. The subtlety of Satan.
 - He speaks through the serpent. 3:1
 - He talks to Eve through the serpent's body and tempts her.
 - Adam and Eve could apparently communicate with the animal kingdom prior to the Fall in ways totally unknown to us today.
 - Prior to the Fall, the serpent was not only the most intelligent creature of all, but perhaps the most beautiful, also.
 - From this point on, the serpent becomes a symbol for treachery and sin.
 - He begins by doubting God's Word. 3:1
 - He proceeded by distorting God's Word. 3:1b
 - He ends by denying God's Word. 3:4
2. The sin of Adam.
 - He becomes the first human sinner. 3:6
 - Yes, Eve eats first because she is deceived, but Adam out and out rebels against God's commandment. **1 Timothy 2:14**
 - Adam is the head of the human race and therefore responsible for its actions. **Romans 5:12**
 - He attempts to hide his nakedness before God. 3:7
 - Adam & Eve's answer? Man-made fig leaves. This is the first example of man-made religion. Adam was attempting to deal with his sin on his own.
 - He attempts to hide himself from God. 3:8
 - Sin separates man from God – makes man want to hide from God – yet it's impossible. **Psalm 69:5; Matthew 10:26; Revelation 6:15-17**
3. The redemption of God. 3:9-24
 - Now we see some completely different attributes of God. Up to this point, we've only seen His power and wisdom in His creative acts.
 - Now we see His redemptive attributes.
 - His holiness, as God dealt with sin. 3:14-18
 - His grace, as God deals with sinners.
 - In seeking out Adam. 3:9; cf. **Luke 19:10**
 - In promising Adam and Eve a Savior. 3:15

- In clothing them by a sacrifice. 3:21; cf. **Isaiah 53:5-6; 1 Peter 3:18**
 - In removing them from the Garden of Eden. 3:24
4. The murder of Abel. Genesis 4
- Cain brings a bloodless offering to God and is rejected. 4:5
 - Abel offers a blood sacrifice and is accepted. 4:4
 - This was God’s way of illustrating the awesome power of the bleeding lamb.
 - One lamb saves a man, then a household, then a nation, and, finally, the Lamb of God is available for the entire world.
 - Cain slays his brother and becomes the first murderer.
5. The ministry of Enoch. 5:21-24
- He is one of two men who was said to have walked with God before the Flood. The other was Noah. 6:9
 - He is the first recorded preacher, and he preaches on the coming judgment. **Jude 14-15**
 - He is a man of great faith. **Hebrews 11:5**
 - Enoch gets to heaven without dying physically. But one day, millions of Christians will. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

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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

1. The earth's corruption prior to the Flood.
 - A great population explosion took place. 6:1
 - There was an outpouring of satanic activity. 6:2, 4
 - The term “*sons of God*” denotes different beings than that of the human race. This term is used in the Old Testament as a reference to angels.
Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7
 - While it is true that the Bible declares that marriage is unknown to the angels (**Matthew 22:30**), they can assume fleshly bodies, and always appear as young men in Scripture.
 - **Jude 6-7** speaks of a group of angels that “*kept not their first estate,*” but left their own habitation. The sin of fornication is implied in the text, and **2 Peter 2:4-9** places the time as right before the Flood.
 - This unholy sexual union produced giants. 6:4
 - All humanity had become wicked and violent. 6:5, 11-12
 - Remember, there was no written Word during this time.
 - Mankind was responsible to follow the promptings of his conscience.
Romans 2:14-15
 - Conscience gives us a knowledge of good and evil, but certainly imparts no power in deliverance over sin.
 - God revealed His decision to destroy mankind in 120 years. 6:3, 6-7, 13
2. The deliverance of Noah through the Flood.
 - Noah found “*grace in the eyes of the Lord.*” 6:8; **Hebrews 11:7**
 - Today, we live in the marvelous dispensation of grace (**Ephesians 3:2**). In other words, God is dealing with the world primarily on the basis of His grace today.
 - But God’s grace can be seen throughout the Bible from beginning to end.
 - God informed Noah of His decision to destroy the earth. 6:13
 - God commissioned Noah to construct a 450’ X 75’ X 45’ floating body.
 - He was to cover it with pitch (every other place it is translated “atonement.”)

- To atone is to cover with blood. As only pitch protected the Ark from the Flood judgment, so the blood of Christ protects the believer from the sin judgment.
 - Noah gathered a male and female of all earth's animals (seven pairs of clean animals). 6:19-22
 - Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives boarded the Ark.
 - This is the first place we see the word “come.” Final reference – **Revelation 22:17**
 - God “*remembered*” Noah during the Flood. 8:1-2
 - Noah preached 120 years and converted only his family. **2 Peter 2:5**
 - The Flood passed and the Ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. Noah was told to “*be fruitful, and multiply.*” 8:15-17, 9:1
 - God established a rainbow covenant with Noah.
 - God made a covenant with Noah that He would never again destroy the earth and mankind through a flood. 9:9-17
 - The rainbow is a sign of that covenant.
 - God will, in fact, destroy the earth again one day in the future, but it will not be by a flood, but rather through a fire. 2 Peter 3
3. The tragedy following the Flood.
- Noah became drunk from his own vineyard and exposed himself within his tent. 9:20-23
 - During this turn of events, Noah's son and grandson committed a wicked sin and were judged. 9:24-25
 - Noah died at the age of 950. 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 of life.

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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

1. After the Flood, God commanded man to scatter abroad, replenish and fill the earth. God reinforced this command three times. **Genesis 8:17, 9:1, 7**
 - There is no evidence in Scripture that man ever obeyed God's command.
 - Rather, we see in **Genesis 11:1-9** that mankind rebelled, and under their world leader, Nimrod, decided to construct a tower that would reach into the heavens.
 - Their direct purpose for building this tower was to circumvent God's command to replenish and fill the earth (**Genesis 11:4**) and to construct a monument to their own glory and greatness.
 - They built this tower on the plains of Shinar, in a land area known as Babylon.
2. Babylon was a city conceived in rebellion, the seat of the first great apostasy (falling away from God).
 - Nimrod was the political leader (a type of the anti-Christ). His name means "we shall rebel." Spiritually, Babylon was a city of idolatry.
 - Babylon in the Bible is the root of organized evil and rebellion that will continue either nationally or spiritually to exert influence until the time of its destruction in Revelation 17 and 18. **Revelation 18:1-3**
 - There are two aspects of Babylon which will come to an end: religious Babylon and political Babylon. These two aspects find their roots all the way back in Genesis 11 when the people said, *"Let us build us a city and a tower..."*
 - Rebellion is satanic. It's wicked. It's part of our fallen, wicked, sinful nature. All of us are prone to buck against and rebel against authority. Only as we yield ourselves to God's Spirit and our new nature in Christ, can we overcome this sinful tendency.
3. Let us take a closer look at the tower and its implications for us:
 - This tower was built in defiance of God's commands to "fill the earth." 8:16-17, 9:1, 7, 11:4
 - This tower was an exertion of human pride against God Himself. 11:4
 - This tower was an act of idolatry. 11:4
 - *"A tower, whose top may reach unto heaven..."*

- In ancient Babylon, temple towers called Ziggurats were built as monuments of worship to their gods. They had long, descending staircases where it was believed their god would come down from the heavens.
 - They desired to worship the gods they had invented of the sun, moon, and stars.
4. 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**
- Before this, they had one universal language.
 - God punished this evil attempt and separated mankind into small ethnic groups by confusing their universal language into many dialects.
 - This brought the building project to a halt because the builders could no longer understand each other's speech.
 - It caused them to separate from each other and relocate to different areas of the earth. Here we have the origin of languages and nations.

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5 – Call of Abraham

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

1. After the tower of Babel, God surely had his witnesses, but there is no Biblical record of any. The entire world degenerated and became idolatrous.
2. God, in His grace, did not destroy the nations, but chose to deal graciously. God singled out one man and decided to start over. His name was Abraham.
 - The importance of this man's life should not be underestimated. He is mentioned 308 times in the Bible: 234 times in the Old Testament and 74 times in the New Testament.
 - He came from Ur of the Chaldees (**Acts 7:2-3**). Ur was a very advanced civilization during this time. Abraham's father was an idol worshipper (**Joshua 24:2-3**).
 - 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.
 - Until this time, all mankind had been directly related to God's governing principles. Now God marks out one family and one nation, and in them makes a representative test of all.
 - Genesis 12 is a key and pivotal point in the Word of God. It is the commencement of God's plan to reach the other nations through a chosen nation that would be a light to the other nations.
 - 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.
 - Abraham's sons and grandsons are referred to as the fathers or patriarchs of Israel. **Romans 9:4-5, 15:8; Hebrews 1:1**
3. To these men were also given the wonderful promises of God (**Romans 15:8, 9:4-5; Acts 26:6**). The promises included:
 - A land called Canaan. Genesis 15:17-18, 28:12-13 (Canaan land was not heaven. It was a literal land area on earth in Palestine).
 - A nation known as Israel. Genesis 12:2

- Worldwide blessing through Abraham's seed. **Genesis 12:3, 26:3-4** – through Abraham's line of descent all families are blessed. (The Redeemer would come through the nation of Israel.) **Galatians 3:6-9**

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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

1. The enslavement of the Jews.
 - Abraham was certainly a man of faith, but there was a steady degeneration of his descendents until the nation of Israel ended up as mere slaves in Egypt. They were in Egyptian bondage for over 400 years. **Acts 7:6-7**
 - God used this time in Egypt to allow His people to develop in size and strength so that they might be capable of possessing their promised land. **Exodus 1:7-9**
2. The birth and call of Moses.
 - Moses was born of godly parents who hid him for three months. **Exodus 2:1-2; cf. Hebrews 11:23**
 - Through a miraculous set of events, God delivered Moses and allowed him to grow up and be educated in Pharaoh's court. **Exodus 2:3-10**
 - 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. cf. **Hebrews 11:24-27**
 - Forty years later, Moses received a divine call to return to Egypt and deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. **Exodus 3:1-10**
 - Moses did not feel worthy of this calling, so God gave Moses two things to help him:
 - Aaron – his older brother. **Exodus 4:16**
 - Miraculous signs. **Exodus 4:17, 29-31**
3. The ten plagues.
 - Moses and Aaron marched right in to Pharaoh and told him God's demand, "*Let my people go.*" **Exodus 5:1**
 - Pharaoh refused (**Exodus 5:2**), so this led to a showdown between the Lord God and the pagan gods of Egypt (they worshiped over 80 gods - **Exodus 12:12**). Through God's power, Moses called down ten plagues on Egypt.
 - Water into blood - 7:20
 - A frog invasion - 8:6
 - Lice - 8:17

- Flies - 8:24
- Cattle disease - 9:6
- Boils - 9:10
- Hail mingled with fire - 9:24
- Locusts - 10:13
- Three-day darkness - 10:22
- Slaying of the firstborn - 12:29
- These plagues were to demonstrate to Israel the strength of their God and to show the Egyptians the total inability of their gods. Each plague was directed against a particular Egyptian god. **Exodus 7:5**
- 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. **Exodus 12:23**
 - During the early morning hours of the 15th, all Israel crossed the border of Egypt - 600,000 men and their families. **Exodus 12:30-33, 37**
- Pharaoh then regretted his decision to let Israel go and pursued them. God miraculously delivered Israel through the parting of the Red Sea. **Exodus 14:13-14, 21-28**
 - This was a great miracle when you consider that that average depth of the waters is about 5,000 feet!
 - God demonstrated His great power to encourage His people for the challenges ahead.

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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' Death in Moab

The Giving of God's Law - Exodus 19-23

1. After leaving Egypt, Israel traveled for three months (**Exodus 19:1**) 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.
Exodus 20:1-17
3. No longer was man to simply follow his conscience, but God had a specific set of laws to follow, a specific place of worship (the tabernacle), and a specific way of approach to Him (a blood sacrifice).
 - Here we have God going on record and actually taking His Word and giving it to mankind in written form.
4. The Bible is clear, the law was not meant to justify anyone before God, nor could it (**Acts 13:39; Galatians 2:16, 3:11**). The law was meant to:
 - Bring the knowledge of sin. **Romans 3:20**
 - Stop every mouth, that all the world might become guilty before God.
Romans 3:19
 - Show people their sinfulness, that they might turn in faith to God's provision, Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:22-25**

The Construction of God's Tabernacle - Exodus 24-27; 35-40

1. The tabernacle was a mobile tent with portable furniture that the people traveled with, and set up camp wherever they went.
2. The purpose of the tabernacle was to serve as a temporary meeting place between God and His people. **Exodus 29:42**
3. It also served as a beautiful type or picture of Jesus Christ. This is why we are told in **John 1:14** that He “dwelled” among us. Literally, He “tabernacled” among us.
4. The tabernacle was later replaced by a permanent structure in Jerusalem called the temple.
5. Today, in the dispensation of grace, we are told that the body of every believer in Christ is a temple of God. **1 Corinthians 3:17, 6:19**

The Rebellion and Wandering of Israel

1. 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.
2. 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
3. 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.
4. God would then take their children in to possess the land. **Numbers 14:29-31**
 - The only exceptions to this were Joshua and Caleb. They were men of great faith. **Numbers 14:6-9**
 - God, in His grace, provided for Israel's needs during their 40-year camp in the wilderness and He used this time to prepare the hearts to believe and receive God's Word. **Deuteronomy 8:2-5**
6. At the end of these 40 years, their great leader, Moses, died in Moab.
Deuteronomy 34:1-5

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8 - Conquest

Scriptures:	Joshua 1 – 1 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

1. 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**
 - It was now well over four hundred years since God called Abraham and commanded him to go and possess the land of Canaan. Over four hundred years - and they are not yet in the land. God doesn't get in a hurry, does He?
 - Israel had been redeemed from bondage, but being redeemed out of bondage is not complete redemption.
 - Redemption is two-fold – "out of" and "into." **Exodus 3:8**
 - It is the same with the believer today. Our redemption is two-fold. We are redeemed out of sin, and into Christ; out of death, and into life; out of the kingdom of darkness and into Christ's glorious kingdom of light. **Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14**
 - God parted the Red Sea to bring His people out of Egypt, but God parted the Jordan River to bring His people into Canaan. **Joshua 3:15-17**
 - Notice **Joshua 1:3**: "*I have given unto you.*" It was already theirs (by the blood covenant) for the possessing. What a beautiful picture of the believer's blessings in Christ. **Ephesians 1:3**
 - After seven years of conquest, Joshua then divided the land, each tribe receiving its appointed allotment. Joshua 13-21
 - But there was one major problem. 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. They didn't obey God and it led to their downfall. Notice Joshua's warning in 23:12-13.
 - Why would God order the wholesale destruction of these people?
 - They were notorious idolaters and the purpose of God's command to exterminate the Canaanites was to execute a long-delayed judgment upon them. They fully deserved the wrath of God.
 - Also, it was to check the spread of universal idolatry and corruption. **Illustration:** You cut out the cancer so it doesn't spread.
 - As they witnessed God's judgments, it should have been an unmistakable warning to the inhabitants of Canaan. Had they all, like the harlot Rachel,

confessed their faith in the God of Israel, all might have been spared.

Illustration: Remember Nineveh?

2. The Period of the Judges

- With no God-appointed leaders since Joshua, at critical periods after Israel was oppressed by the people of the land (whom they failed to drive out) God would intervene by raising up a person from the tribes. Through him He would execute His judgments.
 - Those men were called “judges.”
 - Counting Eli and Samuel, there were 15 judges in all.
- The history of the judges time period was a repetitious cycle of:
 - Backsliding
 - Chastisement
 - Repentance
 - Deliverance
- **Example: Judges 3:12-15, 29-30, 4:1**
- This turbulent time in Israel’s history lasted over 300 years, and the apostasy, confusion, and spiritual darkness of this period are expressed in **Judges 21:25**.

3. The Call of Samuel

- It was at this time of moral and spiritual declension that God raised up the boy Samuel to be prophet/priest of Israel, that He might again make His will known to His confused and wayward people. **1 Samuel 3:19-21, 4:1**
- Samuel was one of the godliest men in Scripture, and Israel looked to him for leadership. **1 Samuel 7:7-10, 15-17**
 - Unfortunately His sons did not follow in his steps. 8:1-3

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9 - Crown

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 10 - 2 Chronicles 36, Isaiah, Jeremiah (parts), Hosea - 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

1. Israel went from a theocracy (governed directly by God) to a monarchy (governed by one person).
 - They were a theocracy of twelve independent tribes under the immediate direction of God.
 - Fearful of the aggressive nations around them, they demanded a king that they might unify, as the other nations did, under a visible leader. **1 Samuel 8:5-7, 19-22**
 - This kingdom period of Israel's history is one of victory and defeat, great highs of revival and blessing, but great lows of God's displeasure and judgment.
 - When the people exalted God, He exalted them; but when they turned from His law in disobedience, He removed His hand of blessing. **Proverbs 14:34**
 - 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**)
2. Saul was chosen as Israel's first king.
 - He started well, humble and victorious over his enemies, but later became jealous, impulsive, stubborn and disobedient to God. Saul started well, but finished badly. This is not what we want in our lives. **2 Timothy 4:6-7**
3. David, the shepherd lad, was chosen and anointed King of Israel.
 - Without a doubt, his reign was the brightest era in the history of Israel.
 - He fills more pages of history, poetry, and prophesy than any other Old Testament character.
 - The book of Psalms (of which he wrote the majority) seems to be a poetic record of the whole range of his experiences.
4. The Davidic Covenant.
 - This is a promise made by God to David, recorded in **2 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 unto God (the temple).
 - The throne of his kingdom would be established by God forever.
 - To summarize, this covenant that God made with David made the following promises:
 - That from David would come an everlasting kingdom (the nation).
 - That from David would come an everlasting throne (his family).
 - That from David would come an everlasting King (Jesus Christ).
 - This covenant was renewed to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel (**Luke 1:31-33**) and is immutable. **Psalm 89:30-37**
 - Israel's disobedience would be visited with chastisement, but it would not nullify the covenant. **Jeremiah 30:7-11**
 - 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**
5. The kingdom of Israel was divided after Solomon's death into two kingdoms.
 - The kingdom of Israel in the north (ten tribes). Samaria was the capital.
 - The kingdom of Judah in the south (two tribes). Jerusalem was the capital.
 6. The powerful kingdom established by David had reached its end. This division and disruption was the beginning of the end of Israel’s national glory.

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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

1. The captivity of Israel
 - The northern kingdom of Israel (ten tribes) lasted for 250 years after the division.
 - Jereboam was selected as their first king, but his own insecurity caused him to lead the people into idolatry and apostasy against the Lord. **1 Kings 12:26-33**
 - Not one of Israel's nineteen kings was a godly man, in spite of the faithful pleading of the prophets of God. They all walked in the ways of Jereboam. **1 Kings 16:26**
 - Elijah gave a fearless testimony for God. **1 Kings 18**
 - The history of the kings of Israel is largely a record of gross idolatry, murder, and abominable practices that increased from reign to reign.
 - It all culminated with God's judgment. The ten tribes were overthrown in 722 B.C. after repeated invasions by the Assyrians.
 - The siege and fall of Samaria, the capital, at last brought an end to the backslidden and idolatrous kingdom, while the people were taken captive and "colonized" in the vast Assyrian empire. **2 Kings 17:7-18**
2. 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.
 - There were only eight kings after the captivity of the northern kingdom, and two of these kings were used to bring great revivals to Judah.
 - Hezekiah - **2 Kings 18-20**
 - Josiah - **2 Kings 22-23**
 - But, eventually, the same divine indictment was pronounced, "Judah also 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. During this time, events such as Daniel in the lion's den, the story of Queen Esther, Nebuchadnezzar's forgotten dream, the handwriting on the wall, made spiritual history.
- 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.

Jeremiah 2:13

The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

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
& the Law.
Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall of Jerusalem

1. King Cyrus issued a proclamation allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of God. **Ezra 1:3**
 - This was prophesied in **Isaiah 44:28**, over a century before Cyrus was born.
 - He even provided them with money and materials for rebuilding the temple, their “National Sanctuary.”
 - The decree of Cyrus brought an official end to the captivity. God had foretold that it would last for 70 years (**Jeremiah 29:10-14**) and it, in fact, did. These 70 years represented all the Sabbath years (every 7th year) where Israel refused to allow the land to rest as they were commanded by God (**Leviticus 25:1-7; 2 Chronicles 36:20-21**).
 - The captivity cured the Jews of idolatry and caused them to desire to know and obey God's Word.
 - Once again we see God responding in mercy to His people who are prone to wander from Him!
 - The Jews began to re-enter their land and rebuild their holy city Jerusalem.
2. 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.
 - During this time, God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to go to speak to the people and encourage them to finish the work they had begun. **Ezra 5:1, 6:14**
 - The people got busy building again, and about five years later the temple was completed and dedicated with great joy. Ezra 5-6
3. The second expedition was led by Ezra, a scribe, about 78 years after Zerubbabel's return.

- Ezra was a scribe whose heart was to teach the commandments and the statutes of God in Israel, to restore the vow of separation, and to inspire a reverence for God's Holy Word.
 - Under Ezra, the temple worship was reinstated and a great revival came to the people. Ezra 10
4. The final expedition was led by Nehemiah, whose burden was to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore the people's dignity in the land. Nehemiah 1
- The walls of the city were broken down, the gates had been burned with fire and never replaced, leaving the city unprotected and a reproach in the land.
 - Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem 94 years after the return of Zerubbabel.
 - Nehemiah declared, "Let us arise and build." With enthusiasm, prayer, and hard work, they finished the colossal task. Everyone 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**
5. After the preaching of the prophet Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament) there is not another revelation from God until John the Baptist comes on the scene proclaiming the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom. There is a 400 year silent period in between Malachi and John the Baptist.

The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

Notes:

1. There are four gospels, each having its own distinctive viewpoint and presentation of Christ as "the anointed One." Why four? Because they all have a different focus.
 - Matthew - The Jews
 - His gospel is written primarily to convince the Jews that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the King of Israel, promised in their Old Testament Scriptures.
 - He uses about 60 references to Jewish prophecies to demonstrate that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies and expectations.
 - This is why Matthew's genealogy traces Christ back to David. This was important to a Jew. The Messiah had to be a rightful descendent of David in order to sit on the Messianic throne.

- Mark - The Romans
 - His gospel is written primarily to converts from among the Romans and Greeks.
 - Gentile converts would not be interested in Jewish prophecies but in the immediate claims of Christ; therefore, Mark stresses the “doings” of Jesus more than the “sayings.”
 - It is action-packed, moving from event to event. It is the shortest, most concise, and to the point.
 - Luke - The Greeks
 - His gospel is written primarily to the Greeks. The Greek philosophy was to elevate and perfect humanity by culture, wisdom, and beauty.
 - Thus Luke presents Jesus as the embodiment of perfection, as the “*Son of man*” and “*the Son of God*,” interested in all men, both the cultured and the uncultured. This is why Luke’s genealogy traces Christ back to the first man, Adam.
 - Luke presents Christ as the One who came to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10
 - John - The world as a whole
 - The genealogy of Jesus is traced immediately to God. There is no long genealogy in John. In John, Christ is the eternal One. He is the Word made flesh.
 - The purpose is clearly stated in John 20:31.
2. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38
- If Joseph was the natural father of Jesus, procreated by human seed, then Jesus would also be a sinner. Jesus’ death on the cross as our substitute would mean absolutely nothing.
 - The virgin birth must be accepted by faith, not by reason. Luke 1:34-35, 37
 - After 4,000 years of prophecies, promises, and preparation, the angels finally announced the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. Luke 2:8-14
 - It was prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and that He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2
 - When Jesus entered this world, it was God becoming man. Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16. It is indeed the mystery of mysteries. God became flesh.
3. 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
4. There is only one event recorded concerning the boyhood of Jesus in Luke 2:39-52.
- He was 12 years old.

- Here we have the first recorded words of Jesus.
 - Jesus is now divinely conscious of His parentage, and from now on He must give full recognition to the truth that “His Father” is the One which is in heaven, but while also humbly submitting to His mother and foster father.
5. The next 18 years of Jesus’ life are passed in holy silence until His baptism by John. Matthew 3:13-17
- Christ was 30 years of age.
 - Why was Christ baptized by John?
 - It was a submission to the righteousness of the law.
 - It was an identification with the believing remnant of Israel.
 - It was a manifestation to Israel that He was the Christ, their Messiah.
 - It was an ordination of Christ into public ministry.
 - In submitting to baptism, He formally identified Himself with the public expectation of the Kingdom and with the believing remnant of Israel. It was a public consecration of Himself to His Messianic calling. Now He was full of the Holy Spirit (Luke 9:1), equipped to accomplish His work.
6. 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.
7. Jesus Christ showed Himself as a spotless, sinless example in every way. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5
- It remained now for Him to settle the sin question, to conquer death, and, thus, complete the work of redemption.
8. 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. He was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God. Romans 15:8
 - 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
9. 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. While believers today can clearly look back and see this, those living at that time did not understand the necessity of Christ's death. Matthew 16:21-22;
Luke 18:31-34
10. 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.
 11. The basis for this offer is the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ. We will take a closer look at this next week.

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 of Judas
Iscariot

● Is Falsely Tried and Wrongly
Convicted

● Is Crucified on Golgotha (Calvary)

● Descends into Hell and Sets Captives
Free

● Is Resurrected After 3 Days

● Shows Himself Alive for Nearly 40
Days

● Ascends Back to Heaven

1. The betrayal and arrest of Jesus

- During the last year of the ministry of Jesus, the Jewish leaders had become exceedingly hostile to Him and had taken counsel to kill Him (Matthew 26:4). Why? Envy.
- Their plans were expedited by Judas Iscariot approaching them with a bargain to betray His Master for money. Matthew 26:14-16
- 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

2. The trial of Jesus – Actually it wasn't Jesus on trial; it was the world on trial.

- It was about midnight when Jesus was arrested and hurried to the house of Caiaphas (KY uh fuhs), the high priest, where the Jewish Sanhedrin was already assembled. Matthew 26:3-4
- The so-called "trial" of Jesus was a shameful and illegal mockery of justice. Matthew 26:59-68

- Bribed witnesses, angry passions, brute force, and abusive actions were all a part of this trial. They spit in his face, mocked him, struck him as He stood bound. Jesus was alone and helpless before His accusers.
 - The verdict was, “Guilty.” But the Jewish Sanhedrin had limited authority and no power to execute the sentence of death, nor even to try a capital offense.
 - This could only be done by the Roman government, thus they led Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the governor of that district. Matthew 27:1-2
 - Pilate attempted to dissuade the angry mob, but finally relented by giving them a choice – he would release Jesus or Barabbas.
 - The hostile crowd asked for Barabbas and demanded the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Matthew 27:11-31; cf. 1 Peter 2:23
 - Pilate issued the official order. Pilate is a classic example of the unprincipled achiever who will sacrifice what is right to accomplish his own selfish goals. He gave in to the demands of the crowd rather than risk a personal setback to his career. This is a temptation to all people who hold positions of power and authority.
3. The crucifixion of Christ. Crucifixion was the Romans most severe form of execution; it was reserved only for slaves and criminals.
- Jesus was hanging on the cross in less than nine hours after His arrest.
 - For the first three hours (9am to 12pm), Jesus was at the mercy of a world full of hatred. It was man’s cross.
 - But at noon the scene changed and darkness covered the land for three hours. Matthew 27:45
 - It was not possible to put the “Resurrection” to death (He laid down His life) so God took the cross out of man's hands – it now became God’s place of execution – the execution of judgment against sin.
 - The One hanging there, though sinless, was struck with the full lightning bolt of God’s wrath.
 - The One upon the cross received the full stroke of its fury, for He took upon Himself, voluntarily and vicariously, the sins of the world.
 - The cross was now God’s altar, where the Lamb must lay down His spotless life, a perfect and eternal sacrifice. 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - *“The wages of sin is death.”* Jesus Christ was man’s substitute, dying our death and bearing our sins in our place. He became sin for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - At the end of the three hours, Jesus cried out to God in Matthew 27:46. He cried, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* He was abandoned, separated, cut off, no longer in communion with the Father. He is now paying the penalty of sin, tasting death for every man.

- After the darkness passed, Jesus cried, “*It is finished.*” The ultimate final price for sin had been paid in full. Now, mankind’s sins could justly be forgiven and mankind could be reconciled to a holy God.
Colossians 1:20-21

4. 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
- The miracle was His death – He who is the Resurrection, the eternal One, the Great I Am – actually died, and died the death of a lost, guilty soul. This is absolutely phenomenal.
- His resurrection was fully in line with who He was and who He is. He is the Resurrection and the Life. It wasn’t possible for death to hold Him. Acts 2:24
- For forty days after His resurrection, the risen Christ was seen by numerous people. 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 and then ascended back to heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father. Acts 1:6-11; cf. Ephesians 1:20-23

14 - Church

- Scriptures:**
- Romans – 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

1. 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.
 - Israel had joined the Gentiles in rebellion against God.
 - It was prophesied that at this time God would pour out His wrath on a rebellious world (Psalm 2:1-5, 110:1-3). Christ's enemies would be made His footstool (Acts 2:34-35).
 - The Old Testament prophets saw Christ's suffering, the last days, and the glory of Christ's kingdom all happening consecutively. Even the twelve after the resurrection were looking for Christ to establish His kingdom (Acts 1:6). Little did they know there would be a 2,000-year interval.
 - Israel was to be judged and scattered among the nations. But prophecy says that in the last days they will return to their land.
2. 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
 - It was hid in God from the beginning of the world. Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:26
 - The mystery was revealed to the apostle Paul first and then Paul revealed it to others. Ephesians 3:1-6, Galatians 2:2-9, 1 Timothy 1:16
 - No longer was God dealing with the world through a nation (Israel), but individually calling each person to an acceptance of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-13

- Mankind's responsibility is to simply receive God's abundant grace and gift of righteousness, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:15-17
3. A new creation, the church, is brought into existence.
 - The church is the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:29-32
 - It is composed of Jew and Gentile believers, without distinction (Ephesians 2:14-16). The Jew no longer enjoys a favored status in the eyes of God. E all stand before God on an absolutely equal basis.
 - Jew or Gentile individuals can be reconciled to God through personal faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
 - Believers are baptized spiritually into one body by the Holy Spirit. They are brought into a spiritual union called the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27; Galatians 3:27-28, Ephesians 2:16
 - Christ is the Head of the body and holds a position of exaltation as He carries out His heavenly ministry. Ephesians 1:20-23
 - We are no longer under the law, but under grace. Colossians 2:14-17; Romans 6:15, 7:6; Galatians 2:19
 4. The book of Acts reveals to us the transitional time period from Israel to the church. During this time period, God did several things:
 - God called the nation of Israel to repentance for crucifying their Messiah Acts 1-7.
 - Realizing Israel's constant rejection, God saved his chief enemy (Saul of Tarsus) and sent him to the Gentiles despite Israel's rejection. In prophecy, the Gentiles were to be blessed by Israel's **rise**, but Paul reveals that we are now blessed through Israel's **fall**.
 - In the book of Acts, we have the historical record of the falling away of Israel and the bringing in of the church, the body of Christ. Romans 11:11-12
 - The book of Acts is a very shaky place to go to for doctrine because it is a historical book, not a doctrinal treatise. It is a bridge, a transitional book that takes you from law to grace, from Peter to Paul. From Israel to the Body of Christ.
 5. God spoke through Paul to give thirteen books of the Bible specifically to the body of Christ.
 - These books are Romans through Philemon.
 6. Clearly, the mission of the church is to take the good news of Jesus Christ to every person. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Colossians 1:29
 7. How much longer will this age of grace last? We do not know. The time could be short!

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

1. 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
- Although the word “rapture” does not occur in the New Testament, the words “caught up” mean “to catch up or grasp hastily; to snatch up; to lift; to transport; to rapture.”
- So whether you call it "the catching up" or "the rapture", the meaning is the same.
- The dispensation of grace that we live in was revealed to the apostle Paul. It is a mystery time period of grace that was hidden in God and kept secret since the world began. Likewise, the event that will end this dispensation is also said to have been a mystery (a secret; something not revealed or made known yet).

2. Who will be raptured?

- The dead in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- The saved from the past 2000 years will pop out of their graves.
- Their spirits (in heaven) will be united with their resurrected bodies.
1 Thessalonians 4:14
- Those which are alive on the earth and in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

3. What will happen at the rapture?

- Christ will descend from heaven with a shout. Notice Christ descends from heaven **Himself** to be united with His body.
- As Christ is descending, the dead in Christ are ascending.
- The saved which are alive also ascend up behind the dead in Christ.

- The Lord meets all the saints in the air and “*so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” Notice carefully that Christ does not descend to the earth as He will seven years later, but He descends to the heavens and we ascend to meet Him there.
- Sin, Satan, or the world can never break our fellowship with Christ again. We will enjoy unbroken fellowship with Christ in the ages to come.

4. When will the rapture occur?

- The Bible teaches that the rapture is imminent. This simply means that it could happen at any moment.
- God’s Word teaches the Christian to patiently wait and look for Christ’s return. 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20
- The way Paul words 1 Thessalonians 4:15, he fully expected to be alive when Christ returned for all those in Christ. Paul never imagined this time of grace extending for nearly 2,000 years.
- We **do** know that the rapture will be before the time of God’s wrath (the Tribulation). 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9
- There are no signs that have to occur before the rapture can happen.

5. What will happen immediately following the rapture?

- Every Christian will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, giving account for how he lived his Christian life. 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12
- There will be rewards given for faithful Christian service that was done with a right heart. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- Every Christian is called by God to serve in some sort of ministry. Romans 12:1-9
 - For the Christian, ministry is not an option. If I’m going to be like Jesus, I have to serve.
 - You’ve been given God’s Word and God’s Holy Spirit to enable you to serve. There are no excuses. We will be held accountable.

6. 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 new, eternal bodies. 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

The rapture is the next even on God’s time-table. Are you ready for the rapture?

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

1. 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
 - The term "*the Day of the Lord*" is found 70 times in the Old Testament. It is used repeatedly in the Bible to describe the horrible end-time judgments that God will bring upon the earth. Isaiah 13:6-11; Zephaniah 1:14-18
 - This will be a time where God's wrath is poured out on a rebellious world. Israel and the nations have shown themselves rebellious towards God's love and grace.
 - The earth deserved this wrath after the crucifixion of Christ, but God, in His grace, has delayed it for nearly 2,000 years.
 - 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
 - It is referred to as Daniel's 70th week.
 - Seventy weeks of years were said to be determined on Israel (490 years). Daniel 9:24
 - Sixty-nine weeks (483 years) were fulfilled, but one week (seven years) was left unfulfilled.
 - We call this seven-year period the tribulation.
2. The purpose of this seven years of wrath is two-fold.
 - To bring judgment upon the ungodly nations.
 - To chastise Israel for their sin and purge a believing remnant, preparing them for their future kingdom. It is called the "*time of Jacob's trouble*."

- Both of these purposes can be clearly seen in Jeremiah 30:7-17. (cf. Zechariah 13:8-9; Isaiah 26:16-21) It appears 1/3 of Israel will survive.
3. In Revelation 5-19, we are taken through this time of wrath four times, each one concluding with the return of Christ to earth.
 - Revelation 6:1-8:1 - seven seal judgments
 - Revelation 8:2-11:19 - seven trumpet judgments
 - Revelation 12:1-14:20 - activities of the antichrist
 - Revelation 15:1-19:21 - seven vial judgments
 4. 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
 5. 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

1. Prophecy culminates and reaches its fulfillment in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth.
 - It's the most prophesied event in the Bible. There are literally hundreds of Scriptures that deal with this subject.
2. It is at this time that Christ will make all things right and complete peace will be brought to this earth. Satan will be "put out of business" and his evil world system will be replaced by Christ's glorious kingdom.
 - Do not confuse this event with the rapture of the church.
 - Just as Christ ascended **from** the earth, He will return **to** the earth.
Acts 1:8-11
3. 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.
 - In verse 11, heaven opens. We see a white horse, which represents a figure of conquest.
 - Who is sitting on it? Jesus! He is coming to "*make war.*" Who is the enemy? Notice verse 19. Christ will make war against the Antichrist and his armies.
 - The first time, He came as a Lamb to die for the sins of the world. The second time, He will come to this earth as a Lion to make war.
Joel 3:9, 11, 12, 14, 16
 - He has armies. vs. 14
 - He has a weapon (vs.15) that He will use to smite the ungodly nations. vs. 21
 - This war will be no contest. From the moment Christ appears, the outcome of this war will already be decided. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9; Revelation 19:20

- We look at the evil in the world today and think, "Why doesn't God do something about all this wickedness?" But right now is not the time for Him to judge and make war with the ungodly, but rather this is the time in which He is extending grace to His enemies. Colossians 1:20-21
- But one day Christ **will** make war against the ungodly. Daniel 9:24
- Jesus is coming back to judge the ungodly.
 - Verse 11 states that Christ "*doth judge.*" In verse 12, His eyes are as a "*flame of fire.*" cf. Jude 14-15
 - I saw a bumper sticker that read, "Jesus is coming back, and boy is He mad."
 - He sure isn't coming back waving and blowing kisses to people. cf. Isaiah 34:8, 30:27, 30, 66:15-16
 - In Revelation 19:13, Christ has a vesture (garment, robe) dipped in blood. Is this Christ's blood? Absolutely not! Christ shed His blood once, but never again. This is the blood of His enemies. In verse 15 we have the analogy of trampling grapes in a winepress. Revelation 14:14, 19, 20
- Jesus is coming back to deliver His people (Israel).
 - In verse 12, Christ has a secret name that nobody knows and nobody will know until that day when He returns. This mystery name is directly related to the children of Israel.
 - Isaiah 61:9 - 62:2 is speaking of the believing **remnant** of Israel. Revelation 3:12
 - From Jacob came the 12 tribes of Israel. When Jacob turned in faith to God, he was given a new name (Israel), and as a prince had power with God and with men (Genesis 32:28). When Christ returns, He brings with Him a new name for the believing remnant of Israel who now will have power with God and with men.
 - Christ returns to earth to deliver Israel and fulfill His covenant promises to them, and establish their kingdom on earth forever. Romans 11:26-27; Psalm 89:28-37, 105:8-11; Joel 2:30-32, 3:2, 15-17, 20
- Jesus is coming back to rule and reign over this world.
 - In verse 12, Christ has many crowns on His head. Why is this? Because He is coming back to conquer the nations, and save the nation of Israel, and rule over the entire earth.
 - In verse 15, He has a sharp sword. This is to smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. This is a fulfillment of Psalm 2 and scores of other Old Testament prophecies.
 - Zechariah 14:1-4, 9, 16-19 lays it out very clearly.
 - Matthew 25 has some wonderful teaching on this subject.
 - In verses 31-34, Christ returns as King and sits on the throne. He gathers all nations and separates the sheep from the goats. It appears that some nations won't make it into the millennium at all. vs. 41, 45-46; cf. Psalm 9:17

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

1. When Christ returns to the earth, Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). His evil influence will be gone from the earth.
 - This 1,000-year period is referred to as the millennium.
 - Every 1,000 years we have a new millennium, but this 1,000-year period is special because it's **the** millennium.
 - The term "thousand years" is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:1-8.
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; Zechariah 8:3, 21-22, 14:16
 - Notice I said "this earth." Christ's kingdom isn't over after 1,000 years. It's just a honeymoon to prepare people for Christ's eternal kingdom. Luke 1:30-33
 - After 1,000 years, there will be a new heaven and earth, and Christ's reign will stretch into eternity.
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
 - The 12 apostles will be on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:27-28
 - This will be a fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies. Isaiah 62:3; Zechariah 9:16; Isaiah 60:1-15

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 (peace on earth at last). Israel 2:4; Micah 4:3
6. Righteousness and justice will prevail. Psalm 72:7; Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - There will be some individuals who will rebel outwardly against Christ's rule during His 1,000-year reign, but they will incur immediate judgment. Isaiah 11:3-5, 29:20-21, 65:20; Jeremiah 31:29-30
 - The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Isaiah 11:9
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
 - Our resurrection is 7 years earlier, at the rapture.
9. There will be four groups of people living during the millennial reign of Christ:
 - Believers who were killed during the tribulation and are resurrected
 - Those who lived through the tribulation time period and were led into the kingdom in flesh and blood bodies
 - Those who will be born during the millennium
 - Believers that form the body of Christ that were raptured out seven years earlier
 - We will be reigning over the angelic host and the heavenlies.

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

1. At the end of Christ's 1,000-year kingdom, Satan will be loosed. Revelation 20:7-8
 - Many will have entered the kingdom with physical, unredeemed bodies. They will have children and repopulate the earth. They will still possess a sin nature.
 - Children will have to be taught that there was once a devil who deceived people on the earth. They will have to be taught that there was once wickedness, murder, rape, etc., on the earth.
 - During the millennial reign of Christ on earth, those in fleshly bodies will have to make a decision concerning Jesus Christ. This is the reason for Satan's loosing. It will force individuals to make a decision.
 - Although outward rebellion won't be allowed, many will inwardly despise Christ and His righteous reign.
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. Their judgment will be based upon the Word of God (vs. 12). John 12:48
 - Death will give up its bodies, and hell will give up its souls and spirits to stand and be judged one final time.
 - The unsaved will be cast into the lake of fire, which is "*the second death.*"
 - While most of the people at this judgment are unsaved, this is probably the time when believers during the millennium will also give an account for their lives and decisions.
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”

1. 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)
 - God will “*make all things new.*” Revelation 21:5
2. God Himself will come and dwell with mankind throughout eternity. Revelation 21:3
 - Man won’t have to go to a building or temple to meet with God.
 - God’s dwelling place will be on the earth.
 - Remember Jeremiah 14? God will take His house or tabernacle and bring it down to the new earth and dwell with mankind forever.
3. The holy city, New Jerusalem, will come down from God out of heaven. This city will forever dwell on the new earth. The 3rd heaven (God’s throne room) descends out of heaven onto the new earth and will be its capital.
 - This city is strongly associated with God’s program for Israel. Revelation 21:12, 14
 - By virtue of its name, Jerusalem, this is the capital of the nation of Israel.
 - The 12 tribes of Israel are inscribed on the gates.
 - The names of the 12 apostles to Israel are inscribed on the foundation of the walls.
 - 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. 21:15-17
 - Jesus is the light of this city. 21:23
 - In this city is the river of life and tree of life. 22:1-2
4. On the new earth will also dwell kings and nations. Revelation 21:24-26, 22:2
 - It is obvious from these verses that there will be people living on the new earth outside of the New Jerusalem.

- These people will be those who do not follow Satan’s rebellion at the end of the millennium.
 - These nations and their kings are seen entering into the New Jerusalem and bringing “*their glory and honour into it.*” The context is not the millennium, the context is clearly eternity.
 - Why are these people on the earth seen coming into the New Jerusalem? To eat of the tree of life, so that they might live forever! Revelation 22:14
 - Those of us that will have glorified bodies will have no need to eat of this tree. We have eternal life in Christ!
 - The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 22:2
 - Once again we see that there will be nations on the new earth in eternity.
 - Those that keep God’s commandments in the millennium (Matthew 7:24, 13: 41-43) will enter into eternity, male and female (exactly like Adam and Eve before they fell), and will get eternal life by partaking of this tree. Revelation 22:14
 - This is why people are seen coming in and out of the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:24-26, 22:14
5. 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; cf. 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 where builder and maker was God (Hebrews 11:10, 16). This promise will be fulfilled in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). Remember what Jesus told the 12 apostles who represented the 12 tribes of Israel: “*I go to prepare a place for you.*”
 - 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 crying or 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”

1. God not only has a purpose for the new earth, but He also has a definite purpose for the new heaven. Revelation 21:1
 - If there is a purpose for the new earth, there has to be a purpose for the new heaven. God doesn't do anything without a purpose. What is that purpose?
2. God's purpose for the new heaven involves the church, the body of Christ. He's been calling it out for the past 2,000 years. What does God say about us? Look what God says about us in Ephesians 2:6-7.
 - The moment we trusted Christ, God raised us up and gave us a position in Christ. But where? The Bible says, “*in heavenly places.*”
 - The word “sit” means “to sit down; set; appoint; to settle; hover or dwell.” It is also translated “to tarry” in other places.
 - So God has appointed us to dwell, or to tarry, in the heavenlies. But why? Ephesians 2:7 reveals that we will be placed on public display in the ages to come (eternal ages) to show all the kings and nations on the new earth what His grace has done. They will look up into the heavens and see living testimonies of the grace of God.
 - We must remember that we have been made one with Jesus Christ. We are His body (Ephesians 5:30). Now look at Ephesians 1:20-23, and let's see some amazing things:
 - Jesus was raised from the dead and seated in heavenly places. “Set” is the same word used for **us** in Ephesians 2:6!
 - Remember, this word “set” means “to continue; to tarry.” So, Christ was raised from the dead and is set in heavenly places to continue there, to tarry. Now notice verse 21 says that He is seated in heavenly places for the world which is to come.
 - But in Revelation 22:3, Christ is in the New Jerusalem on the new earth. How can this be? How does Christ maintain an exalted position in the heavenlies and still have an exalted position in the New Jerusalem on earth?
 - Notice verses 22-23. Through us! We are His body. We are one with Him. We will **fill** the heavens with **His** fullness and glory (Romans 8:18). Right now, we represent Christ as His ambassadors on earth, but in eternity we will represent Him in the heavens.
 - Let's look at one more passage, Colossians 1:15-20.

- According to verse 16, there are "things" that are created in the heavens. There is a ruling structure up there. He created it to be run and ruled by Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 18:+ He is the Head of which we are the body. Why did Christ take this position as Head of the Church and not just the position of king over Israel? Why? "... *that in all things He might have the preeminence.*"
 - He will definitely have preeminence on earth when that throne is established on earth. But God isn't satisfied with Him just being glorified in the earth. God desires the heavens and all that's in them to glorify His Son.
 - God's purpose for us is to be part of God's plan to reconcile the heavens to Himself (vs. 20). When He glorifies us and fashions us like unto Christ's glorious body and then when He sets us in these heavenly places, it's so the heavens will reflect the glory of Jesus Christ. It's God's will that He be preeminent in all things (whether things on earth or in heaven).
 - Through Israel, He will be preeminent on earth, but there was a hidden purpose that through us (the body of Christ) the heavens will be reconciled unto God and the glory of His Son revealed.
3. 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 (residence; abode) in the heavens (eternal abiding place). 2 Corinthians 5:1-2
 - We are part of a heavenly kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:18
 - This is why God raptures us out. He calls us off this earth because His purpose for us is in the heavens. He doesn't come to the earth, but meets us in the heavens.
4. 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). There will be a lot to do in eternity. There is a governmental structure on earth and in the heavens that must be run.
 - We will be occupying the heavens of the New Jerusalem. This is 7,920,000 feet up and that much wide and long. That is a lot of heavens! We will be occupying those places.
 - Remember, God is called "*the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.*" God's eternal kingdom not only covers land where the earth will be ruled, but it also covers the air where the heavens will be ruled.
 - This is why God gives you the height of the city. Because the heavens will be ruled from this central location, just as the earth will be ruled.

- Will we be coming to the earth at all? Remember when Jacob saw the angels on the ladder? What were they doing? They were ascending and descending. Some were going to report to God on assignments and some were going out on assignments. I assume the same will be true of us.
- We will help to give light to the New Jerusalem and to the entire earth. Revelation 21:23-25, 22:5
 - There is no night in the New Jerusalem. Why? The glory of God and the Lamb light it and it is enough light for all nations of the earth. There is no sun or moon in New Jerusalem.
 - Does this mean one incredible, blinding light coming from the physical body of Jesus for eternity? I don't think so.
 - Remember, we are one with Christ; we are His body. It is Christ's body that will shine forth His glory in the heavens for eternity, lighting the new earth and the New Jerusalem. Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 3:4
 - Several times we are referred to as "*children of light*."
 - An interesting passage is 1 Corinthians 15:41-44, 49. This is teaching that we will be resurrected from the dead and bear Christ's image in eternity. We will shine for Jesus! But how bright? Notice verse 41. Just as stars differ in glory and brightness, so also is the resurrection of the dead.
 - It appears that how brightly we shine in eternity will be determined by how we live unto Christ right now on earth.
 - Did you notice in Revelation 21:23 it says there will be no moon or sun, but there is no mention of stars. **We** will be the stars in the heavens that will shine forth the glory of Jesus for all eternity.
 - How you are living right now will matter in eternity.