

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ The Storyline of Scripture
 - ▶ Creation
 - ▶ Fall
 - ▶ Redemption
 - ▶ Restoration
- ▶ Old Testament = Promises **Made**, New Testament = Promises **Kept**
 - ▶ The Old Testament prepared the way for the Messiah, the Christ, the Redeemer.
 - ▶ We learned that:
 - ▶ God is **faithful** to deliver upon His Word (blessings & curses)
 - ▶ Something is **broken** inside of human beings that the external Law cannot fix.

THE FLOW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ▶ God the Son comes to accomplish the work of **redemption**
- ▶ God the Holy Spirit comes to implement redemption & apply **restoration**.
- ▶ Because of this, the shift turns from God's work in Israel to God's work through the church to the **nations**.
- ▶ The rest of the books nurture the work of the Spirit in believers & the churches, pointing them towards the **promise** that one day Christ will return.

MATTHEW

Genre: Gospel • Written by the Apostle Matthew between 58-68 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **the Jews**
- ▶ Matthew writes to the Jews that Jesus brings God's heavenly **kingdom** to earth & invites His disciples into a new way of life through His death & resurrection.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Matthew 1:21 | She will bear a son, & you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.
- ▶ Matthew contains **15** parables, **20** miracles & over **130** quotes from & allusions to the OT to establish that Jesus Christ is the Messiah of the OT.
- ▶ The turning point of the book happens in chapter 12 when the Pharisees formally reject Jesus as the Messiah, saying that His power comes from Satan & not from God.

MARK

Genre: Gospel • Written by Mark in the 50's AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Romans**

- ▶ Mark was the cousin of Barnabas & his account lies heavily on **Peter's** retelling about the life & ministry of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Mark's goal is to show that Jesus is Israel's **Messiah** who inaugurates God's kingdom through His suffering, death & resurrection.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Mark 10:45 | For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve & to give His life as a ransom for many.
- ▶ The Gospel of Mark stresses the **works** of Jesus rather than the words of Jesus. There are only 4 parables in the Gospel of Mark, but there are over 19 miracles recorded. The quick succession of events are indicated by one Greek word, which occurs over 41 times in the book & is typically translated "Immediately."

LUKE

Genre: Gospel • Written by Luke before 70 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **the Outcast**
- ▶ Luke writes the most detailed account of Jesus' life, pulling together **eyewitness** testimonies to tell the full story of Jesus.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Luke 19:10 | For the Son of Man came to seek & to save the lost.
- ▶ His account is the longest of the four Gospel accounts & is part of one of two books that Luke wrote intended to tell the story of Jesus. Originally, Luke's Gospel & the Book of Acts were meant to be read as one unified account.
- ▶ Matthew & Luke both share a genealogy of Jesus. While Matthew's fits with his purpose of showing Jesus' Jewish lineage as the Promised Messiah, since Luke is writing to the Greeks & Outcasts, Luke's genealogy traces all the way back to Adam, showing him to be the Savior of the world.

JOHN

Genre: Gospel • Written by the Apostle John around 90 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **the World**
- ▶ John lists stories of **signs** & miracles with the hope that readers will believe in Jesus.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> John 1:14 | And the Word became flesh & dwelt among us, & we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace & truth.
- ▶ While John's Gospel account contains 21 chapters & over 722 verses, about **36%** of his writing (7 chapters, 257 verses) involves the 24 hour period between the Last Supper & Jesus' crucifixion.



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