

# BIBLE FACTS & FIGURES

Tim Dowley

How many double-decker buses could have fitted into Noah's Ark? Which Bible character is mentioned most times in Scripture? Where should you look in your Bible when you need peace? Who were the judges of Israel – and what did they do? What does the feast of Purim celebrate? What is the Apocrypha?

Answers to all these fascinating questions and many, many more are to be found in this treasury of biblical information. With tables of parables, miracles, Jesus' ministry and Paul's life – to mention but a few – this little book will prove invaluable as the basis of talks and sermons and a great research tool for all Bible students.

- Time-charts and diagrams
- Bible background features
- Useful verse-finders
- Bible names explained
- Names of God listed

**Tim Dowley** received his doctorate in church history from the University of Manchester and has been at the forefront of writing and editing for a new generation of resources on biblical studies and church history.



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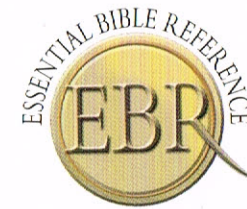


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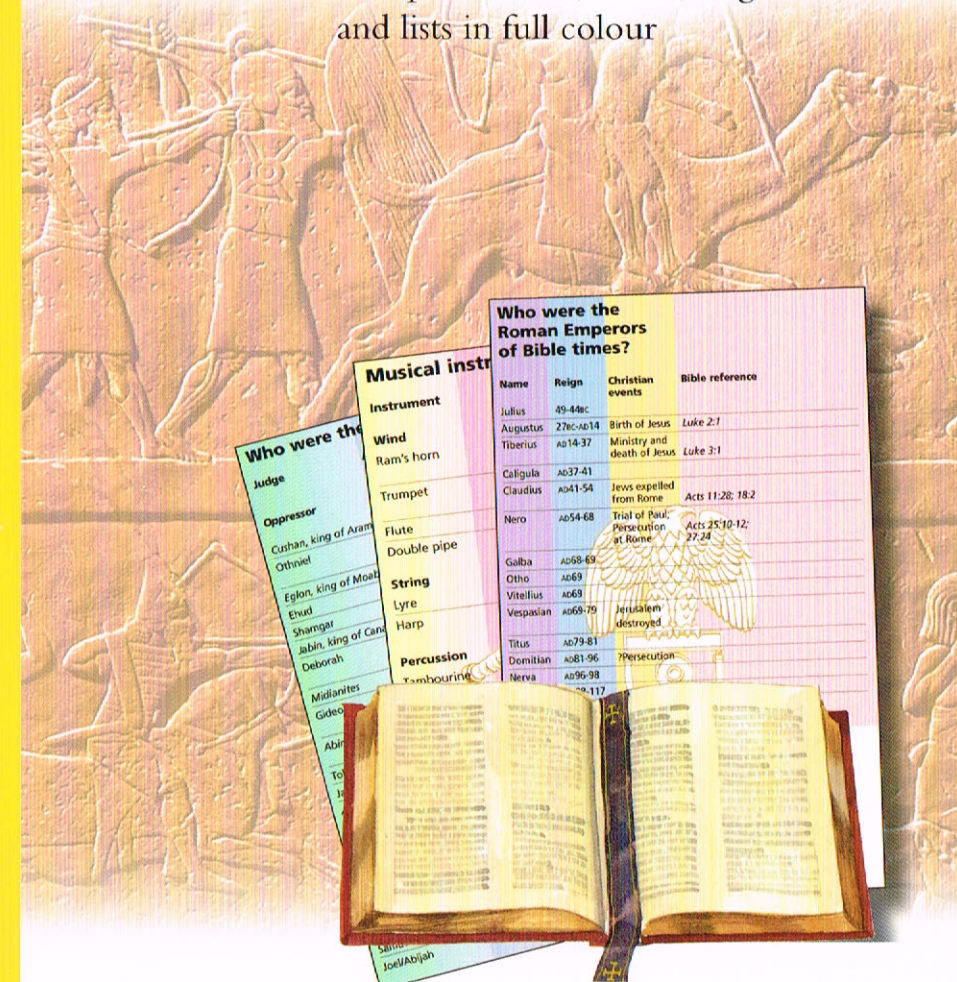
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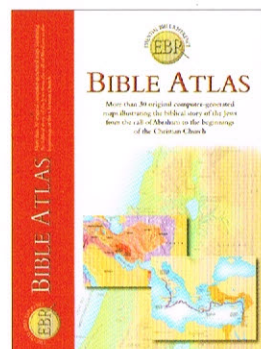
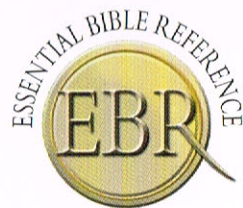


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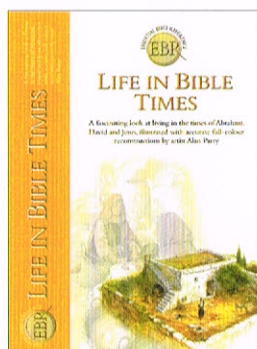
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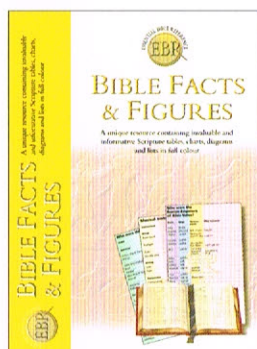




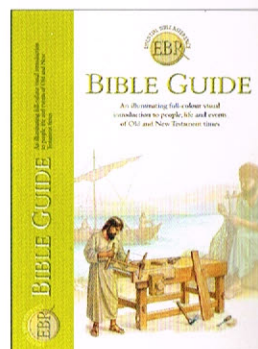
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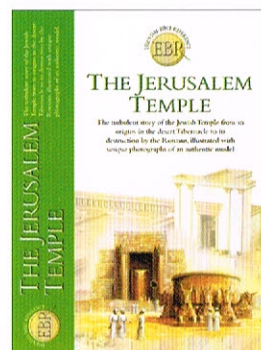
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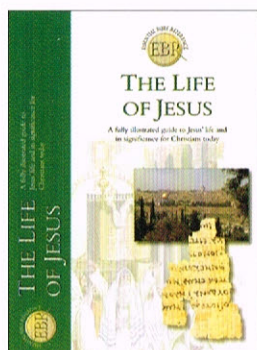
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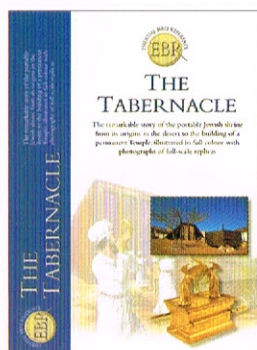
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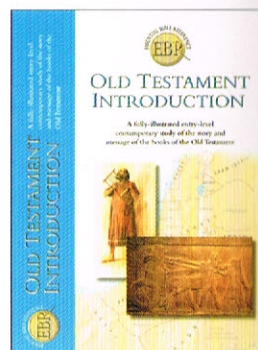
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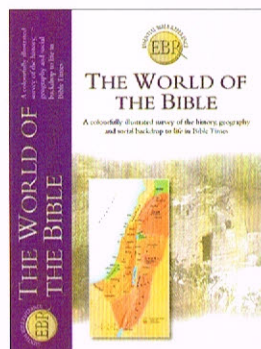
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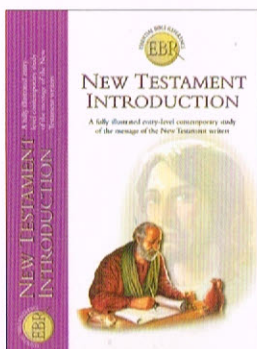
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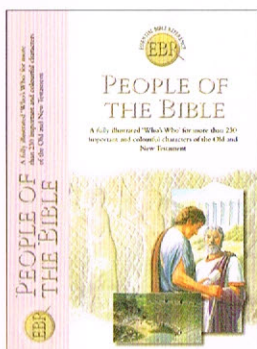
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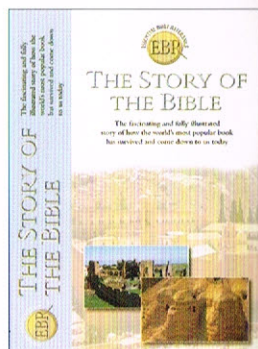
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# BIBLE FACTS & FIGURES

Tim Dowley

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# Some ways into your Bible

## Some fascinating Bible statistics

	Old Testament	New Testament
Number of books	39	27
Number of chapters	929	260
Number of verses	23,214	7,959
Number of words	592,493	181,253
Longest book	Psalms	Luke
Shortest book	Obadiah	3 John
Longest chapter	Psalms 119	Matthew 26
Shortest chapter	Psalms 117	Revelation 15
Longest verse	Esther 8:9	Revelation 20:4
Shortest verse	1 Chronicles	John 11:35 (‘Jesus wept.’)
Middle book	Proverbs	2 Thessalonians
Middle chapter	Job 29	Romans 13–14
Middle verse	2 Chronicles 20:13	Acts 7:7

**Total number of verses in both Testaments:** 31,173.

**Middle chapter of the Bible:** Psalm 117

**Middle verse:** Psalm 118:5

**Most mentioned character:** David (1,118 times)

**Longest word:** Mahershalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1)

NB These figures are based on English Bibles and may vary according to the translation.

### Bible translation facts

- More than 6,500 languages are spoken in the world.
- Of these, 2,167 languages have some or all of the Bible (355 complete Bibles, 850 New Testaments).
- About 4,333 languages are still without any part of the Bible.

The smallest Bible ever published was the Mite Bible published by Oxford University Press in 1896. Its pages were 28 x 41mm (1.62 x 1.12"), it was 900 pages long and 13mm (0.5") thick.

## A Bible reading plan

If you would like to read the Bible systematically and carefully, the following reading order will be helpful. Although this plan does not include every book of the Bible, it will give you a good overview of Scripture if followed regularly.

### New Testament

1. Mark
2. John
3. Luke–Acts
4. 1 Thessalonians
5. 1 Corinthians
6. Romans
7. Philemon
8. Philippians
9. Ephesians
10. 2 Timothy
11. 1 Peter
12. 1 John
13. Revelation (chapters 1–5 and 19:6–22:21)

### Old Testament

14. Genesis
15. Exodus (chapters 1–24)
16. Numbers (10:11–21:35)
17. Deuteronomy (chapters 1–11)
18. Joshua (chapters 1–12 and 22–24)
19. Judges (sample)
20. 1–2 Samuel (sample)
21. 1–2 Kings (sample)
22. Nehemiah
23. Amos
24. Isaiah (chapters 1–12)
25. Jeremiah (chapters 1–25, 30–33)
26. Isaiah (chapters 40–55)
27. Ruth
28. Jonah
29. Psalms (some examples of the major types)
30. Job (perhaps 1–14 and 38–42)
31. Proverbs (chapters 1–9)
32. Daniel (chapters 1–6; sample chapters 7–12)

## BIBLE VERSES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

### Birthdays

Joshua 1:1–9; Psalms 1; 23; 25; 37:3–7; 39:1–7; 90; 91; 139; Proverbs 3:5–8; 26:3–4; 41:10; 43:1–3; 46:4; Lamentations 3:22–26; Luke 1:46–55; John 6:35; 8:12; 10:1–30; Romans 8:28–39; 11:33–36; Ephesians 1:3–14; Philippians 4:4–7; Hebrews 10:23; 1 John 1:7–9.

### Baptism, dedication of children and confirmation

Joshua 1:5–9; 1 Samuel 1:27–28; Psalms 1; 23; 111; 121; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Matthew 3:11–17; 10:32–33; 28:18–20; Mark 10:13–16; John 3:1–21; 15:1–17; Acts 8:36–40; 16:30–33; 22:16; Romans 6:1–14; 1 Corinthians 12:12–13; Galatians 3:26–28; Ephesians 3:14–21, 4:1–6; Philippians 1:1–11; Colossians 2:6–14; 1 Timothy 6:11–16; Titus 3:4–7; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Jude 24.

### Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 6:10–19; 8; Psalm 33; 65; 95; 100; 103; 104; 107; 111; 116; 126; 136; 145; 147; Isaiah 12; Luke 12:13–34; Acts 14:17; 1 Corinthians 3:5–9; Colossians 2:16–17; Hebrews 13:15–16; Revelation 5.

### Wedding day

Genesis 2:18–25; Ruth 1:16–17; Psalms 67; 84; 100; 118:24–29; 121; 127; 128; 139; Matthew 19:4–6; John 2:1–11; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 5:22–33; Colossians 3:12–21.

### Retirement

Joshua 1:7–9; 1 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 23; 71:14–24; Isaiah 43:18–21; 46:4; John 14:27; 1 Corinthians 1:8; Philippians 3:7–16

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR READING PLAN

December 20: Luke 1:26–38  
**Jesus' birth foretold**

December 21: Luke 1:39–56  
**Mary and Elizabeth**

December 22: Luke 1:67–80  
**Zechariah's song**

December 23: Colossians 1:15–20  
**Who Jesus is**

December 24: John 1:1–18  
**The Word became flesh**

**Christmas Day:** Luke 2:1–7  
**The Saviour is born**

December 26: Luke 2:8–20  
**The shepherds and the angels**

December 27: Matthew 2:1–12  
**The Magi worship Jesus**

December 28: Luke 2:21–32  
**Jesus is presented in the Temple**

December 29: Luke 2:36–38  
**The redemption of Jerusalem**

December 30: Matthew 2:13–18  
**Jesus is kept safe**

December 31: Psalm 90  
**Teach us to number our days**

**New Year's Day:** Exodus 33:7–23  
**Show me your glory**

January 2: Philippians 3:7–14  
**Pressing on to the goal**

January 3: Joshua 1:1–9  
**Be strong and courageous**

January 4: Matthew 6:25–34  
**Do not worry**

January 5: Romans 8:28–39  
**More than conquerors**

January 6: Philippians 4:4–9  
**Rejoice in the Lord**

## EASTER READING PLAN

**Palm Sunday:** Luke 19:28–44  
**The approach to Jerusalem**

**Monday:** Luke 19:45–48  
**Jesus at the Temple**

**Tuesday:** Philippians 2:5–11  
**Obedient to death**

**Wednesday:** 1 Peter 2:21–25  
**Christ suffered for you**

**Maundy Thursday:** Luke 22:7–71; John 17  
**The last supper; Jesus' arrest**

**Good Friday:** Luke 23; Isaiah 53  
**The crucifixion**

**Saturday:** Matthew 27:62–66  
**The guard at the tomb**

**Easter Day:** Matthew 28:1–15  
**The resurrection**

**Easter Monday:** John 20:24–31  
**My Lord and my God!**

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 15:12–58  
**Victory over death**

**Wednesday:** Acts 2:22–41  
**Why Jesus died**

**Thursday:** Romans 1:1–7  
**Jesus Christ our Lord**

**Friday:** Romans 6:5–14  
**United with him**

**Saturday:** Colossians 3:1–4  
**Raised with Christ**

**Sunday:** Revelation 1:4–18  
**Alive for ever and ever**

**Ascension Day**  
Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:1–11

**Pentecost (Whitsun)** Acts 1:8; 2:1–2; 19:1–7 Ephesians 4:30.

If you want to have an idea of what's in the Apocrypha, here is a suggested reading plan.

### Apocrypha

1. Tobit
2. Ecclesiasticus (sample chapters 1–23)
3. 1 Maccabees (1:1–9:22) or 2 Maccabees

4. Judith
5. The Wisdom of Solomon (chapters 1–9)
6. 2 Esdras (chapters 3–14)

## Noah's boat

**The boat God told Noah to build** (133 metres x 22.2 metres x 13.4 metres) was big enough to hold 432 double-decker buses.

There was plenty of room for the 35,000 or so animals that were saved from the flood with Noah and his family.



# When you are in need . . .

## Bible verses to look at when you need help

The Bible includes many promises that can help and encourage us in times of sadness, difficulty or stress. Here are some verses that show us God's help. Read and meditate over them:

- **When you feel afraid**  
'I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears' Psalm 34:4.  
See also Psalms 27; 46; 56; 91; Matthew 8:23-27.
- **When you feel alone**  
'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God' Isaiah 41:10.  
See also Psalms 23; 73:23-24; Isaiah 49:14-16; John 14:15-21.
- **When you are anxious or worried**  
'Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you' 1 Peter 5:7.  
See also Isaiah 43:1-13; Matthew 6:25-34; 11:28; Philippians 4:4-7.

• **When you have been bereaved**  
'Blessed are those who mourn; for they will be comforted' Matthew 5:4.  
See also Psalm 23; John 11:21-27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-5.

• **When you feel discouraged**  
'Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God' Psalm 42:5.  
See also Psalms 34:18; 40:1-3; Lamentations 3:20-23; Romans 8:28-39; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.

• **When you have doubts**  
'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' Mark 9:24.  
See also Isaiah 40:27-31; Matthew 11:1-6; John 20:19-29; Acts 17:22-28.

• **When you feel you have done wrong**  
'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' Romans 5:8.  
See also Psalm 51; Luke 15:11-24.

• **When you feel distant from God**  
'Come near to God and he will come near to you' James 4:8.  
See also Psalm 139:1-18; John 10:29; Acts 17:24-31.

• **When you are ill or in pain**  
'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' 2 Corinthians 12:9.  
See also Psalm 103:1-4; Romans 8:18-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

• **When you need peace**  
'You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you' Isaiah 26:3.  
See also John 14:27; Romans 5:1-5; Philippians 4:4-7.

• **When you are tempted**  
'We have one [a High Priest] who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin' Hebrews 4:15.  
See also Luke 4:1-13; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 1:2-6; 12-18; 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8-9.

• **When you are tired or weak**  
'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Matthew 11:28-29.  
See also Joshua 1:5-9; Isaiah 40:28-31; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 12:9-10; Philippians 4:12-13.

• **When you need guidance**  
'In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight' Proverbs 3:6.  
See also Psalm 48:14; John 14:16; 16:13.

## Model prayers of the Bible

### Complaint Confession

Numbers 14:13-19  
Psalm 32; Psalm 51;  
Ezra 9:5-15

### Dedication Dependence Despair For believers

2 Chronicles 6:14-42  
2 Chronicles 20:6-12  
Psalm 73

### For blessing For deliverance For healing For restoration For unity

Ephesians 1:16-23;  
Ephesians 3:15-21  
Psalm 90  
Isaiah 37:14-20  
Isaiah 38:3,9-20  
Daniel 9:4-19  
John 17

### In national crisis Intercession

2 Kings 19:14-19  
Genesis 18:16-33;  
Exodus 32:11-13

### Petition Praise Recommitment Thanksgiving

Acts 4:24-30  
Luke 1:46-55  
John 2:2-9  
1 Samuel 2:1-10;  
Psalm 16; 65

### The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13;  
Luke 11:2-4

### Trust

Psalm 23

## Some well-known Bible passages

The creation story	Genesis 1:1-2:7
The fall	Genesis 3:1-24
The flood	Genesis 6:1-9:17
The call of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17
The shepherd's psalm	Psalm 23
The birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-2:40
The golden rule	Luke 6:31
The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-11
The Lord's Prayer	Luke 11:2-4
The prodigal son	Luke 15:11-32
The good Samaritan	Luke 10:29-37
The last supper	Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26
The death of Christ	Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42
The resurrection of Christ	Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20
The ascension of Christ	Acts 1:1-12
The coming of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-21
The conversion of Paul	Acts 9:1-31
The love chapter	1 Corinthians 13
The faith chapter	Hebrews 11

## Where to find help in the book of Psalms

### Psalms to read when you're feeling:

Afraid 3, 13, 27, 46, 56, 59, 64, 91, 118, 121  
Alone 9, 12, 13, 27, 40, 43  
Angry 17, 28, 36, 37, 109  
Burned out 6, 63  
Cheated 41  
Confused 10, 12, 73  
Depressed 27, 34, 42, 43, 88, 143  
Disappointed 16, 92, 102, 130  
Distressed 13, 25, 31, 40, 107  
Guilty 19, 32, 38, 51  
Impatient 4, 13, 27, 37, 40, 89, 123  
Insecure 3, 5, 12, 91  
Insignificant 8, 23, 86, 90, 139  
Insulted 41, 70  
Jealous 37, 73  
Joyful 96, 149  
Like giving up 29, 43, 145  
Lost 23, 139  
Overwhelmed 25, 69, 142  
Proud 14, 30, 49  
Purposeless 25, 39, 90  
Self-confident 24  
Sorry/repentant 51, 66  
Stressed 12, 31, 34, 43, 56, 62, 84  
Thankful 30, 33, 66, 96, 103, 104, 113, 118, 136, 138  
Threatened 143, 144  
Trapped 7, 17, 42, 88, 142  
Vengeful 3, 109  
Weak 13, 18, 23, 28, 29, 62, 70, 86, 102  
Worried 37  
Worshipful 19, 29, 148, 150

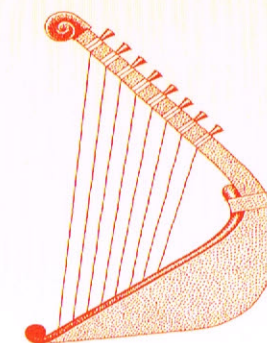
### Psalms to read when you're facing:

Competition 113  
Criticism 35, 56, 120  
Danger 11  
Death 23  
Decisions 1, 25, 62, 119  
Discouragement 12, 42, 55, 86, 107, 142  
Discrimination 94  
Doubts 34, 37  
Enemies 3, 25, 35, 41, 56, 59  
Evil people 10, 36, 49, 52, 109  
Hypocrisy 26, 50  
Injustice 7, 9, 10, 17, 56, 94  
Insults 35, 43  
Lies 5, 12, 120  
Old age 71, 92  
Persecution 1, 3, 7  
Poverty 12, 34, 146  
Punishment 6, 38, 39  
Sickness 6, 22, 23, 41, 116, 139  
Slaughter 46, 83  
Sorrow/grief 6, 23, 31, 71, 77, 94, 123  
Success 18, 112, 126, 128  
Temptation 38, 141  
Troubles 34, 55, 86, 102, 142, 145  
Verbal cruelty 35, 120

### Psalms to read when you want:

Acceptance 139  
Answers 4, 17, 119  
Confidence 46, 71  
Courage 11, 27  
Fellowship with God 5, 16, 25, 37  
Forgiveness 32, 38, 40, 51, 86, 103  
Friendship 16  
Godliness 15, 25  
Guidance/direction 1, 19, 32, 37, 89, 146

Healing 6, 41, 103  
Hope 16, 17, 18, 23, 27  
Humility 19, 131, 147  
Illumination 19  
Integrity 24, 25  
Joy 9, 16, 33, 47, 84, 96, 97, 98, 100  
Justice 2, 7, 14, 26, 37, 82  
Knowledge of God 18, 19, 29, 65, 89, 97, 103, 145, 147  
Leadership 72  
Miracles 60, 111  
Money 15, 16, 49  
Peace 3, 4, 85  
Perspective 2, 11, 73  
Prayer 5, 17, 27, 61  
Protection 7, 16, 18, 23, 31, 91, 125  
Provision 34, 81  
Reassurance 15, 23, 26, 112, 121  
Rest 23, 27  
Salvation 103, 146  
Security 34, 84, 91  
Vindication 9, 35, 109  
Wisdom 1, 16, 19, 64, 111





# From Abraham to the Exodus

## What are the main events in the life of Abraham?

	Genesis reference	New Testament comment	Abraham's age
Abram is born	11:26		
Called by God	12:1-3	Hebrews 11:8	
Enters into Canaan	12:4-9	Acts 7:2-8	75
Abram and Lot separate	13:1-18		
Abram rescues Lot	14:1-17		
Abram is blessed by Melchizedek	14:18-24	Hebrews 7:1-10	
God's covenant with Abram: his faith is reckoned to him as righteousness	15:1-21	Romans 4:1-17 Galatians 3:6-25 Hebrews 6:13-20	85
Abraham fathers Ishmael by Hagar	16:1-16		86
Abraham is circumcised and promised a son by Sarah	17:1-27	Romans 4:18-25 Hebrews 11:11, 12	99
Abraham pleads for Sodom	18:20-33		
Sodom destroyed, Lot saved	19:1-38		
Isaac is born	21:1-7		100
Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away	21:8-21	Galatians 4:21-31	103
Abraham is challenged to sacrifice Isaac	22:1-19	Hebrews 11:17-19 James 2:20-24	
Sarah dies and is buried at Hebron	23:1-20		137
Abraham sends for bride for Isaac – Rebecca	24:1-67		140
Abraham dies	25:1-11		175

## What were the ten plagues of Egypt?

Exodus 7-12

**Moses warned Pharaoh of ten plagues on the land of Egypt. Since the Egyptian gods were thought to be bound up with the forces of nature, each disaster was an attack on their power.**

**1. Water to blood** Exodus 7:14-24  
The Nile turned to blood. Possibly red dirt or algae clogged the Nile and killed the fish, making the river the Egyptians regarded as the source of life smell of death. The first six plagues all seem to emerge from the Nile and demonstrate God's power over it.

**2. Frogs** Exodus 8:1-15  
Frogs overran the land and when they died, polluted Egypt.

**3. Gnats** Exodus 8:16-19  
A small stinging insect, such as the sand flea, is probably meant. Egypt's magicians could not repeat this miracle and told Pharaoh it was the work of God.

**4. Flies** Exodus 8:20-32  
Swarms, possibly of biting swamp flies, infested Egypt. The diseases they bear may have been the source of the fifth and sixth plagues.

**5. Death of cattle** Exodus 9:1-7  
Many believe that the plague that struck the cattle of Egypt was anthrax. The Israelite cattle were immune, showing that God distinguished between his people and their oppressors.

**6. Boils** Exodus 9:8-12  
Probably skin anthrax, carried by the bites of the flies, which fed on the rotting frogs.

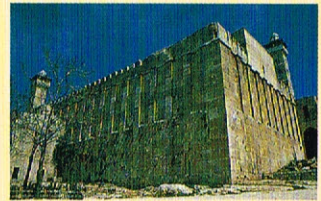
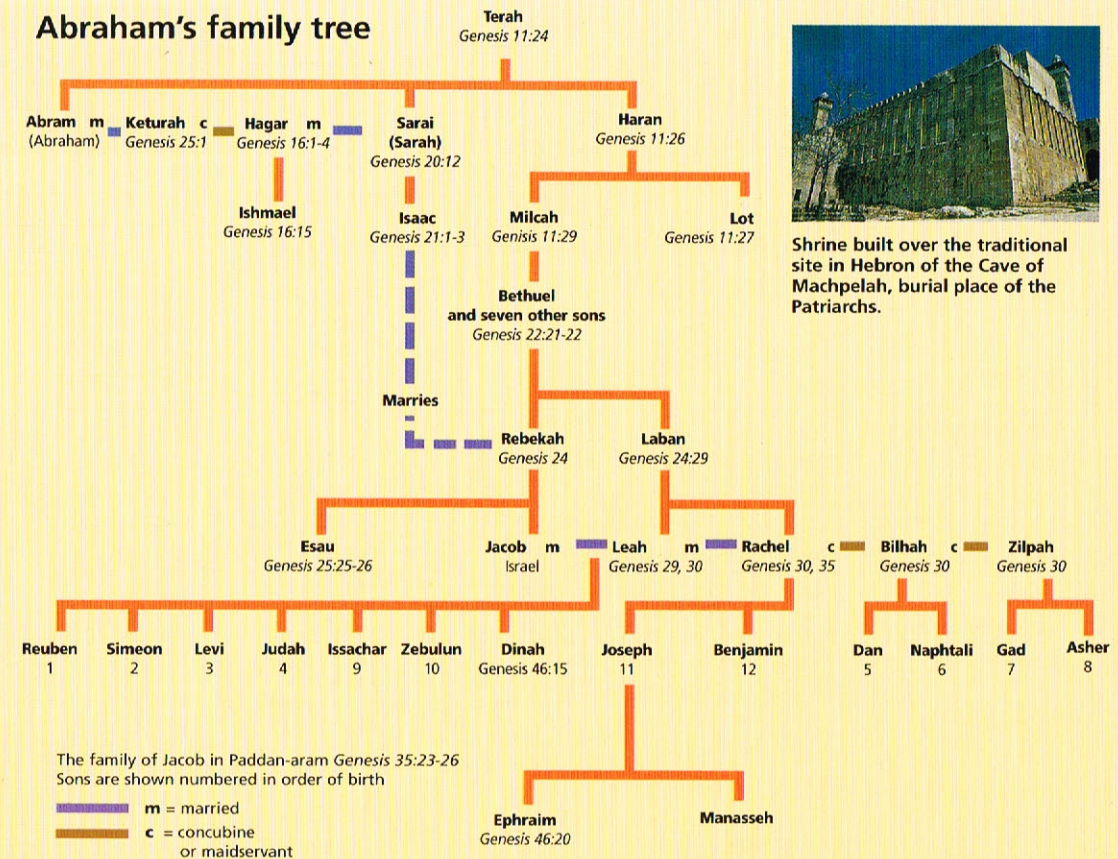
**7. Hail** Exodus 9:13-35  
The storm ruined the barley and flax, but spared the land of Goshen, occupied by the Israelites.

**8. Locusts** Exodus 10:1-20  
Locusts stripped the land of any remaining crops. Following the other plagues that devastated the economy of Egypt, this plague was disastrous.

**9. Darkness** Exodus 10:21-29  
The sun, representing the Egyptian god Ka, was darkened for three days. Some suggest this was due to a khamsin, a fierce wind that fills the air with dirt. The text, however, indicates a deeper and more terrifying darkness.

**10. Death of the firstborn** Exodus 11:1-12:36  
This final plague took the firstborn of every Egyptian household, but left the Israelites untouched. This caused such terror that Pharaoh finally urged Moses to lead Israel out of his land to freedom. The gods of Egypt were shown to be powerless before the God of the Hebrews.

## Abraham's family tree



Shrine built over the traditional site in Hebron of the Cave of Machpelah, burial place of the Patriarchs.

## What happened to the Israelites during the Exodus?

1. The Israelites are told to leave Egypt by the Pharaoh, probably Rameses II. The years of slavery are over. Exodus 12:29-36
2. They travel to the region of the Bitter Lakes. Exodus 12:37-39; 13:17-14:4
3. Rameses changes his mind and pursues his escaped slaves. He traps the Israelites at the sea. Exodus 14:5-12
4. God tells Moses to hold out his stick over the sea. The waters are driven back and the people cross on dry land. The Egyptians are drowned as the water returns. Exodus 14:13-31

5. After three days they arrive at Marah – but the water is too bitter to drink. Exodus 15:22-26

6. God first provides manna and quails to eat. Exodus 16

7. God provides water from a rock. The Amalekites attack and are defeated. Moses' father-in-law advises Moses. Exodus 17-18

8. Israel receives the Law from God at Mount Sinai. Exodus 19-32

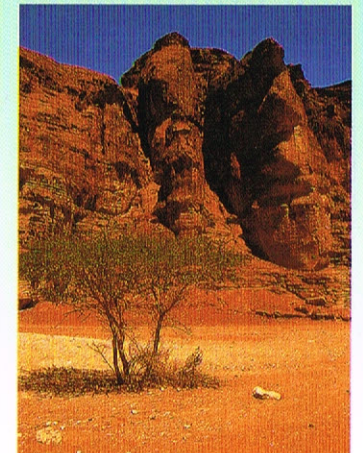
9. Miriam becomes leprous for her jealousy and rebellion against Moses. Numbers 12:1-16

10. Eleven days after leaving Mount Sinai, Moses sends twelve spies into Canaan. Numbers 13:1-24

11. The spies return. Ten bring bad reports, leading the people to rebellion. They want a new leader to take them back to Egypt. Numbers 13:5-14:10

12. As punishment, God sends them to wander in the desert forty years before entering Canaan. Numbers 14:11-38

Cliffs in the Negev.





# The judges, the kings and the prophets

## The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Reuben  
Judah  
Dan  
Naphtali  
Simeon  
Zebulun

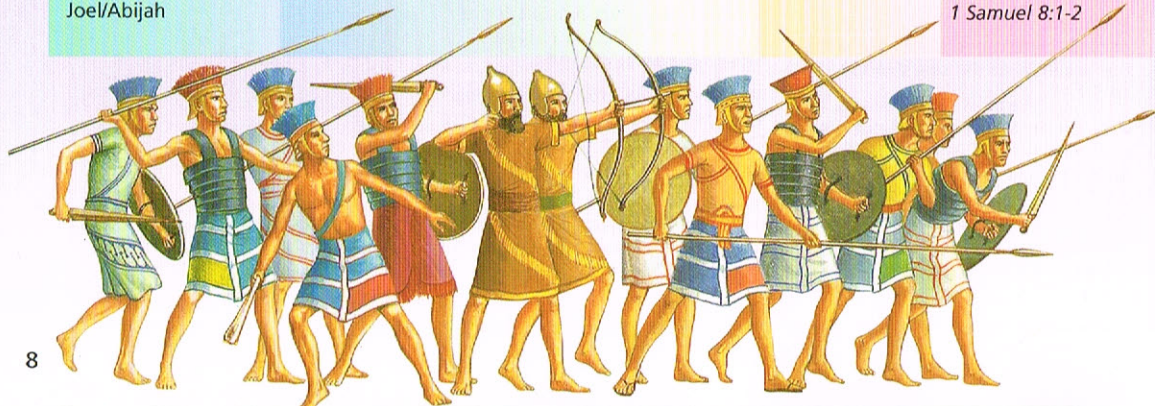
Gad  
Joseph  
Levi  
Issachar  
Asher  
Benjamin



Worship site at Dan.

## Who were the judges of Israel and their adversaries?

Judge	Actions	Years the judge led Israel	Reference in book of Judges
<b>Oppressor</b>		Years of oppression	
<i>Cushan, king of Aram</i>		8	3:8
Othniel	Freed Israel from Mesopotamian oppressors	40	3:7-11
<i>Eglon, king of Moab</i>		18	3:14
Ehud	Freed Israel from Moabite oppressors	80	3:12-30
Shamgar	Freed Israel from Philistine oppressors	10	3:31
<i>Jabin, king of Canaan</i>		20	4:3
Deborah	Deborah the only woman judge With Barak, freed Israel from Canaanite oppressors	40	4:4-5:31
<i>Midianites</i>		7	6:1
Gideon	Sought a sign from God Freed Israel from Midianite oppressors	40	6:11-8:35
<i>Abimelech</i>	Terrorized the people as self-proclaimed king of Israel	3	9
Tola		23	10:1-2
Jair		22	10:3-5
<i>Ammonites</i>		18	10:7-9
Jephthah	Freed Israel from Ammonite oppressors	6	10:6-12:7
Ibzan		7	12:8-10
Elon		10	12:11-12
Abdon		8	12:13-15
<i>Philistines</i>		40	13:1
Samson	Famous for his remarkable strength	20	13-16
Eli	Priest and judge	40	1 Samuel 1:1-4:18
Samuel	Prophet and judge	21	1 Samuel 1:11-13:15
Joel/Abijah			1 Samuel 8:1-2



## Who were the kings and prophets of Judah and Israel?

Judah King	Prophet	Date BC	Israel King	Prophet	Assyria
Rehoboam	Shemaiah	931	Jeroboam I	Ahijah	
<b>Egypt invades Jerusalem</b>					
Abijah	Iddo	913	<b>War with Judah</b>		
Asa	Azariah	911			
	Hanani	910	Nadab		
		909	Baasha	Jehu	
<b>Allies with Syria against Baasha</b>		886	Elah		
		885	Zimri		
		885	Tibni*		
		885	Omri		883-859 Ashurnasirpal II
			<b>Samaria becomes capital</b>		
		874	Ahab	Elijah, Micaiah	
Jehoshaphat	Jehu	870	<b>Allies with Judah against Syria</b>		
	Jahaziel	853	Ahaziah	Elisha	858-824 Shalmaneser III
	Eliezer	852	Jehoram Joram		
Jehoram Joram		848			
Ahaziah		841	Jehu		
Athaliah		841			
Jehoash Joash	Joel	835			
	Zechariah	814	Jehoahaz		
		798	Jehoash Joash		
Amaziah		796	<b>Fights Amaziah</b>		
		782	Jeroboam II	Jonah	782-773 Shalmaneser IV
Uzziah Azariah		767		Amos	
	Isaiah	753	Zechariah	Hosea	
Jotham regent		752	Shallum		
		752	Menahem		744-727 Tiglath-Pileser III
		742	Pekahiah		
			<b>Pays tribute to Assyria</b>		
Jotham		740	Pekah	Oded	
			<b>Fights Assyria</b>		
			<b>Many deported</b>		
Ahaz	Micah	732	Hoshea		
<b>Tribute to Assyria</b>			<b>Tribute to Assyria</b>		726-722 Shalmaneser V
		724	<b>Fall of Samaria</b>		721-705 Sargon II
Hezekiah		715			704-681 Sennacherib
<b>Sennacherib invades</b>		701			
Manasseh		687			680-669 Esarhaddon
Amon		642			
Josiah	Nahum	640			
<b>Religious reform</b>	Zephaniah				
	Habakkuk	612			<b>Nineveh falls</b>
Jehoahaz	Jeremiah	609			
Jehoiakim	Uriah	609			
		605			<b>Egypt loses battle of Carchemish</b>
<b>Tribute to Egypt</b>					
Jehoiachin		598	<b>Many deported to Babylon</b>		
Zedekiah		597			
<b>Fall of Jerusalem</b>		587			

\* See 1 Kings 16:21-22





# The Jewish year

## What Jewish festivals were celebrated in Bible times?

### Passover (Pesach) and Unleavened Bread

Commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt  
*Exodus 12:11-30; Leviticus 23:4-8; Numbers 28:16-25; Matthew 26:17*  
Each family celebrated the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, and symbolically re-enacted the first Passover as they ate their own special meal. The celebration continued for seven days as they commemorated the Exodus and wilderness wanderings by eating unleavened bread, recalling the haste with which they left Egypt, when they did not have time to let the bread rise.

### Firstfruits

*Leviticus 23:9-14; Numbers 28:26-31*  
A barley harvest feast at the end of the seven-day Passover festival

### Second Passover

*Numbers 9:9-13; 2 Chronicles 30:2-3*  
For those unable to keep the first Passover

### Pentecost

(Shavuot, Weeks, Firstfruits, Harvest)  
A celebration of harvest  
*Leviticus 23:9-22; Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Acts 2:1*  
At Pentecost, seven weeks after Passover, the Jews celebrated the gathering in of the wheat harvest. The priests offered symbolically two loaves made from new flour. This feast also celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai.

**Trumpets** (Rosh Hashanah, New Year, Judgment and Memorial)  
A time of reckoning with God  
*Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6*  
This two-day celebration marked by the blowing of trumpets to greet the civil new year, was also

the beginning of the most solemn month in the year. The Israelites prepared themselves for Yom Kippur, which comes ten days later, by praising God, whose standard they had failed to meet, and recounting his greatness, love and mercy.

### Day of Atonement

(Yom ha-Kippurim, Yom Kippur)  
The most holy day in the Jewish year  
*Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11*  
On Yom Kippur Israel confessed the nation's sins, and asked forgiveness and cleansing. A

scapegoat was sent into the desert, carrying symbolically the people's sin. The high priest entered the Most Holy Place of the Temple on this day alone. Recognizing this day as the holiest of feast days, Jews neither ate nor drank for twenty-four hours.

### Tabernacles

(Succoth, Booths, Ingathering)  
Commemorated Israel's wanderings in the wilderness  
*Leviticus 23:33-44; Numbers 29:12-40; John 7:2*  
A joyful harvest festival. During the seven-day celebration the people thanked God for protecting them in the wilderness and for the harvest. For seven days they lived in shelters made of branches, to remind them of their time living in tents in the wilderness.



A Jewish family celebrate Passover in modern Israel.

### The Sabbath

A rest day commanded by God (*Exodus 20:8-11*), following his own example (*Genesis 2:3*) and to be a mark of God's people (*Exodus 31:13-7*). Every seventh day was set aside as the Sabbath. By New Testament times, rules for Sabbath

keeping had become very complicated (*Isaiah 56; 58:13-14, Matthew 12:1-14*).

### Dedication

(Hanukkah, Lights, Maccabees)  
Commemorated the rededication of the Temple in 164 BC

*1 Maccabees 4:41-49; John 10:22*

On Hanukkah the Jews celebrated the expulsion of the Syrians by Judas Maccabeus in 164 BC, and the cleansing and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple, which the Syrians had desecrated. Lighting a new candle each day for eight days, the Jews commemorated the miracle of the Temple's holy candelabrum: for the rededication they had only one day's worth of consecrated oil but it burnt for eight full days, the time required to consecrate more oil.

### Purim (Lots)

Celebrated the failure of Haman's plot to destroy the Jews  
*Esther 9:21, 27-28*  
A time of feasting and joy when the people celebrated the deliverance of the Jews from death through the bravery of the Jewish Queen Esther of Persia.

## The Hebrew Calendar

Month	Name (name before Exile)	Modern equivalent	Weather	Harvests/Agriculture	Festivals/Holy Days
1	<b>Nisan</b> (Abib)	March/April	Rain ('latter rain')	Flax harvest	•14th Passover •15th-21st Unleavened Bread •16th Firstfruits
2	<b>Iyyar</b> (Ziv)	April/May	Dry	Barley harvest	•14th Second Passover
3	<b>Sivan</b>	May/June	Warm and dry	Wheat harvest	•6th Pentecost (= Harvest, Firstfruits, Shavuot, Weeks)
4	<b>Tammuz</b>	June/July	Hot and dry		
5	<b>Abu</b> (Ab)	July/August	Very hot and dry		
6	<b>Elul</b>	August/September	Very hot and dry	Date harvest Grape harvest Summer fig harvest	
7	<b>Tishri</b> (Ethanim)	September/October	Rain begins	Olive harvest Grape harvest	• 1st Trumpets (= Rosh Hashanah) •10th Day of Atonement (= Yom Kippur) •15th-21st Tabernacles (= Ingathering, Succoth, Booths) •22nd Simhath Torah (= Solemn Assembly)
8	<b>Heshvan</b> (Bul) = Marcheshvan	October/November	Rainy ('former rain') Ploughing	Olive harvest	
9	<b>Chislev</b>	November/December	Cool and rainy	Winter fig harvest Sowing	•25th-2nd Tebeth Dedication (= Hanukkah, Lights)
10	<b>Tebeth</b>	December/January	Cold, hail and snow	Sowing	
11	<b>Shebat</b>	January/February	Warmer and rain	Almond blossoms, Sowing	
12	<b>Adar</b>	February/March	Thunder and hail	Citrus fruit harvest Sowing	•14th-15th Purim (= Lots)

The Jewish year is strictly lunar, with lunar months averaging 29.5 days, giving 354 days in a year. A thirteenth month, Second Adar, was added about every three years to align the calendar with the solar year.



# Animal, vegetable and mineral . . .

## Why are some mountains of the Bible important?

Mount	Height (in feet/metres above sea level)	Bible reference	Biblical significance
Ararat	16,946/5,165	Genesis 8:4	Noah's ark came to rest
Sinai (also called Horeb)	7,500/2,286	Exodus 3,19 1 Kings 19	God revealed his name and his Law to Moses. Elijah fled there from Jezebel.
Ebal	3,100/945	Deuteronomy 11:29	Moses reminded Israel of the Law's blessings and curses
Gerizim	2,900/884		
Nebo	2,700/823	Deuteronomy 32:49	Moses died here
Halak	1,640/500	Joshua 11:17	Southern boundary of Joshua's conquest
Hermon	9,100/2,774	Joshua 11:17 Matthew 17:1	Northern boundary of Joshua's conquest ?Jesus transfigured here
Tabor	1,900/580	Judges 4:6 Matthew 17:1	Deborah's forces fought Sisera ?Jesus was transfigured here
Gilboa	1,700/518	1 Samuel 31:1	Saul killed in battle
Carmel	1,750/535	1 Kings 18:20	Elijah defeated prophets of Baal
Moriah		2 Chronicles 3:1	Early name for Mount Zion
Zion		Psalms 48:1, 2	Site of the Temple
Temptation		Luke 4:5	Jesus was tempted by Satan
Beatitudes		Matthew 5-7	Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
Olives	2,600/811	Zechariah 14:4 Matthew 26:30	Site of Bethany, Gethsemane, Jesus' ascension and his predicted return

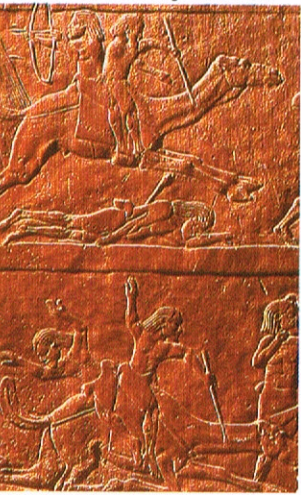
The foothills of Mount Hermon, northern Palestine.



## Some animals in the Bible

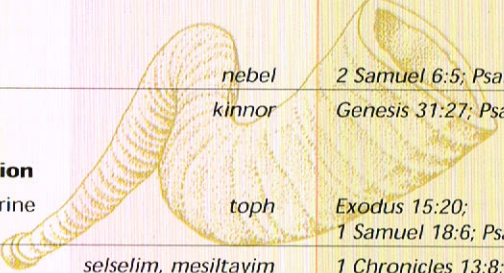
**Antelope** Deuteronomy 14:5  
**Ape** 2 Chronicles 9:21  
**Baboon** 2 Chronicles 9:21  
**Bat** Leviticus 11:19  
**Bear** 1 Samuel 17:34-36  
**Boar** Psalm 80:13  
**Camel** Job 1:3  
**Cattle** Genesis 12:16  
**Coney**, or rock badger  
Deuteronomy 14:7  
**Deer** Deuteronomy 12:15  
**Dog** 1 Samuel 17:43  
**Donkey** Genesis 12:16  
**Fox** Song of Solomon 2:15  
**Gazelle** Deuteronomy 12:15  
**Goat** Genesis 27:9  
**Horse** Genesis 47:17  
**Hyena** Isaiah 34:14  
**Ibex** Deuteronomy 14:5  
**Jackal** Isaiah 34:13  
**Leopard** Jeremiah 13:23  
**Lion** Judges 14:5-6  
**Mule** 1 Kings 1:33  
**Ox** Deuteronomy 14:4  
**Pig** Leviticus 11:7  
**Rabbit** Leviticus 11:6  
**Rat** Leviticus 11:29  
**Roe deer** Deuteronomy 14:5  
**Sheep** 1 Samuel 16:11  
**Weasel** Leviticus 11:29  
**Wild goat** Deuteronomy 14:5  
**Wolf** Matthew 7:15

Camels from an Assyrian relief.



## Musical instruments of the Bible

Instrument	Hebrew	Bible references
<b>Wind</b>		
Ram's horn	shophar, yobel	Exodus 19:13; Psalm 81:3; Joshua 6:4
Trumpet	hasoserah	Numbers 10:2-10; Psalm 150:3
Flute	'ugab	Job 21:12; 30:31; Luke 7:32
Double pipe	halil	1 Kings 1:40; Isaiah 5:12
<b>String</b>		
Lyre	nebel	2 Samuel 6:5; Psalm 33:2
Harp	kinnor	Genesis 31:27; Psalm 43:4
<b>Percussion</b>		
Tambourine	toph	Exodus 15:20; 1 Samuel 18:6; Psalm 149:3
Cymbals	selselim, mesiltayim	1 Chronicles 13:8; Psalm 150:5; Nehemiah 12:27;



## Some birds in the Bible

**Black kite** Leviticus 11:14  
**Cormorant** Leviticus 11:17  
**Desert owl** Leviticus 11:18  
**Dove** Genesis 8:8  
**Eagle** Leviticus 11:13  
**Falcon** Deuteronomy 14:13  
**Great owl** Leviticus 11:17  
**Gull** Leviticus 11:16  
**Hawk** Leviticus 11:16  
**Hen** Matthew 23:37  
**Heron** Leviticus 11:19  
**Horned owl** Leviticus 11:18  
**Osprey** Leviticus 11:17  
**Owl** Leviticus 11:17  
**Partridge** Jeremiah 17:11  
**Pigeon** Luke 2:24  
**Quail** Exodus 16:13  
**Raven** Genesis 8:7  
**Red kite** Leviticus 11:14  
**Rooster** Matthew 26:34  
**Screech owl** Isaiah 34:11  
**Sparrow** Psalm 84:3  
**Stork** Leviticus 11:19  
**Swallow** Psalm 84:3  
**Swift** Isaiah 38:14  
**Thrush** Isaiah 38:14  
**Vulture** Leviticus 11:13  
**White owl** Leviticus 11:18



The exact identity of many of the items listed on this page is uncertain.

Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself. . .

Psalm 84:3



# The Exile and after...

## The three Jewish Returns from Exile

Scripture	First Return Ezra 1-6	Second Return Ezra 7-10	Third Return Nehemiah 1-2
Date	538 BC	458 BC	445 BC
King of Persia	Cyrus the Great 550-529	Artaxerxes I 465-425	Artaxerxes I
Leader of Return	Zerubbabel	Ezra	Nehemiah
Leader's role	Governor	Priest	Governor
Number of returnees	49,897	1,774	Armed escort
Other leaders at the time	Joshua the priest Haggai, Zechariah	Nehemiah, Malachi	Ezra, Malachi
Result	Temple foundations laid Walls rebuilt Work stops	Law taught	Jerusalem's people separated from non-Jews

## Rulers of the Persian Empire

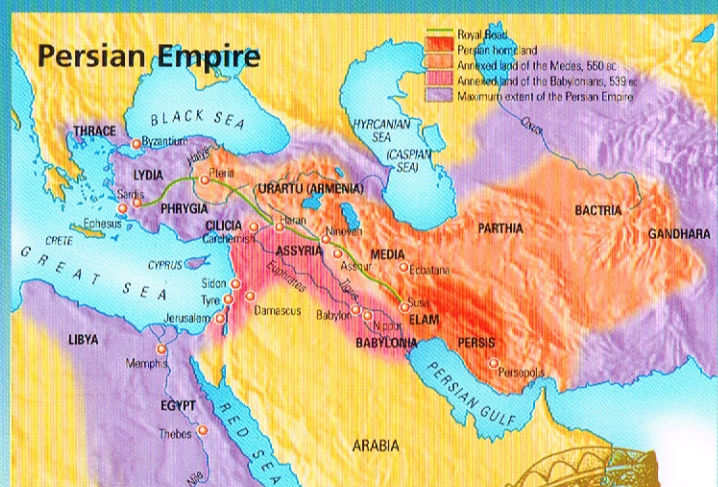
**Cyrus II 'the Great' 550-529**  
The conqueror of Babylon, Cyrus II reversed previous policy and returned exiled peoples to their homelands. By his decree, the Jews returned to Judea.  
*2 Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1-6; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; Daniel 10:1*

**Cambyses II 529-522**

**Darius I 522-486**  
Darius I, a strong ruler, confirmed the decree of Cyrus II and ordered the Jerusalem Temple to be completed at Persian expense.  
*Ezra 5:3-6:15; Nehemiah 12:22; Haggai 1:1; Zechariah 1:1*

**Xerxes I 486-465**  
Xerxes I, probably Ahasuerus in the book of Esther, failed in two attempts to invade Greece.  
*Esther*

**Artaxerxes I 465-425** Nehemiah was cupbearer to Artaxerxes I, who granted his request and made him governor of Judea. During his rule the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt.  
*Ezra 7:1, 21-26; Nehemiah 2:1-8*



**Xerxes II 425-424**

**Darius II 423-404**

**Artaxerxes II 404-359**

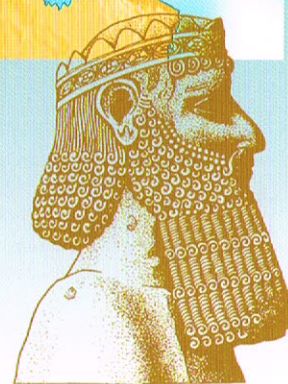
**Artaxerxes III 359-338**

**Arses 338-336**

**Darius II 336-330**

*All dates are approximate and bc*

Relief of head of Darius I.



## What does the Old Testament Apocrypha consist of?

The Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical literature is a collection of books and additions to Old Testament books written between 300 BC and AD 100. Many of these books are found in the Greek version of the Jewish Bible (the Septuagint). From there they passed into the Christian Old Testament of the Catholic and Orthodox traditions. However, in the first century A.D. they were rejected by the Jews as Scripture and so did not find a place in the Hebrew Bible, which is the basis of the Old Testament, according to the Protestant tradition. The books of the Apocrypha are interesting, and valuable as historical documents, and range from narrative history to pious fiction.

### 1 Esdras

An historical account, paralleling parts of Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, of the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity.

### 2 Esdras (4 Ezra)

Apocalyptic work dealing with problem of divine justice in the light of destruction of the temple in A.D. 70

### Tobit

A didactic fiction about the trials of Tobit, a righteous Jew, who lived in eighth century BC Nineveh.

### Judith

The fictional exploits of a Jewish heroine, Judith, who assassinated the Assyrian general Holofernes.

### Additions to Esther (also known as The Rest of Esther)

Five additions which give a more religious emphasis to the book of Esther.

### The Wisdom of Solomon

A first century BC exhortation to wisdom.

### Ecclesiasticus also known as the Wisdom of Sirach/Ben Sirach

A collection of the writings of Jesus (Jeshua) ben-Sira (about 180 BC) giving his advice for a successful life – combining personal piety with practical wisdom.

### Baruch (1 Baruch)

This book was allegedly written by Baruch, a friend of Jeremiah, and was meant as an encouragement to Jews in the Babylonian exile of 597 BC.

### The Letter of Jeremiah

An attack on idolatry in the form of a letter from Jeremiah, often added to the book of Baruch.

### The Song of the Three Holy Children

A hymn of praise sung by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace described in Daniel.

### The Story of Susanna

The story of a virtuous woman who was falsely accused of adultery and defended by Daniel.

### Bel and the Dragon

A folkloric story written to ridicule idolatry.

### The Prayer of Manasseh

The prayer of the idolatrous king Manasseh, begging for forgiveness, as referred to in 2 Chronicles 33:11-19.

### 1 Maccabees

The struggle of Jews against Hellenistic rulers (175-134 BC), particularly the battle with Antiochus Epiphanes.

### 2 Maccabees

A narrative of the Maccabean revolt.

### 3 Maccabees

An account of Jewish life under Ptolemy IV (221-204 BC).

### 4 Maccabees

A tract about the rule of reason over passion, set against the background of cruel martyrdom.

### Psalms 151

## What is the Septuagint?

Alexandria, the capital of Egypt under the Ptolemies, had a large community of Jews who could no longer understand Hebrew well. They wanted a Greek translation of their Scriptures, and tradition has it that 72 scholars were sent from Jerusalem to complete the work. The translation became known as the Septuagint (= 70), sometimes written as LXX (70 in Roman numerals). To begin with, only the first five books of the Old Testament were included, but other books were added later.

ΚΑΙ ΔΟΥΘΗΤΩΣ ΜΗΓ  
ΜΑΚΑΙΗΛΟΙΡΗ  
ΠΙΜΕΛΙΑΚΑΙ ΤΥΝΗ  
ΗΑΝΑΡΕΣΗ ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙ  
ΛΕΙΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣΕΙΑΝ  
ΤΙΑΣΤΙΚΑΙ ΗΡΕΣΕ  
ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙ ΤΟΤΙΡΑ  
ΓΜΑΚΑΙ ΕΠΙΟΙΗΣΕ

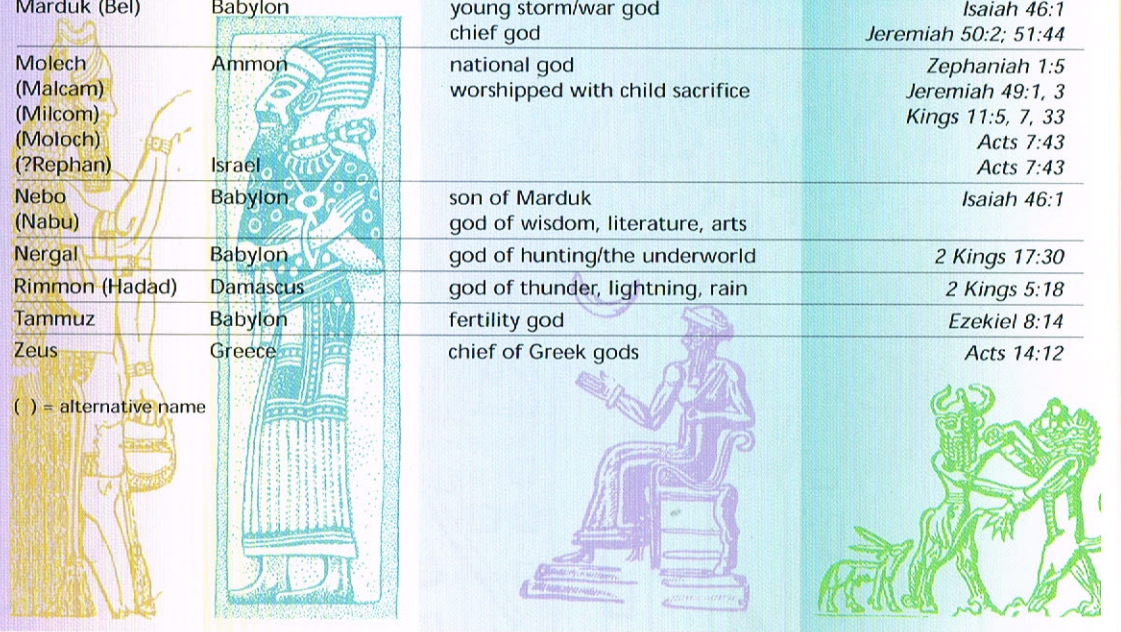




# Varieties of religion in Bible times

False gods of Bible times			
Name	Where worshipped	Description	Scripture
Artemis (Diana)	Asia	many-breasted fertility goddess	Acts 19:28
Asherah	Canaan	goddess of the sea wife of El	Judges 3:7 1 Kings 18:19 2 Kings 21:3 2 Chronicles 15:16; 24:18
symbol – a pole			
Ashtoreth (Astarte Queen of Heaven)	Canaan Sidon	mother-goddess; fertility goddess	Judges 2:13; 10:6 1 Samuel 12:10 1 Kings 11:5, 33 Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25
Baal	Canaan	young storm god chief god of Canaan until the Exile; the name Baal is often linked with place names, such as Gad, Peor, etc.	Judges 2:13; 1 Kings 16:31-32; 18:18-29
Baal-Zebub	Philistia	god of Ekron	2 Kings 1:2
Castor, Pollux	Greece	twin sons of Zeus	Acts 28:11
Chemosh	Moab ?Ammon	national god of war	Numbers 21:29 Judges 11:24 1 Kings 11:7, 33 Jeremiah 48:7
Dagon	Philistia	national god of rain/agriculture	Judges 16:23 1 Samuel 5:2-7
Hermes (Mercury)	Greece	messenger god, god of cunning, theft	Acts 14:12
Marduk (Bel)	Babylon	young storm/war god chief god	Isaiah 46:1 Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44
Molech (Malcam) (Milcom) (Moloch) (?Rephan)	Ammon	national god worshipped with child sacrifice	Zephaniah 1:5 Jeremiah 49:1, 3 Kings 11:5, 7, 33 Acts 7:43 Acts 7:43
Nebo (Nabu)	Babylon	son of Marduk god of wisdom, literature, arts	Isaiah 46:1
Nergal	Babylon	god of hunting/the underworld	2 Kings 17:30
Rimmon (Hadad)	Damascus	god of thunder, lightning, rain	2 Kings 5:18
Tammuz	Babylon	fertility god	Ezekiel 8:14
Zeus	Greece	chief of Greek gods	Acts 14:12

( ) = alternative name



## Some Jewish groups mentioned in the New Testament

### RELIGIOUS

**Pharisees**  
This group probably emerged, like the Essenes, from supporters of the Maccabees in the revolt against Antiochus. They studied the law of the Pentateuch (the written Law) and also conserved and developed additional teachings based on the Pentateuch (oral law), intended to make the laws of the Bible applicable to the ever-changing circumstances of the people of Israel. Like all other groups of the time, they believed themselves to be the only true upholders of God's covenant with Israel. The name 'Pharisees' might originally have meant 'separated ones'. It is clear that the Pharisees were influential in New Testament times, and the Gospels portray the relationship between them and Jesus as often bitter.

**Sadducees**  
A small Jewish sect made up mainly of priests and members of the Sanhedrin council (Acts 4:1; 5:17). Their dislike of all change and a desire to keep everything as it was led to frequent quarrels with the

Pharisees. The name 'Sadducee' probably means 'heir of Zadok' (priest of David and Solomon). They believed that the Mosaic Law was the supreme authority, and that no oral law or tradition was equal to Scripture. In contrast to the Pharisees, they did not believe in a resurrection, angels or spirits (Mark 12:18; Acts 23:8). The Sadducees kept on good terms with the Romans when they came to power.

**Essenes**  
A Jewish sect whose members lived a form of monastic life. Sometimes living in isolated communities such as Qumran (near to where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered), their name might mean 'pious ones'. If some of the Dead Sea Scrolls are Essene works, then it appears that the Essenes believed in an imminent final battle between good and evil and devoted themselves to the study and interpretation of scripture and to the worship of God alongside the angels.

### POLITICAL

**Herodians**  
A sect of Jews who agreed to subject themselves to Roman rule. They believed that Herod and his descendants were the last hope for Israel to maintain their own national government. They helped plot the death of Jesus (Mark 12:13; Matthew 22:16).

**Zealots**  
A strongly nationalistic Jewish sect whose slogan was: 'No Lord but Jehovah.' They combined the religious practices of the Pharisees with hatred for any non-Jewish government (Matthew 10:4).

**Galileans**  
A sect that believed that foreign control of Israel was against Scripture, and therefore refused to acknowledge foreign rulers. Similar politically to the Zealots, the Galileans were eventually absorbed into that sect (Acts 5:37).

Pharisee.



Sadducee.



High Priest.



### SOCIAL

**Scribes**  
Jewish men who copied, taught and explained the Law. Many Scribes were Pharisees, and, like them, believed in the authority of oral traditions (Luke 20:46). As teachers of the Law, they were important in Jewish society, and also served as judges or lawyers.

**Nazirites**  
Jews who took a vow of separation for a limited time or for life. Easily recognized because they vowed never to cut their hair, Nazirites separated themselves by their lifestyle to be close to God (Numbers 6:2, 4-6; Judges 13:5; 1 Samuel 1:11; Acts 18:18; 21:23-24).

**Proselytes**  
A non-Jew who had been converted to Judaism. By being circumcised, a convert was thought to have joined the family of Abraham and was expected to follow the Law.

**Publicans**  
Jews who collected taxes for the Roman government. Their willingness to work in the government was seen as disloyal to Israel (Luke 19:1-9).

Some of the Levites (Temple assistants) served as Temple guards.

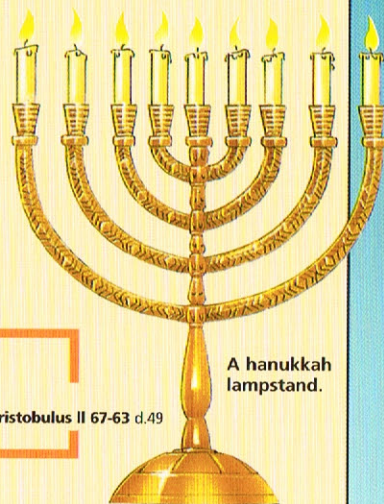
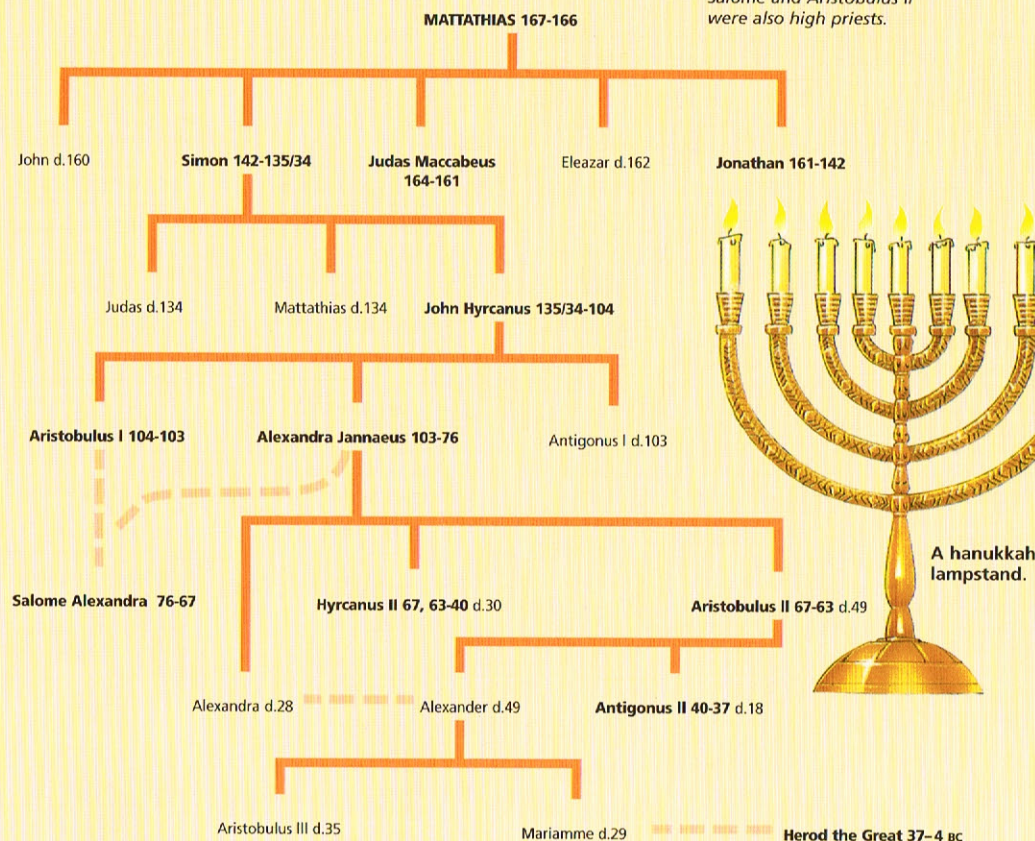




# The political background of Jesus' life

## The Hasmoneans 167-37 BC

**Bold** = ruler  
Married  
All rulers except Alexandra Salome and Aristobulus II were also high priests.



## Roman official posts in New Testament times

<b>Caesar</b>	Family name of Julius Caesar taken by Augustus and used as a title for the emperor from that time. <i>Luke 2:1; 3:1</i>
<b>Proconsul</b>	Governor of a province administered by the Roman Senate. <i>Acts 13:7; 18:12</i>
<b>Procurator</b>	Imperial financial agent in a Senate province, or governor of a minor province under an imperial legate. <i>Matthew 27:11; Acts 23:24; 24:27</i>
<b>Tribune</b>	High-ranking military officer in charge of up to 1,000 men. <i>Acts 21:31</i>
<b>Centurion</b>	Officer in charge of 100 men. <i>Mark 15:39; Acts 10:1</i>

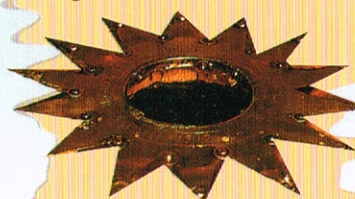


## Who were the Roman emperors of Bible times?

Name	Reign	Christian events	Bible reference
Julius	49-44 BC		
Augustus	27 BC-AD 14	Birth of Jesus	<i>Luke 2:1</i>
Tiberius	AD 14-37	Ministry and death of Jesus	<i>Luke 3:1</i>
Caligula	AD 37-41		
Claudius	AD 41-54	Jews expelled from Rome	<i>Acts 11:28; 18:2</i>
Nero	AD 54-68	Trial of Paul Persecution at Rome	<i>Acts 25:10-12; 27:24</i>
Galba	AD 68-69		
Otho	AD 69		
Vitellius	AD 69		
Vespasian	AD 69-79	Jerusalem destroyed	
Titus	AD 79-81		
Domitian	AD 81-96	?Persecution	
Nerva	AD 96-98		
Trajan	AD 98-117		
Hadrian	AD 117-138		

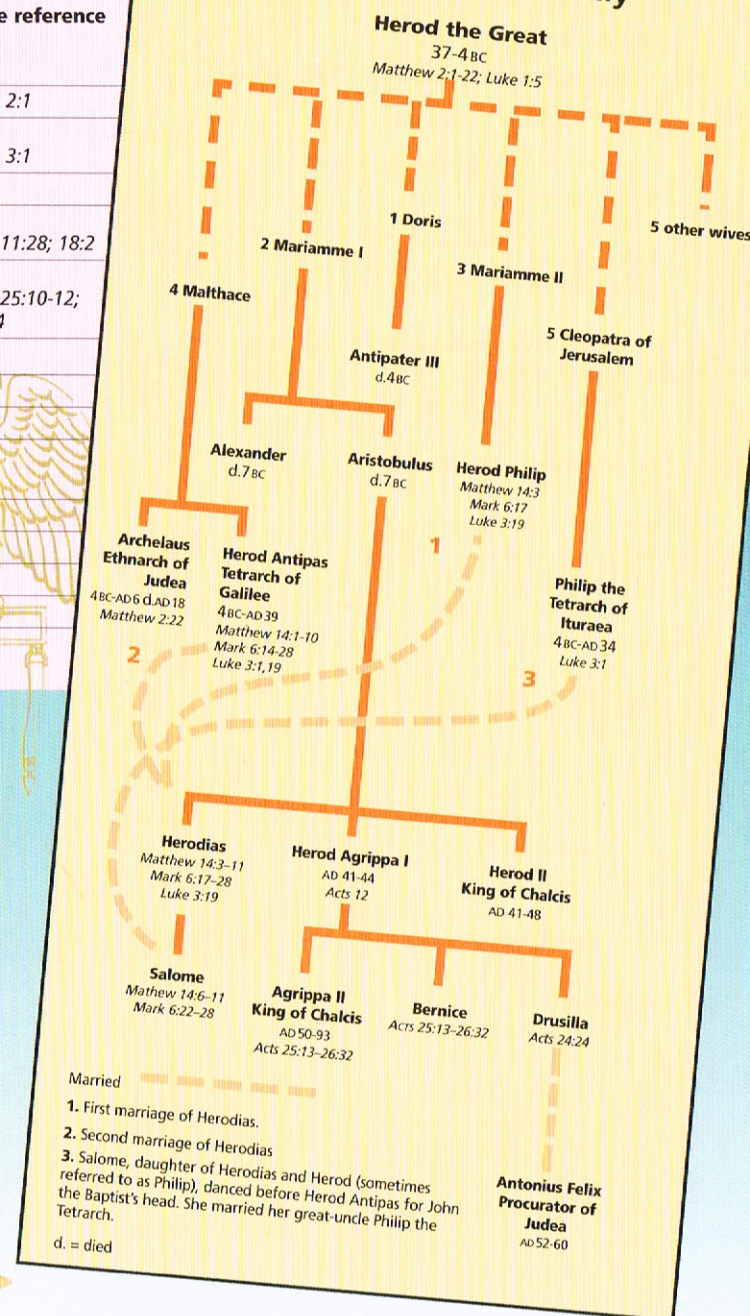
## Dating

The first Christian calendar, dividing history into BC (before Christ) and AD (anno domini, 'in the year of our Lord') was worked out by a monk in the sixth century AD. But it has now been discovered that he was about five years out in his calculations, so Jesus was born about 5 BC – not AD 1 – towards the end of the reign of Herod the Great.



Traditional site of Jesus' birth, Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

## Herod the Great and his family



Married

1. First marriage of Herodias.

2. Second marriage of Herodias

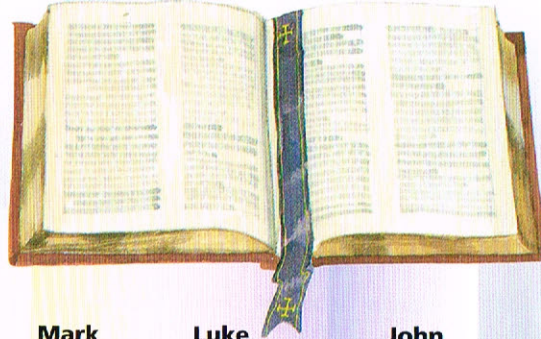
3. Salome, daughter of Herodias and Herod (sometimes referred to as Philip), danced before Herod Antipas for John the Baptist's head. She married her great-uncle Philip the Tetrarch.

d. = died

**Antonius Felix Procurator of Judea AD 52-60**



# Four Gospels . . . one life



## Jesus' life

### A simple harmonization of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>Jesus' birth and childhood 4/5 BC</b>				
Jesus' genealogy	1:1-17		3:23-38	
Jesus' birth is foretold	1:18-25		1:26-38	
Jesus is born	2:1-12		2:1-39	
Jesus' childhood and visit to Temple			2:40-52	
<b>Jesus prepares for his public ministry AD 29</b>				
Jesus is baptized	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-22	
Jesus is tempted in the wilderness	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
<b>Jesus' ministry begins</b>				
John points to Jesus				1:19-34
John's disciples attracted				1:35-51
The first miracle: water into wine				2:1-11
'You must be born again'				3:1-21
<b>Jesus in Galilee</b>				
Jesus arrives in Galilee	4:12-17	1:14	4:14	4:43-45
Jesus calls the first of the Twelve	4:18-22	1:16-20	5:1-11	
Many miracles	8:1-17	1:40-2:12	5:12-26	
The Sermon on the Mount	5:1-7:29		6:20-49	
Jesus speaks in parables	13:1-53	4:1-34	8:4-18	
A series of miracles	8:23-9:8, 18-26	4:35-5:43	8:22-56	
Jesus affirmed as Christ and Son of God	16:13-26	8:27-9:1	9:18-27	
Jesus is transfigured	16:27-17:13	9:2-13	9:28-36	
Jesus predicts his death and resurrection	17:22-23	9:31-32	9:43-45	
Jesus' last Galilean ministry	17:24-18:35	9:33-50	9:46-50	7:1-9
<b>Jesus in Judea and Perea</b>				
Jesus' journey to Jerusalem	19:1-2	10:1	9:51-62	7:10
Jesus claims deity				8:12-59
Jesus the good Shepherd				10:1-21
Parable of the good Samaritan			10:25-37	
Jesus in Mary and Martha's home			10:38-42	
Jesus teaches a prayer			11:1-13	
Jesus raises Lazarus				11:1-44
<b>Jesus travels towards Jerusalem</b>				
The rich young ruler	19:16-30	10:17-31	18:18-30	
Jesus predicts his death	20:17-19	10:32-34	18:31-34	
Jesus arrives at Bethany				11:55-12:11

## Who wrote the New Testament?

Name	Nationality	Occupation	Writings	How he died
<b>Matthew</b>	Jewish	Tax-collector	Gospel of Matthew	By tradition martyred in Ethiopia
<b>Mark</b>	Jewish		Gospel of Mark	By tradition martyred
<b>Luke</b>	Greek	Physician	Gospel of Luke Acts	By tradition martyred in Greece
<b>John</b>	Jewish	Fisherman	Gospel of John 1, 2 & 3 John Revelation	Banished to Patmos; natural death
<b>Paul</b>	Jewish	Pharisee/ Tentmaker	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus Philemon	By tradition martyred in Rome by Nero
<b>James</b>	Jewish		James	By tradition martyred
<b>Peter</b>	Jewish	Fisherman	1 & 2 Peter	By tradition crucified upside-down in Rome by Nero
<b>Jude</b>	Jewish		Jude	By tradition martyred

## Who are the Marys of the New Testament?

### Mary, mother of Jesus

The Jewish woman from Nazareth whom God chose to give birth to his son. Married to Joseph, she was a descendant of David. Mary stood at the foot of the cross when Jesus was killed. *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-45; John 19:25-27; Acts 1:14*

### Mary of Bethany

With her sister Martha and brother Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, whose feet she anointed with perfume. *Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45; 12:1-3; compare Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3*

### Mary, mother of James and Joseph (Joses)

A Galilean woman who, after being healed, followed Jesus and supported his ministry financially. *Matthew 27:56; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1, 9; Luke 8:2; John 20:1, 2, 11-18*

### Mary Magdalene

Another Galilean woman whom Jesus healed, and who helped to support Jesus' ministry. *Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1, 9; Luke 8:2; John 20:1, 2, 11-18*

### Mary, mother of John Mark

A relative of Barnabas; her home was a gathering place for the Jerusalem church. *Acts 12:12, 13; Colossians 4:10*

### Mary of Rome

A woman commended by Paul. *Romans 16:6*

## Who were Jesus' disciples?

**Simon Peter** (Cephas)  
*Matthew 14:25-33; 16:13-18; Mark 14:27-39; Luke 22:54-62; John 20:1-6; 21; Acts 3:1-26; 10:1-48*

**Andrew**, brother of Simon Peter  
*Mark 1:16-18; 3:14-19; John 1:40-44; Acts 1:13*

**James**, son of Zebedee  
*Matthew 10:2; Mark 10:35-41; Acts 12:2*

**John**, brother of James  
*Mark 1:19-20; 9:2; 14:33-34; Acts 3:1-11*

**Philip**, of Bethsaida  
*Matthew 10:2-3; John 1:43-48; 12:21-22; 14:8-9*

**Bartholomew** (also called Nathanael)  
*Matthew 10:2-3; Luke 6:13-15; John 1:43-51*

**Thomas**, or Didymus, the 'twin'  
*John 11:16; 14:5-7; 20:24-29; 21:2*

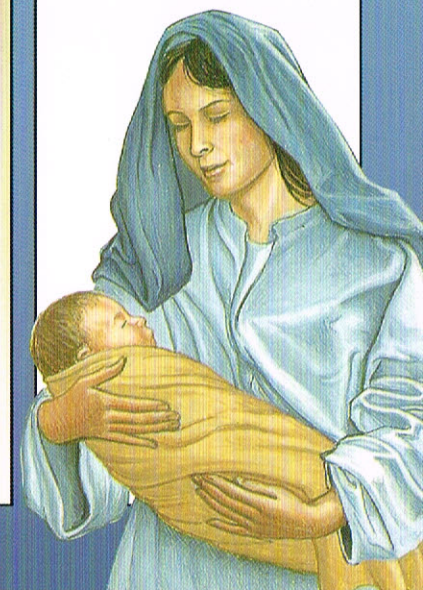
**Matthew** (also called Levi)  
*Matthew 9:9-10; 10:3*

**James**, son of Alphaeus, possibly Jesus' cousin  
*Matthew 10:3*

**Judas** (Lebbaeus), also known as Thaddaeus  
*Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18*

**Simon the Zealot** (a member of the Jewish resistance movement)  
*Matthew 10:4*

**Judas Iscariot** (perhaps a member of the extremist group of 'dagger-men' pledged to kill Romans)  
*Matthew 26:47-50; John 13:26-30*





# Jesus' words and deeds

## Miracles of Jesus

Healing of individuals	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Son of government official				4:46-54
Sick man at a pool				5:1-15
Man in synagogue		1:21-28	4:31-37	
Man with skin-disease	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
Roman officer's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Dead son of a widow			7:11-15	
Peter's mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
An uncontrollable man	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Paralysed man	9:1-7	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Woman with severe bleeding	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Dead girl	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
Dumb man	9:32-34			
Man with a paralysed hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Blind and dumb man	12:22		11:14	
Canaanite woman's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Deaf and dumb man		7:31-37		
Blind man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Boy with epilepsy	17:14-18	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Blind Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Woman with a bad back			13:10-17	
Sick man			14:1-6	
Man born blind				9:1-41
Dead friend named Lazarus				11:1-44
Slave's ear			22:47-51	
<b>Healing of groups</b>				
Crowd in Capernaum	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Two blind men	9:27-31			
Crowd by Lake Galilee		3:7-12		
Crowd on the hillside by Lake Galilee	15:29-31			
Ten men			17:11-19	
<b>Control over laws of nature</b>				
Water changed into wine				2:1-11
Catch of fish			5:1-11	
Jesus calms a storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
Crowds: over 5,000 people fed	14:13-21	6:32-44	9:10-17	6:1-13
Jesus walks on the water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Crowds: over 4,000 people fed	15:32-38	8:1-10		
A fish and the payment of taxes	17:24-27			
Fig tree withers away	21:18-22	11:12-14, 20-24		
Another catch of fish				21:1-11
Christ conquers death	28:1-10	16:1-11	24:1-12	20:1-18

## Where do we find miracles in the Bible?

Most of the miracles in the Bible are clustered around a few people and events:

- **Moses** and the beginnings of the people of Israel
- **Elijah** and **Elisha** and the beginnings of the line of prophets who recalled their people to their covenant (agreement) with God
- **Jesus** and the beginning of the new Israel
- The **apostles** and the founding of the Christian church

## Ten people raised from the dead

**Zarephath widow's son**  
1 Kings 17:17-24

**Shunammite woman's son**  
2 Kings 4:32-37

**Man whose body touched Elisha's bones**  
2 Kings 13:20-21

**People at Jesus' death**  
Matthew 27:50-53

**Jesus**  
Matthew 28:5-8; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:5-7

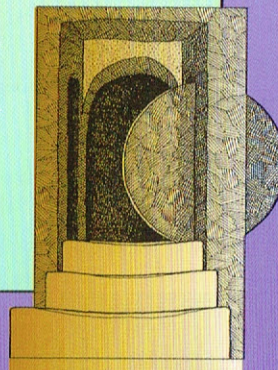
**Son of the widow of Nain**  
Luke 7:11-15

**Jairus' daughter**  
Luke 8:41-42, 49-55

**Lazarus**  
John 11:1-44

**Dorcas**  
Acts 9:36-42

**Eutychus**  
Acts 20:9-10



## Parables and illustrations of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>About nature and farm life</b>				
Birds and flowers	6:25-34	12:22-31		
A tree and its fruit	7:15-20		6:43-45	
The sower	13:1-9, 18-23	4:1-9, 13-20	8:4-8, 11-15	
Growing seed		4:26-29		
Unfruitful fig tree			13:6-9	
Weeds	13:24-30, 36-43			
Mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18, 19	
Lost sheep	18:10-14		15:1-7	
Workers in the vineyard	20:1-16			
Tenants in the vineyard	21:33-46	12:1-12	20:9-19	
Fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-31	21:29-33	
Sheep and goats	25:31-46			
Harvest time				4:35-38
The shepherd				10:1-18
Grain of wheat				12:20-26
The vine				15:1-17
<b>About familiar things in Bible times</b>				
Water				4:5-14 7:37-39
Salt	5:13			
Light	5:14-16	4:21, 22	8:16-18	12:35-36
Bread				6:25-35
House builders	7:24-27		6:46-49	
Patching clothes	9:16	2:21	5:36	
New wine	9:17	2:22	5:37-39	
Yeast	13:33		13:20-21	
The pearl	13:45-46			
The fishing net	13:47-50			
Lost coin			15:8-10	
<b>About everyday life</b>				
Unwilling children	11:16-19		7:31-35	
New truths and old	13:51-52			
Forgiveness	18:21-35			
Two sons	21:28-32			
The wedding feast	22:1-14		14:15-24	
Ten girls at a wedding	25:1-13			
Servants	25:14-30		19:11-27	
Debts and debtors			7:41-47	
Good Samaritan			10:25-37	
Friend in need			11:5-13	
Rich fool			12:16-21	
Watchful servants		13:33-37	12:35-40	
Humility and hospitality			14:7-14	
Cost of discipleship			14:25-33	
Lost son			15:11-32	
Shrewd manager			16:1-13	
Rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
A servant's duty			17:7-10	
The persistent widow			18:1-8	
Pharisee and tax-collector			18:9-14	

## Parables

Parables are stories based on everyday life. They teach a particular truth. There are different types of parables:

- **short sayings**, for example 'You are like light for the whole world' *Matthew 5:14*.
- **longer sayings**, for example 'No one uses a piece of new cloth to patch up an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear off some of the old cloth, making an even bigger hole' *Mark 2:21*.
- **complete stories**, for example the man sowing corn *Luke 8:4-8*.

Jesus' parables divided the listeners into two groups: those who wanted to understand and those who were unwilling or uninterested. To those who wanted understanding they were a means of learning more.

John never speaks about parables but he does use common things and everyday life to point to truths about God and God's world



Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well.



# Jesus' last week

## Jesus' last week

### Sunday (Palm Sunday)

Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph

Matthew

21:1-9

Mark

11:1-10

Luke

19:28-44

John

12:12-19

Jesus visits Temple and returns to Bethany

21:10-17

11:11

19:45-46

### Monday

Jesus curses an unfruitful fig tree

21:18-19

11:12-14

Jesus cleanses the Temple court

11:15-19

19:45-48

### Tuesday

Jesus explains the withered fig tree

21:20-22

11:20-26

Jesus' authority is questioned

21:23-27

11:27-33

20:1-8

Jesus teaches in the Temple

21:28-22:45

12:1-37

20:9-44

Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees

23:1-36

12:37-40

20:45-47

Jesus points out the widow's gift

24:1-44

12:41-44

21:1-4

Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple and the end of the world

24:1-44

13:1-37

21:5-36

### Wednesday

Jewish leaders conspire against Jesus

26:1-5

14:1-2

22:1-2

Jesus anointed at Bethany

26:6-13

14:3-9

Judas agrees to betray Jesus

26:14-16

14:10-11

22:3-6

### Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

Jesus prepares to celebrate Passover

26:17-19

14:12-16

22:7-13

The Last Supper

26:20-29

14:17-25

22:14-38

13:1-38

Jesus and disciples withdraw to Gethsemane

26:30-46

14:26-42

22:39-46

18:1

Jesus betrayed and arrested

26:47-56

14:43-52

22:47-53

18:2-12

Jesus tried before Annas

26:57-75

14:53-72

22:54-71

18:12-14, 19-23

Jesus before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin; Peter's denial

26:57-75

14:53-72

22:54-71

18:15-18, 24-27

### Friday (Good Friday)

Jesus tried before Pilate; Judas' suicide

27:1-10

15:1-5

23:1-5

18:28-38

Jesus sent to Herod

27:15-26

15:6-15

23:6-16

Pilate imposes sentence of death

27:15-26

15:6-15

23:17-25

18:39-19:16

Jesus scourged and led to Golgotha

27:27-32

15:15-21

23:17-25

19:16, 17

Jesus' crucifixion and death

27:33-56

15:22-41

23:33-49

19:18-30

Jesus is buried

27:57-61

15:42-47

23:50-56

19:31-42

### Saturday

The tomb is guarded

27:62-66

### Sunday (Easter)

The empty tomb and the risen Christ

28:1-20

16:1-8

24:1-53

20:1-21:25

## What were Jesus' seven last sayings on the cross?

1. 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' Luke 23:34

2. (To Mary) 'Dear woman, here is your son.' (To John) 'Here is your mother.'

John 19:26-27

3. (To the criminal on the cross) 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.' Luke 23:43

4. 'I am thirsty.' John 19:28

5. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Matthew 27:46; see Psalm 22:1

6. 'It is finished.' John 19:30

7. 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' Luke 23:46



## The I Ams of John's Gospel

I am the bread of life 6:35-48

I am the living bread 6:51

I am the light of the world 8:12

I am from above; I am not of this world 8:23

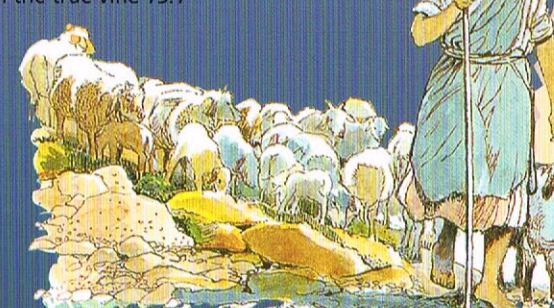
I am the gate for the sheep 10:7

I am the good shepherd 10:11

I am the resurrection and the life 11:25

I am the way, and the truth and the life 14:6

I am the true vine 15:1



## To whom did the risen Jesus appear?

1. To Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18

2. To Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary'

Matthew 28:9-10

3. To Peter

Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5

4. To the disciples on the road to Emmaus

Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35

5. To the apostles in the Upper Room when Thomas was absent

Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

6. To the apostles in the Upper Room with Thomas present

John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:5

7. To the disciples at the Sea of Galilee

John 21:1-22

8. To the apostles on 'the hill in Galilee'

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14

9. On the Mount of Olives

Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:6-11

10. To more than 500

1 Corinthians 15:6

11. To James

1 Corinthians 15:7

12. To the apostles

Mark 16:9; Luke 24:44-52;

Acts 1:4-9; 1 Corinthians 15:7

13. Many times in the 40 days after his resurrection

Acts 1:3

14. To Paul on the Damascus road

Acts 9; 22:6-10; 26:12-18;

1 Corinthians 15:8



## What events will occur before Jesus' second coming?

• Apostasy Matthew 24:10

• The rise of Antichrist Matthew 24:5, 23, 26

• Betrayal Mark 13:12; Luke 21:16

• Earthquakes Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8

• False Christs Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:6, 21-23

• False prophets Matthew 24:11, 24; Mark 13:21-23

• False signs and miracles

Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22

• Famines Matthew 24:7

• Increase of evil Matthew 24:12

• International strife Matthew 24:7

• Persecution of believers

Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:9-13

• Pestilence Luke 21:11

• Unparalleled distress Mark 13:17-19

• Wars and rumours of wars

Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7

• Worldwide proclamation of the gospel

Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10



# Paul and the early churches

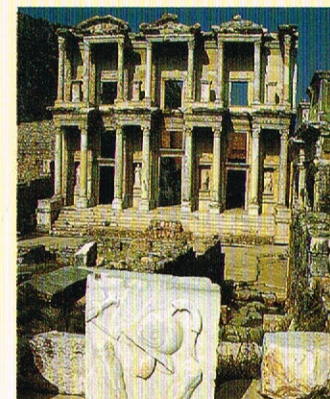
## What are the important dates and events in Paul's life?

Approx. date	Events in Paul's life	Roman history	Bible reference
?5	Born in Tarsus		
14-37		Tiberius emperor	
28-30	Public ministry of Jesus		Luke 3:23
30	Death of Jesus		Mark 15:37
33	Converted on Damascus road		Acts 9:1-19
35	First post-conversion visit to Jerusalem		Acts 9:26-30; Galatians 1:18
35-46	In Cilicia (Tarsus) and Syria		Acts 11:25; Galatians 1:21
35-38	Ministers in Arabia and Damascus		Galatians 1:17
37-41		Gaius emperor	
41-54		Claudius emperor	
43-46	Ministers in Antioch with Barnabas		Acts 11:26
46	Second (famine) visit to Jerusalem		Acts 11:30
47-49	<b>First missionary journey</b>		
	With Barnabas in Cyprus and Galatia		Acts 13:4-14:28
	John Mark returns home from Perga		Acts 13:13
49	Jerusalem Council	Jews expelled from Rome	Acts 15:1-29
49-50	<i>Letter to the Galatians</i>		
49-50	<b>Second missionary journey</b>		
	With Silas travels from Syrian Antioch through Asia Minor to Macedonia and Achaia		Acts 15:36-18:22
	Timothy joins them in Derbe		Acts 16:1
	Luke joins them in Troas?		Acts 16:8-9
50-52	In Corinth		Acts 18:11
50	<i>Letters to the Thessalonians</i>		
autumn 51	Leaves Corinth		Acts 18:18
51-52		Gallio proconsul of Achaia	
summer 52	Third visit to Jerusalem		
52-59		Felix procurator of Judea	
52-55	<b>Third missionary journey</b>		Acts 18:23-21:17
	In Ephesus		Acts 19:1-20:1
52-55	<i>Letters to the Corinthians</i>		
54-68		Nero emperor	
55-57	In Macedonia, Illyricum and Achaia		Acts 20:1-2
winter 56/57	In Corinth		Acts 20:3; 1 Corinthians 16:6
	<i>Letter to the Romans</i>		
May 57	Fourth and last visit to Jerusalem		Acts 21:17-23:31
57-59	Imprisoned and tried in Caesarea		Acts 23:31-26:32
59		Festus procurator of Judea	
September 59	<b>Begins voyage to Rome</b>		Acts 25:10,12; 27:1, 2
February 60	Arrives in Rome		Acts 28:14
60-62	Under house arrest in Rome		Acts 28:30
62		Albinus procurator of Judea	
760-62	<i>Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon</i>		
62	Released from prison		Philippians 1:25
62-64	Final ministry in the east?		
July 64		Fire of Rome	
765	Visits Spain?		
?	<i>Pastoral Letters: 1 &amp; 2 Timothy, Titus</i>		
767	Re-imprisoned in Rome and executed		

## Which are the seven churches of Revelation?

### Ephesus Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus, an ancient city with a population of up to 500,000 situated on a major trade route, was the leading port of Asia Minor in New Testament times. It was created a free city in 98 BC, and its people – the Ephesians – were Roman citizens. The city was famed for the worship of Diana (Artemis), whose priestesses acted as cult prostitutes. Ephesus was also a centre of the emperor cult, and a temple was built for the Emperor Domitian. The great theatre of Ephesus, the remains of which still stand, held as many as 25,000 people.



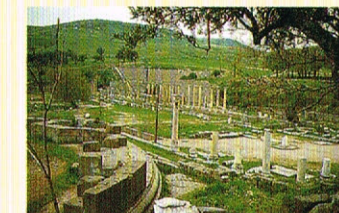
The reconstructed Library of Celsus, Ephesus.



The Roman forum Smyrna, modern Izmir.

### Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna – modern Izmir – was a harbour with a population of around 200,000 in New Testament times. The city was famed for its 'street of gold' with a temple at each end, and also boasted a wealthy academic community.



Remains of the Asclepium, Pergamum.

### Pergamum Revelation 2:12-17

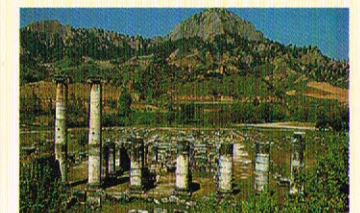
Pergamum, the capital of the Attalid kingdom during the 3rd-2nd century BC, housed the second largest library in the Roman Empire – and was also renowned for its parchment. The city was home to the Asclepium where a healing cult was practised, and also housed a great altar of Zeus and three temples to the Roman emperor cult.

### Thyatira Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira – modern Akhisar – was located on an imperial post road, and had a great variety of trade guilds.

### Sardis Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis was destroyed by a great earthquake in AD 17, and subsequently rebuilt by the Emperor Tiberius. It was a wealthy fortress city set on a hill, and was easily accessible from Asia Minor's most fertile river basin.



Remains of the Temple of Artemis, Sardis.

### Philadelphia Revelation 3:7-13

Like Sardis, Philadelphia – modern Alasehir – was destroyed by the major earthquake of AD 17 and rebuilt by Tiberius. A fortress city on an imperial post road, Philadelphia was a significant Hellenistic educational centre.



Ruins of ancient Laodicea.

### Laodicea Revelation 3:14-22

Laodicea – modern Eski Hisar – suffered two earthquakes during the New Testament period, and was rebuilt once without imperial aid. World-famous as the producer of black wool, the city was also a centre for banking and boasted an important medical school.



# Some names of God

## What are the titles of Jesus in the Bible?

**The beginning and the end** (Greek Alpha and Omega) Revelation 1:8

**Anointed One** Psalm 2:2

**Author of life** Acts 3:15

**Branch** Zechariah 6:12

**Bread of life** John 6:35

**Bright Morning Star** Revelation 22:16

**Christ** (Greek 'Anointed One', or Messiah) Matthew 16:16

**Daystar** 2 Peter 1:19

**Everlasting Father** Isaiah 9:6

**Gate** John 10:7

**Good shepherd** John 10:11

**Holy and Righteous One** Acts 3:14

**Holy One of God** Mark 1:24

**I am** John 8:58

**Immanuel** Isaiah 7:14

**Jesus** (Hebrew, 'Yahweh saves') Matthew 1:21

**King of kings** Revelation 17:14

**Lamb** Revelation 5:6-14

**Lamb of God** John 1:29

**Last Adam** 1 Corinthians 15:45

**Light of the world** John 8:12

**Lion of Judah** Revelation 5:5

**Lord** (Greek Kyrios) Philippians 2:9-11

**Lord of lords** Revelation 17:14

**Man of sorrows** Isaiah 53:3

**Master** Luke 5:5

**Messiah** (Hebrew for the 'Anointed One') John 1:41

**Mighty God** Isaiah 9:6

**Nazarene** Matthew 2:23

**Prophet** Acts 3:22

**Prince of Peace** Isaiah 9:6

**Rabbi** John 1:38

**Resurrection and life** John 11:25

**Root of David** Revelation 5:5

**Root of Jesse** Isaiah 11:10

**Saviour** Luke 2:11

**Son of David** Matthew 1:1

**Son of God** Mark 1:1

**Son of Man** Matthew 8:20

**True vine** John 15:1

**Way, truth and life** John 14:6

**Wonderful Counsellor** Isaiah 9:6

**Word** (Greek Logos) John 1:1

**Word of God** Revelation 19:13

## What are some of the names for the Holy Spirit in the Bible

**Counsellor** John 14:16

**Eternal Spirit** Hebrews 9:14

**Holy Spirit** Luke 11:13

**Power of the Most High** Luke 1:35

**Spirit** Romans 8:26-27

**Spirit of Christ** Romans 8:9

**Spirit of his [God's] Son** Galatians 4:6

**Spirit of holiness** Romans 1:4

**Spirit of the Lord** Judges 3:10

**Spirit of sonship** Romans 8:15

**Spirit of truth** John 14:17

## How is the church described in the Bible?

**Believers** Acts 2:44

**Body of Christ** 1 Corinthians 12:27

**Bride** Revelation 21:2

**Called** Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:2

**Children of light** Ephesians 5:8

**Chosen people** 1 Peter 2:9

**Christians** Acts 11:26

**Church** Matthew 16:18; 18:17; 1 Corinthians 1:2

**Citizens of heaven** Philippians 3:20

**Disciples** Acts 6:1; 11:26

**God's building; God's field** 1 Corinthians 3:9

**God's children** John 1:12; Romans 8:14-23

**God's elect** 1 Peter 1:1

**God's fellow-workers** 1 Corinthians 3:9

**God's household** Ephesians 2:19

**God's temple** 1 Corinthians 3:16

**Heirs of God** Romans 8:17

**Holy City** Revelation 21:10-27

**Holy nation** 1 Peter 2:9

**Israel of God** Galatians 6:16

**Light of the world** Matthew 5:14

**Living stones** 1 Peter 2:5

**People belonging to God** 1 Peter 2:9

**Pillar and foundation of the truth** 1 Timothy 3:15

**Royal priesthood** 1 Peter 2:9

**Sanctified** 1 Corinthians 1:2

**Saints** Ephesians 1:1, 15, 18; 3:18

**Salt of the earth** Matthew 5:13

**Sheep** John 10:3

**Soldiers of Christ** 2 Timothy 2:3-4

**Strangers in the world** 1 Peter 1:1

## Which Bible people saw God?

• Jacob dreamt of 'a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God . . . ascending and descending'. *Genesis 28:12-13*

• 'Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel.' *Exodus 24:9-10*

• Moses saw the back of God. *Exodus 33:23*

• Micaiah saw 'the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing on his right and on his left'. *2 Chronicles 18:18*

• Isaiah saw 'the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted'. *Isaiah 6:1*

• Ezekiel saw 'what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne . . . a figure like that of a man'. *Ezekiel 1:26*

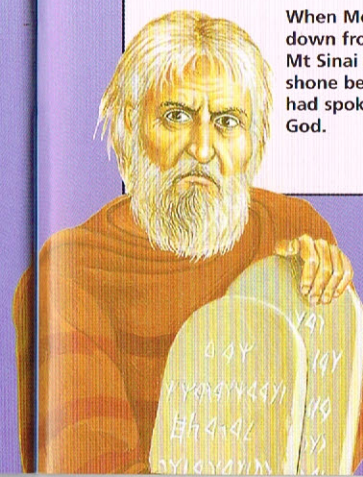
• Daniel saw thrones 'set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire.' *Daniel 7:9*

• Stephen looked up to heaven 'and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God'. *Acts 7:55*

• Paul wrote, 'I know a man in Christ who . . . was caught up to the third heaven.' *2 Corinthians 12:2*

• John wrote, 'I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.' *Revelation 4:2*

When Moses came down from Mt Sinai his face shone because he had spoken with God.



## What are the names and titles of God in the Bible?

**Ancient of Days** (Aramaic Attiq yomin) *Daniel 7:9*

The ultimate authority as judge of the world.

**Creator** *Isaiah 40:28*

**Eternal God** (Hebrew El Olam) *Genesis 21:33*

**Father** (Greek Theos ho Pater) *Malachi 2:10; Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 3:14*

**Father of the heavenly lights** *James 1:17*

**God of Mountains** (Hebrew El Shaddai) *Genesis 17:1; 49:25*  
God is all-powerful.

**Most High** (Hebrew El Elyon) *Genesis 14:18-20*  
God, the maker of heaven and earth.

**God of all mankind** *Jeremiah 32:27*

**God of the covenant** (Hebrew El Berit) *Judges 9:46*  
Maker and keeper of his covenants.

**God of heaven** *Nehemiah 2:4*

**God of Israel** (Hebrew El Eloehe-Yisra'el) *Genesis 33:20*

**Heavenly Father** *Matthew 6:26*

**Holy One** *Job 6:10*

**Holy One of Israel** (Hebrew Qedosh Yisra'el) *Isaiah 1:4*

**I AM** *Exodus 3:14*

**Judge** (Hebrew Shapat) *Genesis 18:25*

**King** *Jeremiah 10:7*

**King of kings** *1 Timothy 6:15*

**Living God** *Deuteronomy 5:26*

**LORD** (Hebrew Yahweh) *Exodus 3:13-16*

**God of Armies** (Hebrew Yahweh-seba'ot, Sabaoth) *1 Samuel 1:11; 17:45*  
God is all-powerful.

**LORD is my Banner** (Hebrew Yahweh-nissi) *Exodus 17:15*  
God gives us victories.

**LORD is Peace** (Hebrew Yahweh-shalom) *Judges 6:24*  
God brings us inner harmony.

**LORD is There** (Hebrew Yahweh-shammah) *Ezekiel 48:35*  
God will be with his people at the end of history.

**Lord of lords** *1 Timothy 6:15*

**Lord, Master** (Hebrew Adonai) *Psalm 2:4*  
God has authority.

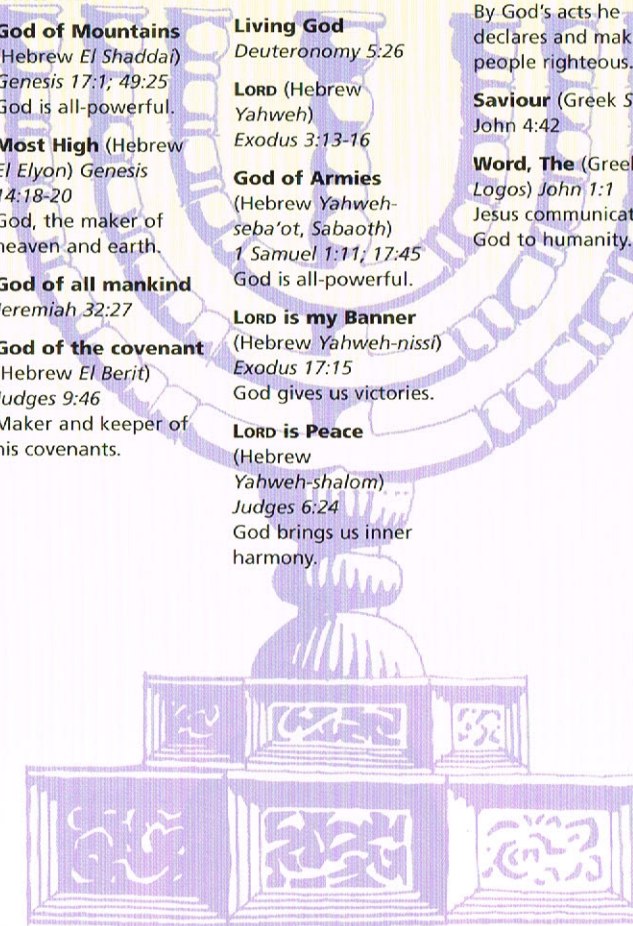
**LORD Provides** (Hebrew Yahweh-jireh) *Genesis 22:14*

**LORD Our Righteousness** (Hebrew Yahweh-tsidkenu) *Jeremiah 23:6*

By God's acts he declares and makes his people righteous.

**Saviour** (Greek Soter) *John 4:42*

**Word, The** (Greek Logos) *John 1:1*  
Jesus communicates God to humanity.





## Some Bible names and their meanings

**Aaron** enlightened  
**Abel** breath, a meadow  
**Abigail** father of joy, father's joy  
**Abraham** father of a multitude  
**Absalom** father of friendship, or of peace  
**Adam** human  
**Agrippa** causing pain at birth  
**Ahaz** possessor  
**Amos** burden, one with a burden  
**Andrew** a man, manly  
**Anna** grace, gracious  
**Apollos** belonging to Apollo  
**Aquila** an eagle

**Balaam** foreigner, Lord of the people  
**Barnabas** son of consolation  
**Bartholomew** son of Ptolemy  
**Bathsheba** daughter of an oath, or of seven  
**Benjamin** son of the right hand  
**Bernice** bringer of victory  
**Boaz** fleetness, strength

**Cain** acquisition, possession  
**Caleb** a barker, dog  
**Cephas** stone, rock  
**Cornelius** of a horn  
**Cyrus** sun, splendour

**Dan** judge  
**Daniel** God is my judge  
**David** dear, beloved  
**Deborah** bee  
**Delilah** weak, tender, unhappy

**Ehud** the only  
**Eleazar** God my helper  
**Eli** lifting up  
**Elijah** Yahweh my God  
**Elisabeth** oath of God  
**Elisha** God as a Saviour  
**Enoch** dedicated, consecrated  
**Esau** hairy  
**Esther** star  
**Eve** life, living  
**Ezekiel** God will strengthen  
**Ezra** help

**Felix** happy  
**Festus** joyful

**Gabriel** man of God  
**Gad** good fortune, fortunate  
**Gaius** of the earth  
**Gideon** a hewer, tree-feller  
**Goliath** expulsion, expeller

**Habakkuk** embrace  
**Haggai** festive  
**Ham** hot, black  
**Hannah** grace, prayer  
**Herod** heroic  
**Hezekiah** might of Yahweh  
**Hosea** deliverance, salvation

**Immanuel** God with us  
**Isaac** laughter  
**Isaiah** salvation of Yahweh  
**Ishmael** whom God hears  
**Israel** soldier of God

**Jacob** supplanter  
**James** supplanter  
**Jason** healer  
**Jehoiakim** set up by Yahweh  
**Jehoshaphat** Yahweh judges  
**Jehovah** (= Yahweh) the eternally existing  
**Jehu** Yahweh is he  
**Jeremiah** exalted by God  
**Jesse** wealth  
**Jesus** healer, saviour  
**Jethro** pre-eminent  
**Jezebel** chaste  
**Joab** Yahweh is father  
**Job** afflicted  
**Joel** whose God is Yahweh

**Judas** betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.



**John** God's gift, grace  
**Jonah** dove  
**Jonathan** Yahweh is gracious  
**Joseph** he shall add  
**Joshua** Yahweh is salvation  
**Josiah** God is healer  
**Jotham** Yahweh is upright  
**Judah** praised  
**Judas** praised  
**Jude** praised  
**Judith** Jewess

**Laban** white, beautiful  
**Lazarus** God my helper  
**Leah** weary  
**Levi** crowned  
**Lot** covering, veil  
**Lucifer** light-bringer  
**Luke** light-giver  
**Lydia** contention

**Malachi** messenger of Yahweh  
**Manasseh** forgetting  
**Mark** polite  
**Martha** lady  
**Mary** strong  
**Matthew** gift of Yahweh  
**Melchizedek** king of righteousness  
**Micah** who is like God?  
**Miriam** strong  
**Moab** the desirable land  
**Mordecai** consecrated to Merodach  
**Moses** drawn out of the water

**Nahum** consolation, comforter  
**Naomi** gracious, pleasant  
**Nathan** gift (of God)  
**Nathanael** gift of God  
**Nebuchadnezzar** prince of the god Nebo  
**Nehemiah** consolation from God  
**Nicodemus** conqueror of the people  
**Noah** rest

**Obadiah** servant of Yahweh

**Paul** little  
**Peter** rock, stone  
**Philemon** affectionate  
**Philip** lover of horses  
**Priscilla** ancient

**Rachel** ewe  
**Rahab** gracious  
**Rebecca** fetter  
**Reuben** Yahweh has seen, God's mercy  
**Ruth** friend



**Ruth** would not desert her widowed mother-in-law.

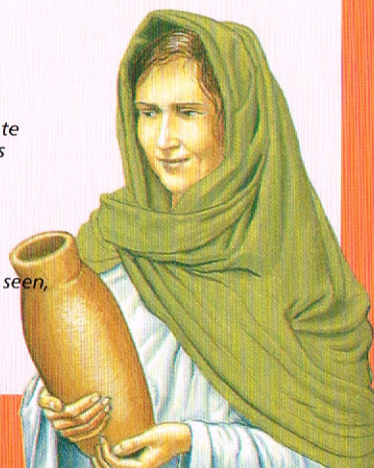
**Simeon** one heard  
**Simon** one heard  
**Solomon** peaceful  
**Stephen** crown

**Thaddaeus** man of heart  
**Thomas** twin  
**Timothy** honoured by God  
**Titus** honourable

**Uriah** light of Yahweh, Yahweh is my light  
**Uzziah** power of Yahweh, strength of Yahweh

**Zachariah** remembered by Yahweh  
**Zedekiah** justice of Yahweh  
**Zephaniah** treasure of Yahweh

**Mary Magdalene**, the first to see Jesus alive again.



## Some Messianic prophecies

### Prophecy

Prophecy	Old Testament reference	Fulfilled in Jesus
The woman's seed would bruise Satan's head	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
Messiah would be of Abraham's seed	Genesis 17:7	Galatians 3:16
Messiah would be of the house of David	2 Samuel 7:12-13	Acts 13:32-33
Messiah would be preceded by a messenger	Malachi 3:1	Mark 1:2-3
Messiah would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 21-23
Messiah would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:1-5	Matthew 2:1
Shepherd-Messiah	Isaiah 40:11	John 10:11-16
Prophet-Messiah	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:20-22
Priest-Messiah	Psalms 110:1-7	Hebrews 5:5-6
Messiah-King	Zechariah 9:9	John 18:33, 37
Redeemer-Messiah	Isaiah 59:20	Luke 2:11
Messiah would be a light to the Gentiles	Isaiah 49:6-10	Acts 13:47
Messiah would be a stumbling stone	Isaiah 8:14	Romans 9:32-33
Messiah would be reproached	Psalms 69:9	Romans 15:3
Messiah would be mocked	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:39-44
Messiah would be crucified	Psalms 22:16	John 19:18
Messiah would be our sin-bearer	Isaiah 53:4-6	John 1:29
Messiah would be resurrected	Psalms 16:10	Mark 16:6



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