

The Bible is good to read, but not necessarily easy to read. This is a guide to help you.

The Bible isn't really one big book, but 66 little books. The books are often written by different authors, at different times, in different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek), to different audiences. The books have differing forms: history, law, poetry, prose, prophecy, letters.

The first 39 books of the Bible, Genesis through Malachi, are the “Old Testament.” They are chiefly concerned with the ancient nation of Israel. The remaining 27 books, Matthew through Revelation, are the “New Testament.” They are chiefly concerned with Jesus and the early Christian Church.

### 1. The quick tour -- selected passages.

Mark	Jesus
Genesis ch. 1-3	Creation and Fall
Job ch. 33	A Mediator, a Ransom, and Redemption.
Genesis ch. 12	The Call of Abram (a.k.a. Abraham)
Genesis ch. 22	The LORD Will Provide
The descendants of Isaac's son Jacob (a.k.a. Israel) settle in Egypt.	
Exodus ch. 1-3	Moses
Exodus ch. 11-12	Passover
Exodus ch. 20	The Ten Commandments
Exodus ch. 33-34	The Character of God
Deuteronomy ch. 18	A Prophet like Moses
The Israelites settle in Palestine.	
2 Samuel ch. 7	King David
Psalms 22-23	Psalms of David
1 Kings ch. 8-9	King Solomon
1 Kings ch. 11-12	The Kingdom Divides – Israel and Judah
Isaiah ch. 6-12	The Righteous Branch
Micah ch. 5	A Ruler from Bethlehem
2 Kings ch. 17-19	Israel Taken into Captivity; Judah Spared
Isaiah ch. 52-53	The Suffering Servant
Jeremiah ch. 30-33	The New Covenant
2 Kings ch. 24-25	Judah Taken into Captivity
Ezekiel ch. 34	The Good Shepherd
Daniel ch. 1-2	The Kingdoms to Come
The Persians, led by Cyrus the Great, conquer the Babylonian Empire, 539 BC	
Ezra ch. 1	The Exiles Return
The Greeks, led by Alexander the Great, conquer the Persian Empire, 333 BC	
The Romans, led by Pompey, conquer Jerusalem, 63 BC	
Matthew ch. 1-2	Born King of the Jews
John ch. 1-4	Testimony about Jesus
John ch. 10	Jesus: the Good Shepherd
Luke ch. 24	Jesus: Fulfillment
Acts ch. 1-11	The Early Church
Romans	A Letter from Paul
Revelation ch. 19-22	The Return of the King

**2. Further reading.** The Bible is arranged somewhat chronologically, but also by type of book. Here are the major groupings:

Old Testament

Books written by Moses: Genesis -- Deuteronomy

History: Joshua -- Esther

Poetry and wisdom: Job -- Song of Solomon

Large prophetic books: Isaiah -- Daniel

Small prophetic books: Hosea -- Malachi

New Testament

Accounts of Jesus (gospels): Matthew -- John

Church history: Acts

Letters written by Paul: Romans -- Philemon

Letters written by other people: Hebrews -- Jude

Prophecy: Revelation

I am the LORD your God ... you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet ... anything that is your neighbor's. (Exodus 20:2-17 ESV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Romans 3:23-25a ESV)

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV)

Then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness.

He sings before men and says: I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me.

He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light. (Job 33:26-28 ESV)