**One-Sentence Summaries of Every Old Testament Book**

The Old and New Testaments of the Bible, comprised of 66 books, tell one cohesive story of redemption, climaxing in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Savior!

**Genesis**

God created the world, humankind rebelled against their Creator (known as “the fall of man”), and God put a plan of redemption (salvation) into motion involving calling out a people for Himself to be a light for the nations (gentiles), and entering into a covenant relationship with them (known as the Abrahamic Covenant).

“God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness” (Genesis 1:4).

**Exodus**

God rescued his people, Israel, from slavery, gave them commandments (the Mosaic law) to live by, and promised them a land of their own.

“So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8).

**Leviticus**

God’s people were instructed how to live set apart (holy) lives for Him and worship Him.

“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:2).

**Numbers**

God led His people through the wilderness and remained faithful to His [covenant](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/) with them even when they strayed.

“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” ([Numbers 23:19](https://www.biblestudytools.com/numbers/23-19.html)).

**Deuteronomy**

God continued to communicate His commandments to His people, so that the law would be on their hearts as they entered the [promised land](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/the-promised-land.html).

“Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you” ([Deuteronomy 4:1](https://www.biblestudytools.com/deuteronomy/4-1.html)).

**Joshua**

God fulfilled His covenant by leading His people into the promised land.

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” ([Joshua 1:7-9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/joshua/passage/?q=joshua+1:7-9)).

**Judges**

God continued His deliverance of His, often rebellious, people by raising up 14 judges.

“Then the Lord raised up judges,who saved them out of the hands of these raiders” ([Judges 2:16](https://www.biblestudytools.com/judges/2-16.html)).

**Ruth**

The ultimate Redeemer (Jesus Christ) is foreshadowed through the picture of Boaz, the kinsman redeemer, in the ancestral line of David.

“Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer” ([Ruth 4:14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ruth/4-14.html)).

**1 Samuel**

God Himself was their King, but that was not enough for the nation of Israel, resulting in them demanding an earthly king like “all the other nations”; which, like the human judges, quickly led to disappointment.

“But when they said, ‘Give us a king to lead us,’ this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: ‘Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king’” ([1 Samuel 8:6-7](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-samuel/passage/?q=1%20samuel+8:6-7)).

**2 Samuel**

God appointed David to reign as the second king over Israel and entered into a [covenant](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/) with him (known as the [Davidic Covenant](https://www.christianity.com/theology/covenants/what-is-the-davidic-covenant.html)), a significant moment in the narrative of the Bible, as Jesus Christ (the King of Kings) would come from the earthly line of King David.

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever” ([2 Samuel 7:16](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-samuel/7-16.html)).

**1 Kings**

God required the kings of Israel to lead in obedience to His law but the majority of them “did evil in the eyes of the Lord,” encouraging idolatry (the worship of false gods) rather than confronting it, resulting in judgment and the division of the nation of Israel into two kingdoms (Israel and Judah).

“So the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen’” ([1 Kings 11:11-13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/passage/?q=1%20kings+11:11-13)).

**2 Kings**

The rebellion of the kings of Israel and Judah resulted in God allowing His people to be taken captive, paved the way for the prophets, and foreshadowed the coming King (Jesus) who would live in complete obedience to the will of God.

“The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from themuntil the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria…” ([2 Kings 17:22-23](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-kings/passage/?q=2%20kings+17:22-23)).

**1 Chronicles**

As the Jews returned to the promised land after being exiled, God wanted His people to know historically where they came from and reassure them by reminding them of the unchangeable hope of the [Davidic Covenant](https://www.christianity.com/theology/covenants/what-is-the-davidic-covenant.html).

“When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever’” ([1 Chronicles 17:11-14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-chronicles/passage/?q=1%20chronicles+17:11-14)).

**2 Chronicles**

2 Chronicles focuses on the kings who lived in Jerusalem, specifically on the line of David, highlighting kings who were both faithful and unfaithful to God in hopes that later generations would choose faithfulness to God.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from [heaven](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-heaven-like-11636670.html), and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” ([2 Chronicles 7:14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-chronicles/7-14.html)).

**Ezra**

Roughly 50 years after the Israelites return to Jerusalem from the Babylonian exile, they rebuilt the city, the temple, and their lives, focusing on three key leaders who led the reconstruction.

“What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins deserved and have given us a remnant like this” ([Ezra 9:13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/9-13.html)).

**Nehemiah**

Nehemiah, an Israelite serving as cupbearer for the king of Persia, heard about the destruction of Jerusalem’s walls and got permission to return and rebuild the walls; meanwhile though, Israel was –spiritually speaking – doing no better than before.

“But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in [love](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-bible-verses/). Therefore you did not desert them” ([Nehemiah 9:17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nehemiah/9-17.html)b).

**Esther**

100 years after the Babylonian exile, this book focuses on the Jewish people still living in Susa, (the capital of the ancient Persian empire), and though the book never mentions God directly, it is all about God saving His people using a beautiful young Jewish woman, and later queen, named Esther.

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" ([Esther 4:14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/esther/4-14.html)).

**Job**

The only Old Testament book not about the Israelites, this book teaches us about God through the story of a righteous man named Job, whom God allowed to be afflicted by Satan to show that this world is suffering from the effects of “the fall,” God is still in control, His eyes are on every detail of the entire universe, and He can be trusted even when life hurts.

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth” ([Job 19:25](https://www.biblestudytools.com/job/19-25.html)).

**Psalms**

Psalms is a collection of 150 Hebrew poems, songs and prayers, over 70 of which are written by King David, compiled as a prayer book for God’s people, but also used as a songbook by the choirs that sang in the temple following Israel’s return from exile in Babylon.

“Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds” ([Psalm 72:18](https://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/72-18.html)).

[**Proverbs**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/)

A handbook full of wisdom, linked to King Solomon (known as the wisest man who ever lived), to help God’s people learn to fear the Lord and live a moral life.

“The [fear of the LORD](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/how-we-gain-wisdom-through-the-fear-of-the-lord.html) is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” ([Proverbs 9:10](https://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/9-10.html)).

**Ecclesiastes**

Another wisdom book, Ecclesiastes is about a teacher seeking to impart the fleeting, unpredictable nature of life and the key to living it well: which is to fear God who will one day reveal the purpose of this life on earth.

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind” ([Ecclesiastes 12:13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ecclesiastes/12-13.html)).

**Song of Songs**

A collection of Hebrew love poems, expressing the intensity of sexual love expressed by constant seeking and finding, points the reader to the wonder of knowing fully and being fully known, possibly even pointing to God’s love.

“Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave” (Song of Songs 8:6).

**Isaiah**

The first of the major prophets, Isaiah, a prophet to Judah during the reigns of kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, approximately 150 years before Judah’s exile into Babylon, warned the nation of the consequences of their rebellion and idolatry, but also declared and foretold the grace of God in prophecies about the coming Messiah.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” ([Isaiah 53:5](https://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/53-5.html)).

**Jeremiah**

The second of the major prophets, Jeremiah, continued on the heels of Isaiah’s message, calling the nation to repent and return to God up to and beyond the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 586 B.C.

“’[For I know the plans I have for you](https://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/29-11.html),’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and will bring you back from captivity…’” ([Jeremiah 29:11-14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/passage/?q=jeremiah+29:11-14)).

**Lamentations**

Lamentations is thought to also be written by Jeremiah, “the weeping prophet,” and this book lives up to its English name in that it’s entirely laments written about the tragedy of the Babylonian capture and destruction of Jerusalem and the temple; though through it all God was faithful.

“Because of the Lord's great [love](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-bible-verses/) we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” ([Lamentations 3:22-23](https://www.biblestudytools.com/lamentations/passage/?q=lamentations+3:22-23)).

**Ezekiel**

Ezekiel, whose message focused on the glory of the Lord and ended in a promise of future restoration for Israel, was both a prophet and a priest, a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel, and one of 10,000 Jews taken captive by the Babylonians.

“Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind” ([Ezekiel 39:28](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ezekiel/39-28.html)).

**Daniel**

Daniel, a prophet throughout the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, was exiled to Babylon as a teenager and indoctrinated in the ways of the Babylonians, but God was with Daniel and used him and his [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/) to encourage the exiled Jews.

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him” ([Daniel 2:20-22](https://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/passage/?q=daniel+2:20-22)).

**Hosea**

Hosea, the first of the twelve minor prophets, is well known for being instructed by the Lord to marry an unfaithful woman to show, by example, the faithfulness of the Lord in spite of the unfaithfulness of His people.

“When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, ‘Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord’” ([Hosea 1:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/hosea/1-2.html)).

**Joel**

Like Hosea, Joel used something physical, in this case a drought and a plague of locusts, to depict God’s judgement in “the day of the Lord.”

“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in [love](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-bible-verses/), and he relents from sending calamity” ([Joel 2:13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/joel/2-13.html)).

**Amos**

During a time of national security, prosperity and peace under the reign of Jeroboam II, God used Amos to deliver a warning about the neglect of sincere worship and justice, promising God’s silence if the people failed to listen to the prophets.

“’The days are coming,’ declares the Sovereign Lord, ‘when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord’” ([Amos 8:11](https://www.biblestudytools.com/amos/8-11.html)).

**Obadiah**

The prophet Obadiah, in the shortest book in the Old Testament (only 21 verses), prophesies judgment for and deliverance from Israel’s enemies, and promises that Israel will one day fully possess its inheritance and the true King will reign on earth.

“But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance” ([Obadiah 1:17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/obadiah/1-17.html)).

[**Jonah**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/jonah-and-the-whale.html)

This famous book and infamous prophet, who gets swallowed by a great fish, teach us great things about our patient and compassionate God, who cares deeply about even rebellious and wicked people.

“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity” ([Jonah 4:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/jonah/4-2.html)b).

**Micah**

Micah prophesied punishment for Judah, for flaunting its riches and oppressing the poor, and for the false prophets, who led God’s people astray, all the while prophesying that a future Messiah and deliverer would come (from the town of Bethlehem) to prove His faithfulness to His people.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times” ([Micah 5:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/micah/5-2.html)).

**Nahum**

Approximately 125 years after Nineveh repented following [Jonah](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/jonah-and-the-whale.html)’s warning, Nahum preached that God would again judge Nineveh, “the city of blood,” if they didn’t repent; though God is patient and merciful, He is also jealous and just.

“The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet” ([Nahum 1:3](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nahum/1-3.html)).

**Habakkuk**

Habakkuk questioned the Lord regarding His choice to allow Judah, though rebellious and unfaithful, to be judged by the Babylonians; though in spite of his confusion regarding God’s decisions, Habakkuk still trusted the Lord.

“Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy” ([Habakkuk 3:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/habakkuk/3-2.html)).

**Zephaniah**

Zephaniah repeated the prophetic promise of judgment and destruction if Judah would not repent and turn back to the Lord, but also foretold of a remnant that would see the deliverance of God.

“But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord” ([Zephaniah 3:12](https://www.biblestudytools.com/zephaniah/3-12.html)).

**Haggai**

The Babylonians had destroyed the temple, and upon Judah’s return from captivity, Haggai stirred God’s people to remember their [covenant](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/) with the Lord, put Him first, and rebuild His temple.

“’The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty” ([Haggai 2:9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/haggai/2-9.html)).

Related - [Haggai: A Big Lesson from a Small Book](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/haggai-a-big-lesson-from-a-small-book.html)

**Zechariah**

Haggai and Zechariah prophesied together, and while Haggai motivated God’s people to rebuild the temple, Zechariah, challenged them to *complete* the work in view of the coming Messiah.

“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” ([Zechariah 9:9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/zechariah/9-9.html)).

**Malachi**

The chronological last book of the Old Testament contains Malachi’s warning against unfaithfulness and spiritual apathy, and a prophetic message regarding the coming Messiah.

“But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with [healing](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/healing-bible-verses/) in its rays” ([Malachi 4:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/malachi/4-2.html)a).

**One-Sentence Summaries of Every New Testament Book**

Four hundred years of silence followed Malachi’s message in the Old Testament . . . No written or spoken revelation from God . . . And then suddenly, out of the silence . . .

**Matthew**

Matthew records an angelic proclamation that the Messiah would be born to a virgin in Bethlehem, just as the prophets foretold, and continues on to tell, from his unique perspective as one of Jesus’ disciples, of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, his life, his baptism, his earthly ministry, his miracles, his crucifixion, his resurrection, and his final charge to his disciples (followers).

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Mark**

All four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) record events from Jesus’ earthly life and ministry, but Mark, or John Mark as he is called in the book of Acts, omits Jesus’ ancestry and birth and starts his record with Jesus’ baptism and ministry, focusing more so on Christ’s humanity.

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it” ([Mark 8:34-35](https://www.biblestudytools.com/mark/passage/?q=mark+8:34-35)).

**Luke**

Luke, a medical doctor, a gentile, and the author of both this gospel and the book of Acts, focused largely on Jesus’ [healing](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/healing-bible-verses/) ministry in his account of Jesus’ life, and his two-volume set of Luke and Acts (written for Theophilus) gives us an overview of Christ, the origins of Christianity, and the birth of the Church!

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught” ([Luke 1:1-4](https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/passage/?q=luke+1:1-4)).

**John**

John, one of Jesus’ 12 disciples, and one of the “sons of thunder” along with his brother, James, wrote his gospel after the other three were written and focused his eyewitness account on supplying supplemental information, perspective and details complementary to the other gospels.

“For [God so loved the world](https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/3-16.html) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” ([John 3:16](https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/3-16.html)).

**Acts**

Luke’s second volume written for Theophilus, more aptly named, “The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles,” starts with Jesus’ ascension into [heaven](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-heaven-like-11636670.html) and last instructions to his disciples (followers), followed by a description of how, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles (messengers) spread the good news (gospel) about the resurrected Savior and birthed the Church!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” ([Acts 1:8](https://www.biblestudytools.com/acts/1-8.html)).

**Romans**

The Apostle Paul, a Roman citizen and a Pharisee, whose miraculous conversion was recorded in the book of Acts, was largely responsible for the spread of the gospel throughout the Roman Empire and  wrote a total of thirteen books of the New Testament in the form of letters, known as the Pauline Epistles, Romans being Paul’s letter to the early church in Rome (a church founded by Paul and Peter), focused primarily on the righteousness that comes only from God.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/) from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” ([Romans 1:16-17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/romans/passage/?q=romans+1:16-17)).

**1 Corinthians**

This letter, known to us as 1 Corinthians, Paul’s second epistle to the church in Corinth (the first having been lost) and a reply to a letter the church had written to him asking for clarification on several issues, contained mainly corrective instruction for the Corinthian believers on matters including carnality, sin, worship, righteousness and spiritual gifts.

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-corinthians/passage/?q=1%20corinthians+6:9-11)).

**2 Corinthians**

Paul’s fourth epistle to the church in Corinth (the first and third not included in Scripture), was written after Paul received troubling news that the church was being deceived by false apostles who were also maligning Paul’s character and slandering his ministry, prompting this intensely personal letter defending his divinely-appointed apostleship.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” ([2 Corinthians 5:17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-corinthians/5-17.html)).

**Galatians**

The only one of Paul’s epistles written to more than one church (likely the churches in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe), was written to counter false teaching and heresy undermining the doctrine of justification by [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/).

“I have been [crucified with Christ](https://www.biblestudytools.com/galatians/2-20.html) and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” ([Galatians 2:20-21](https://www.biblestudytools.com/galatians/passage/?q=galatians+2:20-21)).

**Ephesians**

Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus, one of the four “Prison Epistles” (letters written by Paul from prison), was written to a church started by Priscilla and Aquila, to encourage and remind the Ephesian believers of the immense [love](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-bible-verses/) God had for them and to challenge them to walk in a manner worthy of that love.

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” ([Ephesians 3:17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ephesians/3-17.html)b-19).

**Philippians**

Another of the four “Prison Epistles,” Paul reminded the church in Philippi to rejoice in the midst of tribulation and suffering, and to seek to know Christ and be found in him, which is greater by far than any other pursuit or gain!

“…I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/) in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith” ([Philippians 3:8-9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/philippians/passage/?q=philippians+3:8-9)).

**Colossians**

Another “Prison Epistle,” this letter, written to the church in Colosse (a church founded by Epaphras), was a reminder to get back to the basics of Christianity; namely that Christ alone (and not intellectualism or higher spiritual knowledge) is sufficient for salvation.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ” ([Colossians 2:8](https://www.biblestudytools.com/colossians/2-8.html)).

**1 Thessalonians**

Nine of the thirteen Pauline epistles are full of wisdom from the heart of a shepherd to a flock (or flocks), and Paul’s letters to the church in Thessalonica focus on encouraging them for their [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/), [love](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/love-bible-verses/), and endurance, as well as challenging them in regards to purity, temptation, holiness, and hope.

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it” ([1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-thessalonians/passage/?q=1%20thessalonians+5:23-24)).

**2 Thessalonians**

In this second letter, Paul wrote the church in Thessalonica to encourage them in the face of persecution and amidst confusion due to false teaching, providing spiritual comfort, correction/discipline, and caution.

“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word” ([2 Thessalonians 2:15-17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-thessalonians/passage/?q=2%20thessalonians+2:15-17)).

**1 Timothy**

This letter is one of four that Paul wrote to special individuals in his life, 1 and 2 Timothy being written to Timothy, Paul’s son in the faith, entrusting Timothy with the leadership of the church in Ephesus and encouraging him in his ministry.

“Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith” ([1 Timothy 1:18-19](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-timothy/passage/?q=1%20timothy+1:18-19)).

**2 Timothy**

2 Timothy, written from a Roman prison, was the final epistle Paul wrote before he was executed, urging Timothy to visit him before he died and imparting final encouragement, wisdom and love, passing the metaphorical ministry mantle on to the next generation.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day---and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” ([2 Timothy 4:7-8](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-timothy/passage/?q=2%20timothy+4:7-8)).

**Titus**

In this personal letter to another young man named Titus, a spiritual son and co-laborer in the gospel, Paul encourages, equips and counsels Titus in his ministry on the Mediterranean island of Crete.

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ…” ([Titus 2:11-13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/titus/passage/?q=titus+2:11-13)).

**Philemon**

Philemon, a member of the church in Colosse and a slave owner, was the recipient of a brief letter from Paul regarding his slave, Onesimus, who had run away, met Paul in Rome, received the message of the gospel from Paul, converted to Christianity, and was returning to Philemon a changed man.

“It is as none other than Paul – an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus – that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me” ([Philemon 1:9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/philemon/1-9.html)b-11).

**Hebrews**

Written to Jewish Christians, the author is contested but the message is clear: Jesus is superior and sufficient, better than the angels, than Moses, than any other priest, [covenant](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/), or sacrifice.

“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in [heaven](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-heaven-like-11636670.html)” ([Hebrews 1:3](https://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/1-3.html)).

**James**

Another letter written to Jewish Christians, Jesus’ half brother, James, wrote this practical discourse on the topics of wisdom and true, living [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/), almost like a compact, New Testament book of [proverbs](https://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/).

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” ([James 2:15-17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/james/passage/?q=james+2:15-17)).

Related - [Who Was James, Jesus' Brother?](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-jesus-brother-james.html)

**1 Peter**

Paul wrote the majority of the epistles, but two of the letters in the New Testament were written by Peter to Jewish Christians who had been persecuted for their faith in Christ, encouraging them to live victoriously in the face of suffering.

“However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. . . . So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good” ([1 Peter 4:16](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-peter/4-16.html), 19).

**2 Peter**

Whereas 1 Peter was written to encourage persecuted Christians, Peter, at the very end of his life, wrote 2 Peter to confront and expose false teachers and give instruction to Jewish believers on defending themselves against heresy and deception.

“Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen” ([2 Peter 3:17-18](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-peter/passage/?q=2%20peter+3:17-18)).

**1 John**

1, 2 and 3 John were, in a sense, love letters written by the Apostle John, the last remaining apostle (who also wrote the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation) to churches and believers under his influence; 1 John presents the confidence believers can have in eternal life if obedience and love exist as evidences of true [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/).

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” ([1 John 5:13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-john/5-13.html)).

**2 John**

John wrote the very brief epistle of 2 John to “the lady chosen by God and to her children,” which may have indicated a church body or an actual sister in the faith but whatever the case, John exhorts her to have spiritual [discernment](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-discernment/) in regards to itinerant false teachers (“deceivers”).

“Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son” ([2 John 1:9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-john/1-9.html)).

**3 John**

John’s third letter was a personal greeting to Gaius, a dear friend of John’s in the truth to whom John commended for his exemplary faith and faithfulness, starkly contrasted with another man named Diotrephes, mentioned toward the end of the letter who was not to be imitated.

“It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” ([3 John 1:3-4](https://www.biblestudytools.com/3-john/passage/?q=3%20john+1:3-4)).

**Jude**

Warnings against false teaching were present in many of the New Testament books, indicating that it was a serious threat to the early church, and Jude, another of Jesus’ half brothers, deals primarily with the issue of [apostasy](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/apostasy-apostate/) in his short epistle, calling the church to contend for the [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/) and the truth.

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” ([Jude 1:24-25](https://www.biblestudytools.com/jude/passage/?q=jude+1:24-25)).

**Revelation**

The 66 books of the Bible tell one cohesive story of redemption, beginning with the creation of the world and mankind, and concluding with a graphic, prophetical vision and depiction of the end times (written by the Apostle John), culminating in the eternal reign of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, promising the reward of eternal life and joy for those who trusted in Him and eternal separation from God for those who rejected Him.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” ([Revelation 22:12-13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/revelations/passage/?q=revelations+22:12-13)).

Source : <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/one-sentence-summaries-of-every-new-testament-book.html>