

Aid to the Study of the Bible

Free Compact Edition



The True Christian Church

PLEASE NOTE

This booklet edition of **Aid to the Study of the Bible** is especially prepared for **The True Christian Church** and is composed of material that is taken from the book of the same name. For this reason this edition is available free from *thetruechristianchurch.org* in PDF format. This booklet is considerably shorter than the complete book, but has all the essential information necessary for anyone who wants to serve God and carry out the commandment of Jesus found at Matthew 28:19, 20.

All scriptures, unless noted otherwise, are from the ASVME, a modern language Bible derived from the American Standard Version of 1901. The ASVME has not yet been published. The abbreviation AKJV, which appears in some places in this booklet, refers to the Authorized (King James) Version.

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Cover picture: Saint Paul Writing His Epistles, attributed to Valentin de Boulogne

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1 Studying the Bible

There are two common reasons for studying the Bible. One is to know God's will, and the other is to become familiar with the contents. While some may do this for academic reasons, more common is the wish to know and do what is right.

Whatever the reason for a person studying the Bible, there are obviously two approaches. One is to study subjects and the other is to study contents. Within both are some refinements. We are going to look at both approaches. We are also going to try and help the reader become as familiar as possible with the book itself.

It should also be obvious that both approaches come together for a single purpose as expressed in 1 Timothy 3:16-17. *All scripture is inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, being fully equipped for every good work.*

Whichever approach you choose, there are some basic suggestions we would make so you derive the greatest advantage from your efforts.

The first thing we strongly recommend is that you pray to God for the help of his holy spirit. This suggestion comes with a strong caution. We can only receive the aid of God's spirit if we allow it to work in us. This we do, only if we approach the Bible open to the guidance of Almighty God.

If we do not, we are rejecting his aid and may fall into error. We may feel we are seeing the truth and allowing ourselves to be guided by the spirit, when in fact we are being led astray by our own will. So open, really open, your mind and focus on learning the will of God, because it is so easy to be led astray.

What usually leads us astray is our natural human tendency (and it is a natural tendency) to make what we are reading agree with what we already believe. In other words, we, in a sense innocently, look for affirmation for those things we believe and are comfortable with. If we find something in the Bible that seems at odds with our innate

beliefs there is a tendency, and it is a natural human tendency, to try and harmonize our beliefs with the scripture, even when the scripture clearly does not agree with what we have always believed. The influence is as subtle as it is dangerous. It is not always easy to let ourselves be guided by holy spirit, even when we want to be. It can be a struggle, especially when it is a belief of importance or consequence.

Choose the best Translation

What we need if we wish to study the Bible is quite obviously a Bible. Today, we have many different translations and versions of the Bible to read and study. Some are better than the others. One problem is that none are perfect. But that is not just because of human limitations. Even the best seem to have a poison pill which is sometimes quite small but is deadly. For this reason, at present there is being prepared a revision or updating of the *American Standard Version* of 1901. The ASV is an excellent Bible, but it is not perfect. Its greatest problem is that it was written in an English that was archaic even in the day it was published. This effort to produce a modern English edition which we call the *ASVME*, may take some time to be completed. It is not yet available. So what should a reader do?

We suggest getting at least three reputable versions of the Bible. Why three? Well, most modern versions are good translations with an occasional quirky verse. With three, you can compare any difficult or odd passage.

It is also important to accept what the Bible says, not what someone says it means. The Bible says what it means. When someone tries to claim it means something different than what it says, do not trust them. Use great caution. For the most part, the Bible is straightforward. But many try to weave a twisted cloth from the pure fabric of truth.

Once you have your Bible, you should try to find someplace you can study without distraction. You alone know where you can do that best. Some people like total silence, and some find it difficult to concentrate with total silence. If there are distractions, try to not let them trouble you. With practice you can accomplish this since our

minds are capable of tuning out distractions if we do not dwell on them.

In narrative parts of the Bible, it is beneficial to make them come alive in your mind. Put yourself in the action. Sit at the feet of Jesus as he teaches his followers. Accompany the Israelites through the Red Sea. Be thrilled by that awesome pillar of smoke that leads them away from Egypt, and stand in the twilight as the pillar of smoke turns to a pillar of fire. Stand at the base of Mount Sinai as it trembles violently and the smoke rises from it. See, hear, smell, feel, touch and involve yourself in the things you are reading.

Even in the more poetic parts of the Bible, you can feel the emotion—and they almost all are emotional. When reading the prophecies, be intrigued by the visions. In the instructive parts, such as the letters, take to heart what they are saying because they mean something for you. If you find yourself in a part of the Bible you feel tedious, follow what is being said, and where possible picture what is being described, in your mind.

Try these suggestions on the following examples. From Acts 16:25-34:

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

See yourself sitting with the prisoners, trying to get comfortable on the stone floor, or however you picture it. But listening to them singing alleviates your discomfort. Suddenly there is a violent shaking.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison-house were shaken,

Dust and debris is raining down on you. Is the whole building going to fall down on you and crush you? You feel fear grasping you. Chained in a prison cell, you cannot get loose. You cannot get out. You may be about to die, and then the unexpected happens.

and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's shackles came loose.

You and the other prisoners look around in disbelief. You are alive. The prison building did not collapse on you. But even more amazing, the doors of your prison swung open, and the doors beyond. You can see the outside. You look at your wrists. The shackles are lying open. Your hands and feet are free. You could just stand up and

walk to freedom on the outside. That thought has occurred to someone else.

And the jailor, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here". And he called for lights and sprang in, and, trembling from fear, fell down before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

You and the other prisoners follow Paul and Silas out of the cell listening intently.

And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, with all who were in his house.

Imagine yourself in the scenes that follow.

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he and his entire household were speedily baptized. And he brought them into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with all his household, now he believed in God.

This is not a lengthy or tedious process. Just put yourself where the action takes place. If you do, it will have a very beneficial effect, and will also help you to remember it better.

Now try a scripture that is a greater challenge to many readers. In the Book of Numbers, turn to Chapter Seven. Read the chapter in the way you might normally read it. As you read it, especially from verse eighteen on, you will be reading an account that some find tedious. As they progress, some readers might even become drowsy. When you have finished it, go back and live through the events described. Hopefully, it makes a great difference.

As far as feasible, try something similar with non-narrative parts of the Bible. Of course, in the end, you must work out what works best with your own study of the Bible.

2 Studying the Bible by Subject

This section discusses studying the Bible by subject. This means choosing a subject and researching it as thoroughly as you feel is necessary to answer any questions you might have, or for the purpose of learning as much about it as possible.

Obviously, it could be something you are deeply concerned with, or it could be something you want to learn more about. The other way of studying the Bible is covered in the next section where we look at a systematic study, which largely involves reading the Bible in an organized manner.

In an organized study of the Bible by subject, what you are trying to do is learn all that the Bible teaches. The first thing you will need, besides several good translations, is some reference works. Fortunately, now there are many resources to be found online that once cost a lot of money. More important than any monetary savings is the fact that these resources are often more efficient and more informative than the printed resources were.

One key reference work that has long been used by Christians is Strong's *Concordance* which indexes every word in the Bible. It is an index of every word in the *Authorized (King James) Bible*. This it does in 1340 pages. It has another section that is 262 pages covering words that appear in the *English Revised Version* of 1881, and the *American Standard Version* of 1901. Because the *American Standard Version* is widely available on the internet, this is of use.

It has a further section of 127 pages, which is a *Dictionary of the Hebrew Language* with the Hebrew words used in the Bible, and a 79 page *Dictionary of the Greek Language*. Each Hebrew and Greek word is assigned a number.

Each word in the AKJV Bible is listed, and the original place it is used in the Bible is given with a line of text. Next to the line of text is the number of the original Hebrew or Greek word that the English word is translated from.

An example of this is if you wondered how often the word only-begotten appears in the Bible. You can then look up the word

only-begotten in Strong's *Concordance*. Strong's is of course an index of the words used in the AKJV Bible, but it works fine with any version you are reading. All you have to do, if you are curious about a word, is look up the same scripture in the AKJV and see the word it uses then you can look it up in Strong's *Concordance*.

If you look up only-begotten, you will see that it refers you to the words ONLY and BEGOTTEN. So you look down all the lines of text next to only and you find the words only-begotten appear six times. Next to each time it appears you will see the number of the Greek word it is translated from is 3439. You can then look it up and see what the original Greek word is and what it means.

But you might wonder if that Greek word is ever translated any other way. Using Strong's *Concordance*, with some words it entailed a lot of work to answer that question. But nowadays we have some tremendous on-line aids. You can find a number of websites that allow you to link Strong's numbers.

For instance, one website that links Strong's numbers will tell you that the Greek word number 3439 appears not six, but nine times in the original Greek text of the Bible. Six times it is translated as *only-begotten*, twice as *only*, and once as *only child*. You will notice that the AKJV translates the Greek word as only-begotten when it refers to Jesus, but when it is someone else it translates the word differently. In truth, this is a deceptive practice.

Compare and see how your favorite Bible translates the word at John 1:14, 18; John 3:16, 18; Hebrews 11:17; 1 John 4:9; Luke 7:12, 8:42, Luke 9:38. Some Bibles are more consistent than others.

You always have to be careful that a website does not introduce some of their doctrines into explanations, which some do quite subtly.

Another great aid on the internet is websites that have interlinear translations. These are highly useful, but again require caution. A good example of this is 1 Timothy 3:16. The AKJV translates this scripture *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory*. But the Bible does not say *God was manifest in the flesh*. That appears only in later manuscripts that have clearly been tampered with.

Most modern translations translate it correctly because they follow the oldest manuscripts, for instance, the *American Standard Version* translates it *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the spirit, Seen of angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.* So we see the scripture is referring to Jesus and not to God.

But some who wish to push their false doctrines have interlinear translations that put the word *theos*, God, in the original Greek text, although the word in the original text is *hos* which means [*he*] *who*. They would rather mistranslate the Bible and incur the wrath of God, in order to try and support their false and demonic doctrines. (1 Timothy 4:1)

We suggest that you look on the internet for websites that index or use Strong's numbers and links, and for websites that have interlinear translations. The reason we don't suggest any specific website is because they are pretty easily found, but if you wish suggestions you may contact us at info@thetruechristianchurch.org.

Another suggestion that comes with a warning to exercise extreme caution, is to look up the subject you are researching on the internet and see what is said about it. If it is a controversial subject see what is said both pro and con. This comes with an extreme warning because purveyors of false doctrines have had almost 2000 years to refine their deceptive arguments.

It also must be kept in mind that one of the means of putting over false doctrines is repetition. Some things have been said and claimed for so long that they have taken on an appearance of proof when they are nothing of the sort. For instance, every time the scriptures say that Jesus is the Son of God, is proof that he is not God. A son is not the same as a father. Everyone knows that, but it requires some effort for some to overcome the effects of continual, unremitting propaganda. Listen to what God's Holy Scriptures are actually saying, and not what Godless men claim the scriptures are saying. (Philippians 1:9-11; Hebrews 5:14)

3 Systematic Study of the Bible

This section is going to consider different approaches to the study of God's Word both organized and random, and the benefits and shortcomings of both methods.

You will want to determine your own approach to Bible study which will fit your schedule and lifestyle. But here are a few suggestions that might be helpful.

It is important to read some of the Bible daily, even if it is only a chapter. But it would be preferable, because of how lengthy the Bible is, if you could read a bit more each day, or almost every day.

We would suggest that you read about five chapters a day. Of course, the chapters vary in length so some people prefer to read a certain amount of pages each day. It is important to do what works with you.

The Bible has 1189 chapters. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117, which has two verses, and the longest is Psalm 119, which has 176 verses. These two psalms are unusual. Most chapters in the Bible are more consistent, although they do vary in length.

If you read an average of five chapters a day, it will take you around eight months to read through the entire Bible. If you read only one chapter a day it will take you more than three years.

While you want to read the Bible straight through, some find it beneficial to alternate between the New Testament and the Old Testament, which is three times longer than the New Testament. They either split the reading each day between both, or read them on alternate days.

While the entire Bible is God's Word, there is a benefit in spending a little more time with the New Testament because it tells of the life of Jesus Christ and the counsel he gave, and the letters of Paul and the others, are Christian counsel.

You may find if you develop your own plan it meets your needs best. Spending half the time each day with the Hebrew Old Testament and half with the Greek New Testament, some feel is most beneficial.

Others prefer spending all of their reading concentrating on one sequence of chapters. Both methods have their merits.

If you were to read the Bible out loud it would take you about eighty hours. Reading silently but with care to gain a complete comprehension of what you are reading, unlike a normal book which may be read faster, will likely take about the same. If you encounter any questions, and you frequently should, make a note to look them up and find the answer after you finish your reading, or you will become bogged down, and it will interrupt the flow of your reading and may adversely affect understanding.

Your reading, if you read five chapters each day, should take around twenty minutes on average. That is not much time and will prove to be of very great benefit.

Random Chapters

There is another way of reading the Bible that is not a substitute for a systematic reading but some find of great benefit, and that is periodically reading a random chapter.

For instance, in a daily reading of five chapters, two could be in the Hebrew Scriptures and two in the Greek Scriptures and one chapter could be random.

Since the random chapter can be anywhere in the Bible, it introduces many fresh perspectives to your reading. However, you would not wish to do as some have done in opening the Bible and pointing to a random verse in the hope that God is miraculously giving them guidance. This approaches superstition.

You have probably heard the old joke about the man seeking guidance who closes his eyes, opens his Bible and points to a scripture. When he looks where his finger is pointing it is to, *And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.* He didn't much like that, so he tried again, and came out with, *Go, and do thou likewise.* He liked that even less, so he tried once again but the scripture said *That thou doest, do quickly.* (Matthew 27:5; Luke 10:37; John 12:27)

An old joke, yes, but it points out a truth, and that is that it is not wise to try and invoke a miracle. A Christian knows what God wants by studying God's Word. If facing a difficult situation a Christian

approaches God in prayer and seeks the guidance of God's holy spirit. But a Christian wants to avoid practices that smack of superstition.

If you approach a random chapter because it offers a fresh approach to your study and not seeking miraculous counsel it will be beneficial. Often it does give counsel, and we cannot say that you were not guided there, but it is not likely.

But how do you randomly seek a chapter in the Bible. Well there are 66 books in the Bible, so try some means of choosing a number from 1 to 66, and then do the same with the chapters in the book that is selected.

The internet has a number of websites that allow you to find random numbers. Just type "random numbers" into a search engine.

Here is a list of the books of the Bible with the number of each book in order and the number of chapters in each book:

01	Genesis	50	34	Nahum	3
02	Exodus	40	35	Habakkuk	3
03	Leviticus	27	36	Zephaniah	3
04	Numbers	36	37	Haggai	2
05	Deuteronomy	34	38	Zechariah	14
06	Joshua	24	39	Malachi	4
07	Judges	21	40	Matthew	28
08	Ruth	4	41	Mark	16
09	I Samuel	31	42	Luke	24
10	II Samuel	24	43	John	21
11	I Kings	22	44	Acts	28
12	II Kings	25	45	Romans	16
13	I Chronicles	29	46	I Corinthians	16
14	II Chronicles	36	47	II Corinthians	13
15	Ezra	10	48	Galatians	6
16	Nehemiah	13	49	Ephesians	6
17	Esther	10	50	Philippians	4
18	Job	42	51	Colossians	4
19	Psalms	150	52	I Thessalonians	5
20	Proverbs	31	53	II Thessalonians	3
21	Ecclesiastes	12	54	I Timothy	6
22	Song of Solomon	8	55	II Timothy	4
23	Isaiah	66	56	Titus	3
24	Jeremiah	52	57	Philemon	1
25	Lamentations	5	58	Hebrews	13
26	Ezekiel	48	59	James	5
27	Daniel	12	60	I Peter	5
28	Hosea	14	61	II Peter	3
29	Joel	3	62	I John	5
30	Amos	9	63	II John	1
31	Obadiah	1	64	III John	1
32	Jonah	4	65	Jude	1
33	Micah	7	66	Revelation	22

4 The Books of the Bible

The dates of composition are based upon the Ussher dating, which is derived from information in the Bible. The place of composition and the writer are also derived from the Bible. In most cases, the dates and places and writers are based upon careful examination of the Holy Scriptures but they usually are not certain. The dates for the Hebrew Old Testament, Genesis to Malachi, are B.C.E. (Before the Common or Christian Era.) The dates for the Greek New Testament, Matthew to Revelation, are mostly, but not all, C.E. (Common or Christian Era.)

c=circa b=before a=after n/a=not applicable

GENESIS

The first book of Moses

Bible book number 1

Writer: Moses

Place written: The Wilderness

Writing completed: 1491 to 1451

Time covered: The beginning to 1635

Number of chapters: 50

Approximate time to read: 3h 49m

In the beginning God created the physical universe. Genesis says: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth is covered in water and is in darkness. In six creative days, God causes light to fall on the surface of the waters, divides the waters so that some are above the atmosphere and this causes dry land to appear, and then he creates vegetation, then the sun, moon, and stars become visible, fish, birds, and animals are created, and finally man and woman. Man and woman are given a paradise to live in, but are unfaithful so they are expelled. Their oldest son murders their younger son, and the world becomes more and more evil so that God determines to destroy all mankind by a flood that will destroy all living, except Noah and his family. The waters above the atmosphere come crashing down, and the flood drowns all except those in the ark that Noah and his sons built. It takes five months for the flood to totally disappear. But after the flood, things turn bad again when Noah's grandson commits an evil act and is cursed. Evil men build a great tower in defiance of God, so God confounds their language so that they leave off building the tower. He selects a man named Abram and changes his name to

Abraham with the promise that all mankind will bless themselves through Abraham. Abraham's grandson has the promise repeated to him and is given the name Israel. He has twelve sons who found the twelve tribes of Israel. The older sons sell the second youngest son, Joseph, into slavery. In Egypt he interprets Pharaoh's dream and predicts seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh puts him in charge of all Egypt and when his brothers come to buy food they are reunited. Jacob, called Israel, makes predictions about all twelve and then dies.

EXODUS

The second book of Moses

Bible book number 2

Writer: Moses

Place written: The Wilderness

Writing completed: 1490 to 1451

Time covered: 1635 to 1490

Number of chapters: 40

Approximate time to read: 3h 14m

About 215 years after the death of Jacob, the Israelites have come to be enslaved in Egypt. Moses is born and he is adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. When grown he kills a cruel Egyptian and has to flee to Midian. At a burning bush he is commissioned to represent God in Egypt. Moses, with his brother Aaron, tells Pharaoh that he is to send the Israelites into the Wilderness to worship Jehovah. Pharaoh refuses, and continues to refuse through plagues of the waters being turned into blood, frogs, gnats, gadflies, pestilence on livestock, boils and blisters on mankind and animals, hail and lightning, locusts, and a strange darkness. Then finally a tenth plague, when all the first born of man and beast among the Egyptians die, does Pharaoh tell Israel to leave. But soon regretting what he has done he pursues Israel only to see his army drowned in the Red Sea. The Children of Israel make their way south on the Sinai peninsula, sustained by miracles, to Mount Sinai where they receive the Ten Commandments, and other laws. Jehovah organizes them into a nation and gives them instructions to build a tabernacle. Voluntary offerings are gathered for the tabernacle.

LEVITICUS

The third book of Moses

Bible book number 3

Writer: Moses

Place written: The Wilderness

Writing completed: 1490

Time covered: 1 month in 1490

Number of chapters: 27

Approximate time to read: 2h 23m

Moses installs his brother Aaron as high priest, but two of Aaron's sons are struck dead when serving while intoxicated. Laws are given regarding the various sacrifices to be carried out, and regulations are given for handling ceremonial uncleanness. Sabbath days and years, and seasonal festivals and rituals are outlined, as well as blessings and maledictions.

NUMBERS

The fourth book of Moses

Bible book number 4

Writer: Moses

Place written: Wilderness and Plains of Moab

Writing completed: 1451

Time covered: 1490-1451

Number of chapters: 36

Approximate time to read: 3h 13m

About a year after the Exodus, the people of Israel are registered, and the tribes are organized. They are given instructions about their worship and their dealings with one another. They complain about God's miraculous provision of manna, and act in a faithless and rebellious way. They are disrespectful to Moses and even to God. As they are about to enter Canaan, God blesses them but they act in an immoral way and come close to punishment, until God relents.

DEUTERONOMY

The fifth book of Moses

Bible book number 5

Writer: Moses

Place written: Plains of Moab

Writing completed: 1451

Time covered: 2 months in 1451

Number of chapters: 34

Approximate time to read: 2h 49m

After forty years in the wilderness, Israel finds itself at the edge of the promised land. Moses pleads with God to allow him to enter the promised land, but God tells him to commission Joshua to lead the nation. Moses reminds the people of the things they have done. He tells them what they must do and not do when in the promised land. He sets before them life and death and then he appoints Joshua to lead them. After Moses blesses Israel, he dies on Mount Nebo.

JOSHUA

Bible book number 6

Writer: Joshua

Place written: Canaan

Writing completed: c1428

Time covered: 1451-c1428

Number of chapters: 24

Approximate time to read: 1h 52m

After the death of Moses, Joshua takes over and prepares Israel to enter the promised land, sending out spies. The Jordan River miraculously stops flowing in order to allow Israel to cross dry-shod into the land of Canaan. They conquer Jericho, and the Gibeonites sue for peace. The land is divided among the tribes of Israel, and Joshua exhorts them to remain faithful.

JUDGES

Bible book number 7

Writer: Samuel

Place written: Israel

Writing completed: c1078

Time covered: c1428-c1098

Number of chapters: 21

Approximate time to read: 1h 53m

This is an account of Israel from the death of Joshua to the establishment of the kingship several centuries later. During that time, when necessity requires it, God causes one of his faithful servants to take the lead in rescuing the Israelites from oppression. Over the centuries he raises up some whose names most people are familiar with such as Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson, but he also raises up some we are less familiar with such as Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon. During that time there also occurs the shameful incident with the tribe of Benjamin, whose men are guilty of a mass sex crime that almost causes the tribe to be annihilated.

RUTH

Bible book number 8

Writer: Samuel

Place written: Israel

Writing completed: c1068

Time covered: c1250-c1239

Number of chapters: 4

Approximate time to read: 15 minutes

After Ruth's husband dies leaving her childless, she goes with Naomi, her mother-in-law, who is returning to Israel. She is searching for leftover grain in the fields of a man named Boaz, to whom it turns out Naomi is related. At Ruth's request, Boaz acts as a willing repurchaser according to the procedures among the Israelites, and then he marries Ruth.

I SAMUEL

Bible book number 9

Writer: Samuel; Gad; Nathan

Place written: Israel

Writing completed: c1056

Time covered: c1158-c1056

Number of chapters: 31

Approximate time to read: 2h 30m

Samuel is raised up as a prophet, and at the peoples urging, and Jehovah's consent, appoints Saul as king. Saul ends up unfaithful, and so while he is still alive, David is anointed as king. David lives as a fugitive pursued by Saul, until Saul dies a suicide.

II SAMUEL

Bible book number 10

Writer: Gad; Nathan

Place written: Israel

Writing completed: c1018

Time covered: 1055-c1018

Number of chapters: 24

Approximate time to read: 2h 4m

David rules from Hebron, until he becomes king over all of Israel. When he is king, he sins with Bathsheba, but their child dies. Troubles and calamities come from within his own family, when Amnon rapes his half-sister, Tamar, and Absalom leads a revolt forcing David to flee. After David is restored, he sins again by conducting a census contrary to the will of God. At the end, he buys property for the location of a temple to Jehovah.

I & II KINGS (One roll.)

Bible books number 11 & 12

Writer: Jeremiah

Place written: Judah and Egypt

Writing completed: 558

Time covered: c1018-558

(See below for number of chapters.)

I KINGS

Bible book number 11

Number of chapters: 22

Approximate time to read: 2h 26m

After David's death, Solomon becomes king and builds Jehovah's temple, as well as a palace complex. He is visited by the Queen of Sheba who has heard of the wonders of Solomon's wisdom and reign. But in his old age, Solomon is led astray by foreign wives, and worships foreign gods. After his death, the kingdom is ripped apart with two tribes remaining with the house of David as the Kingdom of Judah, and ten forming a separate kingdom, the Kingdom of Israel. Some of the kings of Judah are bad and some are good. The two kingdoms war with one another, and Elijah and other prophets are sent by God.

II KINGS

Bible book number 12

Number of chapters: 25

Approximate time to read: 2h 21m

After Elijah is taken away, Elisha serves as his successor. Elisha performs various miracles, and has Jehu anointed as king. Jehu wreaks vengeance upon the house of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Calf worship and other sins continue in the northern Kingdom of Israel until the Assyrians conquer Israel and take its people captive into Assyria. A little over a century later, the Kingdom of Judah is conquered and taken captive to Babylon.

I & II CHRONICLES (One roll.)

Bible books number 13 & 14

Writer: Ezra

Place written: Jerusalem?

Writing completed: c460

Time covered: (I Chronicles 10:1 to 2 Chronicles 36:23) 1055-537

(See below for number of chapters.)

I CHRONICLES

Bible book number 13

Number of chapters: 29

Approximate time to read: 2h 2m

The genealogies of Judah and Levi from Adam onward are recounted. It tells of the death of Saul because of unfaithfulness, and many episodes of David's life. And finally, it tells of David's preparations for the building of the temple which will be carried out by his son, Solomon. After David dies, Solomon begins his reign as king.

II CHRONICLES

Bible book number 14

Number of chapters: 36

Approximate time to read: 3 hours

Solomon shows great wisdom, but also acts foolishly. He builds the temple of Jehovah, and is visited by the Queen of Sheba. After his death the foolishness of his son causes the nation to be split in two with the line of David ruling the Kingdom of Judah, but not the Kingdom of Israel. For over three hundred years David's descendants rule until the last king, Zedekiah, when the Jews are carried off into exile and the land lies desolate for decades, until Cyrus of Persia decrees that they return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

EZRA

Bible book number 15

Writer: Ezra

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: c460

Time covered: 537-c467

Number of chapters: 10

Approximate time to read: 44 minutes

Cyrus of Persia issues a decree, and a remnant of Jews return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Their enemies repeatedly interfere until Darius the king intercedes. Almost seventy years after the return, Ezra goes to Jerusalem with gifts and to appoint judges, and Israel is cleansed from improper behavior.

NEHEMIAH

Bible book number 16

Writer: Nehemiah

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: a443

Time covered: 456-a443

Number of chapters: 13

Approximate time to read: 1h 3m

Nehemiah goes from the Persian capitol to Jerusalem to rebuild its wall which is in a sorry state. Foreigners there oppose him, so he has to arm the workers, but despite all the opposition the wall is finished in 52 days and is inaugurated. Great effort is made to put all their affairs in order and bring the people into a Godly state. But when Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem after a lengthy absence he finds things have spiritually deteriorated again, and he has to put things right.

ESTHER

Bible book number 17

Writer: Mordecai

Place written: Shushan & Elam

Writing completed: c475

Time covered: 493-c475

Number of chapters: 10

Approximate time to read: 34 minutes

Esther is chosen to become the queen of Ahasuerus, ruler of the Persian Empire. Under the direction of Mordecai, she does not reveal that she is a Jew. Haman plots to destroy the Jews, but Esther confronts him and reveals his plot in front of the king. The Jews are allowed to defend themselves, and are told to commemorate this deliverance every year. Mordecai becomes second to the king, and does much for the good of his people.

JOB

Bible book number 18

Writer: Moses

Place written: Wilderness

Writing completed: c1451

Time covered: Between 1635-1451

Number of chapters: 42

Approximate time to read: 1h 50m

Satan appears before God and challenges the integrity of Job. God allows Satan to visit upon Job disaster after disaster including the death of his children, who may have been misbehaving. Satan is also allowed to inflict Job with a loathsome and painful disease. In this state three acquaintances of Job come to comfort him. When Job complains about his state, his three companions claim he is suffering because of sins. Elihu, who is present but not one of the three, corrects both Job and his companions. Then God speaks to Job out of a windstorm, and finally Job is rewarded for his integrity.

PSALMS

Bible book number 19

Writer: David, and others

Place written: Various locations

Writing completed: c460

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 150

Approximate time to read: 4h 24m

This is a collection of 150 sacred songs, written over a period of a thousand years by both named and unnamed faithful writers, most prominently by David. They are songs of praise, thanks, and advice, as well as pleas and petitions to God for help. They speak of the qualities of God, practices to avoid, as well as contain prophecies, true teachings of the Bible, and wise counsel.

PROVERBS

Bible book number 20

Writer: Solomon, Agur, and Lemuel

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: c695

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 31

Approximate time to read: 1h 32m

Though mostly the work of King Solomon, the book was not completed until about three hundred years after his time. It stresses the value of wisdom, gives us counsel on daily living, and on what we should and should not do. We receive instructions on family life, and on our relationship to God.

ECCLESIASTES

Bible book number 21

Writer: Solomon

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: Before 978

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 12

Approximate time to read: 34 minutes

In the latter part of his reign, an experienced King Solomon writes of the vanity of life, and how vain pursuits should be avoided. He then counsels on things that are worthwhile and wise, and that the thing to do is fear God, and keep his commandments.

SONG OF SOLOMON

Bible book number 22

Writer: Solomon

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: c998

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 8

Approximate time to read: 16 minutes

This tells the story of a young woman and her shepherd lover. When King Solomon comes along and tries to lure her away with riches and luxury, she remains steadfast and faithful to her own true love.

ISAIAH

Bible book number 23

Writer: Isaiah

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: a710

Time covered: c756-a710

Number of chapters: 66

Approximate time to read: 3h 41m

Jehovah looks with disapproval on Israel because of the nation's misbehavior, and finds their sacrifices unacceptable. He commissions Isaiah as his prophet. Isaiah prophecies that Samaria, the Kingdom of Israel, will be ravished but lasting relief will come with the Prince of Peace. Trouble will come upon the enemies of God's people, and his people will be delivered by a righteous king. Blessings will come upon all people when death is swallowed up forever. The Messiah will die for the transgressions of others, but the peoples will rejoice in a new heavens and a new earth.

JEREMIAH

Bible book number 24

Writer: Jeremiah

Place written: Judah and Egypt

Writing completed: 558

Time covered: 625-558

Number of chapters: 52

Approximate time to read: 4h 15m

Jeremiah was commissioned by God to pull down, to root out, to build, and to plant. So he proclaimed the wickedness of Judah and the certainty of its destruction, but also points to a restoration and a new covenant. For his prophesying he is persecuted and his very life is threatened. And as he prophesied, Jerusalem does indeed fall and is destroyed and its people are carried into exile. Jeremiah goes with the few remaining to Egypt, but predicts that calamity will overtake them there.

LAMENTATIONS

Bible book number 25

Writer: Jeremiah

Place written: Near Jerusalem

Writing completed: 587

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 5

Approximate time to read: 20 minutes

Five poems on the fall and destruction of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is portrayed as a widow, and Jehovah has thrown Jerusalem down. Jeremiah speaks of what has befallen them, and petitions God for forgiveness.

EZEKIEL

Bible book number 26

Writer: Ezekiel

Place written: Babylon

Writing completed: c569

Time covered: 591-c569

Number of chapters: 48

Approximate time to read: 3h 57m

Ezekiel is appointed as Jehovah's prophet. He acts out the prophecies of the siege of Jerusalem by Babylon and the flight of Zedekiah the king. The king's crown is to be removed and it will not be restored until He comes who has the legal right. Ezekiel then tells of the punishment of the nations who rejoice over the destruction of Judah. God's people in exile in Babylon are like dry bones, but they will be restored to life. He then sees a spiritual temple and a restored people that will be protected from Gog of Magog's attack, and will be healed.

DANIEL

Bible book number 27

Writer: Daniel

Place written: Babylon

Writing completed: c536
Time covered: 596-c536
Number of chapters: 12
Approximate time to read: 1h 10m

Daniel and his three companions are exiled to Babylon. The three companions refuse to worship an image of the king and are thrown into a fiery furnace but are delivered by an angel. When Daniel refuses to refrain from prayer he is cast into a lion's den but is also delivered by an angel. Daniel has prophetic visions that predict the end of earthly kingdoms and their replacement by God's Kingdom. When Belshazzar uses implements from God's temple to toast his pagan gods, handwriting appears on the wall, and Daniel interprets it as declaring the end of Belshazzar's rule. Daniel then sees the march of world powers until God's people are delivered by Michael and are resurrected.

HOSEA

Bible book number 28
Writer: Hosea
Place written: District of Samaria
Writing completed: a723
Time covered: b782-a723
Number of chapters: 14
Approximate time to read:

Hosea prophecies just before the northern Kingdom of Israel is taken into captivity by the Assyrians. By marriage to a woman who proves to be an adulteress, Hosea pictures the Kingdom of Israel which is unfaithful to God. They are guilty of all manner of wrong including murder and spiritual adultery. They are urged to plead to God for pardon and turn away from idolatry. If they return to God it will result in healing and blessing.

JOEL

Bible book number 29
Writer: Joel
Place written: Judah
Writing completed: c798?
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 3
Approximate time to read: 12 minutes

The priests are told to mourn. The land faces an invasion of locusts that will be spoken of for generations, but these are no ordinary locusts. Joel invites the people to come back to God, and they will escape during that great and terrible day. The

nations around about are challenged to prepare for war against Jehovah, but he will be a refuge for his people.

AMOS

Bible book number 30

Writer: Amos

Place written: Judah

Writing completed: c782

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 9

Approximate time to read: 25 minutes

Judgement will come upon the nations that surround the northern Kingdom of Israel, but also upon Israel itself. Visions of desolation by fire and by locusts are given, and Amos intercedes for Israel. He is commanded by the priest of Bethel to stop prophesying. Israel's end is near and they cannot escape the reach of God. But restoration will come.

OBADIAH

Bible book number 31

Writer: Obadiah

Place written: Unknown

Writing completed: c585

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 1

Approximate time to read: 4 minutes

Edom rejoiced when Jerusalem fell, but calamity will come upon her and she will suffer the same treatment that Judah suffered. And Judah will be restored and take possession of the mountains of Esau.

JONAH

Bible book number 32

Writer: Jonah

Place written: Unknown

Writing completed: c822

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 4

Approximate time to read: 8 minutes

When Jonah is told to go with a warning to the people of Nineveh, which is to the east of Palestine, instead he boards a ship headed to Spain in the far west. God causes a great storm and Jonah ends up thrown overboard. He is swallowed by a large fish which vomits him out on a beach. He is sent to Nineveh with his prophecy of doom, but the people repent and God allows them to keep on living. Jonah is upset that he appears to have been wrong but God points out why he showed mercy to the people of Nineveh.

MICAH

Bible book number 33

Writer: Micah

Place written: Judah

Writing completed: b695

Time covered: c755-695

Number of chapters: 7

Approximate time to read: 19 minutes

Greedy businessmen, violent criminals, dishonest judges, priests and prophets out for money, and untrustworthy family members will afflict the land. The people have revolted against God. Jehovah will punish both Judah and Israel. But a remnant will be gathered like a flock in a pen, and God's house will be exalted in the final part of the days. From Bethlehem will come a ruler and the people will be cleansed.

NAHUM

Bible book number 34

Writer: Nahum

Place written: Judah

Writing completed: b610

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 3

Approximate time to read: 7 minutes

God will exact vengeance on those who oppose him. Jehovah is a strong fortress protecting his people. Judah will be cleansed and the wicked, cruel, and bloody city of Nineveh will be destroyed forever.

HABAKKUK

Bible book number 35

Writer: Habakkuk

Place written: Judah

Writing completed: c606

Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 3
Approximate time to read: 9 minutes

God will use the Chaldeans as his instrument to punish his unfaithful people, but the Chaldeans will in turn be punished. The fearful Habakkuk will rejoice in Jehovah as the God of salvation.

ZEPHANIAH

Bible book number 36
Writer: Zephaniah
Place written: Judah
Writing completed: b626
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 3
Approximate time to read: 10 minutes

Those who believe that God is indifferent will learn otherwise as he will punish all the evil ones and neither their silver nor their gold will protect them. Divine judgement will come upon the wicked nations around Judah and Jerusalem. It will also come upon Jerusalem itself and its unrighteous princes, prophets, priests, and judges. But in the end a remnant will be saved.

HAGGAI

Bible book number 37
Writer: Haggai
Place written: Jerusalem
Writing completed: 520
Time covered: 520
Number of chapters: 2
Approximate time to read: 7 minutes

After the return of the Jews from exile, it is pointed out to them that while they live in nice houses, God's house lies in ruins. Because of their neglect of the temple, all their work is unclean before God. Governor Zerubbabel learns that no power can stand in the way of the rebuilding of the temple and that his position will be secure.

ZECHARIAH

Bible book number 38
Writer: Zechariah
Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: 518
Time covered: 520-518
Number of chapters: 14
Approximate time to read: 38 minutes

Zechariah was written around 19 years after the return of a remnant of Israel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem. Zechariah receives eight visions that tell of a cleansing that will occur. God's judgement will come upon the nations, and God's people will be regathered and cleansed from sin.

MALACHI

Bible book number 39
Writer: Malachi
Place written: Jerusalem
Writing completed: a443
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 4
Approximate time to read: 10 minutes

God loved his people but their priests sacrifice sick and lame animals to him. The priests and people keep doing bad, but God will judge them and cleanse them. A spiritual book will be written of those who do good, and the wicked will be completely destroyed.

All dates from Matthew to Revelation are C.E. Christian (or Common) Era, unless otherwise noted.

MATTHEW

Bible book number 40
Writer: Matthew
Place written: Palestine
Writing completed: c41
Time covered: 2 B.C.E. – 33 C.E.
Number of chapters: 28
Approximate time to read: 2h 22m

Jesus is born in Bethlehem to a virgin. He is descended from Abraham in the line of King David. He fulfils many prophecies of the Hebrew prophets and goes forth and preaches the Kingdom of God. He exposes the religious leaders for what they are, and gives much good counsel to his followers. On his last Passover he institutes a ceremony which Christians must perform until he comes. His religious enemies demand that he die and the Romans carry that out and he is nailed to a stake. For

parts of three days he lies in the tomb and then is raised to life by God and appears to his disciples. He commissions them to go and make disciples of all nations.

MARK

Bible book number 41

Writer: Mark

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c60-65

Time covered: 29-33

Number of chapters: 16

Approximate time to read: 1h 30m

Jesus is baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. He goes forth and preaches that the Kingdom of God has drawn near. His own people do not show faith in him, but he cures the sick, feeds multitudes and teaches faith. The Pharisees continually hound him, and the religious leaders cause him to be put to death. He is resurrected.

LUKE

Bible book number 42

Writer: Luke

Place written: Caesarea

Writing completed: c56-58

Time covered: 3 B.C.E. – 33 C.E.

Number of chapters: 24

Approximate time to read: 2h 35m

Mary is told she will bear the Son of God. At his birth the angels proclaim that he is Christ the Lord. When he is twelve, he questions the teachers at the temple. When he is about thirty he is baptized and receives God's holy spirit. He speaks many parables, and he sends out 70 to preach. He shows that the Kingdom is not going to come at that time. At the end he preaches in and around Jerusalem. He is arrested and impaled, and when he dies the curtain of the sanctuary is rent down the middle. He is buried and resurrected within three days, and ascends to heaven as his disciples look on.

JOHN

Bible book number 43

Writer: John

Place written: Vicinity of Ephesus

Writing completed: c98

Time covered: After John 1:1-18, 29-33

Number of chapters: 21

Approximate time to read: 1h 55m

Writing near the close of the first century, more than sixty years after the death and ascension to heaven of Jesus, John tells of the pre-human existence of Jesus as the Word. The Word becomes a man named Jesus and gathers disciples, and preaches and performs miracles. But the religious leaders become more and more hostile to him and his preaching. On the last night of his life he gathers his followers to the Lord's evening meal, where he admonishes them, and encourages them, prays for them, and reports to his father that he has finished his work. He is arrested, rejected by his nation, and impaled. When he is resurrected he appears to his followers and identifies himself and gives the commission to *Feed my little sheep*.

ACTS

Bible book number 44

Writer: Luke

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c61

Time covered: 33-c61

Number of chapters: 28

Approximate time to read: 2h 26m

After the resurrected Jesus departs, rising to heaven on a cloud, some fifty days later, at Pentecost, just as he predicted, his assembled followers are baptized in holy spirit. Peter and John are arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin but refuse to stop preaching. Stephen becomes the first martyr, but persecution only results in spreading the good news. Jesus appears to Saul who is persecuting Christians and converts him. Peter converts Cornelius spreading the good news to the people of the nations. Paul goes on three missionary journeys. He is arrested in Jerusalem and ends up being sent to Rome as a prisoner.

ROMANS

Bible book number 45

Writer: Paul

Place written: Corinth

Writing completed: c56

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 16

Approximate time to read: 58 minutes

Paul counsels that righteousness comes through faith and not the works of the Law of Moses. He explains that the Law was designed to make sins manifest, but salvation comes through Jesus. He teaches them the right attitude towards the

authorities and to one another. He is writing to them as an apostle to the Gentiles, and is looking forward to going to Spain to preach the good news there.

I CORINTHIANS

Bible book number 46

Writer: Paul

Place written: Ephesus

Writing completed: c55

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 16

Approximate time to read: 57 minutes

After exhorting the Christians in Corinth to remain unified and not feel they are superior to others in the congregation, Paul admonishes them to remove any morally unclean person. He points out the case of a man in the congregation who is guilty of a particularly serious case of immorality. He then counsels them about marriage and being concerned about the spiritual welfare of others. Finally, he discusses headship, respect for the Lord's evening meal, gifts of the spirit, and love. A Christian who dies will be resurrected as an immortal spirit.

II CORINTHIANS

Bible book number 47

Writer: Paul

Place written: Macedonia

Writing completed: c55

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 13

Approximate time to read: 37 minutes

God's deliverance of Paul and Timothy from near death can give the Corinthians hope. Paul is thankful that they removed the immoral man from their midst, and now recommends he be forgiven and comforted. They all share the hope of everlasting life in the heavens. They are encouraged to help the brothers in need in Judea. Paul defends his doing secular work and points out his genealogy. He speaks of his visions and admonishes them to keep testing to make sure they are in the faith.

GALATIANS

Bible book number 48

Writer: Paul

Place written: Corinth, or Syrian Antioch

Writing completed: c50-52

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 6

Approximate time to read: 19 minutes

Paul defends his being an apostle and says a person can only be declared righteous by faith and not by works of law. True sons of Abraham are those who have a faith like his. Those who seek righteousness by works of law are under a curse. Jesus Christ released those under law so do not return to slavery. Kindly help anyone taking a false step.

EPHESIANS

Bible book number 49

Writer: Paul

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c60-61

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 6

Approximate time to read: 19 minutes

Jews and Gentiles in the Christian Congregation are to become one spiritual body under one Lord Jesus Christ. Stay away from immorality and observe proper headship. We have a fight against wicked spiritual forces so put on the spiritual armor from God, and pray for all the holy ones.

PHILIPPIANS

Bible book number 50

Writer: Paul

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c60-61

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 4

Approximate time to read: 14 minutes

Paul expresses his love of the Philippians, and tells them how his imprisonment has led to the advancement of the good news. He tells them not to be frightened by their enemies, but stick to God's word, and avoid circumcision. Finally, they are to rejoice in the Lord and come to God in prayer if they are anxious about anything.

COLOSSIANS

Bible book number 51

Writer: Paul
Place written: Rome
Writing completed: c60-61
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 4
Approximate time to read: 12 minutes

Christ is the firstborn of all creation and we are reconciled to God through Christ who is the image of God. At the death of Christ, God nailed the Law of Moses to the stake. Beware of any who might try to lure you back to works of law. Put away wrong desires, attitudes, and speech, and clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, mildness, long-suffering, and love. Walk in wisdom and persevere in prayer.

I THESSALONIANS

Bible book number 52
Writer: Paul
Place written: Corinth
Writing completed: c50
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 5
Approximate time to read: 11 minutes

Paul commends the Thessalonians for their work and endurance. They have suffered persecution and Paul prays for them. He admonishes them to show love, avoid immorality, and comfort one another. God's day is coming as a thief, so remain awake, and do good.

II THESSALONIANS

Bible book number 53
Writer: Paul
Place written: Corinth
Writing completed: c51
Time covered: n/a
Number of chapters: 3
Approximate time to read: 7 minutes

The Thessalonians have had some incorrect ideas about the coming of Christ that Paul clears up. He warns that a great apostasy is to come upon the Christian Church. And he tells them how to deal with disorderly persons.

I TIMOTHY

Bible book number 54

Writer: Paul

Place written: Macedonia

Writing completed: c61-64

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 6

Approximate time to read: 14 minutes

Paul counsels Timothy about his own well-being. And he warns about some in the congregation teaching false doctrines. He lists the necessary qualifications for those holding offices in the congregation, and gives instructions for conduct and needs.

II TIMOTHY

Bible book number 55

Writer: Paul

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c65

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 4

Approximate time to read: 10 minutes

Paul tells Timothy how to make personal progress and how to stand up to false teachers. Paul is suffering in chains and many have deserted him. His death is imminent. He has fought the fine fight. He is looking forward to the crown of righteousness.

TITUS

Bible book number 56

Writer: Paul

Place written: Macedonia?

Writing completed: c61-64

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 3

Approximate time to read: 7 minutes

There are problems in Crete and Titus has been sent to correct them. Paul lists the requirements for those taking the lead in the congregation. Titus must silence the unruly and the foolish questions and arguments over Law. Paul gives counsel how things should be conducted in the congregation, and the need for proper conduct.

PHILEMON

Bible book number 57

Writer: Paul

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c60-61

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 1

Approximate time to read: 2 minutes

Paul thanks God for Philemon's love and faith. He sends Onesimus, a runaway slave, back to Philemon and requests that he release Onesimus and let him come back to help Paul.

HEBREWS

Bible book number 58

Writer: Paul

Place written: Rome

Writing completed: c61

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 13

Approximate time to read: 43 minutes

Jesus Christ has been exalted by God above the angels. His priesthood is superior to that of the Levitical priesthood, and the New Covenant to the Law covenant. Faith is necessary to please God, so Paul uses as an example those of faith from Abel on down through the centuries. Suffering is a form of discipline that produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Keep doing the right things, manifest brotherly love, imitate the faith of those taking the lead, stay away from strange teachings, be willing to suffer reproach, and always offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

JAMES

Bible book number 59

Writer: James, brother of Jesus

Place written: Jerusalem

Writing completed: b62

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 5

Approximate time to read: 14 minutes

God helps Christians to endure faithfully if we ask in faith. God requires right works to demonstrate our faith. We must show our faith by our works as Abraham did, because faith without works is dead. Christian teachers have a great responsibility before God. We must avoid selfishness and lack of consideration for

our brothers. Rich oppressors will face Divine judgement. If a person is sick he should call on the elders to pray over him. To recover an erring brother is to save him from death.

I PETER

Bible book number 60

Writer: Peter

Place written: Babylon

Writing completed: c62-64

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 5

Approximate time to read: 15 minutes

Christians are a holy priesthood and a holy nation, built upon Jesus Christ, who must declare abroad the praises of their God. He tells the duties of the people of God and exhorts them to unity and love. They are comforted against trials, and encouraged to show humility, and warned that the devil is like a roaring lion.

II PETER

Bible book number 61

Writer: Peter

Place written: Babylon?

Writing completed: c64

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 3

Approximate time to read: 10 minutes

Christians must trust in God's word, and be careful of false teachers. They must not mistake God's patience for slowness, but realize the end will come. They must remember the flood of Noah's day. God's day will come like a thief in the night and this time the judgement will be as of fire, so they must be diligent.

I JOHN

Bible book number 62

Writer: John

Place written: Vicinity of Ephesus

Writing completed: c98

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 5

Approximate time to read: 15 minutes

That Jesus came in the flesh has been confirmed. But the antichrist will come and there will be many antichrists so Christians must not love the world. The antichrist is clearly identified as those who deny the Christ and those who deny the Father. God's sons must love in truth, but they must be vigilant because many spirits and false prophets have gone out into the world. Christians are encouraged in faith and love.

II JOHN

Bible book number 63

Writer: John

Place written: Vicinity of Ephesus

Writing completed: c98

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 1

Approximate time to read: 2 minutes

A letter to the "chosen lady" to encourage her to go on walking in his commandments.

III JOHN

Bible book number 64

Writer: John

Place written: Vicinity of Ephesus

Writing completed: c98

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 1

Approximate time to read: 2 minutes

We must show hospitality to our fellow Christians, and imitate what is good not what is bad.

JUDE

Bible book number 65

Writer: Jude, brother of Jesus

Place written: Palestine

Writing completed: c65

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 1

Approximate time to read: 4 minutes

Jude warns that some have slipped into the congregation who turn God's grace into an excuse for immorality, and who deny God and Jesus. He warns what to guard against, and instructs that Christians must stand firm waiting for Jesus's mercy.

REVELATION

Bible book number 66

Writer: John

Place written: Patmos

Writing completed: c96

Time covered: n/a

Number of chapters: 22

Approximate time to read: 1h 13m

God has given Jesus a revelation to show his servants what must take place. First, counsel is given to the seven congregations in Asia, which is modern Turkey, telling them what they need to correct and giving them commendation when due. Then the Lamb enters the presence of God and is found worthy. He opens six seals, and when he opens the sixth a great earthquake occurs heralding the day of wrath. The seventh seal is opened, and the trumpets sound heralding plagues. When the seventh trumpet sounds, the Kingdom is born and there is a war between the archangel Michael and the dragon. God commands seven angels to pour out seven bowls of his anger. Babylon the Great comes to its end and the marriage of the Lamb takes place. He is triumphant over the nations, Satan is cast into the abyss, and Christ rules for a thousand years. The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven and an invitation is given to anyone thirsting to take life's waters free.



*For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.—
Hebrews 4:12*

To use this two-edged sword we must learn well what it teaches. To use it for our own guidance and to refute the false doctrines of the Churches we must learn to use it effectively and skillfully, as a warrior learns the use of his carnal weapons.

That is why The True Christian Church has made available the 58 page booklet *Basics of the Christian Faith: Special Compact Edition*. It is free to download in PDF format.

It discusses topics such as Will the Faith Be Found on Earth when the Lord arrives?; What Jesus and the Bible say about God; Where Do the Wicked Go?; Christian Conduct; Christian Worship, Service, and Sharing the Faith; as well as other topics of interest and concern to all who seek to please and obey Almighty God and our Lord Jesus.

It can be found at thetruechristianchurch.org

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.—2 Timothy 2:15