

Overall Layout and Content of the Bible

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- As we begin our study, I'd like to take a minute to set the stage
- 2 Kings 6:8-17
 - Syria was at war with Israel
 - And the Syrian king wanted to get his hands on Elisha because Elisha was telling the king of Israel the things that the Syrian speaks even while in his bedroom (vs 12) – how could Elisha do this if God were not with him – God exists. Our God, He is alive
 - But the Syrians come to Dothan where Elisha was and surround his camp, frightening Elisha's servant
 - And Elisha tells his servant *"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*
 - This is a critical statement
 - God told Elijah something similar
 - Whatever earthly situation you are in – God is greater
 - And one way or another, God will help you overcome
 - Elisha prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened and when they were, the servant saw a mountain full of horses and chariots of fire fighting for the Lord
 - **What happened to the Syrians to prove Elisha's point?**
 - Vs 18-23
 - God disposed of the Syrians
 - He blinded them and Elisha led them right to Israel where they were subdued
 - What's the significance of this story? Why do we have it? (Romans 15:4 – for our learning)
 - God is in control
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 - Even to the point of His death, burial, and resurrection
 - Fear Him and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
- Acts 8:26-40
 - We all know this account very well, but I'd like to point out a few key principles here as we begin in our study
 - Vs 26 & 29
 - An angel of the Lord sent Philip
 - And the Spirit also sent Philip
 - Philip was sent to teach this eunuch by God Himself
 - And Philip taught him Jesus (vs 35)
 - First, I want to point out that we have this same call to teach today
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - Christ has all authority in heaven and earth right now and He has instructed us to do the following
 - Teach, make disciples, and baptize
 - Of the students you teach, teach by example – show them that you are a faithful disciple

- This eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53 and did not fully understand what he was reading
- And Philip started with this passage of Scripture and turned this into a conversation about Jesus
 - When we teach, we need to meet people where they're at – and somehow figure out how to introduce to them the concepts that really matter
 - The things of Jesus – His death, burial, and resurrection
 - Ultimately, Jesus is the point of the Bible
- **Introduction**
 - The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word *biblia* which when translated, literally means 'books'
 - **So is the Bible 1 book or is it made up of many?** It is made up of many
 - **In Spanish, what does the word *biblioteca* mean?** Translated into English, this is 'library'
 - The Bible is essentially a library collection of many books written at various times in history
 - **How many books?** 66
 - **How many OT books?** 39
 - **How many NT books?** 27
 - **What is the overall point of the Bible?** Christ is the point
 - **Psalm 22:16-18, Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13**
 - I selected these passages intently
 - **What is Psalm 22 speaking of?** David is clearly in deep distress when he prays this, but in this we can see a prophecy of Christ's death
 - We can read of how Christ's hands and feet were pierced as He was crucified in the gospel accounts as is prophesied here in Psalm 22
 - We can read how His garments were divided and lots were cast for them in the gospel accounts
 - So you can see that this, an OT passage is pointing to Christ
 - And this is but 1 of many – we will study more as we go along of course
 - Galatians 3:13 is a NT passage that references an OT passage
 - So Deuteronomy 21 has both a physical meaning and a larger spiritual meaning as referenced in Galatians 3
 - Deuteronomy 21 is discussing what to do when someone has committed a crime worthy of death, specifically hanging
 - You cannot leave this man hanging dead overnight – if he's dead, take him down and bury him
 - And a prophecy of Christ's crucifixion is sprinkled in here at the end – oh yeah, cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree
 - The parallels of this and what happened to Christ go without saying
 - If you think man is the author of the Bible, then think again
 - No man could have done this
 - Both the OT and the NT point to Christ
 - Let's briefly take a look at the beginning and the end

■ Genesis 3:1-6, Revelation 20:2-3, 10

- One of the first things we read in the Bible is of a serpent in the Garden of Eden
- **How did Satan get into the world?**
- Luke 10:13-21, Matthew 11:20-27
- Look at the prayer in vs 21 (Luke) and vs 25-27 (Matthew)
- This is immediately after the rebuke of Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum
- Also right after some of Christ's disciples return from mission work in which they report to Christ that they have power over demons
- And in the middle of this, Christ thanks God?
- **Vs 23 (Matthew) – what do we know of Sodom? Who did the destruction of Sodom benefit?**
- It benefited the entire world EXCEPT for the inhabitants of Sodom – the righteous
- Just like the flood – it benefited the righteous (Noah – Genesis 6:8)
- And in the middle of this analogy, Jesus says the following in Luke 10:18 - *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."*
- Revelation 12:7-12
- There was war in heaven with Satan and his followers – resulting in Satan and his followers being cast to earth
- And a woe was spoken against the earth because Satan is now our problem (vs 12)
- There was rejoicing in heaven though – he is no longer our problem
- So you can see the different reaction here
- Your reaction to God's judgment against evil depends on what side you are on
- Same can be said of Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Sodom, etc.
- God's judgment over evil condemns the unrighteous but benefits the righteous
- Your reaction depends on what side of God's judgment you are on
- So Satan is on earth in Genesis 3
- Woe to us – because he is now our problem
- And we find him in the form of a serpent deceiving mankind and introducing death into the world
- Romans 6:23 – *"For the wages of sin is death..."*
- John 8:44 – *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning..."*
- Romans 5:12 – *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."*
- Through the deceit of the serpent, and Adam's falling for it – death entered the world through sin
- With sin came death

- The serpent knew this – so in a way, anytime someone dies, their blood is directly on the hands of the serpent, Satan
 - In this way, John 8 tells us that he was a murderer from the beginning
 - We see this same serpent at the end of the Bible in Revelation 20, but this time we read of his downfall
 - “...that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan...”
 - If you’re not with God, you are going to be defeated with Satan
 - But fear not – there is another similarity from the beginning of the Bible and the end
- **Genesis 2:9-10, Revelation 22:1-2**
 - **What are the similarities here?**
 - The tree of life, and a river
 - In Revelation, we read this river is pure and contains the water of life
 - In Genesis, we read that this river was to water the garden – to give it life
 - One of the most beautiful things about the Bible is that though written thousands of years apart (Genesis and Revelation), the Bible begins and ends with life
 - In the middle contains the story of how mankind messed everything up, God knew that was going to happen though, and He reveals to us how He has reconciled us despite our flaws
 - In a way, the Bible is the greatest love story ever written
 - Mankind in the spiritual relationship (Christ and the church – Ephesians 5) messes up – ruins things entirely, beyond repair – mankind messed up
 - But Christ, the perfect groom, sticks with the church anyways if she’s willing to come back and stick with Him
 - In the case of the Jews of the OT, in large part they were far too liberal – they had many false gods, they did what was pleasing in their own sight
 - And the Jews of the NT were too conservative – when the law says to perform X, it actually means that not only do you have to perform X, but you have to do it in this certain way while following these strict regulations, etc.
 - And in reality – both missed the point, they both missed the bigger picture
 - This class is to help us not miss the overall point of the Bible – **so what is the overall point? 1 John 4:7-11**
 - God is love (1 John 4), therefore everything He does is done of love
 - Yes, the Bible contains rules and laws that must be followed (so you can’t get too liberal), but at the same time (conservatives of the NT) – it is much more than just a rule book
 - It contains the greatest story of love known to man – via His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ

- So as we look at the Bible – we see that the point of it is Christ
- Everything points to Christ
- **Who is the author of the Bible?**
 - **2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 1:1-2**
 - God spoke through the prophets in the OT and the apostles in the NT after Christ’s ascension
 - The author is God, specifically – the Holy Spirit
 - If you think of the creation, **what were the roles of the Godhead?**
 - Father – plan maker, Christ – executer, Spirit – made it known to us what happened
 - **If you think of the plan of redemption, what were the roles of the Godhead?**
 - Father – plan maker, Christ – executer, Spirit – made it known to us what happened
 - No man gave us the Bible – the Spirit did
 - **As proof, how many writers were there?** ~40 over thousands of years
 - How can these men all write things that point to the same conclusion of Christ if they were not inspired by the Spirit
- **Two Parts**
 - We all know that our Bibles have 2 parts – Old Testament and New Testament
 - God has made an agreement with mankind, so to speak
 - We can really see this play out in **Isaiah 1:18-20**
 - God says “Mankind – you have a problem. Your sins are like scarlet.”
 - “But I am prepared to make them white as snow. If you are willing and obedient – I will do this. If not – you’re on your own.”
 - This is certainly what God has done for mankind of all generations – including us today
 - Let’s look at each one a little more closely
 - **Old Testament**
 - First book is Genesis
 - Written most likely by Moses around 1450BC
 - I hesitate to even give a date as to the beginning events in Genesis, because when it comes down to it – we really don’t know
 - I’ll throw out ~4000BC for you as just an estimate based on context clues in the Bible
 - Last book is Malachi
 - Written by Malachi in approximately 430BC and the events take place around that time
 - **What is the overall point of the OT? Christ is coming**
 - More specifically, we have the prophets who directly prophecy of things concerning the promised Messiah, and we have the history to paint a physical representation of spiritual principles that would later be revealed to us in the NT
 - **Psalm 22:16-18**
 - Undeniably pointing to Jesus here

- OT passage many years before the coming of Christ – and we can see Christ prophesied of in this prayer of David here
- **Isaiah 53**
 - Clearly a beautiful prophecy of Christ
 - The passage that the eunuch was studying from in Acts 8 and we know this is speaking of Christ, because Philip used this passage to teach the eunuch about Christ
 - So another OT passage many years before the coming of Christ teaching about Christ
- **Daniel 2:31-45**
- **Daniel 7:2-18, 23-27**
 - These prophecies get very complicated
 - But allow me to summarize and if you'd like to study these in more detail, see our study notes on Daniel
 - There will be 4 mighty kingdoms – these kingdoms will have might that is unmatched by any other earthly kingdom
 - The first 3 will be Babylon, Persia, and Greece
 - But after them will be a 4th kingdom
 - And even the first 3 in all their might will be inferior to this 4th kingdom – Rome
 - But all 4 kingdoms – even this 4th kingdom will be inferior to the church that Christ will establish
 - This kingdom will never be shaken – never be changed nor destroyed
 - Because it is ruled by the Ancient of Days, One like the Son of Man
 - The righteous judge of the world
 - Now that is a very simplified summary of those prophecies – but you can see that Christ is prophesied of once again
- Additional prophecies of Christ for you to consider
 - Micah 5:2 – the Christ would be born in Bethlehem
 - Hosea 11:1 – the Christ would be called out of Egypt
 - Isaiah 7:14 – the Christ would be born of a virgin
 - And so many more
- **Matthew 13:17**
 - Many of these prophets longed to see the coming Messiah, but were not able to
 - We have the writings of the prophets to reflect upon and then see the fulfillment of them in the NT
 - What a wonderful blessing that is
- **Romans 15:4**
 - The things written in our OT is there for our learning
- All of this is proof of the fact that the OT points to the coming of the Christ
- Now, let's look at the OT in a little more detail
- **There are 2 ages in the OT. What are they?** Patriarchal, Mosaic

- The Patriarchal age
 - Primarily is what was lived under during the events of Genesis
 - Abraham was a patriarch, Isaac was a patriarch, Jacob was a patriarch, etc.
 - This was in effect from the time of the creation to the time in which God delivered the law to Moses
- **What was the point of the Patriarchal age?**
 - God revealed Himself to mankind via the patriarchs – Noah, Abraham, etc.
 - God demonstrated the importance of faith in Him through the patriarchs
 - He delivered Noah – when no one else would listen to God, God saved Noah and his family
 - He delivered Abraham as well
 - And through the patriarchs, God established His people – the Israelites
- The Mosaic age
 - The time from the deliverance of the law to Moses until Christ brought the new covenant
- **What was the point of the Mosaic age?**
 - **Romans 7:7**
 - Holistically speaking, the old law was in place to identify sin
 - When it says '*Do not covet*', we know that coveting is sin
 - If we know what sin is and that God hates sin, then we know what to not do – don't sin
 - Because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - Spiritually for you and I today, but literally for those who lived under the law
 - Here's the beautiful thing about that old law – if we know what sin is, then we know what holiness is – live by God's laws, don't sin
 - But there's a problem – we're humans, we are not perfect
 - There's no problem with the old law itself – it came from God and it satisfied its purpose according to Romans 7
 - And in doing so, we as humans realize we can't keep it – the flaw is us
 - So if we want to be reconciled with God, we need some sort of a middle ground
 - A mediator – Christ
 - The promised Messiah
 - The old law taught us all of this
 - Let's look at one final proof from Hebrews 11
 - **Hebrews 11:32-40**
 - Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, etc.
 - Look at **vs 22** (Joseph)

- **Of all the things we know of Joseph (sold into slavery, imprisoned, dream interpreter, rose to prominence in Egypt, etc. – the only thing he is remembered for is that he gave instructions to take his bones out of Egypt when his people leave – why?**
- Because he had faith that God would deliver his people
- Look at vs 24-28 (Moses)
- He gave up all the riches of Egypt for God's people
- He could have coasted in life as an Egyptian – never would have been Pharaoh as he was a Hebrew – but he would have had an easy life
- Never been in want for anything
- But he gave that up for the position of a slave (sounds like Philippians 2 – Jesus)
- Not only that, but he gave up the riches in Egypt for the sake of Christ
- 1 – he knew something about the Christ (Deuteronomy 18:14-22)
- 2 – he was disgraced as Jesus was
- How many times did the people speak or act against Moses? How many times did that happen to Christ? How many times does that happen to you and I because of our devotion to Christ?
- Look at vs 31 (Rahab)
- Concerning Jericho, it's funny that God mentions Rahab but not Joshua – proves to us today that God can use anyone
- **But why did God punish the Amorites? The inhabitants of Canaan prior to Israel?**
- **Genesis 15:16**
- Their sins had reached their full measure
- The citizens of Jericho knew who God was (Joshua 2:10)
- They had 40 years to repent and only Rahab did – amazing faith displayed by Rahab
- Finally, look at vs 32-40 again
- Subdued kingdoms – David/Moses
- Obtained promises – Moses/Joshua
- Stopped lions = David/Samson
- Quenched fire – Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
- Weakness made strong – Hezekiah
- Women received dead – Elijah, Elisha
- And so on
- We have examples of all of these in the OT and early NT except for being sawed in 2 (potentially Isaiah, but no Scripture confirms that)
- But none of these received the true promise
- After this summary of the OT, the point is Christ (vs 40)
- Despite all of this wonderful faith, they were not perfect
- Only Christ does that
- The OT points to Christ

○ New Testament

▪ **Why is this the 'new' testament?**

- Quite simply, because to mankind, it supersedes the old law
- Not only that, but historically speaking, it is newer
- The Patriarchal age came and served its purpose – we know who God is now, we know the importance of being faithful to Him and Him alone
- The Mosaic age came and served its purpose – we know what sin is, and therefore we know what holiness looks like
- We know that we cannot attain complete holiness, complete perfection on our own – so we need a Savior
- Now, we need to identify the Savior
- Hence, our New Testament today

▪ First book is Matthew

- Written by Matthew in approximately 60AD
- Written to the Jews with its primary purpose being to try and convince the Jews of the NT that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the old law and prophecies
- This is also the direct theme of several NT books – Galatians, Romans, and Hebrews specifically
- But many of the NT books deal with it in some fashion
- The events of Matthew begin in approximately 6BC with the birth of Christ
- Christ dies in approximately 30AD (late 20's, early 30's or so) – somewhere in that range

▪ Last book is Revelation

- Written by John from Patmos most likely around 67-68AD based on the context clues (some will argue 100AD though)
- Likely written as a prophecy of the 70AD destruction of Jerusalem, again based on context clues throughout the book
- If this is true, then most of the events of Revelation occurred in 70AD
- For purposes of this class, we're going to leave that thought there

▪ Writings from ~40AD – 70AD, depending on how long John lived and when he wrote the books that he wrote

▪ Events primarily taking place from ~6BC – 70AD

▪ **What is the overall point of the NT? Christ has come**

▪ More specifically, we have the gospel accounts that tell of the life of Christ – the things He did while on earth, and we have the remainder of the NT to explain to us the significance of those events and how we must follow the footsteps of Christ if we wish to be reconciled with God (remember our lessons from the OT – if we want to be reconciled with God in our imperfect form, we must be clothed with perfection – the Savior that is Christ of course, Galatians 3)

▪ **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

- I thought this passage of Scripture really summarizes the overall theme of the NT very well

- If Christ has not risen, then our preaching is worthless and so is the faith that we have
- Powerful statements there – but true statements
- **If not for Christ, what's the point of life?** There really is none
- If that's the case, then let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die (1 Corinthians 15:32)
- If we only have hope in the things of this life, then we are most pitiable
- We're wasting our time conducting this study, and there really is no meaning to life when considering passages of Scripture such as **Ephesians 2:10** and **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
- But Christ has been risen – and therefore, all these things are valid
- We have the NT to teach us this
- **John 20:30-31 & 1 John 5:13**
 - If 1 Corinthians 15 didn't get the message across, then we have these writings in John and 1 John to perhaps get them through even more directly
 - We have these books specifically and the rest of the NT to prove to us that Jesus lived on this earth, He still lives today, and He is coming back
 - We may believe these things and respond appropriately because we have the evidence in our NT today
 - All men everywhere are without excuse (Romans 1:20)
- **We have 1 age in the NT. What is it? The Christian age**
 - **What is the point of the Christian age?**
 - **Romans 1:16**
 - Quite simply – to bring us salvation
 - The rest of the book of Romans teaches us the following amongst other things: the Patriarchal age was not designed to bring justification, the old law was not designed to bring justification, but the new law that Christ brought is designed for justification
 - **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
 - This is the gospel – the good news that saves us
 - Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
 - When we teach people, this is what we should start with
- **When did the new law of Christ go into effect?**
 - **Hebrews 9:16-28**
 - This new covenant could not go into effect until the testator died
 - Therefore, the new covenant went into effect @ Jesus' death
 - Now I know what you're going to say – people in the NT were following the old law
 - Christ Himself followed the old law – yes, that was before He died
 - But even Paul at various points does things from the old law

- Why?
- #1-Consider being a faithful Jew at this time – not the ones who killed Christ, but those who were faithful Jews
- This was a big deal – Judaism basically defined who they were as a nation
- They were known throughout the world as being insubordinate because they followed the laws of God (the Mosaic law) over the laws of any nation
- And God is now telling you to divert? This is a big deal
- So there was clearly a little bit of a transition period
- Really up until about 70AD – and then that transition period was no more
- After 70AD, you couldn't be a faithful Jew – you had no further excuse to not follow Christ
- The temple was gone, never to be rebuilt
- #2-Paul specifically did this even after Jesus' death in an attempt to save some (1 Corinthians 9:16-23)
- Still looking at the OT and the NT of our Bibles at large, let's briefly revisit the timelines of events, because there's another point I want to make concerning this
 - OT
 - Writing: ~1450BC – 430BC
 - Events: ~4000BC? – 430BC
 - NT
 - Writing: ~40AD – 70AD
 - Events: ~6BC – 70AD
 - **Consider the timeline of events. Why the 400 year gap?**
 - I don't know – we can't be for certain
 - Deuteronomy 29:29, Isaiah 55:8-9
 - The only thing we can be for certain of is that there was no communication that God had with mankind at that time in history that the Holy Spirit deemed it necessary that we know about it today
 - **The more important question: did God abandon His people?**
 - Certainly not – Christ had not come yet
 - He had to still be paving the way for Christ, else we would not have our new covenant today
 - For further proof of the fact that God did not abandon His people, consider the following thoughts
 - When we consider the secular history of what happened between ~430BC and ~6BC, in large part, the Greeks rose to prominence and fell from prominence
 - This had to happen though
 - The NT was written in Greek, it almost served as a universal language at the time – similar to English today

- English has somewhat become the ‘standard’ language of society if you want to think of it that way
- Greek is similar to that in the fact that it became the prominent language of the 1st century Roman Empire
- **Go back to your history class...**
 - Alexander the Great brought prominence to the Greek empire
 - Remember the Persian king Ahasuerus in Esther? In all of his earthly might
 - Alexander the Great and his Greek army made them look weak – that is how powerful Greece was under Alexander
 - They basically controlled the known, civilized world at that time
 - And I’m not only pulling this from secular history – if you want to be amazed and convinced that God is God, go back and read Daniel chapters 8-12 and compare that with the history of the Greek empire
 - It is spot on, written many years in advance
 - Daniel 8:3-8, 19-22
 - What is this talking about?
 - There was a mighty Greek king who defeated the Persians and when he was broken, his kingdom was divided in 4 parts, never to be the same again
 - This happened as prophesied
 - When Alexander died, his kingdom was split 4 ways
 - 2 of the 4 way split, became the Seleucid Greeks centralized in Syrian Antioch and the Ptolemaic Greeks centralized in Egypt – the North and South kingdoms of Daniel 11
 - These 2 waged war with each other over the land between them and you can read all about how that effected the Jews in Daniel 11
 - Eventually, a group called the Maccabees overthrew Greek rule in the Judean area
 - But they were unsuccessful in forming a stable government of their own
 - In that time, Rome had overthrown Greece as the prominent world empire as prophesied in Daniel 2 and 7, and they had to come in and settle the Jews down – get them under control
 - Rome came to occupy Judea when Pompey stopped the Jewish civil war for control of their government
 - Over time, Herod the Great was instilled as ‘king’ of the Jewish nation in an attempt to keep them calm and the NT picks up towards the end of his reign
 - So did God abandon His people? Certainly not – the freed themselves from Greek rule, only to turn back to the civil unrest they were accustomed to, Rome stepped in, paving the way for Christ to come and eventually be crucified

- Where was God during this time? Right where He always has been and always will be – watching over and protecting His people, paving the way for them to salvation
 - That’s a high level summary of what happened as it relates to our class
 - **Others consider many books written during this time as part of their Bible. Why do they, but we don’t?**
 - Quite simply, there are things in there (books of the Maccabees, the prayer of Manasseh, they have other wisdom filled books similar to Ecclesiastes, etc.) that don’t jive with the rest of Scriptures
 - **Galatians 1:6-9**
 - Any other gospel is really no gospel at all
- So now that we have a general understanding of the OT, NT, and the things that happened in the IT period, which law do we live under today?
 - **Joshua 1:7-9**
 - This occurs shortly before the Israelites cross the Jordan into the promised land and overtake Jericho
 - God tells them here to obey **the old law**
 - The **old law** is now in effect – Moses is dead, all the sacrifices of the OT – their blood has been shed
 - This is the blood that brought the old covenant into effect
 - All the blood of the calves, goats, etc. signified that the old Patriarchal system is no more
 - God wants His people following the old law (Hebrews 9:19-22)
 - And God tells the people through Joshua – if you follow my laws, you’ll be blessed
 - If not – you’re on your own
 - But we’ve had another transition, haven’t we?
 - **Romans 7:1-6**
 - This changing of the law is represented by a marriage
 - If you are in a husband/wife relationship – you are bound to your spouse until one of you dies
 - Then you are free from the bondage of marriage
 - If you break those bonds while the other lives – you’ve committed adultery and you’ve made an adulterer out of your new partner
 - So this law is in effect until death
 - But look at vs 4 – in the relationship of old law and mankind, mankind died to the law
 - The old law did not die – we still have it today
 - We can read it in our OT as we’ve been talking about
 - It’s there for our learning (Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10)
 - There was nothing wrong with the old law – mankind was just imperfect and we couldn’t follow it
 - As a result, we are now subject to the new law of Christ

- We've been delivered from the law so that we can be united with Christ via His new law
- Do not revert back to the oldness of the letter
- **Galatians 3:19-25**
 - We have a direct statement for what the purpose of the law was
 - It was added because of transgression
 - Mankind was evil (Genesis 6)
 - We needed to know right from wrong – we needed some sort of a moral standard
 - Therefore, God introduced the old law and used it for just that
 - To identify sin and point us to the perfection that would later be revealed in the form of the Messiah
 - True righteousness did not come from the law
 - So God has now given us the faith in Christ Jesus
 - Before that, we were bound by the law in a sense – it was simply serving as a schoolmaster for the new law that would later appear
 - There was no justification to be had
 - Every year, we must atone for our sins, never truly getting rid of them
 - The new law does not have that though
 - The gospel system brings us the justification that we need
- **Why did God not go directly to the new law?**
 - **Romans 5:6**
 - In due time...Christ died for the ungodly
 - It was just at the right time
 - The Patriarchal age was needed in history so that God could reveal Himself to mankind and show them the necessity of faith in Him
 - The old law was needed to identify what sin is and to show us that we can't obtain perfection on our own
 - So we needed a Savior pointed to by the old law
 - These things had to occur first before God sent His Son
 - He came at just the right time
 - **Galatians 4:4-5**
 - Again, we see that **in the fullness of time**, God sent His Son
 - These things that happened previously had to happen
 - Spiritually speaking, we've talked about what that looks like
 - But from a practical perspective – Greeks brought the universal language
 - Rome built many of the roads that Jesus would later travel on
 - These things had to happen
 - God knew what He was doing
- **The Old Testament Books**
 - 39 books of the OT grouped in the following way
 - Law – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

- History – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- Poetry – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- Law
 - 5 books (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
 - In Genesis, we have the account of the beginning – how God interacted with man during the Patriarchal age and the events that led Israel into Egypt
 - In Exodus, we have the story of the Israelites departing from Egypt under the leadership of God through Moses and we have the story of their flight to the East Side of the Jordan
 - In Exodus, God delivers the old law through Moses
 - In Leviticus, we have the meat of the old law
 - All of the sacrifices are described here
 - All of the laws concerning morality, cleanliness, food, etc. are here
 - In Numbers, we see more of the details of the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness
 - And in Deuteronomy, we see a repetition of the laws given shortly before Israel enters into Canaan
 - 5 books known as the law or the Pentateuch – these 5 books were very well known by the Jews of the NT and the Jews of the OT – they just missed the fact that these were pointing to Christ
 - **Theme of the book of Hebrews?** Christ is better
 - By the time we make it to Hebrews 7, the Hebrew writer is using the priesthoods to prove the point that Christ is better than the old Levitical priesthood as well as the Melchizedekian priesthood
 - **Hebrews 7:25-26**
 - Since the priesthood of Christ is superior to both of these previous priesthoods – He is able to save to the uttermost
 - Leaving nothing behind – nothing unsaved
 - And then in vs 26, the writer says somewhat of the same thing 5 times
 - The new High Priest (Jesus) is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens
 - **Why would he say the same thing 5 times in this situation?**
 - There's no proof that he's indirectly saying that Christ is superior to the Pentateuch, but it seems to fit the Hebrews writer's point
 - Pentateuch – 1st 5 books of the OT
- History
 - How God delivered to the Israelites the promised land, how they were hot/cold in their faith to God until they demanded a kingdom in which God granted, the rise and fall of that kingdom which was split – and both were taken away into captivity

- 12 books (Joshua - Esther)
- In Joshua, we read of the taking of the promised land
- In Judges, we read of the time they had the land, were constantly faithful/unfaithful while in the land
- In Ruth, we read the story of a Moabitess who came to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law
- In 1 & 2 Samuel, we read of the early years of the kingdom of Israel
- In 1 & 2 Kings, we read of the united kingdom and it's fall and the history of each of the 2 new kingdoms that arose from the split
- In 1 & 2 Chronicles, we read of similar things to 1 & 2 Kings, except Chronicles is focused primarily on the kingdom of Judah vs Israel after the split
- Those 4 books take us all the way to the Babylonian captivity
- In Ezra, we read of a record of the return of the Jews from captivity and how they rebuilt the temple
- In Nehemiah, we read of the rebuilding of the wall and how people began to re-dedicate themselves to God and His commands
- In Esther, we read the story of Esther, Mordecai and how God delivered His people from the hands of Haman's plot during the time of the Persian empire
- In these historical books, we see numerous shadows of Christ and NT spiritual principles
- **Poetry**
 - 5 books (Job – Song of Solomon)
 - In Job, we read an account of Job and his sufferings – perhaps the oldest written book in our Bible
 - In Psalms, we read of numerous spiritual songs, poems, and prayers that reveal numerous prophecies of Christ in the process
 - In Proverbs, we read of numerous words of wisdom and practical living
 - Same in Ecclesiastes, this book focuses on practical living and quite dimly but truthfully, how life itself is really meaningless. Fear God and keep His commandments – that is what truly matters
 - And in Song of Solomon, we read a religious poem symbolizing the mutual love of Christ and the church
 - Numerous shadows of Christ here as well
- **Major Prophets**
 - **Why are they major?** Quite simply, we have more of their writings than we do of the minor prophets (5 books – Isaiah through Daniel)
 - Isaiah wrote a lot of Messianic prophecies (most famously Isaiah 53), but he also wrote of the deliverance of Hezekiah and Judah from the hands of Assyria, and Judah's future captivity & redemption from that captivity
 - Jeremiah is considered the weeping prophet because he often laments those who do not submit to God in his prophecies
 - Concerning prophets, we know quite a bit about Jeremiah himself – likely more so than any of the other prophets (minor or major)
 - He prophesied during the time immediately before the Babylonian captivity

- His prophecies primarily deal with the fall of the nation of Judah into the hands of Babylon and then their future redemption
 - Lamentations was also written by Jeremiah most likely
 - As the name suggests, it primarily deals with the afflictions that Judah was subject to by Babylon in the first destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
 - Ezekiel was an exile from Jerusalem prior to Babylon bringing total destruction to the city and he prophesied while the Jews were in captivity
 - Ezekiel focuses a lot on the fact that God is going to be known – not only by His people (who should have known Him, but didn't), but the entire world will know who God is
 - This will be made known via the fall of Jerusalem (~chapters 1-32), and through the restoration of His people (~chapters 33-48)
 - Daniel was also an exile and prophesied during his time in captivity
 - We read of Daniel's personal life as well as many prophecies he wrote concerning the rise and fall of nations at the hand of God and how God will use these nations to bring about His ultimate kingdom, the church
 - Numerous shadows of Christ here, numerous difficult but rewarding prophecies that we would be wise to study and do our best to understand
- **Minor Prophets**
 - **Why are they called minor?** Because we have less of their writings
 - Not that their writings are less important, we just have less of them
 - 12 books (Hosea - Malachi)
 - Hosea is an interesting one as God instructs Hosea to marry an adulterous wife, and God uses this to symbolize to Hosea what Israel has been to Him
 - In Joel, we famously read of a prophecy of God pouring out His spirit in chapter 2
 - He deals a lot with the day of the Lord and how mankind needs to be prepared for that – advice we would be wise to heed as well in today's society
 - In Amos, we read of God's vengeance upon the nation of Israel from an unnamed enemy – which is later revealed as Assyria
 - Like all the other prophets, he writes of the necessity to repent and turn back to God
 - Obadiah is also an interesting one from a historical perspective – in it you can see some of the conflict between Edom and the Israelites
 - Remember Isaac's two sons – Jacob and Esau, how the Edomites descended from Esau, and Israel descended from Jacob
 - Obadiah prophesies of Edom's fall as a nation due to her allegiance with Babylon in the destruction of Jerusalem
 - However, the nation of Judah is going to be restored – Edom, not so much
 - Jonah – we know the story well
 - How he was told by God to preach to the citizens of Nineveh, he originally fled, but eventually does as God told Him and Nineveh was spared as result to the dismay of Jonah

- Micah – similar to the writings of Isaiah in the fact that it provides gloomy prophecies as well as prophecies of hope
 - How the kingdoms of Israel and Judah would fall, but there would be a future kingdom even greater than both
 - Nahum primarily prophecies of the fall of Assyria and how Judah would be delivered from the hand of Assyria, which we all know was fulfilled
 - Habakkuk is also an interesting one in that it seems to contain a back-and-forth conversation between Habakkuk and God
 - Habakkuk questions God’s plans because they involve nations more wicked than Judah – however, God reiterates that He is in control and once their purpose is executed in the downfall of Judah, God’s going to deal with them as well
 - Zephaniah is interesting in the fact that he had royal lineage – descended from the line of Hezekiah
 - He speaks of the coming of the Lord in relation to His punishment of nations, including Judah who had been unfaithful
 - Haggai – one of the later prophets that we have
 - He reproves the Jewish people for their slackness in rebuilding the temple when they return to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity
 - Zechariah is similar – he helps encourage the Jews to continue their efforts in rebuilding the temple as he prophesies of God’s triumph in the form of His kingdom
 - Malachi – closes the OT period with necessary changes that must be made in preparation for the coming Messiah
 - Lots to unpack there, and that is an extremely high level analysis of these books
 - Lots of pointing to Christ going on here as well
- **The New Testament Books**
 - 27 books of the NT grouped in the following way
 - Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - History – Acts
 - Letters – Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
 - Prophecy – Revelation
 - **Gospels**
 - The life of Christ – Christ is here, listen to Him
 - 4 books – give 4 different perspectives on the life of Christ
 - The fact that we have 4 books concerning the life of Christ should signify the importance of His life
 - Matthew – his account of Christ is geared primarily towards Jews trying to convince them that He is the promised Messiah
 - Christ is painted as the Messiah King in Matthew’s account
 - Mark’s account is a little shorter than the others and paints a picture of Christ as the Suffering Son

- Luke's account was written to Theophilus who was not a Jew and in large part portrays Christ as a master teacher
 - John's account is certainly different than the other 3 – focusing on Jesus as the Divine Word
- **History**
- 1 book – Acts
- It describes the events of the early church, and how the gospel was spread to the world
- **Letters**
 - Primarily written by Paul, but these are letters to various congregations/individuals concerning things regarding the church and impacts of Christ's teaching
 - Romans – a book primarily dealing with the fact that only in the gospel are men justified – not the old law nor the Patriarchal system
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians – ways that Corinth was perverting various aspects of the church and how to fix them. In 2 Corinthians specifically, Paul spends a considerable time defending his apostleship
 - Galatians – similar to Romans. The old law, specifically circumcision does not bring justification. Only faith in Christ does that
 - Ephesians – further reinforcement that there is no longer Jew nor Gentile, rather all can be saved. And that salvation is very glorious
 - Philippians – details Paul's devotion to Christ through his imprisonment
 - Colossians – deals with how Christ is the head of the church
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians – deals a lot with the second coming of Christ and how we need to be ready and looking forward to that
 - 1 & 2 Timothy – letters to Timothy concerning instructions and encouragement for him
 - Titus – letter to Titus providing instructions and encouragement
 - Philemon – letter to Philemon concerning the former slave Onesimus
 - Hebrews – a letter of an unknown author written to explain how Christ is the best. He's better than the old law and anything within it. So no need to revert back to that
 - James – deals primarily with faith accompanied by good works and emphasizes the need to teach true doctrine only. False doctrine will not be tolerated
 - 1 & 2 Peter – encouragement to those suffering persecution and warnings against false doctrine
 - 1, 2, 3 John – Instructions and encouragement for believers in their various stages in life. Warns against false teaching
 - Jude – warnings against false teaching and provides hope that God will deliver His people
- **Prophecy**
 - **Is this a prophecy for us today or have most of these events already happened?** Largely already happened
 - Revelation was written by John while exiled on Patmos to the 7 churches of Asia

- Largely warning them of the impending heavy persecution that will be coming their way and encouragement to stay faithful through it as Christ will be victorious in the end
- **Books, Chapters, and Verses**
 - I just want to point out 2 things on this topic
 - **1 – what is the purpose of books, chapters, and verses?**
 - Chapters and verses are a way to neatly organize the content of the books
 - **2 – were these inserted by God or man?**
 - Man
 - Sometimes, these aren't organized perfectly, but they do satisfy their purpose of providing organization to what otherwise would just be really long uninterrupted paragraphs