

The Bible is all about what God has done and is doing in the world: that, out of His love, He is making for Himself a new humanity - those who were rebellious, but are now redeemed and forgiven by the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus, and is now bringing them home!

overview of the bible



1. CREATION - God speaks the universe into existence. As Creator he is the ruler and king. (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1:31-2:1



2. ADAM AND EVE - God creates humanity in 2 genders, 'in his image', to care for his creation (Genesis 1-2)

Genesis 1:27



3. FALL - Humanity rejects God and is expelled from Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)

Genesis 3:1-7, 14-15, 21-24



4. NOAH AND THE FLOOD - God floods the earth because of mans evil, but saves Noah and family by grace (Genesis 6-7)

Genesis 6:5-8,
9:8-17, 20-22



5. TOWER OF BABEL - Man builds a tower to 'make a name for himself'. God confuses their language and scatters them (Genesis 11)

Genesis 11:1-8



6. ABRAHAM - God chooses Abraham and makes a covenant with him - He promises to bless him and all people through him (Genesis 12-50)

Genesis 12:1-3 The 4 promises...



7. MOSES AND THE EXODUS - Through Moses, God saves Israel from slavery in Egypt (Genesis)

Exodus 1:1-11
Exodus 3:15-17



8. LAW - God makes a covenant with Israel to be their God (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

Exodus 19:3-6



9. PROMISED LAND - Joshua leads Israel into the Promised land of Canaan (Joshua), but trouble looms

Joshua 1:1-4

Judges 2:10-23



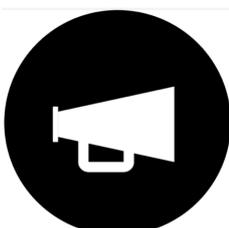
10. KINGS - Saul, David, Solomon are Israel's first kings. God makes a covenant with David to establish his throne forever (Samuels, Kings, Chronicles)

1 Samuel 8:1-9
2 Samuel 7:1-16



11. DIVIDED KINGDOM - the kingdom is divided between the Northern and Southern tribes (Kings and Chronicles)

1 Kings 12:16-20



12. PROPHECY - God chooses men to deliver His word to his people, calling them back to Him, announcing the consequences if they don't, and announcing hope for the future. (Major and Minor prophets)

Isaiah 65:1-7, 17-25, 52:13 - 53:12 Jeremiah 31:31-34

How Did We Get Our Bible & Why Trust It?

1. Who wrote it? 40 authors over 1,600 years, BUT one author!

2. How did we get the collection?

OT - The 'Law, Prophets and Psalms' (39 books). Originally written in Hebrew. Translated from Hebrew to Greek 250 BC. Jesus accepted the OT as God's word.

NT - Originally, the apostles and others close to them wrote histories and letters that circulated amongst the churches (Col 4:16), but as the death of apostles occurred and false documents started appearing, Christians realised they needed to address the issue of what was acceptable. By 397, 27 books had been accepted. The Apocrypha was introduced in 1546 - it is NOT THE Bible.

Tests that were applied -

- a) written by one of the apostles or close associates
- b) had to be accepted by and used by Christians at large from the time when it was written
- c) doctrine or teaching had to fit perfectly into every other interlocking part of Scripture

The Bible is not an authorised collection of books, but a collection of authorised books. The church has never had the power to authenticate Scripture; all it has ever had is the duty to acknowledge it .

3. How did we get the Bible we have today?

- Up to 400AD the Scriptures were in Greek.
- In 404 Jerome translated them into Latin (called the 'Vulgate' - from 'vulgare' meaning 'to make public')
- In 14th century John Wycliffe translated the Bible from Latin to (old) English. He said "the sacred Scriptures are the property of the people". All were handwritten and 170 still exist today.
- In 1526 the first English translations of the Greek NT printed by Tyndale (he was killed in 1536 for his work).
- 1611 - the Authorised Version authorised by King James 1
- In 20th century many translations (different to paraphrases)

OLD TESTAMENT

History

- 1. Genesis** - creation; man's fall into sin; God's grace initiated; God chooses Abraham and makes a covenant with him; beginning of Israelite nation; Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (book ends with Israelites in Egypt)

2. **Exodus** - God rescues Israel from Egypt; Moses; God gives 10 Commandments
3. **Leviticus** - Religious and social laws; how God's people are to act
4. **Numbers** - God's people wander in the wilderness - 40 years
5. **Deuteronomy** - Moses final address to the Israelites
6. **Joshua** - the Israelite conquest of Canaan, the promised land
7. **Judges** - 170 turbulent years of history under 12 successive judges/rescuers
8. **Ruth** - a story about one of Jesus' ancestors
9. **1 Samuel** - Samuel, the last judge; Saul, the first king; King David
10. **2 Samuel** - account of David's reign
11. **1 Kings** - Solomon takes over; the kingdom splits in 2
12. **2 Kings** - 400 years of the 'ups and downs' of Israel - God being faithful, the people being unfaithful
13. **1 Chronicles and**
14. **2 Chronicles** - a repeat history of 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, but concentrating on events of particular religious importance
15. **Ezra and**
16. **Nehemiah** - what happens when the Israelites are allowed to return to Jerusalem
17. **Esther** - a story of how God overrules in the circumstances of men's lives

Poetry

18. **Job** - a poetic treatment of history - the story of of a man who served God truthfully, suffered terribly and survived triumphantly
19. **Psalms** - songs and hymns about experiences of God
20. **Proverbs** - God's wisdom for living
21. **Ecclesiastes** - reflections of a wise and godly philosopher on the meaning of life
22. **Song of Solomon** - a celebration of married love

Prophecy

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 23. Isaiah | 24. Jeremiah | 25. Lamentations |
|before the divided kingdom (Isaiah to Lamentations) | | |
| 26. Ezekiel | 27. Daniel | |
| ...written during during the exile and captivity | | |
| 28. Hosea | 29. Joel | 30. Amos |
| 31. Obadiah | 32. Jonah | 33. Micah |
| 34. Nahum | 35. Habakkuk | 36. Zephaniah - |
| ...before the exile (Hosea to Zephaniah) | | |
| 37. Haggai | 38. Zechariah | 39. Malachi |
| ...after the Jews had returned home | | |

NEW TESTAMENT

History

1. **Matthew** 2. **Mark** 3. **Luke** 4. **John**

...these are the biographies of Jesus, all written from a different viewpoint

5. **Acts** - covers the first 30 years of the Christian church after the resurrection of Jesus

Letters (written to individuals and churches about how to live the Christian life)

6. **Romans** - Paul to Rome - explains how God's mercy can exist in the face of humanity's sin.
7. **1 Corinthians** - Paul to Corinth - dealing with problems, helping them to be godly
8. **2 Corinthians** - Paul to Corinth - tells them to be careful of the false teachers who have infiltrated the church
9. **Galatians** - Paul to Galatia - we are right with God through faith in Jesus, not following the OT law
10. **Ephesians** - Paul to Ephesus - living with Jesus as our Head
11. **Phillipians** - Paul to Phillipi - written from prison: "be humble, stand firm."
12. **Colossians** - Paul to Colossae - the sufficiency of Jesus compared to empty human philosophy

13. **1 Thessalonians** 14. **2 Thessalonians**

Paul's 2 letters to Thessalonica focussing on Jesus' return, and living while waiting

15. **1 Timothy** 16. **2 Timothy** 17. **Titus**

Paul's letters to his friends, Timothy and Titus, about how to pastorally care for the Christians in churches they are looking after.

18. **Philemon** - Paul's letter to Philemon, the owner of a Christian slave
19. **Hebrews** - an anonymous letter to Jewish Christians, saying Jesus is better than Moses, and to persevere to the end
20. **James** - a very practical letter by James, the brother of the Lord Jesus
21. **1 Peter** - a letter by Peter to scattered Christians
22. **2 Peter** - a second letter by Peter - a general one
23. **1 John** 24. **2 John** 25. **3 John**

... 3 short letters written by the apostle, John

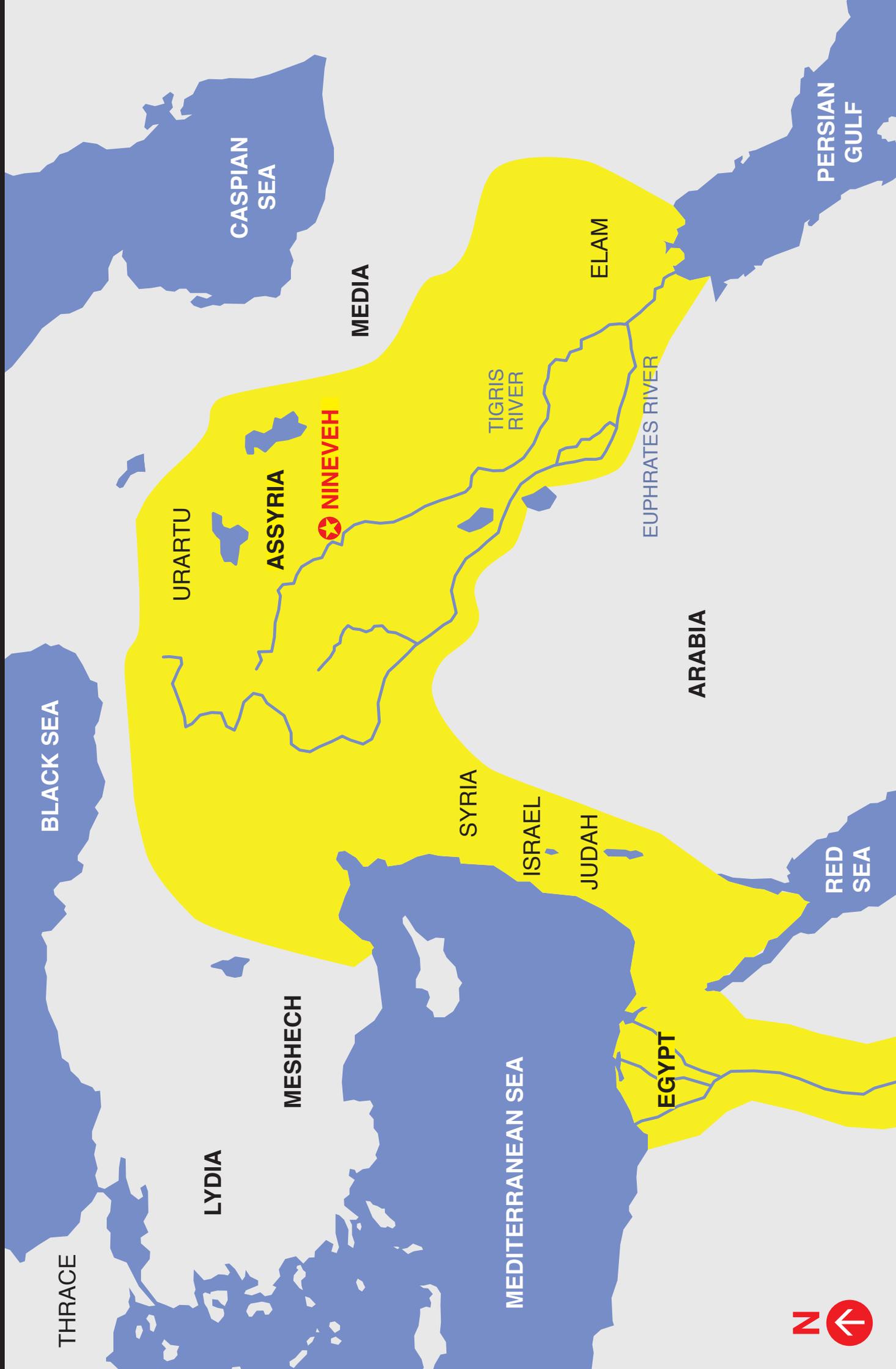
26. **Jude** - a very short letter by Jude

Prophecy

27. **Revelation** - through a series of spectacular visions, it assures Christians in trouble of the certainty of God's (and our) ultimate triumph!

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE 7-8TH CENTURY B.C.

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BIBLE TIMELINE

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