

The Bible is a big book. Where do I begin?

This *Question-Answer Book* is a map of the Bible, designed to give beginners a comprehensive look at the major events in the Bible, from the opening verse in Genesis to the final chapters of Revelation.

By God's grace, reading this little book will give the big picture on God's Book. For the more ambitious, the question-answer format allows for guided memory work, making preparations for teaching or in-depth study more accessible.

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,
He expounded to them in all the Scriptures
the things concerning Himself.*

—Luke 24:27

Spring Branch Academy is a local and online teaching ministry, offering classes, conferences, and publications that strive for sound Bible exposition and relevant historical presentations.

The academy also offers resources for managing a home-school academy for high school students.

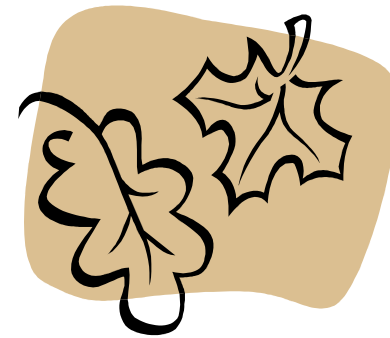
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A QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK ON BIBLICAL HISTORY



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*The mission of Spring Branch Academy is
to promote the worship of God
through the exposition of Scripture,
the explanation of history,
and the application of faith in Christ to all of life.*

The cover picture is taken from clip art provided with Microsoft Word.

To Jinna Snyder, my wife,
and to Sharon Stanley, my sister in Christ,
and to all those
who wish to have a better understanding
of the Bible as a whole.

*Whatever things were written before
were written for our learning,
that we through the patience and comfort of the
Scriptures might have hope.*

—Romans 15:4

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Truly, God has used you to carry us “on eagles’ wings” in this time of transition.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Preface

At its heart, the Bible is a history book that describes and interprets the great works of God, so that by knowing God through His actions, we might truly know Him. To miss the history puts one at risk of missing God. *Therefore, we must know biblical history.* Not even the term “Christ” nor His role as king-and-priest have meaning apart from prior history, and who can truly believe in Jesus without knowing at least something of His life, death, and resurrection? Again, the history—literally, *HIS-story*—is so important.

This question-and-answer book has been written to help you with this inspired history of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ. Please read the whole thing through a few times before attempting to memorize individual lessons. Let the larger flow of God’s works settle on your heart. See the connections, feel the orderly arrangement, and be ready to worship. *If you have hungered to know God’s word as a whole, may this little book help to give you a big picture of our great God!*

For those of you who are teachers, the lessons here provide a scope and sequence for an overview of the Bible. Much of the material here has been tested in the classroom, both in church and in school. Selections can be made for memorization, with the necessity of assigning everything.

This book is the first in a three-part series on biblical history, church history, and American history. The first and third have been published, while the second remains to be written.

Lessons

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One Book

Lesson 1

What is our highest privilege in life?

To know God.

How do we know God?

Through His revelation of Himself.

How has God revealed Himself to us?

By His works, His words, and His Word, Jesus.

Where do we see God in His words?

In the Holy Bible, the written word of God.

What does the word “Bible” mean?

The word “Bible” means “book” in Greek.

Why is the Bible holy?

It is the only book written by God.

If the Bible is a book, why are there books in it?

The Bible is a collection of books, written by about forty men over fifteen hundred years.

How is the Bible written by both men and God?

The Holy Spirit inspired the words through men.

How is the Bible known to be the word of God?

The Bible always tells the truth,
and speaks with the voice of God.

How do we personally come to believe the Bible?

By the Spirit inside, and power and light outside.

In what ways does the Bible have power?

It cuts like a sword and creates what it commands.

In what ways does the Bible have light?

It shines with the glory of God,
and makes sense of everything, even ourselves.

If we do not believe, where is the problem?

With our will more than with our reasoning.
Jesus said if we want to obey, we will know.

Two Testaments

Lesson 2

How many sections does the Bible have?

Two, the Old Testament and New Testament.

What does the word “testament” mean?

The word “testament” means “covenant”.

How many books are in the entire Bible?

Sixty-six.

How many books are in each testament?

The Old Testament has thirty-nine books;
the New Testament has twenty-seven books.

In what language was each testament written?

The Old Testament is mainly Hebrew;
the New Testament is Greek.

What do these testaments primarily tell?

The Old Testament tells the history of the Jews;
the New Testament tells of Jesus and the church.

How are these two testaments related?

What the Old Testament promises, Jesus fulfills.

Should we expect a third testament?

No, Jesus is the final revelation from God.

Do Jews accept this final revelation?

Not most, even though Moses wrote of Jesus.

Do Muslims accept this final revelation?

No, Mohammed is their final prophet.

Do Roman Catholics accept this final revelation?

In theory, but their tradition rivals the Bible.

Do you accept this final revelation?

*If not, take time to confess your unbelief to God,
and to ask Him for a heart willing to obey, and
a mind quick to believe all that He has revealed.*

Three Elements

Lesson 3

What are the three basic elements of the Bible?

Promise, law, and gospel.

What does the word “gospel” mean?

Good news.

Who is the main person for each element?

Promise – Abraham

Law – Moses

Gospel – Jesus

What was the promise given through Abraham?

That God would bless all nations through a Son.

What was the law given through Moses?

That God would bless only those who obey.

What was the gospel given through Jesus?

That God is fulfilling His promise in His Son,
who was cursed for us, that we might be blessed.

What is the means of blessing for each element?

Promise – Faith

Law – Works

Gospel – Faith

What is the difference between faith and works?

Faith relies on the works of another, not our own.

How does each element direct us to obtain life?

Law – Do and you shall live.

Promise and Gospel – Believe and you shall live.

How much of the law must we do to obtain life?

All the law, all the time, or we will be cursed.

Will anyone obtain the blessing through the law?

No, for all have sinned and lack God’s glory.

Like Abraham, how then shall we obtain life?

We must be reckoned righteous through faith.

Seven Events

Lesson 4

What seven events mark off the eras of history?

The Creation of the World
The Flood of Noah
The Calling of Abraham
The Exodus of Israel
The Crowning of David
The Exile of Israel
The Coming of Christ

Which of these events involved a covenant?

All of them.

What is a covenant?

A freewill verbal commitment to another, creating a bond that is often sealed in blood, as if to say, "If I break this covenant, may I die!"

What flows out of God's covenant with creation?

The appointed boundaries of time and space.

What flows out of God's covenant with Noah?

Never again would a flood destroy the earth.

What flows out of God's covenant with Abraham?

Land and seed, and all nations blessed.

What flows out of God's covenant with Israel?

To be kings and priests, if they would obey.

What flows out of God's covenant with David?

An everlasting throne.

What did God promise to Israel at the Exile?

To forgive their sins and to make a new covenant, with His law written on their hearts to obey it.

When did God make this new covenant?

In Christ, with His blood, even though some of the promises in the covenant are not yet fulfilled.

Books of the Old Testament

Lesson 5

What are the books of the Old Testament?

History Books

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Wisdom Books

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Books of the New Testament

Lesson 6

What are the books of the New Testament?

<u>Gospels</u>	<u>General Epistles</u>
Matthew	Hebrews
Mark	James
Luke	1 Peter
John	2 Peter
Acts	1 John
	2 John
	3 John
<u>Pauline Epistles</u>	Jude
Romans	
1 Corinthians	<u>Apocalypse</u>
2 Corinthians	Revelation
Galatians	
Ephesians	
Philippians	
Colossians	
1 Thessalonians	
2 Thessalonians	
1 Timothy	
2 Timothy	
Titus	
Philemon	

Personal Goals

Lesson 7

What are the secrets to better Bible reading?

Delight and prayer.

Which two psalms demonstrate these secrets?

Psalm 1 and Psalm 119.

Which kind of delight is demonstrated?

Not the delight of pride to master a book,
but the delight of love to mull over and obey.

To what extent are the Scriptures delightful?

Better than gold, and sweeter than honey.

Why is delight so necessary to Bible reading?

Whatever we delight in, we meditate upon.

What does “meditation” mean?

To mumble and mull over words till understood.

Why is prayer so necessary to Bible reading?

God alone gives understanding.

What makes the Scriptures so valuable?

The Scriptures make us “wise for salvation”
(2 Timothy 3:15; see also Psalm 19:7; 119:130;
Acts 20:32; Hebrews 4:12; and James 1:21).

How wise can we become through the Bible?

Wiser than our enemies, wiser than our teachers,
and wiser than our elders (Psalm 119:97-100).

What is a good prayer to pray before reading?

“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things
from Your law” (Psalm 119:18).

What is a good promise to believe while reading?

Jesus said, “If you abide in My word,
you are My disciples indeed.
And you shall know the truth, and
the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

Creation

Lesson 8

What is the first verse of the Bible?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

In how many days did God create everything?

Six days.

What is the larger pattern seen in these six days?

Form comes first, then fullness (days 1-3, 4-6).

How did God create everything?

“He spoke, and it was done” (Psalm 33:9).

What did God do on the seventh day?

He ceased creating, but continued sustaining.

What was the seventh day eventually called?

The Sabbath, which means “to cease”.

What are the six days of creation?

The first day God made light
to give us day and night.
The next day God made sky
for waters low and high.
The third day God made seas
to give dry land for trees.
The fourth day God made stars
and sun and moon so far.
The fifth day God made fish
and any bird you wish.
The sixth day God made man
and beasts for his command.

Then after God had formed and filled
the universe He made,
He ceased the seventh day and willed
a holy Sabbath day.

Garden of Eden

Lesson 9

Who were the first people on earth?

Adam and his wife Eve.

Where did they live?

In the Garden of Eden, which was a park.

How did God create Adam?

God formed him from the dust of the ground,
and breathed into him the breath of life.

How did God create Eve?

God fashioned her from one of Adam’s ribs.

Why did God create the woman?

To be a helper suitable for the man.

Why are these facts important for us to know?

Marriage is based on this derivation and design.

From which tree did God tell the man not to eat?

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What happened regarding this tree?

The serpent deceived the woman and she ate;
then the man listened to the woman and he ate.

What did God do to the serpent?

God cursed the serpent, and promised victory—
the Seed of the woman would crush his head.

What did God do to Adam and Eve?

God removed them from His presence in Eden,
and put all creation in bondage to sin and death.

Where were the results of this fall first seen?

In the family, when Cain killed his brother Abel.

Why did Cain kill Abel?

Abel gave God his best and was noted—not Cain.

How did God respond with grace to this family?

God gave Seth, and men began to worship God.

Flood

Lesson 10

According to 2 Peter, what are the three worlds?

The world before the flood, the world now,
and the new heavens and new earth to come.

Describe the strange world before the flood.

There was no rain, nor government, nor nations;
and men often lived over nine hundred years.

What is the lineage from Adam to Noah?

Adam, Seth, Enosh,
Kenan, and Mahalalel,
then Jared, and Enoch, the seventh,
Methuselah, the longest,
then Lamech, and Noah, the tenth.

What happened to Enoch?

He walked with God, and was taken to heaven.

What happened to the world before the flood?

All flesh became corrupt,
and the earth was filled with violence.

How did God respond to this downward change?

He was grieved, and sent the Flood.

How many people were saved out of the Flood?

Eight—Noah, his three sons, and all their wives.

Who were the three sons of Noah?

Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

How were these eight saved, along with animals?

Through an ark, which was a boat like a box.

What did God want people to do after the Flood?

To be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

What did the people do after the Flood?

They built the tower of Babel to stay put,
so God created different languages and nations.

History of Israel

Lesson 11

What is the outline of the book of Genesis?

Chapter one begins the history of the world;
chapter twelve begins the history of Israel.

Who were the people of Israel?

A miracle nation, descended from Abraham.

Why were the people of Israel a miracle nation?

Abraham and his wife were too old for a child.

What are three names for this miracle nation?

They are Israelites (after Israel their father),
Hebrews (after Eber), and Jews (after Judah).

When did the history of Israel begin?

When God called Abraham from Ur to Canaan.

What is another name for the land of Canaan?

The promised land.

Did Abraham grow up in a believing family?

No, Abraham was raised by pagan unbelievers.

What are some key dates in the history of Israel?

2091 B.C.	Abraham entered Canaan
1876 B.C.	Jacob entered Egypt
1446 B.C.	Red Sea crossed
1406 B.C.	Jordan River crossed

1050 B.C.	Saul became king
1010 B.C.	David became king
970 B.C.	Solomon became king

722 B.C.	Samaria destroyed by Assyria
701 B.C.	Jerusalem attacked by Assyria
586 B.C.	Jerusalem destroyed by Babylon
516 B.C.	Temple rebuilt
430 B.C.	Malachi written

Patriarchs

Lesson 12

Who were the three patriarchs?

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

How were these three men related?

Father, son, and grandson.

Who was Abraham's wife?

Sarah.

What did God promise to Abraham?

Promised land and promised seed, meaning a son.

What was the sign of the covenant for a son?

Circumcision.

Which son did Abraham have by Sarah's maid?

Ishmael, but he was not the promised seed.

Which son did Abraham have by his wife Sarah?

Isaac, through whom the seed would be called.

Who was Isaac's wife?

Rebekah.

Which sons did God give to Isaac and Rebekah?

Twins—Esau the older, and Jacob the younger.

Which son inherited the blessing of Abraham?

Jacob the younger, whom God called "Israel".

Did Jacob deserve to receive the blessing?

No, Jacob cheated Esau for the birthright, then deceived his father for the blessing.

Why then did God bless Jacob and not Esau?

Grace—the freedom to love whom He loves. God freely chose sinful Jacob, not sinful Esau.

What is a lesson here for the nation of Israel?

Blessing is by divine choice, not natural birth.

What is a lesson here for us?

Salvation is by grace alone, not by our works.

Twelve Tribes

Lesson 13

How many sons did Jacob have?

Twelve.

What did these twelve sons eventually produce?

The twelve tribes of Israel.

What were the names of the sons in birth order?

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher;
Issachar and Zebulun,
Joseph and Benjamin.

Who were the sons of Rachel, the special wife?

Joseph and Benjamin.

Who were the two sons of Joseph, who in time became equal with the other tribes?

Manasseh and Ephraim.

Which tribes became the leading tribes?

Ephraim and Judah.

Summarize the blessing of Jacob to his sons.

Reuben was out of control,
Levi and Simeon raged,
Judah's a lion uncaged,
Kingly he takes up his role.

Zebulun sits by the sea,
Issachar lies down enslaved,
Dan is a snake—oh, be saved!
Hid in the pathway is he.

Asher fares better than Gad,
Naphtali speaks as a doe,
Joseph stands firm at his bow,
While Benjamin wolfs down his prey.

Exodus from Egypt

Lesson 14

Did the patriarchs inherit the promised land?

No, they only sojourned there.

Did the patriarchs stay in the promised land?

No, Jacob went to Egypt to see his son Joseph.

Why was Joseph in Egypt?

God had sent him there through family sin,
in order to save the family from famine.

How long were the people of Israel in Egypt?

Four hundred and thirty years.

What happened to the people of Israel in Egypt?

They multiplied greatly, but were made slaves.

Who made them slaves?

Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler.

How were they set free?

God sent Moses to say, "Let My people go!"

Did Pharaoh obey?

No, he hardened his heart, by God's own plan.

What did God do to Pharaoh and to his gods?

God punished Egypt with ten plagues.

What were the plagues?

Water turned to blood;
then came frogs, lice, and flies;
the cattle died, and people got boils;
then came hail, locusts, and darkness,
and the death of the firstborn son and livestock.

Did the firstborn die of the people of Israel?

Not if they had the blood of the Passover lamb.

After Passover night, then what happened?

God parted the Red Sea and Israel escaped,
but the army of Pharaoh drowned.

Ten Commandments

Lesson 15

After Egypt, did Israel enter the promised land?

No, they entered the wilderness.

How many people went into the wilderness?

About two million.

What did God use to keep so many people alive?

Manna from heaven, and water from a rock.

What did God use to guide so many people?

A cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

Where did God speak to the people directly?

Mount Sinai.

What did God tell the people at Mount Sinai?

The Ten Commandments.

Summarize the Ten Commandments.

God is one! These tablets, two!
Hear Ten Commandments we must do.

- I. Have no other gods but Me;
To no image bend your knee.
Do not take God's name in vain;
The Sabbath day, do not profane.
Honor father, mother too,
That it may go well with you.
- II. Do not take your neighbor's life.
Do not take your neighbor's wife.
Do not steal your neighbor's goods;
Do not witness with falsehood.
Do not covet anything—
Your neighbor's wife or house or things.

These laws, O Lord, I often break;
Forgive me now for Jesus' sake,
And in my soul, a new heart make.

Wilderness

Lesson 16

After Sinai, did Israel enter the promised land?

No, they stayed in the wilderness forty years.

Why did they stay and not enter the land?

Unbelief. They would not believe in God.

What were two common forms of their unbelief?

Complaining and putting God to the test.

What were two severe events of unbelief?

The golden calf and the report of the ten spies.

Describe what happened with the golden calf.

While Moses was on Sinai receiving the tablets, the people broke the covenant with this idol.

Did God destroy them as He threatened to do?

No, Moses prayed for them, and God relented.

What do we learn about God from this event?

His name—that He is “I AM THAT I AM,” that He can have grace on whomever He wishes.

What was the sign that He really did have grace?

He later dwelt among them at the tabernacle.

How could a holy God dwell among sinners?

Through the priesthood and sacrificial system.

Describe what happened with the ten spies.

Twelve spies reported on the promised land—only two said to take it, while ten disbelieved.

How did the people respond to the two reports?

The people listened to the ten spies and rebelled.

Did God destroy them as He threatened to do?

Yes, that generation died in the wilderness—forty years for forty days of spying out the land.

What is a lesson here from their unbelief?

Promises are inherited through persevering faith.

Conquest of Canaan

Lesson 17

After Egypt, Sinai, and the wilderness years, did Israel finally enter the promised land?

Yes, under the leadership of Joshua.

Who was Joshua?

Assistant to Moses, and a spy with a good report.

Who was the other spy with a good report?

Caleb.

Why did Moses fail to lead Israel into the land?

He publicly dishonored God in striking the rock.

What did God allow Moses to do in the end?

Moses gave the law again—Deuteronomy; then, at death, he saw the land from Mount Nebo.

How did God validate Joshua before the people?

God stopped up the Jordan River for Joshua, even as He had parted the Red Sea for Moses.

What were the two main agendas under Joshua?

Conquering the land, and dividing it up by tribe.

What was the first city that Israel conquered?

Jericho.

As the first city, how was Jericho to be treated?

It was under the ban as God’s, to be burned.

Who lived in Jericho and was saved?

Rahab the harlot, who hid spies Joshua had sent.

How did the people take the city of Jericho?

The ark of the Lord circled the city seven days, the people shouted, and the walls fell down.

Why did Israel fail to take the next city of Ai?

Achan had broken the ban on Jericho.

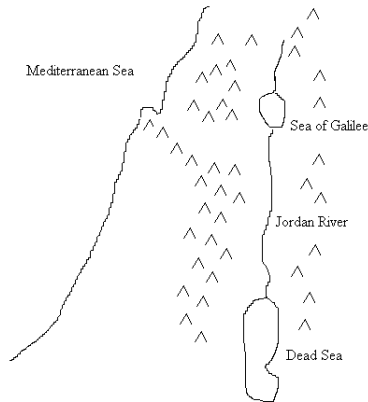
How did Joshua finish his leadership in Israel?

By charging the people, “Serve the Lord!”

Geography of Israel

Lesson 18

Describe the bodies of water given on the map.



From north to south, what is the land like?

Galilee and Mount Hermon are in the north.

The valley of Jezreel is the main plain.

The hills of Ephraim are in the middle.

Judah stretches from the mountains southward.

The Negev and Arabah are deserts in the south.

Where were the tribes given inheritance?

Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali in the north;

Issachar in the plain of Jezreel;

Manasseh, Gad, and Reuben east of the Jordan;

Ephraim, Benjamin, and Judah down the center;

and Dan and Simeon towards the east and south.

Where did the Levites from tribe of Levi reside?

They were scattered. God was their inheritance.

Which form of government did Israel first have?

A confederacy of twelve independent tribes.

Where did the tabernacle first reside in the land?

In Ephraim, at Shiloh.

Judges

Lesson 19

What is the theme of the book of Judges?

The Canaanization of Israel before the kings.

What does “Canaanization” mean?

The people of Israel became like the Canaanites.

Why did the people become like the Canaanites?

Israel did not destroy them, as God had said.

Why did God command Israel to destroy them?

The promise of Abraham, the punishment of Canaan, and the protection of Israel.

What is the circle of apostasy seen in Judges?

Israel did evil, God became angry,
and an enemy would oppress them;

Israel groaned, God took pity,
and a judge would deliver them.

Then Israel would do evil all over again!

Why is this circle of apostasy a downward spiral?

Each time Israel got worse, and so did the judge!

What is a “judge” in the book of Judges?

A temporary governor, who delivers the people.

Who are the six main judges in this book?

Othniel, Ehud, Deborah and Barak,

Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson.

Which two kinds of apostasy finish the book?

Religious apostasy in Dan,

and moral apostasy in Benjamin.

What is the main verse in the book of Judges?

“In those days there was no king in Israel;

everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

What then did the tribes of Israel need?

A king.

United Kingdom

Lesson 20

Who were the final judges in Israel?

Eli the priest, and Samuel the prophet.

Who were the first three kings in Israel?

Saul, David, and Solomon.

How many years did each king reign?

Forty years.

In what ways did the Spirit empower each king?

The Spirit empowered Saul in war, David in war and in worship, and Solomon in wisdom.

What was Saul like as a king?

He was a king like all the other nations, who could lead the people into battle.

What was David like as a king?

He was a man after God's own heart, who could lead the people to God.

What is one lesson learned from these two kings?

Israel needed a king, but the right kind of king.

In what ways did Saul, David, and Solomon sin?

Saul gave in to pride and envy;

David committed adultery and murder;

Solomon accumulated gold, horses, and wives.

How did God punish David?

God let Absalom take the kingdom for a while.

How did God punish Solomon?

God raised up foes, and divided the kingdom into Judah in the south, and Israel in the north.

What is one learned from all the kings?

We need the perfect King, Jesus Christ.

What guaranteed the coming of this King?

The everlasting throne of the Davidic covenant.

Jerusalem

Lesson 21

What was the capital city of Judah?

Jerusalem.

Why was this city also called “the city of David”?

David captured it and put the ark of God there.

In poetry, what is another name for this city?

Zion.

Why was Jerusalem also called “the holy city”?

God chose to put His name there as His home.

How can a city on earth be the home of God?

True, the heaven of heavens cannot contain God, but He placed His special presence in Jerusalem.

Where in Jerusalem did God meet with people?

At the temple.

Who wanted to build the temple, but could not?

David wanted to build a house for God, but God built a “house” of kings for David.

What did David do instead?

He collected building materials, wrote psalms, and arranged the Levites for public worship.

Who did build the temple?

Solomon.

What happened to Solomon's temple?

Four hundred years later it was burned down, due to idolatry that started with Solomon.

What happened to the holy city of Jerusalem?

It too was burned down.

Why would God let His holy city be destroyed?

His holy name is greater than the city it sanctified.

Why was the holiness of His name yet good news?

Due to the same name, He later rebuilt the city.

Kings of Judah

Lesson 22

How many kings did Judah have?

Nineteen kings.

How many kings did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and how many kings did evil?

Eight did what was right, but eleven did evil.

Who were the kings of Judah?

Rehoboam

Abijam

Asa (right)

Jehoshaphat (right)

Jehoram

Ahaziah

then *Wicked Queen Athaliah...*

Joash (right)

Amaziah (right)

Uzziah (right)

Jotham (right)

Ahaz

Hezekiah (right)

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah (right)

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

What do all these kings have in common?

They are all from the house of David.

Kings of Israel

Lesson 23

How many kings did Israel have?

Nineteen kings, from several different houses.

How many kings did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and how many kings did evil?

All of them did evil, and some did assassination.

Who were the kings of Israel?

Jeroboam, son of Nebat

Nadab

Baasha

Elah

Zimri

Omri

Ahab

Ahaziah

Jehoram

Jehu

Jehoahaz

Jehoash

Jeroboam the Second

Zechariah

Shallum

Menahem

Pekahiah

Pekah

Hoshea

Who were the pivotal kings that led in sin?

The first Jeroboam set up golden calves;

Ahab and his wife Jezebel brought in Baal.

School of Prophets

Lesson 24

What is prophecy?

When God puts His words into a man's mouth.

What defines a prophet?

He speaks the words of God, in the name of God, according to the commandment of God.

Where do we find these definitions of prophecy?

In Exodus 7, and in Deuteronomy 18.

Who was the model of the prophets?

Moses.

Why did God speak through Moses to the people?

At Sinai, they did not like hearing God directly.

Who was the first of a continuous line of prophets?

Samuel.

Who were some of the court prophets in Judah?

Nathan, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

Who were the two major prophets in Israel?

Elijah and Elisha.

How were these two prophets different?

Elijah was a loner with more public miracles;
Elisha led young men with more private miracles.

What is Elisha's group of young men called?

The school of the prophets.

Who were some other prophets in Israel?

Hosea, Jonah, and Amos.

Who were the main prophets during the Exile?

Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Who were three prophets after the Exile?

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Who ultimately is the Prophet like Moses?

Jesus Christ, who spoke the words of His Father.

Circle of Nations

Lesson 25

Beginning in the north and moving clockwise, who were Israel's closest bordering nations?

Lebanon

Aram

Ammon

Moab

Edom

Philistia

What is another name for Lebanon?

Phoenicia.

What is another name for Aram?

Syria.

Which nations were relatives of Israel?

Ammon and Moab (Lot), and Edom (Esau).

Who were the two distant large nations during the early days of the kings?

Egypt in the south and to the west,
and Assyria in the north and to the east.

What was the capital city of Assyria?

Nineveh.

Which prophet prophesied in Nineveh?

Jonah.

In chronological order, name the four empires that led into the time of Christ.

Babylon

The Medes and the Persians

Greece

Rome

Which prophet prophesied about these empires?

Daniel.

Exile in Babylon

Lesson 26

If Jerusalem is symbolic of the city of God, which biblical city is symbolic of the city of man?

Babylon.

What is this name in Hebrew?

Babel.

Name four cities with this name in Scripture.

Babel, Babylon, Rome, and revived Rome.

What do Babylon and Rome have in common?

Both cities destroyed the city of Jerusalem.

What led up to Babylon destroying Jerusalem?

The pride of Hezekiah, the violence of the Jews, and the idolatry of the kings, especially Manasseh.

Who was the king of the Babylonians?

Nebuchadnezzar.

How many times did Babylon invade Israel?

Three times—in 605, 597, and 586 B.C.

What happened to some of the people each time?

Many were taken away from the land into exile.

Which two exiles later prophesied in Babylon?

Daniel in the first group; Ezekiel in the second.

Who prophesied in Jerusalem all along?

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet.

Who was the scribe that helped Jeremiah?

Baruch.

Which proverb mocked Jeremiah's message?

"Fear on every side!"

Which poem tells of the suffering of Jerusalem?

Lamentations.

To where was Jeremiah taken by his own people?

To Egypt, where God told the Jews not to return.

Remnant Returns

Lesson 27

How long did Jeremiah say the exile would last?

Seventy years.

What is the significance of the exile ending?

God again was gracious to His covenant people.

What is the significance of seventy years?

The Jews did not keep the Sabbath year of rest, so the land rested seventy years from labor.

Which prophet read this prophesy and prayed?

Daniel.

In response, what did God reveal to Daniel?

The future seventy weeks of years for the Jews.

Which three men lived in Babylon with Daniel?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

What were five trials experienced by these men?

The king's food and dream, the fiery furnace, the writing on the wall, and the lion's den.

In response to God, what were the Jews to do?

Return to the land.

Which Jewish queen stayed, but saved the Jews?

Queen Esther, wife of the Persian king Xerxes.

How many then obeyed God and returned?

Very few, in three waves of returnees.

Which leaders are associated with each wave?

Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

What happened under these three leaders?

Under Zerubbabel, the temple was rebuilt.

Under Ezra, the foreign wives were put away.

Under Nehemiah, Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt.

After the prophet Malachi, what happened next?

Four hundred years of prophetic silence.

The Gospels

Lesson 28

Which two words make up the word “gospel”?

“Good” and “spell” (tale), from Old English.

What is the full definition of the gospel?

The gospel is the good news about God fulfilling His promise of salvation in the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

What are the three essential elements here?

A promise fulfilled, the Son explained, and salvation brought to God’s people.

What are the traditional four gospels?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Which of these are most similar to one another?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke—the synoptic gospels.

Are the four gospels biographies about Jesus?

No, the gospels are truly a form of preaching, giving enough details for repentance and faith.

Why is there more than one gospel?

The Son of God is so multifaceted, He requires several portraits from different points of view.

How is Jesus presented in the four gospels?

Matthew – The King who fulfills the promises.
Mark – The Servant who suffers for our sins.
Luke – The Savior of the poor and the Gentiles.
John – The Son of God who brings light and life.

How have these gospels been represented using the apocalyptic imagery of the cherubim?

Matthew – Lion Luke – Man
Mark – Ox John – Eagle

Who are the main people in gospel sequence?

John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and His apostles.

John the Baptist

Lesson 29

Who was John the Baptist?

The man sent to prepare the people for Jesus, and to introduce Jesus to the people.

What did he look like and what did he eat?

He wore camel skin, and ate locusts and honey.

Who else had looked like this?

Elijah the prophet.

Why is John called “the Baptist”?

He baptized people in the Jordan River.

What does it mean to be baptized?

To be immersed in water, as a sign of purification.

According to John, what did forgiveness require?

To repent of sin, believing in the Coming One.

What does it mean to repent?

To change your mindset from sin to God.

Why did the people need to repent?

Judgment was near. John said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:3).

What is the kingdom of heaven?

The promised reign of God through Christ.

Who responded to John’s message?

Sinners did, but not those supposedly righteous.

What did John tell the people after baptism?

“Bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:8).

How did John introduce Jesus to the people?

John baptized Him, and then pointed Him out.

Did Jesus Himself need to be baptized?

No, but He aligned Himself with sinful people.

What happened at Jesus’ baptism?

The Father spoke and the Spirit filled Jesus.

Jesus Christ

Lesson 30

Who is Jesus Christ in His person?

He is the eternal Word of the Father,
the second Person of the Trinity.

Who is Jesus Christ in His two natures?

He is fully God and fully man,
united forever in one divine Person.

How does John describe this incarnation?

“The Word became flesh” (John 1:14).

How did the eternal Word become flesh?

Through virgin birth, from Mary, His mother.

What were the three geographic regions then?

Galilee in the north, then Samaria, and Judea.

Where and when was Jesus born?

In Bethlehem of Judea, before 4 B.C.

Where did Jesus grow up?

In Nazareth of Galilee.

Summarize the ministry of Jesus.

Baptized in the Jordan, tempted by the devil,
He healed and taught in Galilee,
and called His twelve apostles.

Sermons for disciples, parables unexplained,
by Peter called the Son of God,
but sufferings seemed so strange.

Transfigured on the mountain, by donkey in the city,
He cleansed the temple, taught the people,
and told of His returning.

Praying after supper, betrayed and trials given,
He died, was buried, rose again,
Was seen, and went to heaven.

Twelve Apostles

Lesson 31

What were the apostles?

Official representatives of Jesus, sent out by Him.

As representatives of Jesus, what did they do?

The apostles spoke the message of Jesus,
and acted authoritatively in the name of Jesus.

Why perhaps were there twelve apostles?

As there were twelve sons of Jacob in old Israel,
so there were twelve apostles in renewed Israel.

Who were the twelve apostles?

Peter, Andrew, James, and John;
Philip and Bartholomew,
Doubting Thomas, Matthew too;
James the Less and Thaddaeus,
Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the traitor.

What is another name for Bartholomew?

Nathanael.

What is another name for Thaddaeus?

Judas, not Iscariot.

What were some occupations that these men did?

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen;
Matthew had been a tax collector;
and Simon the Zealot had been a revolutionary.

Why is Judas Iscariot called a traitor?

He sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Who replaced Judas Iscariot in the Twelve?

Matthias.

Teachings of Jesus

Lesson 32

What were two forms of teaching used by Jesus?

Sermons and parables.

What is the most famous of Jesus' sermons?

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

What is the theme of this sermon?

True disciples go to heaven, but not hypocrites.

What is a hypocrite?

A fake—he looks righteous, but inside is not.

What tells us the marks of a true disciple?

The Beatitudes—eight statements of blessing.

What are the Beatitudes, in Matthew 5:3-10?

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'
sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What is a parable?

An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Why did Jesus use parables with the crowds?

As a judgment, to hide the truth from them.

Sufferings of Jesus

Lesson 33

Who were the three main groups hearing Jesus?

Scribes and Pharisees, the crowds, and disciples.

How did each group respond to Jesus over time?

The scribes and Pharisees envied His popularity.

The crowds liked His miracles, but did not obey.

The disciples eventually learned who Jesus is.

How did the disciples learn who Jesus is?

Peter confessed it by revelation from the Father.

How did Jesus respond?

He started telling them plainly about His death.

What is one lesson learned from Jesus' response?

We cannot understand what Jesus did,
until we first understand who Jesus is.

Where and when did Jesus die?

On Calvary outside Jerusalem, in about A.D. 30.

How did Jesus die?

By crucifixion—nailed to a cross as if a criminal.

Who sentenced Him to die?

Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.

What were Jesus' alleged crimes?

Blasphemy and treason, for being God and king.

Was Jesus guilty of any sin of His own?

No, He did no violence, nor said any deceit.

If Jesus Himself is sinless, then why did He die?

He bore *our* sins in His body on the wood.

What is proof that Jesus was innocent?

After three days, He was raised from the dead;
after forty days, He sat down at God's right hand.

What is proof that Jesus was resurrected?

Old Testament prophecy confirmed by witnesses.

Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 34

Who wrote the book of Acts?

Luke.

Why is his authorship significant?

The book of Acts is part two of Luke's gospel, telling us what Jesus continued to do and teach.

How could Jesus "do and teach" from heaven?

Through the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out.

What then could be labels for Luke and Acts?

First Luke and Second Luke.

How are the two books similar in structure?

Both books describe the spread of the word, and end with a long journey to a capital city.

What is the spread of the word in First Luke?

From the wilderness, then Galilee, to Jerusalem.

What is the spread of the word in Second Luke?

From Jerusalem, then "all Judea and Samaria," and finally to Rome, to "the end of the earth."

In this spread, who were the two chief apostles?

Peter and Paul.

What was the major point of transition?

The conversion of Gentiles at Cornelius' house.

What then is the theme of the book of Acts?

The triumphant spread of the word into the world.

What marks the triumph of the word in the end?

In Rome, Paul is preaching to all "unhindered."

What is the irony of this triumph?

Paul is freely preaching, but he is still a prisoner.

What is one lesson learned from this irony?

The gospel makes progress through persecution: the preacher may die, but the word is immortal.

Journeys of Paul

Lesson 35

Who was Paul?

The apostle to the Gentiles.

Was Paul one of the Twelve?

No, he converted after Jesus had ascended.

How did Paul become an apostle?

The ascended Jesus personally appeared to him in a blinding light on the road to Damascus.

What was his name at that time?

Saul of Tarsus.

Why was Saul going to Damascus?

To arrest Christians and to persecute them.

Why did Saul seek to persecute Christians?

Saul was a self-righteous Pharisee of Pharisees.

What does Saul's conversion teach us?

God is patient with us sinners, even with bigots.

According to Acts, what were Paul's journeys?

The mountains of Galatia first,
Then Macedonia and Greece;
To Ephesus and Corinth third,
With Rome they are complete.

What is an approximate timeline of Paul's life?

A.D. 34	Conversion
A.D. 47-49	First Journey
A.D. 50-52	Second Journey
A.D. 54-57	Third Journey
A.D. 58-60	Imprisoned in Palestine
A.D. 60-62	Imprisoned in Rome
A.D. 67	Death

How did Paul probably die?

As a Roman citizen, he was probably beheaded.

Epistles of Paul

Lesson 36

What is an epistle?

A letter.

How many epistles did Paul write?

Thirteen, and perhaps also the book of Hebrews.

How are these epistles arranged in the Bible?

Roughly speaking, from largest to smallest.

How are most of Paul's epistles structured?

Doctrine, then application.

Which epistle of Paul is the largest?

Romans, which presents the gospel logically.

What is the theme of this epistle?

A sinner is justified only through faith in Christ.

What does the word "justified" mean?

To be reckoned righteous, cleared of guilt.

Which other epistle addresses justification?

Galatians.

What are some themes in 1 and 2 Corinthians?

Carnality in church, and weakness in ministry.

How are Ephesians and Colossians related?

Ephesians is general, but Colossians specific.

Who was the Christian slaveholder in Colossae?

Philemon.

What is the theme of Philippians?

Humility will rejoice in seeing Christ exalted, and this joy will lead to unity for the gospel.

What is the theme of 1 and 2 Thesalonians?

How to live in light of the coming of Christ.

What are 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus called?

The pastoral epistles, for these letters instruct the two men as pastors in how to do ministry.

Apostolic Controversy

Lesson 37

Which controversy marred the apostolic era?

The circumcision controversy.

What did this controversy involve?

Some Jews were claiming that Gentile converts had to become Jewish in order to go to heaven.

Is this claim true?

No, a sinner is justified by grace through faith, as Abraham was justified, while uncircumcised.

Why did this controversy involve circumcision?

Circumcision was the sign of being a Jew.

How did the apostle Peter respond?

The apostle Peter quit socializing with Gentiles, which was hypocritical to the gospel message.

Why did Peter do such a thing?

He wanted to look good before men from James.

Who is this particular James?

A half-brother of Jesus and pastor in Jerusalem.

Did James really teach what these men claimed?

No, but his epistle could be misunderstood, as if a man were justified from sin by his works.

How did the apostle Paul respond?

He first withstood Peter to his faith in Antioch, and then he wrote Galatians and Romans.

When did the controversy finally get settled?

At the council of apostles in Jerusalem.

Did Peter accept what Paul was teaching?

Yes. In fact, Peter's two epistles are probably revisions of the epistles of James and Jude, using the fuller revelation of the gospel in Paul.

General Epistles

Lesson 38

What are the general epistles?

Letters from James, Jude, Peter, and John, and the anonymous letter to the Hebrews.

Who are the “Hebrews” in the book of Hebrews?

Jewish Christians, who had drifted from Christ, and who thought about going back to Judaism.

What do we call the sin of departing from Christ?

Apostasy.

Can a real Christians depart and be lost?

If a real Christian did depart, he would be lost; however, a real Christian will never truly depart.

What is the theme of the book of Hebrews?

Christ is better than all the Old Testament.

What is the outline of the book of Hebrews?

Since Jesus Christ is our high priest in heaven, and since His blood is our way into heaven, let us draw near to God in heaven through *faith*, hold fast to our *hope*, and *love* one another.

Which books are echoed in 1 Peter and 2 Peter?

James in 1 Peter, and Jude in 2 Peter.

What are the sins addressed in James and Jude?

Hypocrisy in James, and apostasy in Jude.

What is the test addressed in 2 Peter and 1 John?

Assurance of salvation, in both books.

To which gospel is 1 Peter an application?

The gospel of Mark, concerning suffering.

To which gospel is 1 John an application?

The gospel of John, concerning truth and love.

How do 2 John and 3 John seem to be related?

Both books address the abuse of church power.

Book of Revelation

Lesson 39

Who wrote the book of Revelation?

The apostle John, author of the gospel John.

Where was John when he wrote this book?

On the isle of Patmos, as a prisoner for Christ.

To whom was the book of Revelation written?

To seven churches in Asia, a Roman province.

Why is this book called “Revelation”?

In this book, Jesus reveals the future.

What is the theme of this book?

God is sovereign and will judge the world through Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy.

What is a simple outline of this book?

Seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls lead to judgment.

Who comprise the unholy trinity in this book?

The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

What do the two women near the end represent?

Two cities—the harlot is Rome, called “Babylon”, and the bride of the Lamb is new Jerusalem.

What is the thousand-year reign of saints called?

The millennium.

How is hell represented in this book?

As a lake of fire.

Who is thrown into the lake of fire?

Any name not found in the Lamb’s book of life.

What are four interpretations of Revelation?

Preterist – The tribulation occurred in A.D. 70.

Historical – The whole book covers 2000 years.

Futurist – The tribulation occurs in the future.

Symbolical – There is no tribulation at all.

The Abiding Word

Lesson 40

What is the beginning core of the Scriptures?

The Pentateuch—the first five books of the Bible.

Who wrote these books?

Moses.

Where did he place these books?

In the tabernacle, under the care of the Levites.

Where were the books of later prophets placed?

In the same place, alongside the Law of Moses.

When this collection was complete, what was it?

The Old Testament—what the Jews refer to as the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

Why did God authorize His word to be written?

To be permanent, even when it is not desired.

What did Jesus say about the Old Testament?

That it is more permanent than the universe:

“It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail” (Luke 16:17).

According to Isaiah, why is the word so abiding?

The word is living, and by the Spirit of God, it will never leave the mouth of His people.

What did Jesus say about His own words?

They were more permanent than the universe:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

Who wrote down the words of Jesus?

The apostles and prophets, as led by the Spirit.

How have all these books reached us today?

Through centuries of scribes and translators.

What assures us that the word will abide pure?

Its nature as living, and the Spirit in God’s people.

Notes

The following notes are selective, touching on obscure sources, unusual claims, and intellectual debts to modern writers and teachers. Most of the book’s facts and views are general knowledge, accessible in standard sources.

Lesson 1: One Book

On the privilege of knowing God, see Jeremiah 9:23-24 and John 17:3.

John Owen argues cogently for the “power” and “light” of Scripture as the outer testimony of the Spirit, in conjunction with the inner testimony of the Spirit in effectual calling (see his works *The Reason of Faith* (1677) and *Of the Divine Original, Authority, Self-Evidencing Light, and Power of the Scriptures* (1659) in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William H. Goold, 16 vols. (Reprint, Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1967-68 [1850-53]), 4:3-115 and 16:281-343.

For more information on the internal evidences of the divine origin of the Scriptures, see John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, I.vii, and Charles Hodge, *The Way of Life: A Guide to Christian Belief and Experience* (Reprint, Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1959 [1841]), 11-25, 134-145.

Jesus Himself credited the Scriptures with self-authenticating evidence (e.g. see Luke 16:31 and John 5:30-38). With reference to His own words, Jesus told the Jews, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:16-17).

Lesson 3: Three Elements

Identifying the three elements of Scripture avoids two theological errors: first, confounding law and gospel, as if somehow the law is of faith and leads to life; and second, defining the law as the Old Testament, forgetting that the promise element of the Old Testament allowed saints before Christ to believe in Him who was to come. For the three elements, read Galatians 3 carefully.

Lesson 4: Seven Events

For an explanation of a covenant as “a bond-in-blood sovereignly administered,” see O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1980), 3-15.

For the details regarding what flows out of the covenants, see Genesis 9:8-17; 12:1-3, 15:7-21; 17:1-22; Exodus 19:1-6; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Jeremiah 31:31-34, 35-37; 33:19-26; Matthew 26:28; and Hebrews 9:15-22.

Lesson 5: Books of the Old Testament

Traditionally, Lamentations is not reckoned as one of the four major prophets, but it is located after Jeremiah due to his likely authorship.

Lesson 11: History of Israel

It is probably that Abraham himself had been a pagan unbeliever, given what Joshua says regarding the Jews’ fathers, how they worshiped pagan gods “on the other side of the River,” perhaps, that is, in Ur of the Chaldeans on the Euphrates River (see Joshua 24:2, 14-15).

The dating by and large comes from Gleason L. Archer, Jr., “The Chronology of the Old Testament,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, 12 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Regency Reference Library, 1979), 1:357-74, with modifications based on seminary coursework taken at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary under Dr. Robert McCabe. Regarding several matters of biblical introduction in the Old Testament, Dr. McCabe’s thorough grounding helped me, as in, for example, the questions and answers on prophecy in Lesson 24.

Lesson 13: Twelve Tribes

The blessing of Jacob is found in Genesis 49:1-28.

Lesson 15: Ten Commandments

The poem is based upon Deuteronomy 5:7-21 and 6:4, and is adapted from the anonymous poem of 1731 reprinted in *The Oxford Book of Children’s Verse*, ed. Iona and Peter Opie (New York: Oxford University Press, 1973), 57.

Lesson 19: Judges

The provocative term “Canaanization” comes from Dr. Daniel Block, who wrote about the book of Judges, “The theme of the book is the *Canaanization of Israelite society during the period of settlement*” (Daniel I. Block, *Judges, Ruth*, vol. 6 of *The New American Commentary*, ed E. Ray Clendenen [Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999], 58). It is probable that this commentary provided themes and wording for other answers as well in this lesson.

Lesson 26: Exile in Babylon

The proverb “Fear on every side!” can be found in Jeremiah 20:10.

Lesson 28: The Gospels

Princeton scholar B. B. Warfield once alluded to the benefit of having four gospels for a fuller portrait of Jesus, when he wrote, “We shall attain our finest and truest conception of the person and work of Christ, not by crudely trying to combine the scattered details of His life and teaching as given in our four Gospels into one patchwork life and account of His teaching; but far more rationally and far more successfully by first catching Matthew’s full conception of Jesus, and then Mark’s, and then Luke’s, and then John’s, and combining these four conceptions into one rounded whole” (Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, “The Idea of Systematic Theology,” in Mark A. Noll, ed., *The Princeton Theology 1812-1921: Scripture, Science, and Theological Method from Archibald Alexander to Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield*, 2nd ed. [Grand Rapids: Baker, Baker Academics, 1983, 2001], 253).

The apocalyptic imagery of the cherubim, or living creatures, is given in Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:7.

Lesson 30: Jesus Christ

In dating the birth of Jesus, the benchmark is the death of Herod the Great in 4 B.C. (see Lewis A. Foster, “The Chronology of the New Testament,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein,

12 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Regency Reference Library, 1979), 1:595. For more information on dating the life and ministry of Christ, see Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), some of whose conclusions were presented for me by Dr. Ed Glenny, I believe, at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Lesson 31: Twelve Apostles

The fulfillment of twelve tribes in the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ may be supposed from Jesus’ words in Matthew 19:28 and from the coordination of the names from both groups in Revelation 21:12 and 14.

Lesson 32: Teachings of Jesus

It could be that there are only seven beatitudes, with Matthew 5:10 introducing a new subsection; however, with eight beatitudes, the fourth and the eighth form a good pair, resembling each other.

Lesson 33: Sufferings of Jesus

On dating the death of Jesus, see the note for Lesson 30.

Lesson 34: Acts of the Apostles

The word “unhindered” is taken from Acts 28:31 in the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

Baptist church historian Dr. Michael Windsor once pointed out that the Anabaptist reformer Balthaser Hübmaier used to close some of his writings with the German phrase, *Die Wahrheit ist untodlich* (“The truth is immortal.”).

Lesson 35: Journeys of Paul

Again, the chronology is largely similar to the chart given in Foster, “The Chronology of the New Testament,” 607, though perhaps some dates were estimated with added background from other sources, such as Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, 3rd ed. revised in one volume (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity, 1970).

Lesson 38: General Epistles

Concerning departure from Christ and losing salvation, the writer to the Hebrews acknowledges that he is speaking in a certain “manner” and that he is “confident of better things” concerning the readers, “things that accompany salvation” (Hebrews 6:9). This insight came from listening to R. C. Sproul.

Lesson 40: The Abiding Word

The collection of the Old Testament books in the tabernacle and temple is inferred from Deuteronomy 31:9, 24-26; Joshua 24:26; 1 Samuel 10:25; and 2 Kings 22:8.

On the rationale for a written word as a permanent witness, see Isaiah 30:9-11 (cf. Deuteronomy 31:24-30). On the nature of the word as living, and thereby abiding, see Isaiah 40:6-8 and 1 Peter 1:23-25. For God’s covenanted promise that the word would never leave the mouth of His people, see Isaiah 59:21.

About the Author

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