

OVERVIEW of the BIBLE

132 HOUSE OF PRAYER

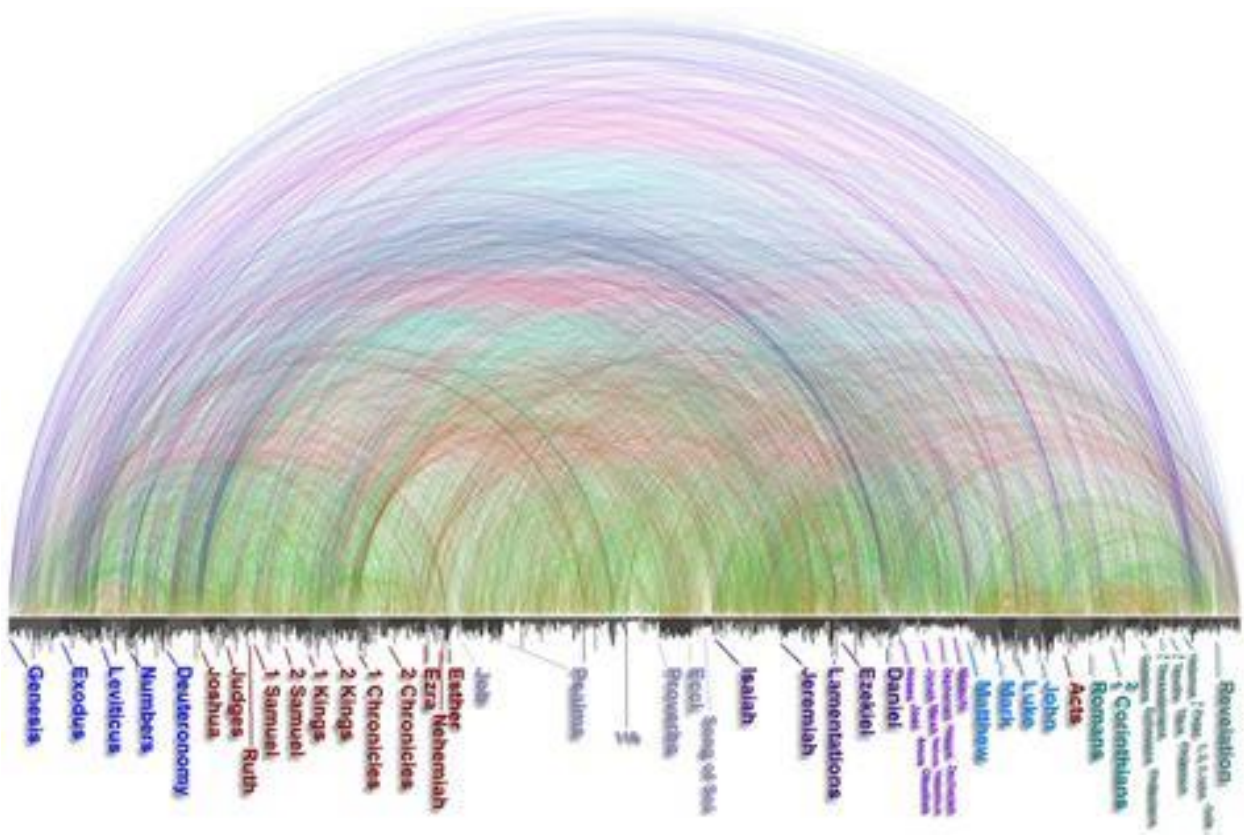
Fall Semester 2024-25

LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Bible Library

- Contains **66** individual books: **39-OT** and **27-NT**
- Written over a time period of **1,600 years** (from about 1500 BC to AD100)
- On 3 different continents: **Asia, Europe, and Africa**
- In 3 different languages: **Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek**
- From several different **nations** and **cultures**
- Written in **various literary forms**, including law, national history, poetry, prophecy, gospel biographies, early church history, letters to churches, letter to a people group, and letters to individuals.
- Written by more than **40 different writers** (some known, some unknown) but all **under the inspiration of GOD**, according to **2 Timothy 3:16** *“For every scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and correction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will and thought, purpose and action, so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* AMPC
- Over the course of time the Bible was written on stone tablets, wood, clay, leather, silver, papyrus, and parchment.
- It was **meticulously copied by hand** and carefully proofed for inaccuracies by Jewish scribes who developed methods of counting words and letters to ensure every copy was the same.
- The **Dead Sea Scrolls**, which were found in caves in Israel in 1948, contained 900 documents **predating AD 100**, including **a complete copy of the book of Isaiah accurately matching the modern Hebrew bible**, although it contained punctuation and spelling variants without changing the wording.
- As the early church began to spread out across the Roman Empire, the biblical writings were translated into **Latin**.
- The **Bible** was the **first complete book** ever printed on a printing press with moveable type in Germany on the **Gutenberg Press** in **1455**. (Latin)
- The Bible from Genesis to Revelation contains the *“...whole counsel of God.”* Acts 20:27 (NKJV)
- Everything written in the back of the Bible (NT) is built on **the foundation** of the writings in the front of the Bible (OT). This has been illustrated as the **Full Arc of Scripture, cross referencing scriptures in both parts of the Bible**.

FULL ARC OF SCRIPTURE



JOURNEY OF THE SEED—Catch the Bible’s Big Picture in 60 Days

- Although many Americans own a Bible or have an app on their devices, the Bible is a **mostly unread** book.
- People of all ages **don’t know the Bible’s central theme**.
- **Biblical illiteracy** leads to **Biblically deficient minds**, which leads to **dormant faith**, resulting in **FAITHLESSNESS**.
- Even people from Christian homes drift away from the faith, or remain disillusioned, and suffer stunted spiritual growth, living mostly detached from the Bible.
- We need to **ignite a new hunger for knowledge and to pursue the wisdom of GOD** by reading the whole book, starting at the beginning and reading to the end.
- The **YouVersion Bible app** has a reading plan by Jeff Anderson called **Journey of the Seed** designed to direct a **60 Day** read-thru 33% of the text of the Bible tracing the **BIG PICTURE** focused on the SEED (spoiler alert: JESUS) from Genesis to Revelation.
- Each day’s reading takes **20-30 minutes a day** (How much time do you spend on social media each morning/evening? Just saying....)
- **Read** and listen **quickly** (this is not a Bible study, or a time for scripture meditation)
- Don’t worry about what you don’t understand
- **Determine** to make reading through the **entire Bible** a **lifelong activity** done several times a year. (FYI: Jeff Anderson also has a 90 Day Power Read plan on the app)
- No homework
- No scripture memory
- No trick questions to test comprehension
- There will be **five Catch-Up days** (just in case)
- **JUST READING**---Using the **audio** as you **follow the written words** gives optimal reinforcement to what is being read. **Romans 10:17** *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* CSB
- The Bible is about **THE SEED**, which is the **theme** introduced in **Genesis 3:15** *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and **her seed**; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”* NASB
- Of course, God was talking about **satan** and the **“seed” of the woman, Eve**.
- **Following THE SEED throughout scripture:**
 - helps with the **flow** of the Bible,
 - the **interconnectedness** of the **main characters**,
 - **explains some of the big questions**, and
 - helps to **appreciate** some of the seemingly dry **genealogies and geographies**.
- Join the 132HOP group read by contacting Vanessa Johnson