

Student's Guide

# BIBLE SURVEY: A BIG SCREEN PERSPECTIVE



An overview of the Bible that puts  
the pieces together, as taught by

Bert Downs

# Student's Guide Bible Survey

A Big Screen Perspective,

Taught by  
Dr. Bert Downs

BiblicalTraining.org  
Because Your Spiritual Growth Matters



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# Your Speaker

At various times a high school teacher and principal, a football coach, the vice president for Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, a WTB seminar instructor, a seminary staff and faculty member, a seminary president, the executive director of a conference center, a regional exec for a church association, a seminary chancellor and an interim pastor multiple times over, Bert Downs still periodically engages in all of those things, often with the original groups he started with!

While holding degrees from Washington State University, Multnomah University, Western Seminary, and Denver Seminary, it's Bert's down-to-earth coaching and team approach to leadership that define his life and ministry. Bert continues his multi-faceted life including serving as Chancellor of Western Seminary, the regional coach for Southwest Church Connection and a personal coach/trainer for individuals and groups throughout the West.

## EDUCATION

M.A., Western Seminary

Graduate Certificate in Bible/Theology, Multnomah Bible College

B.A., Washington State University

# Overview

Bible Survey: A Big Screen Perspective

Speaker: Mr. Bert Downs

## GOALS

1. Know the structure of the English Bible
2. Know the themes of the books of the Bible
3. Know the names of the books of the Bible and be able to write them from memory in order in their categories

## REQUIREMENTS

1. 10 sessions
2. 6 hours

## PREREQUISITES

None

## FORMAT

Video/Audio

# BiblicalTraining.org

BiblicalTraining.org is not-for-profit ministry that gives all people access to a world-class Christian education at no cost. Our classes range from new believers to biblical literacy ("Foundations"), deeper Bible study ("Academy"), and seminary-level training ("Institute").

We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit and rely solely on the donations of our users. All donations are tax deductible according to the current US tax codes.

## DISTINCTIVES

**World class.** All Bible classes are taught by world-class professors from major seminaries.

**Holistic.** We want to see students move through content to deep reflection and application.

**Configurable.** Ministries can use BT lectures as well as their own to design their educational program.

**Accessible.** BiblicalTraining is a web-based ministry whose content is provided at no cost.

**Community-based.** We encourage people to learn together, in mentor/apprentice relationships.

**Broadly evangelical.** Our materials are broadly evangelical, governed by our Statement of Faith, and are not tied to any one church, denomination or tradition.

**Partners.** We provide the content and delivery mechanisms, and our partner organizations provide the community and mentoring.

# Weekly Schedule

We are pleased that you have chosen to use materials from BiblicalTraining.org. We trust that you will find them to be of the highest quality and truly helpful in your own spiritual growth and that of your church. Please read through the following guidelines; they will help you make the best use of this guide.

**Listen or watch the lesson.** The lesson for each chapter is designed to be listened to outside of your meeting. Each lesson lasts for an hour. This is a crucial step. If the meeting time with your fellow students is going to be productive and encouraging, everyone in the group needs to have listened to and wrestled with the lesson.

**Take notes.** This guide has the outline for each lesson with a summary of the teaching for each major point. If you are unable to take notes while listening to the lesson, please work through the guide at some point before your meeting.

**Questions.** Each chapter closes with a series of questions. Some of the questions are data based, confirming that you understand the information. Other questions are more reflective, helping you move beyond the important accumulation of knowledge to challenging you to think through what you are learning about God, yourself and others, and finally to application. Our encouragement is to think through your answers before your meeting and then use the meeting to share your thoughts and interact with others.

**Meeting.** Meet together with your group.



## MEETING TOGETHER

While some people may have to study on their own, we strongly recommend finding a group with which you can study.

A group provides encouragement to finish the class.

Interacting with others, their understanding and insight, is the most effective way to sharpen your own thoughts and beliefs.

Just as you will need the help of others from time to time, so also they will need your help.

# Facilitator's Guide

If you are leading the group or mentoring an individual, here are some suggestions that should help you.

Your role is to facilitate. This is not an opportunity for you to teach. In fact, the less visible role you take, the better. Your role is to listen and bring out the best in the other people.

**Preparation.** Be sure to have done your homework thoroughly. Have listened to the lesson and think carefully through the questions. Have an answer for each question that will get the conversation going. A great question is, "What is the Lord teaching you this week?"

**Creativity.** What works to help one person understand may not help another. So listen to the conversation and pray that the Lord help you bring out the greatest interaction among all the people.

**Correct error.** This is difficult. If someone says something that isn't right, you don't want to come down on them, telling them they are wrong and shutting down their participation. On the other hand, if you let an obvious error pass, the rest of the group may think you agree and what was said was correct. So look for gracious ways to suggest that perhaps the person's comment was incorrect.

**Focus.** Stay focused on Jesus and the Bible, not on church or religious traditions.

**Lead the discussion.** People don't want to listen to a sharing of common ignorance. Lead by asking questions that will prompt others to think.

**Silence.** Don't be afraid of silence. It may mean nothing more than people are thinking. But if the conversation lags, then ask thought-provoking questions to get the discussion started, and then step out of the way.

**Discipleship.** Be acutely aware of how you can mentor the people in the group. Meet with them for coffee. Share some life with them. Jesus' Great Commission is to teach people to obey, and the only way this happens is in relationship.

**Different perspectives.** People process information and express themselves in different ways based on their background, previous experience, culture, religion and other factors. Encourage an atmosphere that allows people to share honestly and respectfully.

**Privacy.** All discussions are private, not to be shared outside the group unless otherwise specified.

**Goal.** The goal of this study is not just increased knowledge; it is transformation. Don't be content with people getting the "right" answers. The Pharisees got the "right" answer, and many of them never made it to heaven (Matt 5:20).

**Relationships.** Share everyone's name, email and phone number so people can communicate during the week and follow up on prayer requests. You may want to set up a way to share throughout the week using Slack or WhatsApp.

**Finish well.** Encourage the people to make the necessary commitment to do the work, think reflectively over the questions, and complete the class.

**Prayer.** Begin and end every meeting with prayer. Please don't do the quick "one-prayer-covers-all" approach. Manage the time so all of you can pray over what you have learned and with what you have been challenged. Pray regularly for each individual in the meeting.

# 1

## The “Puzzle” Picture

In this first session, we’ll examine why having a “big screen” perspective for the entire Bible is so vital for all disciples and critical for those called to leadership. Through this journey, you’ll be introduced to the structure of your English Bible and how, in learning that structure, you can develop the skill necessary to manage the Bible’s content, purposes and applications throughout your life. You’ll also begin to learn how to use this big picture, Bible-management skill to enhance your own teaching and mentoring impact. Okay. This will be 30 fast minutes. Get your biblical track shoes on and get ready to run.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. Big picture**

**B. Applications for leaders**

**C. The Old Testament points to Jesus**

**D. Importance of review to help you remember**

## **II. STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE - DRAW THE STRUCTURE CHART AND JOT NOTES IN IT AS DR. DOWNS LEADS YOU ON THIS JOURNEY**

**A. Old Testament**

**1. Foundations**

**2. Historical**

### 3. Instructional

## B. New Testament

### 1. Foundational

### 2. Historical

### 3. Instructional

## C. The “Silent Years”

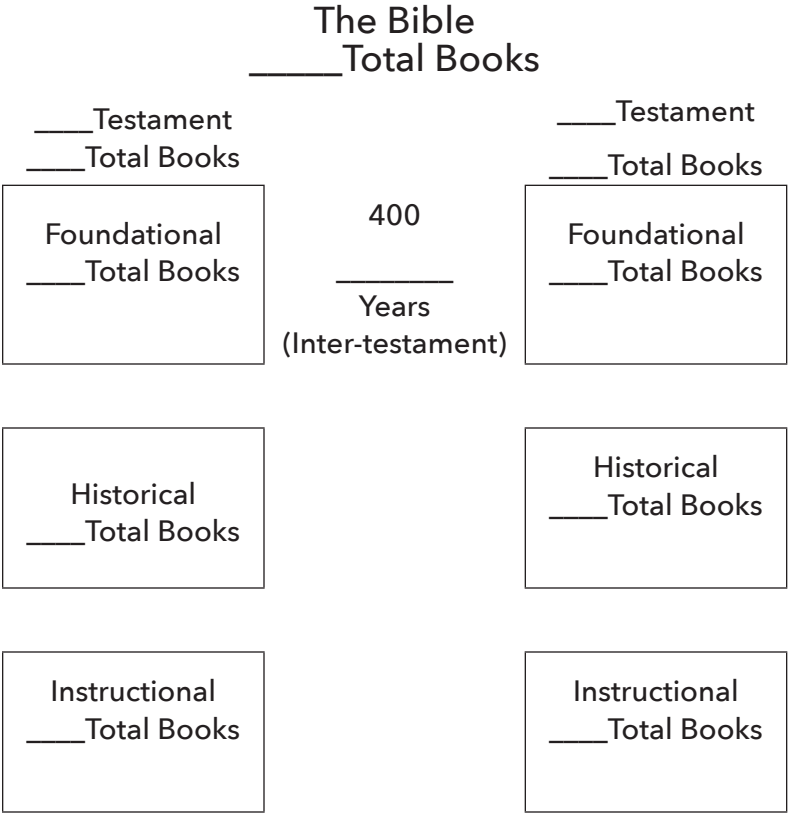
## III. SUMMARY

1. Foundations are like a \_\_\_\_\_ that sets the course for what follows.
2. The Historical Section depicts the living out (or not) of \_\_\_\_\_ things.
3. It may sometimes seem like the Historical books are written in a sporadic manner, but it’s actually \_\_\_\_\_.

4. In the New Testament, the four books in the Foundations section are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the New Testament, how many books are in the Historical section?
6. In the New Testament Instructional sections, the documents are \_\_\_\_\_ to individuals and churches.
7. The poets and prophets worked together to \_\_\_\_\_ the people of God.
8. The Instructional Section doesn't extend the story,
9. The "Silent Years refers to a period of time lasting how many years, between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament?

#### **IV. REMEMBER**

1. The overall structure of the Bible (chart)
2. The number of books in each part
3. The key thoughts in the Session Summary
4. Work at filling in the structure chart below until you can do it from memory



**Next Time:** In Session 2, we'll explore the big picture of the foundational books which we'll call the Pentateuch. These first five books introduce us to key themes and people that will be referred to and have influence over much of the rest of the Bible. Remember, the foundational books act like a compass setting the direction for God's plan and people. And as you'll experience in every session, we'll review what we've covered previously as review is strategic to effective learning.



# 2

## Setting the Compass

In our next 30-minute sprint we'll explore the foundational books of the Old Testament. Known formally as the Pentateuch (literally, "the five books"), these writings set the course for our OT journey helping us understand the characteristics of the history we'll examine later and the nature of the instruction being directed at the people living out that history. In these compass books we'll see the plan of God with respect to his creation and then with his people, Israel. We'll begin to understand how these writings reflect God's desire to redeem his people from the consequences of original sin and transplant his character into that redeemed people, with the larger goal to offer redemption to all of mankind.

### I. THREE KEY CONCEPTS/WORDS AND THE GENERAL FLOW OF THE PENTATEUCH

Also, The Law; Books of Moses

#### A. Culture

## **B. Creation**

## **C. Character**

# **II. SEVEN KEY PEOPLE**

## **A. Adam**

## **B. Noah**

## **C. Abraham**

## **D. Isaac**

## **E. Jacob**

**F. Joseph**

**G. Moses**

### **III. SEVEN KEY FOUNDATIONAL THEMES**

**A. Creation**

**B. Judgment**

**C. Redemption**

**D. People**

**E. Leaders**

**F. Character**

**G. Covenants**

**H. Promises**

#### **IV. KEY WORD SUMMARY FOR EACH FOUNDATIONAL BOOK**

**A. Genesis**

**B. Exodus**

**C. Leviticus**

**D. Numbers**

**E. Deuteronomy**

#### **V. REMEMBER**

1. Five foundational books (name the books and two big themes that go with each)
2. Seven key people (name the people and a key thought that goes with each)
3. Eight key themes (name the big themes for this section and a major thought that goes with each)
4. Two key themes for each foundational book

5. In the chart below, write out the Bible structure chart from memory including naming the five foundational books.

**Bible (66)**

**OT (39)**

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1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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**NT (27)**

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1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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**Next Time:** In Session 3 we'll quickly review key elements covered so far and then move into developing our big perspective of the Historical Books (Joshua - Esther). While we'll have to work fast, we will see how these books uncover how the people are doing in living out (or not) the foundations and what the consequences are. We'll also learn how these books fit together and then fit in the larger scope of the OT. Last, along the way we'll learn about the 8 key people of this section and 2 key themes that arise from this history.

# 3

## Living the Law

A Christian writer recently observed, “. . . among next Christians – and many older Christians as well – a relationship with God today is framed exclusively around beliefs that make little difference in the way we live.” It’s not a new reality as our trip through the Historical Books reveals. Our journey through this section covers about 1000 years during which you’ll see that reality at work: when belief and real-life connect the result is a culture of life, health and power, and when belief and everyday life disconnect, the result is selfishness, sickness and chaotic weakness. The key to watch for in these 12 books is how the leaders and the people do in living out the foundational things recorded in Genesis through Deuteronomy.

### I. REVIEW THE FOUNDATIONAL BOOKS

Two key thoughts for each book

Book	Key Thought 1	Key Thought 2
Genesis		
Exodus		



Leviticus		
Numbers		
Deuteronomy		

## II. HISTORICAL BOOKS (12) IN SUMMARY

Here we'll break this 12-book section into 5 smaller units to help us remember the flow of this history and the emphases along this 1000-year journey. We'll work through this section a couple of times so be patient in your note-taking!

### A. Unit 1 Pre-Kings: Joshua - Ruth, a period in which there are leaders, but there are NO KINGS in Israel

#### **Joshua**

Leads the people of God after the death of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Judges**

A phrase that characterizes Judges is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ruth** is all about:\_\_\_\_\_

**B. UNIT 2 KINGS UNITED: 1 AND 2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS AND 1 CHRONICLES**

A period in which three kings rule over a UNITED Israel

**Samuel** is a prophet and anoints the first  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Saul** (king), all about \_\_\_\_\_

**David** (king), mostly all about \_\_\_\_\_

**Solomon**, mostly all about \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Unit 3 – Kings Divided: II Kings, II Chronicles,**

A period in which the families of Israel become DIVIDED into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah

General notes:

Israel, \_\_\_\_\_Kings: all about \_\_\_\_\_  
\*How did they and the nation do with the foundational things?

Judah, \_\_\_\_\_ Kings: Mostly all  
about: \_\_\_\_\_

\*How did they and the nation do with the foundational  
things?

#### **D. Unit 4 – Judgment/Exile Latter portions of II Kings and II Chronicles**

A period in which God's JUDGMENT on Israel and  
Judah finds Israel's people SCATTERED throughout  
the Assyrian empire and later Judah's leaders and key  
people in EXILE in Babylonia.

Assyria, \_\_\_\_\_ removed from the land and scattered

Babylonia, \_\_\_\_\_ conquered and taken into exile

Persia, \_\_\_\_\_ allowed to return to the land

**E. Unit 5 – Return**

Which recount the experiences of the people of Judah as they RETURN TO THE LAND.

General Notes:

Ezra, gives his life to\_\_\_\_\_

Nehemiah, gives his life to\_\_\_\_\_

Esther, puts her life on the line to\_\_\_\_\_

### III. REMEMBER

1. Commit the names of the 12 books and 8 key people to memory plus the following two principles for the Historical Books.
2. As the leadership goes, so go the\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus later establishes the new covenant by paying with his\_\_\_\_\_.

**Next time:** We'll break the Instructional Section into two units, one focusing on the Poetical Books and the other on the Prophetical Books. First, we'll take a close look at the "heart" of the people of Israel and their experiences as they live out the foundational things in their own history as recorded by the poets.

# 4

## Soul Food of the Poets

The Instructional Section (Job – Malachi) contains 22 books that we'll break into two units: Poetical Books (5) and Prophetical Books (17). In the Foundational Section we engaged God's compass-setting for his people and in the Historical Section we observed how the people did in relationship to the compass. In this section, we'll see the peoples' experience through the eyes of the poets, examine heart issues in that experience and feel both the encouragement and correction of good instruction. Welcome to the poets! Get ready for some soul food.

## **I. HISTORICAL REVIEW:**

- A. The structural chart for the OT: Foundational (5);  
Historical (12); Instructional (22)**
- B. Books of the Historical Section: Joshua - Esther.  
Know them in order by name.**
- C. Four subsections of the HS: Pre-kings, Kings, Exile  
and Return**
- D. 8 Key People: Joshua, Samuel, Saul, David,  
Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther (describe  
each with a word or two)**



## II. INSTRUCTIONAL SECTION, POETIC:

### A. Notes on 5 key verses (especially note the “feel” of the verses):

Job 19:25,

Psalms 23,

Proverbs 3:5-6,

Ecclesiastes 3:1-3,

Song of Solomon 8:6-7,

**B. Two kinds of literature (poetry) in this section:**

- 1. Psalms (praises):**
- 2. Wisdom:**
- 3. The Bible's poetic literature emphasizes two aspects of worship: praises and godly living**
- 4. The books in the Poetry section do not reflect so much on the history of the people doing the foundational thing or on the facts of them doing it, but it reflects on their heart.**

**C. Summary Notes and Key Words for the 5 Poetical Books:**

- 1. Job:**  
Two Key words: to\_\_\_\_\_

Key phrase is \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Psalms:**

Key theme: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Proverbs:**

Dr. Downs describes Proverbs as  
\_\_\_\_\_ literature.

**4. Ecclesiastes:**

Probably written by \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Song of Solomon:**

Two key words: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. REMEMBER:

1. Names of the 5 Poetical books plus those from the Foundational and Historical sections; the key themes of each of the Poetical books; and the following three leadership axioms:
2. Sovereignty says listen, learn and lean on the Lord as you may not see the whole story in times of trouble or blessing.
3. Worship has many facets, all of which should be understood and practiced.
4. Helping keep God in His proper place in peoples' lives is a leader's main calling.
5. Paying attention to foundational things is about the people of God staying in tune with the program of God so that the promises of God are fulfilled in their lives and in the future.

**Next time:** We've surveyed one unit of the Instructional Section, the five Poetical Books. Now we face an even larger challenge . . . developing the big picture of the second unit, the seventeen Prophetical Books. We'll specifically see how the seventeen books fit in their history and their main messages to the people living that history. And as always we'll leave the section by establishing a few key leadership principles unique to the prophets. If the journey just finished focused on food for the soul, it could be said that our next one will emphasize food for the will.

# 5

## Will Power of the Prophets

The instruction of the prophets falls along two lines: the rewards for doing right (fulfilling foundational things) in God's eyes and the necessary corrections when "wrong" becomes part of the picture. Within that paradigm we'll find mixtures of judgment and promise, encouragement and warning, present and future. The prophets, an interesting lot often called on to not just speak but to live out their prophecies, consistently call the people of Israel to craft their present-day realities in light of the foundational aspects of Scripture and the future hope of promise. If you think of the poetical books as revealing the heart of the people in their history, then it would be equally helpful to think of the prophetic books as revealing the heart of God in that history.

## **I. REVIEW OF POETICAL BOOKS**

**A. Five books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon**

**B. Two kinds of literature: praise (psalms, poetry) and wisdom**

**C. Five key themes: Job - sovereignty; Psalms - worship; Proverbs - wisdom; Ecclesiastes - vanity; Song of Solomon - love in marriage**

**D. Poetical books emphasize the heart of the people living out their hist**

## **II. PROPHETIC BOOKS**

**A. All fit it in the context found in I and II Kings, I**

and II Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah; that period would extend roughly from 970 BC to 430 BC.

**B. Historical Context Chart**

Pre-Exile Prophets	Exile Prophets	Post-Exile Prophets
To Israel	To Judah in Exile	To Judah upon return
H_____	E_____	H_____
A_____	D_____	Z_____

To Assyria		M_____
J_____		
N_____		
To Edom		
O_____		
To Judah		
H_____		
I_____		
J_____		
J_____		
M_____		
Z_____		
L_____		
<b>Messages:</b> Repent. Judgment	<b>Messages:</b> How to live in light of judgment.  Take encouragement from God's promises	<b>Messages:</b>  Rebuild and restore the people, the land, and key relationships (especially with God)



### III. NOTES OF SUMMARY COMMENTS, PROPHETS, EXILES

#### A. Exile Prophets:

A key word that Downs associates with Ezekiel's imagery of dry bones is:

Downs describes Daniel as \_\_\_\_\_ because he shows us how he responds to the pressure he faced to become like the Babylonians.

#### B. Post-Exile Prophets

These prophets are all about 3 words that begin with the letter "R": \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. Pre-Exile Prophets

These prophets are \_\_\_\_\_ people that if they don't change the way they are living, judgment will result.

## **D. Themes of the Prophets**

1. They spoke for God (I Peter 1:21)
2. Affirmed covenant relationship
3. Pointed out violations of the covenant
4. Called for repentance and restoration
5. Warned of God's judgment for continued violations (day of the Lord)
6. Punishment of Israel's enemies
7. Day of restoration and renewal beyond the days of judgment

## **E. People and responses to the prophetic message (biblical categories)**

1. The wise: takes the instruction to heart and acts accordingly; committed to wisdom
2. The fool: brushes off the instruction and continues his disastrous path; resists wisdom
3. The simple: not firmly committed to wisdom or foolishness; easily misled; lacks discipline to get and stay on right path

## IV. REMEMBER

1. The prophetic books that fit in the pre-exile, exile and post-exile periods and their general messages, plus the following leadership axioms
2. God holds leaders responsible for the way they lead the people.
3. Sometimes shepherds have to correct their flocks.
4. To lead well shepherds stay sharp in their relationship to the Lord.
5. Shepherds intentionally acquire wisdom to help their flocks live skillfully.
6. A prophetic calling ("thus says the Lord") is typically for a season and circumstance.
7. You cannot live out your life following God in foundational things without facing opposition.
8. Faith builds on knowing foundational things.
9. Faith matures through the application of foundational things.
10. Faith thrives in the celebration of foundational things.
11. Faith renews through the correction of failing foundational things.
12. Review the entire structure of the OT, and your notes from the 5 sessions; be able to draw out the OT structure, name the three sections and the books that go into each.

Bible (66)

OT (39)

NT (27)

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**Next time:** We begin our journey into the New Testament by taking a look at the 400 years that separate the Old from the New Testament, and learning the key themes, events and people of those amazing years. We'll also see how those years influenced the story of the life of Christ and the birth of the Church.

# 6

## **The Inter-Testament Period, 400 Not-So-Silent Years**

The history found in the Old Testament comes to an end about 400 years before we take up the story of the New Testament. In between the testaments is a period often called the 400 silent years because by Jewish reckoning no prophets spoke in the land of Israel during this period. Well, it may be called silent, but as you'll soon see, it is anything but that. Rather, it's a dynamic period of conquest, political and religious developments, and conflict around compromising or not compromising the foundational values and traditions of Israel. It's a period that has the feel of God setting the cultural/historical table for the coming of His Son.

## **I. A REVIEW OF OUR JOURNEY**

**A. Remember our objectives**

**B. Review of OT Structure and preview of NT structure (your turn to draw)**

## **II. A SUMMARY LOOK AT INTER-TESTAMENT TIMES**

Introductory comments

“When the time had \_\_\_\_\_ come” (Gal 4:4)

## **III. THREE KEYS TO THE SILENT YEARS**

**A. R ;** what did each contribute that will carry forward into the NT?

**1. Persia (331 B.C.)**

## **2. Greece (331 - 164 B.C.)**

## **3. Independence (164 - 63 B.C.)**

## **4. Rome (63 BC - 135 AD)**

**B. R \_\_\_\_\_ ;** publications that influenced the NT period

### **1. Apocrypha**



## 2. Pseudepigrapha

## 3. Dead Sea Scrolls

## 4. Septuagint (LXX)

C. R \_\_\_\_\_

Groups in conflict over the values and traditions of Israel

T \_\_\_\_\_ vs. S \_\_\_\_\_

S\_\_\_\_\_ vs. Ph \_\_\_\_\_

S\_\_\_\_\_ vs. S \_\_\_\_\_

H\_\_\_\_\_ vs. E \_\_\_\_\_

P\_\_\_\_\_ vs. Z \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. SILENT YEARS SUMMARY

Fight for Hebrew IDENTITY in the middle of many religions, dangerous politics, competition for power and position, and ever-changing rulers and conditions.

Conflict between those who want to COMPROMISE to fit the prevailing culture and those who want to SEPARATE to preserve the traditional culture.

A time of INTENSITY over values, relationships, beliefs, hope, religion, competition, wealth, rule and future.

## **V. REMEMBER**

1. Entire structure of the OT (draw the chart)
2. Three keys to the Silent Years and the specifics that make up each key

Bible (66)

OT (39)

NT (27)

**Next time:** The Silent Years action will only speed up and gain intensity as we enter the New Testament and the Gospels that introduce us to the life of Jesus. Just like the Pentateuch of the OT, the Gospels provide us foundational truths and practices that will become key to the life of a new faith community called the Church. Don't forget to review!

# 7

## **Meet the Many-faceted King, Servant, Man, God**

Through the books that we know as the Gospels we enter into the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Each of the Gospel books – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – give us a different facet of this life that will change everything . . . but not without resistance as the one also called the Son of Man lives, teaches, touches and then gives His life a ransom for many . . . a ransom accepted by God the Father and affirmed in an ultimate miracle, Christ's resurrection.

## **I. REVIEW OF THE INTER-TESTAMENT PERIOD (400 SILENT YEARS)**

### **A. Rulers**

### **B. Readings**

### **C. Religions**

## **II. THE GOSPELS, BIOGRAPHIES OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST**

To describe the Gospels, Downs uses the analogy of a \_\_\_\_\_ and compares the four Gospel writers to superior \_\_\_\_\_.

### **A. Matthew**

The Gospel of the K \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Audience
2. Author
3. Focal Point
4. Distinctive Feature
5. Theme(s)
6. Leadership applications

**B. Mark**

The Gospel of the S \_\_\_\_\_



1. Audience
2. Author
3. Focal Point
4. Distinctive Feature
5. Theme(s)
6. Leadership applications

### **C. Luke**

The Gospel of the Son of M \_\_\_\_\_

1. Audience
2. Author
3. Focal Point
4. Distinctive Feature
5. Theme(s)
6. Leadership applications

#### **D. John**

The Gospel of the Son of G\_\_\_\_\_

1. Audience
2. Author
3. Focal Point
4. Distinctive Feature
5. Theme(s)
6. Leadership application
7. The “Great” Commandment

### **III. REMEMBER**

1. Key elements of the Silent Years
2. Major emphasis and distinctive elements of each Gospel book

**Next time:** With the big picture of the Gospels under our belts, we'll take those fundamentals from the life of Christ into the dynamic history of the birth and growth of the early church. We'll see how a little group of somewhat bewildered disciples come to turn their world upside down. You won't want to miss what they do. And guess what . . . you can do it, too!

# 8

## Acts . . . the Gospel hits the road

With Gospel foundations in place, the disciples have only to put Christ's mandate – "go and make disciples" – into action. But all isn't that simple. With numbers small, their leader in heaven and plenty of confusion and opposition to go around, it's going to take some miracle level experiences to get these early leaders and the church they're called to launch on the move. And as always, God delivers just what they need just when they need it with the result that a church explodes into the Roman Empire and beyond. Let's see how it all happened.

### I. A REVIEW OF THE GOSPELS (NOTES)

## **II. SOME "BIG PICTURE" REALITIES REGARDING THE BOOK OF ACTS. IT'S:**

- A. A "pattern" book**
- B. An adventure**
- C. Expansive in its organization**
- D. A summary of early church life**
- E. Sermons (1/3 of the book)**
- F. Ministries of key people**
- G. Important places**
- H. Representative of a larger picture**

- I. **Cyclical in approach:** Leaders arise and preach which leads to people listening and responding (church grows) which leads to opposition which leads to God rescuing and protecting which leads to the cycle repeating.

### III. UNDERSTANDING ACTS - A CHART, KEY VERSE - ACTS1:8

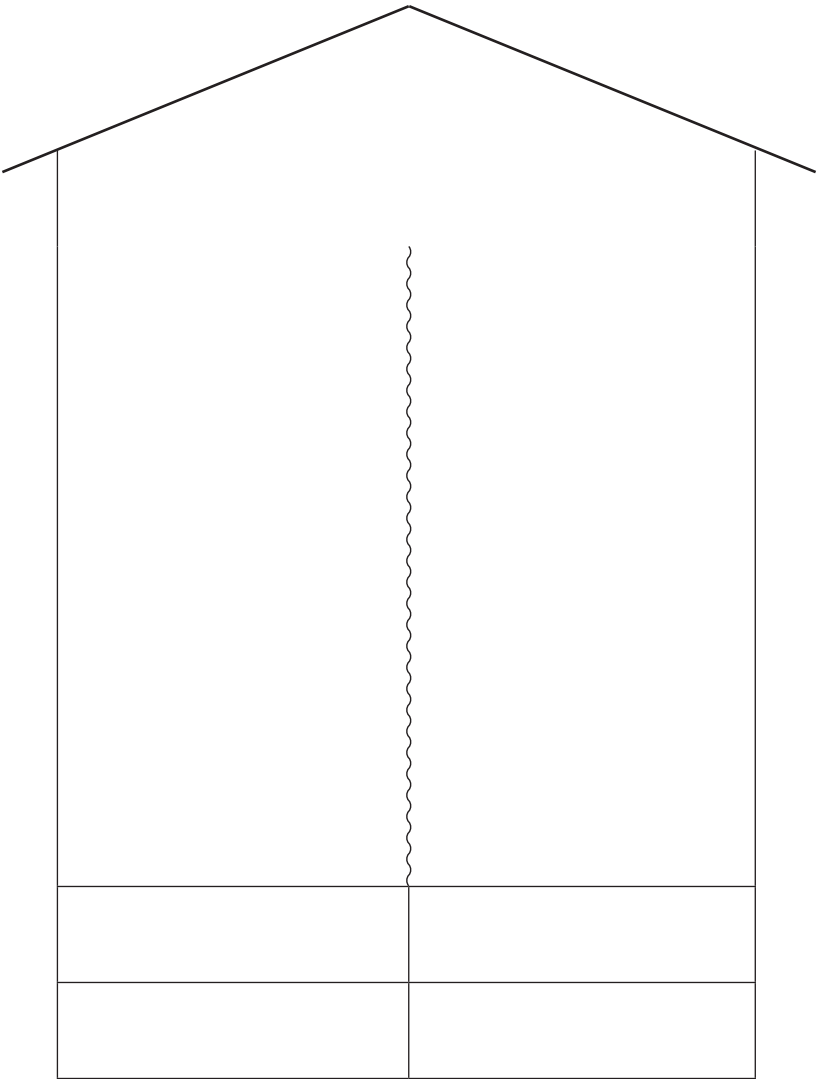
Fill the chart in as we talk it through in class...and I take full responsibility for all white board misspellings!)

	Jerusalem	Judea/ Samaria	Beyond (world)
Chapters			
Person			
Audience			
Pattern			
Keys			
Places			
Dates			

### IV. REMEMBER

1. Gospel themes and distinctives

- 2. Be able to reproduce the “Understanding Acts” chart
- 3. Pick out at least three of the leadership themes from Acts that you’ll make your own.





PRACTICE

Bible ( )

_____ ( )		_____ ( )
_____ __ Books	_____ Years	_____ __ Books

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ Books

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ Book

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ Books

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ Letters

**Next time:** 22 letters will fill our next session with instruction on church development, leadership integrity and maturity principles. These very personal communications for those intimate with the birth, development and maturation of the early followers of Jesus and the Church point us with surety toward those steps that fulfill the foundational things Christ put in place.

# 9

## Life-changing Letters from Old Friends of the Church

Session Overview: Instruction comes in many forms. We've been using one form . . . the video classroom. Needless to say, it was a form not available to the early church leaders. If they wanted to minister to someone not in their presence, they had to rely on the most personal approach available next to an actual meeting – the personal letter. As we look at the 22 letters that make up the Instructional Section of the NT we need to remember that are just that . . . personal . . . letters . . . sent with love, care and concern to those bringing Christ's life to His followers, the early church. And they bring that same personal love and concern to you and me.

**I. REVIEW SIMILARITY IN STRUCTURE OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS (NOTES)**

**II. THE NT LETTERS: THEIR POSITION IN HISTORY**

**A. Written looking back at the cross**

**B. Emphasize Christ's death and resurrection**

**C. Highlight fulfilled promises**

**D. Source of doctrine and theology**

**E. Insight into OT teachings and prophecy**

**F. Underscore new life in Christ**

**G. Faith is center stage**

**H. Suffering seen as aspect of discipleship**

**I. Grave danger from false teaching**

### **III. THE "INSTRUCTIONAL HOUSE"**

Distinctive themes and relationships among the NT letters

**A. Paul's letters to churches**

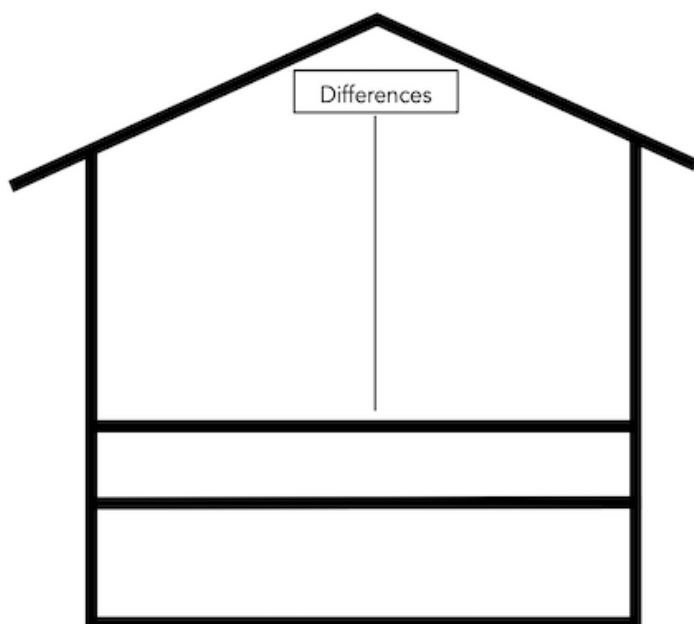
**B. General letters**

**C. Paul's letters to leaders**

**D. Warnings**

**E. Organization of each letter**

**F. General notes on The House**



## **IV. THE CORNERSTONE BOOKS**

### **A. Romans**

- 1. Sin**
- 2. Salvation**
- 3. Sanctification**
- 4. Sovereignty of God**

### **B. Hebrews**

- 1. Don't drift from the Word**
- 2. Obedience is important**
- 3. Practice what you know**
- 4. Sinning willfully is deadly to your maturity**
- 5. A mark of maturity is responding to correction by changing.**

## V. REMEMBER

1. Gospel themes and distinctives
2. "Understanding Acts" chart
3. Be able to reproduce the "Instructional House"
4. Be able to describe the "cornerstone nature" of Romans and Hebrews

**Next time:** In our final session, we'll journey back to the beginning and do one final review from beginning to end . . . Genesis to Revelation. And we'll pause at the little "postcard" from Jude that will remind us that the contest for the faith continues calling us to be tuned up and sharp so that we can ably contend for the faith, the big picture of which we've now have a clear relief.

# 10.

## The Finish Line's in Sight

We've arrived at our final review which will conclude with the biblical author Jude helping us see the importance of the outcomes of our Scripture-wide journey. Remember as you move on from these sessions, that review is a crucial element in making this big-picture tool your own. Some consistent review over the next few weeks, and you'll be building on this tool for a lifetime of spiritual growth and ministry. Conversely, with no review the tool will slowly slip away and along with it, its value to the life and ministry the Lord has for you. The message? Just a little more personal investment (review) and the return on your investment will far exceed what you might have expected. Both your maturity in Christ and your ministry for Him will be the beneficiaries.



**I. STRUCTURAL REVIEW, SECTION-BY-SECTION  
(PERSONAL NOTES):**

**A. Old Testament, Foundational section:**

**B. Old Testament, Historical section:**

**C. Old Testament, Instructional section:**

**D. 400 Silent Years (Inter-testament Period):**

**E. New Testament, Foundational section:**

**F. New Testament, Historical Section:**

**G. New Testament, Instructional Section:**

**H. Old Testament, Historical section:**

**II. COURSE WRAP-UP. CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH  
(JUDE)**

**A. Jude's purpose (v. 3)**

**B. Jude's three keys to contending:**

Be ROOTED (notes, vs 20, 21)

Be REACHING (notes, vs 22, 23)

Be REAL (notes, vs. 24-25)

**C. Final thoughts from Jude (notes, v. 24)**



