

# Walking Through The Word

An Overview of the Bible

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*The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.*  
(Martin Luther)

Though I never knew the man who wrote those words, I feel as if we have much in common concerning our attitude toward the Bible. Every time I read it, God does something inside me. When I am weak He empowers me. When I am discouraged He comforts me. When I am rebellious He confronts me.

From the very first day that I began seeking God through the Bible, my life has been filled with great joy and purpose. Even during very painful times the Bible has strengthened me with power for living.

That is the reason I have written this manual. I want to do anything to help people discover that they too can understand the Bible and receive great blessings from it. Though I think the following information will be helpful, I do not believe that it is necessary to understand it all before the Bible will speak to you. The Bible will speak to anyone at anytime as long as they possess a genuine desire to love and obey the living God.

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

(Psalm 19:7-11)

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## An Overview of the Overview\*

Welcome to the world of the Bible. Other than Jesus Christ Himself, the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. Its greatness lies in the fact that it reveals our purpose for living, to (1)\_\_\_\_\_ or applaud the beauty of God.

Because God enjoys sharing Himself and His work with people, He allowed many individuals (approximately 40) to write the different books of the Bible. Although God did allow men to write the Bible, every word they wrote was (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (directed) by Him, ensuring that what we have is exactly what He wants us to know. To believe that the Bible is the truth of God without error requires much faith. However, to believe that the Bible is not the perfect truth of God requires just as much faith.

The Bible is composed of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of 39 books and tells the story of God leading the nation of (3)\_\_\_\_\_. The New Testament is made up of 27 books and tells the story of Jesus Christ leading the (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Everything that God did in the Old Testament was preparation for what He is now doing in the New Testament - bringing people in every part of the world into a right relationship with Himself through His Son Jesus Christ.

When reading the Bible, it is imperative that you read it not as a set of facts about how God once moved in the lives of people who lived thousands of years ago. But rather these stories should be read with understanding of how God will move now in your life. To help make this more clear, seven timeless principles regarding the activity of God have been recorded in Appendix A.

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\* See last page for answers

# Bible Overview - The Old Testament

## Genesis

This book of the Bible deals with the (5)\_\_\_\_\_ of all things, the beginning of the universe, mankind, marriage and family, sin and death. In this book we also see the first phase of God's plan to bring sinful man back into a right relationship with Him. The one thing that Genesis does not teach is the beginning of (6)\_\_\_\_\_. As frustrating as it is for man to understand, the Bible simply teaches that there is an all-powerful, all-wise, perfectly holy and loving God who has always existed.

### ***The major events in the book are as follows:***

God created the universe by commanding it to come into existence. One hundred thousand million galaxies containing hundreds of millions of stars. A magnificent planet called earth that is home to one million species of life and three hundred thousand species of plants. All of it was created by the powerful (7)\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

The first man and woman, (8)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, were married and soon rebelled against God, bringing pain and death into the world. The Bible says in Romans 7:7,8 that their sin created within all men a sin nature which causes us to desire sin. Through the birth process this sin nature has been passed on to every human being who has ever lived, except Christ (Romans 5:12,18).

In Genesis 9-11 people became so rebellious that God sent a (9)\_\_\_\_\_ to destroy all humanity. Only Noah and his family were spared.

After the flood, man began to repopulate the earth. His sinful nature soon prompted him to oppose God again. In a city called Babel, the people attempted to dethrone God by building a (10)\_\_\_\_\_ that would reach into heaven. In order to stop this rebellion, God caused the people to begin speaking in different (11)\_\_\_\_\_ which obviously eliminated much communication in the building plan.

In Genesis 12 God told a man named (12)\_\_\_\_\_ that He was going to make his family into a great nation and bless the whole world through that nation. The name of this nation was (13)\_\_\_\_\_, and the blessing that would come through it was the coming of Jesus Christ. Abraham lived approximately two thousand years before Christ was born. Abraham had a son named Isaac who had a son named Jacob. Jacob had (14) \_\_\_\_\_ sons whose families would later would be known as the twelve tribes of Israel.

One of the great stories in the Old Testament occurred in the life of one of Jacob's sons, (15)\_\_\_\_\_. Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt but eventually became "vice-president" of the country.

While he was in this position, he stored away large amounts of grain because God told him that a terrible (16)\_\_\_\_\_ was coming to the world. When it did occur, Joseph was able to save many people from starving, including the families of his brothers (Genesis 37-50). The story of God turning Joseph's troubles into a blessing is often used to illustrate the great truth of Romans 8:28.

## Exodus

Because of the famine that was mentioned above, Joseph moved his brothers and their families to (17)\_\_\_\_\_ in order to take care of them. During this time, these families grew so much that the Egyptians became afraid of them and forced them to become (18)\_\_\_\_\_ (Remember that all twelve families are referred to as the nation of Israel).

After 400 years of cruel treatment, God initiated a plan to rescue Israel from Egypt and bring the people into the land of (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (sometimes called the Promised Land). The man who led the rescue operation (exodus) was named (20)\_\_\_\_\_.

Moses' first course of action was to approach the king of Egypt (his official title was Pharaoh) and demand that he let Israel go. Because he refused to listen, God sent ten (21)\_\_\_\_\_ (natural disasters) in order to convince him to obey the order.

The tenth plague was a traumatic one in which God took the life of every first born animal and every first born son of the people of Egypt. In order to be spared from this disaster the Israelites were required to sprinkle the (22) \_\_\_\_\_ of a lamb on their doorposts so that as the angel of God passed over, he would see the blood and not inflict death upon anyone in that household. From a New Testament perspective this scene provides a vivid picture of how one is saved from the wrath of God on the day of judgment as the Lord sees the believer trusting in the blood of Christ to remove his own sin (Romans 3:25).

After the tenth plague, Pharaoh agreed to let the people go, but as soon as they had gone he changed his mind and pursued them, overtaking them at the (23)\_\_\_\_\_. At this point, God sent a mighty wind which parted the sea in half. The people of Israel passed through on dry ground, but when the Egyptians attempted to cross through, God crashed the walls of water on top of them drowning the entire army.

In Exodus 19 and 20, God called Moses to come to a mountain called Mt. Sinai. Here the Lord wrote the (24)\_\_\_\_\_ on two tablets of stone. These commandments, along with others that God gave the people, are called the (25)\_\_\_\_\_.

Through the Law, God showed us how to love Himself and other people. As we will see in the New Testament, the Law could not help a man be good enough to go to heaven because no man ever fully obeyed the Law (Galatians 3:10).

As a matter of fact, the New Testament tells us that the reason Jesus Christ came to earth was to pay the penalty for all the times we disobeyed God's Law. Ultimately the Law reveals not how good we are, but how (26) \_\_\_\_\_ we are, thus showing us how much we need a Savior to forgive us and change us (Galatians 3:24).

The last section of the book of Exodus concerns the building of the (27) \_\_\_\_\_. This was a beautiful "tent" where the people gathered to worship God.

## **Leviticus**

In this book God instructed Israel how to (28)\_\_\_\_\_ Him. For the forgiveness of sin, God commanded that certain animals be brought to the priests and killed. This served two purposes.

First, it reminded people of the consequences of sin. In order for sin to be forgiven, something would have to (29)\_\_\_\_\_, either the sinner or a substitute for the sinner, such as an animal. Many people wonder why God requires death as a payment for sin. The Bible does not answer this question but simply states that it is so.

The death of the animal also served as a glimpse into the future when Jesus Christ would offer Himself to God as the ultimate (30)\_\_\_\_\_ for sin. We are told in the New Testament that none of the animal sacrifices could ever take away man's sin; they simply provided a picture of what Christ would eventually do (Hebrews 10:4-10).

To those of us who live thousands of years from this time in history, many of the laws found in the book of Leviticus seem strange and even unnecessary. But individually and collectively they were quite necessary in that they showed that God's nation was radically (31)\_\_\_\_\_ than any other nation on earth.

## **Numbers**

At this point in Israel's history the men of military age were counted. They numbered about 600,000. The total population of Israel was between two and three million.

Notable sins committed during this period were lack of trust in God, (32)\_\_\_\_\_, and immorality.

In Numbers 13 and 14, the people resisted God as He tried to lead them into the land of Canaan. God punished them by having them wander (33)\_\_\_\_\_ years in the wilderness.

## **Deuteronomy**

God repeated many of His laws in this book. Moses died at this point in Israel's history.

## **Joshua**

After Moses' death, God chose a man named (34)\_\_\_\_\_ to lead the people. Under his leadership, Israel invaded Canaan and divided the land among the twelve tribes.

In order for the people to enter Canaan, they had to defeat a heavily fortified city called (35)\_\_\_\_\_. In Joshua 6, God commanded Israel to march around the city for seven

days. On the seventh day, He told them to shout as they marched. As they obeyed, the the huge wall of Jericho fell, giving Israel an easy victory (Joshua 6).

Another miracle in the book occurred as the people needed more daylight to finish a battle in which they were involved. God provided more light by causing the sun not to set for an entire (36)\_\_\_\_\_. The events in this book took place approximately 1400 years before Christ was born.

## **Judges**

During this time in Israel's history, the people were very (37)\_\_\_\_\_ in their commitment to God. They would sin for a period of time. God would let them be defeated by an enemy. They would then turn to God for help.

Unfortunately, as soon as God rescued them, they would return to their rebellious ways. This happened over and over again. The men that God used to lead Israel during this time were called judges. The most famous of the judges was (38)\_\_\_\_\_, the strongest man who has ever lived.

## **Ruth**

This is the story of a young woman named Ruth who showed great love for her mother-in-law, Naomi, by staying with her through some difficult times. God rewarded her sacrifice by leading her to marry Boaz, a relative of Naomi. Ruth and Boaz became great grandparents of Israel's most famous king, (39)\_\_\_\_\_. The birth of David is most significant from the standpoint that it would be through His family that Jesus Christ would one day come into the world. Though it is not mentioned in Ruth it was a promise that was stated often in the Old Testament.

## **1st & 2nd Samuel**

These two books of the Bible are named after the man who was the spiritual leader and spokesman of the day, Samuel. Although God wanted to continue leading the people as He had for hundreds of years, Israel wanted to be like other nations which were governed by (40)\_\_\_\_\_.

God granted this request by giving Israel its first king, a man named (41)\_\_\_\_\_. After Saul proved to be a disobedient leader, God removed him and replaced him with (42)\_\_\_\_\_, a godly man who served as one of Israel's greatest kings.

One of the great things David is remembered for is his defeat of (43)\_\_\_\_\_, a nine-foot tall Philistine soldier who mocked God and His people (1 Samuel 17). The tragic thing David is remembered for is his affair with Bathsheba and the subsequent death of her husband (2 Samuel 11). David lived approximately 1000 years before Christ was born.

## **1st & 2nd Kings**

The history of all the kings of Israel is recorded in these two books. During this time David died, and his son (44)\_\_\_\_\_ became king. Under his leadership, Israel built a beautiful house of

worship called the Temple. This project, along with many others, over burdened the people. Though Solomon possessed great wisdom, his harsh rule was not wise.

When Solomon died, his son (45)\_\_\_\_\_ became king. In 1 Kings 12 the people demanded to be treated better than they had been under Solomon. When their request was not granted, ten of the twelve tribes of Israel formed their own nation. They kept the name (46)\_\_\_\_\_ and are often referred to as the northern kingdom. The two tribes that were left, Benjamin and Judah, are known as the southern kingdom and are referred to by the name (47)\_\_\_\_\_. This division occurred in 922 B.C.

After several hundred years of disobedience, the northern kingdom was destroyed by (48)\_\_\_\_\_, the world's most powerful nation at that time. This occurred in 722 B.C. Approximately 150 years later, in 586 B.C., Judah was destroyed by (49)\_\_\_\_\_, the new world power.

When Judah was conquered, thousands of people were taken as prisoners and forced to spend (50)\_\_\_\_\_ years in captivity in Babylon. This period of biblical history is known as the exile.

When Babylon invaded Judah, two great tragedies occurred to the capital city of Jerusalem. The beautiful (51)\_\_\_\_\_ was burned, and the massive city (52)\_\_\_\_\_ were torn down (2 Kings 25).

## **1st & 2nd Chronicles**

Many of the events of 1st & 2nd Kings are repeated in these books in order to place more emphasis on the events at this time in the nation of Judah.

## **Ezra & Nehemiah**

After Judah spent many years in captivity, Persia destroyed Babylon and allowed the exiles to return to their homeland. Under the leadership of (53)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, both the temple and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt.

## **Esther**

Though the name of God is not mentioned in this book, the presence of God is certainly responsible for the success that occurs here. A very wicked man who was an assistant to the king of Persia wanted to destroy the (54)\_\_\_\_\_. His plan failed, however, when the king was informed that his wife's uncle, who was a Jew, had saved his life on a previous occasion. In honor of this man and all the Jewish people, the king ordered that his assistant be hanged. The king's wife was named (55)\_\_\_\_\_, and her uncle was named Mordecai.

## **Job**

Job, the main character in this book, was a godly man who suffered the loss of his (56)\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ through several tragedies. The book examines life's greatest mystery. How can a good God allow bad things to happen to those who love and obey Him very much?

(57)\_\_\_\_\_ of Job's friends attempt to explain this mystery and end up hurting much more than helping. In searching for answers, they conclude that God must have found hidden (58)\_\_\_\_\_ in Job's life. Little did they realize that if this were the reason for all pain, everyone would constantly suffer, because everyone possesses hidden sin.

The book does not answer why God allows pain in the lives of His people. It simply states that because He is perfectly (59)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, God must be trusted even when He cannot be understood (Job 38-42).

## **Psalms**

This book of the Bible records the (60)\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of various people in Israel. Psalms is one of the most popular books of the Bible because it records all the joys and frustrations a human being can experience. King (61)\_\_\_\_\_ wrote about one half of the 150 psalms.

## **Proverbs**

This is a book of wise, practical sayings. Many of these are attributed to David's son, (62)\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Ecclesiastes**

This book of the Bible is also attributed to Solomon. In it, Solomon, an aging man who has experienced all the glamorous things of life, labels the pursuit of these as (63)\_\_\_\_\_. He concludes that only as we respect and obey God will we ever be fulfilled.

## **Song of Songs**

This is a beautiful story about the love of a man and woman from courtship to marriage. The book provides a wonderful example of what God wants in all marriages as both partners continually (64)\_\_\_\_\_ one another.

## **Major and Minor Prophets**

Though you will not see the words "major" and "minor" in the Bible, this is what the final section of the Old Testament has come to be known as. The major prophets are called by that title because they are long books. The minor prophets are equally important but are much shorter.

These books are the recorded sermons of the men who preached against the spiritual rebellion in Israel, Judah, and several other nations. They basically contain messages of:

(65)\_\_\_\_\_ that was coming upon the disobedient

(66)\_\_\_\_\_ for those who repent after judgment

The books which make up the major prophets are **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel**. A book called **Lamentations** follows Jeremiah but is not traditionally viewed as a major prophet. It is believed to be the record of Jeremiah's sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem.

One of the most famous passages in the major prophets is (67)\_\_\_\_\_. This chapter told the Jews that God was going to send a very special person to suffer for their sins. The New Testament states that this person was Jesus Christ. This was a very important truth which Israel failed to understand.

When Jesus came to earth He was rejected by the Jews because they expected their Messiah to be a conquering king, not a (68)\_\_\_\_\_ servant. The Bible teaches that Jesus WILL return one day as a great king who will rescue His people from all pain and evil, but FIRST He had to come as one who would suffer His people's sin.

The minor prophets follow the major prophets and are as follows: **Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi**. The most well known minor prophet is probably (69)\_\_\_\_\_. God called Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh. Instead of obeying, he boarded a ship that was sailing in the opposite direction. After being thrown overboard, Jonah was swallowed by a huge fish. Three days later the fish spewed him out onto land. In need of no more persuasion, he went immediately to Nineveh and preached a sermon that resulted in 120,000 people turning to God.

# Bible Overview - The New Testament

## Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

These first four books of the New Testament are called the (70)\_\_\_\_\_. The word gospel means "good news." These books tell the good news of God sending Jesus to earth to live as a man. The concept of God becoming a man is called the (71)\_\_\_\_\_. The word incarnate means "with flesh". Through Jesus Christ, the invisible, all-powerful God became a flesh-and-blood man like you and me.

### ***The fact that God became a man is important for several reasons:***

- ◇ It allowed Him to experience the (72)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of life just as we do.
- ◇ It allowed Him to demonstrate God's (73)\_\_\_\_\_ as He taught, forgave, and healed multitudes of people.
- ◇ It allowed Him to die the only death that could ever bring forgiveness to sinful man. Only a man who was (74)\_\_\_\_\_ of sin could die in the place of another man who was guilty of sin. The Bible says that because Jesus Christ never sinned, He was able to die for the sins that others had committed. And because He was God, His death was great enough to cover the sins of all men; that is, all men who place their faith in Him and follow Him.

### ***The primary facts about Jesus Christ are:***

- He is the Son of God who has always existed in perfect (75)\_\_\_\_\_ with God (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6).
- When He came to earth, He was born by a virgin named (76)\_\_\_\_\_ after the Holy Spirit of God had caused her to become pregnant. Mary's husband was named Joseph. (Luke 1:26-35).
- From his first breath to His last, Christ lived a (77)\_\_\_\_\_ life. (Hebrews 4:15).
- Jesus lived on earth for thirty-three years. His public ministry began at age (78)\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 3:23).
- At the end of his ministry, He allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross in order to die for our sins. This is called the (79)\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 20:17-19).
- After His death, Christ's body was placed in a tomb. Three days later He rose from the dead, giving evidence that His mission on earth had been successful (Romans 4:25). This is called the (80)\_\_\_\_\_.

- After the resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven. This is known as the (81)\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:6-11).
- Christ will rule in heaven until He returns to earth and gathers His church to live with Him forever (John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). His return is called the (82)\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Acts**

When Jesus began His three-year ministry on earth, He chose twelve (83)\_\_\_\_\_ (apostles) who would continue His work when He left. The book of Acts tells how the message of Christ quickly spread from one city to another through these men and other disciples that were taught by them.

The disciples were successful in spreading the gospel because Christ sent His (84)\_\_\_\_\_ to live with them and bless them. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live within all Christians (John 14:16-20; 16:13-15; Ephesians 1:13,14).

In Acts 9 a very special man named (85)\_\_\_\_\_ was converted to Christianity. Prior to his conversion he was called Saul. He once hated the church and was determined to destroy it, but after having a dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ, he became one of the greatest preachers of all times.

On (86)\_\_\_\_\_ separate occasions (missionary journeys), Paul travelled to various cities and towns telling people about the forgiveness of sin through Jesus. Many people responded to Paul's preaching, and as a result many new churches were started across Asia and Europe.

As a matter of fact, thirteen books of the New Testament are (87)\_\_\_\_\_ written by Paul to some of these new churches. Because of His preaching, Paul was eventually arrested, taken to Rome, and imprisoned. According to church tradition he was executed. The events in this book took place between A.D. 30 & 70.

The book of Acts records many exciting displays of God's power. As Christians, we praise the Lord anytime we see God move in this manner. However, we must understand that there are also many times when He chooses not to move like this. Though the book of Acts shows us what God CAN do, it does not show us what He always WILL do. Therefore, our devotion to God must not be based upon His miracles but rather on His love.

## **Romans**

This is a letter to the church at Rome in which Paul deals intensely with the major topics related to (88)\_\_\_\_\_. Salvation is the biblical word that describes the act of God rescuing us from the (89)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. The topics (doctrines) that are related to salvation are listed below.

**The Doctrine of Sin** - The Bible teaches that everyone has (90)\_\_\_\_\_ (rebelled) to the point that (91)\_\_\_\_\_ is good enough to go to heaven; no one has lived up to God's demands (Romans 3:10-23). We are all like an arrow that has missed its target. The result of our sin is separation from God (Isaiah 59:2).

**The Doctrine of the Atonement** - Because God is holy, His (92)\_\_\_\_\_ demands that all sin be judged severely. In order to free us from this punishment, God sent Christ to die on the cross of Calvary. Many people do not believe that their sin is very displeasing to God, but the death of Jesus shows us just what God thought of our sin. In order for His justice to be (93)\_\_\_\_\_, either we would be eternally punished, or His Son would have to die. Someone would have to pay for our rebellion (Romans 6:23).

Another aspect of salvation involves the word (94)\_\_\_\_\_. It is a financial word that was once used to describe the cost of buying a slave's freedom. Before God saved us, we were slaves to sin. On our own we could not escape its power or its consequences. The (95)\_\_\_\_\_ to free us was the death of Christ.

**The Doctrine of Justification by Faith** - Because Jesus was punished for our sins, God no longer sees us as guilty of sin. The word "justify" means to declare (96)\_\_\_\_\_. Even though we have sinned, God is able to declare us not guilty of sin, because through Christ's death, we have already been punished for our sin.

The concept is very similar to an (97)\_\_\_\_\_ man walking into a courtroom and agreeing to serve the sentence for a (98)\_\_\_\_\_ man. If the innocent man agreed to do that, then in a sense, the guilty man would no longer be guilty because someone else had assumed his guilt.

That is what Christ has done for all who place their (99)\_\_\_\_\_ in Him. The word faith is a very important concept. It means to believe or trust. The only people who are justified by God are those who believe they are guilty of sin and trust that Christ's death has cleansed them of their sin. The moment they believe and trust God, He justifies them. That is, He sees them as already having been punished for their sin causing them to be acceptable in His sight.

In Romans 4 Paul explains that even in the Old Testament people were justified through faith. The Bible says that Abraham was made righteous not because of religious ceremony (circumcision), nor because of perfect obedience to God's Law (the law had not even been given when Abraham was living), but simply because He trusted God. Complete trust in the person and work of Christ will always be the way to God.

**The Doctrine of Sanctification** - As guilty men whose sins have been completely punished through the death of Christ we now have an obligation to let the resurrected Christ cleanse our minds from those unholy thoughts and attitudes that first lead us to sin (Hebrews 10:14). Sanctification is the (100)\_\_\_\_\_ process of letting God impart His values and character in us. It is the retraining of our conscience through the reshaping of our mind (Romans 12:1,2). This work is accomplished in the believer through the constant ministry of the Holy Spirit.

## **1 Corinthians**

This book, written by the apostle Paul, is a letter to the church in the city of Corinth. Throughout the book, Paul attempts to help these Christians work through some problems within the church. The major problems in this particular congregation were (101)\_\_\_\_\_, immorality, lawsuits between fellow Christians, lack of respect for the (102)\_\_\_\_\_, and a misunderstanding of the gift of tongues. The 13th chapter of the book reveals that a major problem in the church was simply a lack of love.

## **2 Corinthians**

This is another letter to the church at Corinth. In this book, Paul reveals much about himself in order that the believers will respect and follow his (103)\_\_\_\_\_. Through various lies that were being told about Paul, the church was in danger of following other leaders who were both divisive and ungodly. In an attempt to prove that he was a true apostle sent by (104)\_\_\_\_\_, Paul opened his heart and allowed the people to see his true concern for the cause of Christ. His sincerity was demonstrated by his years of genuine (105)\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Galatians**

This book is a strong letter from Paul to the churches in the region of Galatia urging the believers not to (106)\_\_\_\_\_ from the basic truth of Christianity. Paul reminds them that the basic truth is that our good works of obeying God's laws DO NOT help in gaining salvation. Although every true Christian will desire to do the good things that God commands, these works will (107)\_\_\_\_\_ be able to take away our sin. As Paul says in Galatians 2:21, if we could earn salvation through good works, then CHRIST DIED FOR NOTHING!

The false teachers of Paul's day were very similar to the cults in our day. They tried to deceive new Christians into believing that they had not yet done (108)\_\_\_\_\_ to be forgiven by God. The message of the New Testament is this: No, you haven't done enough, but Christ has. Therefore, enjoy His free gift of forgiveness.

## **Ephesians**

The book of Ephesians is a moving letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus and possibly to other local churches. It begins with one of the greatest passages in the New Testament concerning how God has so wondrously (109)\_\_\_\_\_ us.

In the next chapter, Paul states again that we are saved not by our works but only because of God's (110)\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_. These two words simply mean that God enjoys being kind to those who do not deserve it. As he often does in his letters, Paul concludes the book with several chapters that call us to live in obedience to God out of appreciation for what He has done.

## **Philippians**

Although Paul loved all the churches with which he was involved, some brought him more joy than others. The church in Philippi brought him great joy. In fact, in this brief letter he uses some form of the word more than (111) \_\_\_\_\_ times. One reason for his delight with this church was that it continually supported him, prayerfully and (112)\_\_\_\_\_.

The book's greatest claim to fame is Paul's description of Jesus Christ found in chapter two. While trying to motivate the church to serve others unselfishly, Paul reminds the believers how Jesus served them unselfishly. This occurred at the incarnation when He gave up His (113)\_\_\_\_\_ as God in order to come to earth to live and die as a man.

## **Colossians**

After receiving news that false teachers were telling the church at Colossae that Christianity was much too (114)\_\_\_\_\_, Paul urged the believers not to be deceived by the mysterious and complicated teachings of this cult. He reminded them that since Christ was indeed God, He alone would supply them with everything they needed spiritually. Colossians cautions us to make sure that our Christianity is based on knowing and obeying Jesus according to the (115)\_\_\_\_\_, not according to a list of man-made rules and expectations.

## **1 & 2 Thessalonians**

These two books of the Bible are letters written by Paul to the church in the city of Thessalonica. This church, because of its bold and courageous (116)\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ, also brought great joy to Paul. One of the primary themes of the letters is the return of Jesus Christ to earth to rescue His church. The letters not only promise His return but also inform believers how to live godly lives until it takes place.

## **1 & 2 Timothy**

Although these two books of the Bible contain many truths that apply to the entire church, they were originally written by Paul to instruct (117)\_\_\_\_\_, a young pastor in the church of Ephesus. Both letters describe what kind of men God will use to lead the church and what kind of behavior should occur within the church.

## **Titus**

This book of the Bible is a letter written by Paul to a pastor named Titus who was leading a church on the island of (118)\_\_\_\_\_. This book also deals with proper leadership and behavior within the church.

## **Philemon**

This book is a unique letter from Paul to a friend named Philemon. In the book, Paul explains that he had been helped greatly by a slave of Philemon named (119)\_\_\_\_\_. After running away from Philemon, Onesimus had become a Christian and had been of much assistance to Paul. When Paul sent Onesimus back, he asked Philemon to not only release him from his status as a slave, but accept him as a (120)\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

## **Hebrews**

Because of its many references to Old Testament (121)\_\_\_\_\_ and rituals, many Christians find this book confusing. These references are very important, however, for the writer is trying to demonstrate that even though the traditions of the Old Testament were once quite useful, they must not compete with one's devotion to Jesus Christ. As was stated at the beginning of this study, EVERYTHING that was done in the Old Testament prepared the way for what Jesus would do in the New Testament.

It appears that the people to whom the letter was written were in danger of (122)\_\_\_\_\_ the worship of Jesus Christ for other religious activities. One of the reasons the people were considering leaving Christianity was due to the fact it was causing them to suffer (123)\_\_\_\_\_. It appears that they were looking for a way to act "religious" without standing out as a true follower of Christ.

## **James**

This book, written by a man named James, teaches that Christians must learn to put their faith into (124)\_\_\_\_\_. He basically says that if our life is not (125)\_\_\_\_\_ by our faith, then our faith is not real. Though the book deals with many practical ways to demonstrate the reality of our Christianity, one of the most well-known areas it addresses is that of controlling our (126)\_\_\_\_\_.

## **1 & 2 Peter**

These books were written by a disciple of Jesus named Peter. Both letters attempt to encourage (127)\_\_\_\_\_ believers to stay faithful to Christ in difficult times and obedient to Him during tempting times. Peter also warns the church about false teachers.

## **1,2, & 3 John**

These books were written by a disciple of Jesus named John. He reminds the church that true Christians will be known by (128)\_\_\_\_\_ to God, (129)\_\_\_\_\_ for one another, and (130)\_\_\_\_\_ to biblical truth.

## **Jude**

This book was written by a man named Jude for the purpose of encouraging the church to remain faithful and strong in a world of deceptive, immoral, and (131)\_\_\_\_\_ men.

## **Revelation**

This book, written by the disciple John after he was exiled to the island of Patmos by the Roman government, is a message concerning the end of (132)\_\_\_\_\_. Due to the use of much mysterious language, there are many parts of Revelation that are difficult for us to understand today.

The primary message, however, is quite clear. In the future, Jesus Christ and all who love Him and follow Him, will be completely victorious over all pain, (133)\_\_\_\_\_, and suffering. At the end of history, Christ will punish all those who oppose Him by casting them into hell where pain and evil are unrestrained. He will then (134)\_\_\_\_\_ all of His followers with the unending joys of eternal life with God in heaven.

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## Appendix A

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### Seven Realities of Experiencing God\*

1. God is (a) \_\_\_\_\_ at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love (b) \_\_\_\_\_ with you that is real and personal.
3. God (c) \_\_\_\_\_ you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God (d) \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a (e) \_\_\_\_\_ of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major (f) \_\_\_\_\_ in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to (g) \_\_\_\_\_ God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

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(a) always (b) relationship (c) invites (d) speaks (e) crisis (f) adjustments (g) know

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\*The above outline is a set of principles found in a work entitled *Experiencing God*. Henry Blackaby & Claude King, *Experiencing God* (Nashville, Tennessee: Lifeway Press, 1990)

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## Answers for Bible Overview

1. glorify
2. inspired
3. Israel
4. church
5. beginning
6. God
7. voice
8. Adam and Eve
9. flood
10. tower
11. languages
12. Abraham
13. Israel
14. twelve
15. Joseph
16. famine
17. Egypt
18. slaves
19. Canaan
20. Moses
21. plagues
22. blood
23. Red Sea
24. Ten Commandments
25. Law
26. sinful
27. Tabernacle
28. worship
29. die
30. sacrifice
31. different
32. complaining
33. 40
34. Joshua
35. Jericho
36. day
37. unstable
38. Samson
39. David
40. kings
41. Saul
42. David
43. Goliath
44. Solomon
45. Rehoboam
46. Israel
47. Judah
48. Assyria
49. Babylon
50. 70
51. Temple
52. walls
53. Ezra and Nehemiah
54. Jews
55. Esther
56. possessions, health, family
57. Three
58. sin
59. wise and strong
60. prayers, praises, songs
61. David
62. Solomon
63. meaningless
64. honor
65. judgment
66. hope
67. Isaiah 53
68. suffering
69. Jonah
70. gospels
71. incarnation
72. pressures & temptations
73. love
74. not guilty
75. equality
76. Mary
77. sinless
78. thirty
79. crucifixion
80. resurrection
81. ascension
82. second coming
83. disciples
84. Holy Spirit
85. Paul
86. three
87. letters
88. salvation
89. power and penalty
90. sinned
91. no one
92. justice
93. satisfied
94. redemption
95. price
96. not guilty
97. innocent
98. guilty
99. faith
100. daily
101. disunity
102. Lord's Supper
103. leadership
104. God
105. sacrifice
106. turn away
107. never
108. enough
109. blessed
110. grace and mercy
111. fifteen
112. financially
113. privileges
114. simple
115. Bible
116. witness
117. Timothy
118. Crete
119. Onesimus
120. brother
121. customs
122. forsaking
123. persecution
124. practice
125. changed
126. speech
127. suffering
128. obedience
129. love
130. faithfulness
131. ungodly
132. history
133. evil
134. reward