

A young man with dark hair and green eyes, wearing a blue denim shirt over a white t-shirt, looks intently at an older man whose back is to the camera. The older man is wearing a white shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Junior  
Sabbath  
School Lessons**

*FIRST YEAR, FIRST QUARTER*

**THE  
BIBLE**

**THE BIBLE WAS  
HANDED DOWN  
FROM FATHER TO SON**

# **JUNIOR SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

FIRST YEAR, FIRST QUARTER

## **THE BIBLE**

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# Introduction

"Those who study the Bible with a sincere desire to know and do the will of God will become wise unto salvation. The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives to young and old a knowledge of God's word, but because it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths and a desire to study it for themselves; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings.

"All who take the word of God as their rule of life are brought into close relationship with one another. The Bible is their bond of union." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 389.

"The Sabbath school affords to parents and children an opportunity for the study of God's Word. But in order for them to gain that benefit which they should gain in the Sabbath school, both parents and children should devote time to the study of the lesson, seeking to obtain a thorough knowledge of the facts presented and also of the spiritual truths which these facts are designed to teach. We should especially impress upon the minds of the youth the importance of seeking the full significance of the scripture under consideration." –*Child Guidance*, p. 511.

May God bless every Junior student and teacher in gaining knowledge of the great Book of books—God's sacred word!



## Preservation of the Bible

MEMORY VERSE: *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."* Isaiah 40:8.

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."* Matthew 24:35.

### FACTS

*The Bible is precious to me,  
The Bible is precious to me,  
God's letter of love,  
Sent down from above,  
The Bible is precious to me.*



Perhaps you have sung this little song but never thought about the words. Maybe at other times you have wondered, How did the Bible come into existence? When was the first Bible written?

We will look at some of the ways in which the Bible has been preserved through all the many years until today.

The word "Bible" comes from a Latin word—*Biblia*—meaning "little books." In other words, the Bible as we have it today is a collection of books written over many centuries. The first book, Genesis, was written around 1,500 years before Christ, while the Jewish people were in bondage in Egypt.

"During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation. Those who had been taught of God communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 7.

It took about 1,600 years for all of the Bible's books to be written. Three different languages were used to write it—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The men who wrote the books of the

Bible were not writers by occupation. Some were kings, shepherds, historians, poets, and inspired prophets; some were learned men, and others were simple men.

The materials that the books were written on in ancient times consisted of clay or wooden tablets, chips of limestone, broken pieces of pottery, tanned animal hides, or papyrus. Since the first books of the Bible might have been written on papyrus scrolls, let's see what this material was made of.

"The stem of the papyrus plant was cut into thin strips nine to ten inches long. The strips were placed alongside each other, and a second layer was glued over them crosswise under pressure. The sheets thus produced were then hammered and rubbed with pumice stone in order to produce an even, smooth surface. The sheets, generally measuring not more than 10 inches square, were then pasted together into rolls....

"Vellum, a specially prepared hide from young animals—cattle, goats, sheep or deer—did not come into prominence before the second century B.C. It was the most expensive of all writing materials and was used only for very valuable manuscripts, like the Bible manuscripts...." —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 31.

The Bible that we use today was translated from a Masoretic text that was handed down by the Jews through the centuries. It was copied from one manuscript to another with extreme care. The full Bible has been translated into 670 languages, the New Testament alone into 1,521 languages, and Bible portions or stories into 1,121 additional languages.

## **STUDY**

- 1. How were the documents of papyrus preserved in ancient times? Jeremiah 32:14.**
- 2. What was the occupation of the man who wrote the book of Amos? Amos 7:14.**
- 3. Name a king and a book that he wrote. Amos 6:5; Psalm 101:1.**

4. What did all of the authors of the Bible have in common?  
2 Peter 1:21, last part.

## RESEARCH

Why do you think God and His faithful people took so much care to preserve the Bible down through the centuries?



# 2



## Inspiration of the Bible

MEMORY VERSE: *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:20, 21.*

### FACTS

In Lesson 1 we found out how wonderfully the Bible has been preserved through the past until our time. Now let's take a look at how the writers received their information.

You have often heard the Bible referred to as the "word of God." This shows that God is really the Author. The men who wrote the books of the Bible just wrote down things that they were told by God, or else they recorded events that they had personally witnessed.

In Old Testament times, God at first appeared to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and spoke to them directly. But after they sinned against God, information was passed from father to son down through the centuries until Moses was impressed to write it down as we have it today. In other cases, the prophets received messages directly from God in dreams and visions, which they then wrote down or related to the people. Either the person who received the message wrote it down himself or someone who heard him speak was impressed to record it.

Some of the Bible books are poetry, some are history, and others are prophecies, letters, or missionary reports. The 66 books of the Bible were written by about 35 writers; and since it took about 1,600 years to write the whole Bible, most of the authors never met each other. And yet the books are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle; when put together, they make a complete picture. This completeness is one of the strongest evidences that the Bible truly is God's word.

But the strongest evidence that the Bible is the inspired word of God is the prophecies, in which the future is told centuries ahead of time and fulfilled to the very last detail. No human mind can do this. Only God can.

## **STUDY**

- 1. How did the writers of the Bible receive their information from God? 2 Timothy 3:16, first part; Hebrews 1:1.**
- 2. What is meant by the phrase “inspiration of God”?**

“The infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to whom the truth was thus revealed have themselves embodied [put into words] the thought in human language.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 7, 8.

- 3. Write down some examples from the Bible of this taking place. Revelation 1:10; Jeremiah 11:1; Daniel 7:1; 1 Samuel 3:4, 11.**
- 4. Why are the Bible’s truths so important? 2 Timothy 3:17; John 14:6.**
- 5. What must we do with the Bible? John 5:39.**
- 6. What does the Bible call those who read and study it? Revelation 1:3.**

## **RESEARCH**

**Can you think of other examples in which God appeared in a dream or vision, or sent an angel in person with a message?**

# 3



## The Bible's Theme

MEMORY VERSE: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

### FACTS

The theme of the whole Bible can be summed up in one word—JESUS. The writings of the Bible point to Him and His mission in this sinful world. If you were to take everything about Christ out of the Bible, very little of value would be left.

Let us study a little further to see how Christ became the theme of the Scriptures. We find Him, right at the very beginning, working with His Father at creation. "The Father and the Son engaged in the mighty, wondrous work they had contemplated, of creating the world." —*The Spirit of Prophecy*, p. 24. "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness:...." Genesis 1:26.

After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God showed them how through Christ man could have his sins forgiven and receive eternal life. He also pointed out how all their worship from that time on would remind them of the Saviour who would come to this earth and die on man's behalf so that all who believe in Christ might have eternal life.

All through the Old Testament times, which covered approximately 4,000 years, God's people looked for the promised Saviour to come to this earth. Every time a man committed a sin, an innocent animal had to be sacrificed so that his sin might be forgiven. This sacrifice taught the people their need of Christ and at the same time looked in faith to the mission He would carry out when He came to this earth. They lived under what was called the Old Covenant. When Jesus died on the cross, the significance of the animal sacrifices passed away. Everyone then lived under the New Covenant, based

on the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, who carried the sin of the world.

After Christ's ascension, His followers carried on the work that He gave them to do. The people's attention was directed to His second coming, the preparation needed for it, and the reward that the faithful will receive at that time.

## **STUDY**

- 1. Who is Jesus Christ? Matthew 16:16.**
- 2. While He was on earth, was Jesus easily recognized as the Son of God? Philipians 2:7, 8.**
- 3. Why is Jesus the central figure of the Bible? Romans 5:8.**
- 4. How did Abel show that he understood Christ's mission? Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4.**
- 5. Who wrote about Jesus in the Old Testament? John 1:45.**
- 6. Who received the promise of the Saviour? Genesis 22:15, 18; Galatians 3:16.**
- 7. When will Christ's mission be finished? Revelation 22:12-14.**

## **RESEARCH**

**If Jesus had not been the central theme or subject of the Bible, can you think of another person or being who could have been? Explain your answer.**

## DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament was divided into three main parts. Learn these groups well, and you will find that they will help you in later lessons, as well as in your personal Bible study.

<p>1. <b>PENTATEUCH</b> or five books also called the Torah (Law)</p>	<p>Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy</p>	
	<p>Joshua Judges 1 and 2 Samuel 1 and 2 Kings</p>	<p>Historical Books</p>
<p>2. <b>PROPHETS</b></p>	<p>Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel</p>	<p>Major Prophets</p>
	<p>Hosea      Nahum Joel        Habakkuk Amos      Zephaniah Obadiah   Haggai Jonah      Zechariah Micah      Malachi</p>	<p>Minor Prophets</p>
	<p>Psalms Proverbs Job</p>	<p>Poetic Books</p>
<p>3. <b>HAGIOGRAPHA</b> or sacred writings</p>	<p>Song of Solomon Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes Esther</p>	<p>Megilloth</p>
	<p>Daniel Ezra Nehemiah 1 and 2 Chronicles</p>	<p>Other Books</p>

The Old Testament was still used in this form in Christ's time. "And He said unto them. These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written [1] in the law of Moses, and [2] in the prophets, and [3] in the psalms, concerning Me." Luke 24:44.

## DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament can be divided into four main parts.

- |                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <b>GOSPELS</b>                | Matthew<br>Mark<br>Luke<br>John  |   |
| 2. <b>ACTS</b>                   | The Acts of the Apostles   |   |
| 3. <b>EPISTLES</b><br>or Letters | Romans<br>1 and 2 Corinthians<br>Galatians<br>Ephesians<br>Philippians<br>Colossians<br>1 and 2 Thessalonians<br>1 and 2 Timothy | Titus<br>Philemon<br>Hebrews<br>James<br>1 and 2 Peter<br>1, 2 and 3 John<br>Jude |
| 4. <b>REVELATION</b>             | The Revelation   |   |

# 4



## Pentateuch

MEMORY VERSE: Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

### FACTS

Did you ever need to find something specific in the Bible and could not do it? Perhaps you did not even know where to start looking for it. Learning the different parts into which the Bible can be divided is a helpful step in correcting such a situation. But it is only a start. The best way, of course, is daily reading of the Scriptures.

Let us look briefly at the first group of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch. The five books were written by Moses, and the events in them cover the time period from creation (about B.C. 4004 B.C.) to the death of Moses (B.C. 1451).

**GENESIS:** Genesis is the book about beginnings. If this book had been left out of the Bible, the rest of the 65 books would make no sense. Genesis begins with the creation of the world and man and records man's fall into sin, as well as the consequences. This is followed by the story of the flood, which took place around 2348 B.C. Genesis also tells about the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The book closes with the story of Joseph and his death.

**EXODUS:** The word Exodus means "the way out," or "the going out." This book tells how Moses was called to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. It also records their travels to Sinai, where God spoke the Ten Commandments and instructed them in laws of worship, priestly service, the building of the tabernacle (temple), health, government, and administration.

**LEVITICUS:** Another term for Leviticus could be the Law of the Priests. It deals mainly with the priesthood and the sanctuary services.

**NUMBERS:** The Hebrew name for the book of Numbers was *Bemidbar*, which meant "in the wilderness." It tells the story of the Israelites' journey and their experiences in the wilderness from Sinai to the plains of Moab.

**DEUTERONOMY:** "The second law," or "copy of the Law," is what "Deuteronomy" means. In this book, Moses drew the Israelites' minds to all the events that had taken place during the forty years of their wilderness journey and pointed out how wonderfully God took care of them in spite of their murmurings and unfaithfulness. The Ten Commandments are repeated here. The book closes with Moses' final advice, death, and burial.

## STUDY

1. **To what did David compare the Bible? Psalm 12:6.**
2. **How did Solomon advise that the Scriptures should be searched? Proverbs 2:1-6.**
3. **What is written about the Bereans and their study of the Bible? Acts 17:11.**
4. **How is every person blessed by studying God's word? Proverbs 2:5, 6.**

## QUIZ

*Circle the correct answers:*

1. **If you had read the Scriptures in Old Testament times, you would have**
  - a. Read from a paper scroll
  - b. Read from a wooden tablet
  - c. Read from a printed book
  - d. Been taught by your father

**2. It took a total of about**

- a. 1,600 years
- b. 1,500 years
- c. 2,500 years

**for the books of the Bible to be written.**

**3. Some of the authors of the Bible were**

- a. Kings
- b. Bricklayers
- c. Poets
- d. Storekeepers

**4. The following belongs to the prophetic books:**

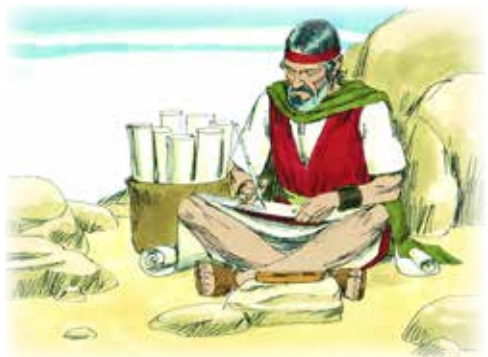
- a. Jonah
- b. Job
- c. Ruth
- d. Amos

**5. Another name for the Bible is**

- a. Word of God
- b. Apocalypse
- c. Scripture
- d. Decalogue

**6. Which person does not belong in the following list?**

- a. Isaac
- b. Abraham
- c. Cain
- d. Jacob
- a. Moses
- b. Joseph
- c. Aaron
- d. Joshua



# 5



## Prophets and Historical Books

MEMORY VERSE: *"Thou shalt keep therefore His statutes, and His commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever."* Deuteronomy 4:40.

### FACTS

The next group of Bible books after the Pentateuch is the historical books under the main heading Prophets. The events in the historical books start where Deuteronomy leaves off; namely, the Israelites have come to the borders of the promised land and, with Joshua chosen by God as their new leader, will go forward to conquer Canaan.

**JOSHUA:** This book records the Israelites' crossing the Jordan River and conquering Jericho as well as the surrounding nations. The book closes with Joshua's farewell to the people and his death.

**JUDGES:** After Joshua's death, the Israelites became careless in their service to God and started following the customs of the heathen nations around them. Therefore, God withdrew His protection from them and they suffered invasions from the surrounding nations. These invasions brought hardships and difficulties to them. Yet the troubles caused them to remember God again and return to worshipping Him.

God then, in pity, raised up a man, a deliverer or "judge," to guide them back to the right path and bring relief from their enemies. The book of Judges tells the story of twelve different judges, Samson being one of them.

**1 and 2 SAMUEL:** The first book of Samuel begins with the story of Samuel, the first of Israel's great prophets. Now a change took place in the leadership of Israel as a nation. Up until now they were led by priests and judges. But they decided that

they wanted to become a kingdom and have a king like the nations around them. The first book records the events of the reign of King Saul, and the second book tells about the events of King David's reign.

**1 and 2 KINGS:** These two books record the history of the kings who ruled the people of God. They also show the experiences of Israel and God's plans and purposes for the nation. In the first book of Kings, we find the division of the twelve tribes of Israel. Ten tribes rebelled and united under the kingdom of Israel, and the two remaining tribes, Judah and Benjamin, formed the kingdom of Judah. The first book of Kings begins with the reign of Solomon and ends when Jehoram became king of Judah and Ahaziah became king of Israel. The second book begins with Ahaziah's reign and closes with the end of the kingdom of Judah when Nebuchadnezzar invaded the country.

## STUDY

- 1. As long as Israel was faithful to God, how did He take care of them? Joshua 21:43-45.**
- 2. What did the judges do in Israel's government? Deuteronomy 16:18.**
- 3. What was the spiritual condition of the people in the time of the judges? Judges 17:6.**
- 4. Toward the end of Samuel's life, what did the people demand? 1 Samuel 8:6.**
- 5. Was their wish pleasing to God? 1 Samuel 8:7-9.**
- 6. Did God tell them that everything would be good for them when they had a king to rule over them? 1 Samuel 8:14-18.**

## QUIZ

- 1. If your mother had been Hannah, you would have been**
  - a. David
  - b. Samson
  - c. Samuel
- 2. Which one does not belong in the list below?**
  - a. Solomon
  - b. Noah
  - c. David
  - d. Saul
- 3. Fill in the blanks: “But \_\_\_\_\_ man did that which was \_\_\_\_\_ in his own \_\_\_\_\_.” Judges 17:6.**
- 4. Place in order of reign:**
  - a. Solomon
  - b. Saul
  - c. David
- 5. After Joshua’s death, the Israelites became**
  - a. More spiritual
  - b. No change
  - c. Worldly



# 6



## Major Prophets

MEMORY VERSE: “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1.

### FACTS

A prophet is a man “called by God,” or “one who has a vocation from God.” He is chosen and called by God to be His spokesman. In Old Testament times, the priest also represented the people before God, but a prophet was God’s special representative.

The office of a priest was passed from father to son. In other words, if a father was a priest, then his son would become one also. Not so with a prophet. A person could become a prophet only by God’s calling him. The prophets’ teachings were mainly spiritual, (1) calling the people to repentance, (2) reminding them of their past experiences, (3) warning them of the consequences if they refused to obey God, and (4) prophesying of future events. The prophets travelled from place to place preaching their messages. Let us look at the background of a few prophets.

**ISAIAH:** Isaiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom, Judah. He was married and had two sons. He was called to be a prophet in the last year of King Uzziah’s reign and continued in faithful service while Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah reigned. When Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh became king. His hatred against the prophet was so strong that he had Isaiah put to death.

**JEREMIAH:** Jeremiah belonged to a priestly family and was called by God when he was very young, perhaps less than 20 years old. King Josiah was reigning when Jeremiah began his mission as a prophet. He lived under the rule of Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiakin, and Zedekiah. During King Jehoiakim’s reign, Jeremiah nearly lost his life because of the

strong warnings from God that he preached. As the result of this, he had to hide. Under Judah's last king, Zedekiah, Jeremiah was put in prison because he told the people to submit to the Babylonian army. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon allowed him to stay in Jerusalem. Later the remaining Jews took him with them to Egypt, where he died.

**EZEKIEL:** Ezekiel was a priest who was taken captive to Babylon along with 10,000 of King Jehoiakin's main people. Ezekiel was married, but his wife died suddenly in the ninth year of the captivity.

## STUDY

- 1. How and for what purpose was Isaiah called to be a prophet? Isaiah 6:8, 9.**
- 2. How was Jeremiah chosen? Jeremiah 1:4-7.**
- 3. What was Ezekiel called to do? Ezekiel 2:3, 4.**
- 4. Why was Jeremiah not taken to Babylon? Jeremiah 40:2, first part, 4, 6.**
- 5. How can you tell if a prophet is truly speaking for God? Ezekiel 33:33; Isaiah 8:20.**

## QUIZ

- 1. The story of Moses' birth is written in**
  - a. Deuteronomy
  - b. Genesis
  - c. Exodus

- 2. If your father had been Amram, you would have been**
- a. Moses
  - b. Saul
  - c. Aaron
- 3. The Ten Commandments, or the Decalogue, are recorded in**
- a. Exodus
  - b. Deuteronomy
  - c. Leviticus
- 4. Fill in the blanks: “To the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_:  
if they speak \_\_\_\_\_ according to this \_\_\_\_\_, it is  
\_\_\_\_\_ there is no \_\_\_\_\_ in them.” Isaiah  
8:20.**
- 5. The twelve tribes of Israel were divided into what two kingdoms?**
- a. Benjamin
  - b. Levi
  - c. Israel
  - d. Judah



# 7



## Minor Prophets

MEMORY VERSE: *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.*

### FACTS

The second group of prophets is called minor, not because their messages are less important than those of the major prophets but because their books are generally smaller. The first nine minor prophets, in order, called the people's attention to their backslidden condition. They warned and admonished God's people and pointed to the glorious future that would be theirs if they would only repent. The last three of the minor prophets were called to arouse God's people to action and wholehearted worship of God when they returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity.

**HOSEA:** Hosea was a prophet in the northern kingdom of Israel during King Jeroboam II's reign. All of his messages were for the kingdom of Israel.

**JOEL:** His book was directed to the kingdom of Judah, and he used a plague of locusts and drought to warn about the terrors of the coming day of judgment.

**AMOS:** He worked in the time of Kings Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel. He delivered messages to the kingdom of Israel as well, but he was a citizen of Judah.

**OBADIAH:** This book contains only 21 verses describing the punishment that Edom would receive for its cruelty to Judah. It also predicted the final victory of God's people and the heavenly kingdom.

**JONAH:** This book tells of Jonah's mission to Nineveh—how the people of the city paid attention to God's warnings and were saved from destruction.

**MICAH:** He was called to warn God's people in the time of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah.

**NAHUM:** He was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah. He told about the future ruin of Nineveh.

**HABAKKUK:** A prophet in Judah, his book was written at a time of great apostasy.

**ZEPHANIAH:** He was a prophet when King Josiah was on the throne.

**HAGGAI:** He was the first of the prophets called to bear a message to the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. His messages were responsible for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem that began during the reign of Darius I of Persia.

**ZECHARIAH:** He was appointed to arouse the Jews to action in Jerusalem.

**MALACHI:** He was the last prophet before Christ. He urged the Jews who had returned from Babylon to worship God with all their hearts.

## STUDY

1. **Why are the past experiences, as told by the prophets, important for us as well? 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4.**
2. **To what event did Joel draw the people's attention? Joel 1:15; 2:1.**
3. **How did Amos tell about God's great love for His people? Amos 9:14, 15.**
4. **What is God to those who trust Him? Nahum 1:7.**
5. **What was Haggai's message, and what was its result? Haggai 1:7, 8, 14, last part.**

6. **What will be the reward of those who obey the messages from Heaven? Malachi 3:17.**

## QUIZ

1. **Jeremiah was a**

- a. Shepherd
- b. Son of a priest
- c. Poet

2. **When Isaiah's mission was finished, he**

- a. Retired
- b. Was put to death
- c. Went to Egypt

3. **If you wanted to find the story of Samson, you would look for it in the book of**

- a. Isaiah
- b. Judges
- c. 1 Kings

4. **Prophets were chosen for their office**

- a. By a special call from God
- b. By succession from father to son
- c. By their own wishes

5. **Not all of the messages of the prophets were similar. Write some of them.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_





# 8



## Hagiographa–Prophetic Books

MEMORY VERSE: *“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” Psalm 121.*

### FACTS

The last main group of books in the Old Testament is the Hagiographa. It includes the poetic books, which make up the main poetic literature of the Old Testament. There are poetic sections in other books as well, but the following three books represent the high point of Old Testament literature.

**JOB:** The book of Job is the story of a good man who feared God and stayed away from evil. He was a very rich man with seven sons, three daughters, and lots of herds. Then disaster struck; he lost everything and then became very sick from boils. Three of his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, came to visit him. They had serious conversations with Job, trying to figure out why God would let the righteous person suffer. Toward the end of the book, God interrupted their talks and told them that often a human being cannot understand why God lets him go through trials, but “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28. The book of Job closes when God heals Job and blesses him with twice as much as he had before Satan was allowed to afflict him.

**PSALMS:** The book of Psalms is a collection of poems and hymns. The overall theme is that man is in need and in trouble and God is able to give him relief. In Roman times, all

good Jews knew the Psalms by heart. A highlight of worship in the temple was the singing of psalms by the choir, or by the choir and the congregation singing responsively. Some of the psalms were sung on special occasions; for example, Psalms 113-118 were for Passover; Psalm 118 was for Pentecost, the tabernacle, and its dedication; Psalm 81 was for the new moon; and Psalm 29 was for the evening sacrifice.

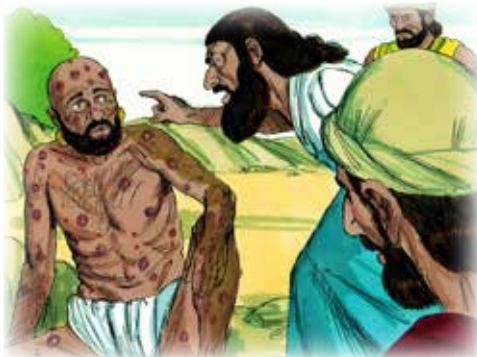
**PROVERBS:** This is a book of wise sayings; Solomon was its author. He wrote the Proverbs early in his life, while he was still obedient to God. The theme of the book is trust in and reverence for God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10. The book of Proverbs is different from most of the Old Testament, mainly because it does not mention any events in the history of the people of Israel nor has it any reference to the hope of Israel's future. Most of the book deals with general rules about life. "Its principles of diligence, honesty, thrift, temperance, and purity are the secret of true success." -*Education*, p. 135.

## STUDY

1. **What is the theme of the book of Job? Job 1:21, last part.**
2. **Why was Job able to stand firmly for God in spite of his trials? James 5:11.**
3. **How did God bless Job for his faithfulness? Job 42:10, 12.**
4. **What is the theme of the Psalms? Psalm 77:1-3; 121:2.**
5. **How many proverbs did Solomon write? 1 Kings 4:32.**
6. **What is the fear of the Lord? Proverbs 1:7.**

## QUIZ

1. Elijah was a prophet in King Ahab's time. What book of the Old Testament tells about the prophet?
2. The story of Naaman took place in the time of Elisha and Kings Joram and Jehoshaphat. Name the book where this story is found.
3. The events of King Solomon's reign are found in
  - a. 2 Samuel
  - b. 1 Kings
  - c. 2 Kings
4. Fill in the blanks: "The Lord \_\_\_\_\_, and the Lord hath taken \_\_\_\_\_; blessed be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord." Job 1:21.



# 9



## Hagiographa–Megilloth and Other Books

MEMORY VERSE: *New Testament books—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude, Revelation.*

### FACTS

The last group of books under the Hagiographa includes all those that are left over. Even these can be put into two groups. The first group is called Megilloth, or rolls, consisting of the Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther. The second group includes Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 and 2 Chronicles.

### MEGILLOTH

**SONG OF SOLOMON:** This book is a poem in praise of love. It tells the story of Solomon and his love for a country girl, whom he married. This story is a beautiful illustration of the love between Christ and His church.

**RUTH:** This story took place in the time of the judges. It tells about Ruth, a Moabite woman, who travelled to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law after both of their husbands died. There Ruth found work in the fields of Boaz, whom she married and thus became the great-grandmother of King David.

**LAMENTATIONS:** This book was written by the prophet Jeremiah in the last days of Judah. In it Jeremiah weeps over the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

**ECCLESIASTES:** Another name for Ecclesiastes is The Preacher, written by Solomon. This book tells about the folly of life. In Solomon's youth he had been a God-fearing man, but later

he lost his faith in God and went deep into apostasy. He then returned and regained favor in God's sight; Ecclesiastes tells the story of his wasted years as a lesson of warning to everyone.

**ESTHER:** This is the story of a Jewish girl whom the king of Persia, Ahasuerus, made his queen and how she used her position to help and save the Jewish people from the death sentence.

## **OTHER BOOKS**

**DANIEL:** The book of Daniel tells the story of Daniel and his friends, princes of royal blood, who were taken captive to Babylon. Through Daniel's faithfulness to God in a heathen land, God blessed him and he was made the "third ruler in the kingdom." The book relates the visions given to King Nebuchadnezzar and to Daniel, especially prophecies concerning world history and God's work to redeem mankind from sin.

**1 and 2 CHRONICLES, EZRA, and NEHEMIAH:** These books are closely related to each other. The events in Ezra and Nehemiah follow those of the Chronicles. The first book of Chronicles has the genealogical tables from Adam to David. The rest of the book is the story of King David. 2 Chronicles begins with the reign of King Solomon. It records the division of Israel into two kingdoms and ends with the captivity in Babylon and the destruction of Jerusalem. The book of Ezra tells of the Jews' return to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the temple. The book of Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, the re-establishment of the temple services and worship, reading of the law, and keeping of the feasts.

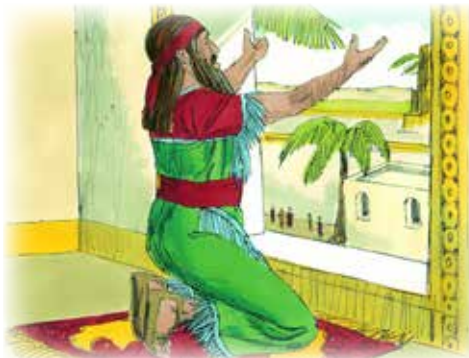
## **STUDY**

- 1. According to Solomon, what is the duty of man? Why? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.**
- 2. What was Solomon's conclusion about the way he had lived his life? Ecclesiastes 2:11.**
- 3. Why were the Jewish people taken captive to Babylon? Nehemiah 9:34.**

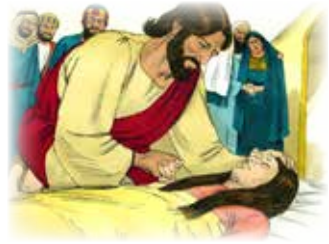
4. **What blessing did Daniel and his friends receive for being faithful to God? Daniel 1:17.**
5. **Why is it important to study the relationship that God had with people in the past? 1 Corinthians 10:11.**

## QUIZ

1. **Miriam, Moses' sister, was struck with leprosy in the wilderness. What book contains that story?**
2. **The Bible was originally written in three languages—**
  - a. Hebrew
  - b. Latin
  - c. Greek
  - d. Arabic
  - e. Aramaic
3. **If your father had been Jesse, you would have been**
  - a. Jonathan
  - b. Saul
  - c. David
4. **The story of Daniel in the lions' den is found in which book?**



# 10



## Gospels

MEMORY VERSE: “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” Matthew 9:35.

### FACTS

The first group of books in the New Testament is called the Gospels. The word “gospel” means “good tidings.” The gospels tell of Jesus’ public ministry on earth. Each writer wrote his own impressions of the events. For example, Matthew was a Jew. In his book he stressed the Saviour’s mission to the Jews. Luke was a physician, so he wrote what Christ meant to the needs of humanity. Thus, the four gospels present four different points of view about Jesus and His ministry.

**MATTHEW:** Matthew was a tax collector stationed in Capernaum. He listened with great interest to Jesus’ message. Jesus called him to be one of His disciples. Matthew was a converted Jew, and therefore his book is directed to the Jewish people. His purpose was to show them that Jesus really fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. He presented Him as the great Teacher and the Son of man. The outstanding feature of the book of Matthew is the complete reports of Jesus’ sermons and studies.

**MARK:** Mark is the last name of this book’s author. His first name is John. His mother was Mary, and he was a cousin of Barnabas. John Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark had neither heard nor followed Jesus during His time on earth; he wrote the story of Jesus as it was told to him by Peter. His book was written for non-Jews and shows Jesus as the Man of action. It records almost all of Christ’s miracles. It is the shortest book of the gospels, yet it records most of the incidents reported in the other gospels.

**LUKE:** This book was written by Luke, the beloved physician, a close companion of the apostle Paul. Luke was a Gentile who was converted to Christianity. He wrote down the life of Jesus as told by Paul. He was the only gospel writer who included the details of Jesus' birth and the events surrounding it, including His infancy and childhood. He also recorded the birth of John the Baptist. Matthew pointed out what Jesus taught; Mark, what He did; and Luke, both. He showed Christ as the Friend of humanity and the human side of His nature.

**JOHN:** "The disciple whom Jesus loved" was the author of the fourth gospel. The name "John" means, "The Lord is gracious." John's mother was one of the devout women who looked after the needs of Jesus and the disciples on their journeys. It was John whom Jesus asked, when He was on the cross, to take care of His mother. John's book records mostly the events that took place in Judea. He pointed to Jesus as the Son of God, emphasizing the importance of believing the truth about Jesus. He used the word "believe" or a word with the same meaning more than a hundred times.

## **STUDY**

- 1. How did Jesus call Matthew to follow Him? Matthew 9:9.**
- 2. With whom did Mark, who wrote the gospel being his name, later travel? Acts 15:37.**
- 3. Who was Luke? Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24.**
- 4. In what way did Jesus call John? Mark 1:19, 20.**
- 5. What two events does only Luke tell about? Luke 1:13, 30, 31.**
- 6. For what purpose did John write about Jesus in his gospel? John 20:30, 31.**

## QUIZ

- 1. Who is out of place in this list?**
  - a. Jonah
  - b. Malachi
  - c. Joshua
  - d. Hosea
- 2. Before John was called by Jesus, he was a**
  - a. Tax collector
  - b. Physician
  - c. Fisherman
  - d. Teacher
- 3. If you had seen the frankincense that the wise men gave to Jesus, you would have seen some**
  - a. Resin from a tree
  - b. Flour to make cakes
  - c. Gold jewelry
- 4. If you met a Gentile, he would have been**
  - a. A priest
  - b. A Jewish ruler
  - c. Someone who was not a Jew
- 5. If you shared the gospel with someone, you would be telling them the good news about**
  - a. Jesus
  - b. Matthew
  - c. Paul





## The Acts of the Apostles

MEMORY VERSE: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”*  
Acts 2:17.

### FACTS

The Acts of the Apostles, written by Luke the beloved physician, records events in the early Christian church. Much of the book contains the experiences made by Peter and Paul. This can be divided into the following six sections:

1. **Acts 1:6-5:42.** The first section deals with events such as Jesus' ascension to heaven, the choice of Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (early rain) and its result of 3,000 converts in one day, and the imprisonment of Peter and John.
2. **Acts 6:1-9:31.** These chapters deal with the stoning of Stephen and Paul's conversion.
3. **Acts 9:32-12:24.** This section tells about the activities of Peter; his experiences of healing in Jesus' name; his dream at Joppa in which he was shown that his outreach efforts were to include the Gentiles as well as the Jews; the death of James, John's brother; and Peter's imprisonment and miraculous escape.
4. **Acts 12:25-16:5.** Paul's missionary travels from Antioch to Cyprus, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Syria, and Cilicia are covered in these chapters.
5. **Acts 16:5-19:20.** These verses tell of Paul's travels from Philippi to Ephesus and his second missionary trip.
6. **Acts 19:21-28:31.** Paul's return to Jerusalem is told in the last section. He was arrested there and then sent to Rome, where he defended the faith. He remained under house

arrest for two years, preached the truth to all who came to visit him, and wrote letters to the churches.

## STUDY

1. **What commission did Jesus give to His disciples? Acts 1:8.**
2. **How did they receive this heavenly power? Acts 2:2-4.**
3. **What was the result of this heavenly power? Acts 2:41.**
4. **Who agreed to the stoning of Stephen? Acts 7:58; 22:20.**
5. **How did Jesus call Saul? Acts 9:3-7.**
6. **Summarize two of the miracles that Peter performed in Christ's name. Acts 9:33, 34, 36, 37, 40.**
7. **How did the Jews react to the message that Paul preached? What was the result? Acts 18:6.**

## QUIZ

1. **If you met a Pharisee, you would see a man who was a**
  - a. Shepherd
  - b. Religious leader
  - c. Disciple of Jesus
2. **If you had gone to the upper room with Jesus and His disciples, you would probably have seen them**
  - a. Baptize people
  - b. Eat the Last Supper
  - c. Feed 5,000 men plus women and children

- 3. If your father had been Zacharias, you would have been**
- a. Moses
  - b. Peter
  - c. John the Baptist
- 4. If you had talked with Nicodemus, he might have told you about his visit with**
- a. Jesus
  - b. Paul
  - c. David
- 5. If you had travelled with Paul, you would have been**
- a. Luke
  - b. Barnabas
  - c. Stephen



# 12



## Epistles

MEMORY VERSE: *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."* 1 Corinthians 13:1, 2.

### FACTS

The third group of books in the New Testament, the Epistles, contains the largest number of writings—21 in all. Most of these letters were written because of difficulties that arose in the Christian churches in the first century after Christ. Satan was trying to destroy the church, and false teachings were taught by dishonest men. Some of the epistles contained general admonition and encouragement for the believers. Others were circular letters for several churches or personal letters. Yet all of them were filled with the truths that were applicable to the church in the first century as well as in our day.

Paul usually dictated his letters to a scribe, who wrote them down for him. Then he would add to each letter a salutation in his own handwriting so that it could be proven that he wrote it, for at that time, many letters were being sent around in Paul's name and were forged. Let us look briefly at the epistles.

**ROMANS:** Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the believers in Rome during his third missionary journey.

**1 and 2 CORINTHIANS:** These letters were written from Ephesus, also during Paul's third missionary journey.

**GALATIANS:** This letter was written to the churches in Galatia, a Roman province.

**EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, and COLOSSIANS:** These three letters are referred to as the prison epistles, since they were all written from Rome during Paul's imprisonment.

**1 and 2 THESSALONIANS:** These are the first letters that were preserved. Most likely Paul had written other letters to the churches before, but they are not part of the Bible.

**1 and 2 TIMOTHY and TITUS:** These letters are called “pastoral epistles,” because they deal mainly with the duties of church officers. They are the earliest church manuals. They were written after Paul’s Roman imprisonment, a part of his life about which very little is known.

**PHILEMON:** This is a personal letter that Paul wrote while he was in Rome to Philemon, who lived in Colossae. In this letter, Paul pleaded the cause of Onesimus, a runaway slave who was converted under Paul. The apostle asked Philemon to treat Onesimus kindly when he returned to his master.

**HEBREWS:** Not much is known about where and when this letter was written, but most likely it was written close to the end of Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome.

**JAMES:** This letter by James was written to the church at large. It is not known for certain which James wrote it, but credit is usually given to James, the brother of Jesus.

**1 and 2 PETER:** These are general circular letters sent to all the churches. They are pastoral letters written near the close of Peter’s life.

**1, 2, and 3 JOHN:** These letters were written by the same John who wrote the gospel. The first letter is pastoral; the second and third are personal.

**JUDE:** This letter was probably sent to the churches in Asia Minor. It is not certain who Jude was; but since he described himself as the brother of James, he could be the brother of Jesus as well.

## STUDY

1. **What is the main theme of the book of Romans? Romans 5:1.**
2. **What was the secret of Paul’s success in his ministry? 1 Corinthians 13.**
3. **What did he say that the coming of the Lord will be like to a person who does not watch carefully? 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3, 6.**

4. What will the knowledge of the Bible do for a child? 2 Timothy 3:15.
5. What does loving God mean? 1 John 5:3.

## QUIZ

1. If you had been at the Last Supper, you would have seen
- a. Jesus and the Jewish leaders
  - b. Jesus and the disciples
  - c. Jesus and the Pharisees
2. Which one does not belong in the list below?
- a. Peter
  - b. Paul
  - c. Barnabas
  - d. Job

## TRUE OR FALSE?

3. Luke accompanied Peter on his missionary journeys. T/F

4. Jesus had four brothers. T/F



5. Mark was a follower of Jesus. T/F

6. Fill in the blanks: "And \_\_\_\_\_ abideth faith, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, these \_\_\_\_\_; but the greatest of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_." 1 Corinthians 13:13.

# 13



## The Revelation

MEMORY VERSE: *"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."* Revelation 1:3.

### FACTS

Another name for the book of Revelation is the Apocalypse. This word comes from a Greek word, *apokalupsis*, meaning "an unveiling." The book of Revelation was written by John, the author of the gospel and the three letters bearing his name.

When the Roman emperor started to persecute the followers of Christ, John was also arrested and taken to Rome, where he stood trial for the truth. The court, however, brought false witnesses to testify against him. In spite of them, John answered for his faith in a clear, bold manner. Hearing his testimony, the emperor became angry. He blasphemed God and ordered John to be sent to the rocky, barren Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea, where the worst of the criminals were imprisoned.

While he was in exile, the Lord did not forsake John but showed him in visions and dreams the events that would take place before His second coming, at the second coming itself, and at the establishment of the new earth. The book of Revelation shows these events in symbols. When the prophecies are compared with the history of the world, they take definite shape as historical.

The Revelation can be divided into four main parts:

**Chapters 1-3:** the Seven Churches

**Chapters 4-8:1:** the Seven Seals

**Chapters 8:2-11:19:** the Seven Trumpets

**Chapters 12-22:** the closing events of this world

John received his visions as follows: From God to Jesus, from Jesus to the angel, from the angel to the prophet, and from the prophet to the people. The messages that John wrote to the seven churches were applicable to the churches in Asia Minor at John's time as well as in a special way to the seven time periods that span the history of the Christian church.

The theme of the book of Revelation is Jesus' second coming. "In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 585.

A portion of the prophecies of Revelation have already taken place, some are taking place now, and some are yet to occur in the future.

To receive the full benefit of these Sabbath School Lessons, start a program of personal Bible study. For example, you can read the whole Bible through in one year if you read three chapters each weekday and five chapters each Sabbath.

## **STUDY**

- 1. What is the main theme of the book of Revelation? Revelation 1:7.**
- 2. When will this event take place? Revelation 3:11.**
- 3. Only who will be thankful and rejoice when Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven? Isaiah 25:9; Revelation 3:21.**
- 4. What are the outstanding characteristics of these people? Revelation 14:5, 12.**
- 5. What will happen to those who do not have these characteristics? Revelation 20:15.**
- 6. What will happen to those whose names are written in the book of life? Revelation 20:6.**
- 7. What will God do for them? Revelation 21:4.**
- 8. What must we keep in mind at all times? Revelation 22:12.**

## TRUE OR FALSE?

1. The book of Numbers tells about Israel's wilderness journey. T/F
2. The book of Judges tells the stories of 11 judges. T/F
3. The story of King David is found in 2 Chronicles. T/F

## QUIZ

4. **Esther became the queen of King Ahasuerus. He was the king of**
  - a. Israel
  - b. Persia
  - c. Rome
5. **The minor prophets' messages to God's people were given**
  - a. Before the Babylonian captivity
  - b. During the Babylonian captivity
  - c. After the return of the captives to Jerusalem
6. **Between the end of the writings of the Old Testament and the beginning of the writings of the New Testament there is a space of about 400 years. Does the Bible mention any events that took place during that time?**
7. **The story of Christ's ascension is written in**
  - a. Mark
  - b. John
  - c. The Acts of the Apostles
8. **Fill in the blanks: " \_\_\_\_\_ whatsoever was not found \_\_\_\_\_ in the book of \_\_\_\_\_ was cast into the lake of \_\_\_\_\_." Revelation 20:15.**