

little book **BIG** PICTURE



The Bible isn't just a bunch of books bundled together, it is one story from beginning to end. It's the story of God and the people He's created, including you and me. And it's the story of His Son Jesus and the amazing thing He did for us. But you can find all that out for yourself. Let's start at the very beginning...

1. HOW IT ALL BEGAN



In the beginning, God created EVERYTHING: the earth; day & night; sky, land & sea; plants & trees; sun, moon & stars; fish, birds & animals. And finally, human beings to rule over the earth. And God was pleased with it all. Everything He made was just brilliant!

Genesis chapters 1-2

2. WHAT WENT WRONG

God had told Adam & Eve not to eat fruit from a special tree. But a crafty serpent tempted them into eating it and disobeying God. Because of this, **all of us want our own way** and disobey God. This is what the Bible calls **Sin**. Sadly, sin makes it impossible for any humans to live forever with God.

Genesis chapter 3



3. GOD MAKES PROMISES (AND KEEPS THEM!)



From the very beginning, God promised He would send a rescuer. And His promises kept coming... to Abraham, whose **children** would be the Israelites. God promised they would live in a special **land**, and that through one of Abraham's descendants (Jesus), all nations would be **blessed**. God's plan to put people right had started.

4. GOD THE RESCUER: THE EXODUS

God's chosen people (the Israelites) were living in Egypt, when an evil king (Pharaoh) started to treat them badly. The Israelites cried out to God to rescue them from slavery. So God sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians and chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. This great event showed that God not only loves and cares for His people, but acts powerfully to rescue them.



5. GOD IS HOLY: THE LAW



God gave Moses and the Israelites **10 Commandments** to show them how to live for Him. He also gave them lots more detailed rules to live by, called **the law**. God had rescued them from Egypt, now they had to get on with living for Him. The law showed how pure and Holy God is. It also showed how people could never be right with God by themselves: they needed a sacrifice that would make them acceptable to Him.

6. GOD PROVIDES: THE PROMISED LAND

The Israelites lived in the desert for 40 years. They often **didn't** keep God's law. Even so, God led them into the **Promised Land** (Canaan) that He'd promised Abraham years before. God kept rescuing them from the trouble they got into. Yet the people still disobeyed God and wanted a human king to rule them instead of God...



7. GOD'S KING: KING DAVID



Even though the Israelites disobeyed God, He still gave them the king He'd promised. King Saul proved to be a big disappointment. So God put David on the throne instead. King David brought the Israelites together under God and made Jerusalem the capital. He defeated Giants and won great battles. But David was *not* the perfect king who would defeat evil forever. God promised David that one of his descendants would reign forever. That king would come in the future...

1



2



3



4



5



6



Genesis chapters 12-50. 2000 BC

Exodus chapters 1-12. 1400 BC

Exodus chapter 20+. 1400 BC

Joshua and Judges. 1400-1000 BC

1 & 2 Samuel. 1000 BC

**8. GOD THE JUDGE:
PUNISHMENT FOR ISRAEL**

Over the next 300 years or so, the Israelites continued to turn away from God and worship false gods—idols. God gave them loads of chances to turn back to Him, but they wouldn't. So God punished them by letting other nations take over and move them to other countries. Jerusalem and God's temple were destroyed.



2 Kings: 17 & 2 Chronicles: 36 900-500 BC

**9. GOD MAKES THINGS NEW:
ISRAEL RETURNS!**



Despite the awful things they had done, God kept His promise and didn't wipe them out. Even more incredibly, God rescued His people again and took them back to Jerusalem where they rebuilt His temple. But they didn't live for God for long. And they were still waiting for the perfect king to lead and rescue them from their sin...

Ezra & Nehemiah 450 BC

**10. THE PERFECT KING:
GOD'S RESCUER ARRIVES**



At last, God's promises came true when **Jesus** was born. He is the **perfect king** that God had promised He'd send to rescue His people. He is God's Son. He lived a perfect life: teaching, preaching and healing. People were amazed at what He said and did. But He said that the real reason He came was to **die...** Because He would be the sacrifice that would put people right with God.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John 4 BC–30 AD

**11. THE FINAL SACRIFICE:
JESUS' DEATH**

Jesus Christ was crucified. He handed Himself over to the Jewish and Roman authorities, who gave Him a fake trial, tortured Him and then executed Him. He willingly died to take the punishment everyone deserved for disobeying God. On the cross, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice that makes it possible for people to be right with God.



John 3:16 John 20:31 Romans 5:8 33 AD

**12. GOD IS SATISFIED:
JESUS RISES AGAIN**



When some women came to the tomb three days later, it was empty. Jesus had risen from the Dead, just as He said He would. He appeared to His close friends and to others. His rising shows us that God accepted the sacrifice of His son's life for ours. It shows that death is not the end for us, and that Jesus is now in charge of the world. He is God's King—the descendant of David who rules forever.

1 Corinthians 15 33 AD

**13. GOD'S PLAN NOW:
SPREADING THE MESSAGE**

Jesus gave His **Holy Spirit** to live in all Christians to help them to live for Him. These first Christians **spread the great news** about Jesus' death and resurrection throughout the world, and called on people to turn back to God. This is what God had promised to Abraham, saying that his descendants would bless all nations.



Acts 33 AD – NOW!

**14. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE
FUTURE: HEAVEN AND HELL**

One day in the future, Jesus will return. This will be the Judgement Day.



Jesus will throw everyone who is against Him into hell. Including Satan. Everyone who trusts in Jesus (Christians), will live forever in Heaven... **with God!** Heaven will be perfect with no more tears, pain or death. And God will rule forever.

Revelation 19-22 any time from now on...

15. WHAT ABOUT US?

So where do **we** fit into the Bible story? Like Adam and Eve, we've **disobeyed God** and so deserve His **punishment.**

But God kept His promises given through the ages, and sent His Son to rescue His people. **Jesus** took the punishment for our wrongs. By dying on the cross and coming back to life, Jesus beat death and Satan once and for all. So if we trust in Jesus to **forgive** our wrongs, we can live forever in heaven with God.



Have you said sorry and asked Him to forgive you? Why not talk to Him now in your own words...