

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Wisdom	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Genesis - The Book of Beginnings

Entrance Exam for Genesis

1. On which day did God create the sun, moon, and stars?
2. Who said, "You surely shall not die"?
3. What was the first child's name born to Adam and Eve?
4. How many people entered the ark?
5. What was the name of Abraham's home city?
6. What are the two major rivers that flow into the Persian gulf?
7. How many daughters did Lot have?
8. Whom did Abraham offer on Mt. Moriah?
9. Whose wife accused Joseph of trying to rape her?
10. What did Joseph tell his brothers after their father died

How does Genesis refute:

1. Atheism?
2. Pantheism?
3. Polytheism?
4. Materialism?
5. Dualism?
6. Humanism?
7. Evolutionism?

The title *Genesis* comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Hebrew Bible calls this first book *Bereshith*, which is the first word in the Hebrew text, "in the beginning." Who wrote it? Tradition unanimously attributes Genesis to Moses.

THE OUTLINE:

THE STORY OF THE HUMAN RACE Genesis 1-11

- Creation: Man Created in the Image of God (Chapters 1-2)
- Fall: Sin entered the World (Chapters 3-5)
- Flood: Judgment for sin (Chapters 6-10)
- Tower: Beginning of the Nations (Chapter 11)

THE STORY OF THE HEBREW RACE Genesis 12-50

- Abraham: Father of the Hebrew People (Chapters 12-25)
- Isaac: The Son of Promise (Chapters 26-27)
- Jacob: Father of the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Chapters 28 - 36)
- Joseph: Leader in Egypt (Chapters 37-50)

Which three world religions trace their roots to Abraham?

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-
-

How do these references describe Abraham:
2 Chron. 20:7
Isaiah 41:8
James 2:23

Themes in Genesis:

- We are created by God - all the universe displays God's power and glory and man is God's crowning creation.
- We are all by nature sinners and ***totally depraved*** of any good toward God.
- God took the initiative to restore sinners to Himself.
- Where's Jesus in Genesis?

Life-Changing Truths in Genesis

- How does Genesis help you understand the big questions about the origin of the universe and the nature of man? How does this help you as you think about your relationship with God?
- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- What does Genesis teach you about the presence of sin and evil in our world and in your life?
- How does Genesis give you hope about your relationship with God?
- What does Genesis teach you about God's sovereignty, holiness, and loving faithfulness?

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Exodus - The Book of Deliverance

Entrance Exam for Exodus

1. What was Moses' mother's name?
2. Why did Moses say, "I must turn aside to see this marvelous sight?"
3. Who was Moses' brother? Sister?
4. Name five of the ten plagues on Egypt.
5. What is the origin of the Passover?
6. Why did Aaron and Hur hold up Moses' hands?
7. In what chapter of Exodus do you find the 10 commandments?
8. What parts of the priests bodies were dabbled with blood?
9. What did Moses do with the golden calf?
10. What happened when the Israelites finally completed building the tabernacle (ch. 40)?

The 10 plagues:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

The title Exodus comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament and means "*to go out*." 1 Kings 6:1 sets the date of the Exodus at *1446* BC. The title Pharaoh means "*Great house*." The Pharaoh was thought to be the intermediary between the gods and the people.

THE OUTLINE:

GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE Exodus 1-18

- Oppression (1)
- Leadership Prepared (2-4)
- The Plagues (5-11)
- Passover, Redeemed by Blood (12-13)
- Red Sea, Redeemed by Power (14-15)
- Provisions in the Wilderness (15-18)

GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE Exodus 19-40

- The Ten Commandments (19-20)
- Set Apart to God's Covenant (21-24)
- Plans for the Tabernacle (25-31)
- The Golden Calf Disaster (32-33)
- Renewal of the Covenant (34)
- Building the Tabernacle (35-40)
- God's Glory Fills the Tabernacle (40)

Themes in Exodus

God's name is "YHWH", meaning the one and only self-existent and eternal God.
God brings Israel into a covenant relationship through the Passover and sprinkling of blood.
God delivers His helpless people through a mighty display of power at the Red Sea.
The law declares God's character and man's condemnation.
The tabernacle declares God's mercy and forgiveness.
Where's Jesus in Exodus?

The 10 Commandments:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Life-Changing Truths in Exodus

1. How does the entire Exodus account illustrate Romans 8:31?
2. How does God's victory over the gods of Egypt apply to the idols of your heart?
3. Moses kept giving God "Yes, but..." excuses to His call to serve. Have you done this?
4. How do Moses failures encourage you? Has a leader you respected ever failed? How did you respond?
5. Think through the Ten Commandments and explain how you have offended every one.
6. Why was the tabernacle so important to the godly people in Israel?

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Leviticus - The Book of *Atonement*

Entrance Exam for Leviticus (Try to answer without looking up the references)

1. Name three different sacrifices. (1-6)
2. T-F The priest actually slays the animal sacrifices. (1:2-6)
3. Why was the offerer to lay his hands on the head of the sacrifice? (1:4)
4. On which three parts of the priest's body was blood applied? (8:23-24)
5. What is the difference between the Levites and the Priests?
6. Which two sons of Aaron were instantly killed by fire? (10:1-2)
7. Name three unclean animals. (11)
8. What was the name of the goat that was sent into the wilderness? (16:10)
9. How often was the priest to sprinkle blood on the altar? (16:19)
10. How often was Israel to celebrate the year of jubilee? (25:8-12)

Leviticus was designed to become obsolete. All the sacrifices pointed to the one final sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus did not destroy the law. He fulfilled it. Which book of the New Testament clearly teaches this?

The title Leviticus means “concerning the Levites.” Within the Levite tribe was the family of Aaron, Moses' brother. The descendants of Aaron were set apart to serve as priests. Aaron's eldest son was called the high priest. Most people aren't aware that Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself comes from Leviticus! (Lev. 19:18).

THE OUTLINE:

SACRIFICE: THE WAY TO GOD Leviticus 1-17

- The Five Sacrifices (1-7)
- Purity and Cleansing (11-15)
- Ordination of Priests (8-10)
- Atonement (16-17)

HOLINESS: OUR WALK WITH GOD Leviticus 18-27

- Holiness in Relationships (18-20)
- Holy Days (23-25)
- Holiness in the Priesthood (21-22)
- Consequences of Obedience and Disobedience (26-27)

Themes in Leviticus

The only way to come to God is through a sacrifice (Hebrews 9:13,14, 22). The five sacrifices were:

- The burnt offering - 1:3-17; 6:8-13
- The sin offering - 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30
- The grain offering - 2:1-16; 6:14-23
- The guilt offering - 5:14-6:7; 7:1-7
- The peace offering - 3:1-17; 7:11-36

The words “holy” or “holiness” are used 76 times. Compare Leviticus references with the New Testament:

Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7, 26 and 1 Peter 1:16; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Peter 2:9.

The fear and honor of God - Leviticus 10:3.

God's authority to rule the details of our lives: name some of them:

The Day of Atonement, the most sacred day of the year - ch. 16-17. The Jews call it “Yom Kippur.”

Where's Jesus in Leviticus?

Life-Changing Truths in Leviticus

1. How does the necessity of a sacrifice for acceptance by God affect your attitude to the cross of Christ?
2. Since God's authority is over all of life, what areas of your life are tending to keep back from God's rule?
3. What difference should your relationship with Christ make in your marriage? Friendships? Student life? Career? Entertainment choices? How does the call to holiness impact these areas?

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Numbers - The Book of *Wandering*

Entrance Exam for Numbers

1. What were the names of the three sons of Levi? (3:17)
2. How did God instruct the priest to test a woman's faithfulness to her husband? (5:11-31)
3. What covered the tabernacle by day? By night? (9:15-16)
4. What was the first thing the Israelites complained about? (11:4-6)
5. What happened to Miriam when she griped about Moses' Cushite wife? (12:10)
6. What scared the spies about the land of Canaan? (13:31)
7. Who led the rebellion that ended in the earth swallowing them? (16:1-3)
8. What did Moses lift up for the people to look at and be healed? (21:9)
9. Who tried unsuccessfully to prophecy against Israel? (22-24)
10. How many cities of refuge did the Lord provide for Israel? (35:6)

The LXX title for Numbers is "arithmoi". Numbers is named after two numberings of the people. See Numbers 1:46. Total: _____. Numbers 26:51. Total: _____. Numbers traces the travels of God's people from *Mt. Sinai* to the plains of *Moab*, just opposite Canaan.

THE OUTLINE:

THE OLD GENERATION, FROM SINAI TO KADESH BARNEA Numbers 1-12

- Preparing to depart - the *census*, camping arrangements, and various responsibilities (1-9:14)
- God's leading by the *cloud and fire* (9:15-23)
- Departure (10)
- Grumbling and Jealousy (11-12)

THE KADESH CRISIS OF FAITH Numbers 13-14

- *Grasshopper* complex (13)
- Forty year penalty (14)

Funerals: Figuring 1,200,000 deaths over 381/2 years means 85 per day. At 12 hours per day for funerals, that averages 7 funerals per hour!!! (Leon Wood)

WILDERNESS WANDERING AND A NEW GENERATION Numbers 15-36

- *Korah's* rebellion (15-17)
- Death of *Miriam* and *Aaron* (18-20)
- The fiery serpent (21)
- Balak and *Balaam* (22-25)
- *Joshua* appointed (26-27)
- Preparations for settling in *Canaan* (28-36)

Themes in Numbers

God's faithfulness in sharp contrast to man's *unfaithfulness*.

God's *sovereign power* is sufficient for every human situation.

Faith failure - Hebrews 3-4. They did not mix God's promises with faith.

Fear of seeing people as *big* and God as *small* (grasshopper complex).

Life-Changing Truths in Numbers

Put off:

Disorder and Confusion
Grumbling and Jealousy
Unbelief and Fear
Rebellion
Anger

Put on:

Orderliness of life (Camp and tabernacle)
Grateful Contentment (Whining about food, leaders)
Faith and Courage (Spies feared man above God)
Willing Submission (Korah resisting God's Leaders)
Self-Control (Moses lost it under pressure)

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Deuteronomy - The Book of *Law*

Entrance Exam for Deuteronomy (Try to answer without looking up the references)

1. From what location did Moses deliver the messages of Deuteronomy? (1:5)
2. Which chapter contains the Ten Commandments?
3. How does Deuteronomy 6:5 tell us to love God?
4. When and where are parents supposed to teach God's Word to their children? (6:7)
5. T - F An engaged man was exempt from military service. (20:7)
6. How old was Moses when he delivered these messages? (31:2)
7. To whom did Moses say, "You shall bring the sons of Israel into the land.?" (31:23)
8. What sermon in the Great Awakening was based on Deuteronomy 32:35?
9. "The eternal God is a _____, And underneath are the _____." (33:27)
10. From which mountain did God show Moses the promised land? (34:1)

Hear, O Israel!
The LORD is
our God, the
LORD is one!
You shall *love*
the LORD your
God with all
your *heart* and
with all your
soul and with
all your *might*.
Deut. 6:4-5

Moses is now 120 years old. Deuteronomy means "second law." (LXX). Moses gives three messages, reviewing the law and challenging the people to trust God for the future. The new generation needs to claim the Lord God as their own. Deuteronomy is quoted or alluded to over 80 times in the New Testament.

THE OUTLINE:

MOSES FIRST MESSAGE: WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE PAST Deuteronomy 1-4:43

- From Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea (ch. 1)
- From Kadesh Barnea to Moab (ch. 2-3)
- A strong charge to faithful love and obedience (ch. 4)

MOSES' SECOND MESSAGE: WHAT GOD EXPECTS IN THE PRESENT Deuteronomy 4:44-26:19

- Review and application of the Ten Commandments (5 - 11)
- Applying God's law to all of life (12-26)

MOSES THIRD MESSAGE: WHAT GOD WILL DO IN THE FUTURE Deuteronomy 27 - 34:12

- Cursings and blessings in the promised land (27-28)
- Final conditions for living in the promised land (29-30)
- Moses' final counsel and death (31-34)

He is the Rock, His works
are perfect, and all His
ways are just. A faithful
God who does no wrong,
upright and just is He.
Deut. 32:4

Themes in Deuteronomy

- God's provision and protection of His people, along with punishment for disobedience.
 - Obedience brings blessings; disobedience brings trouble
 - Importance of parents passing the torch of truth the next generation (Deut. 6).
 - Key words: love (16x), hear (28x), fear the Lord (8x), serve (31x), walk (13x), keep (28x), obey (12x).
- Read chapters 10-11 and 28 & 30 to find clusters of these exhortations.

Life-Changing Truths in Deuteronomy

- Follow Moses' lead in Deuteronomy: look at God's work in your past, what God is doing in your life today, and what He is calling you to in your future. Are you encouraged? What promised "land" is before you?
- Look up Deuteronomy 31:19-20 and turn these verses into a personal prayer of yours. Share your devotion to God and some of your spiritual goals with your small group or close friends.
- How can you do a better job passing the torch to the next generation? What young people under 30 years of age could you encourage through prayer and sharing your love and commitment to Christ?

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Joshua: The Book of *Conquest*

Entrance Exam for Joshua

1. List four or five nail-biting, gut-wrenching events in this "Extreme Action" book of the Old Testament.
2. What did Rahab use to hide the spies? (2:6)
3. What did the priests have to do before the Jordan opened? (3:13)
4. What did twelve men take from the middle of the Jordan River? (4:8)
5. Who told Joshua to take his sandals off? (5:15)
6. Why was Israel defeated before Ai? (7:20-21)
7. Which people became hewers of wood and drawers of water for Israel? (9:21)
8. Name three of the six cities of refuge (ch. 20)
9. Which tribes settled on the east side of the Jordan? (ch. 22)
10. What well-known commitment did Joshua make in his final message to Israel? (24:15)

- Joshua's name means "the Lord saves," translated "Iesous" or "Jesus" in Greek.
- Joshua's resume: Born in Egypt; Ex. 17:9 - battle of Amalekites; Ex. 24:13 - accompanied Moses up Mt. Sinai; Ex. 32:17 - back down with Moses to the golden calf affair; Ex. 33:11 - servant of Moses; Num. 11:28 - wanted to restrain prophets; Num. 14:6 - spied Canaan in faith; Num. 26:65 - survived wilderness generation; Num. 27:18 - commissioned by Moses; Deut. 1:38, 3:28 - to cause Israel to inherit the land; Deut. 31:3,7-8 - appointed to lead Israel into Canaan; Deut. 31:14 - final commissioning; Deut. 34:9 - filled with wisdom; Josh. 1:1 - replaces Moses.
- Gilgal became Joshua's base of operation for conquering the land - see 4:19; 5:9-10; 9:6; 10:9,15;
- The entire conquest of the land took about seven years, from 1405 to 1398 BC.

THE OUTLINE:

CONQUERING THE LAND - Joshua 1-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I'm giving it to you - don't fear" (ch. 1)• "Get ready" - Rahab, Jordan, Captain (ch. 2-5)• "Go!" (ch. 6-12)Central Campaign - Jericho, Ai, Gibeon (6-10)Southern Campaign - Negev, hills, lowland (10)Northern Campaign - Battle of Merom (11)Summary of Conquests (12)	POSSESSING THE LAND - Joshua 13-24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tribes East of the Jordan (13)• Tribes West of the Jordan - Caleb's request (14-19)• Cities of Refuge and Levitical Cities (20-21)• Joshua's Final Charge and Death (22-24)
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THEMES IN JOSHUA:

- God keeps His promises. Check out these references: 10:40-43; 11:21-23; 21:43-45.
- If God be for us, who can stand against us? See 1:5-9.
- Joshua is an Old Testament illustration of Jesus. In what ways? (See Hebrews 2:10 plus other references).
- The book of Joshua has its New Testament counterpart in Ephesians. Why?

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN JOSHUA

- God impressed on Joshua the importance of daily meditation. What does Ephesians 6:17 call the Word of God? How will God's Word help you in your daily battle against sin and Satan? How about memorizing Joshua 1:8 and quoting it every day this week?
- How does Rahab encourage you in your spiritual walk (see 2:21; 6:25)?
- What does Achan teach you about the consequences of sin (see 7:4-5, 20-21, 25-26)?
- What does Caleb teach you about God and His Word (see 14:6-15)?

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Judges: The Book of *Failure* and *Deliverance*

Entrance Exam for Judges:

1. Which tribe fought against and captured Jerusalem? (1:8)
2. Who was Achsah's father? (1:12)
3. What happened to Israel spiritually after Joshua and his generation died? (2)
4. Who was the first judge to deliver Israel? (3:9)
5. Who put a tent peg through Sisera's temple? (4:21)
6. Whom did God command to destroy the Baal and Ashteroth? (6:25)
7. What tragic vow did Jephthah make? (11:30-31)
8. What was Samson's father's name? (13)
9. How did Samson destroy the Philistines' crops? (15:4-5)
10. God hung the key verse to Judges on the back door of the book. What is it?

The book of Judges bridges the time between Israel's conquering the land and crowning a king. Their vicious circle was forgetting God...getting into trouble...screaming to God for help...God anointing a judge to save his people...times of peace...forgetting God...getting into trouble...and so on. (Backstage Pass to the Bible, .58)

- Judges were not black-robed court officials but God-appointed *warrior-leaders* to deliver His people.
- God's people go through at least seven cycles of *sin-punishment-repentance-deliverance*.
- Judges covers about 350 years (1380-1050 BC)

THE OUTLINE

DISOBEDIENCE - Judges 1-3:6

Failure to *drive out* the people of the land (1)

Summary of the *cycle* of failure and deliverance (2-3:6)

Judges traces the downward course of a society that loosens its grip on God's truth. (*Bible for Blockheads*, 81)

DELIVERANCE - Judges 3:7-16:31 (Five of these judges are listed in Hebrews 11)

- Othniel vs. Mesopotamia (3:7-11)
- Ehud vs. Moabites (3:12-30)
- Shamgar vs. Philistines (3:31)
- Deborah vs. Canaanites (4-5)
- Gideon vs. Midianites (6-8)
- Tola vs. Abimelech's Effects (9-10:2)
- Jair vs. ??? (10:3-5)
- Jephthah vs. Ammonites (10:6-12:7)
- Ibzan vs. Ammonites (12:8-10)
- Elon vs. Ammonites (12:11-12)
- Abdon vs. Ammonites (12:13-15)
- Samson vs. Philistines (13-16)

DECADENCE - Judges 17-21

Idolatry of Micah and the Danites (17-18)

Immorality of the Benjamites (19)

Civil war against the Benjamites (20-21)

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was *right in his own eyes*." (Judges 21:25).

THEMES IN JUDGES

- *Apostasy* - turning away from God and His truth. See 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Timothy 4:3-4.
- Judges shows that even the best of God's servants are *flawed*. Where is Christ in Judges?
- God's faithfulness to His promise in spite of Israel's apostasy. God is the *Hero* of the story.
- God used the evil people left in the land to test His people's *loyalty* to Him - see 2:22.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN JUDGES

- Learn the difference between living a "feeling-oriented" rather than "Word-oriented" life. Do you make decisions based on what's right in your eyes or on what's right (pleasing) in God's eyes?
- Anything we value higher than God makes us heart-idolaters and invites God's chastening.
- Whom or what has God placed in your life to test your loyalty to Him? Are you passing the test?
- God stands ready to empower you to live obediently and courageously in the most oppressing circumstances.

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Ruth: The Book of the *Kinsman-Redeemer*

- Elimelech
- Naomi
- Mahlon
- Chilion
- Ruth
- Orpah
- Boaz

1. What were the names of Naomi's two sons? (1:2)
2. Which tribe and city did they leave to go to Moab? (1:2)
3. Complete Ruth's statement: "Your people shall be my people, and _____."
4. Why did Naomi want to be called "Mara?" (1:20)
5. How did Ruth happen to glean in Boaz's field? (2:3)
6. T-F Boaz instructed his workers to treat Ruth just like all the other gleaners. (2:15-16)
7. Who told Ruth to lay at Boaz's feet? (3:4)
8. Who had the first right to redeem or purchase another person's property? (3:12-13)
9. Why did the closest relative give Boaz a sandal? (4:7-9)
10. Who was the tenth generation son born through the line of Boaz and Ruth? (4:22)

- “Where you go I will go,
and where you stay I will
stay. Your people will be
my people and your God my
God.” Ruth 1:16

- Ruth becomes Boaz' wife and David's great-grandmother.

- **Redemption.** The word “kinsman” is Hebrew “goel”, meaning “*one who redeems.*” Boaz redeeming Ruth points to God's redeeming work through Christ, who became our “Kinsman Redeemer” (see Tit. 2:14). A “goel” must be related by blood and able and willing to pay the redemption price. How did Christ qualify?
- **Kindness.** Ruth and Boaz illustrate covenant loyalty and godliness in an ungodly age.
- **Providence.** Though simple, common people, Naomi and Ruth are guided by the sovereign hand of God preparing the way for Israel's greatest king, David, and finally the Great King, Jesus Christ Himself.
- **Grace.** God's grace is not restricted to one group of people and uses unusual means to call us to Himself.

How you can apply these in your life:

Ruth's godly character and acts of kindness:	How you can apply these in your life:
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1 Samuel: The Book of the Wrong King

Entrance Exam for 1 Samuel

1. What did Eli wrongly conclude about Hannah as she was praying for a child? (1:14)
2. What kind of sons did Eli have? (2:12)
3. What did the Philistines capture from Israel that led to Eli's death? (4:17-18)
4. What request of the people was displeasing to Samuel? (8:5-6)
5. To which tribe did Saul belong? (10:20-21)
6. What did Saul do that cost him his kingship? (13:8-14)
7. How did Saul disobey Samuel's command regarding the Amalekites? (15:17-19)
8. What did Saul try to do to David while David was playing his harp (18:11)
9. What did David do to Saul when Saul used a cave as a bathroom? (24:4)
10. On what mountain were Saul and Jonathan slain? (31:1)

KEY CHARACTERS IN 1 SAMUEL

- Elkanah
- Hannah
- Samuel
- Eli
- Hophni and Phinehas
- Saul
- David
- Goliath
- Jonathan
- Abigail

1 and 2 Samuel are one book in the *Hebrew Bible* but were divided in the LXX.

The three key characters in 1 Samuel are Samuel, the last *judge* in Israel; Saul, the first *king* of Israel; and David, the God-appointed *boy king* for Israel.

1 Samuel shows Israel's transition from a *theocracy* under judges to a *monarchy* under kings.

The Philistines are Israel's main *threat* throughout this period in Israel's history.

THE OUTLINE

SAMUEL, ISRAEL'S LAST JUDGE - 1 Samuel 1-8

- The birth and calling of *Samuel* (1-3)
- The Philistines capture the *ark* (4-7)
- Israel demands a *king* (8)

SAUL, ISRAEL'S FIRST KING - 1 Samuel 9-15

- Samuel anoints Saul as *king* (9-12)
- Saul is *rejected* as king (13-15)

DAVID, ISRAEL'S GREATEST KING - 1 Samuel 16-31

- Samuel anoints David as *king* (16)
- David Kills *Goliath* (17)
- Saul seeks to kill *David* (18-30)
- Saul and Jonathan are slain on Mt. *Gilboa* (31)

THEMES IN 1 SAMUEL

- Superstition does not win battles.
- Human leaders cannot substitute for God's rule in the people's hearts.
- Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.
- Partial obedience is disobedience. "Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." (15:23)
- David is the primary Old Testament pre-figure of Jesus Christ. How is that evident in 1 Samuel?

The Decline and Fall of Saul

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A presumptuous <i>sacrifice</i> | Loss of kingdom foretold (13) |
| A foolish <i>curse</i> | Curse falls on Jonathan (14) |
| Spared <i>Agag</i> and flocks | Loss of kingdom (15) |
| Lost fellowship with God | Unanswered prayer (28) |
| Visits a <i>medium</i> | Doom predicted (28) |
| Takes his own <i>life</i> | End of dynasty (31) |

THE PHILISTINES

Who were they? Where did they come from originally? Where did they live in Palestine? Why were they such a threat?

The Philistine "Pentapolis" was made up of what five cities?

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN JUDGES

- Beware of religious superstitions. Can you think of any people trust in today?
- Politics can never solve our spiritual and moral problems.
- In what situations would you find it easy to disobey God under pressure, like Saul did?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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2 Samuel: The Book of David's Triumphs and Troubles

Entrance Exam for 2 Samuel:

1. Which of Saul's sons reigned over Israel for 2 years? (2:10)
2. In which city did David reign as king over Judah for 7 1/2 years? (2:11)
3. Who killed Abner, Saul's military commander? (3:30)
4. Who informed David that his house and kingdom would endure forever? (7:4)
5. How did David have Uriah killed? (11:15)
6. T-F The child Bathsheba bore to David died as an infant. (12:18)
7. Who was Tamar's brother and why did he have Amnon murdered? (13:20)
8. Why did David flee Jerusalem? (15:13-14)
9. Who slew Absalom? (18:14)
10. What happened after David ordered Joab to number the people? (24:15)

2 Samuel is about the rise and fall of King David. It spans only forty years. It opens with David's coronation and ends with David passing the kingdom to his son Solomon.

The Davidic Covenant is found in 2 Samuel 7. God promised David an eternal kingdom, throne, 2 Samuel records the expansion of David's kingdom from Judah to all Israel and into Edom, Moab, Ammon, Zobah, and Syria.

KEY CHARACTERS IN 2 SAMUEL

- David
- Bathsheba
- Nathan
- Absalom

MINOR CHARACTERS

- Ishbosheth
- Joab
- Abner
- Mephibosheth
- Uriah
- Amnon
- Tamar

THE OUTLINE

DAVID'S TRIUMPHS - 2 Samuel 1-10

- Political triumphs - brings all Israel under his rule (1-5)
- Spiritual triumphs - brings ark to Jerusalem, desires to build a temple, Davidic Covenant (6-7)
- Military triumphs - defeats Israel's enemies, kind to Mephibosheth (8-10)

DAVID'S TRANSGRESSIONS - 2 Samuel 11-12

- Commits adultery - Bathsheba (11:1-5)
- Commits murder - Uriah and Nathan's rebuke (11:6-27)
- Confronted by Nathan - (12)

DAVID'S TROUBLES - 2 Samuel 13-24

- Troubles in David's house - rape and murder (13)
- Troubles in David's kingdom - Absalom (13-24)

THEMES IN 2 SAMUEL

- God's blessing on obedience - see 8:14.
- God's faithfulness to His promises to His people.
- The greatest king of Israel is still a sinful man in need of God's forgiveness and chastening.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT 2 SAMUEL 7:16

And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.

DAVID'S TROUBLES

Causes:

Adultery (11:4)
Murder of Uriah (11:17)
Amnon's incest (13:14)
Absalom usurps throne (16:15,16)
The census (24:2)

Effects:

Bathsheba bears a son (11:5)
The child dies (12:10,13,19)
Amnon murdered (13:28,29)
Absalom murdered (18:14, 15)
Plague on nation (24:15)

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN 2 SAMUEL

- Beware of the comfort zone in your life. You become particularly vulnerable to the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- Do you sense a daily reliance on God for wisdom and strength, or would self-sufficient better describe you?
- Moral compromises come with a nasty price tag. When we confess our sins, God forgives us, but the scars of sin often remain.
- Nathan and David teach us the ministry of reconciliation and true repentance.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

1 Kings: The Book of the Divided Kingdom

Entrance Exam for 1 Kings:

1. Which of David's sons first exalted himself to be king? (1:5)
2. What did David counsel Solomon to do with Joab? (2:5-6)
3. What was Solomon's decision about the baby claimed by two harlots? (3:25)
4. Hiram was the king of which country? (5:1)
5. In which year after the exodus did Solomon build the temple? (6:1)
6. How long did it take Solomon to build the temple? His own house? (6:38; 7:1)
7. Whose breath did Solomon take away with his wealth and wisdom? (10:5)
8. When the kingdom divided, who was the king of the south? North? (12)
9. Which prophet told Ahab there would be a drought? (17:1)
10. Which prophet did King Ahab hate because he never prophecies good for Ahab? (22:8)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: 1 Kings opens at the height of Israel's power under King Solomon. 2 Kings ends with Israel marching off in chains. 1 Kings records the building of the temple; 2 Kings ends with its burning by the Babylonians. Jeremiah may be the primary author. The northern kingdom, called Israel, consists of ten tribes, with Samaria as its capital. The southern kingdom, Judah, consists of two tribes, with Jerusalem as its capital. Israel lasted 209 years, from 931 BC to 722 BC, when it was conquered by the Assyrians. Judah lasted 345 years, from 931 BC to 586 BC, when it was conquered by the Babylonians.

THE OUTLINE

THE UNITED KINGDOM - 1 Kings 1-11

- Solomon established as king (1-5)
- Solomon builds the temple and palace (6-8)
- Solomon's wealth and wisdom (9-10)
- Solomon turns from God (11)

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM - 1 Kings 12-22

- Kingdom divides into Judah (south - Rehoboam) and Israel (north - Jeroboam) (12-14)
- Kings of Judah and Israel (15-16)
- King Ahab and the prophet Elijah (17-22)

THEMES IN 1 KINGS

- These historical books serve as an historical framework for the ministries of the prophets.
- The lives of these kings teach how God blesses obedience and judges apostasy.
- Solomon typifies Christ by his wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30) and his great wealth and glory, foreshadowing Christ's coming earthly kingdom (Rev. 11:15).
- The word of God's true prophets always comes to pass - Ahijah, Elijah, Micaiah.
- God remains faithful to His covenant with David in spite of wicked kings.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN 1 KINGS

- From Solomon - the danger of loving wealth, women, and worldly power!
- From Rehoboam - listen to your elders.
- From Ahab - be content with what you have.
- From Jehoshaphat - evil companions corrupts good morals.
- From Elijah and Micaiah - don't be afraid to speak the truth, even when it costs you.

Solomon, a Study in Contrasts

In youth followed God wholeheartedly.
Songwriter, naturalist, judge, poet, architect, wise, good pray-er.

Allied with nations.
Married foreign wives, allowed idolatry.
Had 700 wives, 300 concubines.
Later years marked compromise, disobedience, and turmoil.

Kings of Judah In 1 Kings

Rehoboam
Abijam
Asa
Jehoshaphat

Kings of Israel In 1 Kings

Jeroboam I
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Tibni
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

2 Kings: The Book of the Fallen Kingdoms

Entrance Exam for 2 Kings:

1. What did Elijah ask Ahaziah's messengers when Ahaziah sent them to inquire of Baal-zebul? (1:2)
2. How did Elijah go up to heaven? (2:11)
3. What happened when the young lads mocked Elisha? (3:25)
4. How did the prophet's widow pay off her debt? (4:7)
5. Why was Naaman furious after coming to Elisha for cleansing of his leprosy? (5:11)
6. Why did Elisha urge his servant not to fear when the city was surrounded by Arameans? (6:15-17)
7. How did Jezebel die? (9:33-37)
8. How long did Assyria besiege Samaria before taking Israel into exile? (17:5)
9. Which king of the south repented when he heard the law of God? (22:11)
10. What did the Babylonians do to King Zedekiah after capturing him? (25:7)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: The first half of 2 Kings covers 131 years (853 BC to 722 BC), focusing on the northern kingdom up to its collapse to the cruel Assyrians. Elijah and Elisha play a leading role as God's spokesman. The second half of 2 Kings covers the 136 following years ((722-586) of the southern kingdom. Some of Judah's best and worse kings ruled in this time. By 600 BC Babylon had overthrown the Assyrians. In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar forced Judah to accept Babylonian control. There were three deportations of Jews to Babylon. Finally Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed and burned by the Babylonians

THE OUTLINE OF 2 KINGS	
DIVIDED KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH Ch. 1-17	SURVIVING KINGDOM OF JUDAH Ch. 18-25
Elijah's final ministry (1-2) Fire, whirlwind to heaven	Hezekiah and the Assyrians (18-21) Isaiah, Hezekiah's prayer
Elisha's ministry (3-9) - many miracles, Naaman, Gehazi, chariots of fire, Jehu destroys Jezebel	Josiah's reforms (22-23) God's book found in the temple, Josiah cleanses the land, celebrates Passover.
Kings of Israel and Judah (10-16) Jehu kills Baal worshippers, Athaliah killed	Judah falls to Babylon in 586 BC (24-25) Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and the temple, Gedaliah made governor in Judah
Israel falls to Assyria in 722 BC (17)	

THEMES IN 2 KINGS

- The decline and collapse of the two kingdoms resulted from gross idolatry and failure of the kings and people to heed the warnings of God's prophets.
- God controls human history: those who obey enjoy His blessing and those who disobey experience His discipline.
- The Davidic line of covenant promise is preserved against all odds - 11:1-16)
- Elijah with his call to repentance is a type of John the Baptist and Elisha with his miracle working power reminds us of Christ!

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN 2 KINGS

- The NT warns us of idolatry of the heart. What idols of the heart do you struggle with?
- If 2 Kings was written about the last twenty years of our history, how would God evaluate our nation's moral direction? How would He evaluate the American church?

Kings of Israel (931-722)	Kings of Judah (931-586)
20 kings 9 dynasties 200 year history	20 kings 1 dynasty 350 year history
Jeroboam I Nadab Baasha Elah Zimri Tibni Omri Ahab Ahaziah Jerhoram Jehu Jehoahaz Joash Jeroboam II Zechariah Shallum Menahem Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea	Rehoboam Abijah Asa Jehoshaphat Joram Ahaziah Athaliah Joash Amaziah Uzziah Jotham Ahaz Hezekiah Mannaseh Amon Josiah Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

1 Chronicles: The Book of David's History

Entrance Exam for 1 Chronicles:

1. Who was the ninth son of Adam? (1:4)
2. Who was the son of Carmi, the troubler of Israel, who violated the ban? (2:7)
3. Whose birth was painful to his mother but he was more honorable than his brothers? (4:9)
4. How did King Saul actually die on Mount Gilboa? (10:4).
5. What did David do with the water his men brought to him from Bethlehem? (11:18)
6. What kind of men joined David from the tribe of Issachar? (12:32)
7. Who were Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ithar, Elishua, Elpelet, Nogah, Nehpeg, Japhia, Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet?
8. Why did David insist on paying for Ornan's threshing floor? (21:24)
9. For what did David make ample preparation before Solomon became the king of Israel? (22:5)
10. Where did David get the plans for the temple Solomon would build? (28:19)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: 1 & 2 Chronicles was written after the 70 year exile in Babylon had ended. The Talmud says Ezra was the author. Chronicles was written from a priestly perspective and focuses on the southern kingdom of Judah, the line of David. The "chronicler" also emphasizes spiritual lessons from the events of history, in 1 Chronicles stressing David's godly character.

The chronicler's selective genealogy and history of Israel, stretching from Adam (1 Chr. 1:1) to the return from Babylon (2 Chr 26:23), was intended to remind the Jews of God's promises and intentions about: 1) the Land; 2) the nation; 3) the Davidic king; 4) the Levitical priests; 5) the temple; and 6) true worship, none of which had been abrogated because of the Babylonian captivity. All of this was to remind them of their spiritual heritage during the difficult times they faced, and to encourage them to be faithful to God. (MacArthur Study Bible).

THE OUTLINE OF 1 CHRONICLES	
DAVID'S ROYAL LINE Ch. 1-9	DAVID'S REIGN OVER ISRAEL Ch. 10-29
From Adam to David (1-3) Noah's three sons, Abraham, David's sons born in Hebron.	David unites the kingdom at Jerusalem (10-12) Saul is defeated and David takes Jerusalem.
The twelve tribes (4-8) Jabez's prayer - 4:10 Reuben's birthright given to Joseph's sons (5:1)	David brings the ark to Jerusalem (13-17) Trouble the first time. Thanks God the second time and blesses God for the Davidic Covenant.
Israelites who returned from the exile (9)	Various military victories and the census (18-21)
Saul's genealogy - (9)	Prepares Israel and Solomon for the temple (22-29)

THEMES IN 1 CHRONICLES

- God provides His man David with all the support and encouragement he needs to be an effective ruler.
- While David was not allowed to build the temple, he made ample provisions and was humbled to be so richly blessed by God. See his final prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-20.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN 1 CHRONICLES

- David and Solomon had different gifts. Use the spiritual gifts God has given you without envying others' gifts.
- God loves a cheerful giver. David knew he was only giving back what God had given him. Everything you have belongs to God. "But who am I that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You." (1 Chronicles 29:14). Do you have this perspective on giving?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

2 Chronicles: The Book of Judah's History

Entrance Exam for 2 Chronicles:

1. What happened when Solomon finished his prayer of dedication for the temple? (7:1)
2. What was the final reason why Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the elders? (10:15)
3. Which country invaded Judah and took the golden shields Solomon had made? (12:9)
4. Which king faced Zerah the Ethiopian and cried to the Lord for help? (14:9-12)
5. Who rebuked Asa and said, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His?" (16:7-9)
6. Who said, "As the Lord lives, what my God says, that I will speak!" (18:13)
7. Which king cried to the Lord for help and sent singers praising God in front of their army? (20-21)
8. What did Jehoiada and his wife do for King Joash when he was a child? (22:11)
9. What happened to King Uzziah after he became strong as a leader? (26:16-21)
10. Whose spirit did God stir up to send Jews back to the land after their captivity? To do what? (36:22-23)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: Second Chronicles begins with the reign of Solomon (chs. 1–9). While these chapters relate the grandeur of Solomon's kingdom, their primary concern is to describe the construction and dedication of the temple. The balance of 2 Chronicles (chs. 10–36) is a history of the Davidic dynasty, with particular attention to the history of temple worship. The book concludes with the edict of Cyrus of Persia ordering the rebuilding of the temple. (Nelson's Maps and Charts)

THE OUTLINE OF 2 CHRONICLES	
SOLOMON'S REIGN Ch. 1-9	THE KINGS OF JUDAH Ch. 10-36
<p>Solomon becomes the King (1)</p> <p>Solomon completes the temple (2-7) Glory fills the temple 5:11-14 Fire came down 7:1-3</p> <p>Solomon's glory and wealth (8-9) The greatest king on earth 9:22-24 And he died 9:31</p>	<p>Reign of twenty kings in Judah (10-36) Key kings in Judah: Asa - good but imprisoned a prophet 14-16 Jehoshaphat - good but allied with evil men 17-20 Joash - good until his mentor died 24 Uzziah - good until pride made him a leper 26 Hezekiah - good but struggled with pride 29-32 Josiah - good, one of the best, shot by Necho 34-35 Zedekiah - evil, last king of Judah 36</p> <p>The Babylonian Captivity and Return to Jerusalem (36)</p>

THEMES IN 2 CHRONICLES

- Forsaking the Lord or refusing to listen to God's spokesman results in God's judgment.
- When God's king and people humbled themselves to seek God's face He would restore their blessings.
- Seeking God means wholehearted turning to, praying to, inquiring of, trusting in, praising, and worshiping God and no other gods.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN 2 CHRONICLES

- "Finish well!" Most of the good kings started well but ended in serious sin and opposition to God. Many start the race, but few finish like Paul, who could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7) What mistakes did these kings make after beginning well? What is required to finish well?

PROPHETS AND MEN OF GOD IN 2 CHRONICLES:

Shemiah 11:2	Man of God 25:7
Azariah 15:8	A prophet 25:15!!
Micaiah 18:13	Oded 28:9
Jahaziel 20:14-17	Isaiah 32:20
Elijah 21:12	Jeremiah 36:12
Prophets 24:19	Prophets 36:16
Zechariah 24:20	

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Ezra: The Book of the Return from Exile

Entrance Exam for Ezra:

1. How did the Jews determine who should return to Jerusalem at King Cyrus' order? (1:5)
2. What did King Cyrus send back to Jerusalem with the returning Jews? (1:7)
3. What was the first thing the Jews set up in Jerusalem? (3:3)
4. What did the priests and Levites do as soon as the temple foundation was laid? (3:10)
5. Who wanted to help the Jews build the temple? (4:1-2)
6. What role did Haggai and Zechariah have in the temple building process? (5:1-2)
7. What was to happen to any Palestinian who violated Darius' decree to rebuild? (6:11)
8. What did King Artaxerxes provide for Ezra and the work in Jerusalem? (7:18-20)
9. What did Ezra do before leaving for Jerusalem? (8:21-23)
10. What sin did the people commit that led to Ezra's deep grief? (9:1-3)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: Ezra was written by Ezra, who was a direct descendant of Aaron - see 7:1-5. There were three stages in the return of the exiles to Jerusalem: under Zerubbabel in 538 BC; under Ezra in 458 BC; and finally under Nehemiah in 444 BC. Events in the book of Esther occurred between the 1st and 2nd returns. "During the period covered by the book of Ezra, Gautama Buddha (c. 560–480 B.C.) was in India, Confucius (551–479 B.C.) was in China, and Socrates (470–399 B.C.) was in Greece." (Nelson's Dictionary)

THE OUTLINE OF EZRA		
First Return: Rebuilding the Temple Ch. 1-6 22 years - 538-516 BC	58 year gap	Second Return: Restoring God's Law Ch. 7-10 1 year - 458/457 BC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decree of Cyrus and the First Return (1-2) Bringing back the temple articles (1:11) Totals of the people returning (2:64) • The Construction of the Temple and Celebration of the Passover (3-6) Laying the foundation of the temple (3:10) Enemies try to stop the work (4:4-7) King Darius orders the work to continue (6:7) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decree of Artaxerxes and Second Return (7-8) Ezra the man of God (7:6-10) King Artaxerxes's decree for Ezra (7:21-24) Ezra prays for God's protection (8:21-23) • Ezra Leads the People in Repentance (9-10) Problem of intermarrying (9) Ezra calls Israel to repentance and change (10)

THEMES IN EZRA

The basic theme is restoration - both the temple and the people.

God's faithfulness is evident in how He uses pagan kings to assist His people, in how He prospered His people in exile, and how He provided godly leadership to direct the return and rebuilding.

Restoring temple worship helped to purify the people of pagan influences in marriage and religion.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN EZRA

Trust God to provide for your needs, even through unbelieving leaders like King Cyrus. God is the God of restoration and reconciliation. When someone wanders far from God, this is not the end of the story. Be loving and gentle in helping them return to the Lord. There are times when strong measures must be taken to deal with sin. Don't be afraid to be radical with your own sins.

Key People in Ezra

Cyrus:

Zerubbabel:

Haggai:

Zechariah:

Darius:

Artaxerxes:

Ezra:

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Nehemiah: The Book of Rebuilding

Entrance Exam for Nehemiah:

1. What did Nehemiah do as soon as he heard about Jerusalem's broken condition? (1:4)
2. What was Nehemiah's responsibility in King Artaxerxes' court? (1:11)
3. How did the Jews respond to Nehemiah's challenge to rebuild Jerusalem's walls? (2:18)
4. Who became extremely angry at the good progress of the wall-building program? (4:7)
5. In what way was Nehemiah different from previous governors? (5:15)
6. What reason did Nehemiah give for refusing to meet with the enemies in the plain of Ono? (6:3)
7. How long did it take to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem? (6:15-16)
8. What did Nehemiah tell the people to do when they wept as they heard the Word of God? (8:10)
9. How did the leaders address God as they called Israel to worship? (9:5-6)
10. What did Nehemiah see the Jews for doing on the Sabbath? (13:15)

"In ancient times, a city without walls was about as useful as an armored car with a convertible top!"
Jonathan Brant

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: Nehemiah held the important position of cupbearer before the Persian King Artaxerxes (465-424 BC) in the city of Susa, 800 miles from Jerusalem. He tasted the king's food and wine to be sure it wasn't poisoned, comparable to being head of the Secret Service for the president today. He led the third return of Jews from Babylon in 444 BC. Nehemiah ranks as one of the truly great leaders of God's people. The book of Nehemiah proves that under God's sovereign hand, the impossible turns into a reality. Within 52 days the wall was rebuilt against all human odds. Ezra and Nehemiah were one book in the Hebrew text, but separated when the Scriptures were translated into Latin.

THE OUTLINE OF NEHEMIAH		
Nehemiah the Cupbearer 1:1-2:8	Nehemiah the Builder 2:9-7:73	Nehemiah the Governor 8:1-13:31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nehemiah's prayer over Jerusalem's broken walls (1) • Nehemiah makes request to go to Jerusalem (2:1-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and inspection (2:9-20) • Building begins (3) • Building opposed (4:1-6:14) • Building completed (6:15-19) • Jerusalem organized (7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual renewal through Ezra and the Word (8) • Confession and commitment (9-10) • Resettling the people (11-12:26) • Dedicating the wall (12:27-47) • Restoring the disobedient (13)

THEMES IN NEHEMIAH

- The book of Nehemiah completes the historical account of God's people in the Old Testament.
- The sovereign hand of God is obvious throughout the book as God moves first on Nehemiah's heart, then the king's heart, and then the people's hearts to accomplish what seemed impossible.
- God's covenant with His people is highlighted in Nehemiah as the people renew their commitment to separate from the Gentiles and obey God's commandments.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN NEHEMIAH

- Nehemiah was a leader who gave vision and direction to the people of Jerusalem.
- Don't be surprised by opposition when you are committed to serving and building for God.
- A godly leader learns to rely on a great God. Check out these references for godly leadership qualities:

1:4, 2:4	5:14-16
2:11-13	6:11
2:17-18	8:9-10
4:12-14	13:7-9, 17-18

(See J. I. Packer's *A Passion for Faithfulness: Wisdom from the Book of Nehemiah*)

DON'T FORGET THESE DATES:

538 BC - First return of Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-6)
458 BC - Second return under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
444 BC - Third return under Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-13)

God's Route 66

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Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Esther: The Book of *God's Providential Care*

Entrance Exam for Esther:

1. What was Queen Vashti's penalty for disobeying the king's order to appear before his guests? (1:19)
2. What was Esther's Jewish name? What does 2:7 tell you about her?
3. What did Mordecai instruct Esther not to reveal while being prepared for the king? (2:10, 20)
4. What was Haman's nationality and why did he fly into a rage? (3:1, 5, 10)
5. What strong message did Mordecai send to Esther following the discovery of Haman's plot? (4:13-14)
6. How did Haman prepare to come to Esther's banquet prepared for him and the king? (5:14)
7. What did the king discover the night before Esther's banquet? (6:1-3)
8. How did Esther reveal Haman's plot to the king? (7:3-6)
9. What happened to Haman? To his ten sons? To Mordecai? (7:10; 8:1-2; 9:14; 10:3)
10. What right did the king grant the Jews? (8:11) How did these days come to be called Purim? (9:24)

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: God is not mentioned but His providential hand is obvious in every chapter. King Ahasuerus (Greek Xerxes) was the fourth king of the Persian Empire, reigning from 485-465 BC. Esther's story (c. 473 BC) fits between the first two returns of the Jews to Jerusalem (between Ezra 6-7). Three key characters are Esther, Mordecai, Esther's cousin who raised her as his own child, and Haman, an Agagite with a powerful position in the Persian government. Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible.

THE OUTLINE OF ESTHER	
The Threat to the Jews - Ch. 1-4	The Triumph of the Jews - Ch. 5-10
Esther is selected as Queen (1-2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The king bans Queen Vashti from the court (1:19)• Esther is selected as the new Queen (2:17)• Mordecai exposes a threat to the king (2:22-23) Haman plots to destroy the Jews (3-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman (3:5)• Haman requests all Jews be annihilated (3:13)• Mordecai urges Esther to expose the plot to the king (4:13-15)	Esther exposes Haman's plot (5-7) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Esther invites the King and Haman to her feast (5:8)• The king honors Mordecai through Haman (6:10-11)• Esther exposes Haman's evil plot (7:6)• Haman is hung on his own gallows (7:10) The Jews are given victory over their enemies (8-10) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mordecai writes a royal decree for Jews to defend themselves (8:11)• Haman's ten sons are hanged (9:14)• The feast of Purim is established (9:28)• Mordecai is elevated to second in command (10:3)

THEMES IN ESTHER

God's providence - Through the book of Esther God makes it clear that He will preserve His people and keep His promises in the midst of a hostile world. Look for examples of God's silent but sure providence in Esther. Mordecai's conviction - Refusing to give worship to anyone other than God.

Esther's courage - "If I die, I die!"

Haman's evil - Hung on his own gallows.

Jewish days of Purim - During Purim Jewish people "hear the reading of the book of Esther. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet and rattle gragers...whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service. The purpose of this custom is to "blot out the name of Haman." (From a Jewish website - jewfaq.org)

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN ESTHER

Trusting our sovereign God. God fulfills His plans despite humanity's best efforts to thwart His program.

God prepares us for service long before He calls us and opens specific doors of opportunity. (see Gal. 1:15)

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Job: The Book of *Suffering and Patience*

Entrance Exam for Job:

1. How many children did Job have at the beginning of his story? (1:2)
2. What did Satan tell God Job would do if God touched all he had? (1:11)
3. What was Job's first trial? Second trial? Third trial? Fourth trial? (1:15, 16, 17, 18--19)
4. What did Satan request God to do to Job after the first four trials? (2:5)
5. What were the names of Job's three friends? (2:11)
6. What did Job think of his friends' counsel? (12:1-5)
7. What New Testament doctrine did Job understand? (14:14)
8. What value did Job place on God's testing him? (23:10)
9. How did Job see Himself when God began speaking to him? (40:4)
10. How many children did God give to Job after he went through this adversity? (42:13)

Look these up and
write them down!

Key Verses in Job:

1:21
5:7
13:15
19:25-27
23:10
31:1
42:5-6

FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK: Job took place during the time of the patriarchs (2000-1800 BC). There is no reference to Israel or the Law. While the author is unnamed, Job probably wrote the original account. Uz was probably located northeast of Palestine, between Damascus and the Euphrates River. Job is a "theodicy" (a vindication of God's goodness, justice, and sovereignty in the face of suffering and evil). Job reveals the behind-the-scene drama taking place in God's presence. Ezekiel 14:14, 20 refer to Job as an example of a godly man. James 5:11 names Job as a believer who exhibited great patience under pressure.

THE OUTLINE OF JOB		
Job's Disasters - Ch 1 - 2:13	Job's Debaters - Ch. 3 - 37	Job's Deliverance - Ch. 38-42
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job's circumstances - 1:1-5• God challenges Satan about Job - 1:6-12• Satan's first assault - 1:13-22• Satan's second assault - 2:1-10• Job's wife - 2:9-10• Job's friends - 2:12-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First cycle of debates - 3:1-14:22• Second cycle of debates - 15:1-21:34• Third cycle of debates - 22:1-26:14• Job's final defense - 27:1-37:24• Elihu's opinion - 32:1-37:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God questions Job about creation - 38:1-39:30• God questions Job about God's power over nature - 40:1-42:6• God blesses Job's latter days two-fold - 42:7-17

THEMES IN JOB

God uses Satan to try His people and prove their love and loyalty to Him even through adversity. God always has a purpose in permitting suffering, though we may never fully comprehend it. Human opinions (Job's friends) may be wrong and lead to frustration and despair. We need God's perspective. Christ is Job's Redeemer (19:25-27), Job prays for a Mediator (9:33; 33:23), and Job needs someone to explain the mystery of suffering. Christ suffered in our place, answered Satan's accusations, and defeated him for us.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

Read Job to understand your own suffering and to comfort others going through difficult trials. Learn to trust God regardless of your circumstances and even when God doesn't explain why these things are happening to you. "Job stood beside ten fresh graves and did not blame God." (Douglas Connelly)

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Psalms: The Book of *Praises*

“When you open the book of Psalms, you are opening the songbook and prayer book of the Old Testament. You are also opening one of the most read and most loved books of the Bible. The psalms have dried more tears, comforted more hearts, covered more hurts, and soothed more sorrows than any other part of the Bible. They have also been turned to more, quoted more, and memorized more than any other part.” (Douglas Connelly)

FACTS ABOUT THE PSALMS : The book of Psalms is called the Sepher Tehillim, or “Praises”, in the Hebrew Bible. The Septuagint (LXX) used the word “Psalmoi”, meaning poems sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments. Scottish and Irish people describe it as the book of Psams (pronounce “a” as in “apple”). The dates of the Psalms span a thousand years, from Moses to the time of Ezra. The 150 Psalms are divided into five divisions or volumes, each section ending with a doxology. Hebrew tradition says Moses gave the five books of the Law and corresponding to this, David gave the five books of the Psalms. Some of the Psalms have a “superscription” (written above) naming the author and/or circumstances which prompted the Psalm. See the superscription for Psalm 51.

COMPOSERS OF THE PSALMS: David wrote 75 Psalms. Asaph, a priest who headed the ministry of music, penned 12. The sons of Korah were a guild of singers and composers who wrote 11. Ethan and Heman, wrote one a piece, Solomon composed 2, Moses wrote the oldest Psalm (90). This leaves 47 Psalms that are anonymous, although several are traditionally ascribed to Ezra.

KINDS OR STYLES OF PSALMS:

Praise Psalms focus on exalting God's character or works - See Psalms 48, 92, 96, 103, 113.

Lament Psalms are sad songs of trouble or sorrow, crying out to God for help - See Psalms 17, 32, 42, 55.

Wisdom Psalms point out the wisdom of following God and the folly of relying on man - See Psalms 1 and 37.

Kingship Psalms portray the human king but point to Christ as our sovereign King - See Psalm 2, 45, 98.

Pilgrimage or Temple Psalms were used as God's people gathered for worship - See Psalms 120-134.

Imprecatory Psalms invoke God's wrath and judgment against God's enemies - See Psalms 69, 109.

THE PARALLELISMS OF THE PSALMS: Hebrew poetry is not based on rhyme but on the thought relationship of several lines of text. Three typical kinds of Hebrew parallelism are:

Synonymous parallelism - two lines of a couplet express the same idea: “The heavens declare the glory of God; // the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” (Psalm 19:1)

Antithetic parallelism - two lines express opposite views of the same idea: “For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, // but the way of the wicked will perish.” (Psalm 1:6)

Climactic parallelism - the second line expands on the thought of the first line: “How can a young man keep his way pure? // By living according to Your Word.” (Psalm 119:9)

THE OUTLINE OF THE PSALMS				
Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5
Psalm 1-41	Psalm 42-72	Psalm 73 - 89	Psalm 90-106	Psalm 107-150
Man and creation	Israel & redemption	Worship & temple	Sojourning	Praise & the Word
Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy

IMAGES OF GOD: Look up these references to see how God is portrayed in the Psalms: 3:3, 18:2, 5:2, 46:1, 31:3, 26:1, 8:1, 37:39, 30:2, 5:11, 78:23-29, 107:2. What does each image of God mean for your life?

MESSIANIC PSALMS: How do these references speak of Jesus Christ? 2:7, 16:10, 22:1, 22:16, 34:20, 40:7-8, 68:18, 69:9, 69:21, 110:4, 118:22, 118:26. What do these prophecies tell you about your Bible?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Proverbs: The Book of God's Wisdom

Entrance Exam for Proverbs. Find the precise verse and answer in each chapter cited:

1. From what two things will God's wisdom deliver you? Proverbs 2:_____
2. Who will find wounds and disgrace? Proverbs 6:_____
3. What is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion compared to? Proverbs 11:_____
4. Who will dwell among the wise? Proverbs 15:_____
5. What are pleasant words compared to? Proverbs 16:_____
6. When should you abandon the quarrel? Proverbs 17:_____
7. What do many men proclaim? Proverbs 20:_____
8. What should you buy and not sell? Proverbs 23:_____
9. For whom is there more hope than for a fool? Proverbs 26:_____
10. What is on the tongue of the excellent wife? Proverbs 31:_____

FACTS ABOUT PROVERBS: A proverb is a short, pithy saying that gives insight into various aspects of human experience. Proverbs are typically brief, instructive, and often paint vivid pictures to get their point across. Proverb's two main purposes are 1) to develop skillfulness in godly living, 1:2a, and 2) to acquire discernment for life choices, 1:2b (e.g. distinguish permanent values from immediate gratification). God's kind of wisdom is the key theme throughout Proverbs. Proverbs puts "godliness into working clothes." (Kidner).

Solomon wrote the introduction (1-9) to motivate the young person to seek wisdom. He "wanted the generations of those who would read his book to pursue the art of skillful living with passion and energy." About 300 of his proverbs are collected in chapters 10-24. Hezekiah's men copied more of Solomon's sayings in chapters 25-30. Agur and King Lemuel wrote Proverbs 30 and 31.

THE OUTLINE OF PROVERBS				
Admonitions to Acquire Wisdom - Ch. 1-9	Solomon's Proverbs - Ch. 10-24	Solomon's Proverbs Collected by Hezekiah - Ch. 25-29	Agur's Counsel - Ch. 30	King Lemuel's Counsel - Ch. 31

POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT PROVERBS

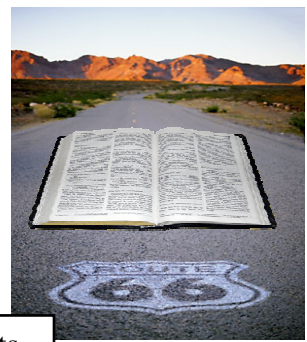
- Proverbs are guidelines for wise living, not iron-clad promises. Leave room for exceptions to the rule.
- Wisdom begins with the fear of God (1:7). When we take God seriously, we take His Word seriously.
- Proverbs has been called "compressed experience." You can't read it once and suddenly find yourself wise. Reading a proverb takes a few seconds; living a proverb takes a lifetime. Many people read the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds with the day of the month. On March 21 read Proverbs 21.

THEMES IN PROVERBS Look up the references and make a brief note about each one. Apply it to your life.

Wise vs. Fool	Tongue	Friends	Parents	Prudence	Sluggard
10:8	12:18-19	13:20	22:6	12:16	6:9
12:15	15:2,4	22:24-25	22:15	12:23	13:4
14:16	18:21	27:9	29:15	14:15	15:19
29:11	21:23	28:7	31:28	19:14	26:14-16

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word



Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Ecclesiastes: The Book of Meaningful Living

Entrance Exam for Ecclesiastes:

1. What did the Preacher discover in 1:16-18?
2. What did he discover to be vanity in 2:1-11?
3. What is the gift of God in 3:12-13?
4. Why are two better than one in 4:9-12? What does this mean?
5. What does 5:4-7 tell you about your words?
6. What are the better things in 7:1-8? Why are they better?
7. What did the Preacher discover about evil in 8:10-13?
8. What do we learn from the poor wise man in 9:13-18?
9. What do we learn about an axe in 10:10? How can you apply this in your life?
10. What counsel does the Preacher give a young person in 11:9-10?

This book shows that if one perceives each day of existence, labor, and basic provision as a gift from God, and accepts whatever God gives, then that person lives an abundant life (cf. John 10:10). However, one who looks to be satisfied apart from God will live with futility regardless of his accumulations. (MacArthur Study Bible)

FACTS ABOUT ECCLESIASTES The author calls himself “Qoheleth” or “Preacher.” Chapter 1:1, 12, and 2:9 point to Solomon as the author. **His question?** “What makes life worth living?” **His theme?** Everything is “vanity”, a Hebrew word (hebel) that means worthless, empty, futile, useless. **His focus?** Life “under the sun,” used 29 times. It means looking at life 1) from self, 2) right now, 3) human experiences, 4) what is visible and physical. Life as it appears. “Hurry, worry, and bury.” **His hope?** After pursuing such things as wisdom, wealth, wild living, and work, there is only one thing that makes sense and brings joy and hope - see 3:14; 5:7; 8:12-13; 12:13. **His conclusion?** 1) fear God, 2) keep His Word, 3) enjoy life, 4) but remember, you'll give an account.

OUTLINE OF ECCLESIASTES		
Read through the book and add verses and thoughts under each section that are especially striking to you.		
Beginning the journey into vanity 1:1-11	Exploring the sources of vanity 2:1-6:12	Discovering the answers to vanity 7:1-12:14
The seemingly endless cycles of life.	Wisdom, wealth, wildness, works.	The righteous vs. the wicked, the wise vs. the fool

GEMS OF WISDOM IN ECCLESIASTES

3:11	8:11
5:2	9:9
5:10	9:10
7:19	10:20
7:20	11:1
7:21	11:16
7:22	12:1
8:7	12:12

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

- Focus your heart on eternal things and avoid wasting your life on meaningless “vanity.”
- The futility and perplexity of life can only be removed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (John 7:37-38; 10:10).

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Song of Solomon: The Book of *Sacred Romance*

Entrance Exam:

1. What is better than wine? Ch. 1
2. Compared with the maidens, what was his darling like? Ch. 2
3. What were ruining the vineyards? Ch. 2
4. How was the day of the man's wedding described? Ch. 3
5. What emotional effect did the bride have on her new husband? Ch. 4
6. Why did the bride hesitate to open the door for her husband? Ch. 5
7. How did the bride describe her husband to the daughters of Jerusalem? Ch. 5:10
8. How did the husband describe his wife's teeth? Ch. 6
9. What words of endearment does the husband use to describe his wife? Ch. 7:6
10. How is love described in ch. 8?

FACTS ON THE SONG OF SOLOMON?

Some wonder, "What's a book about the joys and pleasures of romantic love doing in the Bible?" Some have said it is an allegory about God's love for His people (1:13 speaks of Jesus, the myrrh, resting between the Old and New Testaments, the two breasts!). That is definitely a stretch. No, God is the author of love, romance, and the sexual relationship in marriage. It is the "Song of Songs" - at the top of all Solomon's songs. Jewish elders would not allow persons under thirty to read it - Rated PG-30!

There are three main speaking parts: the groom, King Solomon; the bride, the Shulamite; and the friends of Jerusalem, royal servants devoted to the Shulamite and her love for Solomon. Solomon had many wives, but the Shulamite may have been the only one with whom he enjoyed a warm, enriching relationship.

The symbols and images used to describe the bride and groom are interesting reflections of ancient culture and values. Find them and see if you can figure out their meaning.

THE OUTLINE OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON		
The Courtship: Leaving (1:1-3:5)	The Wedding: Cleaving (3:6-5:1)	The Marriage: Weaving (5:2-8:14)
Love draws together - Expressions of desire, attraction, love, praise, and patience.	Love unites together - The wedding procession and consummation of the marriage. God's Approval (5:1b)	Love grows together - Disagreement and reconciliation (5:2-6:13) Deeping and maturing in love (7:1-8:14)

MARRIAGE-CHANGING TRUTHS

The cultivation of a growing romance requires personal involvement and time spent together. A deepening relationship does happen by accident. Learn from the Song of Solomon the power of loving words in marriage.

Physical love and affection in marriage are gifts from God and are to be enjoyed to the fullest. See 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 for a New Testament commentary on the Song of Solomon.

God's Route 66

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Isaiah: The Book of *Israel's Messiah*

A PRIMER ON THE PROPHETS

- A true prophet always spoke God's message. These references help to discern true prophets from false prophets - Deut. 13:1-5; 18:9-15, 20-22; Jer. 23:30-32; 28:9.
- Prophets directed their message to the people of their day. They often warned or promised future events to turn God's people from sin or to give them hope.
- Prophets did not always understand everything they spoke or wrote about - 2 Peter 1:10-11.
- There are three major categories of prophets: 1) before, 2) during, and 3) after the exile.
- The first five books of the prophets are called Major Prophets, the last twelve Minor Prophets.

Entrance Exam. Identify the verse(s) and prophecies about Christ in the following chapters:

1. Isaiah 7 _____
2. Isaiah 8 _____
3. Isaiah 9 _____
4. Isaiah 28 _____
5. Isaiah 29 _____
6. Isaiah 40 _____
7. Isaiah 49 _____
8. Isaiah 53 _____
9. Isaiah 55 _____
10. Isaiah 61 _____

You will not find these prophetic books pleasant--challenging, disturbing, piercingly honest, but not pleasant. The prophets make us angry because they pull away our masks and expose the selfishness and hypocrisy in our hearts. The prophets bring us comfort because they show us what is really going on behind the chaos of our world. The prophets make it difficult to continue leading a sloppy life. --Douglas Connelly

FACT SHEET ON ISAIAH

* Name means "The Lord is Salvation." * Served from 740-680 BC, during the fall of the northern kingdom to Assyria (722 BC). * Spanned the reigns of five kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh (who, tradition has it, hated Isaiah and had him sawn in two - Heb. 11:37). * Married with two kids: Shear-Jashub and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz! (7:3; 8:1,3). * Well-educated, highly aware of international affairs, wrote in polished Hebrew, quoted directly in the NT over 65 times, referred to by name 22 times (see Rom. 9-10). * Isaiah's book mirrors the 66 books of the Bible - 39 books in the first part, 27 books in the second part.

THE OUTLINE OF ISAIAH		
Prophecies of Judgment Ch. 1-39		Prophecies of Comfort Ch. 40-66
Against Israel and Nations, Ch. 1-35	Hezekiah during Sennacherib's attack on Jerusalem, Ch. 36-39	Israel's Deliverance, 40-48 Israel's Deliverer Ch. 49-57 Israel's glorious future, Ch. 58-66

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS IN ISAIAH (jot down key thoughts from each)

Isaiah 6 - Isaiah's Call	Isaiah 40 - God's Greatness	Isaiah 53 - The Suffering Messiah
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LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

- Isaiah should elevate your confidence in both the Scriptures and God's sovereign control over history. Isaiah penned his detailed prophecies about Christ 700 years before Christ was born (E.g., 7:14; 9:6-7).
- God's holiness, greatness, majesty, and grace should feed your heart of worship and fill you with trust and strength - see Isaiah 40:27-31; 41:10; 43:1-2; 51:7.

God's Route 66

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Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Jeremiah: The Book of *Warning and Judgment*

Entrance Exam:

1. To which tribe of Israel did Jeremiah belong (1:1)?
2. What did God command Jeremiah to do as a prophet? (1:17)
3. What was the appalling and horrible thing that happened in the land? (5:30-31)
4. Why was Jeremiah's heart grieved? (9:1-6)
5. How does Jeremiah describe idols and those who worship them? (10:14-16)
6. What does God say about your heart? (17:9-10)
7. How did the false prophets lead the people astray? (23:16-22)
8. What did God promise in ch. 31:31-34? What was different about it?
9. Why was Jeremiah thrown into a cistern? Who helped him? (38:1-13)
10. How did the people respond to Jeremiah's warning not to go to Egypt? (42-43)

Because our day is so much like Jeremiah's day, we need to listen closely to what he has to say. The destruction of the nation of Judah by the armies of Babylon came because of a spiritual decline. The people of Judah claimed to love God with their lips, but they refused to obey him with their lives. They sang "He is Lord" at church, but their hearts were far from God. Jeremiah stood before an outwardly religious but inwardly bankrupt nation, and he spoke God's Word. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON JEREMIAH

Preached for over 40 years, from 627 BC to the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, 586 BC, and beyond.

His message was a combination of terror and tears, warning and weeping. Two-thirds of his message was negative; only one-third positive (1:10). One king burned Jeremiah's message. Jeremiah wrote another one! (36:1-32)

Jeremiah is the second longest book in the Bible (which is first?).

Jeremiah was not the "Chosen Man of the Year" in Judah. Instead he was hated, hunted, thrown in a pit, imprisoned attacked but, worst of all, ignored. His family was embarrassed by him and his friends all forsook him. He had no wife or children (12:6; 16:1). He is known as the weeping prophet. In what ways does Jeremiah remind you of Jesus Christ? (See Matt. 16:14).

In fifty years of hard, fruitless labor, without one convert, Jeremiah never allowed his heart to become hard. God used Jeremiah to introduce the New Covenant with all of its grace and mercy for sinners, fulfilled in the redemption that is ours in Jesus Christ (See Jeremiah 31, 33; Hebrews 10).

THE OUTLINE OF JEREMIAH		
Jeremiah's Call (1)	Preaching to Judah (2-45)	Preaching to the Nations (46-52)

JEREMIAH'S OBJECT LESSONS		
Reference:	Object	Lesson:
13:1-11	Linen wasitband hidden in a crevice	God would destroy Judah's pride
16:1-4	Remain single and without children	Children in Judah will die without funerals
18:1-11	Potter spoils and remakes a clay pot	Repent and submit to God
27:1-12	Carries a yoke around his neck	Judah should submit to Babylon
32:6-15	Purchased a plot of land in Anathoth	God's people would buy land again

VERSES TO MEMORIZE IN JEREMIAH (WRITE THEM OUT)	
2:13	
6:16	
9:23-24	
15:16	
17:5,7,9-10	
29:11-13	
31:3	

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

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------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Lamentations: The Book of *Mourning*

Entrance Exam: Find a word in the book of Lamentations to correspond to each letter:

L <u>Lonely</u>	A _____
A _____	T _____
M _____	I _____
E _____	O _____
N _____	N _____
T _____	S _____

FACT SHEET ON LAMENTATIONS

- Jeremiah wrote this as a journal of sobbings or “Lamentations.”
- Lamentations is a series of five poems of grief, a “tearstained portrait of the once-proud Jerusalem, now reduced to rubble by the invading Babylonian hordes.” (Nelson's Bible Charts)
- While Jeremiah grieves over Jerusalem, more importantly, God grieves over the disobedience of His people.
- After years of warning that God would bring crushing judgment on His people if they did not repent, God brought the Babylonians to crush them, and everything they held dear was gone: their houses destroyed, their children slaughtered, their temple burned, their city a pile of rubble. Jeremiah walks through streets strewn with corpses and and broken possessions and weeps.
- In the midst of the incredible tragedy of Israel's judgment, Jeremiah focuses on God's unchanging character and the hope that God in His grace and faithfulness would ultimately bring good to His people (3:21ff).
- Jews read the entire book of Lamentations on the 9th of Ab, the traditional date of the destruction of Jerusalem (August 14, 2005, Jewish Year 5765). Some read it weekly at the Western “Wailing” Wall in Jerusalem.

OUTLINE OF LAMENTATIONS				
Ch 1 - Jerusalem's Desolation 1:1, 2, 8	Ch. 2 - The Lord's Anger 2:1, 4-5, 8	Ch. 3 - Jeremiah's Hope 3:1, 21-23, 25, 32, 40-42	Ch. 4 - The People's Horror 4:1, 4, 9	Ch. 5 - The Captives' Oppression 5:1, 15-16, 19-22

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

- God grieves over His people in their sin and rebellion. Ephesians 4:30 - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- “The book of Lamentations stands at the fork in the road and says, 'Stop! Listen to my words. The end of God's road is blessing; the end of your own way is bitterness.’” As you make life decisions, what will be the end result? Will it be in God's blessing or your own sorrow and grief? See Galatians 6:7-8
- God never ultimately deserts His people. His faithfulness never fails. Each new day displays His love and compassion. We have no excuse for complaining. See the reason in Lamentations 3:39-40.
- Where is Christ in Lamentations?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Ezekiel: The Book of *Glory Lost and Regained*

Entrance Exam:

1. How many living beings were in vision of God's glory?
2. What forms did each of the faces on the living beings have?
3. What were on the rims of the wheels?
4. What was above the expanse above the heads of the living beings?
5. What did God appoint Ezekiel to be in chapter 3?
6. What was the sin of the elders of Israel in chapter 14:1-5?
7. What was the sin of the shepherds of Israel in chapter 34:1-6?
8. How will God vindicate His name through Israel in 36:22-32?
9. What happened when Ezekiel prophesied to the valley of bones? What did this represent? (37:1-10).
10. What does God promise His people in chapter 37:24-28?

My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice. "When all this comes true--and it surely will--then they will know that a prophet has been among them." Ezekiel 33:31-33 (NIV)

FACT SHEET ON EZEKIEL

- Ezekiel was born into a family of priests and was taken captive to Babylon at the age of 25, in 597 BC. His name means "strengthened by God."
- He lived by the Chebar river with the other exiles when God revealed Himself in a glorious vision and commissioned Ezekiel to be a prophet to Israel. He was 30 years old when called by God.
- Ezekiel preached to the Jewish exiles before, during, and after the final destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC.
- God made Ezekiel as hard and stubborn in speaking His message as the people were in resisting the message.
- God had Ezekiel use all kinds of signs, strange dramas, and parables to communicate His message.

OUTLINE OF EZEKIEL			
Ezekiel's Commission Chs. 1-3 He saw God - 1:4-28 Heard God - 2:1-7 Ate God's Word - 2:8-3:3 Given mission - 3:1-11 Do God's Work - 3:12ff.	Coming Judgment on Jerusalem Chs. 4-24 Model of Jerusalem - 4:1-8 Shaved head - 5:1-4 Hair-lifted to Jerusalem - 8 Glory departs Jerusalem- 10 Move out through hole - 12:1-16 Wife died unmourned - 24	Coming Judgment on Foreign Nations Chs. 25-32 Ammon - 25 Moab - 25 Tyre - 26-28 (Alexander the Great's victory) Sidon - 28 Egypt - 29-32	Future Restoration and Messianic Kingdom - Chs. 33-48 Watchman's Duty - 33 The "Fugitive" - 33:21 Restoration of Israel - 34-37 (Dry Bones) Gog and Magag 38-39 - See Rev. 20:8-10 Millennial Temple 40-48

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS (From Exploring the Old Testament, Samuel Schultz)

- A fresh vision of the splendor of God's glory causes one to bow down, worship, and willingly obey the Word of God.
- Believers are God's watchmen, called to warn sinners of God's judgment if they do not repent. A watchman who fails to warn will be held accountable by God.
- God will destroy His own people and their places of worship if they no longer recognize Him or faithfully worship Him - see Rev. 2-3.
- God controls all the nations of the world and will destroy the proud who try to play God.
- God will keep His promises, cleanse His people's sins, restore them to their land, give them a new heart and covenant, renew true worship, and raise up their Messiah.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Daniel: The Book of *Future World Kingdoms*

Entrance Exam:

1. What were the Hebrew names of Daniel's three friends? 1
2. What did Daniel do before interpreting the king's dream? 2:14-19
3. How did the Hebrew youths answer the king when refusing to worship the image? 3
4. Why was Daniel appalled when the king asked him to interpret his dream in ch. 4?
5. Who urged Belshazzar to call in Daniel to interpret the handwriting? 5
6. What was Daniel's "quiet time" habit that got him in trouble? 6
7. What happened to the little horn that grew out of the fourth beast? 7
8. What motivated Daniel to pray and confess sin in ch. 9?
9. How are the godly Jews described in 11:32-35?
10. What will happen when Michael arises in the end times? 12:1-3.

Where's Christ in Daniel?

The great stone of
2:34,45
The Son of Man of 7:13
Messiah the Prince of
9:25,26
The Christophany of
10:5-9

FACT SHEET ON DANIEL

Daniel was born into a prominent Jewish family in Jerusalem. His name means "God is my judge." He was taken captive to Babylon in 605 BC (the first deportation), when he was 15 years old. His ministry stretched from 605 BC to at least 533 BC, the longest public ministry of any prophet. He rose to power in the pagan governments of Babylon and Persia, but never compromised his godliness and integrity. Twice he was strongly tested, first to eat meat sacrificed to idols (ch. 1), and again to obey the law not to pray to his God. (ch. 6). God gave Daniel a comprehensive sweep of prophetic history. Liberal scholars reject Daniel's authorship, asserting that predictive prophecy is impossible. Bible believers know the God of the ages is able to reveal the future since all of history is God's sovereign plan being unfolded. Daniel 1 and 8-12 are written in Hebrew, Daniel 2-7 in Aramaic, the *lingua franca* of Daniel's day. Daniel wrote mainly for the encouragement of God's people in exile. His key theme is God's sovereignty over the nations and the final establishment of God's kingdom with the Messiah King ruling the world.

OUTLINE OF DANIEL

God's Man for the Time Ch. 1 Deportation, 1:1-7 Integrity, 1:8-16 Reputation, 1:17-21	God's Plan for the Nations Chs. 2-7 Neb's dream, 2 Neb's image, 3 Neb's vision of a tree, 4 Belshazzar and the handwriting, 5 The "No-Prayer" decree, 6 Daniel's vision of world powers, 7 The lion with wings - Babylon The bear devouring - Persia The leopard w/ 4 heads, Greece The dreadful beast w/ 10 horns, Rome, little horn - Antichrist The Ancient of Days and Messiah's Kingdom	God's Plan for Israel Chs. 8-12 The Ram and Male Goat, 8 The Ram - Medo-Persia The Male Goat - Alexander the Great The Four Horns - Breakup of Alexander's empire The little horn - Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes Daniel's seventy weeks of years for Israel, 9 Israel's history to the second coming, 10-12
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LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

- Learn from the integrity of Daniel and his three friends. Regardless of the culture and pressure to conform to a worldly system, God's people can remain people of strength and integrity - see Daniel 11:32,33.
- Live with the brilliant hope that regardless of present distress, God's kingdom shall prevail, God's people shall triumph through Christ.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Hosea: the Book of *Redeeming Love*

Entrance Exam:

1. T-F God's word came to Hosea before the Assyrian captivity in 722 BC.
2. What kind of wife did God tell Hosea to marry? What was her name?
3. What was Hosea's first son's name? What did it mean?
4. What were the next two children's names? What did they mean?
5. What will God do for His people in the last days? 2:23
6. What did God tell Hosea to do after his wife became an adulteress? Ch. 3
7. Why did God destroy His people according to 4:6?
8. What happened to Israel after God delivered them from Egypt? 13:4-6
9. What will Israel say as they return to the Lord in the last days? 14:1-3
10. In how many New Testament books is Hosea either named or quoted?

"God has married Israel as a young virgin and, for a while, Israel had been faithful to God. But gradually Israel had turned away. The people of God's love had followed other gods, other lovers. Their moral strength rotted away until they found themselves in slavery. Assyria was ready to sweep down and clamp Israel in chains."
(Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON HOSEA ("Yahweh is Salvation")

Hosea was the last prophet to preach to the northern kingdom before the Assyrian captivity in 722 BC. His ministry stretched from 755 to about 710 BC. He may have fled to Judah before Israel's fall to Assyria (see 2 Chronicles 30:1-9). "Outwardly, the nation was enjoying a time of prosperity and growth; but inwardly, moral corruption and spiritual adultery permeated the lives of the people." God used Hosea's marriage to an unfaithful wife, Gomer, to picture Israel's unfaithfulness to her God. Just as Hosea continued to love Gomer and purchased her back as a slave, so God's unchanging love for His people will lead to Israel's final restoration, to become God's people once again. Hosea refers to the northern kingdom as Ephraim 36 times. She had a terrible fascination with Baal worship, which involved fertility rites, including ritual prostitution. "Worship centers to false gods dotted the cities and rural villages. In the minds of the people, the Lord was simply one god among many."

OUTLINE OF HOSEA

An Adulterous Wife Loved by a Faithful Husband 1-3 Ch 1 - Hosea's marriage and children Jezreel - God scatters Lo-Ruhammah - Not pitied Lo-Ammi - Not My people Ch 2 - Israel's adultery and restoration Ch 3 - Hosea purchases his adulterous wife back.	An Adulterous Nation Loved by a Faithful God 4-14 Chs 4 - 5 Description of Israel's spiritual adultery "There is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery." (4:1-2) Chs 6 - 8 Israel's refusal to repent Chs 9 - 10 God's judgments on Israel Chs 11-14 God's promise to restore His people
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LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

HUMBLE GRATITUDE - Hosea's message should prompt deepest humility and gratitude in your heart to God for His unfailing love to you, a sinner no more deserving of His love than was guilty Gomer of Hosea's love.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS - Like Hosea, you may have been wronged, betrayed, hurt by a spouse or friend. The temptation is to draw back in bitterness and nurse grudges. Instead, knowing God's faithful love, you can have a ministry of hope and encouragement to hurting, struggling people God brings into your life.

RETURN TO THE LORD - You may be like Israel, chosen, loved, and redeemed, but now you are walking into sinful entanglements and away from your commitment of love and obedience to the Lord. If you return with words of confession and repentance, He will graciously restore you. His love for you has never wavered.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Joel: The Book of *The Day of the Lord*

Entrance Exam:

1. What has invaded the land and left it bare? (ch. 1)
2. How does Joel counsel the ministers of the altar to spend the night?
3. To where were the elders and inhabitants of the land to gather and cry out?
4. How is the day of the Lord described in 2:11?
5. Instead of rending their garments, what should they rend? (2:13)
6. What does God promise to send His people in 2:19?
7. What will the people know after God deals wondrously with them? (2:27)
8. Upon whom will the Lord pour out His Spirit? (2:28-29)
9. Where will God bring the nations in the last days? (3:2,12)
10. What will the Lord be for His people in the last days? (3:16)

In Joel, Christ is presented as the one who will give the Holy Spirit (cf. 2:28 with John 16:7-15; Acts 1:8), who judges the nations (3:2, 12), and who is the refuge and stronghold of Israel (3:16).

FACT SHEET ON JOEL

Joel's name means "Yahweh is God." He prophesied to the southern kingdom before the exile and probably lived close to Jerusalem. The nation was steeped in complacency and spiritual apathy. God sent a plague of locusts to warn the people to repent and cry out to their God. This locust plague was a foreshadowing of the coming day of the Lord when God will bring both judgment and deliverance on the earth. How do these five references describe the day of the Lord and the character of God?

Joel 1:15 _____
Joel 2:1 _____
Joel 2:11 _____
Joel 2:31 _____
Joel 3:14 _____

In Acts 2:17-21 Peter said Joel's promise of the Spirit (2:28-32) began to be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. In Romans 10:13 Paul quoted from Joel 2:32, teaching that it is necessary to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved.

OUTLINE OF JOEL

The Historic Day of the Lord (1:1-20) Learn from the locusts 1:1-12 Call to repent - 1:13-14 Learn from the drought 1:15-20	The Prophetic Day of the Lord (2:1-3:21) An invasion of Judah 2:1-27 Call to repent - 2:12-17 The final Day of the Lord 2:18-3:21 Promises of deliverance and the Spirit 2:18-32 Promises of judgment 3:1-17 Promises of eternal blessing 3:18-21
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LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

God uses calamity and hardship to teach us about Himself or to urge us to repent and draw near to Him. Has God brought any "plagues" of difficulty or pain into your life over the last year to get your attention? How did you respond?

God repays His people with an abundance of grace and mercy when He restores us to Himself following a "plague" of difficulty and failure. Praise Him for dealing wondrously with you. See 2:26.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Amos: The Book of **Judgment on Sin**

Entrance Exam:

1. What was Amos' occupation? Where was his home?
2. How does Amos picture the Lord speaking in 1:2?
3. Upon which nations besides Judah and Israel does God pronounce judgment (chs. 1-2).
4. What phrase does Amos repeat in these pronouncements? What do they mean?
5. How does Amos describe the ladies of Samaria in 4:1? Why?
6. What phrase does Amos repeat in 4:6,8,9,10, and 11? What is the result in 4:12?
7. What kind of lifestyle were the people living when God said He hated Jacob's arrogance? (6:1,4-8).
8. What did the priest of Bethel tell Amos to do in 7:12-13? What was Amos' response in vs. 17?
9. What kind of famine did God say He would send on the land? (8:11-12)
10. In your own words what does God promise His people for "that day" in 9:13-15?

FACT SHEET ON AMOS

Amos hailed from Tekoa, ten miles south of Jerusalem. He prophesied for a short time, between 765 - 755 BC. He was a shepherd and caretaker of fig trees, never trained as a prophet. Amos means "Burden-bearer" and his message reflects his heavy messages of judgment on rebellious Israel. His writing style suggests, however, an educated person with literary skill. He brought his messages primarily to the northern kingdom during a time of great prosperity, success, and ease, especially among the rulers and nobility. He courageously brought God's Word to bear on the lives of the people, even when he was directly opposed by northern leadership (see 7:10-17).

OUTLINE OF AMOS		
BURDENS - Chs. 1-2	SERMONS - Chs. 3-6	VISIONS - Chs. 7-9
The Lord roars!!! 1:1 Against Damascus 1:3-5 Against Gaza 1:6-8 Against Tyre 1:9-10 Against Edom 1:11-12 Against Ammon 1:13-15 Against Moab 2:1- 3 Against Judah 2:4- 5 Against Israel 2:6-8 God reasons with His people - Is not this so, O sons of Israel? 2:11	Hear this word - abusing divine privileges of being God's people - ch. 3 Hear this word - heartless selfishness and ignoring God's chastening - ch. 4 Hear this word - the day of the Lord is coming, and it won't be pretty - ch. 5 Woe! Luxury and pleasure will all be smashed in judgment - ch. 6	A locust swarm - 7:1-3 A consuming fire - 7:4-6 A plumb line - 7:5-9 Contention with the prophet - 7:10-17 A basket of summer fruit - 8 A final divine smiting and shaking in judgment - 9:1-10. A final restoring of Israel - 9:11-15

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

The love of wealth, ease, and pleasure are deadly life pursuits - see 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5!!!

God is far more interested in the purity and obedience of our hearts than He is in the academic and professional credentials on our resumes. Amos was a farmer (shepherd and fig keeper) who brought God's powerful message to a spiritually needy people.

Amos had a heart that burned with loyalty to God. His conscience was stung as he saw the prosperity of Israel with little if any obedience to the Lord. What specific evils in the churches today disturb your conscience? What can you do about them?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Obadiah: The Book of *Anti-Semitic Doom*

Entrance Exam:

1. Who was Edom? (See Genesis 25:30)
2. Why was there bad blood between Edom and Israel?
3. Where did the Edomites live?
4. What deceived the Edomites? (vs. 3)
5. Why was God so angry at Edom? (vs. 10)
6. What life principle do you learn from vs. 12?
7. What about from vs. 15?
8. How will God finally deal with Israel? With Edom? Vss. 17-18.
9. What does the Second Coming of Christ have to do with Edom according to Isaiah 61:1?
10. What is God's final word to Edom in vs. 21?

Isaiah 63:1 Edom represents a God-hating world (34:5). Messiah, coming as the avenger approaching Jerusalem to reign after having avenged His people on His and their enemies, is presented in imagery taken from the destruction of Edom, the representative in this picture of the last and most bitter foes of God and His people. He alone is "mighty to save." MacArthur Study Bible

FACT SHEET ON OBADIAH

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. We don't know exactly when Obadiah lived, but many think it was around 850 BC. His name means "Servant of the Lord." The background of this book is the "family feud" between Jacob and Esau. These twins even fought each other before they were born! See Gen. 25:21-34. Esau's descendants were called Edomites. They lived in a rugged mountainous region southeast of Judah and built fortress and homes in the caves and cliffs. They were extremely proud and thought themselves invincible. When Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC, the Edomites celebrated and applauded as the Babylonians carted off the wealth of Jerusalem. Some Jews escaping the Babylonians were cut down by the Edomites. God brought complete and final judgment on Edom. Not one survived.

OUTLINE OF OBADIAH		
Edom's Coming Slaughter 1-9	Edom's Gloating over Israel 10-14	Edom's Final Annihilation 15-21
Edom's pride deceived them - vs. 3.	God warns they will be covered with shame for gloating over Jacob's distress.	Edoom will reap what she sowed - vs. 15
God assures Edom, "I will bring you down!" - vs. 4		God will rescue Israel - vs. 17
Everyone will be cut off by slaughter - vs. 9		*Edom will have no survivor - vs. 18

*The Edomites were forced to move to southern Palestine and became known as Idumeans. Herod the Great was an Idumean. The Idumeans were defeated along with the Jews by Titus in AD 70. They were never heard of again, "cut off forever (vs. 10) and "no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau" (vs. 18).

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

What Pride and bitterness are two powerful and destructive sins. Pride goes before a fall and grudge holders always hurt themselves more than those against whom the grudge is held.

Gloating over other people's failures and distresses is a wicked sin which God hates and punishes severely. Romans 12:15 counsels us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Jonah: The Book of *God's Mercy*

Entrance Exam:

1. Why did God send Jonah to Nineveh? (1:2)
2. Where did Jonah go instead? Why? (1:3)
3. What two major things did the Lord do in chapter 1?
4. What was Jonah doing while the sailors were panicking?
5. What attitude did the sailors have as they tossed Jonah overboard?
6. What miracle took place in chapter 2?
7. How large was the city of Nineveh?
8. What was the result of Jonah's preaching?
9. Why did Jonah not want to preach to the Ninevites? (4:2)
10. What three things did God do in chapter 4? Why?

FACT SHEET ON JONAH

Jonah means “Dove” and grew up in Gath-Hepher, two miles north of Nazareth. He was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II, around 775 BC, fifty years before the Assyrian captivity (722 BC). God called Jonah to go into enemy territory, to the main political and military center, and announce to the people of Assyria that the God of Israel was giving them six weeks to repent or they would be toast. Instead Jonah headed to Tarshish, probably in Spain, as far as possible in the opposite direction. Through a storm and big fish, God brings Jonah back to start all over, this time in obedience. “Scripture presents the story as historical and the application of Jonah's experience to Christ's resurrection (Matt. 12:39-41) demands that we take the account with utmost seriousness.” (Nelson) The theme of Jonah is the sovereign greatness and inescapable grace of God. “A pagan nation repented at the preaching of a stranger, whereas Israel would not repent though preached to by many prophets.” (MacArthur Study Bible).

OUTLINE OF JONAH			
Jonah Running - ch. 1	Jonah Praying - ch. 2	Jonah Preaching - ch. 3	Jonah Pouting - ch. 4
Contrast Jonah and the sailors:	How does Jonah express a repentant heart?	What amazing things happened when Jonah preached? Why?	What was ruling Jonah's heart in this chapter?

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

1. Jonah should change the way we respond to God's calling on our lives. How?
2. Jonah should change the way we look at God's heart for lost people. How?
3. Jonah should change the way we think about our comfort and the needs of others. How?
4. Jonah should change the way we view our enemies. How?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Micah: The Book of *Failure and Forgiveness*

Entrance Exam:

1. During the reigns of which three kings did Micah prophecy?
2. What kinds of crimes are some planning on their beds? (2:1-2)
3. What are they doing to some of the women? (2:9)
4. What were the two actions of the prophets? (3:5)
5. What does Micah as a true prophet do under the Spirit's power? (3:8)
6. Whom will the Lord gather together in the last days? (4:6-7)
7. How does Micah describe the One who goes forth from Bethlehem ?Ephrathah? (5:2)
8. What does God require of His people? (6:7-8)
9. How does Micah describe the doctrine of justification by faith alone? (7:9)
10. What nine blessings of divine grace do you find in 7:18-20?

FACT SHEET ON MICAH

Micah means "Who is like the Lord?" (See 7:18). He came from Moresheth, a small town 20 miles south of Jerusalem, near Gath, and preached in the 8th century (735-710). He was a contemporary of Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, and Jonah. Micah was "blessed with Amos' passion for justice and Hosea's heart of love." Micah strongly denounced the ruthless business leaders and political rulers, and the worthless false prophets. He warns of the coming doom to Israel and Judah for their sins, and yet brings some of the brightest messages of hope and forgiveness in the Bible.

OUTLINE OF MICAH			
God's Warning of Judgment Against His People - 1-3:12	God's Promises for the End Times 4:1-5:15	God's Pleading with His People 6:1-7:10	God's Amazing Grace to His People 7:11-20
Rebellion in capital cities - 1:5	Jerusalem will be the center of the earth - 4:1-5	God has been good to His people - 6:3-5	Nations will be humbled before God - 7:17
Business Tycoons - 2:1-2, 8-11	God will bless the afflicted and outcasts - 4:6-10	God's will is simple for His people - 6:8	Who is a God like You? 7:18-20
Political Tyrants - 3:1-3	Christ will arise as Israel's Shepherd and Bringer of Peace 5:2-5	God will punish His people severely for their rebellion - 6:13-16	
Religious Hirelings - 3:5-8		Micah will wait on the Lord - 7:7-9	
All leaders condemned - 3:9-12			

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

Micah 6:8 gives us a simple plan for pleasing God. Jot down each part and a practical application:

1.	
2.	
3.	

What effect should God's forgiveness have on your life? AND, on how you forgive others who sin against you? See 7:18-20.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Nahum: The Book of *Divine Vengeance*

Entrance Exam:

1. Nineveh was the capital of which ancient kingdom? On which river?
2. How is God's vengeance described in 1:2?
3. While God is slow to anger, what will He not do? 1:3
4. What is God to His people? To His enemies? 1:7-8
5. What will God do to all devices against Him? 1:9
6. What was the good news for God's people in 1:15?
7. What does God promise His people in 2:2?
8. How will Ninevites respond to her destruction? 2:10
9. Of what was the bloody city full? 3:1
10. How thorough will God destroy Nineveh? What will people do over her? 3:19

FACT SHEET ON NAHUM

Nahum means "Full of Comfort." There is only speculation about "Elkoshite" and Nahum's home - possibly Capernaum (city of comfort) or southwest of Jerusalem. Some say his grave was near Nineveh itself! Nahum wrote this prophecy before the fall of Nineveh in 612 BC and after the fall of Thebes in 663 BC (3:8). "Like the thrust of a dagger, Nahum announced the doom of the great city of Nineveh. Within forty years every prediction from Nahum's lips came true." (Douglas Connelly) In 612 BC the Babylonian army smashed into Nineveh and utterly destroyed it so that for 2000 years no one even knew it was there! Nahum is a constant reminder that evil will sooner or later be judged. For those who wonder, "If there is a God, why does He allow evil?" this book demonstrates that because there is a God, evil will finally be severely judged. God will have His day of vengeance. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

OUTLINE OF NAHUM		
Ch. 1 - God Declares Nineveh's Destruction	Ch. 2 God Describes Nineveh's Destruction	Ch. 3 God Completes Nineveh's Destruction
God's attitudes toward the wicked -	The Babylonians pillage the city -	God utterly humiliates Nineveh.
God's attitudes toward His people -	God's message against Nineveh - 2:13	Compares her to Thebes. Final and permanent judgment for Nineveh's evil

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS:

List all the attributes of God mentioned in chapter one.

How does Nahum change your view of God?

Consider the kindness and severity of God (Romans 11:22. See 2 Peter 2:4-9 for a contrast. Also, read J. I. Packer's chapter on the kindness and severity of God in *Knowing God*.

How can Nahum help you answer the question: "If there is a God, why does He allow wicked tyrants to maim, torture, and mass murder other humans beings?" Consider the opposite: "If there is no God, where is justice?"

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Habakkuk: The Book of our *Trustworthy God*

Entrance Exam:

1. In your own words, what is Habakkuk's big question in 1:2-3?
2. What is the condition of the legal system in Habakkuk's day? 1:3b-4
3. What does God say He would do that His people wouldn't believe even if they were told? 1:5-6
4. What is Habakkuk's theological problem in 1:12-13?
5. What position does Habakkuk take in view of the coming devastation in 2:1?
6. How will the godly man live in the midst of affliction and terrorism? 2:4
7. What promise does God embed in the series of "woes" in 2:14?
8. What does Habakkuk cry out for God to do in 3:1-2?
9. How does God reveal Himself to Habakkuk in 3:3-6?
10. What is Habakkuk's final response to God in view of the coming invasion of Babylon? 3:16-19

FACT SHEET ON HABAKKUK

Habakkuk means "to embrace or "to wrestle." Habakkuk wrestled with his God: "Why do you allow your people to suffer at the hands of wicked men?" Yet that's exactly what God does in using the Babylonians as His rod of discipline. Then he embraced God in faith, trusting the sovereign, wise, eternal God through the horrors of the Babylonian invasion and captivity, 605 to 586 BC. The book of Habakkuk deals with the struggles of faith in an evil world and the triumph of faith in the sovereign God that leads to endurance and praise in spite of outward circumstances. No expressions of faith in the midst of disaster surpass Habakkuk's final resting and rejoicing in the God of his salvation in 3:16-19. Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted three times in the New Testament: Romans 1:17 (emphasizing faith); Galatians 3:11 (emphasizing "shall live"); and Hebrews 10:38 (emphasizing "the righteous man").

OUTLINE OF HABAKKUK	
Chs. 1-2 - Habakkuk's Problems	Ch. 3 Habakkuk's Praise
Problem #1 - Why doesn't God punish sin? 1:1-4 God's answer - He will chasten His people. 1:5-11	Prayer for mercy in the midst of wrath - 3:1-2
Problem #2 - Why does God use wicked people (the Babylonians) to punish His people? 1:12-2:1 God's answer - Because He can plus, He will punish the Babylonians later. 2:2-2:20 (Note the five woes in 2:6-19)	Vision of the sovereign majesty and awesome power of God over all the nations - 3:3-15 Praising God for His goodness regardless of horrendous circumstances - 3:16-17

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS:

What evils in this world have troubled your faith and led you to question God?

Habakkuk shows us three things about God: 1) God permits evil in our world. 2) God uses evil people to accomplish His purposes. 3) God will eventually judge evil and triumph over it.

Look up these references, write them out, and jot down on the back how they are helpful to you:

Habakkuk 2:1	
Habakkuk 2:20	
Habakkuk 3:2	
Habakkuk 3:18	

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
------------	---------	--------	----------------	----------------

Zephaniah: The Book of *God's Wrath and Salvation*

Entrance Exam:

1. What was Zephaniah's relationship to King Hezekiah? 1:1
2. What five categories of people does God warn that He will cut off? 1:4-6
3. Whom will God search out in 1:12?
4. How does Zephaniah describe the coming Day of the Lord in 1:15-16?
5. What will not be able to deliver people in the day of God's wrath? 1:18
6. Whom does God urge to seek Him? 2:3
7. What will God do to the gods of the earth? What do you think that means? 2:10-11
8. What four characteristics about Jerusalem made her a rebellious city? 3:1-2
9. What changes will God bring to His people in the last days? 3:8-13
10. How will the Lord respond to His people in these final days? 3:17,20

FACT SHEET ON ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah means “the Lord hides.” He was the only prophet of royal blood, descended from King Hezekiah. He preached during the days of Josiah, between 635-625 BC. His prophecy may have been a factor in Josiah's reforms. It is a severe and grim book warning Judah and Jerusalem of both the imminent wrath of God through Babylon and the final day of the Lord when God will pour out His wrath on the entire world. It is the Old Testament equivalent of Jonathan Edwards' sermon *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. However, right along with this “in your face” blast about coming wrath is Zephaniah's message of promise and protection for all who take refuge in the Lord. God will literally shout for joy in delight over His people (3:17)!

OUTLINE OF ZEPHANIAH	
Ch. 1-3:7 - The Judgment in the Day of the Lord	Ch. 3:8-3: The Salvation in the Day of the Lord
Judgment on the entire earth - 1:1-3 Judgment on Judah - 1:4-2:3 Description of the Day of the Lord - 1:14-17 A day of wrath, trouble, distress, destruction, desolation, darkness, gloom, confusion, thick darkness, trumpet and battle cry! Judgment on nations surrounding Judah - 2:4-15 Judgment on Jerusalem - 3:1-7	Future conversion of Israel - 3:8-13 Note marks of true regeneration in these verses. Future restoration of Israel - 3:14-20 • Great joy! vs. 14 • Israel's King, the Lord, in your midst. vs. 15 • Great confidence vs. 16 • God exults over His people vs. 17 • Weak people blessed vs. 18-19 • Renown and praise of the earth vs. 20

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

Every human being will face the future sweeping judgment of God as described by Zephaniah. Wealth, position, political power, and all the idols of the new age will be meaningless in that day. How does Romans 2:3-10 describe this future time of reckoning?

While there is nothing more fearful than facing the judgment of God, there is nothing more comforting than being sheltered securely in the love and power of God in the midst of overwhelming trouble. How does Romans 8:31-39 describe the believer's position with God regardless of circumstances?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Haggai: The Book of *Godly Priorities*

Entrance Exam:

1. To whom did God send His message through Haggai? 1:1
2. How were the people excusing themselves from working on the temple? 1:2-4
3. Why were the people not seeing much success in all their labors? 1:5-6, 9-11
4. How could the people begin to glorify the Lord? 1:7-8
5. What motivated the people to begin to work on the temple? 1:14
6. How did this temple compare with Solomon's temple? 2:1-3
7. How does the Lord encourage His people in 2:4-5?
8. What will happen when God shakes the heavens and earth? 2:6-7
9. How did the Lord chasten His people? How did they respond? 2:17
10. What else will God do when He shakes the heavens and the earth? 2:21-22

Haggai stood up in a society like ours where people were busy, where people had to work hard to make ends meet. He spoke at a time when people wanted to do less not more. Haggai looked busy people right in the eye and said, "Give careful thought to your priorities in life." Haggai is not calling us to launch a new building program for our church. He is challenging us to evaluate our lives in the light of God's direction and biblical priorities." (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON HAGGAI

Haggai is mentioned in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14. He may have been born in Babylon during the captivity and returned to Jerusalem with Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. His messages were delivered during a four month period in 520 BC. Haggai and Zechariah ministered to a discouraged and apathetic people who saw no reason to continue building the temple. Instead they were focusing all their energy on building and beautifying their own homes and property (1:4). Haggai's theme is clear: God's people must reorder their priorities and complete the temple before they can expect God's blessing. Four times he warns the people to "consider" their ways. He also pointed their attention ahead to the even greater glory of the final temple which Christ Himself would fill and the promise of great peace and prosperity under God's rulership (ch. 2:7, 9, 19, 21, 22, 23). Haggai 2:6-7 is quoted in Hebrews 12:26, speaking of "the cataclysm in the universe described in Rev. 6-19, the subjugation of the nations by the Messiah, and the setting up of His kingdom which will never be destroyed." (MacArthur Study Bible)

OUTLINE OF HAGGAI			
Consider and Build 1:1-15	Courage and Coming Glory 2:1-9	Obey and be Blessed 2:10-19	The Coming Shaking 2:20-23
<p><i>August 29, 520 BC (1:1)</i> Consider your ways - get your priorities straight! 1:1-11</p> <p>The Lord stirs up hearts to rebuild - 1:12-15 <i>September 21, 520 BC (1:15)</i></p>	<p><i>October 17, 520 BC (2:1)</i> Take courage and keep building - 2:1-5</p> <p>A greater glory for the temple is coming - Christ! 2:6-9 See John 1:14; 2:19-21</p>	<p><i>December 18, 520 BC (2:10)</i> God's chastening for their lack of holiness 2:10-17</p> <p>God will bless their obedience 2:18-19</p>	<p><i>December 18, 520 BC (2:20)</i> God will overthrow Israel's enemies and makes Zerubbabel a sign of His continuing work to bring about His kingdom on earth.</p>

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

1. Haggai was very direct in exposing the people's wrong priorities. Do you appreciate or resent it when someone challenges you about your priorities? Is God pleased with your level of ministry?
2. Has God stirred up your spirit to reorder your priorities? Are you spending too much time on personal things and less than enough time on godly pursuits? How are you using your time, talent, and treasures for building up the body of Christ? See Ephesians 4:16 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. Have you filled out a ministry sheet here at FBC? If not, do so today.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Zechariah: The Book of *Messiah's Return*

Entrance Exam:

1. What is God's attitude toward Jerusalem? 1:14-16
2. Who touches the apple of God's eye? 2:8
3. Who was accusing Joshua the high priest in 3:1-2?
4. What wonderful truth does the Lord give Zerubbabel in 4:6?
5. How is Christ described in 6:11-13?
6. What will Jerusalem be called in the coming kingdom? 8:3
7. What will cause Israel to mourn in 12:10?
8. What will be available for the Jews in 13:1?
9. What will happen when Christ returns in 14:4?
10. Where will the words "Holy to the Lord" be inscribed? 14:20-21

Zechariah came to people who lived every day in depressing circumstances, and he gave them God's perspective on their situation. He lifted people's eyes beyond the tedious work of everyday life and gave them a glimpse of their incredible future. We come away from Zechariah with a renewed sense of God's active involvement in human history. Our world is moving toward a goal. We aren't just a speck of cosmic dust spinning into oblivion. God has a purpose in all He does. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON ZECHARIAH

Like Haggai, Zechariah also returned from captivity. He was both a prophet and a priest. His prophecies began just two months after Haggai's first message. He is mentioned three times outside his own book, Ezra 5:1; 6:14; and Nehemiah 12:16. Zechariah is the longest minor prophet. His name means "The Lord Remembers," and Zechariah's message reminded the Jews that God had not forgotten His promises. He was still in control working out His plan even when nothing seemed to change day by day. Messiah would still come and establish His glorious kingdom on earth. "This book is the most messianic, apocalyptic, and eschatological in the OT." (MacArthur Study Bible). [Messianic - references to Christ; Apocalyptic - predicting endtime events; Eschatology - the branch of theology concerning the end times.]

OUTLINE OF ZECHARIAH		
Ch. 1-6 Eight Visions	Ch. 7-8 Four Messages	Ch. 9-14 Two Prophecies
1:7-17 Horseman - God will restore His people. 1:18-21 Four horns, craftsmen - judgment on Israel's enemies. 2:1-13 Man with measuring line - God will protect Jerusalem. 3:1-10 Cleansing of Joshua - Servant comes to save. 4:1-14 Lampstand, olive trees - power of God's Spirit. 5:1-4 Flying scroll - dishonesty cursed. 5:5-11 Woman in basket - wickedness will be removed. 6:1-8 Four chariots - global judgment	7:1-7 Rebuke of self-serving religion. "Was it actually for Me that you fasted?" 7:8-14 Repent of hardheartedness. "They made their hearts like flint." 8:1-8 Restoration of Israel. "The Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth." 8:9-23 Rejoice in Israel's future. "So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the Lord of Hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord."	9-11 The rejection of Messiah 12-14 The reign of Messiah "That day" occurs 16 times in these 3 chapters! Ch. 12 - Israel will look on Him Whom they have pierced - vs. 10 Ch. 13 - Christ the Shepherd struck for His sheep - vs. 7 Ch. 14 - Christ's return and rule over the entire earth - vs. 9

MESSIANIC REFERENCES (complete the truths for each reference)

6:12 - Jesus will be a	12:13 - Jesus will be
6:13 - Jesus will be both	14:4-8 Jesus will return to
9:9 - Jesus will enter	14:2-3 Jesus will destroy
11:12-13 - Jesus will be	9:10; 14:9,16 Jesus will reign over

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Pentateuch	History	Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
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Malachi: The Book of *Final Rebuke*

Entrance Exam:

1. What are God's attitudes toward Jacob and Esau? 1:2-5
2. How did the priests despise God's name? 1:7-8
3. What did God think about the priests' sacrifices? 1:10
4. What did God's covenant with Levi consist of? 2:5
5. What should characterize a true priest of the Lord? 2:7
6. How were the men treating their wives? 2:14-16
7. Why has Israel not disappeared in human history? 3:6
8. How were the people robbing God? 3:8-12
9. How are the godly people described in 3:16-18?
10. How are the wicked and godly dealt with when the Lord returns? 4:1-3

This last Old Testament prophet summarized all the prophets. They all made it clear that we are to take God seriously. These courageous men spoke harshly at times. They named sins and they named sinners. They didn't just laugh off compromise and disobedience and injustice. The prophets make us stop long enough to take a hard look at our actions and our attitudes before a holy awesome God. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON MALACHI

There were three waves of Jews returning from exile to Jerusalem: in 536 BC, in 458 BC under Ezra's leadership, and in 444 BC under Nehemiah. Malachi preached between 430 and 410 BC. The temple and the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt. But God's people had slipped deep into spiritual complacency and greed. Disillusioned, they wondered if God's promises of a Messiah would ever be fulfilled and whether it was worth serving God at all. Malachi's message probed deeply into their sins of hypocrisy, infidelity, mixed marriages, divorce, false worship, and arrogance. Malachi's name means "My Messenger." He was the last voice from God that stretched all the way back to Moses. After Malachi God remained silent for 400 years! Finally with John the Baptist did God again speak to His people. Significantly, the Old Testament ends with the word "cursed." The law can only curse and condemn. The gospel brings blessing and forgiveness. Malachi raises six point-counterpoint disputes, with the people on one side, the Lord on the other.

OUTLINE OF MALACHI					
1:1-5 Dispute 1: God's love	1:6-2:9 Dispute 2: God's honor	2:10-16 Dispute 3: God's covenant	2:17-3:5 Dispute 4: God's justice	3:6-12 Dispute 5: God's riches	3:13-4:6 Dispute 6: God's grace
God: I have loved you. People: How? God's answer:	God: You defiled my altar People: How? God's answer:	God: You profane my sanctuary People: How? God's answer:	God: You weary Me. People: How? God's answer:	God: You rob Me. People: How? God's answer:	God: You are arrogant. People: How? God's answer:

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

Let's apply God's questions to our own lives:

1. In what ways do you question God's love for you?
2. How may you present less than your best to God?
3. What is your attitude toward marriage and divorce?
4. Do you think God tolerates sin and evil?
5. Are you robbing God in your giving?
6. Do you get weary of serving and seeking your God?

Malachi's Prophecy	Confirmed in the NT
3:1, 3	John 2:14-17; Heb. 13:12
4:1	Rev. 20:11-15
4:2	Matt. 12:15; Rev. 21:4
3:1, 4:5	Matt. 11:10-14

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Matthew: The Book of *Christ the King*

Entrance Exam (you'll have to do some searching for these answers):

1. Why are Matthew, Mark, and Luke called the "Synoptic Gospels?"
2. Each Gospel presents Christ in a specific way. Matthew presents Christ as King/Messiah Mark as the Servant, Luke as the perfect Man and John as the Son of God.
3. To which group of people did Matthew write? Jews. Matthew uses the word "fulfilled" twelve times (Mark 4 times; Luke 7 times; John 9 times). Why is this significant?
4. List five topics Christ deals with in the Sermon on the Mount, chs. 5-7.
5. What miracles did Jesus perform in chapters 8-9?
6. How does Christ describe discipleship in 10:37-39?
7. What is a parable? Why did Jesus use parables? What parables did He tell in chapter 13?
8. What topics does Jesus emphasize in chapters 18-19?
9. Read chapter 27. List several things that stand out as especially powerful in this chapter.
10. What do we call Jesus' last words in Matthew 28:18-20? What are His major points?

FACT SHEET ON MATTHEW

- Matthew same as Levi the publican (Lk. 5:27-28)
- Wrote to Jewish audience to show Christ was Israel's promised Messiah and King.
- Quotes or alludes to the OT nearly 130 times.
- Placed first in NT as bridge between O & NT.
- Uses phrase "kingdom of heaven" 32 times.
- Jesus is the authoritative interpreter of the Law - "You have heard...but I say to you." (5:21-22)
- Develops his Gospel around five key discourses: Sermon on Mount (5-7); Apostles Commission (10); Kingdom Parables (13); Terms of Discipleship (18); Olivet Discourse (24-25).
- Only Gospel that mentions "church" (16:18).
- Emphasizes conflict between Christ and Pharisaism, Israel's rejection of Christ, and Christ's victory as coming King.

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW (List key events under each section)			
1-10 Arrival of the King	11-20 Antagonism against the King	21-27 The King Abandoned	The King is Alive!
Birth events John the Baptist Sermon on the Mount Miracles Disciples called	Pharisees oppose Christ Teaches in parables Transfiguration Kingdom humility Disciples instructed	Triumphal entry Woe to religious leaders Christ's return in power Garden, arrest, trials, and crucifixion	Empty tomb Great commission

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

The Sermon on the Mount (5-7) - find two ways Christ applies the law to the heart in ch. 5.

The Apostles' Commissioning (10) - What does Christ mean in vss. 34-39? What does this mean in your life?

The Kingdom Parables (13) - What are the things Satan uses to keep God's Word from taking root in people's lives? (13:18-23)

Terms of Discipleship (18) - What great truth did Jesus teach Peter in 18:21-35? When is this hardest for you?

The Olivet Discourse (24-25) - What point does Christ make in 24:42-44? How do you practice this each day?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Mark: The Book of *Christ the Servant*

Entrance Exam (Try to answer these without looking in Mark's Gospel)

- Whose mother-in-law did Jesus heal in Mark 1? What do you find significant about this fact?
- What did Jesus say when the Pharisees criticized Him for hanging out with sinners and tax collectors? (2)
- What question did the disciples ask Jesus when the boat was filling with water in the storm? (4)
- What did Jesus say when the people of His hometown of Nazareth took offense at Him? (6)
- Why did the Pharisees criticize the disciples for eating with unwashed hands? What did Jesus say? (7)
- What were the disciples discussing on their walk to Capernaum? What was Jesus answer? (9)
- How did Jesus clean up the temple? Why? How did the chief priests and scribes react? (11)
- How often did Peter deny Christ and what exactly did he say? (14)
- Which of Jesus' sayings on the cross does Mark include? (15)
- Who came to the tomb after the Sabbath? Why? What did they discover? (16)

FACT SHEET ON MARK

- Mark was Barnabas' cousin who turned back on the first missionary journey. He was restored to ministry and became Peter's companion (See Acts 12:25; 15:37-39; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13).
- Wrote in the 50's, primarily to a Roman, Gentile audience. He rarely quotes the Old Testament.
- The shortest gospel, using a direct, fast-moving style, focusing far more on Jesus actions than He teachings. Mark uses the word euthus or "immediately" 40 times in 39 verses (NASB)!
- Mark presents Jesus as the Servant, obedient to the Father's will, moving quickly to the central issue in the gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection.
- There is nothing in Mark about Jesus' birth, childhood experiences, or even a genealogy. "No one cares about the background or family tree of a servant."
- Mark highlights Jesus authority as the Son of God over Satan, sin, the Sabbath, nature, disease, death, legalistic tradition, and the temple.
- Mark structured his Gospel around Jesus' geographic movements: Galilee (1-8), on the way to Judea (9-10), in Jerusalem (11-13), the arrest and crucifixion (14-15), and His resurrection (16).

OUTLINE OF MARK (List key events under each section)	
Mark 1-8 HE CAME TO SERVE 1 - Preaching and healing many. 2 - Heals, calls Matthew, challenges Sabbath rules. 3 - Heals on Sabbath, chooses His disciples. 4 - Teaches parables and stills the sea 5 - Heals difficult cases (Gerasene, woman and girl) 6 - Teaches at Nazareth, sends the 12, feeds 5000+. 7 - Rebukes Pharisees, heals non-Israelite's daughter. 8 - Feeds 4000+, call for radical discipleship.	Mark 9-16 HE CAME TO SUFFER 9 - Transfiguration, tells of coming suffering, warns. 10 - Divorce, rich ruler, tells of death, resurrection.- 11 - Triumphal entry, cleanses temple, authority. 12 - Refutes Pharisees and Sadducees, widow's mite. 13 - Teaches on second coming. 14 - Upper room, Gethsemane, arrest, Peter's denials. 15 - Jesus tried, mocked, crucified, buried. 16 - Jesus risen!

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

- What does Mark's personal biography tell you about failure in the kingdom of God?
- Mark presents Jesus as the Servant. What is a good, working definition of a servant? How does a servant think among his/her family? At church? On the job? With friends? In your particular ministry? What does the opposite of being a servant look like in these situations?
- As a Servant, Jesus came to suffer. How does God and His will fit in your thinking about yours or others suffering in this life? Is your personal suffering your enemy or friend? Explain.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Luke: The Book of *Christ the Perfect Man*

ONLY IN LUKE: (from Douglas Connelly's book *The Bible For Blockheads*)

1. Gives the most complete coverage of Jesus' birth (1-2).
2. Details of John the Baptist's birth (1).
3. Mary's visit by Gabriel, journey to see Elizabeth, birth in a stable, and shepherd's visit (1-2).
4. Jesus' circumcision as an infant and visit to the temple at the age of twelve (2).
5. Carefully links events in Jesus' life to political rulers and world events (2:1; 3:1).
6. Reports Jesus' most vivid parables: Good Samaritan (10), Rich Fool (12), Prodigal Son (15), Scheming Manager (16), Rich Man and Lazarus (16).
7. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem and is visited by an angel in the Garden of Gethsemane (19; 22).
8. Relates seven occasions of Jesus praying not found elsewhere.
9. Jesus' interest and attention to children and women.
10. Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the Emmaus Road (24).

FACT SHEET ON LUKE

- Luke was the only Gentile author of Scripture.
- Luke was a physician (Col. 4:14 and accompanied Paul on some of his missionary travels (Acts 16:10-17) as well as his trip to Rome (Acts 27-28 "we").
- Luke's Gospel is part 1 of his two-part work (Acts).
- Luke did intense research on the life of Christ to give to Theophilus, a leading citizen, possibly a government official. Theophilus means "Lover of God." See Luke 1:1-4.
- Luke wrote his Gospel in the early 60's, possibly while Paul was in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23-26).
- Luke's Gospel is the longest NT book.
- Luke focuses on the humanity of Christ. Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man" 24 times in Luke.
- Luke records Jesus' human genealogy through Mary back through David's son Nathan and then all the way back to Adam in Genesis 2! (See Luke 3)
- Luke presents Christ as the Savior of the whole world, not just a Jewish Messiah. He pays particular attention to Jesus' ministry to the poor, outcasts, children, and women.

OUTLINE OF LUKE (List key events under each section)

OUTLINE OF LUKE (List key events under each section)		
Luke 1-9 The Savior's Arrival and Ministry Births of John and Jesus (1-2) Baptism, genealogy, and temptation (3-4) Public ministry in Galilee (4-9) Disciples called, teaching, & lots of miracles	T R A N S F I G U R A T I O N	Luke 9-24 The Savior's Rejection and Departure Seventy sent out (10) Mary and Martha account (10) Much teaching in (12-19) Last week (19-24) Triumphal Entry Trials and Crucifixion Resurrection, Emmaus Road, Ascension.

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS

What is the main point of each of these three parables:

The Rich Farmer - Luke 12:16-21 A man who trusts in his money and is not rich toward God is a fool.	The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32 God is a loving Father and self-righteousness is obnoxious.	The Unrighteous Judge - Luke 18:1-8 Keep praying to your heavenly Father. He's nothing like this unrighteous judge who finally gave the woman what she asked for.
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God's Route 66

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Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

John: The Book of *Christ the Son of God*

FACT SHEET ON JOHN

- John wrote his gospel to convince the world of one thing - see John 20:30-31
- John's gospel was the last to be written, between A.D. 80 & 90.
- John does not begin with Jesus birth of ancestry. Instead John begins with this ringing declaration: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!"
- John focuses on Jesus' encounters with individuals - can you think of any?
- John uses one word 98 times - take a guess_____
- John includes four chapters (13-16) of Jesus ministering to His disciples in the Upper Room, with some of Jesus' most memorable and comforting words. "The rest of the New Testament simply unpacks the deep truths that Jesus taught in these few hours with His friends."

THE PROLOGUE Find at least ten descriptions of Jesus in John 1:1-18

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Word • With God • Was God • Creator of all things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light and life for all • Rejected by many, received by some • Became flesh - fully human 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique Son of the Father • Full of grace and truth • Made God known to us
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MIRACLES OR SIGNS Find the seven "signs" that proved Jesus was indeed the Son of God

2:1-11 Water to wine	6:1-15 Fed over 5000 with sack lunch	9:1-12 Healed a man born blind
4:43-54 Healed official's son	6:16-21 Walked on water	11:1-44 Raised Lazarus from the dead
5:1-15 Cured sick man in Jerusalem		

The "I AM's" of John Find the seven "I am" statements Jesus made about Himself in John

6:35,48 Bread of life	10:11,14 Good Shepherd	14:6 Way, Truth, and Life
8:12; 9:5 Light of the World	11:25 Resurrection and Life	15:1 True Vine
10:7,9 The gate		

OUTLINE OF JOHN

Jesus and the World - Chs. 1-12	Jesus and His Friends - Chs. 13-17	Jesus and His Victory - Chs. 18-22

THREE FAMOUS SAYINGS FROM THE UPPER ROOM Write them out:

John 14:6	John 14:27	John 15:5

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Acts: The Book of the *Early Church*

ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ACTS: Identify the following people in Acts:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Wanted to buy the power of the Spirit _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 2. A great preacher who needed more understanding _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 3. Struck by an angel, eaten by worms, and died _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 4. Preached Jesus to an Ethiopian traveler _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 5. A Roman centurion who welcomed God's messenger _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 6. Cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 7. She abounded in deeds of charity and kindness _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 8. The source of a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 9. God told him to go see a man named Saul _____ | Chapter? _____ |
| 10. Stoned to death for preaching Christ _____ | Chapter? _____ |

FACT SHEET ON ACTS

- Luke wrote Acts as the second volume of his historical accounts of Christ's life and the early church, both written to Theophilus.
- Acts is known as "The Acts of Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles." See Acts 1:1-3 for Christ's activities for the forty days between His resurrection and ascension. Christ returns to heaven and sends His Spirit to empower His apostles to preach the gospel throughout the world. (See Acts 17:6-7).
- Acts is a transitional book. God's program moves from a focus on Israel to a focus on the world, from the old covenant to the New Covenant. It is a history of the apostolic, foundational period of the church (see Ephesians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 12:12). The apostles were given certain sign gifts we don't need today.
- Luke uses the personal pronouns "we" and "us" in 16:10-17; 20:6-21:18; 27:1-28:16. Luke actually accompanied Paul to Rome and probably served as his personal physician (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11).

OUTLINE OF ACTS - Acts 1:8 (Summarize key events in each section)

Established: Jerusalem (2 years) Chs. 1-7 Summarize: • Christ's final instructions, ascends • Pentecost, Spirit comes (1) • Peter preaches - 3000 saved (2) • Healing and arrest (3-4) • Ananias and Sapphira (5) • Seven chosen to assist (6) • Stephen martyred (7)	Enlarged: Judea and Samaria (12 years) Chs. 8-12 Summarize: • Philip preaches in Samaria, to Ethiopian (8) • Paul's conversion (9) • Peter's vision, preaches to Cornelius (10) • Church spreads to Antioch • Peter arrested, Herod struck down	Expanded: Ends of the Earth (15 years) Chs. 13-28 Summarize: • First missions trip (13-14) • Church Council (15) • Second missions trip (16-18) • Third missions trip (18-20) • Paul's arrest and trials (21-26) • Paul travels to Rome (27-28)
Peter from Pentecost to Cornelius (AD 30-44)		Paul from Jerusalem to Rome (AD 44-62)

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS IN ACTS

1. Compare Peter's message in Acts 2 with Paul's message in Acts 17. What differences do you see? What is the same?
2. Acts ends without really ending: "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, with all openness, unhindered." That's because God's plan of evangelism and building His church continues right up to our own day. Can you identify key events or eras in church history over the last 2000 years? Between AD 100 & 500? AD 500 & 1000? AD 1000 & 1500? 1500 & 2005?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Romans: The Book of **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

ENTRANCE EXAM Explain these key words in Romans:

Gospel (1:16)	Sanctification (6:22)
Wrath of God (1:18)	Called (8:28)
Righteousness (3:21-22)	Foreknew (8:29)
Sin (3:23)	Predestined (8:29)
Justification (3:24)	Glorified (8:30)
Grace (3:24)	Remnant (11:5)
Redemption (3:24)	Chosen (11:5)
Propitiation (3:25)	Conformed (12:2)
Counted or imputed (4:5)	Transformed (12:2)
Reconciled (5:10)	Mystery (16:25)

FACT SHEET ON ROMANS

- ☐ Written by the apostle Paul from Corinth in his third missionary journey (AD 56-57).
- ☐ Church in Rome probably had its start from the day of Pentecost – see Acts 2:10.
- ☐ Romans is the foundational document of true Christianity. Every great truth of the Christian faith can be drawn from Romans.
- ☐ The key word in Romans is “righteousness.” It is used 35 times in 30 verses.
- ☐ God has used Romans in almost every true awakening or revival in church history, especially through Luther and Calvin in the Reformation (1500s) and Jonathan Edwards in the Great Awakening (1700s)

OUTLINE OF ROMANS – Summarize the basic teaching in each of these major sections of Romans:

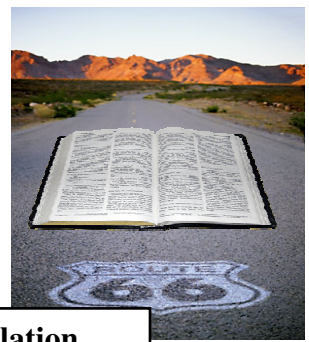
Sin – Romans 1-3:20 Paul is not ashamed of the gospel and proves that all people are guilty before God and under His wrath. Those who never heard are accountable by creation and conscience. Moral people offend their own conscience. Religious people don't practice what they preach. None are righteous.
Salvation – Romans 3:21-5 God has provided His own righteousness through Jesus Christ and His work on the cross for all who believe. Abraham and David were justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We have peace with God through Christ. Christ came as the second Adam and brought life.
Sanctification – Romans 6-8 All believers are united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and therefore do not continue in sin. They struggle with sin but the Holy Spirit helps them overcome the flesh. God called every believer to be like His Son. Nothing will separate believers from God's love in Christ.
Sovereignty – Romans 9-11 God has not forgotten Israel. Not every Jew is one of God's elect. God chooses whomever He pleases. God's election is revealed through faith in Christ for Jews and Gentiles. God is focusing on Gentiles but will fulfill all His promises to Israel in the future, to His glory!
Service – Romans 12-16 God calls believers to be living sacrifices for His service and to be transformed by renewing our minds. We are to use our gifts, humbly serve others, submit to government, fulfill the law by loving others and not causing others to stumble. Paul ends with personal greetings to many in Rome.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM ROMANS

1. How many verses in Romans do you have memorized? ____ If you've never memorized Romans 12:1-2, write it out on the back of this sheet and begin to memorize it.
2. What is your favorite part of Romans? _____ Why?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's



Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Word

1 Corinthians: The Book of *Spiritual Correction*

ENTRANCE EXAM - True or False and find the reference:

- _____ The church in Corinth was begun on Paul's first missionary journey. Ref: Acts 18
- _____ Paul baptized a few believers in Corinth. Ref: 1 Cor. 1:14-16
- _____ The Corinthians were mature believers ready for the meat of the Word. Ref: 1 Cor. 3:1-3
- _____ There was a man in the Corinthian church guilty of incest. Ref: 1 Cor. 5:1
- _____ A saved partner should not allow their unsaved spouse to leave. Ref: 1 Cor. 7:15
- _____ Paul made his body his slave so he would not be disqualified as a preacher. Ref: 1 Cor. 8:27
- _____ Some temptations are too strong for believers to escape their power. Ref: 1 Cor. 10:13
- _____ It is improper for a man to have long hair. Ref: 1 Cor. 11:14
- _____ The main purpose of spiritual gifts is to edify yourself as a Christian. Ref: 1 Cor. 14:26
- _____ At the resurrection our bodies will be changed in a split second. Ref: 1 Cor. 15:52

FACT SHEET ON 1 CORINTHIANS

- ☐ Corinth was a wealthy, sports-crazed, X-rated "Las Vegas" of the ancient world. To "Corinthianize" referred to drunkenness and sexual promiscuity.
- ☐ It was strategically located on a narrow strip of land between the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. It was a center for east-west trade routes.
- ☐ Paul spent 18 months in Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18). Jews tried to have him arrested at the judgment seat!
- ☐ Paul wrote this letter in AD 56 during his third missionary journey to correct problems among the believers.
- ☐ Paul is responding to three reports: from Chloe about quarrels (1:11), a report of incest (5:1), and questions about practical matters (7-16).
- ☐ Paul's explanation of God's kind of love (ch. 13) and the importance of the resurrection of the body (ch. 15) are classic sections of this letter.

OUTLINE OF 1 CORINTHIANS Look up the sections and note the problems and solutions

Reference	Problem and solution
Chs. 1-4	
Ch. 5	
Ch. 6	
Ch. 7	
Chs. 8-10	
Ch. 11	
Ch. 11	
Chs. 12-14	
Ch. 15	
Ch. 16	

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

Look up these verses and plan to memorize them:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20	1 Corinthians 10:13	1 Corinthians 15:58

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

2 Corinthians: The Book of *Ministry Struggles and Victories*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What are the values or purposes of God's comfort in afflictions in ch. 1?
2. What does God manifest through believers in ch. 2?
3. What happens in our lives as we behold God's glory in ch. 3?
4. Why should we never lose heart in ch. 4?
5. What is true about anyone in Christ in ch. 5?
6. What should be the effect of God's promises in our lives in ch. 7?
7. What should encourage our giving in ch. 9?
8. What are the weapons of our warfare designed to do in ch. 10?
9. What should not surprise us about Satan's servants in ch. 11?
10. How did the Lord answer Paul's prayer to remove his thorn in the flesh in ch. 12?

What you will learn from 2 Corinthians is that the character of Jesus is developed in us not through comfort and promotion but most often through brokenness and pain. If you are being broken or humbled in your life right now, God is working on you. We think broken things are to be tossed aside, but that is not true in God's program. God in his grace takes broken, weak people and fashions them into men and women of wisdom and influence. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON 2 CORINTHIANS

- ❑ Written from Macedonia on Paul's third missionary journey in AD 56-57.
- ❑ False teachers had come in and swayed the believers against Paul, that he was fickle, proud, unimpressive, dishonest, and unqualified as an apostle.
- ❑ 2 Corinthians exposes Paul's heart and feelings more than any other epistle. We learn that he is a very human, real person.
- ❑ The time line for Paul's involvement with the Corinthian church:
 1. Church founded on 2nd missionary journey - Acts 18.
 2. Lost letter dealing with immorality - 1 Cor. 5:9.
 3. 1 Corinthians from Ephesus, 3rd journey - 1 Cor. 16:8-9.
 4. Timothy's news of false teachers - 1 Cor. 16:10
 5. Paul's "painful visit" from Ephesus - 2 Cor. 2:1
 6. Paul's "severe letter" by Titus from Ephesus - 2 Cor. 2:4
 7. 2 Corinthians from Macedonia, based on Titus' good news - 2 Cor. 7:5-8.

OUTLINE OF 2 CORINTHIANS

Chapters 1-7 Paul Defends His Ministry 1 - God comforts the afflicted. 2 - Affirm love for sorrowful. 3 - New Covenant ministry of life. 4 - Power of ministry of God. 5 - Ministry of reconciliation. 6 - Call to separation from idols. 7 - Joy in godly repentance.	Chapters 8-9 Paul Encourages Cheerful Giving 8 - Call to abound in giving. 9 - Principles of liberal, cheerful giving.	Chapters 10-13 Paul Confronts False Apostles 10 - Paul's warfare is not fleshly but divinely powerful. 11 - Paul's godly jealousy of the believers and exposing Satan's workers. 12 - Paul's vindication of his apostleship. 13 - Paul urges self-examination.
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LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 2 CORINTHIANS

List practical applications from the following passages:

1:3-4	Write out and memorize 2 Corinthians 5:9
3:18	
5:9-10	
12:9-10	

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Galatians: The Book of *Justification by Faith Alone*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What are the five "solos" of the Reformation and why are they so important?
2. What is Paul's comment on those who pervert the gospel of grace? 1:6-9
3. Why did Paul have to confront Peter publicly in Antioch? 2:11ff?
4. What did the Scripture foresee? 3:8-9
5. What is true about believers in Christ now that faith has come? 3:25-29?
6. What happened when the fullness of time came? 4:4-7
7. What three things are true if we seek to be justified by the law in 5:2-4?
8. How does Paul urge us to use our freedom in 5:13?
9. What does Paul warn people about if they practice the deeds of the flesh? 5:19-20
10. How do believers fulfill the law of Christ in 6:2?

FACT SHEET ON 2 CORINTHIANS

- ❑ Where was Galatia? The northern theory says these Galatians were ethnic Gauls who lived in northern Asia Minor. The southern theory says Paul wrote to the churches he founded in his first missionary journey: Pisidian Antioch, Derbe, Iconium, Lystra (Acts 12-14).
- ❑ Paul probably wrote Galatians after AD 49, following the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15.
- ❑ Paul fired off this Galatian letter to counter the Judaizers who insisted that Gentile believers come under the law of Moses. He pronounces a curse on all who preached any other so-called "gospel." He was shocked that these believers were so quickly abandoning the doctrine of justification by faith alone.
- ❑ Galatians teaches that believers in Christ are not under the law of Moses but rather under the law of Christ, empowered by the Spirit of Christ. The fruit of the Spirit fulfills the essence of God's moral and spiritual standards.

OUTLINE OF GALATIANS

<i>Chapters 1-2 Justification by faith defended</i> Ch. 1 - Paul received the teaching of justification by faith alone from Christ and curses all who pervert the gospel of the grace of God. Ch. 2 - Paul publicly rebukes Peter for compromising the gospel and erring from the truth.	<i>Chapters 3-4 Justification by faith explained</i> Ch. 3 - The law was given to show us our sin and point us to Christ. We are sons of God through faith in Christ alone. Ch. 4 - Since Christ redeemed us from the law, why go back to it?	<i>Chapters 5-6 Justification by faith applied</i> Ch. 5 Christ set us free to love one another and walk in the Spirit, not the flesh. To fall from grace means to fall back under the law. (vs. 4). Ch. 6 Bear one another's burdens and boast only in the cross of Christ.
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LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM GALATIANS

What does chapter 2 teach you about justification?
What does chapter 3 teach you about faith?
What do chapters 5-6 teach you about the Spirit?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Ephesians: The Book of *Our Riches in Christ*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. When and why did God choose you to be in Christ in 1:4?
2. What three things does God want you to know in 1:18-29?
3. When and why did God make you alive together with Christ in 2:4-5?
4. What five things does Paul pray for you in 3:14-19?
5. What are the practical goals of the church according to 4:11-16?
6. How does Paul describe us in our lost condition in 4:17-19?
7. What is the main reason we should be quick to forgive others in 4:32?
8. In what two ways are husbands to love their wives in 5:25-29?
9. What are fathers to be careful not to do to their children in 6:4?
10. What is required in order for you to stand firm in the evil day according to 6:13?

Before the creation of the universe God thought of me. He fixed his gaze on me and chose me for himself. He did not choose me because I was already in Christ of my own doing, but that I might be in Christ. He did not choose me because he saw me as a believer, but so that I might become a believer. He did not choose me because I chose him, but so that I might choose him. He did not choose me because I was holy or good but so that I might become holy and good. (John Piper)

FACT SHEET ON EPHESIANS

- ☐ If Romans is the King of the epistles, Ephesians is the Queen of the epistles.
- ☐ Paul wrote Ephesians in AD 60 from prison - "the prisoner of the Lord" (4:1)
- ☐ Paul had spent three years in Ephesus on his third missionary journey and left behind a strong body of believers. He addressed the elders of Ephesus in Acts 20.
- ☐ In Ephesians Paul details the believer's riches in Christ and then exhorts us how to walk in a worthy manner in light of our spiritual wealth.
- ☐ The concept of the believer's position "in Christ" is fully developed in this epistle. All the believer is and ever will be is because of his position "in Christ." Find as many references to being "in Christ" as you can in this short letter.

OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

Chapters 1-3 WEALTH (Sit) Ch. 1 - Chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, sealed and protected by the Spirit. Ch. 2 - Made alive and brought near in Christ. Ch. 3 - The mystery, power, and love of Christ for His people.	Chapters 4-6:9 WALK (Walk) Ch. 4:1-16 - Unity of the body. Ch. 4:17-5:21 - Godliness in the body. Ch. 5:22-6:9 Responsibilities in the home and workplace	Chapters 6:10-24 WARFARE (Stand) Ch. 6:10-13 - Believer's warfare Ch. 6:14-24 - Believer's armor: Belt of truth Breastplate of righteousness Shoes of gospel readiness Shield of faith Helmet of salvation Sword of the Spirit - Word of God All-Prayer
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LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM EPHESIANS

List all the things God says He has done for you in chapter one:

What does God tell you to put off and put on in the following verses:						
4:22-24	4:25	4:28	4:29	4:31-32	5:3-4	5:17-18

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Philippians: The Book of *Joy in the Lord*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. Of what is Paul confident for these believers in Philippi? (1:6)
2. What group of people were well aware of Paul's imprisonment for Christ? (1:13)
3. There is a simple "put off - put on" direction in 2:3. Without looking, what is it?
4. What did Christ not regard in 2:6?
5. What two things does God work in His people in 2:13? (Don't look).
6. What does Paul consider everything in comparison to knowing Christ? (3:8)
7. What three things is true about the enemies of the cross of Christ? (3:18-19).
8. Without looking, what are the names of the two ladies Paul urged to live in harmony in chapter 4?
9. What will God's peace do in vs. 7 and what is the condition in vs. 6?
10. What secret did Paul learn in 4:11-13?

The Christian knows that God is at work in every circumstance of life to bring about what he desires and to sculpt us into men and women with the character of Jesus. We may not rejoice for every situation, but we can rejoice in it because we know that nothing is outside of God's control. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON PHILIPPIANS

- ❑ Paul brought the gospel to Philippi on his second missionary journey in response to the "Macedonian Call" - Acts 16:9-40. Lydia was the first convert to Christ in Europe. The Philippian jailor and many in his home came to Christ.
- ❑ Philippians is one of Paul's "prison epistles," written between AD 60-63.
- ❑ Epaphroditus brought Paul a gift from the Philippians and brought this letter back with him - 2:24, 4:18.
- ❑ Joy and rejoicing occur 16 times! Philippians teaches us what it means to have joy and contentment even in life's most difficult circumstances.
- ❑ Philippians 2:5-9 is one of the great "Christological" passages of the New Testament.

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

Ch. 1 Joy in the Faith	Ch. 2 Joy in Serving	Ch. 3 Joy in Christ	Ch. 4 Joy in Contentment
1:1-11 Paul's confidence and prayer. 1:12-20 Paul's circumstances and goal. 1:21-30 Paul's desire for fruitful ministry.	2:1-11 Serving with the humility of Christ. 2:12-18 Serving in the power of God. 2:19-24 Timothy's servant's heart. 2:25-30 Epaphroditus' servant's heart.	3:1-6 Paul's worthless human credentials. 3:7-16 Paul's supreme passion to know Christ. 3:17-21 Paul's heavenly expectation	4:1-3 Living in harmony. 4:4-9 Experiencing God's peace. 4:10-23 Learning the secret of contentment

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM PHILIPPIANS

How does Philippians one teach you to view the circumstances in your life?

How does Philippians two teach you to practice the mind of Christ?

How does Philippians three teach you to value Christ?

How does Philippians four teach you to handle worry and discontent?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Colossians: The Book of *the Supremacy of Christ*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. How does Paul describe the gospel in 1:5-6.
2. What are three evidences of a worthy walk in 1:10?
3. What two truths does 1:17 teach you about Christ?
4. What was Paul's ministry goal and how did he pursue it in 1:28?
5. What did God do for you when you were dead in sins in 2:13?
6. In what areas should you not allow others to judge you in 2:16?
7. What three key connections do you have with Christ in 2:20; 3:1; 3:4?
8. On what basis should you stop lying to others in 3:10-11?
9. What attitude are you to have as an employee in 3:22-24?
10. What were the Colossian believers supposed to do with this letter? (4:16)

The Christian life is not a frustrating attempt to live by a long list of Christian rules. The Christian life flows from an inner change produced by God. If we believe in the Jesus of Colossians 1 and 2, we can't keep living the way we've always lived. Jesus is supreme, and Jesus is all we will ever need for spiritual fulfillment and peace with God. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON COLOSSIANS

- ❑ Paul had never visited Colosse. Epaphras probably brought the message of Christ to them. Colosse was about 100 miles east of Ephesus, along the Lycus River.
- ❑ Paul wrote Colossians from his prison in Rome between AD 60-62. Tychicus delivered it to the Colossian believers. Paul wanted this letter to be read in Laodicea also - see 4:16
- ❑ Paul refutes the "Jesus plus" problem. Jesus plus legalism, Jesus plus mysticism, Jesus plus other gods (pluralism), and Jesus plus higher knowledge (gnosticism).
- ❑ The major theme of Colossians is the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. All we will ever need in our relationship with God is found in Jesus Christ alone!

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

Chs. 1 & 2 Christ For Us		Chs. 3 & 4 Christ In Us	
1:1-12 Prayer for growth in the gospel of grace.	2:1-7 Finding in Christ all the treasures of God's wisdom.	3:1-4 The believer's exalted position in Christ.	4:2-6 Prayer and proclaiming the grace of Christ.
1:13-23 The preeminence of Jesus Christ over all creation.	2:8-15 Refuting false teaching by the fullness of Christ's person and work.	3:5-17 Putting off deeds of the flesh and putting on graces of the Spirit.	4:7-18 People serving Christ and His people:
1:24-29 The mystery and ministry of Christ in you, the hope of glory!	2:16-23 Rejecting heresies of adding to the gospel of Christ alone.	3:18-4:1 Pleasing God in key relationships: marriage, family, employment.	Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Jesus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas (!), Archippus.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM COLOSSIANS

What does Colossians 1 tell you about Jesus Christ?	What does Colossians 3 tell you to put off and put on?	
	Put off:	Put on:

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

1 Thessalonians: The Book of *Discipling Through Tough Times*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. How were these Thessalonians believers imitators of Paul and company? 1:6
2. What three actions describe their conversion in 1:9-10?
3. Find seven things Paul did NOT when he came to them in 2:3-6.
4. Why was Paul especially thankful to God in 2:13?
5. What are believers destined for in 3:3?
6. What kind of hearts does Paul pray they might have when Christ returns? 3:13
7. What is God's clear, explicit will for us in 4:3?
8. Where will believers meet Christ when He returns? When will this happen?
9. How will the Day of the Lord come to unbelievers? To believers? 5:1-11
10. What is God's clearly revealed will for us in 5:16-18?

The little letter of 1 Thessalonians takes only a few minutes to read, but it challenges us to a lifetime of committed living. Opposition will come; the enemy will throw all he can at us at times. That's when we find out whether our faith is real or not. That's the time to read this letter again. When persecution or ridicule or opposition presses down, that's when God calls us to hang in there.... The promises God made will be fulfilled. Keep going, and keep trusting Him. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON 1 THESSALONIANS

- ❑ Paul visited Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. Silas and Timothy were with him.
- ❑ There was a synagogue there so Paul preached there. When many non-Jews came to Christ and a few Jews, they were barred from worshipping in the synagogue (see Acts 17:1-9).
- ❑ The Jews accused Paul and the Christians of stirring up a rebellion. Paul left for Berea.
- ❑ Paul sent Timothy back to see how these new believers were doing. Timothy brought great news that they were doing well.
- ❑ Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians in AD 50/51 to encourage them in their new life in Christ and to instruct them about living to please Christ and to look for His imminent return. Each chapter ends with a reminder of Christ's return from heaven for His people.

OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS (F-A-I-T-H)

1 - F ull Conviction	2 - F ond Affection	3 - I n The Lord	4 - T rumpet of God	5 - H e is Faithful
1-3 Faith, love, hope 4-5 Power of the gospel 6-8 Joyful example 9-10 Turned, to serve, and to wait.	1-8 Bold and gentle 9-12 Exhorting and strong 13 The Word working 14-20 Facing opposition	1-5 Concern for believers 6-10 Grateful for believers 11-13 Prayer for growth in love and holiness	1-8 Called to purity 9-12 Urging more love 13-18 Looking for Jesus	1-11 The Day of the Lord 12-22 Godly guidelines for pleasing God 21-28 He is faithful

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 1 THESSALONIANS

<p>Explain these phrases from chapter 1:</p> <p>Work of faith -</p> <p>Labor of love -</p> <p>Steadfastness of hope -</p> <p>How do these three graces of the new heart fit in with vss. 9-10?</p>	<p>If you wrote a letter of encouragement to a new believer, what three truths from 1 Thessalonians would you definitely want to be sure to include? Which are most encouraging to you?</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>
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God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

2 Thessalonians: The Book of *the Day of the Lord*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What was the status of the Thessalonians' faith and love by now? 1:3
2. Upon whom will Jesus deal out retribution when He returns? 1:8
3. What penalty will these people have to pay? 1:9
4. What had caused these believers to be disturbed? 2:2
5. What exactly will the "man of lawlessness" do when he is revealed? 2:4
6. Why will many be deceived by this lawless one according to 2:10-12?
7. Why should we be extremely thankful to God according to 2:13?
8. How should you pray for the ministry of God's Word? 3:1
9. What order did Paul give them while he was still with them? 3:10
10. What command does Paul give to undisciplined busybodies? 3:11-12

People who think they know when Jesus will return are still around. They sell their books or build a web site or gather their followers on a hillside so they will be first in line to see Jesus. When their predictions don't come true, they write another book to explain their error and to set a new timetable for the end of time.... The next time someone claims to know when Jesus will come again, put the book back on the shelf, turn the channel on the television, or click off the web site and pick up the Bible! (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON 2 THESSALONIANS

- ❑ Paul wrote this letter just a few months after 1 Thessalonians, while he was still in Corinth, between AD 51-52.
- ❑ The dangers of false teaching and disobedient living made this letter necessary. Someone sent them a letter claiming to be from Paul but contradicting what Paul had taught. And some of the believers were quitting their jobs and waiting for Jesus' return.
- ❑ The key theological theme of 2 Thessalonians is eschatology, that is, the study of the end times.
- ❑ Paul corrects false teaching about the coming Day of the Lord, the "Man of Lawlessness" (Anti-Christ), and the second coming of Christ in judgment.
- ❑ Paul encourages the believers about their election by God and their assurance of gaining the glory of Christ.

OUTLINE OF 2 THESSALONIANS (Headings adapted from MacArthur's Study Bible)

Ch. 1 Comfort for the Discouraged	Ch. 2 Correction for the Deceived	Ch. 3 Concern for the Disobedient
1-4 Growing in faith, love, and hope. 5-10 Christ will return in fiery judgment against His enemies and glory for His people. 11-12 Prayer for God's work in their hearts.	1-2 Calming fears about the Day of the Lord. 3-12 Truth about the restraining, revealing, and destruction of the man of lawlessness. 13-17 God's people are chosen and called to gain the glory of Christ.	1-5 Prayer for God's Word and God's people. 6-13 Confronting undisciplined busybodies to work and provide for themselves. 14-18 Instruction on dealing with disobedient believers.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 2 THESSALONIANS

<p>What do these passages add to your understanding of the Antichrist?</p> <p>Daniel 7:21-22</p> <p>Daniel 11:36</p> <p>Daniel 9:27</p> <p>Matthew 24:15</p> <p>Revelation 13:1-9</p> <p>Revelation 19:19-20</p>	<p>If you were convinced that Jesus would return in exactly one year, how would you prepare? How would your life change? Give this serious thought. Remember that Christ's return is "imminent."</p> <p>How do you respond to popular radio and TV preachers who set dates for the return of Christ?</p>
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God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
----------------	----------------	------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------

1 Timothy: The Book of *Pastoral Counsel*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What is the goal of all of our teaching and preaching? 1:5
2. How does 2:3-6 refute pluralism?
3. Why are women not to rule over men in the church in 2:13-14.
4. Why should an elder not be a recent convert? 3:6
5. What teachings of false teachers did Paul warn us about in 4:3?
6. In what areas was Timothy to be an example in 4:12?
7. How is a young man to minister to different groups in the church? 5:1-2
8. About what does Paul solemnly charge Timothy in 5:21?
9. What easily happens to those who want to get rich? 6:9
10. How are wealthy believers to handle their earthly riches? 6:17-19

God doesn't want us to use the church down the street as the measuring stick for our church; he wants us to use his truth. How committed are we to holding faithfully to what God has said through the writers of the New Testament? It seems we never change what should be changed to reach out to people around us with the message of Jesus' love. We hold on to our traditional ways as if they came from Jesus himself. But at the same time we easily ignore God's truth and end up altering what should never be changed--God's instructions to his people. 1 Timothy is a needed reminder of what is really important. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON 1 TIMOTHY

- ❑ After Paul's first Roman imprisonment he revisited areas where he had preached the gospel. Paul visited Ephesus and then went on to Macedonia and wrote 1 Timothy to Timothy whom he had left in Ephesus.
- ❑ He was concerned that the second generation of leaders like Timothy would remain strong in the faith and give godly leadership to God's people.
- ❑ Paul wrote 1 Timothy to deal with false teaching and give direction on guiding the church - 1 Tim. 3:15.
- ❑ Timothy's name means "one who honors God." His mother and grandmother were godly Jewish believers. His dad was a Greek.
- ❑ Timothy was from Lystra. Paul chose Timothy to accompany him as an assistant because of his good reputation (see Acts 16:1-3). Timothy accompanied Paul for the rest of Paul's ministry, including up to Rome, often serving as Paul's personal representative.
- ❑ Now Paul had left Timothy at Ephesus to help correct some of the problems in that church - 1 Tim. 1:3.

OUTLINE OF 1 TIMOTHY with chapter summaries

Ch. 1	Ch. 2	Ch. 3	Ch. 4	Ch. 5	Ch. 6
Correction of false teaching about the law Reject legalism and speculations with God's kind of love - vs. 5	Counsel for men and women Pray for peace so the gospel can go forth to all people. Women are to be modest and submissive.	Character of church leaders Elders and deacons are to be men of godly character. The church is the pillar and support of the truth	Conduct for young leaders Stay nourished on God's Word, be disciplined, set an example, and pay close attention to yourself and your teaching.	Care for people in the fellowship Treat all with respect, honor godly widows, encourage marriage, and do everything without partiality.	Contentment and godliness Employees must respect masters, godliness + contentment = great gain, flee money-love and pursue godliness.

CHURCH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN 1 TIMOTHY - Find the answers:

1. What are the roles of men and women in public worship?
2. What is a true widow and how is the church to help her?
3. What are younger widows to do?
4. What is the danger of loving money?
5. What kind of church leaders should a church have?
6. What is the responsibility of wealthier believers to people with needs?
7. What should church leaders do about false teachings in the church?
8. What should church leaders do about false teachings in the church?
9. What are some issues about worship in local churches today that 1 Timothy doesn't talk about?
10. What should be a young pastor's priorities in his ministry in the local church?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

2 Timothy: The Book of *Passing the Torch of the Gospel*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What does Paul urge Timothy to do with the gift of God in him? (1:6)
2. Why did God save and call us according to 1:9?
3. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel in 1:12?
4. What was Timothy to do with the truths Paul had taught him? (2:2)
5. What is required to be an unashamed workman for God? (2:15)
6. How are we to deal with those who oppose God's truth? (2:24-26)
7. What are the three sinful loves in 3:1-4?
8. What four things is God's Word designed to do for you? (3:16)
9. How can you spot a member of the "Ear Ticklers' Society"? (4:3-4)
10. What happened at Paul's first defense? (4:16-17).

Early Christian historians tell us that Paul ultimately was sentenced to be executed by beheading. He was taken to a public execution spot outside the city of Rome, the executioner's sword flashed in the sun, and Paul stepped into the presence of Christ. (Douglas Connelly)

FACT SHEET ON 2 TIMOTHY

- ❑ This is Paul's last letter, written AD 67. He had been released from prison when he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus, but now apparently had been rearrested when Nero blamed the Christians for burning Rome.
- ❑ He is writing from a damp, cold Roman prison with chains around his wrists. He had been abandoned by many because of the fear of persecution. Only Luke stood with him. He is facing execution.
- ❑ Paul was concerned that Timothy might be weakening in his stand for Christ. Paul wrote to encourage him to stand strong in the faith and to pass the torch of the gospel to other faithful men who would teach others as well. He also urged Timothy to visit him and bring him a cloak, some books, and parchments.
- ❑ Paul expressed his confidence that he had fulfilled the will of God and was looking forward to seeing Christ.

OUTLINE OF 2 TIMOTHY

Ch. 1 Don't be Ashamed	Ch. 2 Be Strong	Ch. 3 Continue in the Word	Ch. 4 Preach the Word
1-7 God hasn't given us a spirit of fear but power, love, and a sound mind. 8-14 Be willing to suffer for the gospel of the grace of God. 15-18 Onesiphorus was not afraid of Paul's chains.	1-7 Be strong in Christ's grace and pass the torch of truth. 8-13 Endure for the sake of God's elect. 14-19 Work hard to be an approved workman. 20-26 Flee youthful lusts and correct others gently.	1-9 The coming apostasy in the church - from self-love to false teaching. 10-17 Expect tough times, continue in the Word, which is able to equip you for every good work.	1-5 Preach the Word even when people don't want to hear it. 6-8 Paul is "good to go and ready to launch." 9-22 Final requests to Timothy and giving all glory to God.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 2 TIMOTHY

Explain each part of 2 Timothy 3:16 and how it applies to your life:

All Scripture is inspired by God...	and profitable	for teaching,	for reproof,	for correction	for training in righteousness

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
----------------	----------------	------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------

Titus: The Book of *Practical Godliness*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What two reasons does Paul give for writing this letter in 1:1.
2. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? 1:5
3. What two things must an elder be able to do in 1:9?
4. To which five groups of people does Paul refer in chapter 2?
5. What reasons does Paul give for godly living in 2:5, 8, and 10?
6. What does the grace of God instruct us to do in 2:12?
7. For what two reasons did Christ give Himself for us in 2:14?
8. Why did God save us according to 3:5?
9. What does 3:7 teach you about the doctrine of justification?
10. What does Paul want God's people to learn to do in 3:14?

FOR THE FAITH OF THOSE CHOSEN OF GOD

The doctrine of election, like every truth about God, involves mystery and sometimes stirs controversy. But in Scripture it is a pastoral doctrine, brought in to help Christians see how great is the grace that saves them, and to move them to humility, confidence, joy, praise, faithfulness, and holiness in response. It is the family secret of the children of God. We do not know who else he has chosen among those who do not yet believe, nor why it was his good pleasure to choose us in particular. What we do know is, first, that had we not been chosen for life we would not be believers now (for only the elect are brought to faith), and, second, that as elect believers we may rely on God to finish in us the good work that he started. Knowledge of one's election thus brings comfort and joy. (J. Packer, *Concise Theology*)

FACT SHEET ON TITUS

- ☐ Titus was a Gentile - see Galatians 2:1-3.
- ☐ Titus served as one of Paul's personal representatives - see 2 Corinthians 7:6-7,13; 8:22.
- ☐ Paul wrote Titus after his first imprisonment. Paul preached the gospel on the island of Crete and left Titus there to organize and instruct the new believers.
- ☐ The island of Crete is 156 miles long and 30 miles wide. The Cretan people were notorious for their dishonesty and immorality - see 1:12,13.
- ☐ The letter of Titus emphasizes the importance of godliness among God's chosen people.
- ☐ Paul uses the word "Savior" six times, four referring to God and two referring specifically to Christ.

OUTLINE OF TITUS

Ch. 1 Godliness in the Church	Ch. 2 Godliness in the Home	Ch. 3 Godliness in the World
Written for the faith of God's chosen people - 1:1-3 Godly qualifications for church leaders - (elders & overseers are same office) - 1:4-9 Silencing false teachers - 1:10-16	Sound doctrine for: Older men - 2:1-2 Older women - 2:3-4 Young women - 2:4-5 Young men - 2:6-8 Servants - 2:9-10 Live godly in view of the Blessed Hope of Christ's return - 2:11-15	Godly living in an ungodly world - 3:1-3 Saved by mercy through the Spirit and justified by grace alone in Christ alone - 3:4-7 Call to engage in good works in the world - 3:8-15

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM TITUS

List all the qualities for each of the four groups of people referred to in 2:1-8. Which one relates to you?

Older men:	Older women:	Young women:	Young men:

List how we as believers should live in this world and then how we once lived in this world. What made the difference?

3:1-2 - How we should live:	3:3 How we once lived:

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Philemon: The Book of *Restoring Relationships*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. To whom does Paul write this little letter? 1-2
2. Why did Paul thank God and pray for Philemon? 4-5
3. What did Paul pray for Philemon in vs. 6?
4. What was there about Philemon that brought Paul great joy? 7
5. Instead of giving Philemon a command, how does Paul approach him about the situation with Onesimus? 8-9
6. What happened to Onesimus when he met Paul in prison? 10
7. What were Paul's thoughts about Onesimus? 11-13
8. How did Paul want Philemon to receive Onesimus back? 14-16
9. How does Paul's offer to Philemon illustrate the gospel? 17-18
10. What final request does Paul make to Philemon? 22

Robert E Lee, after the civil war, visited a home in Kentucky. The lady of the house pointed to a limbless, battered tree trunk standing on the front lawn, and said, "Before the Union army came through here, that was a beautiful, magnificent magnolia tree. Then they blasted it with their artillery, and that's all that's left. What do you think about that?" She expected the general to sympathise with her and criticise the Union army. But instead, he looked at her and said one sentence, "Madam, cut it down and forget it."

FACT SHEET ON PHILEMON

- ❑ Philemon is pronounced "fi-LEE-mon."
- ❑ Philemon was a wealthy Christian from Colosse who came to Christ through the apostle Paul (vs. 19).
- ❑ Onesimus was one of Philemon's slaves who stole money and ran away to Rome. Slaves were regarded as objects and when runaway slaves were caught the letter "F" might be branded on their forehead. Masters had the legal right to execute a slave if he chose.
- ❑ When Onesimus got to Rome he ran into Paul and became a believer in Jesus.
- ❑ After discipling Onesimus in the faith, Paul sent him back to Philemon with this letter.
- ❑ Philemon is a great illustration of two things: how to make a gracious appeal, and Christ's interceding for us before the Father.

OUTLINE OF PHILEMON - Summarize each section in your own words

1-3 - Greeting	4-9 Gracious Approach	10-20 Goodness Expressed	21-25 Great Expectations

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM PHILEMON

Philemon illustrates the importance of a forgiving spirit among believers. The following points are adapted from John MacArthur's commentary on Colossians and Philemon, pp. 218-220.

1. We are to love and forgive people because of the image of God that is in them (Matt. 5:21-22).
2. If God can forgive those who offend Him, surely we must forgive those who offend us (Ephesians 4:32).
3. Failing to forgive others puts us in danger of God's chastening. (Matt. 18:34-35).
4. An unforgiving attitude will destroy a believer's relationships with his fellow-believers (Matt. 18:31).
5. By refusing to forgive others and by seeking our own revenge we usurp God's authority (Rom. 12:14,19).
6. An unforgiving spirit makes believers unfit for worship (Matt. 5:23-24).
7. Forgiving our offenders becomes a trial and a means of growth and strength in our lives. (Matt. 5:44-45).
8. Forgiveness should be offered even when forgiveness is not sought. We should forgive in our heart and be free of any grudge or bitterness (Mark 11: 25).

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

Hebrews: The Book of *the Superiority of Jesus Christ*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. List the seven glories of Jesus Christ in 1:2-3.
2. Why did Christ have to be made like us according to 2:14-18?
3. What are we to be careful about and to encourage others about in 3:12-13?
4. Why should we hold fast our confession in 4:14-16?
5. How does God describe our hope in 6:19-20?
6. Why is Jesus able to save us forever according to 7:23-28?
7. What three things are better in 8:6?
8. What three actions does God urge us to take in 10:22-25 beginning with "Let us..."?
9. What will keep us from growing weary and losing heart in 12:2-3?
10. What practical applications does God give us in 13:1-6?

FACT SHEET ON HEBREWS

- ❑ No one knows who the human author of Hebrews was. We do know the ultimate author is _____. It was written before AD 70 while the temple was still standing.
- ❑ The subject of Hebrews is the supremacy and superiority of Jesus Christ.
- ❑ Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians to warn them not to abandon their faith in Christ and go back to Judaism under the Old Testament law.
- ❑ Three kinds of professing Christians are discerned in Hebrews: those who were wavering and need to press on, those who needed a warning to be sure to have a genuine, personal faith in Christ, and those who were weary and need to be encouraged.
- ❑ Key words in Hebrews include: "better" – 11 times and "let us" – 16 times.

OUTLINE OF HEBREWS – Christ is Superior...

Chs. 1-7 In His Person	Chs. 8-10 In His Work	Chs. 11-13 And Worthy of Faith and Obedience
1:1-3 Superior to the Prophets 1:4-2:18 Superior to Angels 3:1-19 Superior to Moses 4:1-16 Superior to Joshua 5:1-7:28 Superior to Aaron and the priests – made like Melchizedek	8:1-13 He brought us a better covenant 9:1-28 He gave Himself as a better sacrifice 10:1-39 He serves as a better High Priest	11:1-40 God's people have believed in Him 12:1-29 We are to fix our eyes on Him 13:1-25 He is the same yesterday and today and forever!

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM HEBREWS

What do you find that is "better" in these verses: Hebrews 6:9 Hebrews 7:19 Hebrews 7:22 Hebrews 8:6 Hebrews 9:23	Hebrews 10:34 Hebrews 11:4 Hebrews 11:16 Hebrews 11:35 Hebrews 11:40 Hebrews 12:24
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God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

James: The Book of *Genuine, Life-Changing Faith*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What may we never say about our temptations to sin in 1:13-15?
2. When and why will a man be blessed according to 1:25?
3. What is wrong with paying special attention to rich people in 2:3-4?
4. To what does James compare a faith without works in 2:14-26?
5. What illustrations does God use to describe the tongue in 3:1-12?
6. What are the marks of earthly wisdom in 3:14-16?
7. Why do we get upset and even angry according to 4:1-3?
8. How does God want us to plan for the future in 4:13-15?
9. What does God want us to learn from Job in 5:11?
10. What does God want us to learn from Elijah in 5:16-18?

Faith without works cannot be called faith. Faith without works is dead, and a dead faith is worse than no faith at all. Faith must work; it must produce; mere mental assent is insufficient. Throughout his epistle to Jewish believers, James integrates true faith and everyday practical experience by stressing that true faith must manifest itself in works of faith. (Nelson 's Book of Bible Maps and Charts)

FACT SHEET ON JAMES

- ❑ James was the half brother of Jesus. He was known as "Camel Knees" because of his constant praying. In AD 62 he was accused of breaking the Mosaic Law. The Jewish rulers took him to the temple wall, pushed him over, and then stoned him to death.
- ❑ The epistle of James was possibly the earliest book of the New Testament, written sometime after AD 45.
- ❑ James reads like the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. There are many parallels to Christ's Sermon on the Mount. James wrote personally, passionately, and practically.
- ❑ James' emphasis on justification by faith plus works seems to contradict Paul's emphasis on faith alone. However, Paul is speaking of the basis of our justification before God, whereas James speaks of the evidence of our justification, a changed life.

OUTLINE OF JAMES (Use your own titles using "JAMES" as an acrostic)

J _____	A _____	M _____	E _____	S _____
1:2-18 See God in your trials. 1:19-27 Apply God's Word to your life.	2:1-13 Learn to love the unlovely 2:14-26 Demonstrate your faith with deeds.	3:1-12 Control your tongue 3:13-18 Develop godly wisdom	4:1-10 Purify your relationship with God. 4:11-12 Build others with your words. 4:13-17 Plan in submission to God	5:1-6 Treat others with integrity. 5:7-12 Endure suffering with hope. 5:13-18 Confess sin. 5:19-20 Restore the erring.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM JAMES

How could you use the following passages to help someone struggling with specific sins?

James 1:2-8 The Sin of Complaining	James 1:13-18 The Sin of Gluttony	James 4:1-6 The Sin of Greed

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

1 Peter: The Book of *Grace and Suffering*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What kind of inheritance is reserved in heaven for you? 1:4
2. What does 1:18-19 teach you about your redemption?
3. How does God describe His people in 2:9-10?
4. How did Christ leave us an example in 2:21-25?
5. How are women to adorn themselves in 3:3-5?
6. How are husbands to treat their wives in 3:7?
7. What surprises unbelievers according to 4:3-4?
8. How are you to handle suffering in 4:12-14?
9. What are three godly characteristics of good shepherds in 5:2-3?
10. How does God want us to handle troubles in 5:6-7?

Peter wrote to encourage Christians to deepen their trust in God in every situation of life but especially in times of trial or suffering. When days of difficulty, pain, or loss sweep over us, that is not the time to pull away from the Lord, but an opportunity to draw closer to him. Trials help us grow into mature Christians. Time on the anvil under the hammer blows of testing make us more effective channels of God's love and grace to others. (Douglas Connelly, *Bible for Blockheads*).

FACT SHEET ON 1 PETER

- ☐ Peter wrote this letter from Rome around AD 64.
- ☐ He wrote it to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor.
- ☐ Hostility and suspicion were mounting against Christianity through out the Roman empire. The stage was being set for severe persecution and martyrdom in the near future.
- ☐ 1 Peter tells us how to survive in a world turned hostile to Christ.
- ☐ Christ is the believer's example and hope in times of suffering.
- ☐ Peter talks about our relationship to the world and urges a submissive spirit to those in authority, even when it isn't easy.

OUTLINE OF 1 PETER

SALVATION 1:1 – 2:12	SUBMISSION 2:13 – 3:12	SUFFERING 3:13-5:14
1:1-2 Election and foreknowledge 1:3-5 Mercy, hope, and inheritance 1:6-9 Joy through the trials 1:10-12 Prophets and the gospel 1:13-25 Call to obedience as redeemed by the blood of Christ 2:1-8 Grow as living stones in God's temple 2:9-12 Proclaim God's excellencies in this world	2:13-20 Submission to authorities 2:21-25 Christ our model of submission to the Father 3:1-7 Submission and honor in marriage 3:8-12 Submission brings blessing	3:13-22 Suffer for doing what is right 4:1-6 Suffer for doing God's will 4:7-11 Suffer while serving others 4:12-19 Suffer in Christ's name 5:1-7 Suffer in humble trust 5:8-14 Suffer with firm hope in future glory

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 1 PETER

How do you respond to pain, suffering, and struggles? Jot down God's answers to the trials Peter deals with?

HUMAN SUFFERING	GOD'S ANSWERS
1:6 – Various trials	1:6 _____
2:18 – Unjust authority	2:21 _____
3:14 – Suffering for doing what is right	3:15 _____
4:1 – Suffering in resisting carnal desires	4:2 _____
4:12-14 – Suffering for the name of Christ	4:13,14 _____
4:19 – Suffering as part of God's refining fire	4:19 _____
5:8 – Suffering from Satan's attack	5:9 _____

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

2 Peter: The Book of *Dealing with False Teachers*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. What has God's power given to us? How? 1:3
2. What are we to supply in our faith in vss. 5-7? What will these things assure us about in vs. 10?
3. What does Peter assure us of in 1:16-18?
4. What does 1:21 tell us about the Scriptures?
5. What two evils characterize false teachers in 2:2-3?
6. How does God describe false teachers in 2:12-14?
7. When is the last state of a soul worse than the first? 2:20-22
8. What will the mockers in the last day say? 3:4
9. Why has the day of the Lord not yet come according to 3:8-9 & 15?
10. What should we be on guard against in these last days? 3:17-18

Second Peter requires careful reading and serious thinking to understand. It's not a letter to just breeze through; it's to be examined with care.... You will leave the book more mature, more discerning, more prepared to stand your ground against people who want to lead you away from the truth God has given. (Douglas Connelly, *The Bible for Blockheads*.)

FACT SHEET ON 2 PETER

- ❑ Peter was facing imminent execution as he penned this letter (1:14).
- ❑ A bigger threat to the church than persecution was the infiltration of false teachers.
- ❑ Peter wrote around AD 67 to warn believers and call them to stand firm in God's truth against heresy.
- ❑ Along with exposing the dangers of false teachers, Peter emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth and the certainty of the second coming of Christ.
- ❑ The word "knowledge" occurs 14 times in these three short chapters, highlighting the importance of biblical knowledge in discerning and exposing false teaching.
- ❑ Peter refers to the inspiration of the Bible, the global flood, and Paul's letters as inspired Scripture.
- ❑ Chapter 3 refutes evolutionary uniformitarianism – How?

OUTLINE OF 2 PETER

Ch. 1 - GOD'S PROMISES	Ch. 2 - GOD'S WARNINGS	Ch. 3 - GOD'S REMINDERS
1:1-11 The sufficiency of God's power and promises for all of life. 1:12-21 The assurances of God's prophetic Word for the future.	2:1-3 Warning that false teachers will come. 2:4-10 Warning that God will not spare false teachers, but He will deliver His people. 2:11-22 Warning about the character and end of false teachers.	3:1-7 Remember that mockers will come denying the second coming. 3:8-13 Remember that God isn't finished saving His people yet. 3:14-18 Remember to stick with God's Word and keep growing in grace and knowledge.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 2 PETER

What are we to know?

1:2 –	3:3 –
1:3 –	3:17 –
1:8 –	3:18 –
1:20 –	

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

1 John: The Book of *Assurance*

ENTRANCE EXAM

- How does John describe Christ in 1:1-3?
- How does John contrast saying and doing in 1:6-10?
- How do we know that we know Christ? 2:3-6
- What does John say about antichrists in 2:18-20?
- For what two reasons did Christ appear in 3:5 and 8.
- How do we know we have passed out of death into life? 3:14-15
- How does John distinguish between God's children and the world in 4:4-6?
- What if someone claims to love God but hates others in 4:20-21?
- How does John distinguish between saved and lost people in 5:10-12?
- What three things do we know in 5:18-20?

Love is an important element in the Christian community, but so is truth! In order to tell what is false, you have to have some standard of truth. God has given us his truth in the Bible. Any teaching or spiritual experience that does not measure up to God's truth is suspect. What was declared "from the beginning" should be the anchor for what we believe today.. (Douglas Connelly, *The Bible for Blockheads*.)

FACT SHEET ON 1 JOHN

- ❑ John is one of the sons of Zebedee. Jesus called him and his brother "sons of thunder. John was one of the three disciples closest to Jesus. He resided in Ephesus in his later years and is the only disciple who did not die a martyr's death.
- ❑ 1 John is one of a triplet of short epistles written by the apostle John. He wrote them toward the end of the first century to churches around Ephesus.
- ❑ John wrote to refute Gnosticism and to help God's true people have a firm assurance of their salvation. He writes as a father with a deep love and concern.
- ❑ John uses "know" (gnosis) 36 times in 29 verses! .
- ❑ "One of the keys to understanding this letter is to keep in mind that John normally refers to a person's habitual way of life." (Connelly) See 3:6 "No one who abides in Him sins (as a habitual way of life)."

OUTLINE OF 1 JOHN

Ch. 1 – GOD IS LIGHT	Ch. 2-3 – GOD IS LIFE	Ch. 4-5 – GOD IS LOVE
1:1-4 A call to eternal fellowship in Christ. 1:5-2:2 True believers walk in the light of God's holiness and confess their sins. To walk in darkness and deny sin is to deceive ourselves and make God a liar.	2:3-14 We know we are in Christ by our obedience. 2:15-17 Loving God vs. the world 2:18-29 Beware of false teachers 3:1-10 Believers don't practice sin. 3:12-24 Believers love their brothers.	4:1-6 Test the spirits. 4:7-21 God loved us and sent His Son. 5:1-12 Believers in Christ overcome the world. 5:13-21 Believers know they belong to God by the many changes God makes in their lives.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 1 JOHN

- 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who _____ is born of Him.
- 1 John 3:9 No one who is born of _____, because His seed abides in him; and he _____, because he is born of God.
- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and _____ is born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 5:1 Whoever _____ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
---------	---------	-----------------	------------------	------------

2 & 3 John: The Books of **TRUTH AND LOVE**

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. 2 John - What does John say about truth in the first three verses?
2. What made John very glad?
3. How does John define love in verse 6?
4. Whom does John warn them not to receive into their homes? Why? (7-11)
5. Who are the children and the chosen sister? See vss.1 & 13
6. In 3 John, what brought John the most joy?
7. What was Gaius reputation before the church? (vss. 5-6)
8. Whom should we support and why? (vs. 7-8)
9. What is Diotrephes' problem and what does John intend to do about it?
10. What communication principle can we learn from verses 13-14?

WALKING THE WALK

How would you respond to someone who says, "It really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere and loving?" What insights have you gained from these letters that will help you confront someone who holds to the truth but who has an unloving attitude? How can you help someone who is very loving but not very discerning? (Douglas Connelly, *The Bible for Blockheads*.)

FACT SHEET ON 2-3 JOHN

2 John

- ❑ This is a personal letter to one congregation, the chosen lady and her children
- ❑ John ties this letter around key words: truth (5x), love (4x), commandment (4x), and commandment, walk, and children (3x each).
- ❑ John urges these believers to walk in truth, love each other, and guard against false teachers.
- ❑ He uses the very rare word "antichrist" to describe false teaching

3 John

- ❑ 3 John is the shortest book in the Bible.
- ❑ John wrote to encourage Gaius and strengthen him in the face of trouble.
- ❑ He condemns the highhanded, malicious abuse of power by Diotrephes and promises to deal with him when he comes.
- ❑ He praises Demetrius as a faithful brother with a good testimony among the churches.
- ❑ John would rather talk in person than through letters.

OUTLINE OF 2-3 JOHN

2 JOHN Truth, Love, and False Teachers	3 JOHN Joy, Ministry, and Abuse of Power
1-3 For the sake of the truth 4-6 Walking in the truth 7-11 Guarding the truth 12-13 Desiring face to face ministry and fellowship.	1-4 No greater joy than children _____ 5-8 Encouragement for supporting God's workers. 9-10 Rebuking lust for power in the church. 11-12 Commending faithfulness 13-15 Desiring face to face ministry and fellowship.

LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM 2-3 JOHN

What do you learn about truth and love in these two epistles?

What do you learn about supporting missionaries?

What do you learn about false teaching?

What do you learn about abusing power in the church?

What do you learn from the apostle John about a shepherd's heart?

God's Route 66

A tour through the 66 books of God's Word...

Gospels	History	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation
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Jude: The Book of *Contending for the Faith*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. How may Jude have been related to Christ (vs. 1)?
2. In what three ways does Jude describe believers in vs. 1?
3. What does Jude say about the faith in vs. 3?
4. How does Jude describe these people who have crept in? (vs. 4)
5. Which three groups does Jude say God destroyed? (vss. 5-7)
6. How does Jude compare Michael with these revilers? (vs. 9)
7. Which three OT people illustrate these evil men? (vs. 11)
8. How would you describe them based on vss. 12-13, 16, 19?
9. What does Jude urge true believers to do in vss. 20-23?
10. What is God able to do in vss. 24-25?

Not Up For Grabs!

The Christian faith is not something up for grabs. It's not a position paper that can be divided up and voted on every few years. Jude says "the faith...was once for all entrusted to the saints." (vs. 3). "The faith" is the truth that God has given to us in the Bible—truth about God himself, sin, salvation, eternity. That body of truth was given through the apostles, the authorized representatives of Jesus, and through other writers of Scripture called prophets. By the time the apostles and prophets moved off the scene, that truth had been fully received. We aren't looking today for new Scripture. Our responsibility as Christians is not to change God's truth, but to understand and defend God's truth. (Douglas Connelly, *The Bible for Blockheads*.)

FACT SHEET ON JUDE

- ❑ Jude was one of four half-brothers of Christ. (Mark 6:3). What does this tell you about the so-called "perpetual virginity" of Mary?
- ❑ "Jude is the only NT book devoted exclusively to confronting "apostasy," meaning defection from the truth, biblical faith." (MacArthur Study Bible)
- ❑ Peter warns the false teachers are coming in 2 Peter; Jude says they have come – "crept in." Jude wrote mainly to Jewish believers before AD 70.
- ❑ Like 2 Peter, Jude uses strong language to describe false teachers, highlighting their personal corruption.
- ❑ Not only are believers to contend for the faith but Jude also calls us to be sure to stay strong in the faith ourselves.
- ❑ In our day of religious tolerance, diversity, and relativism, Jude calls all believers to a life of careful spiritual discernment in these last days.

OUTLINE OF JUDE

1-2 Jude's love for God's people 3-4 Jude's change of purpose and targeting apostates. 5-7 Examples of God's punishment of the ungodly.	8-19 Description of the arrogant false teachers. 20-23 Directions for handling false teaching. 24-25 Doxology of God's power and glory for His people.
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LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS FROM JUDE

God says we are to contend earnestly for the faith. What doctrines or teachings of God's Word are important enough to contend for even to the point of death? What doctrines have men and women in church history been willing to lay down their lives for? Which biblical "hills" of teaching will you not die on and which "hills" will you stand even to death?

God's Route 66

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Revelation: The Book of *the Future*

ENTRANCE EXAM

1. How does 1:19 give us the outline of the book?	6. What powers do the two witnesses have in 11:5-6?
2. What promise does Christ give us in 3:10?	7. What does the dragon try to do in 12:4-5?
3. What happened when Christ took the book in 5:8?	8. Why do people follow the beast in 13:3-5?
4. Who are the people in white robes in 7:14?	9. Who reigns with Christ for 1000 years in 20:4?
5. What happens in the 6 th trumpet judgment in 9:18?	10. What are Christ's last words in 22:20?

THE MILLENNIAL "MAZE" Three major views of eschatology (end times):

Amillennialism – "No millennium"	Premillennialism – "Before millennium"
Postmillennialism – "After millennium"	Historical Premillennialism
	Post-tribulation Premillennialism
	Mid-tribulation Premillennialism
	Pre-tribulation Premillennialism

Christ's 1 st Advent	Christ's 2 nd Advent ????????????????	New heaven and earth
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MAJOR VIEWS FOR INTERPRETING REVELATION (from John MacArthur notes)

The **preterist** (past tense) approach interprets Revelation as a description of first-century events in the Roman Empire (see Author and Date). This view conflicts with the book's own often-repeated claim to be prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19). It is impossible to see all the events in Revelation as already fulfilled. The second coming of Christ, for example, obviously did not take place in the first century.

The **historicist** approach views Revelation as a panoramic view of church history from apostolic times to the present—seeing in the symbolism such events as the barbarian invasions of Rome, the rise of the Roman Catholic Church (as well as various individual popes), the emergence of Islam, and the French Revolution. This interpretive method robs Revelation of any meaning for those to whom it was written. It also ignores the time limitations the book itself places on the unfolding events (see 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

The **idealist** approach interprets Revelation as a timeless depiction of the cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil. In this view, the book contains neither historical allusions nor predictive prophecy. This view also ignores Revelation's prophetic character and, if carried to its logical conclusion, severs the book from any connection with actual historical events. Revelation then becomes merely a collection of stories designed to teach spiritual truth.

The **futurist** approach insists that the events of chapters 6–22 are yet future and that those chapters literally and symbolically depict actual people and events yet to appear on the world scene. It describes the events surrounding the second coming of Jesus Christ (chapters 6–19), the Millennium and final judgment (chapter 20), and the eternal state (chapters 21 and 22). Only this view does justice to Revelation's claim to be prophecy and interprets the book by the same grammatical-historical method as chapters 1–3 and the rest of Scripture.

Key issue: The 1000 years of Revelation 20

Early church---Augustine---Reformers---Puritans---Spurgeon---19th-20th century prophecy focus---Today

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**,

Rev 20:3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the **thousand years** were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life (Augustine: regeneration) and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were completed. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand years**.

Rev 20:7 And when the **thousand years** are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

Rev 20:8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

Rev 20:9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

See S. Lewis Johnson's excellent exposition of Revelation 20:4-6 (The Millennial Kingdom of Christ) at http://www.believerschapeldallas.org/tapes/slj66_revelation/index.htm

OUTLINE

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen (1:1–20)
 - A. The Prologue (1:1–8)
 - B. The Vision of the Glorified Christ (1:9–18)
 - C. The Apostle's Commission to Write (1:19–20)
- II. The Things Which Are (2:1–3:22)
 - A. The Letter to the Church at Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - B. The Letter to the Church at Smyrna (2:8–11)
 - C. The Letter to the Church at Pergamos (2:12–17)
 - D. The Letter to the Church at Thyatira (2:18–29)
 - E. The Letter to the Church at Sardis (3:1–6)
 - F. The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia (3:7–13)
 - G. The Letter to the Church at Laodicea (3:14–22)
- III. The Things Which Will Take Place after This (4:1–22:21)
 - A. Worship in Heaven (4:1–5:14)
 - B. The Great Tribulation (6:1–18:24)
 - C. The Return of the King (19:1–21)
 - D. The Millennium (20:1–10)
 - E. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11–15)
 - F. The Eternal State (21:1–22:21)

Points 2 Remember

The book of Revelation unveils Jesus Christ in his majesty and power.

John saw the events leading up to Jesus' glorious return to earth.

The images and symbols in the book represent real events and people.

When it seems like evil and injustice are winning, remember that God's victory has already been made certain by Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection to life.

God is in full control of our future!

(from Douglas Connelly, *The Bible for Blockheads*).