

- **The simplified version: Creation-Fall-Redemption**

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT (10 stages)

A. Creation/Fall

- The beginnings, explaining the origin of the universe and "what went wrong?"
- God creates all things very good, including man and woman in His own image. By sin the humanity and the world was spoiled, which brought a curse.

B. The Flood/Tower of Babel

- The ongoing problems of sin are demonstrated, first by universal corruption, God's grace in saving a remnant, and the destruction of the world. This shows that judgment by itself does not fix things.
- Man, through "technology", seeks to make a name rather than exercise godly dominion. God divides through the confusion of tongues, and breaks into separate people groups.

C. The Patriarchs

- God calls one man, Abram (Abraham), to be the head of a new people. He promises blessing, a great name, a numerous people, and an inheritance of land.
- His son Isaac and grandson Jacob carries that promise forward, bringing about the 12 sons including Joseph.
- Joseph, though treated badly by his brothers, is taken to Egypt, finds favor, and the Jews are provided for by God's good providence as they go into Egypt.

D. Slavery/Exodus/Wilderness

- While in Egypt, the people prosper and are eventually made slaves. God remembers His promise to the Patriarchs, and raises up Moses as a deliverer of His people. Through the plagues God causes Pharaoh to yield, and eventually destroys his army in the Red Sea.
- Because of lack of faith and obedience, the people do not go into the land of promise, and are consigned to 40 years in the wilderness living as nomads.

E. The Conquest

- After 40 years, Moses departs and the nation of Israel is led into the land West of the Jordan river by Joshua. God's promises are fulfilled as they take the land and cast out or destroy the peoples.

F. Judges

- Once in the land, there is not total peace, do primarily to Israel's sin. God allows their enemies to overtake them, they are oppressed, then they call out for a deliverer (known as judges). This cycles continues, as the sin gets worse.

G. The Monarchy

- The people believe what they need is a human king like the other nations. God grants this through Saul, who turns out to be less than what the people desire. God raises up David, then Solomon, to wisely fill that role, but eventually the kingdom is torn into two kingdoms, with kings who are both righteous and wicked, but none lasting.

H. Exile

- As a result of the wicked kings and Israel's ongoing rebellion, God sends prophets to warn of impending doom as God threatens to raise up nations more wicked than Israel to punish Israel. In varying cycles the judgments come through the Assyrians and Babylonians, and the people are taken out of their land and dispersed abroad.

I. Restoration

- After what appears to be national repentance, God responds by bringing many of the Jews back into the land through the leader Cyrus. The kingdom is much smaller, and there are still problems with enduring obedience.
- The nation is still on shaky ground, and eventually they are scattered again.

J. Silent Years

- The nation continues to struggle against the oppression of the Greek then the Roman empire, setting the stage for another Deliver to come and give them liberty.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT (4 stages)

A. Birth/Childhood of Christ

- The words of the prophets are fulfilled, and the promised Messiah-King is born, and though persecuted is hidden and protected by God's providence. He is raised as Jew, under the law, and a descendant of King David.

B. The Ministry of Christ

- About the age of 30, Jesus of Nazareth, "stepson" of Joseph and Son of Mary declares Himself to be the promised Messiah, and begins a 3 year ministry mostly in Galilee and Jerusalem.
- At the end of that 3 years the religious leadership of Israel and secular authorities of Roman put Him on trial, and condemn Him to death. He is put into the tomb, resurrected from the dead, and ascends to heaven, vindicating the truth of Who He was and what He taught.

C. The Establishment/Spread of the Church

- The Holy Spirit comes on His early disciples (student-followers) go about proclaiming His teaching and life. Many other disciples are made, and local gatherings called churches are made. They are committed to believe and live according to the teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

- Saul of Tarsus, a Jewish teacher, is radically converted from being an enemy and persecutor of the church to a committed follower of Jesus Christ. He is ordained by Jesus as the apostle ("sent-one") to the non-Jewish people.
- The church spreads from being primarily a Jewish entity, gradually to other nations. During this time the apostles and other early leaders write letters further explaining the life and teachings of Christ, and their application to the church.

D. The Victory of the Church

- In the book of Revelation, the "veil" is pulled back, and the church is seen as ultimately victorious, though persecuted and oppressed in this age.
 - Jesus returns to the earth, raises all people from the dead, and brings all before Him in judgment. The wicked will suffer punishment for their sins forever. The righteous, those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, will inherit the Kingdom of a New Heaven and a New Earth.
 - In the end, the Kingdom of God will be glorious, the kingdoms of men will become the Kingdom of our God, and the LORD God omnipotent will reign forever and ever.
 - There will be no more curse. God has redeemed His world.
- This is the story, and the Bible is an anthology of literature written during the unfolding of God's work in bringing about redemption from the fall.
 - This includes historical narrative, law codes, poetry, genealogy, personal letters, church letters, prophecy, and sermons.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

<i>The Pentateuch</i>					<i>Historical</i>						<i>Poetry</i>							
Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy	Joshua	Judges	Ruth	1&2 Samuel	1&2 Kings	1&2 Chronicles	Ezra	Nehemiah	Esther	Job	Psalms	Proverbs	Ecclesiastes	Song of Solomon
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea	Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zecharia	Malachi		
Major Prophets					Minor Prophets													

THE GREEK SCRIPTURES

<i>History</i>						<i>Paul's Letters</i>										
Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts	Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	1&2 Thessalonians	1&2 Timothy	Titus	Philemon		
Hebrews	James	1&2 Peter	1, 2, 3 John	Jude	Revelation											
General Letters						Prophecy										