



CORNERSTONE
MAN

LEARN THE BIBLE

A Plain Overview of the Whole Story
and the Good News of Jesus

FREE OVERVIEW · SEVEN CHAPTERS





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Contents

	Introduction	5
	<i>Open the Book. See the whole story.</i>	
1	One Story, One Book	6
	<i>what the Bible is</i>	
2	God Makes, God Speaks	8
	<i>creation, fall, promise</i>	
3	A People Chosen	10
	<i>Abraham, Exodus, the Law</i>	
4	Kings, Failure, and Hope	12
	<i>kingdom, exile, prophets</i>	
5	The Silence Breaks	14
	<i>Jesus arrives</i>	
6	The Good News	16
	<i>cross, resurrection, clear gospel</i>	
7	The Church and the Finish	18
	<i>Acts to Revelation, how to keep reading</i>	



INTRODUCTION

Open the Book. See the whole story.

A plain overview of the entire Bible and the good news of Jesus — written like a short chapter book for working men.

This is a short overview course. Seven chapters. One story. You will walk from Genesis to Revelation and see how every part points to Jesus Christ.

You do not need a degree. You do not need a free Saturday. Read one chapter when you have about ten minutes — before the truck starts, on lunch, or after the kids are down. Then open your Bible to the “Read next” passage and let the Word do the heavy lifting.

This is not a replacement for Scripture. It is a map so you know where you are when you open the Book. It is not a replacement for your local church either. Sit under faithful preaching. Find men who will sharpen you. Use this to get started and keep going.



CHAPTER

1

One Story, One Book

Most men own a Bible. Fewer know what they are holding.

The Bible is not one book written in a weekend. It is a library — sixty-six books, written by many men over many centuries. History. Poetry. Letters. Prophecy. Law. Wisdom. Different writers. Different times. Different jobs. Same Author behind it all.

God breathed it out.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”

(2 TIMOTHY 3:16 ESV)

That means it is not a suggestion box. It is not a luck charm on the dash. It is God’s Word. True. Useful. Sharp enough to cut through excuses and soft enough to heal a hard heart.

Here is the part that changes how you read it: for all its books and styles, the Bible tells **one story**. The story of God and people. God makes. People rebel. God promises. God keeps His promise in Jesus Christ. That is the spine of the whole Book.

Start in Genesis and you meet a holy Creator. Keep going and you meet a people He chooses, a Law He gives, kings who fail, prophets who warn, and a long wait. Then the New Testament opens and the wait is over. Jesus walks in. He dies. He rises. The church goes out. The story ends with a new heaven and a new earth — God with His people forever.

If you skip around without a map, you get lost. Leviticus feels cold. Revelation feels weird. Proverbs feels like a toolbox with no handle. Once you see the one story, the shelves make sense. Every shelf points somewhere. Most of them point forward to Christ. The rest look back at Him and tell you how to live because of Him.

You do not have to master every name and date. You need the big picture so that when you open to a page, you know which room of the house you are in. That is what these seven chapters are for — a plain walk through the whole Book so a working man can open it without drowning.

Read it like a short chapter book. One sitting per chapter. Then open your own Bible to the passage at the end and read it out loud. Slow. Honest. Ask: what does this say about God? What does it say about me? What do I do with that on Monday?

The goal is not to finish a course and check a box. The goal is to know the story well enough that you keep coming back to the Book — and to the God who wrote it.

READ NEXT Genesis 1

NEXT CHAPTER Chapter 2: God Makes, God Speaks



CHAPTER

2

God Makes, God Speaks

The Bible does not open with advice. It opens with God.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

(GENESIS 1:1 ESV)

Before tools. Before clocks. Before your crew or your mortgage. God was there. He spoke, and the world came to be. Light. Land. Sea. Animals. Then He made people — male and female — in His image. Not accidents. Not leftovers. Made on purpose, to know Him and to work under Him.

That is the first truth every man needs: you are not your own boss at the deepest level. You have a Maker. He is good. What He made was good. Work itself is not a curse. Work was in the garden before the fall. Dignity was built into dirt and sweat from day one.

Then comes the break.

Adam and Eve listened to a lie. They took what God had withheld. Sin entered. Shame entered. Death entered. The ground got hard. Relationships got hard. Every man who has ever blown it at home or on the job lives downstream of that day.

God did not shrug. He spoke judgment — and He spoke promise. To the serpent He said:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

(GENESIS 3:15 ESV)

That is the first gospel note in Scripture. A promised offspring. A real fight. A crushed enemy. From that moment on, the Bible is hunting that promise. Someone is coming who will take the wound and win the war.

Creation. Fall. Promise. That is the first act. Everything that follows — floods, towers, families, nations — sits on those three truths. God is Creator. We are rebels. God still moves toward us with a word of hope.

If you feel the weight of sin in your own life, you are not imagining it. The Book agrees with you. If you feel that work and marriage and fatherhood are harder than they should be, the Book explains why. And if you wonder whether God has a plan bigger than your mess, Genesis already says yes.

Do not rush past these early pages. They are the foundation. A house with a bad foundation fails in a storm. A faith that skips creation and sin will wobble when temptation hits or when the job goes sideways.

God makes. God speaks. People rebel. God promises a Redeemer. That is where the story starts — and that is where your story finds its place in His.

READ NEXT Genesis 3

NEXT CHAPTER Chapter 3: A People Chosen



CHAPTER

3

A People Chosen

After the fall, the world fills with people — and with violence. God judges. God also starts a line. He calls one man: Abraham.

God does not pick Abraham because Abraham is polished. He picks him by grace and makes a promise: land, offspring, blessing that will reach the nations. Abraham believes God. That belief is counted as righteousness. Faith first. Always.

From Abraham come Isaac and Jacob. From Jacob come twelve sons — Israel. A family becomes a people. Then Egypt. Slavery. Hard labor. Generations under a heavy hand. God hears their cry. He raises Moses. Plagues. Passover. A way through the sea. Freedom that no slave earned.

At Sinai, God speaks again. He gives the Law — not as a ladder for proud men to climb into heaven, but as a covenant for a people He already rescued.

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

(EXODUS 20:2–3 ESV)

Notice the order. Rescue first. Commands second. God does not say, “Obey and maybe I will save you.” He says, “I brought you out. Now live like you belong to Me.”

The Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law show God's heart. Worship Him alone. Honor parents. Do not murder, steal, lie, or covet. Love God. Love neighbor. They also show how deep the crack in us runs. Nobody keeps the Law perfectly. The sacrifices, the priests, the tabernacle — all of it points past itself. Blood for sin. A mediator. A holy God who still wants to dwell with His people.

Israel gets the Law. Israel also gets wilderness. Grumbling. Golden calves. Delayed obedience. Sound familiar? The same patterns show up on a job site and in a living room. God stays faithful anyway. He feeds them. He leads them. He keeps the promise moving forward.

This chapter of the story matters for working men for a simple reason: God forms a people. He does not save isolated loners and leave them there. He calls, rescues, teaches, and binds. If you follow Christ, you are part of something bigger than your name on a truck. You belong to a people with a history and a mission.

Abraham. Exodus. Law. Promise kept through messy men. The Redeemer still has not arrived in the flesh — but the road is being paved.

READ NEXT Exodus 20

NEXT CHAPTER Chapter 4: Kings, Failure, and Hope



CHAPTER

4

Kings, Failure, and Hope

Israel enters the land. Judges rise and fall. The people want a king “like the nations.” God allows it. Saul starts well and ends badly. David — a shepherd, a fighter, a man after God’s heart — becomes king. God makes another promise: a forever throne from David’s line.

That promise is huge. It keeps the hope alive. Someone from David’s house will rule for good. Not just for a season. Forever. That line runs straight toward Jesus — even when the men on the throne look nothing like Him.

But kings fail. David sins hard — adultery, cover-up, blood on his hands — and still finds mercy when he repents. Solomon starts with wisdom and drifts into idolatry. The kingdom splits. North and south. Most kings do evil. A few — Hezekiah, Josiah — pull the people back toward God. Most do not. Prophets stand up and say what nobody wants to hear: repent. Return. Judgment is coming.

Judgment comes. Exile. Assyria. Babylon. The temple falls. The land empties. It looks like the promise died. Men who built their hope on a palace and a city watched both burn.

It did not.

In the dark, the prophets keep pointing forward. Not to a better political fix. To a Servant. A King. A day when God Himself would act. Isaiah speaks of One who would carry sin:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

(ISAIAH 53:5 ESV)

That is not a motivational poster. That is a preview of the cross, centuries early. Pierced. Crushed. Peace through His wounds. The hope of Israel was never “try harder under a nicer king.” The hope was a Substitute who would take the hit.

Exile ends in part. Some return. The temple is rebuilt smaller. The walls go back up. But the glory feels thin. The throne of David sits empty of the forever King. Prophets go quiet. Four hundred years of waiting. Silence from heaven’s public voice.

If you have ever felt stuck between a promise and a paycheck — between what God said and what you see — this part of the Bible is for you. God was not late. He was preparing. Failure does not cancel His plan. It makes room for a better King than David, a better sacrifice than bulls, a better temple than stone.

Kings failed. The people failed. Hope did not. It was waiting for a name: Jesus.

READ NEXT [Isaiah 53](#)

NEXT CHAPTER [Chapter 5: The Silence Breaks](#)



CHAPTER

5

The Silence Breaks

Long silence. Then a baby's cry in Bethlehem.

The New Testament opens with four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Same Jesus. Different angles. Matthew shows Him as the promised King from David's line. Mark moves fast — Jesus the Servant who acts. Luke writes with care for the outsider and the poor. John goes deep: who Jesus is from before the world began.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(JOHN 1:1 ESV)

The Word became flesh. God did not send a memo. He sent His Son. Real body. Real hunger. Real sweat. Real tears. He walked dusty roads. He touched lepers. He ate with sinners. He taught with authority that made religious men furious and working men lean in.

Hebrews puts the whole shift in one clean line:

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

(HEBREWS 1:1-2 ESV)

The silence breaks. God speaks in a Person.

Jesus heals. He casts out demons. He calms storms. He forgives sins — which is either blasphemy or proof that He is God. He calls fishermen and tax collectors. He confronts pride. He lifts the broken. He never sins. Not once.

He also heads toward a cross on purpose. The Gospels are not random miracle stories. They are the story of the promised offspring from Genesis 3, the Son of David, the Servant of Isaiah, arriving on time. Angels announce Him. John the Baptist points to Him. The Father speaks over Him at His baptism. Demons know His name.

If you are new to the Bible, start in the Gospels. John is a strong door. Mark is short and straight. Read like a man watching another Man work — because that is what you are doing. Watch how He talks to the powerful. Watch how He talks to the weak. Watch what He says about money, anger, lust, prayer, and the kingdom of God.

The Old Testament was the runway. Jesus is the landing. Everything before Him was getting the world ready for this arrival. Everything after Him explains what His life, death, and resurrection mean for you.

The silence is over. The Word is here. Open John and meet Him.

READ NEXT John 1

NEXT CHAPTER Chapter 6: The Good News



CHAPTER

6

The Good News

Here is the center of the whole Book.

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He lived the life we should have lived. He died the death our sin deserved. He rose on the third day. That is not a slogan. That is history — and it is hope.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

(JOHN 3:16 ESV)

Love that costs something. A Son given. Belief that saves. Life that does not end.

You will not earn this. Working men understand wages. You put in hours; you get paid. The gospel flips that. Salvation is not a paycheck for good behavior. It is a gift for the guilty.

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(ROMANS 5:8 ESV)

While we were still sinners. Not after we cleaned up. Not after we got the marriage right or quit the habit. While. Still. Sinners. Christ died for us.

Paul calls this matter “of first importance”:

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,”

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4 ESV)

Died. Buried. Raised. According to the Scriptures — the same Old Testament story you have been walking through. The cross was not Plan B. It was the plan. The empty tomb is not a rumor. It is the proof that the debt is paid and death lost.

So what do you do with that?

Admit you are a sinner. Believe Jesus is who He says He is — Lord and Savior. Trust His finished work, not your unfinished try. Turn from sin and follow Him. That is repentance and faith. That is how a man comes to Christ.

The good news is not that God helps those who help themselves. The good news is that God helps those who cannot help themselves — and He does it through the blood of His Son. Your standing with God rests on Christ, not on yesterday’s performance or tomorrow’s hustle.

If you have never settled this, settle it. Talk to God honestly. Ask Him for mercy in Jesus’ name. Then find a Bible-preaching church and tell a faithful man what you have done. Do not do faith as a solo job. Crews matter.

This chapter is the hinge. Everything before it leads here. Everything after it flows from here. Christ crucified and risen — that is the good news. Hold it. Live from it. Tell it.

READ NEXT Romans 5

NEXT CHAPTER Chapter 7: The Church and the Finish



CHAPTER

7

The Church and the Finish

Jesus rises. He appears to His people. He ascends. Before He goes, He gives a mission.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(ACTS 1:8 ESV)

Acts is the early church in motion. The Spirit comes. Peter preaches. Thousands believe. The gospel jumps languages and borders. Ordinary men speak with courage. Persecution hits. The church spreads anyway. Paul — once a hunter of Christians — becomes a planter of churches. Mission trips. Letters. Hardship. Joy.

Those letters fill much of the New Testament. Romans. Corinthians. Galatians. Ephesians. Philippians. And more. They teach doctrine and daily life: how to be a husband, a father, a worker, a church member. They correct error. They comfort the hurting. They keep pointing back to the cross and forward to Christ’s return.

Then Revelation. Strange images. Real comfort. The point is not to build a timeline hobby. The point is this: Jesus wins. Evil does not get the last word. God will make all things new.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

(REVELATION 21:4 ESV)

That is the finish. Not escape from the world forever — a new creation. God with His people. No more death. No more pain. The story that began in a garden ends in a city where the Lamb is the light.

So how do you keep reading?

1. **Stay in the Gospels.** Know Jesus well. Read a chapter a day when you can.
2. **Use a plan.** Psalms and Proverbs for the daily grind. A New Testament letter for clear teaching. Genesis or Exodus when you want the roots again.
3. **Read out loud.** One verse. Ask where it hits your crew, your wife, your kids.
4. **Sit under preaching.** A local church is not optional equipment. It is God's design.
5. **Talk it out.** Iron sharpens iron. Find one man who will open the Book with you.

You have walked the overview. One Story. Creation and fall. A people chosen. Kings and hope. Jesus arrives. The good news. The church and the finish. Now put the map down and walk the land yourself.

Open your Bible. Start where the last line sent you. Keep going. The same God who breathed out Scripture will meet you in it — and He will finish what He started.

READ NEXT Revelation 21

NEXT CHAPTER You're done — keep reading your Bible