



## ***The Books of the Bible***

### ***A “Map” of the Books of the Bible***

Imagine trying to navigate the streets of Boston without a map or GPS! Likewise in the devotional life of a believer, without knowing the principal sections of the Bible, one can easily feel confused about where to begin reading or how to understand what we are reading. If, however, we learn the order and logic of the arrangement of the books of the Bible, the scriptures become much more accessible. In this chapter we seek to provide orientation in how to navigate the Bible by presenting a basic outline of how the books of the Bible are divided into logical categories. Before beginning, we invite you to refer to the “Bible Overview” and “Bible Bookshelf” appendices. On these diagrams you will see the titles of all the Books of the Bible, divided according to general categories.

#### ***Our Goal: To Learn the Books of the Bible***

- ***The Primary Categories (or “genres”)***
  - ***The basic topics of the various books of the Bible***



### ***The Old Testament***

“Old Testament” means literally the “Old Covenant” of God with humanity. The Old Testament presents the evolving relationship between God and humanity from the creation of the world through a period roughly 400 years before the birth of Christ. In the Old Testament we find books of history, poetry and prophecy.

- ***History Books*** (Génesis, Exodus, etc.)
- ***Poetry Books*** (Psalms, Proverbs, etc.)
- ***Prophecy Books*** (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.)



### ***The New Testament***

“New Testament” means “The New Covenant” of God with humanity. It reveals Christ as the savior of humanity and relates his life and teachings. It also includes an account of the beginnings of the Christian church (the “Acts” of the Apostles) along with letters from the first Christian leaders (Apostles).

- ***The Gospels*** - The Life of Christ, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- ***The Acts of the Apostles*** – The history of the first Christians, written by Luke.
- ***Letters (Epistles)*** – from Paul and the other Apostles to churches and individuals
- ***Revelation*** – Prophecy about the second coming of Christ

# Biblioteca Bíblica

## HISTORIA DEL NACIMIENTO DE ISRAEL

GÉNESIS  
ÉXODO  
LEVÍTICO  
NÚMEROS  
DEUTERONOMIO

## HISTORIA ANTES DEL EXILIO

JOSUÉ  
JUECES  
RUTH  
1 SAMUEL  
2 SAMUEL  
1 REYES  
2 REYES  
1 CRÓNICAS  
2 CRÓNICAS

## HISTORIA DESPUÉS DEL EXILIO

ESDRAS  
NEHEMÍAS  
ESTER

## POESÍA

JOB  
SALMOS  
PROVERBIOS  
ECLESIASTÉS  
CANTARES

## PROFETAS MAYORES

ISAÍAS  
JEREMÍAS  
LAMENTACIONES  
EZEQUIEL  
DANIEL

## PROFETAS MENORES

OSEAS  
JOEL  
AMÓS  
ABDIAS  
JONÁS  
MIQUEAS  
NAHUM  
HABACUC  
SOFONÍAS  
HAGEO  
ZACARÍAS  
MALAQUIAS

## EVANGELIOS

MATEO  
MARCOS  
LUCAS  
JUAN

## HISTORIA

HECHOS

## CARTAS DE PABLO

ROMANOS  
1 CORINTIOS  
2 CORINTIOS  
GÁLATAS  
EFESIOS  
FILIPENSES  
COLOSENSES  
1 TESALONICENSES  
2 TESALONICENSES

1 TIMOTEO  
2 TIMOTEO

TITO  
FILEMÓN

## CARTAS GENERALES

HEBREOS  
SANTIAGO  
1 PEDRO  
2 PEDRO  
1 JUAN  
2 JUAN  
3 JUAN  
JUDAS

## PROFECIA

APOCALIPSIS



# PANORAMA DE LA BIBLIA

(66 Libros)

## EL ANTIGUO TESTAMENTO (39 libros)

### HISTORICOS (17 libros)

#### La Ley

1 Génesis  
2 Exodo  
3 Levítico  
4 Números

#### Historia y Gobierno

1 Josué  
2 Jueces  
3 Rut  
4 1 Samuel  
5 2 Samuel  
6 1 Reyes  
7 2 Reyes  
8 1 Crónicas  
9 2 Crónicas  
10 Esdras  
11 Nehemías  
12 Ester

### POESIA (5 libros)

1 Job  
2 Salmos  
3 Proverbios  
4 Eclesiastés  
5 Cantares

### PROFECIA (17 libros)

#### Profetas Mayores

1 Isaías  
2 Jeremías  
3 Lamentaciones  
4 Ezequiel  
5 Daniel

#### Profetas Menores

1 Oseas  
2 Joel  
3 Amós  
4 Abdías  
5 Jonás  
6 Miqueas  
7 Nahúm  
8 Habacuc  
9 Sofonías  
10 Hageo  
11 Zacarías  
12 Malaquías

## EL NUEVO TESTAMENTO (27 libros)

### HISTORICOS (5 libros)

#### Evangelios

1 Mateo  
2 Marcos  
3 Lucas  
4 Juan

#### Historia de la Iglesia

1 Hechos

### CARTAS (21 libros)

#### Cartas de Pablo

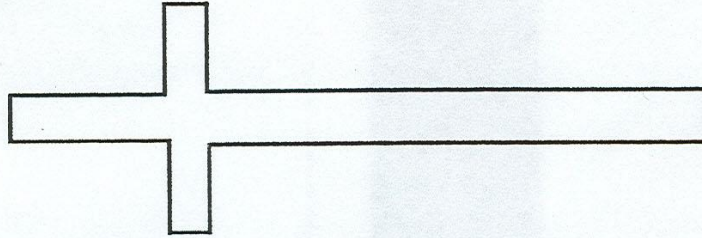
1 Romanos  
2 1 Corintios  
3 2 Corintios  
4 Gálatas  
5 Efesios  
6 Filipenses  
7 Colosenses  
8 1 Tesalonicenses  
9 2 Tesalonicenses  
10 1 Timoteo  
11 2 Timoteo  
12 Tito  
13 Filemón

#### Cartas Generales

1 Hebreos  
2 Santiago  
3 1 Pedro  
4 2 Pedro  
5 1 Juan  
6 2 Juan  
7 3 Juan  
8 Judas

### PROFECIA (1 libro)

1 Apocalipsis



Aproximadamente  
400 años  
entre los  
Testamentos

El Nuevo está Oculto en el Antiguo  
El Antiguo está Revelado en el Nuevo

# *The Books of the Old Testament*

## **The History Books of the Old Testament**

These books teach the history of Israel from the creation of the world up to about 400 years before the birth of Christ. The key moment we use to divide these books is the “Exile” when Israel was conquered by their enemies and taken into 70 years of captivity in Babylon and Assyria.

### *The History of the Birth of Israel – The Pentateuch*

**Genesis**  
**Exodus**  
**Leviticus**  
**Numbers**  
**Deuteronomy**



### *History of Israel up to the Exile*

**Joshua**  
**Judges**  
**Ruth**  
**1 Samuel**  
**2 Samuel**  
**1 Kings**  
**2 Kings**  
**1 Chronicles**  
**2 Chronicles**



### *History of Israel after the Exile*

**Ezra**  
**Nehemiah**  
**Esther**

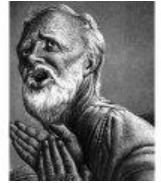


## History of Israel - *Basic Topics of each Book*

### *The History of the Birth of Israel (The Penteteuch)*



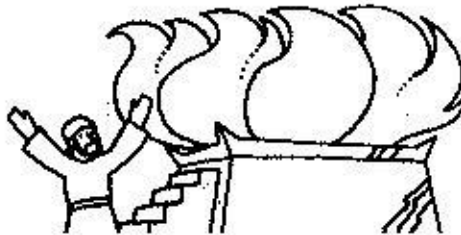
**1. Genesis** The book of origins – the creation; the fall of humanity; the flood; the call of Abraham and the Patriarchs – the fathers of Israel.



**2. Exodus** The deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The covenant with God given to Moses atop Mt. Sinai.



**3. Leviticus** Priestly legal codes – laws and guidelines for the holiness of worship in the tabernacle. (Mobile temple)



**4. Numbers** The disobedience of Israel and wanderings in the desert for 40 years.



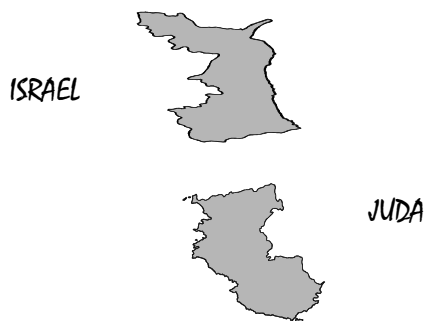
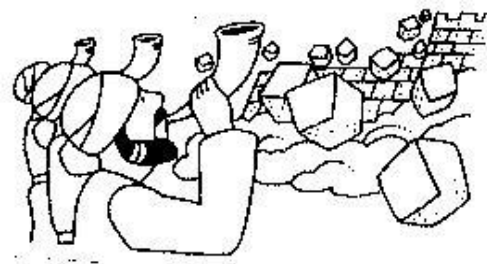
**5. Deuteronomy** An extended discourse by Moses to the people of Israel in the desert, reviewing the laws, promises and warnings included in the previous books. This discourse was meant to prepare them to enter the promised land.





## ***Books of the History of Israel before the Exile***

- 6. Joshua**      The Conquest of Canaan.
- 7. Judges**      The rule of military “judges” (Gideon, Samson, Deborah, etc.)
- 8. Ruth**          History of a righteous woman – David’s grand-mother.
- 9. 1 Samuel**      The kingdom begins - Saul, David
- 10. II Samuel**      The kingdom established - David
- 11. 1 Kings**      Solomon builds the temple – the kingdom divides
- 12. II Kings**      The Kingdom divided between the North (Israel) and the South (Judah);  
Idolatry and Exile.



- 13. 1 Chronicles**      Review of the history of David
- 14. II Chronicles**      Review of the history of Salomon, the kings, and the exile

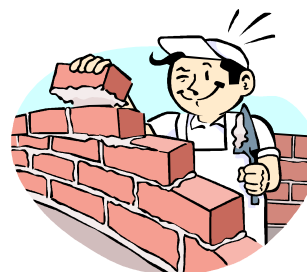


**EXILE**      *Babylon and Assyria conquer Israel and Judah*

**RETURN**      *The people return from exile to rebuild their nation*

## ***Books of the History of Israel after the Exile***

- 15. Ezra**      The Israelites return and rebuild the temple
- 16. Nehemiah**      The Israelites return and rebuild the walls around Jerusalem



- 17. Esther**      A beautiful Israelite becomes queen and saves her people.

## Poetry Books

*Poetry of Praise, Love, Advice and Philosophy*

***Job***

***Psalms***

***Proverbs***

***Ecclesiastes***

***Song of Songs***



### ***Summary of the Poetry Books of the Bible***



***Job***  
suffering.

An extended poem, seeking meaning in the midst of human

***Psalms***

Songs and prayers to God.



***Proverbs*** Concise poems about integrity in the practical affairs of everyday life.



***Song of Songs*** Love poems celebrating erotic love between husband and wife. Can be used as an analogy for the believer's intimacy with Christ.

***Ecclesiastes***

An exploration of the quest for meaning in life.





## Prophecy Books

*Messages and sermons by the prophets immediately before, during and after the exile. These messages were exhortations and warnings of impending judgment. This collection is divided between the “major” and “minor” prophets, based on the length of the books. (Not their importance!)*

### Prophecy Books

**Major Prophets** (longer books)

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel



**Minor Prophets** – (briefer books)

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



## The Context of the Prophets

**Prophets – the Megaphone of the Spirit**



The Prophets were like the megaphone that God used to get his message through to hard hearted people! They proclaimed the word of God directly and passionately. They shouted, wept, used creative object lessons and did somersaults to get the message through. There is even one extreme case of a prophet directed by God to marry an unfaithful prostitute to show Israel what it was like to be married to them!

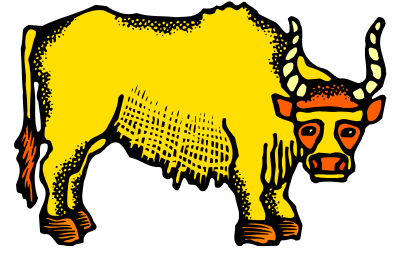


## ***Rampant Idolatry in the Epoch of the Prophets***

### ***Visualize a Pagan Temple!***

Imagine a pagan temple, set up on a hill. Incense rises from a sacrificial figure of a nude goddess or a golden calf. Before offering the sacrifices, the worshipers enter a makeshift tent in order to engage in sexual relations with a “sacred” prostitute, male or female. They believe that such sexual activity in the “temple” can channel the spirit of the goddess and invoke a blessing for fertility of crops. But even

more terrible than these abominations, they commit horrifying atrocities. One can hear screams – as if from a slaughtered sheep. But upon the sacrificial altar one sees with terror and shock – not an animal, but *an infant* perishing in the flames. By sacrificing the baby, it is believed that the goddess will multiply other children and abundant crops.



This scene does not describe the worship of a pagan people – *but the people of Israel* before their punishment of exile. From generation to generation the nation of Israel had become increasingly degraded. They had ceased to worship God and set themselves to worship idols – statues of stone, representing demons. They sacrificed their children in the fire, practiced divination, and engaged in sexual immorality with temple prostitutes as part of their Satanic worship. Israel came to be a pagan nation – even worse than the nations they displaced from the land of Canaan. Like an unfaithful wife, Israel had left her “first love” in order to commit spiritual adultery with other gods.

### ***Idolatry – A great temptation!***

- ***It was Convenient*** – An altar could be erected in any house or on any hill. One did not have to travel to the temple in Jerusalem to worship God as prescribed in the law.
- ***It was “Normal”*** - Every nation had its own personal “god” or “goddess.” In fact, Israel was the only nation which worshiped an invisible, spiritual, and universal God.
- ***It was Logical*** – It made sense to believe in gods who “specialized” in particular problems: Healing, fertility, prosperity, war, etc. Also, one can see and touch an idol. To worship an invisible God seemed ludicrous.
- ***It was Sensual*** – An idol was artistic and aesthetically pleasing – involving fine craftsmanship. One also could kiss the idol and smell the incense being offered.
- ***It was Carnal*** – Eating meat and drinking alcohol was part of a pagan feast.
- ***It was Erotic*** – Pagan prostitution allowed worshipers to combine sexuality and spirituality.
- ***It was Easy*** – Idolatry made no moral demands on the life of the worshiper. One could offer sacrifices and need not make changes in his or her daily lifestyle.

## ***Prophets Warn the Nation***

### ***The First Commandment - No Idols!***

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything... you shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God..." (Éxodus20: 1-5<sup>a</sup>)*



God will not be trifled with! He is Holy, and ready to punish any sin, even among his own special people. Therefore, he sent his chosen messengers – the prophets. These prophets listened to the voice of God and transmitted the message to the people.



*Repent! If you do not turn from worshipping idols, you will be defeated by your enemies and taken captive as prisoners to foreign lands. Israel will be destroyed!*



### ***The Punishment – Exile***

#### ***Babylon and Assyria Conquer Judah and Israel***

The Israelites failed to take the prophets seriously and continued in their sin. Therefore, they were conquered by two great and strong nations. First, the Assyrians defeated Israel in the

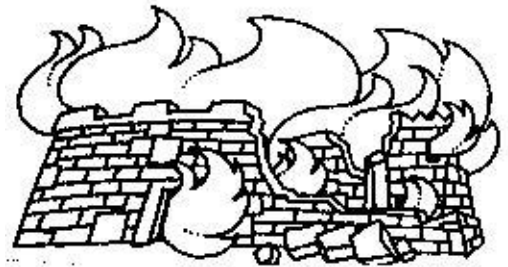
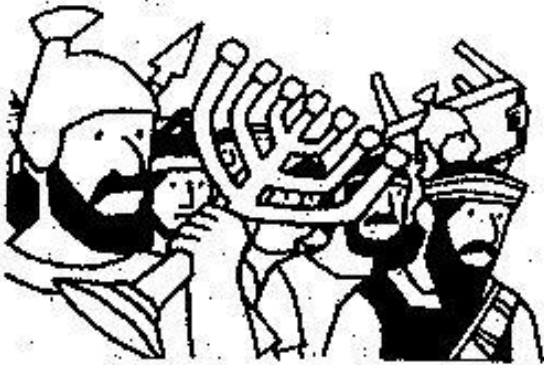
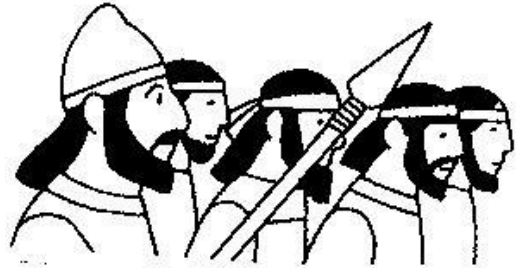


north, and about two hundred years later, Babylon conquered Judah in the South. They burnt the temple to the ground; robbed the sacred utensils; killed men, women and children; and put out the eyes of the king. The remnant of survivors was taken into captivity in Babylon and other nations. After 70 years, God caused them to return to the land of Israel once again. During that era after their punishment, God sent prophets once again to encourage them to be faithful to God and to rebuild the temple and the walls around the city of Jerusalem.



## ***The Exile – A Warning for us!***

This punishment serves as an example for us. Therefore, the Lord has preserved an extensive record of these prophetic messages in His Word. From these books of the Bible we learn that being faithful to God is a serious and awesome responsibility, not to be taken lightly.



## **Timeline of the Prophets**

*There were prophets before, during and after the Exile.*

### ***Prophets before the Exile***

Isaiah  
Jeremías  
Amos  
Hosea  
Micah  
Zepheniah  
Habbakuk  
Nahum  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Joel

### ***Prophets during the Exile***

Ezekiel  
Daniel

### ***Prophets after the Exile***

Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi





## ***Making Sense of the Prophecy Books – Different Perspectives of Time***

The Prophets received messages about various events, sometimes combined in a single dream or revelation. Therefore, one must recognize that a single “prophecy” can refer to distinct events, such as the Exile, the Return; the birth of Christ; and the end of the world – all mixed together! To understand prophecies better, then, we should think of the prophets as describing a faraway mountain range on the horizon. From afar, it is difficult to estimate the distances between the various mountain peaks. Likewise with the prophets, it was sometimes not possible to express the precise chronology of the events they could foresee through spiritual revelation.

***The Prophet “sees” all events on the same horizon ---***

***The reality could be a combination of distinct events, separated by many years.***



*The Exile*

*Return from Exile*

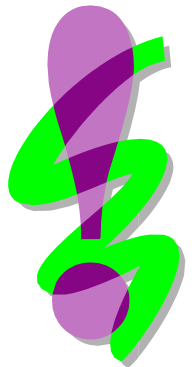
*Jesus*

*Second Coming of Christ*

## ***The Preaching of the Prophets – Actions speak louder than words!***

Shouts, Somersaults, Scandal and Spectacle – the prophets used whatever means necessary to get the attention of a hardened people. Consider the following examples of “prophetic communication.”

- *Hosea married an unfaithful prostitute – just as God married unfaithful Israel*
- *Jonah was vomited from the mouth of an enormous fish*
- *Ezekiel was forbidden to grieve the loss of his wife*
- *Hosea gave the following names to his kids: “Unloved” and “Not-my-People.”*
- *Isaiah walked about half-naked*
- *Jeremiah wore a yoke of Wood – and then Iron!*
- *Ezekiel built a model replica of Jerusalem and laid beside it in “siege” for more than a year!*
- *Jeremiah visited the house of the potter*
- *Jeremiah wept and wept and wept because of the coming judgment*



Which of these examples most grabs your attention? \_\_\_\_\_.

## *The New Testament*

### **The Gospels -- Portraits of the life of Jesus**



*The life and teachings of Jesus, written by his close followers.*

**Matthew** -- An ex – tax collector and disciple of Christ

**Mark** -- A young follower of Jesus. Interviewed Peter.

**Luke** -- A doctor and historian. Interviewed Mary and the apostles.

**John** -- An intimate disciple of Jesus.



*Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke*

Similar in their chronological style.

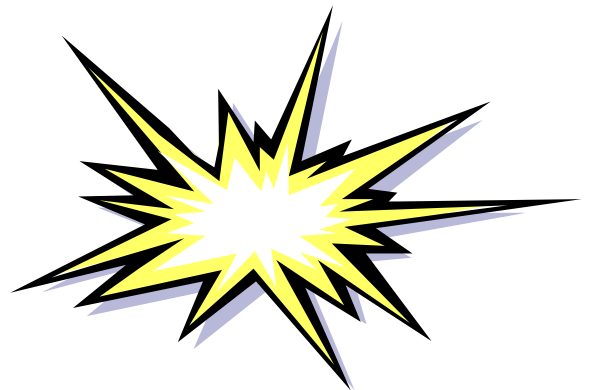
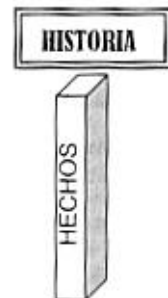
**John**

More philosophical in orientation than the other three. Emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus and includes some teachings that do not appear elsewhere.

### **The Acts of the Apostles**

*The History of the first Christians.*

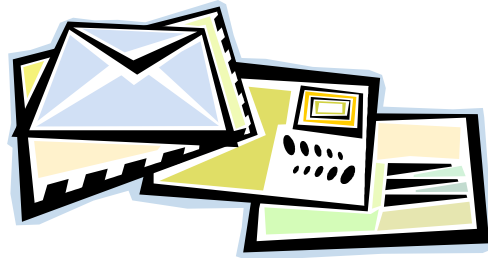
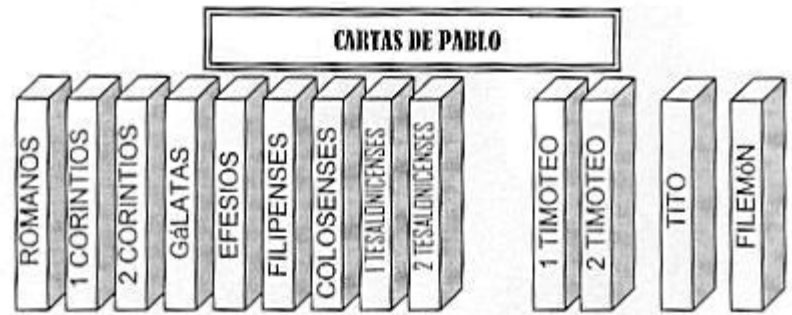
**Anointing – Pentecost – a Spiritual Explosion!**



## The Letters – “Epistles”

**Paul’s Letters** (titles are names of *the recipients*; whether particular cities or individuals.)

1. Romans
2. 1 Corinthians
3. 2 Corinthians
4. Gálathians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians
7. Colossians
8. 1 Thessalonians
9. 2 Thessalonians
10. 1 Timothy
11. 2 Timothy
12. Titus
13. Philemon
14. (Hebrews)



**General Epistles – Letters by other Apostles** (titles are names of the *writers*)

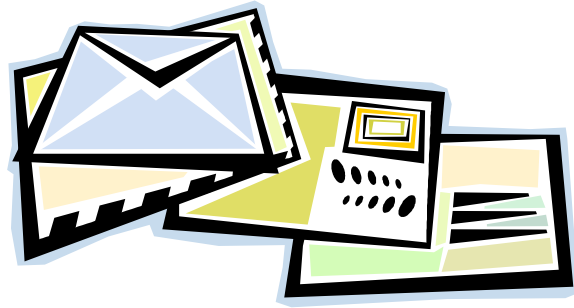
1. James
2. 1 Peter
3. 2 Peter
4. 1 John
5. 2 John
6. 3 John
7. Judas





## ***The Letters – One by One<sup>3</sup>***

### ***Basic content of each letter***



### ***Paul's Letters to the Churches***

- Romans***      A logical presentation of the doctrine of Salvation.
- 1 Corinthians***      Directed to specific moral problems in the church of Corinth
- 2 Corinthians***      Paul explains and defends his Apostolic ministry
- Gálatians***      Paul corrects the error of the “judiazers” who attempted to integrate the Old Testament law into Christian practice.
- Ephesians***      Paul explains the importance of unity and holiness for spiritual warfare. (The Armor of God)
- Philippians***      An affectionate letter about joy and peace in the midst of trials. Written from prison.
- Colossians***      The preeminence of Christ and unity in the church.
- 1 y 2 Thessalonians***      – Very personal letters which deal with specific questions, especially the second coming of Christ and practical Christian living.

### ***Paul's Letters to Individuals***

- 1 y 2 Timothy***      Encouragement and counsel to a Young pastor.
- Titus***      Instructions to a new pastor.
- Philemon***      Personal letter to the owner of a fugitive slave, urging kindness and mercy.



### ***Anonymous Letter***

- Hebrews***      A strong doctrinal letter, explaining how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament. Directed to Christians under persecution, emphasizing perseverance.

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<sup>3</sup> Anders, Max. 30 Días para Entender la Biblia. Caribe. Nashville. 1996. pp162-163.

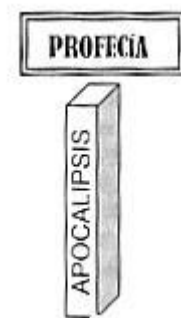
## ***General Letters – by other Apostles***

<b><i>James</i></b>	A brother of Jesus. Teaches about practical holiness in daily life.
<b><i>1 y 2 Peter</i></b>	Deals with suffering and persecution in the Christian life.
<b><i>1 John</i></b>	The signs of an authentic believer.
<b><i>2 John</i></b>	A personal letter to a Christian sister who is being pursued by cults.
<b><i>3 John</i></b>	Advice and encouragement to a personal friend.
<b><i>Judas</i></b> brief letter	Another brother of Jesus, not the Judas who betrayed Jesus. A warning about false teachers.

## **Revelation**



*The last book of the New Testament. Prophecy about the last days and the second coming of Christ.*



### ***Comprehension Questions– Lesson #5 – The Books of the Bible***

List the principal divisions of the books of the Old Testament. (p.111)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List the divisions of the Historical Books of the Old Testament. (p.112)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the “Exodus?” (p.115)

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What are the books of the Pentateuch? (Birth of Israel) (p.115)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the “Exile” and why did it happen? (p.115)

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What are the historical books written about Israel after the Exile? (p.116)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Why was idolatry such a strong temptation? (p.119)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

List the Poetry Books of the Old Testament? (p.117)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What are the two principal divisions of the Prophecy Books of the Old Testament?  
(p.118)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List the “major prophets.” (p.118)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What are the principal categories of the books of the New Testament? (p.111)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

List the four gospels. (p.123)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the “book of Acts” about? (p.123)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Which apostles wrote letters in the New Testament? (p.124)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_.