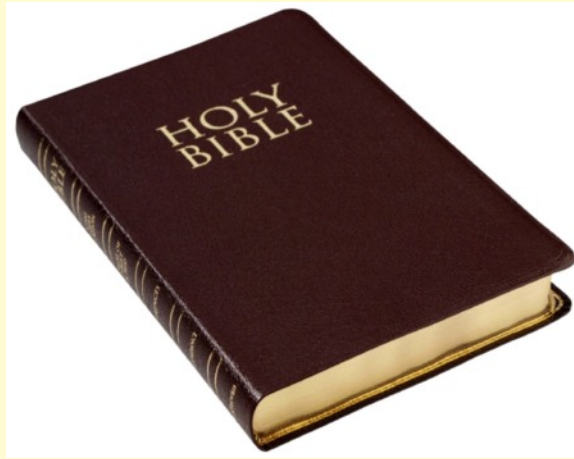


A short look at the Bible



Christian Family Helps

Contents

Some important parts of the Bible's Teaching - a First Look	1
THE OLD TESTAMENT	4
The Early History of the World	4
The History of Israel The nation God chose to prepare the world for the Saviour	6
Other books of the Old Testament	13
THE NEW TESTAMENT	14

Some Important Parts of the Bible's Teaching

- a First Look

The Bible

The Bible is the book God has given to tell us about himself and us. It tells us that there is life after death and that, after our bodies die, we shall all meet God.

No other book has been given by God. It is unique. It was written down by ordinary men who were supernaturally guided by God. They used their natural writing style but God made sure his words would be recorded without error. Although it was written over a period of at least 1500 years and by over 35 different men, the Bible carries the same overall message from start to finish.

God's creation is known by all people.

The Bible teaches that God is the creator of the universe and everything in it. The evidence is all around us. The Bible gives this information first. It tells us how everything we see in the physical world was created by God. It is impossible for the world and its creatures to exist apart from him. People are still discovering new facts about its complex design whether they look at tiny atoms or gigantic stars.

Men and women

Human beings are the most wonderful creatures in the world. We were made by God. He keeps us alive – all the complex working of our bodies, hearts, brains etc are constantly in his hands. God tells us in the Bible that he created people 'in God's image' – to be like him in many ways. We have physical bodies like the animals but we are not animals. We can appreciate order, beauty, art, music, courage, love, kindness etc. We have the power of thought, speech and imagination. God designed us to be his children to live in a close, happy family relationship with God our Father.

We have rejected God.

The Bible tells us that soon after the first man and woman were created, they rebelled against God their creator. They wanted to live in their own way not God's way. This was the worst thing they could possibly have done. Ignoring God and not obeying his commands is called 'Sin'. Sinners live as if God does not exist. Everyone in the world sins in this way.

God explains in the Bible that sin is so evil that it must be punished. Part of the punishment is death. We often think that death is natural but, in fact, it is not. Death is the result of our sin. The Bible explains that physical ageing and death are only the first stage of death. Unless we are put into a good and right relationship with God, after physical death there is something even worse. It is called 'hell'.

Because of sin the earth is no longer in peace and harmony (even the physical world has been affected). The world is now full of suffering, illness, and death. Men and women show their rebellion against God by disobeying his commands, by ignoring him and doing what they know is wrong. Society is troubled by selfishness, anger, bitterness, adultery, stealing, killing, wars etc.

God still loves men and women everywhere.

The Bible tells us Good News (the Gospel): God is still very kind to us even though we have sinned. He has provided many good things in the world. He has given us food, clothing and ability to work hard and make progress in developing the world and its resources for our benefit. He has given marriage and the family. He has given governments to rule us and to punish or prevent crime and wickedness. He wants us to turn to him for help and to ask him to save us from the punishment we deserve for our sin.

God provided a Saviour.

The best part of the Good News is that God loves men and women so much that he has provided a Saviour from sin (*saviour* = one who saves).

The first part of the Bible (the Old Testament) tells the history of how God prepared the world for the Saviour he was going to send.

The second part (the New Testament) tells the history of how God Himself came from heaven to earth as the Saviour. God came to live in the world as a perfect man.

In the Old Testament, the Saviour is sometimes called 'the Anointed One'. In the New Testament he is often called Jesus Christ, 'the Son of God' (*Christ* is the Greek word for 'anointed one').

The whole Bible explains how God, through the life and death of Jesus Christ succeeded in providing salvation from sin. To save men and women from sin, Jesus Christ had to lose his own life in the process. When he had paid this immeasurable price, he rose from the dead and is now alive for ever.

Because of the Saviour, all men and women can be put into a right relationship with God. They can become children of God. People who become his children will then want to please him by being obedient to his commands.

This world will not last for ever.

The Bible explains that God has fixed a certain time called 'the Last Day'. At that time he will bring to an end this present universe. He will then make a new creation in which there will be no sin, no death, no pain, no sorrow etc. At the Last Day, every person who has lived in the history of the world will be judged according to how he or she lived and what they did when they were alive on the earth. Those who fail to reach God's perfect standard as shown by the life of Jesus Christ, will be seen to be guilty and have to face the punishment they deserve.

How God saves us from being punished.

No man or woman has ever reached God's standard. We cannot save ourselves. That is why in his love and kindness, God Himself came to be the Saviour. Men and women who turn away from their rebellion and ask for his Salvation, are saved from their sins and the punishment. God punished Jesus instead of them when Jesus died 'on the cross'.

Death by being hung on a wooden cross (*crucifixion*) was a Roman method of executing criminals. Jesus Christ lived in the time of the Roman Empire (The emperors were called 'Caesar'). Jesus died as if he were a criminal. But Jesus was not guilty of any sin at all; he was perfectly good; he never ever sinned. When Jesus was dying on the cross, God gave him the punishment our sins deserve. He gave up his life for the sins of the world (1 John 2 v2).

Three days later he rose from the dead and returned to heaven. He now saves everyone who turns to him.

There will be new history.

When this present world ends, God's children will live thankfully and joyfully serving God for ever in the new creation.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Early History of the World

The Bible teaches that God controls all events in the world. He controls all the good things and even all the bad events. We cannot understand this but the Bible clearly shows that it is true.

THE CREATION

Genesis Chapters 1 & 2

God created the universe. He created Man in his own image.

God gave commands to Man.

God gave marriage and the family.

God gave work for man to do: to bring the earth and its resources under control.

God gave the 7-day week: 6 days work, 1 day rest.

The first man, Adam and his wife Eve were perfectly happy and lived in a close, loving relationship with God their Father. God was the centre of their lives and everything they did. They trusted everything God said and obeyed his commands.

MAN'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD ('THE FALL')

Genesis Chapter 3

The Devil used a snake to speak words to deceive Adam and Eve. The Devil questioned God's words and said that God had told lies. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command (they sinned). This brought very great change into God's creation. **Sin and Death** entered Creation, bringing great pain and difficulty and separation from God.

God promised that some time in the future he would send a **Deliverer** from the Devil's (Satan's) power.

Note about the Devil: Elsewhere in the Bible we are told of supernatural beings created by God called angels. They were created to worship and serve God. However, one of the most powerful angels called Lucifer (*Morning Star*) became proud and wanted to take God's place. Many other angels joined in this rebellion. Lucifer is now known as the Devil (*False Accuser, Slanderer*) and is often called Satan (*Enemy*). [Isaiah 14v12-15; Ezekiel 28v11-19]

The rest of the Old Testament shows how God prepared the world to receive the Saviour.

EARLY HISTORY

Genesis Chapter 4, verse 1 to Genesis Chapter 6, verse 6

Sin and death were seen in Adam and Eve's descendants. God taught people to bring **animal sacrifices** to him to teach them how God can forgive sins (see later). Some people trusted God but most people became more and more evil.

THE WORLD-WIDE FLOOD

Genesis Chapter 6 to Chapter 8

Because the evil was so great, God sent a world-wide flood (lasting a year) to destroy all mankind except Noah and his family. Noah and family and pairs of each kind of animal and bird were kept safe in a very large ship called 'the Ark'. The safety of the Ark was like the safety provided by the promised Saviour. The Ark saved everyone who went into it from death by drowning; the Saviour saves everyone who believes in Him from the punishment that God will bring on sinners.

After the flood, the people and animals came out of the Ark and refilled the earth. The earth, as it was before, had been destroyed. God promised never to flood the whole world again.

AFTER THE FLOOD - Different languages

Genesis Ch 11

The number of men and women greatly increased but they all lived in one area. God commanded people to spread out into all the earth. Men refused to obey God and stayed together. They built the city of Babel and its tower to show that they did not need God.

God stopped them working together against him by mixing up their languages. This was the beginning of different languages and separate nations. The various language groups spread out all over the world.

The History of Israel

The nation God chose to prepare the world for the Saviour

ABRAHAM (about 2000 BC)

Our dating system of BC and AD goes back to when Jesus Christ was born. (See explanation under 'New Testament', p14). This booklet was written in 2007 AD.

Genesis Ch 12 to Ch 25

God spoke to Abram who lived in Ur on the River Euphrates (present day Iraq). God told him to go to the land of Canaan (present day Israel). God promised that in the future he would give this land to Abraham's descendants. He promised that through a descendant of Abraham all the nations in the world would be blessed. This descendant was the Saviour. Abraham believed God's promise and God forgave Abraham's sin and made him 'righteous'. God taught Abraham to make animal sacrifices, e.g. to kill a sheep and offer it on an altar to God. (An altar was a platform made of earth or stones on which sacrifices were made.)

The sacrifices were to teach men about the Saviour (see later). God was teaching that sin justly deserves the death of the sinner. In order for God to forgive a man's sin, the penalty which he deserved would have to be paid. The animal died instead of the man.

Sacrificing an animal did not actually pay the proper penalty for sin. In the Old Testament time, God was getting the world ready for the Saviour. God regarded animal sacrifice as a temporary way in which he could 'overlook' sin until the Saviour came. The Saviour would pay the *real* demands of God's justice. He would take death instead of men and women. He would be a 'substitute' for them. The Saviour would take their punishment on himself.

ISAAC, son of Abraham

Genesis Ch 21- Ch 27

When Isaac was a boy (in Genesis 22), God used Abraham and Isaac to show more about the promised Saviour. God tested Abraham by telling him to give up his dearly loved son Isaac to death. This teaches that God would give up his own dearly loved Son (the Saviour) to death. Actually, at the last moment, God stopped the sacrifice of Isaac. He told Abraham to sacrifice a sheep instead of his son. Isaac was saved from death by the sacrifice of an animal. But God's own Son, the Saviour would not be saved; he would have to die for sin.

God reminded Isaac of his promise to bless Abraham's descendants. Isaac believed God.

JACOB, son of Isaac

Genesis Ch 25, verse 19 - Genesis Ch 50

God reminded Jacob of his promise to bless Abraham's descendants. Jacob believed God.

God gave Jacob another name: **Israel**. Israel had 12 sons.

JOSEPH son of Jacob

Genesis Ch 37 - Ch 50

Jacob's son Joseph trusted in God and God used him to save Jacob and his family from death. (He was like the Saviour that God had promised to send.)

The descendants of Jacob ('The Children of Israel') lived in Egypt for many years. The descendants of the 12 sons became the 12 Tribes of Israel. Israel became a nation. God renewed his promise to send a Deliverer (e.g. Genesis ch 49 v10).

GOING OUT OF EGYPT (THE EXODUS)

Exodus 1 - 15 [Exodus = going out]

After hundreds of years, the people of Israel (about 2-3 million) were slaves in Egypt. They were treated very harshly.

God sent a deliverer to save them from their cruel slavery.

MOSES the man God used (about 1500 BC)

Moses was the deliverer. The way God used him to take the people of Israel out of Egypt has important lessons about the Saviour. The Saviour would come and save from the slavery of sin and Satan.

On the night when the Children of Israel left Egypt, God told them how to make the 'Passover Sacrifice'. Each Israelite family was saved from death by the sacrifice of a lamb (Exodus 12).

THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT ('the Wilderness')

Exodus 15 - 40

Although God saved them from Egypt, it was 40 years before they arrived in the 'Promised Land' (the Land of Canaan). This was because they did not trust in God

and God had to teach them to obey him. The people were 40 years travelling through the Sinai Desert near the Red Sea, between present day Egypt and Israel. At the beginning of the journey through the desert, God gave the nation of Israel the moral law, civil laws, and ceremonial laws. God, himself wrote the moral law in stone. He dictated the civil and ceremonial laws to Moses and Moses wrote them down for the people.

The Moral Law

The Moral Law was a brief summary of God standards for human behaviour i.e the true standard of right and wrong. These standards are for all time and still are in force today. God's moral law is summarised as ten rules (**The Ten Commandments**, Exodus ch 20 v3-17). God also gave an even shorter summary of what He requires of us human beings:

1. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* (Deuteronomy 6 v5)

2. *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Leviticus 19 v18)

[*Heart and soul* = our whole being and all our abilities. *Lord* = our Creator and Owner. *Neighbour* = fellow human being]

The Civil Laws

The Civil Laws were to regulate the everyday life of the nation of Israel during the Old Testament times. These laws were based on the 10 Commandments and enabled the people to live properly together in justice and peace.

The Ceremonial Laws

The Ceremonial Laws were about worshipping God in the Old Testament times. They were temporary and became out of date when the Saviour came. Remember, that in Old Testament times God was teaching the people about how he was going to send the Saviour. He was teaching how mankind could be brought back to a good relationship with God.

There was a system of animal sacrifices and ceremonies for cleansing from sin and impurity. As before, these sacrifices and cleansing ceremonies were to teach the people about the way that we could be forgiven and made right with God (made righteous).

Every seven days was the Sabbath, the Rest Day and there were also special feast days totalling about 18 days per year.

God told the people to set up a special 'building' called the **Tabernacle**. It was an elaborate tent surrounded by a large open space enclosed by a fence made of cloth. It contained furniture and God gave regulations for its use.

It was a massive visual aid to teach the Israelites about the way man can be brought into a good relationship with God. It was all pointing forward to the time when God would send the Saviour.

God appointed a **High Priest** whose job was to sacrifice lambs, sheep, goats and bulls to God for the people and to pray for the people. This priest was another visual aid teaching about the work of the promised Saviour.

Notice that God was saying that it was still necessary for the Saviour to come. The laws were not sufficient to make us right with God – not even the Moral Law. The Law (God’s standards of right and wrong) shows us that no human being has done what is right and perfect. E.g., none of us have loved God “with all our strength”. We have all broken God’s law and deserve to face his justice and punishment.

We have rejected God; we have ignored our Creator and we deserve him to reject us. Justice demands it. We desperately need someone to save us from the penalty we deserve. God is very merciful and kind and does not want us to have to be punished. That is why God was going to send the Saviour.

The sacrifices were not able to bring God’s forgiveness even though the High Priest had to keep offering them to God on the Tabernacle altar. The sacrifices were just temporary - to teach the people about the True Sacrifice who was coming. The True Sacrifice was the Saviour; he was also going to be the True High Priest.

The account of how the Israelites travelled through the desert is full of events which God uses to teach us about who he is and the Saviour that God would send.

Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy

These books are also about the journey through the desert.

JOSHUA and THE FIGHT FOR CANAAN

Joshua

Seven nations lived in Canaan. They had lived there for hundreds of years and were deliberately defying God. They had become extremely evil and, as always happens in the history of the world, God eventually was going to bring his judgement and punishment on them. He did this by using the army of Israel under the command of Joshua. The Israelites killed or drove out the nations from Canaan and lived in the land instead. From that time onwards the country was called **Israel**.

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

Judges

This was a difficult time of Israel's history. The people forgot how the Lord God had led them through the desert and had enabled them to conquer Canaan. They also turned away from his laws and imitated the evil deeds of the conquered nations and the countries which surrounded Israel. God disciplined and punished Israel by allowing other nations to attack, rob, kill and enslave them.

When the Children of Israel suffered in this way, they would repent (turn away from their sins) and ask God to save them. In answer to this, God called specific men of Israel to lead the Israelites to fight against enemy control. These men were called 'Judges'. God gave them success and repeatedly saved Israel from their enemies. But when they were saved, the people would soon forget the Lord's kindness and start ignoring Him again.

Ruth

Ruth is also about the Judges' times. RUTH was an ancestor of the coming Saviour. The Judges period lasted about 330 years.

SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1 to 19

SAMUEL was the last Judge. During his time the people of Israel asked for a king to reign over them. They resented God and wanted to be like the other nations who did not follow God. Because of their attitude, the first king, Saul was bad and led the people away from God.

DAVID (1010-970 BC)

1 Samuel 16 to 31

2 Samuel 1 to 24

1 Kings 1 to 3v12

1 Chronicles 10 to 29

In his mercy, God brought a new king, DAVID. He was from the tribe of Judah. (Remember, there were 12 tribes of Israel.) David was an ancestor of the Saviour. After this, in the Bible, the Saviour is sometimes called the 'Anointed One' (*Messiah*) or 'Son of David'. In Genesis, Jacob had prophesied that the Saviour would be from the family line of Judah (Genesis 49:10). King David was in many ways a visual aid' to teach us what the Saviour would be like. The Saviour would be a perfect, righteous king.

SOLOMON (971-931 BC)

1 Kings 1 - 11

2 Chronicles 1 - 9

David's son SOLOMON was the next king of Israel. He was wise, rich and powerful and Israel was at peace during his reign. Again, this teaches things about the reign of the coming Saviour.

God told Solomon to build the **Temple** which was a permanent building very like the Tabernacle (the Tent in the desert) had been. Its design was to teach about what sort of a person God is and how sinful men and women can come to Him. Temple worship involved many animal sacrifices.

ISRAEL SPLITS INTO TWO

1 Kings 12 and 13

2 Chronicles 10 and 11

After Solomon, during his son Rehoboam's reign, in God's purpose, a dispute broke out and 10 tribes broke away from the reigning tribe of Judah. They formed a separate kingdom in the north called **Israel**. The first king was called Jeroboam. (931 BC)

In the south were two tribes: the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin. This kingdom was called **Judah**.

The two kingdoms always remained separate and there was often war between them. For the next 200 years, a total of 19 kings reigned in the northern kingdom of Israel. They all turned away from God and led the people into sin. Seven of these kings were assassinated.

In the south, Judah was ruled by a succession of 19 kings, all descended from David. Most of these were evil but there were some good kings who tried to lead the people to put their trust in the Lord God.

THE TWO KINGDOMS

1 Kings 14 to 22
2 Kings 1 to 25
2 Chronicles 10 to 36

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL (Capital city: Samaria)

During this time the people gradually grew worse and worse in rebellion against God. They worshipped and served false 'man-made' gods (gods made up from their own imagination). God often sent **prophets** to the people to remind them of him and his laws. (A prophet was a man who spoke God's words to the people.) God sent surrounding nations to attack and punish Israel. But Israel refused to listen to God and became more and more wicked. They even burned their own children in the fire as they worshipped their gods.

After many warnings, God brought the Assyrians (who lived on the River Tigris in present day northern Iraq) who either killed them or took them away into the Assyrian Empire (723 BC).

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH (Capital city: Jerusalem)

Although the southern kingdom of Judah had some good kings, the people still ended up as wicked and God-rejecting as the northern kingdom.

As with Israel, God sent prophets to warn and teach the people. Also, other nations were allowed to attack Judah and do great harm. But the people did not pay attention to God's warnings and teaching or to his punishments through the other nations. In the end, the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, came and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. In 586 BC he took the people of Judah into exile into Babylonia on the River Euphrates (present day Iraq). God deliberately allowed this to happen.

RETURN FROM BABYLON

Ezra Nehemiah Esther

God was still preserving his special people. He brought many of them back to their own country after 70 years in Babylonia.

He was still going to bring the promised Saviour, the Anointed One, the Son of David, so he preserved the family line of Judah. David's descendants were among those who returned home to the country of Judah. This was in the days of the Medo-Persian Empire. The Temple was rebuilt and then the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt. But there were no more kings of Judah as before the exile.

During this time the people of Israel were often called the **Jews**. NEHEMIAH was appointed as governor by the Persian Emperor. EZRA was also a leader at this time. Through ESTHER, Queen of the Persian Empire, and her cousin, MORDECAI, God saved the nation of Israel from being destroyed.

Other books of the Old Testament

POETICAL BOOKS

These books are written as poetry. As with the rest of the Old Testament, they teach about the Saviour.

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Songs ('Song of Solomon')

THE PROPHETS

The **prophets** were men who spoke God's words to the people. They reminded the people of Israel and Judah of God's Laws. The people and their kings were often disobeying God. God used the prophets to turn them back to himself. He promised great blessings if the people would turn away from their sins and believe what he said. He warned the people that if they did not pay attention to him they would have disaster. Because God controls history, the prophets often told of what would happen in the future. They often spoke about the coming Saviour.

The books of the Prophets are:

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Malachi was the last prophecy. It was written about 430-420 BC.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPELS [Gospel = Good News]

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

These books are each separate accounts of the coming of the promised Saviour, **The LORD JESUS CHRIST** [Christ = *Anointed One* in Greek] and how he lived in this world.

We have our dating system based on when he was born.

B. C. means 'Before Christ'.

A. D. means *Anno Domini* which is Latin for 'In the year of our Lord'.

2000 AD = about 2000 years after the birth of Jesus Christ

The Saviour is 'The Son of God'. He came from heaven, where God lives and was born as a Jewish man in Bethlehem, in Judah. This had been promised by God in the Old Testament. Jesus did not have a human father. He came into this world as a baby, carried in the womb of a virgin descended from King David. He did not have any sin like ordinary men. He lived as an ordinary man yet he never sinned against God.

He is the Son of God but also he is the 'Son of Man'. He is perfectly God and perfectly Man.

He showed who he is by performing miracles (supernatural acts) that only God could do. The Lord Jesus Christ also showed that although he hates sin, he loves people. He wants all sinners (i.e. everyone) to turn away from sinning and trust him to set them free from the slavery of sin.

Jesus lived a perfect life and travelled around Palestine (Israel) teaching people about God and healing many people from illnesses.

The religious Jewish leaders became very jealous of Jesus and plotted to kill him. He allowed himself to be arrested and handed over to the Roman governor of Palestine (Palestine was part of the Roman Empire). Even though he had done nothing wrong, the governor condemned him to death. The death penalty was execution by crucifixion – being fastened to a wooden cross until dead.

Jesus could have easily avoided dying. Unlike ordinary men, he did not deserve to die at all. But he deliberately chose to die like a criminal. He was the **Sacrifice** to which all the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed. The New Testament calls him **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world (John 1v29).

He was taking the sins and shame of sinful men and women of the world on himself. He died instead of them. He was a substitute; he was punished for the sins of other people.

While he hung on the cross, God the Father turned away from his Son, Jesus Christ. The Son received the immeasurable punishment of God on himself instead of the ones who deserved it.

He took the full punishment; he paid the full price that God's justice demanded.

Jesus's dead body was put in a tomb but after three days, God raised him to life again - he came back from the dead! This shows that God was perfectly pleased with the sacrifice of his Son on the cross.

That is why God can forgive our sins and bring men and women back into a good relationship with himself - because Jesus paid for the guilt and shame of sin.

Jesus told his disciples to go into the rest of the world and tell the Good News of God's way of Salvation.

[*disciple* = person who wants to serve Jesus Christ and obey his teaching.]

After that, Jesus went back to heaven. Before he returned to heaven he promised that he would send his '**Holy Spirit**' to give eternal life to whoever believes the Good News. In a way which is impossible to understand, Jesus Christ, the Anointed One now lives in and with everyone who believes the Gospel and takes it seriously. By his Holy Spirit, he makes ordinary sinful men and women into God's own children and gives them eternal life (never-ending, perfectly satisfying life). This life begins now but will be much better when our bodies die and we leave this world.

The New Testament explains what this means. Any person in the world (not just Jewish people) can come to know God by trusting themselves to the Saviour he has given.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3v16.

The Book of Acts

This book describes how God sent the Holy Spirit (also called 'the Spirit of God' or 'the Spirit of Christ'). It tells the history of the early years of the Church and the way the Good News rapidly spread out into the world.

[*Church* = 'Christians', people who believe and obey the Good News of Jesus Christ]

THE LETTERS (Epistles)

Romans	Titus
1 Corinthians	Philemon
2 Corinthians	Hebrews
Galatians	James
Ephesians	1 Peter
Philippians	2 Peter
Colossians	1 John
1 Thessalonians	2 John
2 Thessalonians	3 John
1 Timothy	Jude
2 Timothy	

These are letters written for churches (local groups of Christians) so that they will understand the Gospel and live as they should. The letters were written by the **apostles** to churches in the first century AD.

[*Apostles* = teachers appointed by Christ. They went around with Jesus while he was on earth and were responsible for writing the New Testament.]

The Book of Revelation

This last book of the Bible is written in a different style from the rest of the New Testament. It tells us about world history and its end, 'the end of the age'. It tells of the punishment of the Devil (Satan) and his angels. It also speaks of the Last Day and 'The Judgement' (i.e. God's perfectly fair and just assessment of the lives of everyone who has ever lived) and the just punishment of all who have rejected God. At the Judgement, it will be made clear that Jesus Christ has taken on himself the punishment deserved by all who trust in him. Therefore they will not be condemned. Revelation describes a little of the never-ending joy and satisfaction of the Children of God as they live (free from sin) with him in God's eternal New Creation.

A short look at the Bible

© Steve Sherwood 2007

Christian Family Helps

40 Leivers Close, East Leake, Loughborough LE12 6PQ

Tel: 01509 854 340 Mob: 07925 031299

Email: scsherwood@gmail.com

A short look at the Bible

This booklet provides teenagers with an overview of Bible History and God's plan of Redemption. At the same time, it gives an introduction to the structure and layout of the Scriptures.

It was originally written as an introduction for university students whose first language was not English.

Christian Family Helps

40 Leivers Close, East Leake, Loughborough LE12 6PQ

Tel: 01509 854 340 Mob: 07925 031299

Email: scsherwood@gmail.com