



▶ THE BIBLE

A BRIEF RECAP

Pentateuch

First 5 Books of the Bible

Creation

- ▶ The Bible actually contains two creation stories.
- ▶ The story told in Genesis 1 focuses on the big picture, lifting up God's role as the one who called creation into being and providing a framework to help us understand the process through which that creation occurred.
- ▶ The second creation account beginning in Genesis 2:4 focuses on humanity and seeks to explain the brokenness and sin that are a part of the world.
- ▶ Taken together, they provide a helpful picture of the potential for goodness and the problems of sin in the world.

The Gift of the Law

- ▶ One of the ways that God helped the people live in community while in the wilderness was through the gift of the law
- ▶ The Law:
 - ▶ helped organize the people
 - ▶ gave structure to their relationships with one another.
- ▶ Take a look at this [list of the 613 laws](#) for a better idea of how extensive the system of laws was.
- ▶ In this next video, Moses delivers his final words of warning and wisdom to the Israelites before they enter the promised land.
- ▶ This is the epic conclusion of the Torah!
- ▶ And, spoiler alert: Moses dies.

The Gift of the Law

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Historical Books

Historical Books: Story of Esther

- ▶ Esther and Mordecai were Jews living in the Persian Empire in the capital city of Susa. This book is very interesting and tells a tale of reversal.
- ▶ Esther is a story of believing we were born with a purpose.
- ▶ Esther did not want to become queen or the wife of the king but through her doing what she must, God worked a saving of her uncle Mordecai and the saving of her national people.
- ▶ Esther is a story of fear and overcoming that fear and a story of believing in yourself and knowing when to stand up.

Historical Books: Story of Esther

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Historical Books: Ruth

- ▶ Naomi was able to provide for Ruth who left her country to care for her mother-in-law. Even when she thought she wouldn't be able to.
- ▶ God gives us abilities we do not know we have to use in times we do not know we will need to be active. Naomi provided for Ruth through her family.
- ▶ Boaz also provided for his family in Naomi. Because he was the son of a Gentile woman, and he knew the importance of family, he was willing to provide for his family to help those who had no one else.
- ▶ Boaz provided for Naomi, by offering to marry Ruth, and this in turn provided for Ruth, and protected her, but also provided for Naomi and protected her. He was more willing to do this than the closest relative, probably because he was born of the Gentile woman Rahab.
- ▶ This is a story of redemption and love for the least of these, those who can not provide for themselves, and is a model for how God wants all of us to see the world, and to show God's love to others.

Historical Books: Ruth

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Writings

Writings: Psalms

- ▶ Psalms and Isaiah are the two Old Testament books most quoted in the New Testament.
- ▶ The Psalms are a book of prayers and praises, as well as a guide to help teach us to pray.
- ▶ Psalms are poetry, and are meant to be sung. When we read them they do not always feel like prose or poetry.
- ▶ Have you ever heard the phrase “Something was lost in translation?” When the psalms were translated from their original Hebrew into English or another language, some of the rhythm/rhyme was lost.

Writings: Psalms - different types

- ▶ The Prayer for Help of an Individual
 - ▶ These are the most numerous type of psalm.
 - ▶ They also present the issue of who is the I in the psalm.
 - ▶ Psalm 38
 - ▶ Psalm 26
 - ▶ Psalm 3
- ▶ Thanksgiving of an individual
 - ▶ Psalm 107
 - ▶ Psalm 30
- ▶ Psalm 116
- ▶ Corporate Prayer for Help
 - ▶ Psalm 44
 - ▶ Psalm 74
 - ▶ Psalm 79
- ▶ Hymn
 - ▶ Psalm 145
 - ▶ Psalm 113
 - ▶ Psalm 114
- ▶ Psalm of Instruction
 - ▶ Psalm 25
 - ▶ Psalm 119
- ▶ Psalm 50
- ▶ Other types
 - ▶ Ceremonies of procession or entrance
 - ▶ Psalm 118
 - ▶ Psalm 24
 - ▶ Psalm 15
 - ▶ Speeches
 - ▶ Psalm 50
 - ▶ Psalm 82
 - ▶ And others

Writings: Psalms

- ▶ There are 150 Psalms in our tradition, yet the Septuagint bible (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), present in Eastern Orthodox churches, includes a Psalm 151.
- ▶ There is a Hebrew version of this was found in the Psalms Scroll of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- ▶ Some versions of the Peshitta (the bible used in Syriac churches in the Middle East) include Psalms 152-155.
- ▶ There are also the Psalms of Solomon, which are a further 18 psalms of Jewish origin, likely originally written in Hebrew, but surviving only in Greek and Syriac translation.
- ▶ These and other indications suggest that the current Western Christian and Jewish collection of 150 psalms were selected from a wider set.

Prophets

- ▶ Contrary to popular belief, a Biblical prophet is not: a fortune teller; a person who can predict the future, or how much money you make when you sell something.
- ▶ A prophet is a messenger of God.
- ▶ While there are a number of people who proclaim God's message in the Old Testament, some prophets (like Elijah, Elisha and Samuel) are included in Books of the Old Testament that focus more on historical accounts concerning the people of Israel like 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings.
- ▶ Other prophets (like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah) show up in a section of the Old Testament focused specifically on the prophets.
- ▶ Within this prophetic section of the Old Testament, the books of the Old Testament are often divided into Major Prophets and Minor Prophets.
- ▶ Don't be fooled by the names "Major" and "Minor". Those names don't indicate how important the prophet was, they simply refer to how much is written down in the Old Testament about or by each of these important messengers from God.

Prophets

Prophets: Jeremiah (Major Prophet)

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Prophets: Jonah (Minor Prophet)

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The Gospels

The Gospels

- ▶ There are 4 Gospel narratives: accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.
- ▶ Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels.
- ▶ Each Gospel is written at a different moment in time with a different audience in mind. So though the accounts are indeed similar, they are still quite different from one another.

The Gospels: The Annunciation

[Click HERE for Video](#)



The Gospels: The Annunciation

- ▶ First, give a read to Luke 1:26-56. You'll see that the angel Michael comes and announces Mary's pregnancy.
- ▶ But you'll also notice something interesting, known as the *Magnificat*.
- ▶ That's just a Latin word for magnifies, for Mary's joyful response to this news begins with "My soul magnifies the Lord!"
- ▶ Mary is excited about this news, for God's brought salvation to her people Israel, and to all people on earth. In the Annunciation, God announces salvation.
- ▶ Mary responds with joyful consent to God's plan: "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said."
- ▶ The Annunciation isn't just about God's announcement to Mary. It's about Mary's willingness to be a part of God's plan.
- ▶ She opens herself to God's work through her in order to bring the gift she bears from her womb into all creation.

The Gospels: The Walk to Emmaus

[Click HERE for Video](#)



The Gospels: The Walk to Emmaus

- ▶ On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and the other disciple sense that there is something special about the man they are walking with along the way.
- ▶ It is not, however, until Jesus takes the bread, blesses it and breaks it that their eyes are opened and they begin to see who Jesus was.
- ▶ In today's world, it can be hard sometimes to see Jesus.
- ▶ There are more images and ideas bombarding us on a daily basis than ever before and sometimes we, like Cleopas and the other disciple, may fail to see what is right in front of us.
- ▶ The story of the walk to Emmaus is a helpful reminder of what can happen when we pause in the midst of our busy lives to listen to what God has to say, to spend time with other members of the body of Christ and to share in God's gifts to us like communion, for it is in moments such as these that Christ is made known to us.

Acts

Acts: The Calling of Saul

- ▶ Saul was a ruthless man who had papers from the Jewish High Council to arrest people of the way or those who followed the teachings of Jesus Christ. He was one of the best prosecutors of the church. People who follow the teaching of Jesus Christ were deathly afraid of Saul as is evidenced by the reading and video.
- ▶ But God met him on the road to Damascus and made Saul blind. But God did not leave him this way, God sent Ananias, an apostle, to give Saul his sight back, and to show him the love God has for him. God took someone whom the church feared and turned him into one of the greatest apostles to ever live.
- ▶ So when you think you are too far gone, don't. You are never out of the reach of a loving God.

Acts: The Calling of Saul

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Letters of the Church

Letters: Justification

- ▶ One of the cornerstone verses for Martin Luther was [Ephesians 2:8-9](#):
- ▶ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
- ▶ What the author of the letter to Ephesus was saying to the Ephesians is that it is because of grace they are saved through faith. It is not anything they did or could do. Salvation is a gift from God, not through our own merit.
- ▶ So we are made right with God through our faith in Jesus Christ, not because of anything we have done or will do.
- ▶ Also remember John 3:17. And no I didn't get that wrong. It is just as important if not more important than John 3:16.
- ▶ John 3:17 says, “For God did not send God’s Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Letters: Justification

- ▶ Grace and Justification are gifts of God, given to us through our faith in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ We can not earn grace by anything we have done, and we can not lose it because of anything we did or didn't do, and we can't get it by doing anything in the future. It is a gift.
- ▶ But just because we can't earn grace doesn't mean we don't have works to do.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we are made right by the gift of God through our faith in Jesus Christ. But we have to continue on in that reading also.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (NRSV)
- ▶ When we become one with Christ by the Spirit through faith, we died Christ's death and are raised to newness of life. To continue living in sin (in death) would be contrary to our nature.
- ▶ Good works, therefore, become an outpouring of our justification, not a generator of it.

Letters: Justified by grace through faith

[Click HERE for Video](#)



Questions?

- ▶ BE SURE TO EMAIL MARIE (mariemartinez@livingwordkaty.org) WITH 3 THINGS YOU LEARNED AND ONE QUESTION YOU STILL HAVE.
 - ▶ ALSO LET HER KNOW WHAT YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OF THE BIBLE HAS BEEN THIS PAST YEAR IN CONFIRMATION.
 - ▶ IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY, BE SURE TO EMAIL MARIE YOUR FAITH STATEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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- ▶ **CONGRATULATIONS FOR COMPLETING A YEAR OF CONFIRMATION!**