



LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

By Dr. Steven Wood

This is not a theological course. Neither is it even a university level survey of the Bible. This course is specifically written for lay people – you know the ‘normal,’ people who love Jesus, support their local church, and are *not* ministers – so the overwhelming majority of the Body of Christ (like I said, the *normal* people). If you were a man or woman preparing for ministry there is an excellent chance you would attend a Christian college or university and pursue a theological degree – you might even attend seminar and earn an advanced degree. Those who do that (like I did a very, very long time ago)



probably start out with a survey of the Old Testament followed by a survey of the New Testament. Each one of these courses take an entire school year and form the foundation for everything that follows in a theological degree.

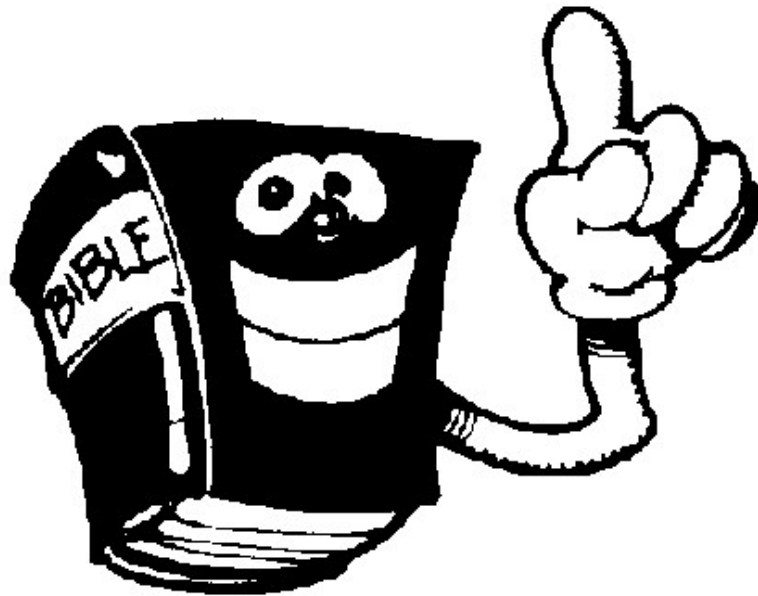
We do not have that kind of time and you are not, at least as far as I know, preparing for the ministry. That means you can be spared a couple hundred classroom hours where you learn to distinguish between Elijah and Elisha, Old Testament Saul and New Testament Saul, and whether or not Adam had a bellybutton. However, my pastor’s heart that loves you and wants you to grow in Christ knows a general understanding of the Bible is essential to your spiritual health. So, what follows is a very, very light 31-lesson survey of the Bible.

It is my hope as we study together that you develop a general understanding of the flow of the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation. In addition, I hope you will complete this course with a basic knowledge of each of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments that allows you to

navigate the Scriptures and pursue Christ. Finally, I hope this course lights a fire in you that never goes out and gives you a thirst for God's Word in such a way that you long to go deeper and then do so as you study it under the Holy Spirit's leading.

This is going to feel a little like drinking from a fire hose, so get ready. Here we go.

In Christ,
Dr. Steven Wood
Pastor – First Congregational Church
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(VERY) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

January 3, 2024:	Introduction / Overview
January 10, 2024:	Genesis
January 17, 2024:	Job
January 24, 2024:	Exodus
January 31, 2024:	Leviticus
February 7, 2024:	Numbers
February 14, 2024:	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
February 21, 2024:	Deuteronomy
February 28, 2024:	Joshua
March 6, 2024:	Judges, Ruth
March 13, 2024:	Isaiah
March 20, 2024:	1 & 2 Samuel
March 27, 2024:	1 & 2 Kings
April 3, 2024:	1 & 2 Chronicles
April 10, 2024:	Psalms
April 17, 2024:	Proverbs
April 24, 2024:	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
May 1, 2024:	Obadiah, Jonah, Amos, Micah
May 8, 2024:	Hosea, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk
May 15, 2024:	Jeremiah, Lamentations

--- SUMMER ---

September 4, 2024:	Ezra, Nehemiah
September 11, 2024:	Ezekiel, Daniel
September 18, 2024:	Joel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
September 25, 2024:	Esther
October 2, 2024:	Introduction to the New Testament
October 9, 2024:	The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
October 16, 2024:	John
October 23, 2024:	Acts
October 30, 2024:	James
November 6, 2024:	1 & 2 Peter, Jude
November 13, 2024:	Revelation

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

Our Purpose

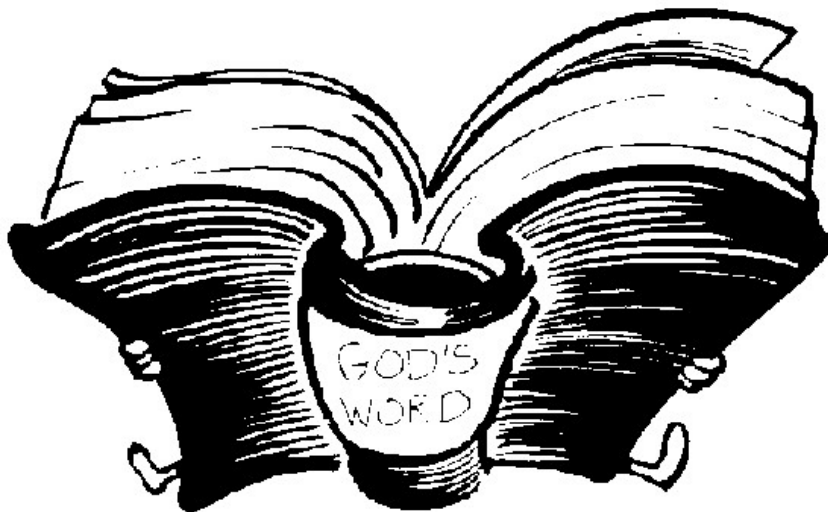
Our purpose in this course is to give each student a basic framework on which to hang future study, understanding, and application.

Our Premise

The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments form the only reliable source of truth by which a follower of Jesus Christ can grow in their faith by becoming more like him throughout this life.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21)



OVERVIEW

- The 66 books that make up the Old and New Testaments were written by about 40 authors and cover a period of about 1,600 years.
- The Old Testament was originally written mostly in Hebrew, with a few short passages in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek. Our English Bible is a translation from these languages.
- The word testament means “covenant” or “agreement.” Therefore, the Old Testament is the covenant God made with humanity before Christ came and the New Testament is the agreement God made with humanity after Christ came.

Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:15-29)

OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE

- The Old Testament
 - The Pentateuch (also known as The Law)
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Deuteronomy
 - History
 - Joshua
 - Judges
 - Ruth
 - 1 & 2 Samuel (originally one book)
 - 1 & 2 Chronicles (originally one book)
 - 1 & 2 Kings (originally one book)
 - Ezra
 - Nehemiah
 - Esther
 - Worship – Psalms
 - Wisdom
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs (aka Song of Solomon)
 - Prophecy
 - Major Prophets
 - Isaiah
 - Jeremiah and Lamentations
 - Ezekiel
 - Daniel
 - Minor Prophets (originally one book)
 - Hosea
 - Joel
 - Amos
 - Obadiah
 - Jonah
 - Micah
 - Nahum
 - Habakkuk
 - Zephaniah
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
 - Malachi

- The New Testament
 - Gospels
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John
 - History – Acts
 - The Epistles
 - Epistles of Paul
 - Church Epistles
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians (one of the prison epistles)
 - Philippians (one of the prison epistles)
 - Colossians (one of the prison epistles)
 - 1 & 2 Thesalonians
 - Pastoral Epistles
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Hebrews
 - Titus
 - Philemon (one of the prison epistles)
 - General Epistles
 - James
 - 1, 2, 3 John
 - 1 & 2 Peter
 - Jude
 - Prophecy – Revelation

