

Welcome to the  
**Story of the Bible**  
With Daniel Cherry  
Part IV: The Church



CHURCH *of* CHRIST  
*at Jenks Avenue*

# 4-Week Overview of the Bible Outline

## I. The Beginning

- A. Creation → Babel (Gen. 1-11)
- B. Abraham → Joseph (Gen. 12-50)

## II. Old Testament History

- A. Moses → Kings (Exodus-2 Chron)
- B. Exile → Return (Ezra-Esther, Prophets)

## III. Preparing the Way

- A. Intertestamental Period
- B. Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew-John)

## IV. The Church

- A. The Beginning of the Church (Acts)
- B. Letters to the Churches (Romans-Revelation)

## **A. Acts**

**1. In this sequel, Luke showed how Jesus fulfilled the OT predictions of him.**

**a. Fulfilled through the Jews (Abraham's "Great Nation") 1:6-7 (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

**b. For Israel to be restored, Jews would have to accept the gospel.**

**(2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 9:42; 12:24; 13:43, 14:1; 17:11-12; 21:20)**

## **2. General Outline (1:8 – Jerusalem, Samaria, Ends of the Earth)**

### **a. 1-9 Gospel Preached to the Jews/Samaritans**

**1-7 – Church in Jerusalem**

**8-9 – Jerusalem church scattered to Samaria**

### **b. 10-28 Gospel Preached to the Gentiles**

**(non-Jews – “Ends of the Earth”)**

**10-12 – The Apostle Peter**

**13-28 – The Apostle Paul**

### **3. Chapter Outline**

- 1 Introduction – Jesus tells Apostles about their life-long mission (v. 8).**
- 2 Peter preaches the gospel for the first time and 3,000 Jews are converted.**
- 3-4 Peter/John heal a crippled man explain how Christ fulfilled the Promise (v. 24-26)**
- 5 Trouble for the church – Two Christians lie and the Apostles are persecuted.**
- 6 Seven “deacons” are chosen in Jerusalem to help manage the church’s growth.**
- 7 A deacon, Steven, stoned by Jews who rejected Jesus out of religious pride.**

### 3. Chapter Outline

8 Jerusalem church scattered due to persecution, and deacon, Philip, began pushing the boundaries of the church beyond Jerusalem.

9 Saul (Paul) is called by Christ to begin the Gentile (non-Jewish) mission.

10 Cornelius, a Gentile military officer is converted by Peter.

11 Peter explains this controversial conversion to the Jerusalem church (11:18). A “Gentile church” springs up in Antioch, the base for Paul’s missionary Journeys.

12 Jewish King Herod arrests Peter, Peter escapes, and Herod dies.

### 3. Chapter Outline

**13-14** Barnabas/Paul sent on first missionary journey. Paul stoned in Lystra. They began in local Jewish synagogues showing fulfillment of Abraham's promise .

**15** Church leaders discuss of Gentile conversion. Paul begins second missionary journey.

**16-17** Paul travels via Greece, planting churches and ends up preaching in Athens.

**18** In Corinth for 1.5yrs – before returning to Antioch - begins third missionary journey.

**19** In Ephesus for 2yrs. Church faced strong opposition becoming a model Gentile church.

**20** Paul has emotional meeting with Ephesian elders before returning to Jerusalem.

### 3. Chapter Outline

**21-22 Paul returns to Jerusalem, gets arrested and angers Jews with his conversion story.**

**23 Paul testifies to the Sanhedrin and is sent to Caesarea, the Roman capital of Judea.**

**24-26 Paul's trials before Roman governors Felix and Festus**

**27 Paul sent to Rome for trial before the emperor and faces a storm and shipwreck.**

**28 Paul brings gospel to an alienated Mediterranean island, Malta (All Peoples). Ends up in Rome under guard for two years teaching and encouraging the church.**



4. The events in Acts end in about 62 AD.
  - a. After two years in Rome, Paul travels to Spain to do more mission work for two years.
  - b. Paul returns to Rome under a 2nd imprisonment where he is executed.

## **B. Letters to the Churches (Romans-Revelation)**

### **1. Paul's Thirteen Letters (Roman-Philemon)**

**a. 1st Missionary Journey 46-48ad (Acts 13-14)**

**i. 1 Letter - Galatians**

**ii. Deals with transition from Jewish to Gentile conversion.**

**b. 2nd Missionary Journey 49-52ad (Acts 15-18)**

**i. 2 Letters - 1 & 2 Thessalonians**

**ii. For new church plants. Helps them deal with life, death and future resurrection.**

**c. 3rd Missionary Journey 53-57ad (Acts 18-21)**

**i. 3 Letters - 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans**

**ii. Settle some heavy church doctrinal controversies.**

**d. Imprisoned in Judea 57-59ad (Acts 21-26)**

**e. Voyage to Rome 59-60ad (Acts 27-28)**

## **B. Letters to the Churches (Romans-Revelation)**

### **1. Paul's Thirteen Letters (Roman-Philemon)**

**f. 1st Roman Imprisonment      60-62ad (Acts 28)**

**i. 4 Letters - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (Prison Letters)**

**ii. Practical letters on how to live the Christian life in fellowship with the church.**

**g. Travel to Spain                      62-64ad**

**h. 2nd Roman Imprisonment      64-68ad**

**i. 3 Letters - 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus (Pastoral Letters)**

**ii. Final instruction to two young ministers on church leadership.**

- 2. General Letters – Not for Specific Churches or people**
  - a. Hebrews – A message for Jews on why the New Covenant is better than the Old**
  - b. James - A manual on the importance and practice of Christian living**
  - c. Peter’s Letters – by the Apostle Peter**
    - i. 1 Peter – Encouragement for persecuted Christians.**
    - ii. 2 Peter – Warning about falling for false teachers.**
  - d. John’s Letters – by the Apostle John**
    - i. 1 John – Belief in the reality of Christ is expressed through Love**
    - ii. 2 John – Warns about Christian deceivers. Learn to love the Truth.**
    - iii. 3 John – Encourages leaders to be humble, hospitable and faithful**

2. General Letters – Not for Specific Churches or people
  - e. Jude – By the “brother of James” (and Jesus) – a warning against false teachers.

- 3. Revelation – A LETTER to 7 churches in Asia Minor around 95ad. – by the Apostle John**
- a. “The end is coming. God wins. We must choose sides. Don’t be a fool.”**
  - b. Emperor Domitian was openly persecuting the church – some had been martyred.**
  - c. Many Christians were becoming apathetic or giving in to cultural pressure.**
  - d. John uses the “apocalyptic style” to give a “heaven’s-eye view” of current reality.**
  - e. The strange images are intended to shock believers into faithfulness and strength.**
  - f. We must be careful not to take the “vision” images literally – but metaphorically.**

# Conclusion to the Story of the Bible

A. The story of the Bible is the ultimate story of Redemption.

1. Christ is the hero of the story – planned for, promised and provided.
2. God created the world with a purpose and plan in mind and no one/nothing would/will stand in His way.

**B. The story of the Bible occurs between two trees.**

**1. The Eden Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9, 3:24)**

- a. This tree provided temporary life as long as people ate from it.**
- b. This tree was only for Adam and Eve.**
- c. Human rebellion (sin) separated us from this temporary cure for our brokenness.**

**2. The Heavenly Tree of Life (Revelation 22:2)**

- a. This tree will provide eternal life for whoever eats from it's branches.**
- b. This tree will be for the "healing of the nations" for all people who have conformed to God's plan and promise for Abraham.**
- c. The blood of Christ has taken away the rebellion (sin) from all who desire to conform to God's plan/order. This cleansing will allow us to partake of the eternal cure for our brokenness**



**B. The story of the Bible occurs between two trees.**

**3. We are still living between the trees – and the choice is ours**

**a. Continue to rebel against the God who created order.**

**b. Accept the free gift of eternal life provided through Christ.**