

# UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

## THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS SIMPLY A 7,000 YEAR HISTORY BOOK OF PURE FACTS.

It begins at creation (4,000 BC) and goes 1,000 years past the rapture (shortly to happen). It is **written by God** assisted by **44 earthly authors**, over **1600 years** on **three continents**.

The Bible declares **past, present** and **future** history.

One third of the Bible is **prophecy** that fore-tells of events **before** they happen.

It is a book crammed full of **facts** and **figures, dates, times, places, events, names, amounts, quantities, people**. All **factual** and **verifiable**.

In the Bible, God **declares** (states without contradiction) who he **was, is** and **will be**.

In the Bible, God states what he **has done**, what he **is doing** and what **he will do**.

This is despite what anyone thinks or believes.

He was, is, and will be, **judge, jury, executioner** and, of course, **the Saviour of the world**.

The Bible has **two** parts – the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. (A "testament" is simply a testifying or **declaration**.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT is about the nation of Israel with **three** basic promises **1. God's promise to Abraham** that in his seed all nations should be blessed. **2. God's covenant** (agreement) **with the Hebrew nation**, that if they would faithfully serve him, they would prosper as a nation. If they forsook him and served idols, they would be destroyed as a nation. **3. God's promise to David** that out of his family would come the great Messiah and Saviour of the world who would establish his universal kingdom without end. THE NEW TESTAMENT is about this Messiah and the world's Saviour, the man Jesus Christ.

### 1. THE SUBJECT OF THE BIBLE IS JESUS CHRIST

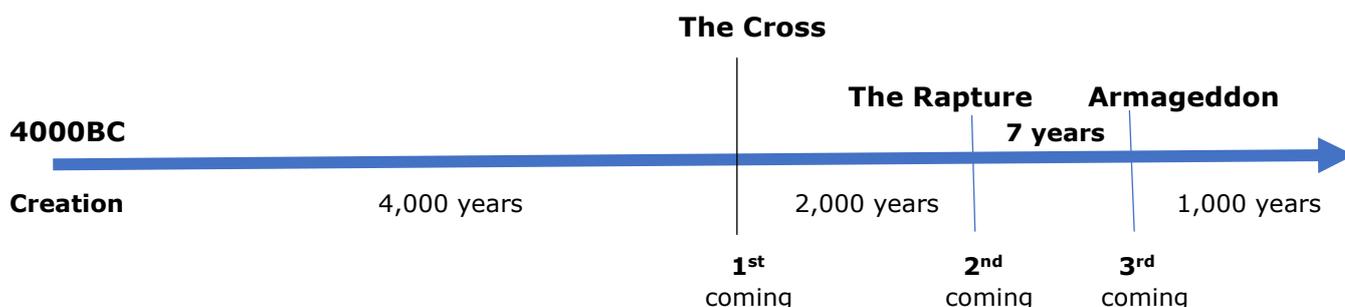
Jesus Christ comes out of heaven **three** times

1. Jesus Christ has **already come the first time** as the Son of man and ending at the **cross**.
2. Jesus Christ will come **the second time** in the air at the **rapture** of all true Christians.
3. Jesus Christ will come **the third time**, at **Armageddon**, as the Son of man.

The **theme** of the Bible is the **return of Jesus Christ to sit on the Jewish throne of David** in Jerusalem. (See Revelation chapter 19)

Between the first and the third comings, there is a section in the middle of about **2,000** years.

This is commonly called the '**church**' age, the end of which, Christ appears at the rapture, with all true Christians being physically caught up to meet the Lord in the air.



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**Between** the rapture and Armageddon, God pours out his wrath on the earth for **seven years**. This is called the time of **great tribulation** ending with the battle of Armageddon on the plain of Megiddo in Northern Israel. This battle has God rescuing Israel from all the attacking nations of the world.

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## 2. A VERY BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE 7,000 YEARS OF THE BIBLE

**God creates man (Adam)** and places him in the garden of **Eden** around 4,000BC (BC means before Christ). This is approximately where Kuwait is today and is where the two rivers of the Tigris and Euphrates flow into the Persian Gulf. Adam and Eve, being real people and the parents of us all, sinned and fell from the perfect creatures God had made them to be. They were cast (removed) out of the garden. The world then becomes dreadfully evil and after 1760 years God destroys the world with **Noah's flood** (2340BC) but eight people are saved in the ark.

God then separates man into the different **rac**es with different **languages** at the **tower of Babel** and they go in all directions. God then divides the one huge land mass (2,000BC), that existed then, into the various continents we have today, with the various races on each continent.

God starts again and chooses **Abraham** (1876BC) and takes him out of Babylon into the land of **Canaan**. Abraham's descendants migrate down to **Egypt** (1661BC) and grow to become a large nation for 70 years. Then after a further 144 years of brutal slavery, God leads them out of Egypt under **Moses** (the Exodus), where they wander for **forty** years in the desert. They enter their promised land of Canaan (1406BC) and are ruled by a series of **Judges** for a few hundred years while fighting the surrounding nations.

After the reign of the kings of **Saul, David** and **Solomon** (40 years each), the nation is divided (930BC). For the next 324 years, these two kingdoms are ruled by various kings and spoken to by various prophets. These accounts are found in the Old Testament in the books of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles and the 16 prophets. The North part, the ten tribes, called Israel, lasts about 200 years and is taken captive by Assyria in 722BC. The **South** part, called **Judah**, lasts a little longer, and in 606BC, is carried away captive by Babylon. A remnant return in 536BC to re-establish their national life. They build their **temple** under **Haggai** and **Zechariah** (516BC) and Jerusalem's **wall** is completed by **Nehemiah** (430BC). Around 420BC the prophet **Malachi** delivers God's last words to the nation.

Soon after the Old Testament is closed. This completes the first 4,000 years shown on the chart.

After 400 years, **Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Old Testament prophecy, appears**. He lives a sinless life, dies for the sins of man and rises from the dead. He commanded his disciples to preach the story of his life and the **redeeming power of his blood** to all nations.

The gospel of salvation with eternal security is found in the **14 books of the New Testament** in the writings of the apostle **Paul**.

Shortly, there will be **the rapture**, where all true Christians will be taken off the earth to meet the Lord in the air, and a period of **7 years**, called the **Tribulation**, will follow, where God will pour out his wrath upon the earth. This ends at the **battle of Armageddon** in the North of Israel, where God rescues Israel from its enemies - all nations of the earth.

Christ then rules and reigns with all true believers for **1,000** years, after which the universe is **melted** and destroyed, and a **new heaven** and a **new earth**, along with a new universe, is created for ever more and preserved in a sinless state.

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