



FROM:
*Christian
Basics Bible*

A Visual Overview of the Bible

Introduction



Sometimes we can understand something better by seeing it. That's what this section is all about. Here you will find maps, charts, and infographics that together summarize the “big picture” of the Bible's story. When we read the Bible, it can be easy to get lost in its individual stories and to forget that these individual stories—of people and kings and nations and churches—are all part of a much bigger story: the story of how God takes a broken world and broken people and works to fix them and the world they live in. It's a story that begins with God calling one man and giving him a family—a family that becomes a nation, from which the Messiah comes to save people of all nations.

All the key events of this big story are included here in visual form. Along with the Bible text and the notes that accompany it, these pages will help you see how all the separate pieces fit together. As you see the full picture, be amazed at God's exciting plan for rescuing people!

- 1 WORLD OF THE PATRIARCHS:** A map of Abraham's journey to Canaan, the land God promised him
- 2 THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT:** An infographic showing how the plagues demonstrated God's superiority to the gods of Egypt
- 3 EXODUS FROM EGYPT:** A map showing the Israelites' route out of Egypt and through the wilderness to the Promised Land
- 4 ISRAEL'S ANNUAL CALENDAR:** An infographic showing the agricultural and festival cycles that determined the rhythm of life for ancient Israel
- 5 TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL:** Maps showing Joshua's conquest of Canaan and how the land was divided among the tribes afterward
- 6 KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL:** Maps showing the extent of Israel's territory at different points during the period of the monarchy
- 7 THE BOOK OF PSALMS:** An infographic representing all 150 psalms according to size and topic
- 8 THE PROPHETS:** An infographic representing the ministry of the prophets who wrote books of the Bible according to date and the size of their books
- 9 THE EXILE:** A map showing the routes followed by those deported from Israel and Judah, and the eventual return of some of the exiles
- 10 THE MINISTRY OF JESUS:** A map highlighting the significant locations in Jesus' ministry in Galilee, Samaria, and Judea
- 11 PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH:** An infographic and a chart that trace the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus in each of the four Gospels
- 12 THE FIRST JOURNEYS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS:** Maps of the travels of Peter, Paul (Saul), and Philip during the early days of the church
- 13 PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS:** A map of Paul's travels as he spread the Good News throughout the eastern Roman Empire, and a map of his journey to Rome
- 14 THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS:** An infographic that shows the number of direct Old Testament quotations in the New Testament letters, and another that highlights some significant Old Testament allusions in Revelation

1 WORLD OF THE PATRIARCHS

God called Abraham to leave his homeland in Mesopotamia and travel to Canaan, which he promised to give to Abraham's descendants. Abraham and his son Isaac lived out their lives in Canaan, and then in a time of famine, Isaac's son Jacob moved to Egypt with his entire family.

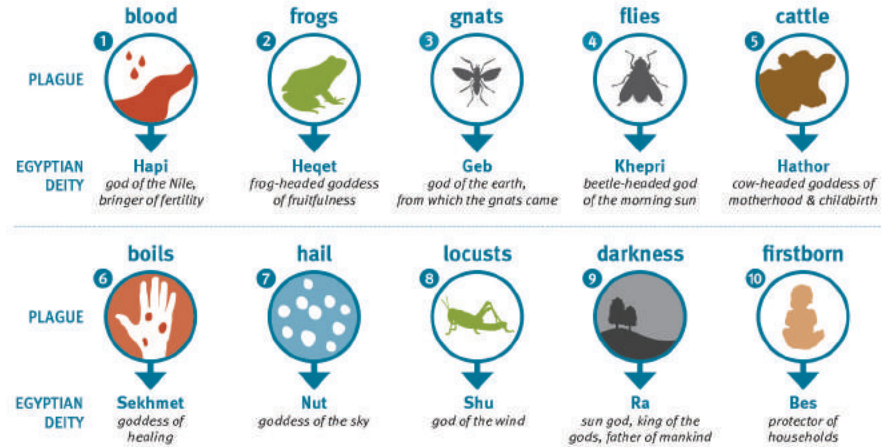
► See *Abraham*, page 16; *Canaan*, page 21; *Isaac and Rebekah*, page 28; *Jacob and Esau*, page 40.



2 THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT

When God rescued his people from Egypt after many years of slavery there, he displayed his power over Egypt's gods through a series of plagues. Each plague can be seen as a direct challenge to a specific Egyptian deity.

► See *The ten plagues*, page 74.



3 EXODUS FROM EGYPT

God led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where he gave them his Law. Because of their disobedience, the people spent forty years in the wilderness before they finally arrived at Acacia Grove (Shittim), across the Jordan River from the Promised Land of Canaan.

► See *The Red Sea*, page 82; *Mount Sinai*, page 88; *Moses, the faithful servant*, page 239.



6 KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL

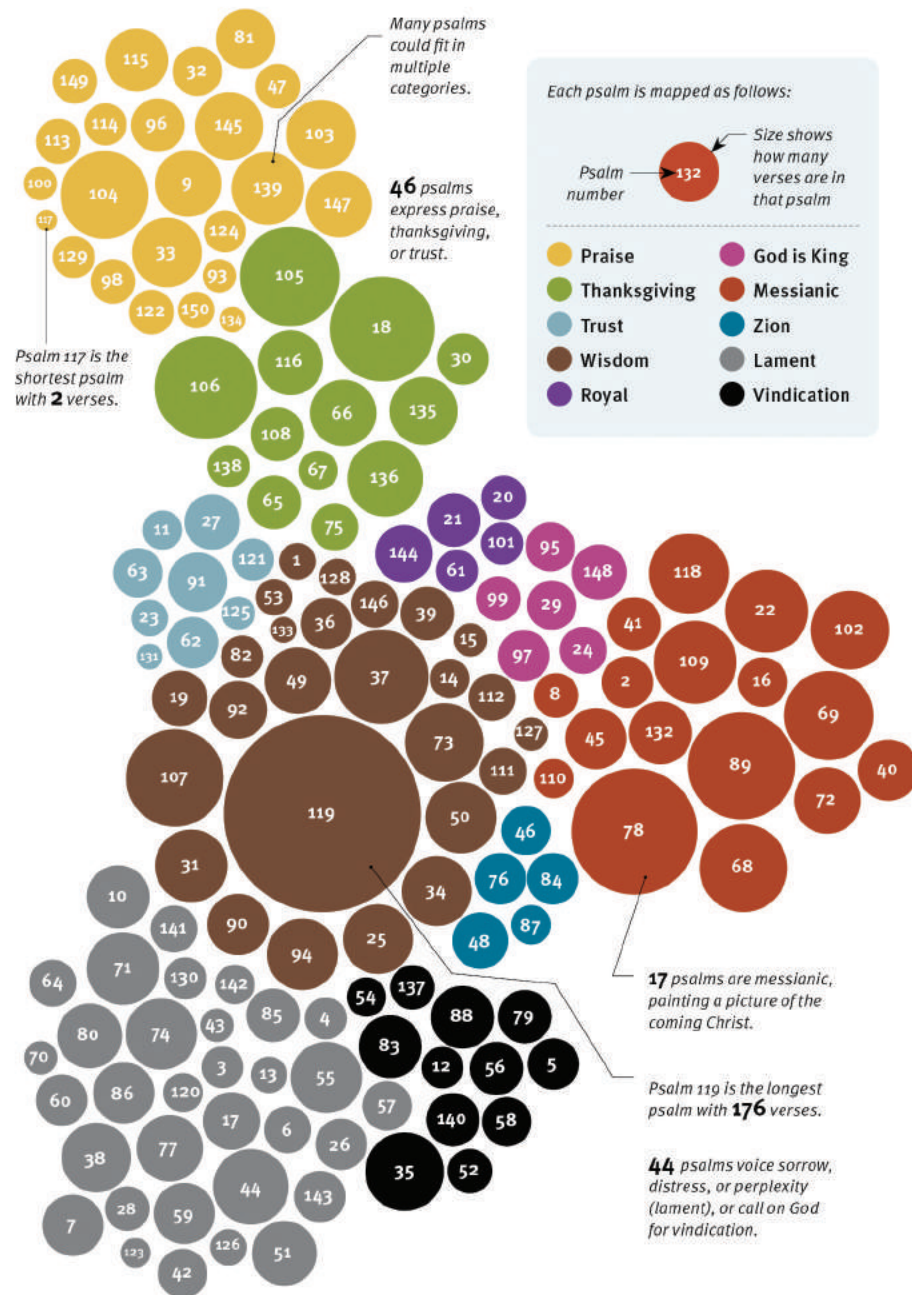
Joshua's death was followed by the turbulent period of the judges, after which the people of Israel asked the prophet Samuel for a king. At God's command, he anointed Saul, whose coronation marked the beginning of the united kingdom of Israel. The kingdom grew in size and influence under David and reached its height during the reign of his son Solomon. Solomon inherited a powerful kingdom, covering the entire area inhabited by the twelve tribes of Israel. Throughout Solomon's reign, his power and influence increased as he also gained control over many of the surrounding nations.



7 THE BOOK OF PSALMS

The psalms—the songs and prayers of Israel—express a wide range of emotions and originate from a variety of circumstances. This page represents all 150 psalms according to subject matter and length.

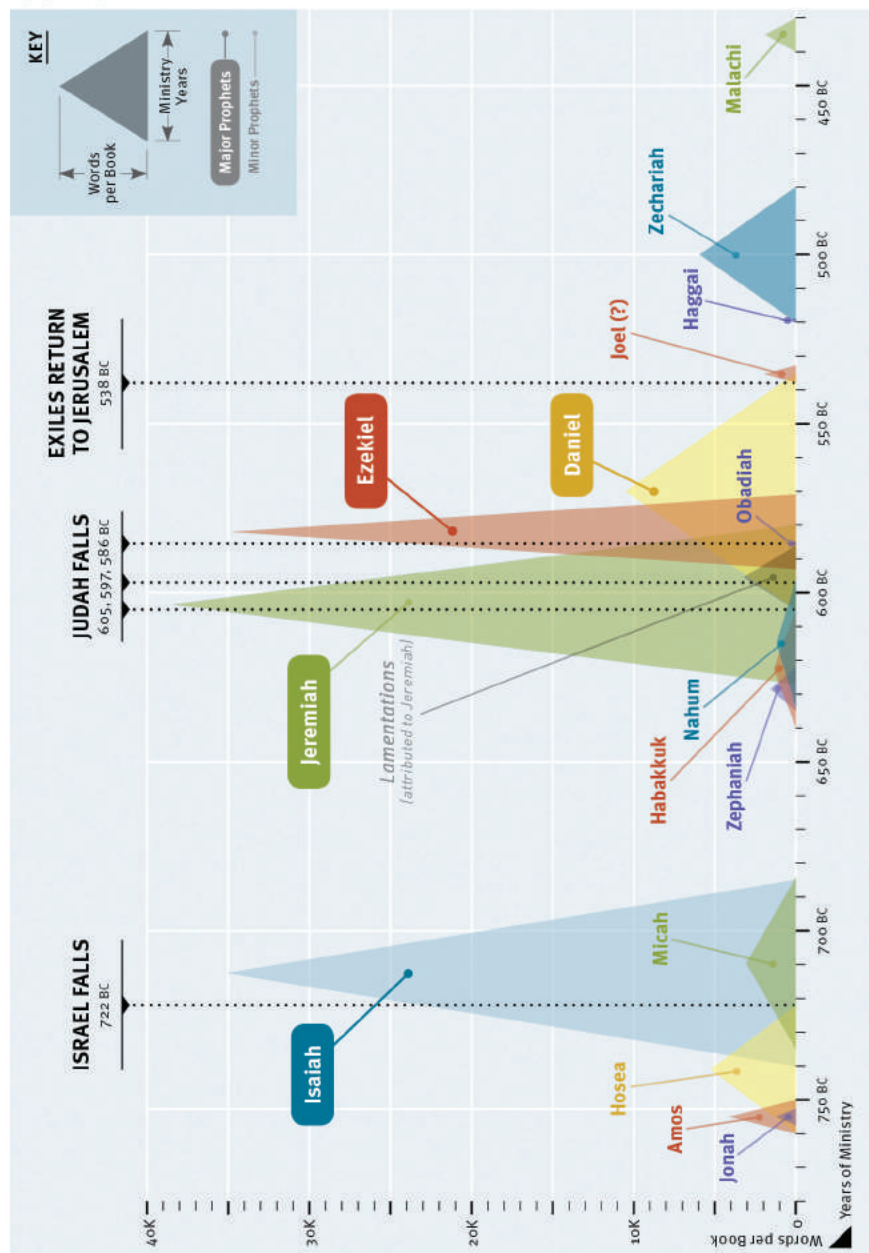
► See *Psalms (book introduction)*, page 601; *The Psalms can help you when you are feeling . . .*, page 604; *Worship*, page 662.



8 THE PROPHETS

God's prophets brought his messages to his people, urging them to turn from sin, honor God, and deal justly with one another—or else face exile from their land. Though exile eventually came, the prophets also foresaw hope for the future. God's people would return to their land, and one day, God would send the Messiah to restore them. This page shows the books and ministries of the sixteen prophets who wrote books of the Bible.

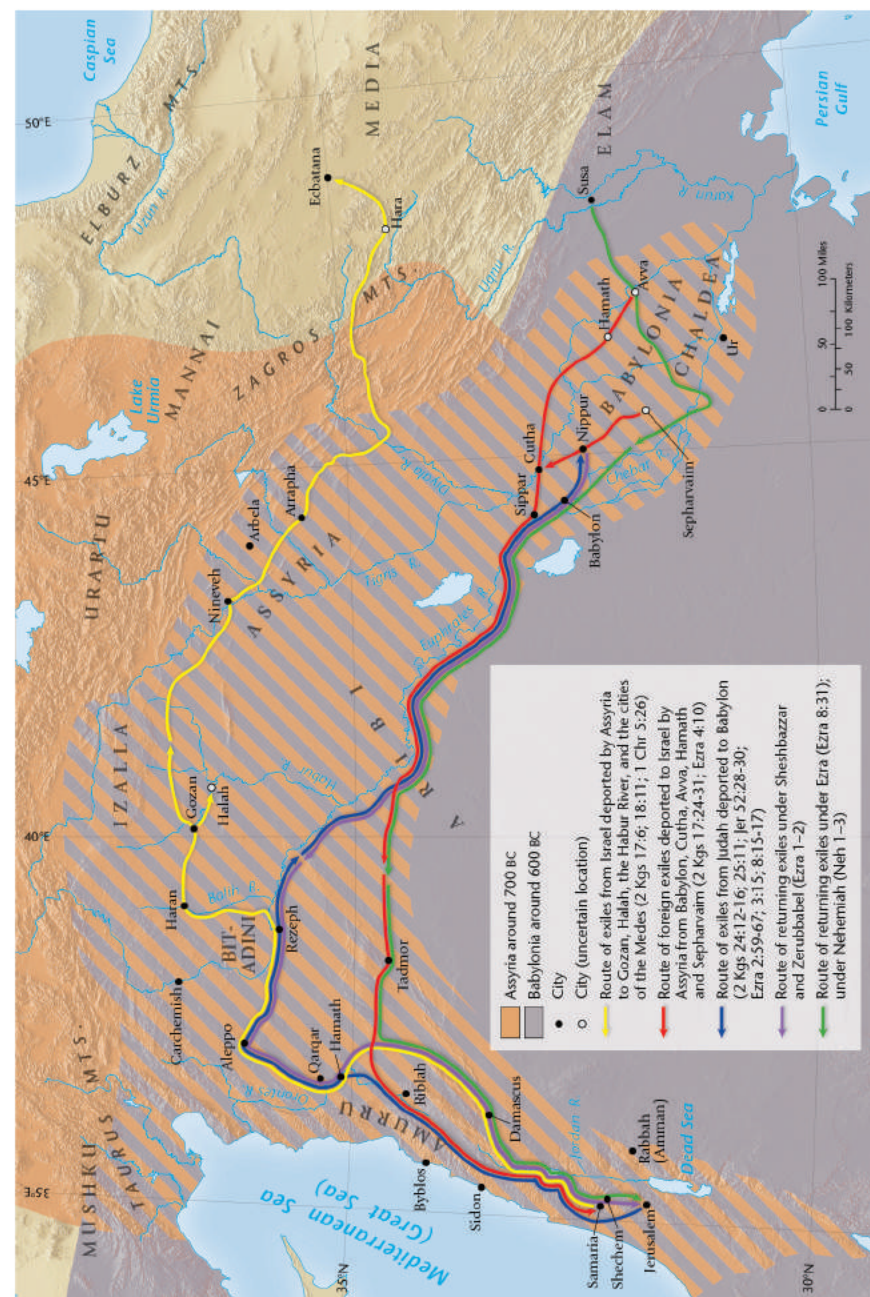
► See *Prophecy in the Old Testament*, page 903; *God's discipline*, page 1000; *Prophecies of the Messiah*, page 1004.



9 THE EXILE

As the prophets had warned, God's people were exiled as a result of their sin—Israel to Assyria in 722 BC and Judah to Babylon in three waves, culminating in 586 BC. But after Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC, King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

► See *Assyria*, page 431; *The Exile*, page 433; *Babylon*, page 445; *The fall of Jerusalem*, page 871.



10 THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Centuries after the prophets spoke of his coming, Jesus, the promised Messiah, was born to a virgin in Bethlehem. As an adult, he began announcing that God's Kingdom was near—and demonstrating what that Kingdom was all about through both his teaching and his miracles. The religious leaders thought his claim to be the Son of God was blasphemy, and they fiercely opposed him. Eventually, Jesus was betrayed, turned over to the Romans, and crucified. But on the third day, he rose from the dead, just as he had promised his disciples.

This map highlights the locations of key events in Jesus' life and ministry. These locations are listed roughly from north to south.

► See *The parables of Jesus*, page 1088; *The death of Jesus*, page 1114; *Jesus' miracles*, page 1128; *The mission of Jesus*, page 1159; *John's seven signs*, page 1201.

GALILEE and regions to the north

- A Region of Tyre:** Gentile woman's daughter healed (Matthew 15:21-28)
- B Caesarea Philippi:** Peter's great declaration (Matthew 16:13-20)
- C Mount Meron/Mount Tabor/Mount Hermon:** (1) possible locations of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13); (2) demon-possessed boy healed nearby (Matthew 17:14-21)
- D Cana of Galilee:** (1) water changed to wine (John 2:1-11); (2) Capernaum official's son healed (John 4:46-54)
- E Gennesaret:** (1) possible location of feeding of multitudes (Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39); (2) many healings (Mark 6:53-56)
- F Korazin:** (1) judgment pronounced on the cities of Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum (Matthew 11:20-24); (2) possible area of Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- G Capernaum:** (1) catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11); (2) evil spirit cast out (Mark 1:21-28); (3) possible area of Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); (4) Peter's mother-in-law healed (Matthew 8:14-15); (5) Roman officer's servant healed (Matthew 8:5-13); (6) paralyzed man healed (Mark 2:1-12); (7) woman with a hemorrhage healed (Mark 5:25-34); (8) Jairus's daughter raised (Luke 8:40-56); (9) two blind men healed (Matthew 9:27-31); (10) a mute, demon-possessed man healed (Matthew 9:32-34); (11) the twelve apostles sent out (Matthew 10:1-15); (12) man with deformed hand healed (Matthew 12:9-13); (13) another demon-possessed man healed (Matthew 12:22-27); (14) Temple tax provided (Matthew 17:24-27); (15) Bread of Life discourse (John 6:22-59)
- H Bethsaida:** (1) possible location of feeding of multitudes (Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39); (2) blind man healed (Mark 8:22-26)
- I Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida:** walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33)
- J Sea of Galilee:** storm quieted (Matthew 8:23-27)
- K Gergesa/Gadara:** possible location of casting out demons, which enter pigs; the pigs then rush down a steep bank and drown (Luke 8:26-39)
- L Nazareth:** (1) childhood home (Matthew 2:19-23); (2) rejected by townspeople (Luke 4:16-30)

- M Nain:** widow's son raised (Luke 7:11-17)

- N Region of Galilee:** (1) leper cleansed (Mark 1:40-45); (2) post-resurrection appearances to the disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)

SAMARIA and regions between Galilee & Judea

- O Decapolis (Region of Ten Towns):** many healings (Matthew 15:29-31; Mark 7:31-37)
- P Region between Galilee and Samaria:** (1) refused entry into village (Luke 9:51-56); (2) ten men with leprosy healed (Luke 17:11-19)
- Q Sychar:** talks with Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42)
- R Ephraim:** enters into seclusion with the disciples (John 11:54)
- S Region of Perea:** (1) teaching on marriage (Matthew 19:1-12); (2) possible location of healing of woman with infirmity (Luke 13:10-13); (3) possible location of healing of man with swollen limbs (Luke 14:1-6); (4) possible location of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30)

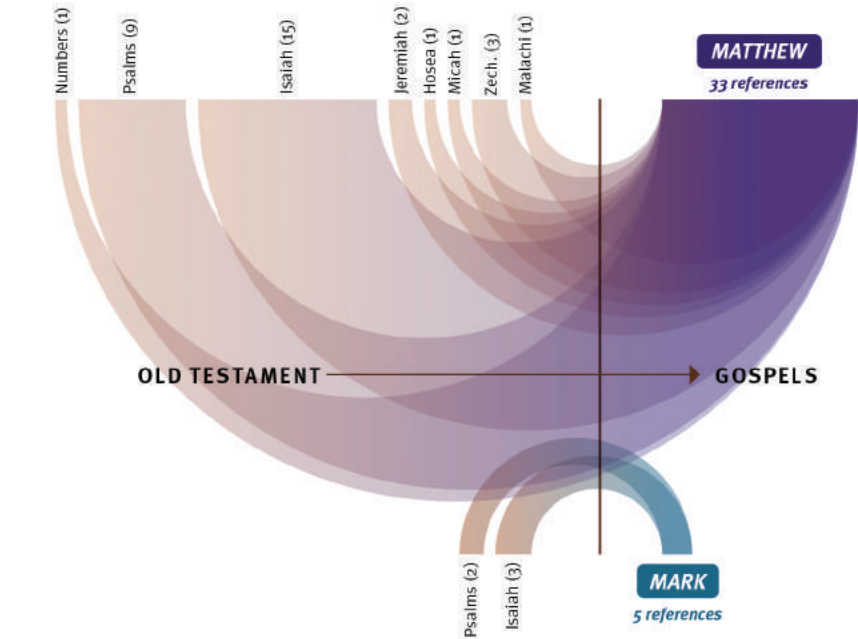
JUDEA

- T Jericho:** (1) Bartimaeus healed (Mark 10:46-52); (2) Zacchaeus converted (Luke 19:1-10)
- U Bethany:** (1) Lazarus raised (John 11:1-44); (2) anointing by Mary (John 12:1-11)
- V Jerusalem:** (1) taken to Temple (Luke 2:41-52); (2) discourse with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21); (3) Pool of Bethesda healing (John 5:2-9); (4) woman caught in adultery (John 8:2-11); (5) attempted stoning (John 8:12-59); (6) man blind from birth healed (John 9:1-12); (7) Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11); (8) Temple cleansed (John 2:13-22); (9) Last Supper (Luke 22:7-30); (10) trial and crucifixion (Matthew 26:57-27:50); (11) burial (Luke 23:50-56); (12) post-resurrection appearances to Mary and the disciples (John 20:1-31)
- W Emmaus:** post-resurrection appearance to two people (Luke 24:13-32)
- X Mount of Olives:** (1) Olivet discourse (Matthew 24:3-25:46); (2) agony and arrest at Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-56); (3) Ascension (Acts 1:6-12)
- Y Bethlehem:** birthplace (Luke 2:1-20)



11 PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH

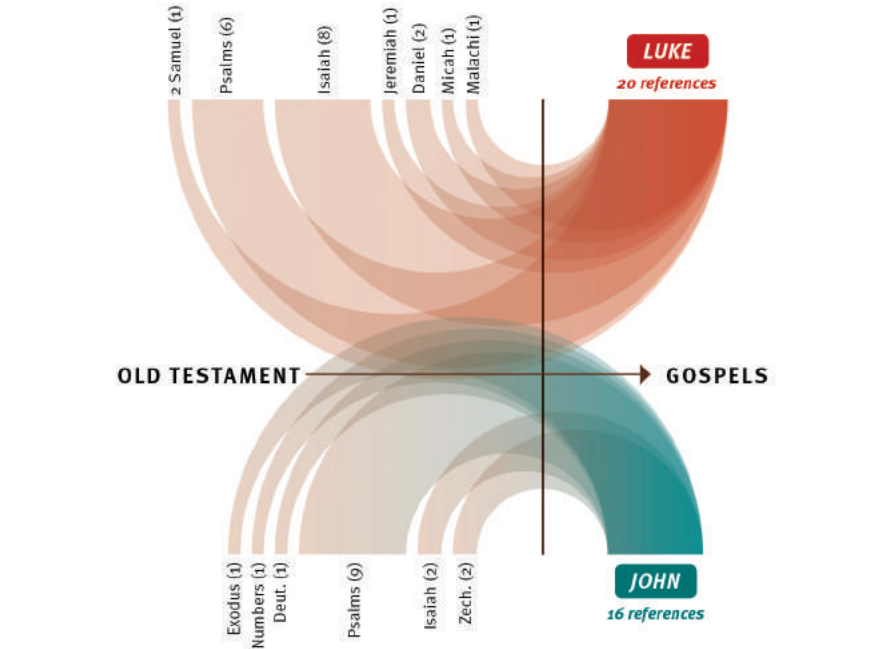
Jesus began his ministry by reading the words of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor” (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1-2). And throughout his ministry, he regularly quoted and alluded to the words of Israel’s prophets, which he was fulfilling. Following Jesus’ example, the writers of the Gospels, especially Matthew, showed the many ways in which Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection fulfilled God’s Old Testament promises.



| OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY | The Messiah is to be . . . | NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT |
|---|---|--|
| Isaiah 7:14 | born to a virgin and called Immanuel (“God is with us”) | Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:31-34 |
| 2 Samuel 7:11-12; Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 9:6-7; 16:5; Jeremiah 23:5 | heir to David’s throne | Luke 1:31-32 |
| Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:3, 6 | visited by kings bearing gifts | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| Numbers 24:8; Hosea 11:1 | God’s son called out of Egypt | Matthew 2:13-15 |
| Jeremiah 31:15 | attacked in a massacre of innocents | Matthew 2:17-18 |
| Micah 5:2 | born in Bethlehem | Matthew 2:5-6; Luke 2:4-6 |
| Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1 | preceded by a messenger in the wilderness | Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 1:76-78; 3:3-6 |
| Isaiah 11:2; 61:1-2 | empowered by God’s Spirit | Luke 4:18-19 |
| Isaiah 9:1-2; 42:1-3, 6-7; 49:6; 60:1-3 | a light for the Gentiles | Matthew 4:13-17, 23-36 |
| Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19 | a prophet like Moses | John 7:40 |
| Isaiah 53:4 | a healer of sicknesses and diseases | Matthew 8:16-17 |
| Isaiah 6:9-10 | understood only by those who can hear and perceive him | Matthew 13:10-15 |
| Psalm 8:2 | praised by children | Matthew 21:16 |
| Psalm 118:22-23 | the cornerstone rejected by the builders | Matthew 21:42 |
| Zechariah 9:9 | the humble king who enters Jerusalem on a donkey | Matthew 21:4-5; John 12:14-15 |
| Psalms 69:9; 119:139 | passionate for God’s house | John 2:13-17 |
| Isaiah 53:1, 3; Psalm 69:8 | rejected by his own people | Matthew 26:3-4; John 1:11; 7:5; 12:37-38 |
| Psalm 41:9 | betrayed by his friend | Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; Luke 22:21-23 |
| Jeremiah 32:6-9; Zechariah 11:12-13 | valued at thirty pieces of silver | Matthew 27:9-10 |

The infographic on these pages represents the connections between prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament, arranged by book, and their fulfillment in each of the four Gospels. The chart provides more specific information about each prophecy and fulfillment.

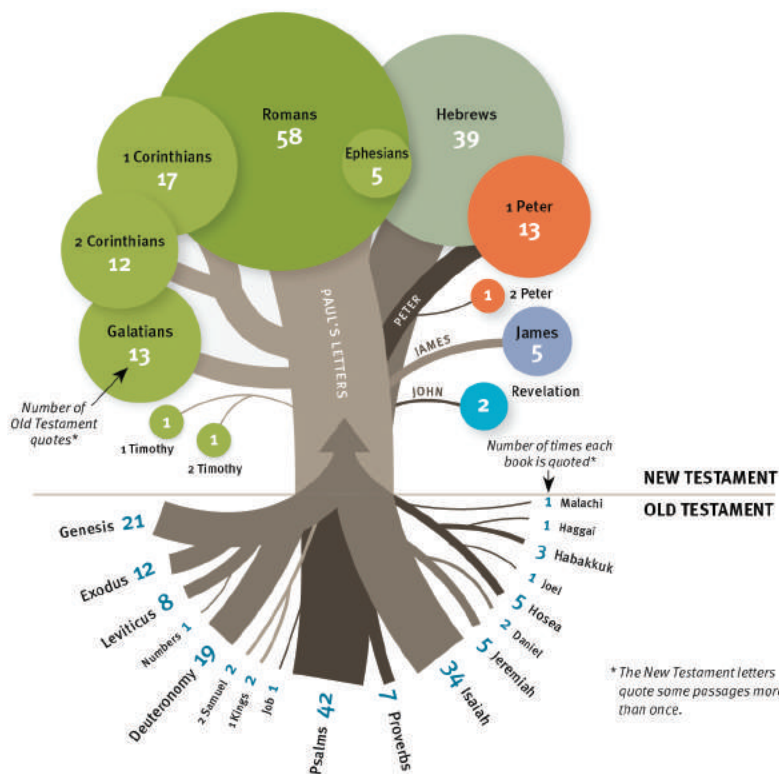
► See *Jesus Christ in the Psalms*, page 614; *The Messianic King*, page 674; *Prophecies about Christ*, page 806; *Prophecies of the Messiah*, page 1044; *Jesus and the Old Testament*, page 1079.



| OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY | The Messiah is to be . . . | NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT |
|---|--|--|
| Zechariah 13:7 | deserted by his disciples | Matthew 26:31, 56 |
| Isaiah 53:3 | a man of sorrows | Matthew 26:37-38 |
| Isaiah 50:6 | slapped, beaten, mocked, and spit on | Matthew 26:67; 27:26, 30; Mark 14:65 |
| Isaiah 53:7 | silent in response to his accusers | Matt. 27:12-14; Mark 15:3-5; Luke 23:8-10 |
| Psalms 22:15; 69:21 | thirsty in his suffering | John 19:28 |
| Psalm 69:21 | given sour wine to drink | Matthew 27:48; John 19:28-30 |
| Psalm 22:18 | the one whose clothing they gambled for with dice | Matthew 27:35; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24 |
| Isaiah 53:12 | suffering with criminals and praying for his enemies | Matt. 27:38; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 23:32-34 |
| Psalm 22:7-8 | mocked and insulted | Matt. 27:39-44; Mk. 15:29-32; Luke 23:11, 35 |
| Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20 | without any broken bones | John 19:33-36 |
| Psalm 22:1-17; Zechariah 12:10 | stared at with pierced hands and feet | John 19:34, 37 |
| Psalm 31:5 | one who entrusts his spirit at death to God the Father | Luke 23:46 |
| Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10-12 | sacrificed to take away the sin of the world | John 1:29; 11:49-52 |
| Isaiah 53:9 | buried in a rich man’s tomb | Matthew 27:57-60 |
| Psalm 16:10 | raised from the dead | Matthew 28:2-7 |
| Psalm 110:1 | seated at God’s right hand | Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51 |
| Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27 | king forever | Luke 1:33 |

Just as Jesus himself and the writers of the Gospels often referred to the Old Testament, the writers of the New Testament letters also quoted it regularly as they taught and encouraged the young churches. By doing so, they demonstrated how Jesus fulfilled the plan of God revealed throughout the Old Testament's pages. The first infographic below represents these direct quotations. But in addition to direct quotations, the New Testament also has countless allusions to Old Testament themes or stories. Revelation, for example, has some five hundred allusions to the Old Testament. Seven of these are represented visually below.

► See *Studying God's word*, page 1387; *The Old Testament in the New Testament*, page 1403.



OLD TESTAMENT ALLUSIONS IN REVELATION

