

Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

*“Indeed, the word of God is living and active”*

- Hebrews 4.12

**week 1**

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Class Objective

To Understand the Bible's:

- History
- Structure
- Reliability
- Purpose
- Meaning

In order that we might more fully engage with the Bible's  
Message and Importance for our lives.

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Why Bother?

- Most popular book ever written
- Cornerstone of Western Civilization
- Source of great hope, peace, wisdom
- Tells us about God and ourselves
  - Jordan Peterson lectures
  - Tom Holland *Dominion*

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



## Why Bother?

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*

*- 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



Why Bother?

VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.

*Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.*

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



Why Bother?

*These are the Scriptures which make fools of all the wise and understanding, and are open only to the small and simple, as Christ says in Matthew 11:25. Therefore dismiss your own opinions and feelings, and think of the scriptures as the loftiest and noblest of holy things, as the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored, in order that you may find divine wisdom which God here lays before you in such simple guise as to quench all pride. Here you will find the swaddling clothes and the manger in which Christ lies.*

*-Martin Luther*

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Why Bother?

- Because the Bible is a Gift.
    - *“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.” - Augustine of Hippo*
  - Because we Can.
- 

# Understanding the Bible

---



# Today: *What is the Bible?*

- A Library, not a Book
  - 66 Books
  - Written by over 40 different authors
  - Over a period of 1300 years (1200 BC - 100 AD)
  - In 3 different languages
  - On 2 (3?) different continents

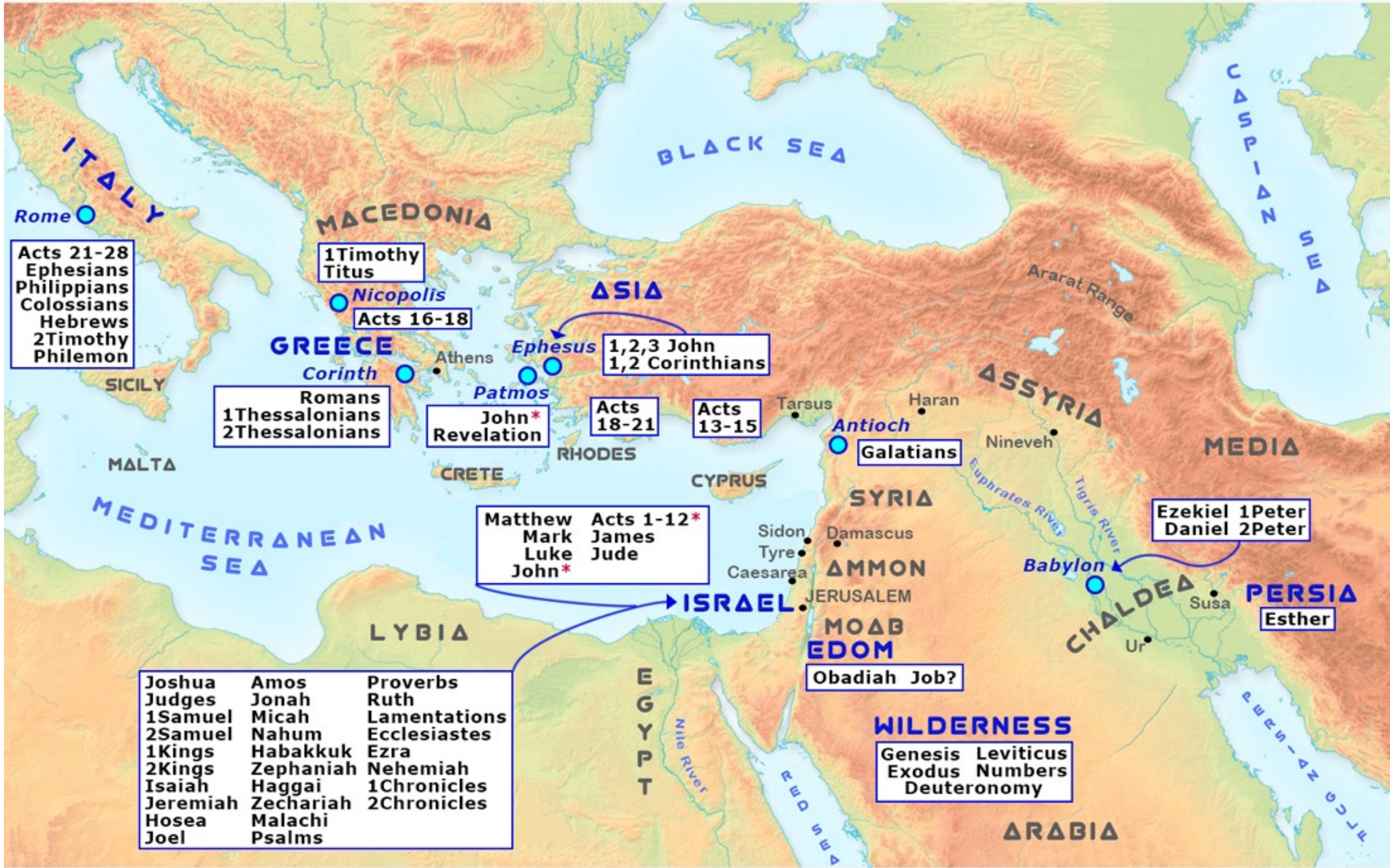
---

## Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020





Acts 21-28  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
Hebrews  
2 Timothy  
Philemon

1 Timothy  
Titus

Acts 16-18

GREECE

Corinth

Romans  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians

John\*  
Revelation

1, 2, 3 John  
1, 2 Corinthians

Acts 18-21

Acts 13-15

Galatians

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John\*

Acts 1-12\*  
James  
Jude

ISRAEL

Obadiah Job?

Ezekiel 1 Peter  
Daniel 2 Peter

Esther

Joshua	Amos	Proverbs
Judges	Jonah	Ruth
1 Samuel	Micah	Lamentations
2 Samuel	Nahum	Ecclesiastes
1 Kings	Habakkuk	Ezra
2 Kings	Zephaniah	Nehemiah
Isaiah	Haggai	1 Chronicles
Jeremiah	Zechariah	2 Chronicles
Hosea	Malachi	
Joel	Psalms	

WILDERNESS

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy



And Yet...

...the Bible tell a remarkably consistent story about the work and purposes of one God in and through human history.

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Contrast with other great religious books:

- The Iliad
  - Written(transcribed?) by Homer, c. 1200BC
- Qur'an
  - Written by (revealed to) Mohammed, 609-632AD
- Book of Mormon
  - Written by (revealed to) Joseph Smith, 1830

---

# Understanding the Bible

---



So, what is the Bible?

66 books that tell the story of God's work in history, from His creation of the world until His revealing of the new world.

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



So, what is the Bible?

The story of a God who loves us enough to create us, walk with us, rescue us, sustain us and give us eternal life.

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



So, what is the Bible?

The Story of God(*and to a lesser degree, us*).

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# How is the Bible Organized?

2 main parts:

- Old Testament
- New Testament

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Old Testament

aka Hebrew Scriptures, Jewish Bible

- 39 Books
- Written between 1000-200 BC
- History of Jewish People
- From Creation to Babylonian Exile

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Old Testament

- 5 Sections:
  - Pentateuch (Books of Moses) - 5 books
  - History - 12 books
  - Poetry & Wisdom Literature - 5 books
  - Major Prophets - 5 books
  - Minor Prophets - 12 books

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses)

## Book 1: Genesis

- Creation
- Garden of Eden
- Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel
- Noah
- Tower of Babel
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Joseph and his “dreamcoat”
- Egypt

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses)

## Book 2: Exodus

- Moses
- Plagues
- Passover
- Red Sea
- Mt. Sinai
- Ten Commandments & The Law
- The Golden Calf
- Manna in the Wilderness

---

# Understanding the Bible

---

REV. R-J HEIJMEN, FALL 2020



# Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses)

## Books 3, 4 & 5: Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

- Laws, laws, laws and more laws
- Wandering in the Desert (Sinai Peninsula)
- Israel's rebellion & sin
- God's judgment & wrath
- Death of Moses (overlooking the Promised Land)

---

# Understanding the Bible

---