

The General Council of the Assemblies of God A Study Guide for the Bible Knowledge Exam

No outside resources are permitted while taking this exam including notes, a concordance, or a Bible.

Introduction

The Holy Bible is a book of stories. It is comprised of sixty-six books written by approximately forty authors in three languages across three continents over a period of at least sixteen hundred years. Considering the many authors and the considerable timeframe, the Bible is remarkable in that it is a divinely orchestrated and cohesive series of stories all linked together into a comprehensive “big story,” also known as the “biblical metanarrative.”

The “big story” begins with an idyllic garden spoiled by sin and sealed from future access (Genesis 3:23–24). But the “big story” ends in a garden fully restored with trees bearing fruit in every season and the curse of sin removed (Revelation 22:1–5).

Between the first fallen garden and the renewed garden, the Bible records successive and often intertwined stories of people known for their faithfulness, righteousness, triumphs, overcoming insurmountable odds, heroism, prophetic insight, and humility. There are also stories of betrayals, deceit, murder, unbelief, hostility, failures, and hypocrisy. The good and the dreadful stories are unashamedly told side by side.

However, inherent within each story, the Hero of the Bible is hinted at, pointed to, anticipated, exemplified, and yearned for until He finally arrived as the Baby in a manger at Bethlehem. All stories point to Jesus as the hoped-for Messiah, the answer to sin and suffering, the Savior of broken lives, and the King of history.

A minister of the gospel must know the “big story” of the Holy Bible, the story comprised of hundreds of supportive stories. To the degree you know the “big story” will determine how well you will understand your personal story fitting into the “big story”.

The Bible Knowledge Exam consists of seventy-five questions. It will test your understanding of the “big story” by how well you know the successive and intertwined stories of the people of the Bible. How well do you know each story, and how well do you know which story precedes another story?

This Study Guide provides you with three learning tools: (1) a list of guiding principles and turning points in the “big story” of the Bible; (2) important Bible quotations; and (3) a table that illustrates the flow of Bible stories in chronological order. All of the answers for the Bible Knowledge Exam questions may be found within these three learning tools.

Resources

The following books are recommended as resource tools for gaining the chronological storyline and the thematic metanarrative of the “big story” of the Holy Bible.

- *The One Year Chronological Bible*, New International Version (Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL), 1995.
- William H. Marty, *The Whole Bible Story: Everything That Happens in the Bible in Plain English* (Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN), 2011.
- Vaughan Roberts, *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* (InterVarsity Press Books, Downers Grove, IL), 2002.

Guiding Principles and Turning Points in the “Big Story” of the Bible

Carefully become well acquainted with these guiding principles and turning points in biblical history. Put these stories in the context of their time in history, geographical location, prominent persons involved, and how they move the “big story” along.

The Seven Days of Creation	Genesis 1 to 2:3
The Two Accounts of Creation	Genesis 1 and 2
The Curses Resulting from the Sin of Adam and Eve	Genesis 3:14–19
The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	Genesis 19
The Twelve Tribes of Israel	Genesis 29:31 to 30:24; 35:16–18
The Plagues on Egypt	Exodus 7–11
Moses Meets with God on Mount Sinai	Exodus 19
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1–17
Saul Crowned the First King of Israel	1 Samuel 9–11
The Fall of Jerusalem	2 Chronicles 36
The Return of the Exiles to Rebuild Jerusalem’s Wall	Nehemiah 2
The Incarnation of the Son of God	Matthew 1:18 to 2:23; Luke 2:1–40
The Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4:1–11
Jesus Calls His Disciples	Mark 1:14 to 3:19
Jesus Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5–7
The Mount of Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1–8; Mark 9:2–8; Luke 9:28–36
The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31
The Great Commandment	Matthew 22:34–40; Mark 12:28–31
The Great Commission	Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–18
The Day of Pentecost Sermon	Acts 2:14–41
The First Christian Martyr	Acts 6:8 to 7:60
Unique Differences between the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, Atonement, and Tabernacles	Exodus 30:10; Deuteronomy 16:1–17
The Ordinances of the Church	Water Baptism – Romans 6:1–14; 1 Peter 3:18–22 Communion – Mark 14:12–26; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34
The Gifts of the Spirit	1 Corinthians 12:7–11
The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22–26
The Deeds (Desires) of the Flesh	Galatians 5:16–21

The Parables of Jesus (A parable is a short story teaching a moral or spiritual lesson.)	Matthew 13; 25; Mark 4; 12
Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem	Luke 19:28–44
The Betrayal of Jesus by Judas	Luke 22:1–6, 47–53
The Crucifixion, Death, and Burial of Jesus	Luke 23:26–56
The Resurrection of Jesus	Luke 24:1–12; John 20
The Promise of the Father and the Birth of the Church	Acts 2:1–13

Important Bible Quotations

Carefully become well acquainted with the following Bible quotations. Who authored these words? Is the speaker different from the author? What situation is being addressed? What is the historical and geographical context? And why is the truth derived from these quotations crucial to our faith in God? Almost half of the Bible Knowledge Exam questions derive from these important Bible quotations.

Genesis 1:1–2	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
Genesis 1:27	So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
Genesis 3:15	“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
Genesis 6:5–8	The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
Genesis 11:3–7	They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”
Genesis 12:1–3	The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 50:18–20	<p>His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.</p> <p>But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”</p>
Exodus 3:1–5	<p>Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”</p> <p>When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”</p> <p>“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”</p>
Exodus 14:21–25	<p>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.</p> <p>The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”</p>
Numbers 20:7–8, 10–12	<p>The LORD said to Moses. . . . “Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water Listen you rebels, must we bring you water of this rock?” Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.</p> <p>But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”</p>
Deuteronomy 8:1–2	<p>Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.</p>
Joshua 1:2	<p>“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all of these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.”</p>
Joshua 6:20–21	<p>When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.</p>
Ruth 1:16	<p>But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”</p>

2 Kings 22:8, 10–11	<p>Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan, who read it.... Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.</p> <p>When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.</p>
Ezra 1:2–3	<p>"This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem'"</p>
Nehemiah 2:1–3	<p>In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."</p> <p>I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"</p>
Esther 3:2, 3–4	<p>Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.</p> <p>Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply.</p>
Esther 4:14	<p>For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"</p>
Job 1:21	<p>"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."</p>
Job 19:25–27	<p>"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"</p>
Psalms 1:1–3	<p>Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.</p>
Psalms 111:10	<p>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.</p>
Proverbs 16:2–3	<p>All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.</p>
Ecclesiastes 12:13–14	<p>Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.</p>
Song of Songs 1:3–4	<p>Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you! Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.</p>

Isaiah 6:1-8	<p>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:</p> <p>“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”</p> <p>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.</p> <p>“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”</p> <p>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”</p> <p>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”</p>
Isaiah 53:5	<p>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.</p>
Ezekiel 1:15, 16-18	<p>As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. . . . Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel. As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not change direction as the creatures went. Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.</p>
Ezekiel 36:26	<p>“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”</p>
Ezekiel 37:1-6	<p>The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”</p> <p>I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”</p> <p>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”</p>
Daniel 4:18	<p>“This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”</p>
Hosea 1:2-3	<p>When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.” So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.</p>
Amos 1:2	<p>He said: “The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”</p>
Jonah 4:2	<p>He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”</p>

Habakkuk 2:4–5	“See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest.”
Malachi 3:10	Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”
Matthew 4:18–20	As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.
Matthew 5:14–16	“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 9:35–38	Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”
Matthew 12:38–40	Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
Matthew 27:50–54	And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”
Mark 10:23–25	Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”
Mark 10:41–45	When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Luke 1:38	“I am the LORD’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 4:1–2	Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
John 1:14	The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 4:27–30	Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.
John 18:38	“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”
Acts 11:25–26	Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.
Acts 13:1–3	Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the LORD and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.
Acts 17:23	“For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.”
Romans 1:16–17	For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
Romans 5:12	Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin.
Romans 8:1–4	Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
Romans 12:1–2	Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
1 Corinthians 12:7	Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
1 Corinthians 13:4–8	Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 15:54–58	<p>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”</p> <p>“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”</p> <p>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain.</p>
Galatians 3:6–9	<p>So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”</p> <p>Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.</p>
Ephesians 4:11–13	<p>So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.</p>
Ephesians 6:10–13	<p>Finally, be strong in the LORD and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.</p>
Philippians 2:5–11	<p>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!</p> <p>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.</p>
1 Thessalonians 4:13	<p>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.</p>
1 Timothy 3:8–10	<p>Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.</p>
2 Timothy 2:1–2	<p>You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.</p>
Philemon 15–16	<p>Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.</p>

Hebrews 12:1–3	Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
James 1:2–8	Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the LORD. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.
1 Peter 2:4–5	As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:5–7	This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
1 John 4:7–12	Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
Revelation 1:9–11	I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the LORD’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”
Revelation 5:1–5	Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Revelation 22:1–5	Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the LORD God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.
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The Story of the Bible—The “Big Story”

Carefully become well acquainted with the following chronological list of significant people and events in the “big story.” The “big story” is divided into seventeen episodes with an epilogue. These episodes are in chronological order. You will be tested on your knowledge of the proper time sequence of these people and events. Hundreds of people and events that could be mentioned are not mentioned. However, these people and events are pivotal.

The following table is an adaptation derived from William H. Marty, *The Whole Bible Story: Everything That Happens in the Bible in Plain English* (Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN), 2011.

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 1	From creation to the tower of Babel Genesis 1–11	Mesopotamia	God	Genesis 1:1
			Adam and Eve	Genesis 1:26
			Cain and Abel	Genesis 4:1
			Noah	Genesis 5:29
			Noah’s sons	Genesis 6:10
			Men of Babel	Genesis 11:2
Episode 2	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob’s sons Genesis 11–50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamia (Ur and Haran) • Land of Canaan • Egypt 	Abraham	Genesis 11:26
			Isaac	Genesis 21:3
			Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:24–26
			Jacob’s sons	Genesis 29:31–35:18
			Jacob’s son, Joseph	Genesis 30:22–24
Episode 3	Moses and the Exodus Exodus 1–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt • Red Sea • Sinai Peninsula • Mount Sinai 	Moses	Exodus 2:1–2, 10

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 3 Continued			Moses's Brother, Aaron	Exodus 4:14
			<i>Yahweh</i> is God's name	Exodus 3:14
			Slaves become a nation	Exodus 4:29
			Pharaoh, Egypt's king	Exodus 5:1
			Plagues on Egypt	Exodus 7:14
			Plague of Firstborn and the Passover	Exodus 11:1; 12:1-2
			The Exodus	Exodus 12:31
			Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:18
Episode 4	The wandering in the wilderness and the death of Moses Exodus 15 to Deuteronomy 34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Sinai • The Wilderness • Kadesh-Barnea • Plains of Moab 	Grumbling of the Israelites	Exodus 15:22-24
			Jethro's counsel to Moses	Exodus 18:1
			Mount Sinai and the Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1; 20:1
			The Tabernacle	Exodus 25:8
			Golden calf	Exodus 32:1
			Balak and Balaam	Numbers 22:2
			Death of Moses	Deuteronomy 34:5
Episode 5	The Promised Land Joshua 1-24	Land of Canaan	Joshua	Exodus 17:9; Joshua 1:1
			Rahab	Joshua 2:1
			Crossing the Jordan River	Joshua 3:1
			Celebration of first Passover in the land of Canaan and manna stopped	Joshua 5:10
			Fall of Jericho	Joshua 5:13

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 6	The time of the judges Judges 1–21 Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land of Canaan Land of Moab Bethlehem 	Othniel	Judges 1:13
			Deborah	Judges 4:4
			Gideon	Judges 6:11
			Jephthah	Judges 11:1
			Samson	Judges 13:24
			Ruth and Boaz	Ruth 1:4, 2:1
Episode 7	A kingdom unites 1 Samuel 1–31 2 Samuel 1–24 1 Chronicles 1–29 1 Kings 1–11 2 Chronicles 1–9	Israel	Eli	1 Samuel 1:9
			Samuel	1 Samuel 1:20
			Samuel anoints Saul as king	1 Samuel 9:2
			Jonathan	1 Samuel 13:2
			Samuel anoints David as king	1 Samuel 16:1
			David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:4
			King Saul's suicide	1 Samuel 31:4
			Bathsheba	2 Samuel 11:2
			Nathan	2 Samuel 12:1
			Absalom	2 Samuel 3:3, 14:1
			Solomon	2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Kings 1:34
Episode 8	A kingdom divided: the Northern Kingdom of Israel 1 Kings 12–22 2 Kings 1–17 Jonah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel (Northern Kingdom) Judah (Southern Kingdom) Aram (Syria) Assyria 	Jeroboam	1 Kings 11:26

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 8 Continued			Ahab and Jezebel	1 Kings 16:29
			Elijah	1 Kings 17:1
			Elisha	1 Kings 19:19
			Jonah	Jonah 1–4
			Hosea	Hosea 1–14
			Amos	Amos 1–9
			Israel's conquest by Assyrian King Shalmaneser	2 Kings 17:3
Episode 9	A kingdom divided: the Southern Kingdom of Judah 1 Kings 14–22 2 Kings 1–25 2 Chronicles 10–36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judah (Southern Kingdom) • Israel (Northern Kingdom) • Assyria • Babylon 	Rehoboam	1 Kings 11:43
			Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22:41
			Uzziah	2 Chronicles 26:1
			Hezekiah	2 Chronicles 29:1
			Manasseh's repentance	2 Chronicles 33:10
			Josiah	2 Chronicles 34:1
			Isaiah	Isaiah 1–66
			Micah	Micah 1–7
			Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1–52
			Habakkuk	Habakkuk 1–3
			Judah's conquest by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar	2 Chronicles 36:17
Episode 10	The people of God in exile Ezekiel 1–48 Daniel 1–12 Esther 1–10 Nehemiah 1–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babylon • Persia • City of Susa • Jerusalem 	Daniel	Daniel 1:6

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 10 Continued			Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel 1:1
			Ezekiel	Ezekiel 1:1
			Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego	Daniel 1:6, 19
			King Cyrus of Persia	Ezra 1:1
			Ezra	Ezra 7:1
			Mordecai	Esther 2:5
			Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews	Esther 3:6
			Esther	Esther 2:7, 4:12
			Haggai	Haggai 1–2
			Nehemiah returns and rebuilds Jerusalem's wall	Nehemiah 2:1
Episode 11	Birth and childhood of Jesus Matthew 1–2 Luke 1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land of Israel • Galilee • Nazareth • Judea • Jerusalem • Bethlehem • Egypt 	Zechariah and Elizabeth	Luke 1:5
			Angel Gabriel	Luke 1:11, 19
			Mary and Joseph	Matthew 1:16
			John the Baptist	Luke 1:57
			Jesus' Birth	Luke 2:1
			The Wise Men	Matthew 2:1
			King Herod the Great	Matthew 2:1
			Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2:13
Episode 12	The early ministry of Jesus The Four Gospels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galilee • Cana • Judea • Samaria • Jordan River 	Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:13
			Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4:1

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 12 Continued			Satan as Tempter	Luke 4:1
			Jesus' selects disciples	Matthew 4:18
			Miracle in Cana	John 2:1
			Nicodemus	John 3:1
			Samaritan woman	John 4:7
Episode 13	The Galilean ministry of Jesus The Four Gospels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Galilee • Nazareth • Capernaum • Sea of Galilee 	Jesus' growing popularity	Mark 4:23
			Jesus' rejection in Nazareth	Luke 4:16
			Jesus' authority over the demonic	Luke 4:33
			Jesus heals many	Luke 4:40
			Jesus forgives sins, then faces opposition	Luke 5:21
			Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5:1
			Martyrdom of John the Baptist	Matthew 14:3
			Jesus uses parables to describe the kingdom of god	Luke 8:1
			Jesus feeds five thousand men	Luke 9:12
			Peter declares Jesus is the Messiah	Luke 9:20
			The Transfiguration of Jesus	Luke 9:28
			Jesus' resolute journey to Jerusalem	Luke 9:51
Episode 14	The later Judean ministry of Jesus and His journey to Jerusalem The Four Gospels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem • Mount of Olives • Judea • Bethany • Jericho 	Belief in Jesus by common people and rejection by religious leaders	Matthew 19:1

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 14 Continued			Jesus sends seventy-two disciples to minister in the cities of Judah	Luke 10:1
			Jesus at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus	Luke 10:38
			Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead	John 11:1
			Jesus heals blind beggar in Jericho	Mark 10:46
			Zacchaeus of Jericho	Luke 19:2
Episode 15	The crucifixion of Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethany • Jerusalem 	The Triumphal Entry	Luke 19:28
			Cleansing the temple	Luke 19:45
			Conflict with religious leaders	Luke 20:1
			Passover meal	Luke 22:7
			Gethsemane	Mark 14:32
			Arrest of Jesus	Mark 14:43
			Peter's Denial	Luke 22:54
			Jesus before Pilate and Herod	Luke 23:1
			The crucifixion of Jesus	Luke 23:33
			The death of Jesus	Luke 23:46
Episode 16	The burial and resurrection of Jesus Luke 23:50 to 24:53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem • Galilee • Bethany 	The burial of Jesus	Luke 23:52
			The resurrection of Jesus	Luke 24:1
			Jesus appears to His disciples	Luke 24:36
			Jesus appears to His disciples in Galilee	John 21:1

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 16 Continued			Jesus' ascension witnessed by His disciples near Bethany	Luke 24:50
Episode 17	The story of the Church Acts 1–28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem • Judea • Samaria • Road to Damascus • Caesarea • Antioch • Cities on missionary journeys • Rome 	Wait for the promise of the Father	Acts 1:4
			The Day of Pentecost and the promise of the Father	Acts 2:1
			Peter becomes first preacher of the Church	Acts 2:14
			The Church initially organizes	Acts 2:42
			Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5:1
			Seven deacons selected	Acts 6:1
			Stephen the deacon is martyred	Acts 6:5
			Philip the deacon in Samaria	Acts 8:4
			The conversion of Paul on Damascus Road	Acts 9:1
			The gospel to the Gentiles	Acts 10:1
			The Antioch Church commissions Paul and Barnabas as missionaries	Acts 13:1
			First Missionary Journey	Acts 13:4
			The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:1
			Second Missionary Journey	Acts 15:36

Episodes	Storylines	Geographic Setting	Characters and Events in The Big Story	When are the Characters/Events introduced to the Storyline
Episode 17 Continued			Third Missionary Journey	Acts 18:23
			Paul arrives in Jerusalem	Acts 21:17
			Paul tried before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa	Acts 24:1
			Paul sails for Rome	Acts 27:1
			Paul preaches from prison in Rome	Acts 28:17
Epilogue	The consummation of the first "big story" and the beginning of the next "big story" Revelation 1–22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island of Patmos • Seven cities of Asia Minor • Throne in Heaven • Shoreline of the sea • A mountain great and high • New Heaven and New Earth • New Jerusalem • River of Life 	Jesus is Lord of the Church	Revelation 1:12–20
			Jesus is Lord over the affairs of the earth	Revelation 5:1–10
			Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of kings	Revelation 19:11–16
			Jesus is Lord of the future	Revelation 21:5–7; 22:6–7