

The Plan ~Overview

The contents of the Bible are the most important things for you to understand in this lifetime. Very few people would refute this statement, yet fewer still can say that they actually know Jesus as well as their chosen career or favorite movie. The distractions of our world have kept us from learning the First Things...and each of us must now learn how to work around the obstacles that keep us from knowing Jesus. Sooner than we realize, we will all meet Him face to face. The books you are about to study promise that repeatedly.

When you have completed your study, you will understand The Story so well you can teach it to others. Learning and memory are improved by many different methods. *Repetition* is the most familiar to anyone who has taken an exam, but *multiple modalities*, *desire*, *goal orientation*, and *receptivity* play a part as well. The most crucial element in learning complex concepts however, is the proper **SEQUENCING** of material. The proper sequence clears the two biggest hurdles: where to start (1) and when to read the hard stuff (2). Many of you have already tried and failed to understand the Bible because of one or both of these obstacles. Truly, knowing what NOT to read early is more important than where to start.

The order in which the books were placed in the Bible was NOT meant to facilitate the left to right reading of a book. The texts were organized by length (longest to shortest) in distinct sections (history, prophecy, etc) to allow for the easy referencing of scrolls, centuries before the printing of books. A comprehensive reading plan must understand this LIBRARY concept and study the books early, middle or late to allow for the greatest understanding of each. Here are The Three Waves...

The First Wave

The First Wave of books must read easily, define Jesus thoroughly, and give you the storyline. The [Gospels](#) are the primary accounts of Jesus so they should dominate the introduction, along with a careful reading of [Genesis](#) and [Exodus](#). The rest of the First Wave should then lay out the storyline chronologically. This run through the historical books is "horizontal" learning because it provides a broad outline as an overview.

The Second Wave

The Second Wave includes those books that further develop our understanding of The Story, "vertical" learning per se. The Epistles are mostly letters to communities or individuals that more thoroughly explain what Jesus had just accomplished. The longer prophetic books from the Old Testament also belong here because *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Ezekiel*, and *Daniel* discussed at great length who was to come and return us to Paradise.

The Third Wave

The Third and Final Wave includes those books that are the most difficult to study. *Revelation* must be read late, when its abundant scriptural references can be easily grasped. *Leviticus*, the laws of the ancient Israelites, is very confusing if read early; but knowing that the boy Jesus read it first (and quoted it often) will add great texture to your ultimate understanding. The Twelve Books of the Minor Prophets, "minor" only because they are shorter in length, will be more easily understood when placed into context.

Anytime Reading

The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (Proverbs, Psalms) can be read at any time during your study. Emphasizing beauty, truth, and living well, Wisdom can advise and console any time, any day, or even every day.