

What's the Bible all about?



<p><u>Act 1 - Creation</u></p>	<p>Genesis 1&2 (Dawn of time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God creates the world out of nothing</i> • <i>Humanity is its climax (made in the image of God), and is entrusted with it's stewardship, in partnership with God</i>
<p><u>Act 2 - Fall</u></p>	<p>Genesis 3-11 (Dawn of time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Humanity sins, rebelling against God and going it's own way</i> • Things get worse and worse until Gen6:5-8 "I'm grieved that I made them" ... "But Noah" for the sake of one family trying to follow God, God holds off "wiping the who of human kind from the earth" ... He continues with that family • By Genesis 11 however, things are really bad again and God scatters humanity across the world.
<p><u>Act 3 - Israel</u></p>	<p>Genesis 12 to end of Old Testament. (2000BC – 400BC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God graciously bears with humankind and begins the work of restoration through Abraham and his children, the people of God.</i> • The people of God are intended to be a lighthouse people, drawing others back to God, but rebellion against his care and concern limits this happening. <p><u>Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God saves his people by powerful actions (Exodus1-40) • People given their own land (Joshua1-24) • Given 'the law', God's ethics for living (Deuteronomy) • <i>Kings</i> – Saul (starts well & goes bad), David (starts well, dips, but finishes well), Solomon (starts well & goes bad) • Returned from captivity (after kingdoms fall) • <i>Promises of a new King who will sort all things out once and for all....</i> <p><u>Low points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Endless ignoring of God</i> • 40 years in wilderness until they get straight(ish) • Bad kings – country splits in two (Judah & Israel) • Both countries overrun and destroyed, but God promises that they'll return (which they do) <p><i>400BC – God has promised a New king, and a New Kingdom and the people wait....</i></p>

<p><u>Act 4 -Jesus</u></p>	<p>Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke & John)</p> <p>(1AD- 34AD (ish))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ultimately God sends his own Son, Jesus Christ to deal with sin once for all through dying and rising again</i> • Jesus brought healing and wholeness to people, and painted a picture of the New Kingdom that he was bringing into being. Not a geographical one, but of God’s loving reign and rule over peoples hearts and lives, across all nations and communities. • He trained disciples who spent 3 years travelling with him, learning, but also doing what he did through the power of the Holy Spirit. • Jesus was unjustly tried, convicted and crucified, for upsetting the religious authorities, claiming that he was God’s chosen one, and that he was God. (which turned out to be true, at his resurrection!) • In living, dying and rising again, Jesus opened the way up for people to be reconnected with God again, and his Holy Spirit to live within them, enabling them to live differently.
<p><u>Act 5 -Church</u></p>	<p>Acts – Jude (NT)</p> <p>(34AD – present day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>As a result of the giving of the Holy Spirit a new humanity, a renewed people, is brought into being to continue God’s work of restoration and renewal of the whole world.</i> • Accounts of the growth of the early church under the leading of the Holy Spirit (Acts1-28), set the pattern and purpose of all generations that follow as the baton is passed from one to the next • Letters from the disciples to the early churches • The church is ‘The Body of Christ’, empowered by the Holy Spirit it is in many ways the physical presence through which God acts (continuing the partnership from the Act1 – creation). • The Church is God’s people, gathered together, not an institution or a building
<p><u>Act 6 –New creation</u></p>	<p>Revelation (& other bits & pieces (NT))</p> <p>(??????AD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One day Christ will come again and there will be a New heavens and a New Earth – Restoration complete</i>