

A Bible Unbound Helpful Guide:

THE BIBLE IN A SENTENCE

If you find yourself asking, "what is this book about again?" then this is for you.

As we explore, it can be easy to get lost in the vast universe of the Biblical epic. Therefore, I wanted to create an accessible reference to help us on our expedition. It is meant to be easy to use as it gives you the overall context of every book of the Bible...in about one sentence.

- Austin Smith, Creator

LET'S EXPLORE!

Follow The Red Line





Genesis

God establishes His kingdom over the world, but human beings have rebelled against that Kingdom. God's plan to reconcile humans back to Himself begins when He chooses the Israelite family to be His covenant people and promises them an abundance of land, descendants, and access to God.

Key Context:

Genesis 1-3 establishes key themes relating Righteousness and Justice closely to one another; and equates Blessing with abundance and Curse with famine.

Exodus

God frees the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, making them a theocratic nation, establishing a series of moral, civic, and ceremonial laws that they should follow out of thankfulness for this salvation.

Leviticus

God expands upon the series of moral, civic, and ceremonial laws the Israelites are to follow to show their allegiance to and praise of the God who saved them.

Numbers

As a new nation, the Israelites are preparing to settle in the land that God promised them (Canaan) by detailing more civic laws and census data; but due to the moral failures of the people, the generation perishes in the wilderness, making hope for God's Kingdom seemingly dim.

Deuteronomy

Moses determines to reiterate and clarify the moral, civic, and ceremonial laws to the new generation of Israelites in order to prepare them to enter Canaan; however Moses dies without entering the promised land.







Joshua

The new generation of Israelites conquer the promised land, Canaan, even though they fail to drive out the unjust Canaanites as they were commanded.

Judges

The failure to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan leads to two new realities – the Israelites are enslaved to warring nations, and idolatry. This prompts God to raise judges to bring justice to the injustices.



Ruth

Taking place during the time of the Judges, Ruth is a distressed Moabitess who marries an Israelite man, saving her and her family from poverty and curse.

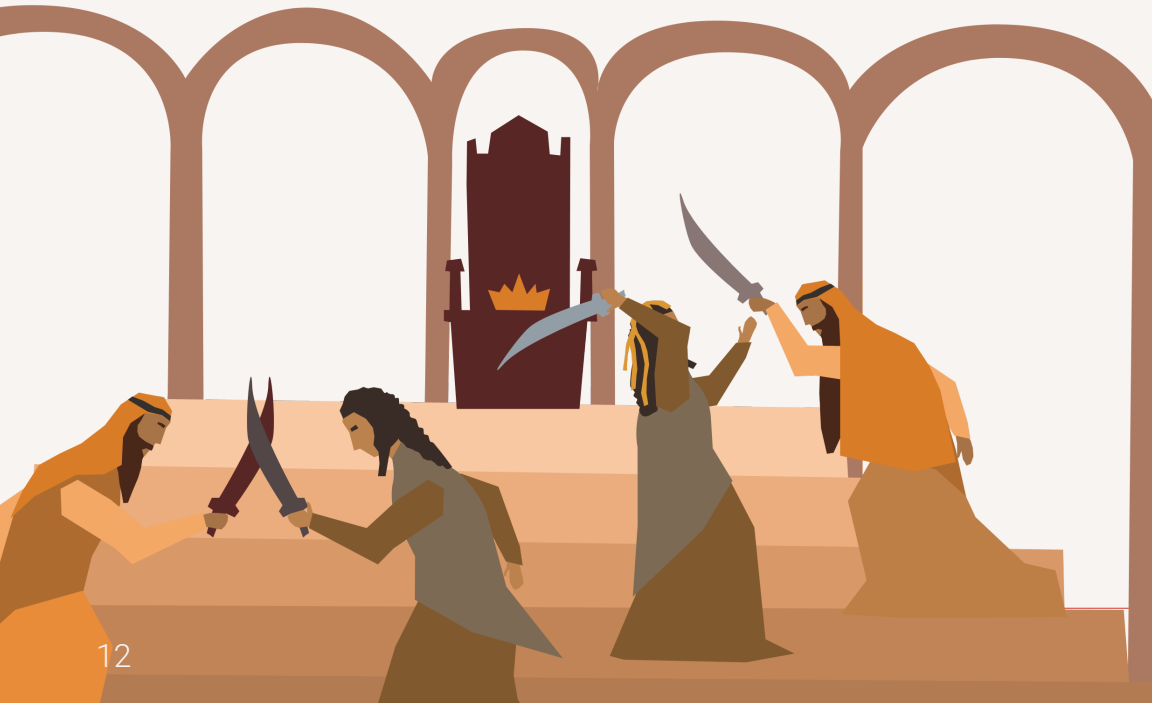
1st Samuel

As the nation gradually rejects God as their King, the people demand a new king from the prophet-judge Samuel. Because of their impatience, God places them under the leadership of Saul, but God rejects Saul as their true king, leading God to raise up David as the king of Israel.

2nd Samuel

David is made king after Saul's inevitable demise, but due to David's moral shortcomings, God curses David's sons. However, this is not without hope as God promises an eternal King will be raised from David's lineage.





1st & 2nd Kings

Following the downfall of David and Solomon, a power vacuum raises concerns over the stability of the nation of Israel as kings clamor for power. The war of the kings spirals out of control until finally, the nation divides into two warring factions that the surrounding nations then inevitably conquer.

Key Context:

In the ancient world, the downfall of a nation was the symbolic downfall of the god who ruled that nation. In essence, the Israelites believed their God to have been defeated or at best, impotent.

1st & 2nd Chronicles

As a summary of the Jewish scriptures thus far, it emphasizes the role of the priesthood throughout the nation's history to highlight the Messianic King promised out of David's lineage. The books provide hope for future generations that God's eternal Kingdom will be established.

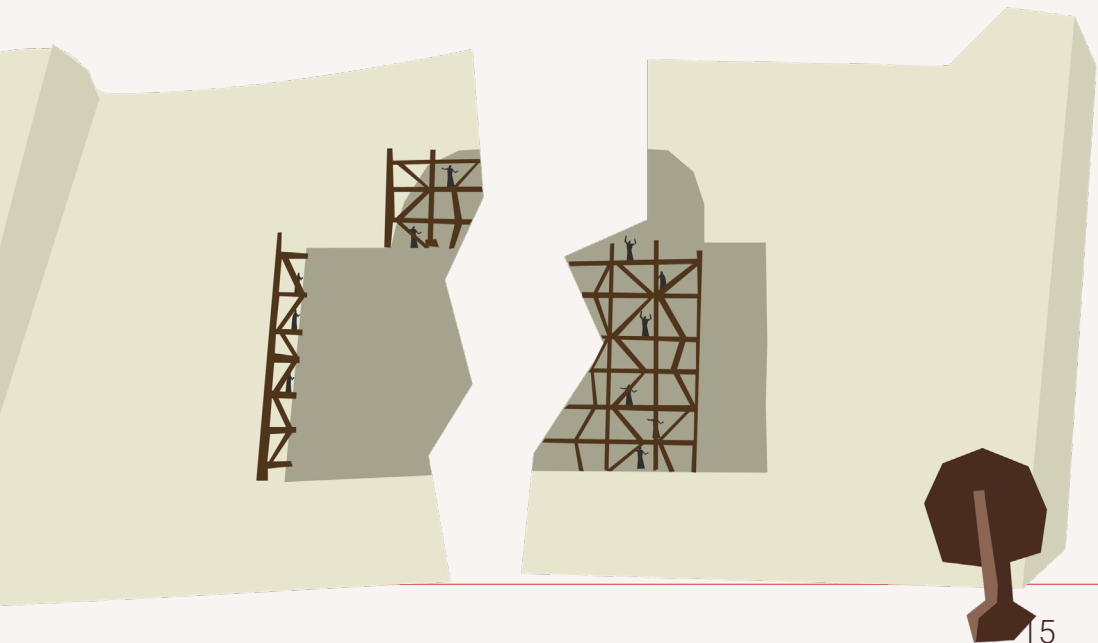
Ezra-Nehemiah

Originally one scroll, these two books tell the parallel story of the exiled Israelites who have returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and, by association, the nation itself.

Esther

In Babylon, the Israelite, Esther, is esteemed for her beauty and becomes queen; meanwhile an anti-Semite, Haman, is elevated to a high governing position. Haman concocts a scheme to eradicate the Jewish people in Babylon, but Mordecai, Esther's relative, persuades Esther to use her political power to save the Jews.







Job

Told in three major movements, Job follows a righteous man who loses everything and asks us to consider the question: Is God still just even if He allows suffering? The story ends when Job realizes God's eternal plans are more grand and holy than he could conceive.

Psalms

Told in five major movements, the psalter replays the Torah in poetic movements, anticipating the rise of God as King over the nations.

Proverbs

A collection of short, wise sayings from various figures of wisdom throughout Israelite history.

Ecclesiastes

The author expresses the futility of life (because life always ends in death) allowing the reader to infer that if death could be defeated, life might have some meaning. Until then, the author concludes to live with wisdom.

Song of Solomon

The tale of two lovers personified in poetic form who are separated and yet reconciled throughout the poem.





Isaiah

This large prophetic scroll details the hope of Israel amid their covenant unfaithfulness with chapters 1-39 revealing a pattern of Israel's rebellion that is always resolved with God's reconciliation. Meanwhile, chapters 40-66 detail accounts of post-exile, where Isaiah prophesies the hope of God becoming the everlasting King.

Jeremiah

Separated into three major movements, Jeremiah details Israel's unfaithfulness and warns of her inevitable exile. Then, speaks of Israel's inevitable exaltation through the Messiah. But Jeremiah concludes his prophecy with a judgment on the nations and calls for their expectant hope in the Messiah.

Lamentations

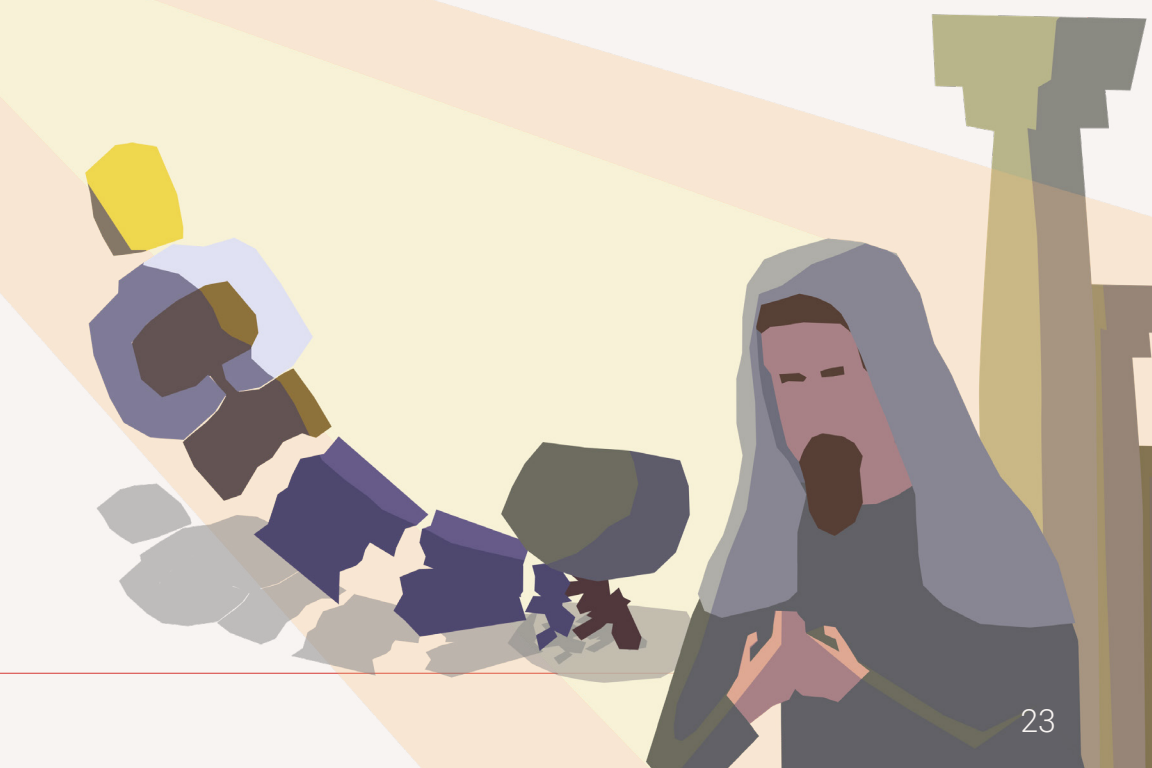
Jeremiah reflectively laments over Israel's exile.

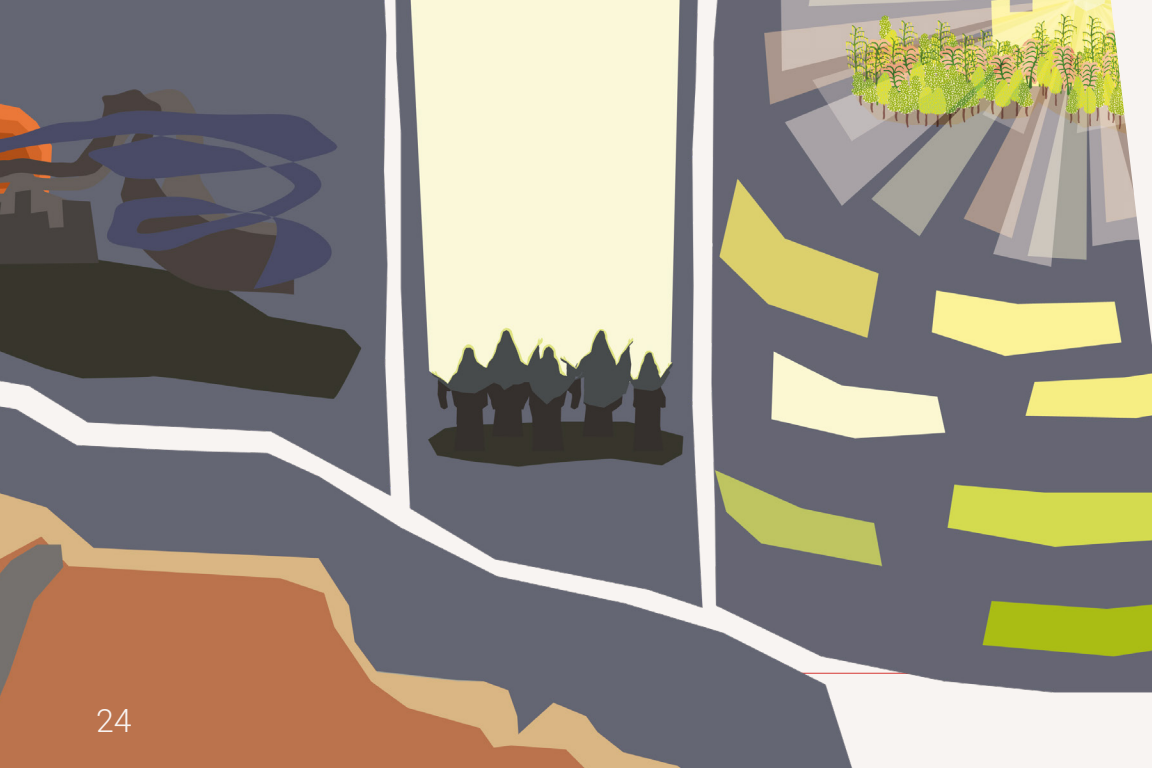
Ezekiel

Unexpectedly, the presence of God finds Ezekiel in Babylon and inspires him to write a judgment on Israel's unfaithfulness and the injustice of the nations. But Ezekiel promises that these failures will lead to the coming Messianic King, giving hope to Israel, the nations, and all of creation.

Daniel

A story about national justice, Daniel is recruited to serve in the Babylonian government with other Israelites, but because of their adherence to certain Semitic laws, the Babylonian king is outraged. This pattern repeats, and in prophetic imagery, we are told that these types of unjust nations will inevitably crumble, and God's Everlasting Kingdom will inevitably be raised.





Hosea

God uses Hosea by comparing Hosea's broken marriage with Gomer to Israel's adultery and God's covenant faithfulness, concluding with a series of warnings that foretell the Assyrian invasion.

Joel

Comparing a recent locust invasion to the coming invasion of Israel, Joel calls the nation to repentance, but, Joel concludes by reminding the people that as God did away with the locust, so He will restore the land as well.

Amos

Amos accuses Israel of being like the surrounding nations but puts the responsibility of this failure on Israel's leaders, warning of the destruction of Israel's leaders and the establishment of God's Davidic King.

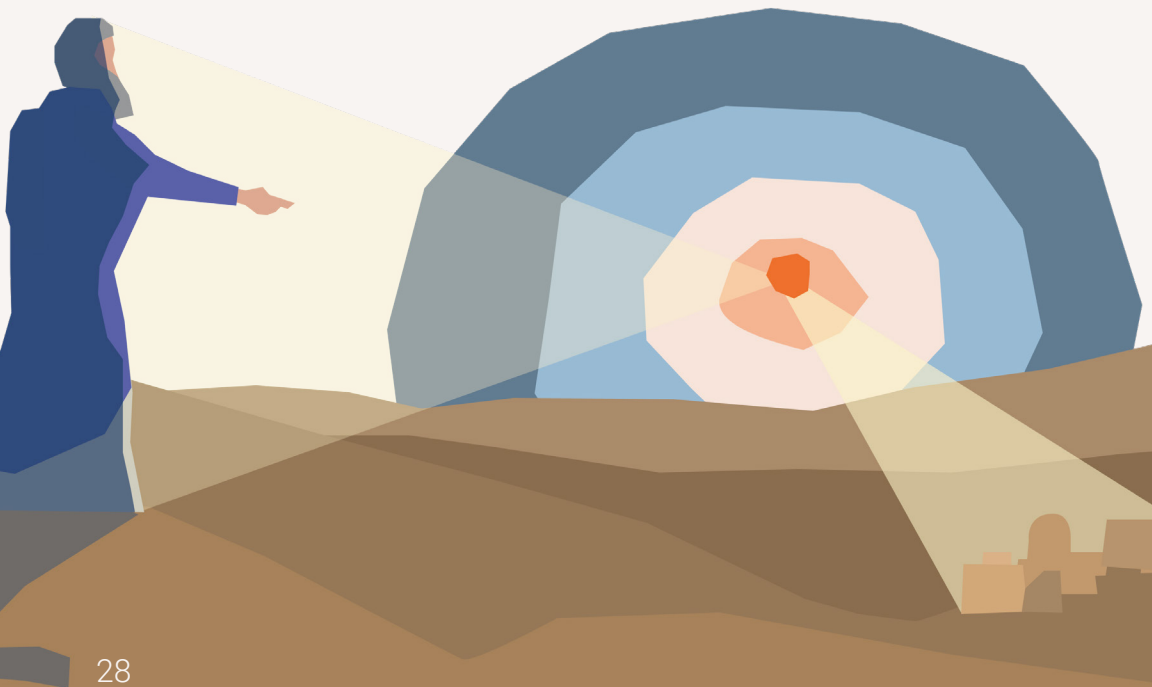
Obadiah

Obadiah primarily accuses Edom (an ancestral nation southwest of Israel), but his accusations symbolically represent the judgment coming to all nations. As God will restore Israel, Obadiah promises the restoration of other nations to the New Jerusalem.

Jonah

The humorous tale of a prophet that refuses to listen to God as He sends Jonah to Nineveh to call them to repentance, and they immediately listen to God's warning, infuriating Jonah.





Micah

Micah foretells the coming Davidic King who will judge the unjust practices of Israel and the nations, detailing that the birth of the King will be in the humble town of Bethlehem.

Nahum

Nahum details the fall of the Assyrian capital Nineveh, symbolically communicating the inevitable destruction of all nations as God raises His Kingdom in their stead.

Habakkuk

Through a structured series of complaints and responses, Habakkuk concludes that all nations—even Israel—eventually become unjust and corrupt, and God will need to provide a future exodus that destroys injustice itself to save humanity.

Zephaniah

Graphic depictions of God's justice give way to beautiful images of God's love for the nations.

Haggai

Present at the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Haggai accuses the Israelites who have returned from exile of already slipping into covenant unfaithfulness for focusing more on rebuilding the actual town first instead of the temple.





Zechariah

A contemporary of Haggai, Zechariah exhorts the post-exilic Israelites to repent, but the Israelites are confused after listening to so many prophetic voices throughout the ages, wondering when the Messiah will actually come. Zechariah has a series of nine dreams foretelling the justice and mercy presented in the New Jerusalem and Messianic Kingdom.

Malachi

Structured around a series of six complaints that Israel has against God, God responds with loving, firm rebukes that summarize the Old Testament and point the Israelites toward the hope of His coming Kingdom.

Matthew

Matthew shares his account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, who he believes to be the Davidic and Messianic King, foretold in the Old Testament.

Mark

Mark shares his account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, who he believes to be the King of God's Kingdom, foretold in the Old Testament.





Luke

Luke shares his account of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth, who he believes to be the Adamic (perfect image-bearing) King, foretold in the Old Testament.

John

John shares his account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, who he believes to be the Cosmic King of the Universe (God Himself), foretold in the Old Testament.

Acts

Namely following the account of the apostles Peter and Paul, the Acts share Jesus' ascension and the establishment of God's reign through His Holy Spirit on Earth as prophesied in the Old Testament. This reign manifests in believers of Jesus' Kingship called the *ekklesia*, or called out ones, or Church.

Romans

The believers in Rome have divided among ethnic lines while deciding who is more guilty under God's justice, forcing Paul to write to this church addressing these issues of the unification and creation of God's chosen people.

1st Corinthians

The Corinthian believers have fallen into several problematic practices, such as cult prostitution, divisions, and pride, forcing Paul to write to the church and exhort them to examine the Gospel and respond accordingly.





2nd Corinthians

The Corinthians did not respond favorably to Paul's earlier letter and rejected him along with any support the wealthy church could provide for the Jerusalem believers. Therefore, Paul exhorts them to examine their understanding of the Gospel seriously and begin responding in the Gospel appropriately.

Galatians

Jewish leaders have begun accusing Gentile Christians of faithlessness for not following the Torah, so the Galatian church(es) institute legalistic and ascetic heresies that Paul vehemently responds to, exhorting them to understand the Gospel rightly.

Ephesians

Split into two distinct movements, chapters 1-3 outline Paul's understanding of the Gospel message, whereas chapters 4-6 detail how Christians can respond to that good news.

Philippians

The Philippian congregation has supported Paul financially despite their relative poverty and persecution, so Paul writes, exhorting them to continue in the way of Jesus: to be humble, selfless, and loving.

Colossians

The Colossians are about to fall into a heretical approach to scripture like the Galatians (consisting of asceticism and legalism) so Paul writes to them to stop their approach before it gets out of hand as it did with the churches in Galatia.

1st & 2nd Thessalonians

Under severe persecution, Paul encourages the Thessalonian Church to remain steadfast to their hope until the Messiah comes back. However, a misunderstanding requires Paul to write a second letter stating that the Messiah has not returned yet and to continue working (as some had stopped) and continue responding to the world with the Gospel.





1st & 2nd Timothy

Distorted legalistic teachings have crept into Timothy's congregation in Ephesus, so Paul writes to encourage Timothy to find men with a solid understanding of the scriptures to lead the congregation.

Titus

A church has been established on the degenerate island of Crete of which Titus has been put in charge. Paul writes to him to appoint moral leaders to oversee the church (a difficult task on the island) so that it will reflect the new humanity God is creating.

Philemon

Paul is imprisoned with Philemon's runaway slave, Onesimus. He exhorts Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a brother – with forgiveness – as it reflects the Gospel of Christ.

Hebrews

Hebrews shares an apologetic that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, walking through the Old Testament scriptures and detailing the reality of this fact.

James

James likely writes to persecuted church leaders, earnestly exhorting them to interrogate their faith so that they may discern if their faith is erroneous lest their persecution be in vain.





1st & 2nd Peter

Peter sees the new family of God as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that the nations would come together in Christ. 1st & 2nd Peter outline how a believer's current suffering is not a denial of this reality but the fulfillment of it. Peter's second letter addresses false teachers who deny God's justice to the nations in His second coming.

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

John writes his first letter to assure his hearers that true Christians inevitably produce the fruit of love in their lives and that teachers or individuals who do not love have an erroneous understanding of the Gospel. John's other two letters reiterate this point.

Jude

Like John's letters, Jude contends that God's Spirit produces love and obedience in the believer; therefore, the false teachers who deny Jesus' authority and use "grace" as a means to usurp God will perish like key Old Testament figures.

Revelation

Written to seven key churches, John's revelation is meant to give hope to suffering Christians. He reminds them of the justice that was wrought on the cross, which will one day come upon injustice as God fulfills His promise to build His final, everlasting, eternal, and abundant Kingdom on Earth.



Thank You!

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