

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
A SYMPHONY FOR THE SOUL
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

The Book of books is indeed unique. In its survival, history, continuity, influence, and popularity, the Bible stands alone. Like a rock of priceless value, this eternal, universal library of inspired information possesses the very authority and validity of almighty God—as though He were speaking in audible terms and tones. Not only does Scripture *contain* His truth, it is His Word, for His Spirit is the author, making the Bible an infallible and inerrant document to guide us in both faith and practice. We begin, in this study, a general examination of the books in the Bible—Genesis through Revelation. As the Lord reveals Himself through each book we study, may your love for and reliance upon Him be enhanced.



Discovering the Way

1. General Information

The word *Bible* comes from the Greek term *biblia*, and the book itself is divided into two main sections called the Old Testament and the New Testament. It covers a lengthy history of people, events, and places, and it traces the theme of salvation through Jesus Christ.

2. Crucial Doctrines

There are four crucial doctrines of Scripture: revelation, inspiration, illumination, and application.



Starting Your Journey

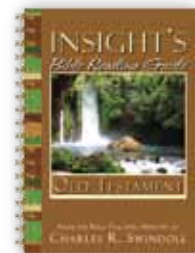
The Bible will have little lasting significance in our lives unless we make it a priority to apply it to our lives. Through God's Word, we receive specific purpose, meaning, and direction for our lives.



Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork
Volume One
Beginnings—A Survey
of Genesis–Deuteronomy
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD Series



Insights Bible Reading
Guide: Old Testament
by Insight for Living
spiral bound book

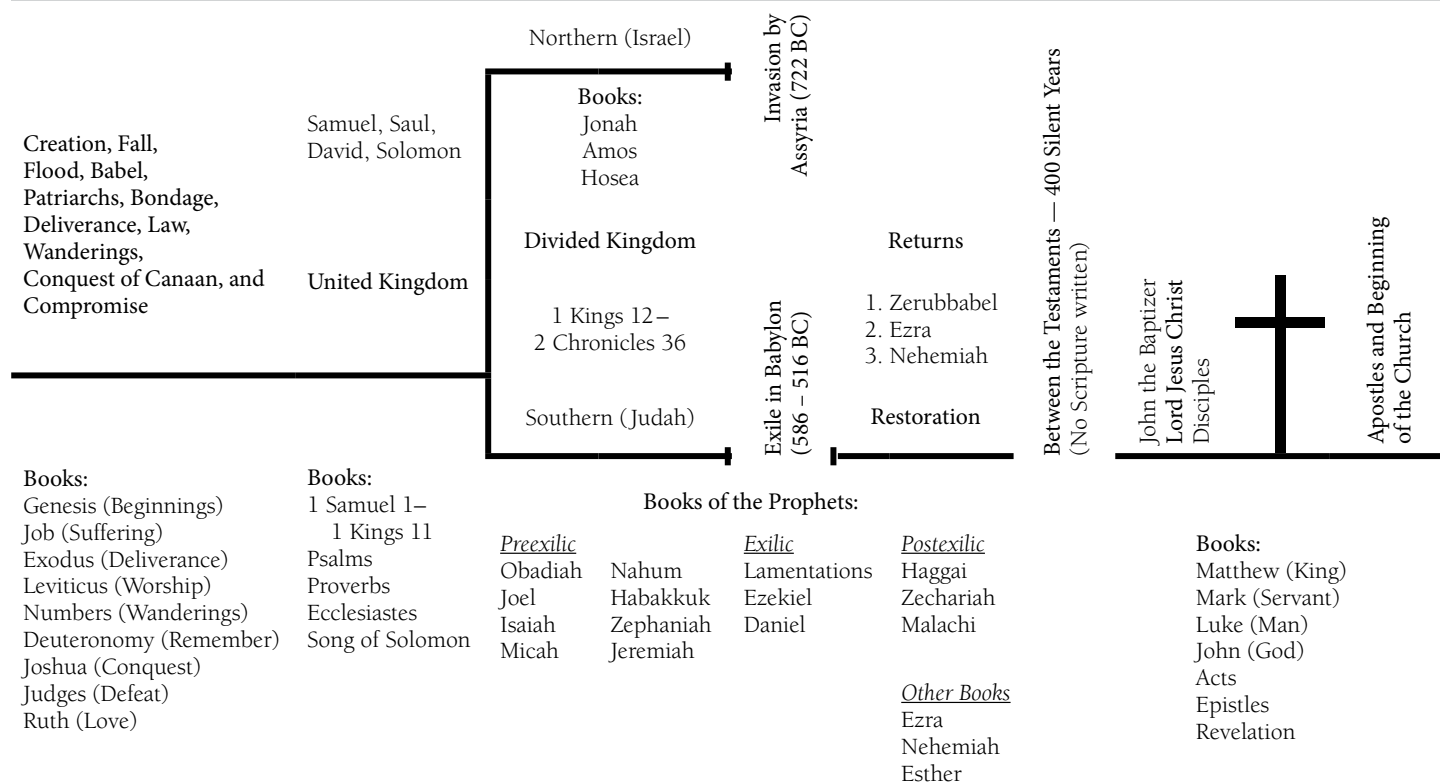


Insight's Old Testament
Handbook: A Practical
Look at Each Book
by Insight for Living
softcover book

To order any of these related
resources, call
0800-915-9364
or visit
www.insightforliving.org.uk



Survey of the Bible Books



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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
BASIC BIBLE STUDY TOOLS
CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

The more serious you become about personal Bible study, the more you will be aware of the importance of owning some good study tools. Numerous books are available today, some of which are listed below. You should form the habit of purchasing at least one study aid per month for your own library.

1. Bibles

It is best if you have a study Bible that has paragraphic notations or divisions. You will also want to get some of the modern translations, versions, and paraphrases—preferably in hardcover. There are several excellent versions of the Bible. For casual reading, the *New International Version* is my preference. However, for serious study with accuracy in mind, I recommend the *New American Standard Bible*.

2. Concordances

A concordance is a must. It is an alphabetical listing of all the words in the Bible and of all the verses in which they appear.

- *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible* or *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* are my preferences.
- Acquire an *exhaustive* concordance of the translation you use for study.
- Most good computer programs for Bible study (see reverse) allow for multiple-word searches, including lexical searches in the original languages.

3. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- English—*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* or *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*
- Bible—*The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* is the best.
- Theological—*Baker's Dictionary of Practical Theology* is a good tool.
- Greek and Hebrew—*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
- Encyclopedia—*The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (five volumes) and *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (four volumes) are excellent.

4. Geographical and Cultural Helps

- A good atlas is indispensable for understanding context. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands* is highly recommended. (Also, if you have not yet been to Israel, you should go!)
- Bible backgrounds—*The New Unger's Bible Handbook*, *Halley's Bible Handbook*, Merrill Tenney's *New Testament Times: Understanding the World of the First Century*, or Alfred Edersheim's *Bible History: Old Testament*

5. Bible Doctrine Books

- *Systematic Theology* by Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology* by Charles Hodge, or *Systematic Theology* by Augustus H. Strong
- *Biblical Theology of the New Testament* by Charles C. Ryrie
- *Major Bible Themes* by Lewis Sperry Chafer—a good, concise book

6. Commentaries

- Surveys of the entire Bible—*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty* (in two volumes, Old and New Testaments) is outstanding. *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* is my preferred one-volume commentary.

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- Expository (verse by verse)—some of the best are by Donald G. Barnhouse, Kenneth S. Wuest, William R. Newell, R. C. H. Lenski, H. C. Leupold, William Barclay, John F. Walvoord, Arthur W. Pink, and Tyndale House
- Devotional—books by G. Campbell Morgan, F. B. Meyer, Alan Redpath, H. A. Ironside, and Charles R. Swindoll
- Analytical—books by W. Graham Scroggie and Merrill Tenney, as well as the I. C. C. (International Critical Commentary) series (critical and tends toward the liberal side)

Concerning Commentaries

- Best to purchase one of the entire Bible first
- Best to use different types in your study
- Best to consult them *after* your own personal study
- Best to read with discernment; don't be afraid to challenge or disagree
- An excellent volume by John Glynn, *Commentary & Reference Survey*, lists and explains the most popular and recommended commentaries (from various perspectives—evangelical, liberal, etc.) on every book of the Bible. It is helpful when you're looking for which commentary to buy . . . and which one not to buy.

7. Bible Study Computer Programs

- BibleWorks (for PC)—see www.bibleworks.com
Designed for analysis of the biblical text, BibleWorks is the best program for the PC platform—for all levels of users. It offers search tools, lexicons, and dictionaries for Bible study, sermon preparation, and detailed Bible research.
- Libronix Digital Library System (for PC)—see www.logos.com
An astounding assortment of commentaries, books, dictionaries, and tools allows for quick research on any passage or topic. Many of the recommended resources on this handout are in the Libronix Library.
- Accordance (for Macintosh)—see www.accordancebible.com
From basic Bible study helps to advanced research tools, Accordance is the best program for the Mac environment. Accordance offers Bibles, commentaries, lexicons, and a comprehensive library of materials and tools that can grow with your needs.

8. Web Sites

- www.bible.org—“In the last decade bible.org has grown to serve millions of individuals around the world through providing thousands of trustworthy resources for Bible study—including an exciting new translation of the Bible (the NET Bible).”—from their Web site
- www.bibleplaces.com—“BiblePlaces.com features photographs and descriptions of sites in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Greece with an emphasis on biblical archaeology, geography and history.”—from their Web site

9. Bible Study Methods

- *Living by the Book* by Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks
- *Independent Bible Study* by Irving L. Jensen
- *How to Study the Bible for Yourself* by Tim LaHaye
- *Methodical Bible Study* by Robert A. Traina