



## Bible Overview

**Genesis 1** God has a purpose for his creation. He creates the earth to be filled, he creates people to be in relationship with himself, and he invites them to share in his work in the world.

**Genesis 12** God chooses Abraham and his family to be his instruments of blessing all the people throughout the world. He calls Abraham to trust and follow him, and to go where he leads. He promises to bless Abraham and his family. The purpose of this blessing is that they in turn might be a blessing to the world. That God might work in and through them to impact and transform others.

**Exodus** Abraham's extended family becomes a nation who God continues to call into relationship with Himself. God rescues them from slavery in Egypt, and leads them to their own land, giving them his law to show them how to live in response to him. He calls them to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. Their role is to show the world what God is like. This theme of holiness continues throughout the whole Bible.

**Prophets** God calls his people to return to him and to live in a way that demonstrate to others all the wonderful things that it means to be in relationship with him. The people of Israel sometimes get it right, and often get it wrong, but God persists in his desire to fulfill his mission in and through them.

**Gospels** Jesus shows us God's mission in human form. God comes in the flesh to make himself known to the world. And Jesus calls us to discipleship, to follow him in his mission. The very first thing Jesus says to his disciples in Matthew's gospel is "come and follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Throughout his life recorded in the pages of the gospels, Jesus demonstrates and fulfills God's mission as he teaches, heals, forgives and restores – bringing all kinds of people into new relationship with God. To bring us into relationship with himself, to make us his people, to reconcile once and for all his creation for his purposes, sin must be paid for and death defeated. Through the cross God now reveals how his mission is able to be completed once and for all.

**Acts** The early church participates in God's mission, being sent out into the world. Disciples like Peter, Paul, and Barnabas travel to share the good news with those who have not heard it. In the power of the Holy Spirit, they see people's lives transformed as they hear and respond to what God has done. The gospel spreads from Jerusalem, to surrounding towns and countries, throughout the Roman empire, and begins its journey to the ends of the earth.

**Letters** The letters give us instruction and encouragement on how to live as God's people participating in God's mission right here and right now. We are called to be Christ's ambassadors or representatives in the world – living holy lives, which demonstrate who he is, and speaking the good news which invites people to respond to him.

**Revelation** A glimpse of the end – a picture of people from all nations, languages and tribes gathered together in worship of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. God's purpose and plan from the very beginning finds fulfillment in this vision of all nations gathered together in worship.