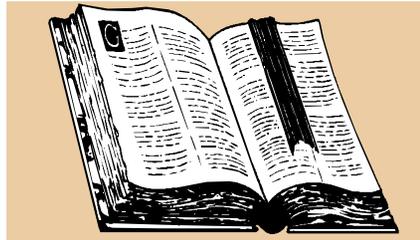


A Summary of the Bible Story

God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Man sinned and fell from what God designed him to be. God determined to save man from his sinful and fallen condition and inaugurated a plan for man's ultimate redemption by the calling of Abraham and dealing with him as a father of a nation through which the Messiah would come. God led Abraham out of the region of Babylon into the land of Canaan. Because of a famine, Abraham's descendents migrated to Egypt where they grew into a mighty nation. Then, under the leadership of Moses, and later Joshua, they were led back to Canaan, the promised land. In some four or five hundred years, under David and Solomon, they developed into a mighty nation. Then the kingdom was divided. The northern part, called Israel, consisted of ten tribes and lasted about 250 years and was destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C. The southern kingdom, called Judah, consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and lasted 135 years before falling at the hands of the Babylonians in about 600 B.C. In 536 B.C., a remnant of the nation returned from the seventy-year Babylonian captivity in the land of Palestine. Soon thereafter the Old Testament closed.



Four hundred years later, Jesus, the Messiah of Old Testament prophecy, appeared. He performed His redemptive work, was crucified, and rose from the dead on the third day. He then commanded His disciples to carry the story of the gospel to all nations. The church was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost following the Lord's ascension back to Heaven. The disciples in Jerusalem went in every direction with the glorious news of salvation, mainly westward through Asia Minor and Greece, and then to Rome. Much mission effort was carried out by the apostle Paul. In the New Testament period the gospel was preached to every nation under heaven. With the work of human redemption launched, the books of the Bible inspiring penned, and the warning of the Lord's return to gather the redeemed home to glory, the New Testament closes.