

# SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## OLD Testament

### GENESIS

Describes the creation; gives the history of the old world, and of the steps taken by God toward the formation of theocracy.

### EXODUS

The history of Israel's departure from Egypt; the giving of the law; the tabernacle.

### LEVITICUS

The ceremonial law.

### NUMBERS

The census of the people; the story of the wanderings in the wilderness.

### DEUTERONOMY

The law rehearsed; the death of Moses.

### JOSHUA

The story of the conquest and partition of Canaan.

### JUDGES

The history of the nation from Joshua to Samson.

### RUTH

The story of the ancestors of the royal family of Judah.

### 1 SAMUEL

The story of the nation during the judgeship of Samuel and the reign of Saul.

### 2 SAMUEL

Story of the reign of David.

### 1 AND 2 KINGS

The books of Kings form only one book in the Hebrew Scriptures. They contain the history of the nation from David's death and Solomon's accession to the destruction of the kingdom of Judah and the desolation of Jerusalem, with a supplemental notice of the liberation of Jehoiachin from his prison at Babylon, twenty-six years later; they comprehend the whole time of the Israelitish monarchy, exclusive of the reigns of Saul and David.

### THE BOOKS OF CHRONICLES

are so called as being the record made by the appointed historiographers of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel; they are the official histories of those kingdoms.

## EZRA

The story of the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, and of the rebuilding of the temple.

## NEHEMIAH

A further account of the rebuilding of the temple and city, and of the obstacles encountered and overcome.

## ESTHER

The story of a Jewess who becomes queen of Persia and saves the Jewish people from destruction.

## JOB

The story of the trials and patience of a holy man of Edom.

## PSALMS

A collection of sacred poems intended for use in the worship of Jehovah. Chiefly the productions of David.

## PROVERBS

The wise sayings of Solomon.

## ECCLESIASTES

A poem respecting the vanity of earthly things.

## THE SONG OF SOLOMON

An allegory relating to the church.

## ISAIAH

Prophecies respecting Christ and his kingdom.

## JEREMIAH

Prophecies announcing the captivity of Judah, its sufferings, and the final overthrow of its enemies.

## LAMENTATIONS

The utterance of Jeremiah's sorrow upon the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple.

## EZEKIEL

Messages of warning and comfort to the Jews in their captivity.

## DANIEL

A narrative of some of the occurrences of the captivity, and a series of prophecies concerning Christ.

## HOSEA

Prophecies relating to Christ and the latter days.

## JOEL

Prediction of woes upon Judah, and of the favor with which God will receive the penitent people.

## AMOS

Prediction that Israel and other neighboring nations will be punished by conquerors from the north, and of the fulfillment of the Messiah's kingdom.

## OBADIAH

Prediction of the desolation of Edom.

## JONAH

Prophecies relating to Nineveh.

## MICAH

Predictions relating to the invasions of Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, the Babylonish captivity, the establishment of a theocratic kingdom in Jerusalem, and the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem.

## NAHUM

Prediction of the downfall of Assyria.

## HABAKKUK

A prediction of the doom of the Chaldeans.

## ZEPHANIAH

A prediction of the overthrow of Judah for its idolatry and wickedness.

## HAGGAI

Prophecies concerning the rebuilding of the temple.

## ZECHARIAH

Prophecies relating to the rebuilding of the temple and the Messiah.

## MALACHI

Prophecies relating to the calling of the Gentiles and the coming of Christ.

## New Testament

### GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW

A brief history of the life of Christ. Focuses on Christ as the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies.

### GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

A brief history of the life of Christ, supplying some incidents omitted by St. Matthew. Focuses on Christ as the authoritative Son of God, Who has come to claim victory.

### GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE

The history of the life of Christ, with especial reference to his most important acts and discourses. Focuses on the humanity of Christ.

### GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN

The life of Christ, giving important discourses not related by the other evangelists. Gives us a birds eye view of

### ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The history of the labors of the apostles and of the foundation of the Christian Church.

### EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

A treatise by St. Paul on the doctrine of justification by Christ.

### FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

A letter from St. Paul to the Corinthians, correcting errors into which they had fallen.

### SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

St. Paul confirms his disciples in their faith, and vindicates his own character.

### EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

St. Paul maintains that we are justified by faith, and not by rites.

### EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

A treatise by St. Paul on the power of divine grace.

### EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

St. Paul sets forth the beauty of Christian kindness.

### EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS

St. Paul warns his disciples against errors, and exhorts to certain duties.

### FIRST EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

St. Paul exhorts his disciples to continue in the faith and in holy conversation.

### SECOND EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

St. Paul corrects an error concerning the speedy coming of Christ the second time.

### FIRST AND SECOND EPISTLES TO TIMOTHY

St. Paul instructs Timothy in the duty of a pastor, and encourages him in the work of the ministry.

### EPISTLE TO TITUS

Epistle to Titus. St. Paul encourages Titus in the performance of his ministerial duties.

### EPISTLE TO PHILEMON

An appeal to a converted master to receive a converted escaped slave with kindness.

### EPISTLE TO HEBREWS

St. Paul (?) maintains that Christ is the substance of the ceremonial law.

#### EPISTLE OF JAMES

A treatise on the efficacy of faith united with good works.

#### FIRST AND SECOND EPISTLES OF PETER

Exhortations to a Christian life, with various warnings and predictions.

#### FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN

Respecting the person of our Lord, and an exhortation to Christian love and conduct.

#### SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN

St. John warns a converted lady against false teachers.

#### THIRD EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN

A letter to Gaius, praising him for his hospitality.

#### EPISTLE OF ST. JUDE

Warnings against deceivers.

#### THE REVELATION

The future of the Church foretold.