Know Your Bible Series

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

GENESIS

@KEITHIGNITESCALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Genesis

Author

It is not clearly stated in the Bible but Moses is credited as the writer- the First Book of Moses.

Period

Moses existed around the 1400s BC, nonetheless, the chronicles of Genesis travel to the very beginning of time.

Brief Summary

God creates the universe and elects His special people.

Details

The concept of God is not emphatically explained in the opening verses of Genesis, rather it simply highlights His existence: "In the beginning, God...." -Genesis 1:1. The opening chapters (1 & 2) analyze how God speaks the world and everything in it into being. For example: "God said......and it was so" -Genesis 1:6-7, 9, 11, 14-15.

Humans were specially made as higher beings in God's image to have dominion over all of His creation. "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7 NIV), and woman was strategically created out of the rib of man.

Adam and Eve, the first two people, live in perfect harmony in paradise, but their disobedience by heeding to the ill advice of the crafty serpent leads to their downfall-Genesis 3:1. Sin becomes more rampant and mankind freely steers off course, leading Cain, the first offspring of the world, to murder his brother Abel.

The world becomes more and more corrupt to the extent that God decides to destroy the world by flood, saving only the righteous Noah and his family, and an ark full of animals of different species. After natural order is restored on earth, God causes it to repopulate and He picks Abram (later named Abraham) as the patriarch (father) of a special and blessed people, who are given the name Israel.

Jacob, Abram's grandson, is later named Israel after he wrestles with God till daybreak and requests for a blessing. Genesis concludes by Joseph, Jacob's son, becoming a prime minister in Egypt through unforeseen circumstances, which involved being sold into slavery by his brothers.

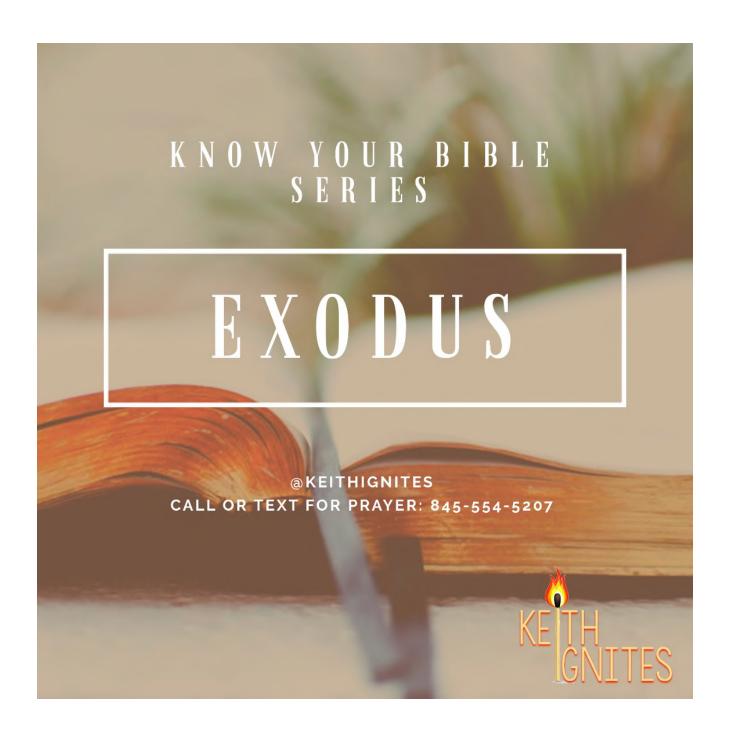
Facts

The concept of the Trinity- God in three persons (the triune nature of God) is introduced in the Book of Genesis- "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...." -Genesis 1:26 KJV. The concept of Jesus' future suffering and victory is introduced when the serpent is cursed for deceiving Eve.

"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." -Genesis 3:15 NLT

Significance

The Book of Genesis answers the question of where we come from and illustrates God's creative mind and supernatural power. It gives us so much meaning to the complex nature of the world we live in.



The Book of Exodus

Author

Traditionally, Moses is credited as the writer- the Second Book of Moses. However, it is not officially stated in Bible.

Period

Estimated to have occurred during the mid-1400s BC.

Brief Summary

God delivers His chosen people (Israel) from slavery in Egypt.

Details

The Israelites flourish in Egypt under the rule of Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, who rose from the lowly ranks of a slave to the second in command. A new pharaoh is elected when Joseph dies, and he becomes a threat to Israel by enslaving them (Exodus 1:1-22).

God hears the plight of His children and honors "His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and with Jacob." - Exodus 2:24. Moses is groomed as Israel's deliverer. Moses encounters God through a burning bush, where he is charged to fight for Israel's freedom from the hands of Pharaoh; after some hesitation Moses finally agrees when God allows his brother, Aaron the Levite to serve as his spokesman (Exodus 4:10-17).

God punishes Egypt with ten (10) plagues, which culminate in the death of every firstborn child, minus those of the Israelites. The latter escape death by applying sacrificial blood on their doorposts, which results in the "pass over" of their homes by the death angel.

Pharaoh finally agrees to allow the Israelites to flee from Egypt (the "Exodus"). God miraculously parts the Red Sea for His people (Israel), despite being chased after by the Egyptian soldiers, who are destroyed, including their horses and chariots.

God hands down the Ten Commandments to Moses at Mount Sinai, which explain rules for worship and laws to convert Israel into a nation. As a result of Moses' delay on the mountain, the people turn their hearts to the worship of a golden calf, inviting a plague on themselves as a punishment. Moses restores order upon his return and the people continue on their journey to the "promised land of Canaan," which was led by God's "pillar of cloud" by day and "pillar of fire" by night.

Facts

God instructed the Israelites to celebrate the Passover with a special meal prepared without yeast (Exodus 12:14-15). Over three thousand (3000) years on, Jewish people still follow this tradition.

Significance

The redemption story illustrated in Exodus, shows God's power in rescuing His people from slavery in Egypt. The parallel to that is the fact that Jesus delivers us from the bondage of sin and fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

LEVITICUS

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KE**T**H GNITES

The Book of Leviticus

Author

It is not officially stated in Bible, but by tradition, it is attributed to Moses.

Period

Estimated to have occurred during the mid-1400s BC.

Brief Summary

God, the Holy Father, explains how to worship Him.

Details

Leviticus which simply means "about the Levites," outlines their role in leading the Israelites in worship. Ceremonial laws are detailed, explaining how offerings are to be made to God, dietary constraints, and rites of purification. Holy days such as the Sabbath, Passover, and Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) are instituted. The family of Aaron, Moses' brother is anointed and officially inducted as Israel's priesthood. The Book of Leviticus covers the rewards and blessings for obedience, as well as the punishments for sin and rebellion.

Facts

The sacrifices of blood captured in Leviticus can be likened to Jesus' death on the cross of Calvary. "Unlike those other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when He offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins." -Hebrews 7:27 NLT

Significance

Thankfully, we now live under grace and not under the rules and regulations in Leviticus. Nonetheless, we serve a divine God, which requires that we serve Him with utmost reverence.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

NUMBERS

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Numbers

Author

Moses is credited as the writer- the fourth (4th) Book of Moses.

Period

Estimated to have occurred around 1400 BC.

Brief Summary

Wavering (unbelieving) Israelites wander in the wilderness of Sinai for forty (40) years.

Details

Numbers commences with a census, which explains the book's title. Fourteen (14) months following the flight of the Israelites from Egypt, the headcount of men twenty (20) years old or older with the ability to go to war, not including the Levites is 603,550 (Numbers 1:46-47). This large group of people, forming the nation of Israel, embark on a journey of about two hundred (200) miles to the "Promised Land" of Canaan.

A journey which normally takes eleven (11) days, ends up taking forty (40) years due to Israel's stubbornness and disobedience (Deuteronomy 1:2-3). The delay serves as God's punishment of the people, who not only grumble about food and water and oppose Moses, but also decide against entering Canaan because of its mighty inhabitants. God then decides to blot out the entire generation in the wilderness, guaranteeing the Promised Land will be occupied by a more obedient group (new generation) of Israelites.

Facts

Astonishingly, even the leader Moses misses out on a golden opportunity to enter the Promised Land due to his rebellion against God. Moses strikes a rock twice with his staff instead of speaking to it for water to miraculously gush out for the people to drink. By doing so, it demonstrates Moses' wavering faith in God to reflect His holiness to the people of Israel, thereby stirring up God's anger (Numbers 20:1-13).

Significance

God truly detests and punishes sin. On the brighter side, Jesus laid down His life for the atonement of our sins. K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

DEUTERONOMY

®KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Deuteronomy

Author

Moses is credited as the writer- the fifth (5th) Book of Moses, which is supported in Deuteronomy 31:9. Chapter 34, which covers Moses' death, may have been written by Joshua, who succeeded him. Deuteronomy completes the Pentateuch (Torah is the Jewish name)- the first five (5) books of the Bible.

"So Moses wrote this entire body of instruction in a book and gave it to the priests, who carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, and to the elders of Israel." -Deuteronomy 31:9 NLT

Period

Around 1400 BC.

Brief Summary

Moses enlightens the Israelites on their national history and God's Laws.

Details

Deuteronomy which means "second law," captures Moses' final instructions to the Israelites before they head into the Promised Land. Forty (40) years following the handing down of God's laws to Moses on Mount Sinai, the entire generation that witness the historic event pass away. As a result, Moses reminds the new generation of God's commandments and their rich history as they prepare to enter into the land of Canaan.

The occupancy of the land occurs under the guidance and instructions of Joshua, as Moses only gets the opportunity to see the Promised Land from Mount Nebo. "So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, just as the Lord had

said. The Lord buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place." -Deuteronomy 34:5-6 NLT

Facts

The New Testament references the Book of Deuteronomy a few times, including the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness as captured in Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus overcame Satan by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJV- "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah" -Deuteronomy 6:16 NKJV. The Ten (10) Commandments found in Exodus 20, is fully highlighted in Deuteronomy 5.

Significance

Deuteronomy teaches us that God's commands and expectations are not meant to punish us but rather serve a beneficial purpose.

"Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you — 'a land flowing with milk and honey." -Deuteronomy 6:3 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

JOSHUA

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KE TH GNITES

The Book of Joshua

Author

Joshua is credited as the writer, minus the final five (5) verses which describe his legacy and death (Joshua 24:29-33).

Period

Around 1375 BC.

Brief Summary

The Israelites possess and settle in the Promised Land of Canaan.

Details

Moses and an entire generation of Israelites pass away, which leads God to command Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land of Canaan. The group faces its first major test in Jericho, however, Rahab the prostitute provides a helping hand to the Israelite spies by hiding the men on the roof with well-ordered stalks of flax, which protects the city from being destroyed (Joshua 2:1-24).

God's mighty hand knocks down the walls as Joshua's military marches outside with celebration and the blowing of trumpets. Joshua successfully leads his army to wipe out the idol-worshippers- the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites- who occupy the land.

At a point during a battle, God answers Joshua's prayer by causing the sun to stand still until victory is won (Joshua 10:1-15). Joshua divides the captured territories among the twelve (12) tribes of Israel, admonishing the people to remain faithful to God who led them in battle.

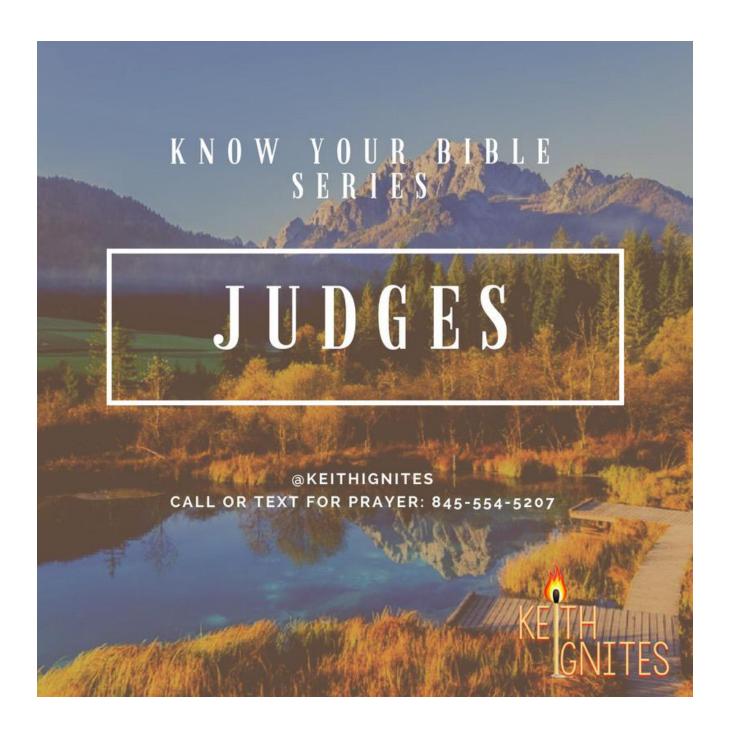
""Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel."" -Joshua 24:23 NKJV

Facts

Joshua is one of the select few major Bible characters who for the most part did everything right in God's sight- he had a strong leading presence, he was completely faithful to God and never disobeyed Him, and never had a recorded sin. Joshua's only flaw occurred when he signed a peace treaty with the Gibeonites he should have conquered. The Gibeonites disguised themselves as people from a faraway country and Joshua made an agreement with them without consulting God. When Joshua found out the truth, he honored the treaty but he made the Gibeonites slaves. (Joshua 9:1-27)

Significance

Joshua illustrates time and again how God favors and blesses His people. The Promised Land and army victories were God's gift to Israel.



The Book of Judges

Author

The writer is unknown, although Jewish tradition credits the Prophet Samuel.

Period

Approximately 1050 BC. It captures events that date back to 1375 BC.

Brief Summary

Israel experiences periods of sin, suffering, and redemption.

Details

Following the death of Joshua, Israel lays back on getting rid of the pagan inhabitants of the Promised Land. This culminates in Israel succumbing to the worship of idols, and being attacked as a form of punishment. They cry to God for help, and He sends judges to deliver them from the snare of their foes and restore peace and order. The Book of Judges highlights twelve (12) leaders who serve as judges for Israel. The less mentioned judges include: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon.

The more popular ones include the first female judge Deborah, who leads the army to conquer the Canaanites (Judges 4:1-24); Gideon the "mighty man of valor" (Judges 6:12 NKJV), who asks God for two (2) signs (first, to wet a fleece of wool on the threshing floor while the ground around it is kept dry; second, to keep the fleece dry while there is dew on the ground) that He is with him in battle (Judges 6:36-40), which leads to triumph over the Midianite army; Samson, the ultra strong warrior, who soundly defeats the Philistines (Judges 15:1-20). Samson's shortcoming was his love for cunning women like Delilah, which led to his defeat and death in a Philistine temple (Judges 16:1-31).

Facts

A number of the judges had particularly large families. For example, Jair had thirty (30) sons (Judges 10:4), Abdon had forty (40) sons (Judges 12:14), and Ibzan had thirty (30) sons and thirty (30) daughters (Judges 12:9). Jephthah, on the other hand, had one daughter, whom he surprisingly offered as a sacrifice to God to secure victory in battle (Judges 11:30-40). Shamgar is only mentioned once, but he set history by killing six hundred (600) men of the Philistines with an ox goad (Judges 3:31) to deliver Israel!

Significance

The Israelites went through cycles of sin and suffering by turning their hearts from God and not following His commands. We have a high calling to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on God to prosper in these troubling times we live in.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

RUTH

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KETH GNITES

The Book of Ruth

Author

The writer is not clearly stated in the Bible but some credit Samuel.

Period

King David's great-grandmother Ruth, who ruled approximately 1010-970 BC, is believed to have lived close to 1100 BC.

Brief Summary

Ruth's loyalty as a daughter-in-law mirrors how faithful, loving and caring God is.

Details

Ruth, a Gentile lady, marries into a Jewish family. Following the death of the men in the family, Ruth pledges her allegiance to her mother-in-law, Naomi, by dwelling with her and collecting food to help them survive. Boaz the wealthy man, whose field Ruth gathered barley on, takes interest in her and instructs his men to protect her. Naomi happens to recognize Boaz as her late husband's family member and advises Ruth to marry him to preserve their family line. Boaz marries Ruth and starts a family.

"But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more." -Ruth 1:16-18 NLT

Facts

Ruth, who hailed from the pagan land of Moab, married a Jewish man, which led to her becoming the great-grandmother of King David, Israel's greatest ruler and ancestor of Jesus Christ.

Significance

Ruth teaches us how to keep our trust in God to provide our every need, and plan out our lives exceedingly and abundantly more than we ever hope for.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES 1 SAMUEL @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 1 Samuel

Author

The writer is not clearly stated in the Bible, but Samuel was probably involved. Some events in this book occur after his death.

Period

Estimated to have taken place around 1100-1000 BC.

Brief Summary

The twelve (12) tribes of Israel are ruled by a king.

Details

Hannah, a barren woman, cries to God for a son, pledging to return him to the house of God to serve. Samuel is sent to the temple after his birth to serve under Eli, the priest in his old age. Following the death of Eli, Samuel assumes the role of Israel's deliverer and judge, overcoming their troublesome enemies, the Philistines. As Samuel nears old age, his sinful sons are rejected by the tribal leaders of Israel, who ask to be ruled by a king. Samuel cautions the people that under a king, they will be taxed and forced to serve, but the people remain adamant and God commands Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.

King Saul begins his rule on the right foot, but he soon starts making poor decisions. Saul offers a sacrifice to God, a duty reserved only for priests, which triggers Samuel to inform him that he will be replaced as ruler. David, a shepherd, is picked to succeed Saul, and with God's help, he manages to kill Goliath, the giant Philistine combatant. This makes David Israel's hero, which angers King Saul, who plots to kill him. David in turn gets chances to kill Saul but he spares his life. Saul dies in a battle with the Philistines, paving way for David to become king.

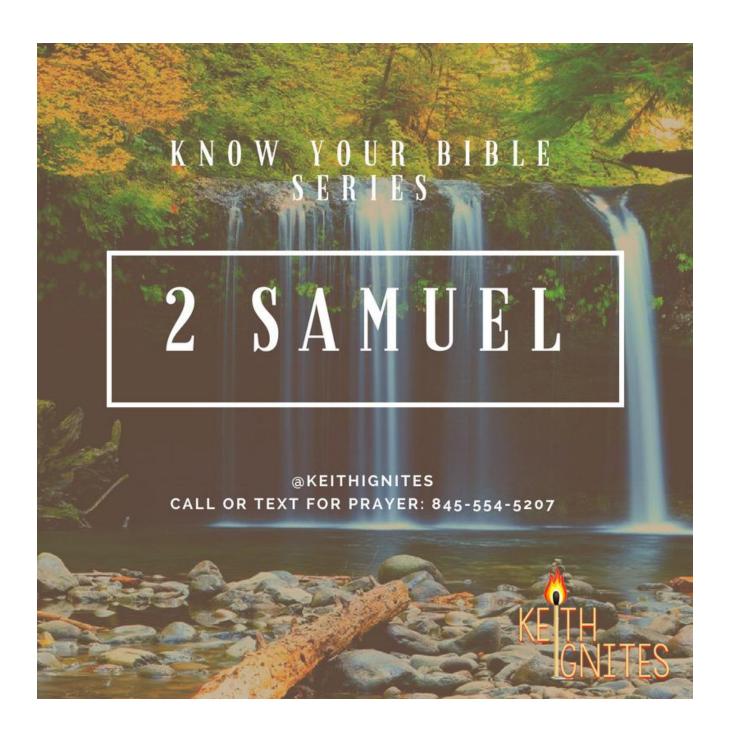
"David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." -1 Samuel 17:45 NLT

Facts

Saul is a donkey herder before being crowned king (1 Samuel 9:5), and tries to hide his enthronement (1 Samuel 10:21-22). As ruler of Israel, Saul breaks his own protocol by consulting a medium to invoke the spirit of the dead Samuel (1 Samuel 28).

Significance

When we make very selfish choices such as the Israelites' request for a ruler, and King Saul's assumption of the role of a priest by offering a sacrifice, which was not his place to do so, it could lead to grave and disastrous consequences.



The Book of 2 Samuel

Author

The writer is not known and Samuel was not involved. Some events in this book occur after his death. Some credit Abiathar the Priest (2 Samuel 15:35).

Period

Estimated to have taken place around 1010-970 BC- The period of King David rule.

Brief Summary

The highly flawed David becomes Israel's greatest ruler.

Details

Following the death of King Saul, David is crowned king by the Jewish tribe of Judah in the south. David is enthroned as Israel's ruler seven (7) years later, when Saul's son Ishbosheth, who ruled the northern tribes, dies. David drives the Jebusites out of Jerusalem and establishes a new capital for his now unified nation. Conquests over other armies strengthen the nation of Israel.

David's good works take a downward spiral when he commits adultery with his beautiful neighbor Bathsheba, then he commands her husband Uriah the Hittite, one of his army men, to be killed. Nathan the prophet confronts David and likens his unjust actions to a rich man who extorts a poor man's sheep. David repents and God forgives his sins, but there are grave consequences that follow (2 Samuel 12:1-25). The baby produced out of adultery dies and David's family drifts apart.

Amnon, David's son, rapes his half sister Tamar, and David's other son Absalom kills Amnon in revenge. Absalom then targets his father's throne, causing David to take flight for his life. Absalom dies while fighting with David's men, causing David to deeply mourn his son, which offends his army men. David makes his return to Jerusalem to occupy his throne once again. David raises another son Solomon, who was born to Bathsheba.

Facts

David's nephew Jonathan, son of his brother Shimea, killed a giant "with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot" (2 Samuel 21:20). Adino, one of David's most skilled soldiers once murdered 800 men all by himself (2 Samuel 23:8 NKJV).

Significance

The story of King David highly reflects the importance of the choices we make in everyday life. Nobody could have forecasted how a mighty man like David could have been drenched in the pit of terrible sins. Let's not depart from the Lord's presence!

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

1 KINGS

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of 1 Kings

Author

The writer is unknown and not stated in the Bible. An early tradition credited Jeremiah as the author of 1 and 2 Kings.

Period

This book covers events from about 970-850 BC. 1 Kings may have been written shortly after Babylon destroys Jerusalem around 586 BC.

Brief Summary

Israel is divided into two (2) rival northern and southern nations.

Details

As King David's health declines, he appoints Solomon, the son he had with Bathsheba as heir to his throne. When David dies, Solomon encounters God in a dream, who offers him whatever he would like, and Solomon opts to gain great wisdom to make his reign successful. God honors him with wisdom, much influence and riches. Solomon constructs a permanent temple befitting to honor God in Jerusalem. Solomon encounters God again, where he is promised blessings for obedience and punishment for disobedience.

Solomon's downfall happens when he marries seven hundred (700) women, many of whom are foreigners who turn his heart to idol worship. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, becomes his successor but ten (10) northern tribes of Israel rebel against him to form their own nation under Jeroboam, who was formerly one of Solomon's officials. The two (2) southern tribes continue Solomon's line in a nation called Judah. Jeroboam's rule kicks off on a bad note, where idol worship becomes the norm in the north; many other wicked rulers follow suit.

Judah also experiences its fair share of poor leadership, but Kings Asa and Jehoshaphat obey and follow God's instructions. The Prophet Elijah is introduced in 1 Kings, and he boldly approaches King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel about the worship of Baal, the false god. God demonstrates His power through Elijah by empowering him to conquer 450 false prophets in dramatic fashion on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-40).

Facts

According to the scholars, 1 and 2 Kings were originally drafted in one volume and had to be separated into two to allow it to be copied on scrolls of a normal size.

Significance

Solomon's life teaches this great lesson: Even with the greatest wisdom, the most blessed and anointed individual can falter from God's presence and commit mistakes and terrible sins. Let us remain humble and focus on God always!

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES 2 KINGS @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207 KEITH GNITES

The Book of 2 Kings

Author

The writer is unknown and not stated in the Bible. An early tradition credited Jeremiah as the author of 1 and 2 Kings.

Period

This book covers events from about 800 BC. 2 Kings may have been written shortly after Babylon destroys Jerusalem around 586 BC.

Brief Summary

The two (2) rival northern and southern Jewish nations are destroyed for their disobedience to God.

Details

The events recorded in 2 Kings is the sequel to the story in 1 Kings, with a number of bad kings, and a select few good ones, some notable prophets, and the destruction of the divided Jewish nations (Israel and Judah). Elijah becomes only the second man to be raptured into Heaven (Enoch was the first in Genesis 5:24). Elisha, Elijah's successor, performs many signs and wonders and preaches the Word of God to the people of Israel. The kings who reign in the north are characterized by sheer wickedness, and under their last ruler, Hoshea, Israel is invaded by Assyria and the people are taken into exile (2 Kings 17:6).

Judah, on the other hand, is occasionally ruled by good kings such as Hezekiah and Josiah, who last a few more years. Nonetheless, around 586 BC, Jerusalem, the capital of the southern Jewish nation (Judah), is invaded by Babylon, which is under King Nebuchadnezzar's leadership (2 Kings 25). The Babylonians take in their possession, every valuable item in the temple and Jewish palace. "King Nebuchadnezzar took all of Jerusalem captive, including all the commanders and the

best of the soldiers, craftsmen, and artisans—10,000 in all. Only the poorest people were left in the land." -2 Kings 24:14 NLT

2 Kings ends on a slightly brighter note, when the new Babylonian king Evilmerodach shows kindness to King Jehoiachin of Judah, who belongs to Israel's royal line. Out of all the kings on exile, Jehoiachin receives favor by being placed in a seat of honor in the Babylonian court.

Facts

Isaiah, who wrote a lengthy prophecy recorded in the Old Testament, features in 2 Kings 19. Josiah, one of the best rulers in Judah, was crowned at a tender age of eight (8) and he reigned for thirty-one (31) years in Jerusalem (2 Kings 22:1).

Significance

The fall of Israel and Judah teaches us that there are grave consequences to sin. Our nations have to turn their hearts to God if they desire to prosper and be Kingdom ambassadors.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

1 CHRONICLES

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KEITH GNITES

The Book of 1 Chronicles

Author

The writer is not stated but by tradition, Ezra the priest is credited as the author.

Period

This book captures events from about 1010 BC to around 970 BC (from the death of King Saul to the death of King David).

Brief Summary

The reign of King David is fully assessed.

Details

The historical events in Israel are recorded in 1 Chronicles, dating as far back as Adam. King David's rule is highlighted by Chapter 11, with more details on his leading role in national worship. God promises David that a perpetual royal line will be established through him to his descendant Jesus Christ, our Lord and personal savior, who lays down his life for the atonement of our sins.

Facts

1 Chronicles and 2 Samuel contain the same information for the most part. The only difference is that some of the detestable activities by David such as committing adultery with Bathsheba and killing her husband Uriah the Hittite are omitted.

Significance

The book of 1 Chronicles serves as reminder that God is a promise-keeper; although the Jews are punished for their sins, God shows them that they are still His children and chosen people. K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

2 CHRONICLES

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of 2 Chronicles

Author

The writer is not stated but by tradition, Ezra the priest is credited as the author.

Period

This book captures events from about 970 BC to around 500s BC (the return of exiled Jews to Jerusalem).

Brief Summary

The historic events of Israel from Solomon's reign to division to ruination.

Details

Solomon, David's son, is enthroned as king and chosen by God to build the temple, making him one of the most illustrious of Israel's rulers. The Jewish nation splits into Israel (north) and Judah (south) when Solomon passes away. The various rulers of the comparatively godlier nation of Judah in the south are outlined up until the invasion and destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon. The Book of 2 Chronicles climaxes on a good note with King Cyrus of Persia granting the Jews permission to rebuild the ruined temple. King Cyrus' act fulfills a prophecy given to Jeremiah by God (2 Chronicles 36:22-23).

Facts

The Book of 2 Chronicles is the sequel to the events profiled in 1 Chronicles; the two books were originally combined as one. The last two (2) verses of 2 Chronicles are exactly the same as the very first three (3) verses of Ezra.

Significance

The book of 2 Chronicles serves as reminder that God is a restorer; His punishments are not meant to destroy His people but to turn their hearts back to Him.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of Ezra

Author

The writer is not stated. Ezra the priest is credited as the author (Ezra 7:11).

Period

This book captures events from about 530 BC to the mid 400s BC.

Brief Summary

The Jews return from exile and undergo spiritual restoration.

Details

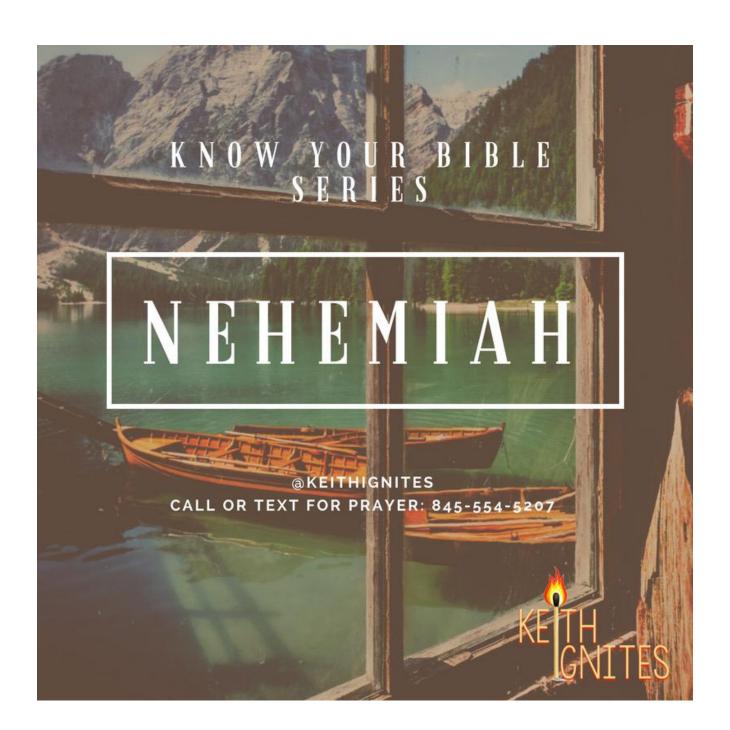
Approximately five hundred (500) years after Babylonians capture the Jews and send them on exile, Persia emerges as the new super kingdom. King Cyrus grants a group of exiled Jews the opportunity to return to their nation of Judah to rebuild the temple. About 42,000 people return and settle down in the land. Ezra makes his return with a smaller group about seventy (70) years later. He teaches the people the law since they had backslidden to the point of intermarrying with the people of pagan nations, which Moses had cautioned them not to get into (Deuteronomy 7:1-3).

Facts

Ezra admonished the Jewish men to break away from their foreign wives, although God detests divorce. (Malachi 2:16)

Significance

God demonstrates His kindness and willingness to offer His children a second chance under Ezra's leadership- He granted a new beginning to a nation that had disobeyed Him. The good news is that God still offers His children second chances today, so let's renew our hearts and minds and serve Him only.



The Book of Nehemiah

Author

Jewish tradition credits Ezra the priest, but it begins with "The words of Nehemiah" (1:1 NKJV).

Period

The events occurred around 445 BC.

Brief Summary

The broken walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt by returning Jewish exiles.

Details

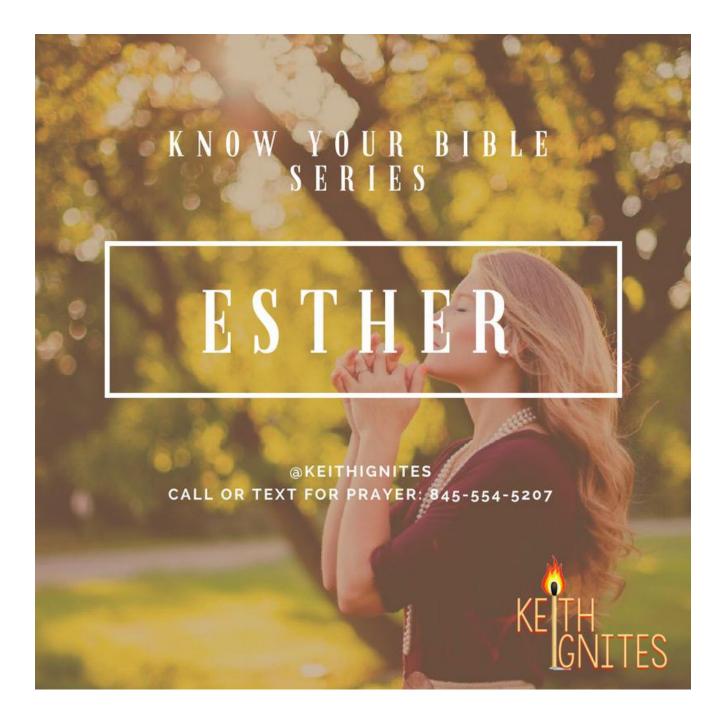
Nehemiah serves in a role as "the king's cupbearer (Nehemiah 1:11) in Shushan (Susa), Persia. Nehemiah is alarmed when he finds out that the walls of Jerusalem have not been built although Jewish exiles have been sent back to Judah for nearly hundred (100) years! The poor state of the walls is due to demolition by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Nehemiah quickly seeks King Artaxerxes' permission to return to Jerusalem, where he guides a team of builders to put up the wall in only fifty-two (52) days, while contending with pagan opposition. The speed of the project sent shockwaves among the foes of the Jews, for "they perceived that this work was done by our God" (Nehemiah 6:16 NKJV).

Facts

Angered by the intermarriage of some Jews with pagans, Nehemiah "confronted them and called down curses on them" (Nehemiah 13:25 NLT).

Significance

Nehemiah's example in successfully constructing the walls of Jerusalem is a key leadership principle for our world today. It teaches us how to endure hardship, and highlights the POWER of PRAYER!



The Book of Esther

Author

It is not stated but probably Ezra or Nehemiah.

Period

The events occurred around 486-465 BC when King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) ruled in Persia. Esther was crowned queen around 479 BC.

Brief Summary

Esther, a Jewish lady, becomes queen and she saves her fellow Jews from slaughter.

Details

Esther is enthroned Queen of Persia through a nationwide beauty contest to replace the former queen, Vashti, who disobeyed King Ahasuerus. Mordecai advises Esther, his orphaned cousin to hide her Jewish heritage to protect her fellow Jews in Persia. Haman, one of the royal officials, plots to slaughter every Jew in the country. When Mordecai discovers the plot, he relays the news to Esther, who risks her very life to gain the king's protection. Esther finds favor with the king, who is taken aback by Haman's evil plan. King Ahasuerus orders for Haman to be hanged and decrees that the Jews defend themselves. The Jews triumph and establish a holiday called Purim to honor the event.

Facts

God's name and prayer are never captured in the Book of Esther. Nonetheless, Esther requests her fellow Jews to fast three (3) days and nights for her before she goes in King Ahasuerus' presence (Esther 4:16).

Significance

Esther's story teaches us that something good can always come out of a bad or difficult situation. Let us always seek God and desire His guidance.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

JOB

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KEITH GNITES

The Book of Job

Author

It is not stated in the Bible.

Period

The story of Job is believed to be one of the oldest in the Bible, probably from around 2000 BC.

Brief Summary

God permits human suffering for His own justified reasons.

Details

Job is a very rich farmer who heads a large family in the land of Uz. He lives an upright life, full of integrity to the extent that God draws Satan's attention to him. The devil, who seems unimpressed by Job, asks God permission to take away Job's wealth. The devil wipes out thousands of sheep, donkeys, oxen, camels, and and even Job's beloved ten (10) children! In the midst of adversity, Job maintains his deep faith in God.

Satan then seeks God's permission to attack Job's health. Despite Job's agony, he turns down his wife's suggestion to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9). Shortly after, Job's affliction causes him to wonder why God would allow such intense suffering. His plight is worsened when his "friends" Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite accuse him of secret sin. Another young man named Elihu later appears on the scene and proclaims God's justice and goodness, and condemns self-righteousness, as Job tried to prove his innocence to God and his witnesses.

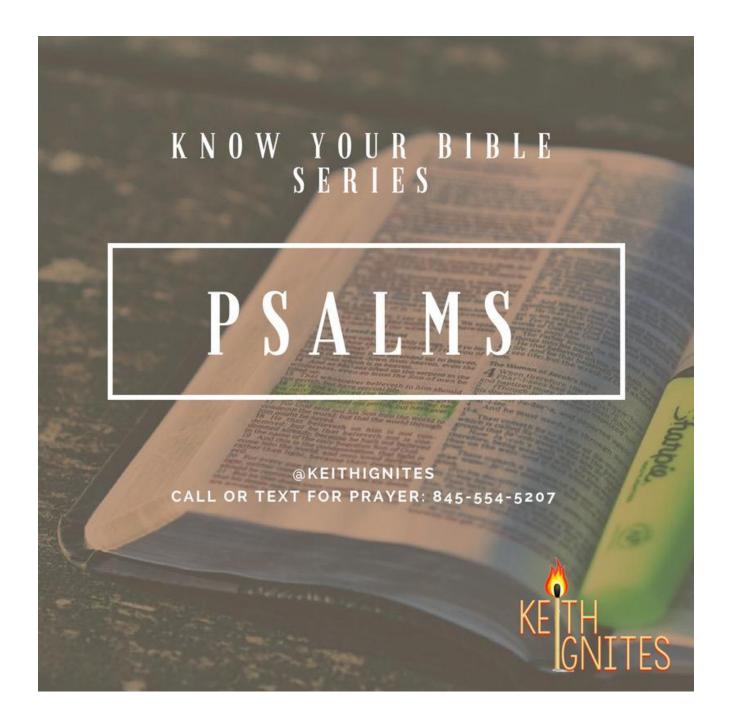
Eventually, God heals and restores Job's health and wealth before his friends. God addresses Job's suffering by asking a series of questions that demonstrate His omniscient power and point out to the fact that Job must fully trust Him always. Job responds saying, "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" (Job 42:2 NKJV). In the end, God blesses Job with ten (10) more children- seven (7) sons and three (3) daughters, and twice as much of the wealth he had before (Job 42:1-17).

Facts

The Book of Job highlights Satan coming into the holy presence of God (Job 1:6). It also points out Jesus' assignment when Job makes this statement: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth." -Job 19:25 NKJV

Significance

Suffering or agony does not always hint at sin in a person's life. Sometimes, God allows affliction to draw us nearer to Him or serve His own purposes.



The Book of Psalms

Author

The Book of Psalms has many contributors, notably King David, Moses, Solomon, Ethan, Asaph, and the sons of Korah. A number of Psalms don't mention the writer.

Period

It ranges from Moses' era, estimated around the 1400s BC, to the 500s BC when the Jews were on exile in Babylon.

Brief Summary

A songbook according to ancient Jewish tradition that highlights prayers, exaltation, and complaints to God.

Details

God inspires various biblical characters to compose emotionally striking poems, out of which 150 are compiled into the big book known as Psalms. A number of Psalms are attributed to King David, meaning they could be about, for, or by the greatest king of Israel. This great book showcases God's power as protector and provider as seen in the "Shepherd's Psalm" in Psalms 23; David's plea for forgiveness after committing adultery with Bathsheba (Psalms 51); Praise and thanksgiving as seen in Psalms 100.

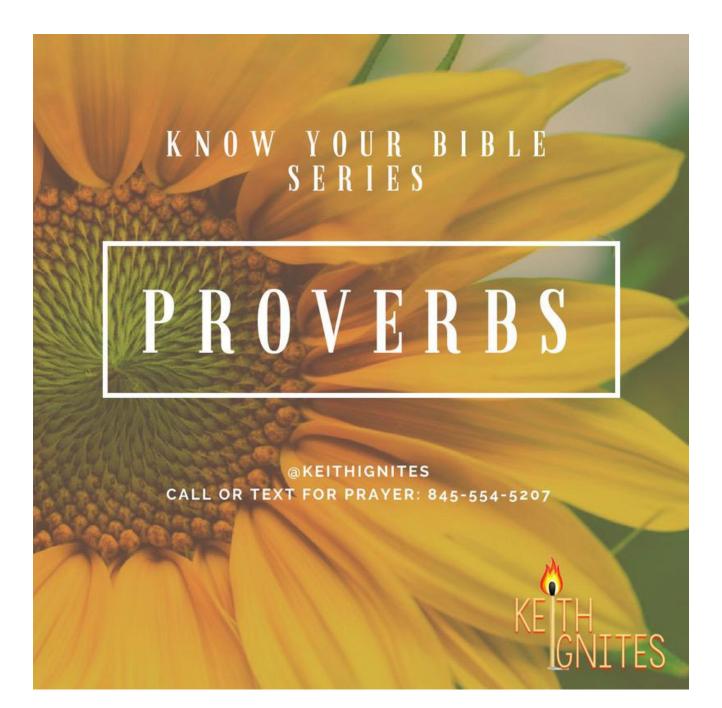
It also highlights celebration of scripture as recorded in Psalms 119, which make references to the Word, law, commandments, and precepts of God among others. Some psalms invite God's judgment and justice on enemies, for example Psalms 69 and 109. Many psalms express the writer's deepest emotions, but almost all psalms conclude by giving God praise. This powerful book ends by: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" -Psalms 150:6 NKJV

Facts

The Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible, in relation to the compilation of chapters (150) and total word count. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119, which has 176 verses; it also contains the shortest chapter in the Bible in Psalms 117, with only 2 verses. Psalms 117 doubles as the middle (midpoint) of the Protestant Bible- there are 594 chapters before it and another 594 follow it.

Significance

Psalms is an emotionally charged book that highlights all human emotions, hence it can be used as a reference guide in times of joy and sorrow.



The Book of Proverbs

Author

Solomon is the chief writer (Proverbs 1:1); portions of this great book are attributed to the little-known Agur (Proverbs 30:1), and King Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1).

Period

Solomon ruled approximately from 970-930 BC.

Brief Summary

A compilation of writings of substance that admonish people to gain wisdom.

Details

In essence, the Book of Proverbs provides counsel for everyday living. King Solomon is considered the wisest man ever and he penned most of this collection of wise counsel. The Book of Proverbs covers a wide range of everyday issues from discipline, laziness, work, sex, temptation, money, drinking, to raising children in the way of the Lord. The overarching theme of every proverb is: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." -Proverbs 1:7 NKJV

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." -Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

Facts

The last chapter of the Book of Proverbs showcases a poem which heaps well-deserved praise on wives and the role they play. That was an unpopular trend for that period and culture in biblical history.

Significance

Wisdom is a great gain, but even greater is the acquisition of understanding. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." -Proverbs 4:7 NKJV

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

ECCLESIASTES

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KE**I**TH GNITES

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Author

It is not stated, perhaps Solomon. The author is named as "King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem" (Ecclesiastes 1:1 NLT), and it adds that he had "more wisdom than all they that have been before me." -Ecclesiastes 1:16 KJV

Period

Approximately 900s BC.

Brief Summary

Life outside of God's will is completely meaningless and empty.

Details

A king chases after worldly things and discovers how unsatisfying the experience is. "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!" - Ecclesiastes 1:2 NLT. The king cries out about how unfair life is- people live, work tirelessly, and die, passing on their acquired possessions to a heir or another person; the wicked prosper while the righteous are in despair; the poor are maltreated. Finally, the king comes to this realization: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." -Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV

Facts

As a result of the generally negative outlook of the writer throughout the Book of Ecclesiastes, some scholars assume Solomon wrote it after he had faltered, when his wives led him into idol worship.

Significance

Life can be extremely tough and may sometimes seem pointless, but we have an all-knowing and understanding Father who sits on the throne.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S SONG OF SOLOMON @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of Song of Solomon

Author

Solomon is attributed as the writer, but some scholars liken this book to the psalms of David, meaning they could be by, about, or for him (Solomon).

Period

Solomon reigned around 970-930 BC.

Brief Summary

Love within the institution of marriage is an amazing experience worth celebrating.

Details

A beautiful and dark-skinned woman is getting married to the king, and both of them are elated. "I am dark but beautiful, O women of Jerusalem— dark as the tents of Kedar, dark as the curtains of Solomon's tents" -Song of Songs 1:5 NLT. In all eight (8) chapters and 117 verses, the lovers are in awe of each other's physical features (beauty), and express a deep love and commitment for one another.

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— For your love is better than wine." -Song of Solomon 1:2 NKJV

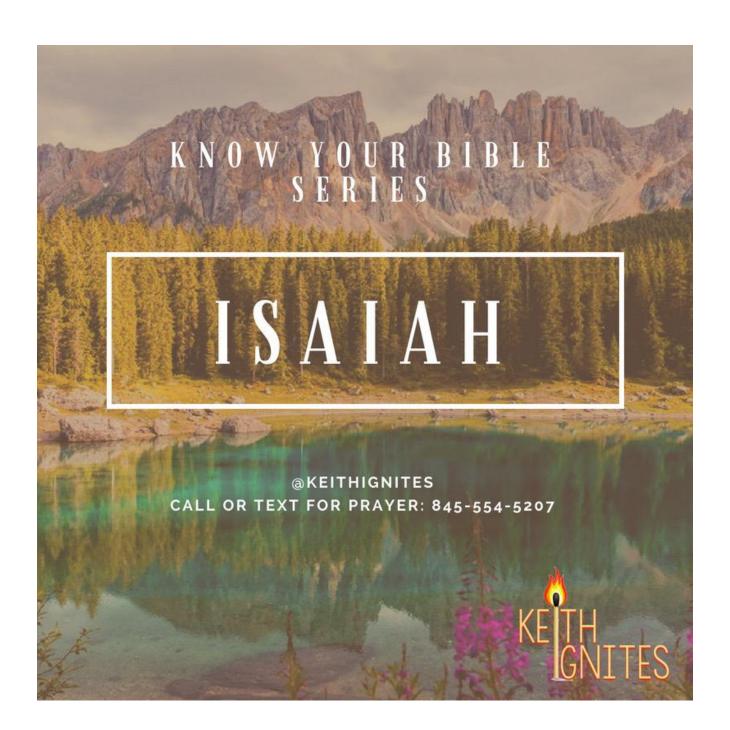
"Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies." -Song of Solomon 4:4-5 NKJV

Facts

Song of Solomon never mentions God just like the Book of Esther.

Significance

God instituted marriage for the pleasure of the husband and wife, which mirrors God's joy in His children.



The Book of Isaiah

Author

The writer is Isaiah, son of Amoz (Isaiah 1:1).

Period

Events occurred around 740-700 BC. Isaiah was called as a prophet "in the year King Uzziah died." -Isaiah 6:1 NLT

Brief Summary

A Messiah yet to come will save people from their sins.

Details

Isaiah spelled out the punishment for the sins of Judah and Jerusalem. However, he went on to describe a Messiah who was yet to come: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" -Isaiah 53:5 NKJV. Isaiah was called into ministry through a breathtaking vision of God in heaven (Isaiah 6:1-13). Some scholars refer to the Book of Isaiah as "the fifth (5th) Gospel" because it forecasts the birth, life and ministry, and death of Jesus Christ, which will happen about seven hundred (700) years later.

Isaiah's prophecies promising redemption cancelled out God's promises to discipline Judah and Jerusalem, which was orchestrated by the Babylonian armies almost hundred (100) years later. Isaiah's prophecy concludes with a description of God restoring Israel, His promise for salvation, and His everlasting kingdom.

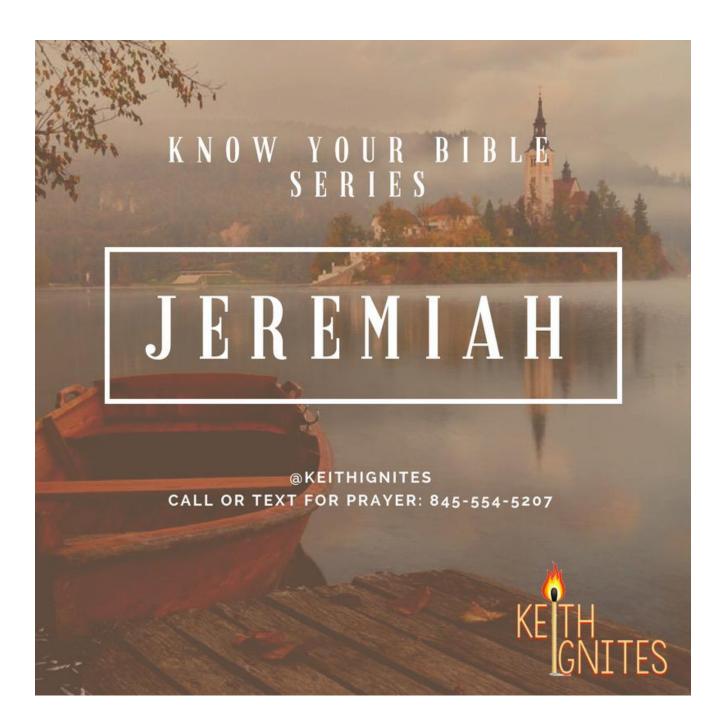
Facts

Isaiah had two (2) children with unusual prophetic names. A son named Shear-jashub (Isaiah 7:3), which means "the return of a remnant," and another son named Maher-shalal-hash-baz (Isaiah 8:3), which means "He has made haste to the plunder!" Shear-jashub's name promised the return of exiled Jews to their home. Maher-shalal-hash-baz's name gave assurance to the king of Judah that his foes will be attacked by the Assyrian armies.

Significance

Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah early in His ministry. It's mind-blowing how detailed God's works are, and the deep love He has for His children!

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." -Isaiah 61:1 NKJV



The Book of Jeremiah

Author

The writer is Jeremiah, with Baruch the scribe assisting with writing on the scroll (Jeremiah 36:4).

Period

Around 585 BC.

Brief Summary

After partaking in sin for years, punishment awaits Judah.

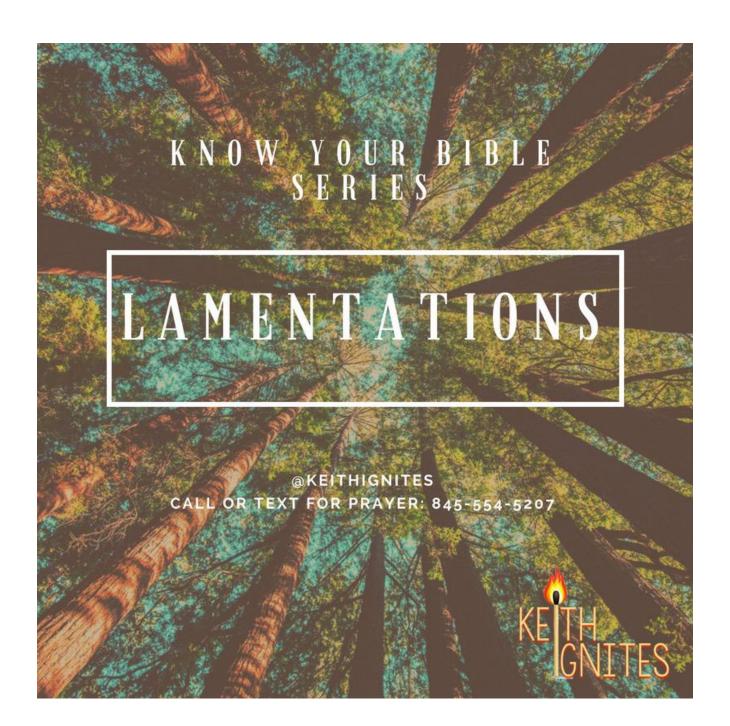
Details

Jeremiah is called into ministry as a boy (Jeremiah 1:6), and he prophesies the bad news of Judah's punishment for years of sinful behavior. "Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the LORD. "It is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say" -Jeremiah 5:15 NKJV. Jeremiah is mistreated for his prophecies, sometimes beaten, and even put in prison in a dungeon (muddy well) - Jeremiah 38:1-13. His prophecies come to pass when Babylon invades Jerusalem, the capital of Judah (Jeremiah 52).

Facts

The Book of Jeremiah in the Bible we read today, most likely is an expansion and second draft of the original, which was destroyed by fire. "And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth" -Jeremiah 36:23 NKJV. God instructed Jeremiah and Baruch to draft a second scroll with additional text to replace the original (Jeremiah 36:32).

God was merciful to Judah through Jeremiah, granting the people about forty (40) years to repent. God's grace and patience is what we are witnessing today as He desires for all His children to experience full repentance. Let us take advantage of this golden opportunity!



The Book of Lamentations

Author

Jeremiah is credited as the writer, however, it's not directly stated in the Bible.

Period

Around 586 BC, right after Jerusalem is invaded by the Babylonians.

Brief Summary

A poem of despair in relation to Jerusalem's downfall.

Details

Jeremiah witnesses the punishment he had cautioned Judah about, following their multiple years of sin against God. Judah's "enemies prosper, for the Lord has punished Jerusalem for her many sins. Her children have been captured and taken away to distant lands" -Lamentations 1:5 NLT.

The sight overwhelms Jeremiah, causing him to shed tears, hence his nickname "the weeping prophet." "For these things I weep; My eye, my eye overflows with water; Because the comforter, who should restore my life, is far from me. My children are desolate because the enemy prevailed."" -Lamentations 1:16 NKJV

Lamentations concludes with a deep cry unto God: "Why do You forget us forever, And forsake us for so long a time? Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old, Unless You have utterly rejected us, And are very angry with us!" -Lamentations 5:20-22 NKJV

Facts

Lamentations does not specifically state the writer, nonetheless, Prophet Jeremiah is described as writer of laments in 2 Chronicles 35:25.

Significance

God's punishments might seem very intense, but it yields good results as it turns the hearts of His children back to Him.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

EZEKIEL

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Ezekiel

Author

Ezekiel the Priest (Ezekiel 1:1-3).

Period

Around 590s-570s BC.

Brief Summary

Restoration awaits Israel while in exile.

Details

Ezekiel, one of the Jews on exile in Babylon, is appointed God's mouthpiece to his people. Based on unusual and even outlandish revelations, Ezekiel reminds his fellow Jews of the sin that resulted in their captivity, but he also offers hope of restoration for his people.

Facts

Ezekiel's vision about the valley of dry bones is one of the oddest yet most amazing pictures in the Bible.

"So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." '" -Ezekiel 37:7-9 NKJV

Ezekiel, God's spokesman, admonishes us to live responsibly. "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. But if a man is just And does what is lawful and right." -Ezekiel 18:4-5 NKJV

"If he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully— He is just; He shall surely live!" Says the Lord God" -Ezekiel 18:9 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

DANIEL

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Daniel

Author

Daniel was probably the writer, though there's some debate among scholars. The first six (6) chapters are written in the third (3rd) person, while chapters 7-12 are in the first (1st) person.

Period

Around 605-538 BC while Israel is in exile.

Brief Summary

Daniel is rewarded for his faithful obedience to God under tough circumstances.

Details

A young Daniel (Belteshazzar), together with his compatriots Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego), are taken into captivity from Jerusalem, their home, to serve Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, whose chief of staff gives the young men Babylonian names. Daniel's supernatural gift of interpreting dreams draws him closer to the king, who gets a vision about a huge statue. Daniel tells the king it represents future kingdoms. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego find themselves in trouble when they object a directive to bow before a statue of Nebuchadnezzar. They are thrown into a blazing furnace as their punishment, but an angelic being "like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:25 NKJV), protects them to the king's astonishment.

Belshazzar, who takes over the throne as Babylon's king, organizes a drinking celebration using cups stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. Belshazzar actually sees "the fingers of a human hand" (Daniel 5:5 NLT) write on the wall, and Daniel interprets that as a fast-approaching invasion of Babylon by the Medes. King Darius,

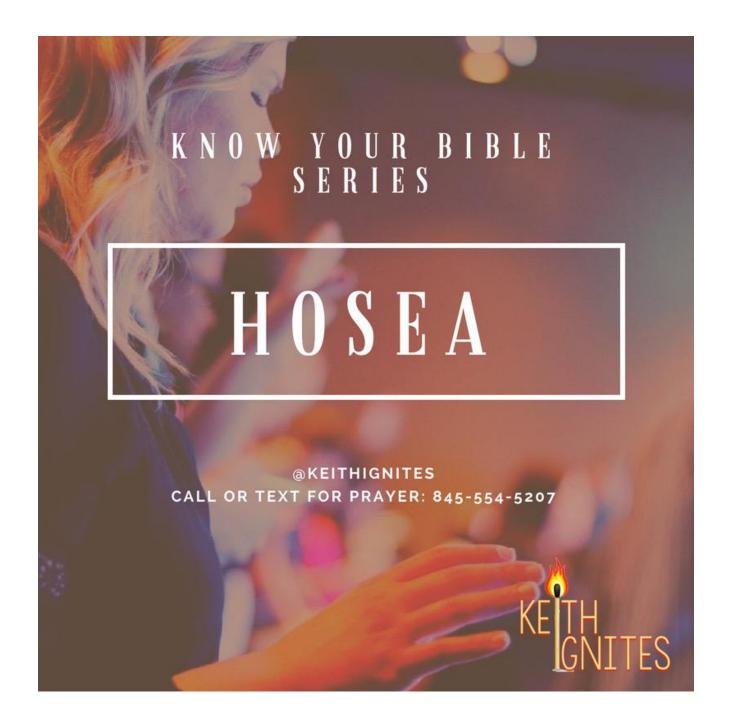
the Median King who appoints Daniel as his adviser, is duped by jealous officials into passing a law that no one prays to a divine or human being except to the king for thirty (30) days, which lands Daniel in a den of lions for praying three times daily. God protects Daniel who spends a night in the den, and is replaced by the plotters, who are devoured by the lions. The last six (6) chapters (chapters 7-12) showcase the prophetic visions of Daniel, which highlight seventy (70) weeks of the end times.

Facts

The Book of Daniel was initially written in two (2) languages: the beginning chapter (1) and chapters 8-12 about the prophecies are in Hebrew; chapters 2-7 were written in Aramaic.

Significance

Just as Daniel stood firm when his faith was being tested, we also have a mandate to display our unshakeable faith in God and live purpose-driven lives.



The Book of Hosea

Author

Hosea is probably the writer. The events are covered in the first and third persons.

Period

Around 750-722 BC, from the start of Hosea's ministry till Assyria's invasion of Israel.

Brief Summary

Prophet Hosea's marriage to Gomer the prostitute mirrors God's relationship with Israel.

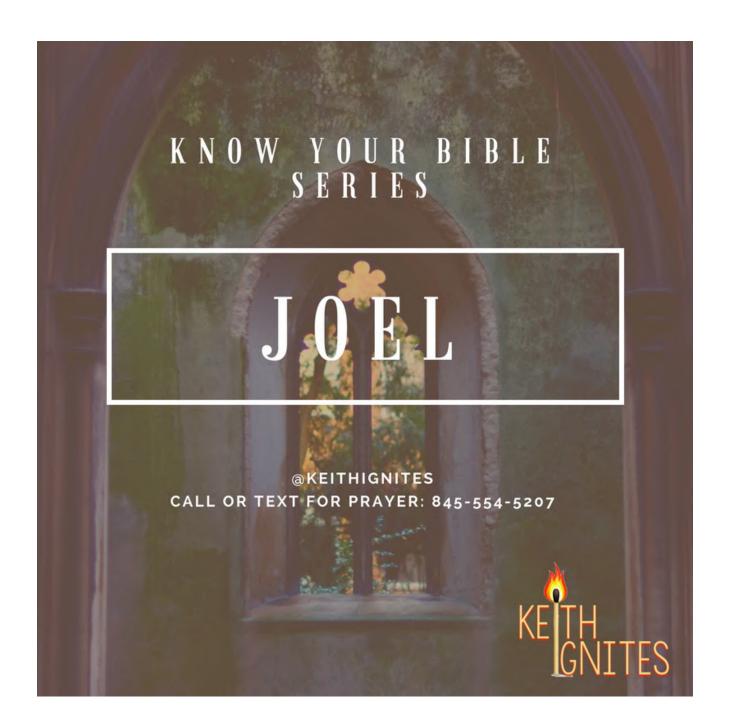
Details

God issues an unusual command: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD" - Hosea 1:2 NKJV. The marriage reflects God's relationship with Israel in the sense that a faithful and loving husband is paired with an unfaithful wife. Hosea marries Gomer, an adultress, and starts a family with her. Gomer then turns back to her sinful lifestyle and Hosea buys her back from the market of slaves, reflecting God's forgiveness and mercy. The book also presents warnings for disobedience and blessings for repentance.

Facts

Gomer had three (3) children with prophetic names, though the Bible doesn't clearly state if they are Hosea's. Jezreel, her son, was named after massacre involving the house of Jehu. Lo-Ruhamah, her daughter, means "no mercy or not loved," in relation to Israel. Her last son's name Lo-Ammi means "not my people."

The Book of Hosea reflects that God is faithful even when His children aren't and they go astray. He always ready to forgive us of our sins. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him." -Hosea 14:4 NKJV



The Book of Joel

Author

Joel the son of Pethuel is the author (Joel 1:1), and not much is known about him.

Period

It is not clearly mentioned in the Bible, but probably around 586 BC just before Judah was invaded by Babylon.

Brief Summary

A plague of locusts occurs, which reflects God's judgment on His sinful children.

Details

Judah is disastrously swarmed by locusts, but Joel warns the people that the plague does not compare to the coming day of the Lord described as "great and very terrible" (Joel 2:11 NKJV). God decides to pass judgement on His sinful people, though they are given time to repent.

Obedience is the key to spiritual and physical restoration: "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions" -Joel 2:28 NKJV. At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descends, Apostle Peter quotes this scripture to explain the event (Acts 2:17 NKJV).

Facts

Joel used a different approach when addressing the sins of the people. He just called for repentance instead of condemning them for idolatry and other specific sins.

God passes judgment on sin, though through Jesus Christ he always gives us another chance.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

AMOS

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KE TH GNITES

The Book of Amos

Author

The writer is Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa in Judah (Amos 1:1 NLT).

Period

Around the 760s BC.

Brief Summary

True religion has more to do with treating people right than mere rituals.

Details

Amos, the humble shepherd, admonishes the rich and influential individuals in Israel about idolatry, mistreatment of the poor, and persecution of God's chosen prophets. God, who rescues the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, is ready to send them into bondage for their sinful nature. God reveals to Amos the troubles that lie ahead of Israel: He shows Amos a plumb line (Amos 7:7-9), which points out to the fact that the people are not measuring up to His holy standards, and a basket containing ripe fruit (Amos 8:1-14), which indicates that Israel is at the very point of God's judgment.

Facts

Amos was from Judah in the south, but he was instructed by God to prophesy to Israel, the northern Jewish nation.

Significance

How we treat others is a true pointer of our spiritual condition. Let's learn to treat others right even when they differ from us or have a different worldview.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

0 B A D I A H

HOLY BIBLE

@KEITHIGNITES

-01/2 P

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Obadiah

Author

The writer is Obadiah, probably a prophet or an individual with that name (1:1 NLT).

Period

It's not clearly stated, but probably within thirty (30) years of Judah's invasion by Babylon.

Brief Summary

Suffering awaits Edom for taking part in Jerusalem's destruction.

Details

The line and nation of Edom was descended from Esau, who was the twin brother of Jacob, the patriarch of Israel. There was a struggle between the twin brothers in their mother's womb (Genesis 25:21-26), and that conflict went on for centuries. Judgment was passed on Edom by Obadiah after they partook in the destruction of Jerusalem: "For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, snd you shall be cut off forever." -Obadiah 1:10 NKJV

Facts

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament- there's only one (1) chapter and 21 verses.

Significance

God demonstrates faithfulness to His people through Obadiah, which fulfills an earlier promise made to Abram (later Abraham): "I will bless those who bless you,

and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." -Genesis 12:3 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

JONAH

®KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KE TH GNITES

The Book of Jonah

Author

The writer is not stated. The story of Jonah is written in the third (3rd) person.

Period

Around 760 BC. Jonah gave this prophecy while King Jeroboam II ruled around 793 to 753 BC (2 Kings 14:23-25).

Brief Summary

A prophet displays reluctance to God's order and gets swallowed by a giant fish.

Details

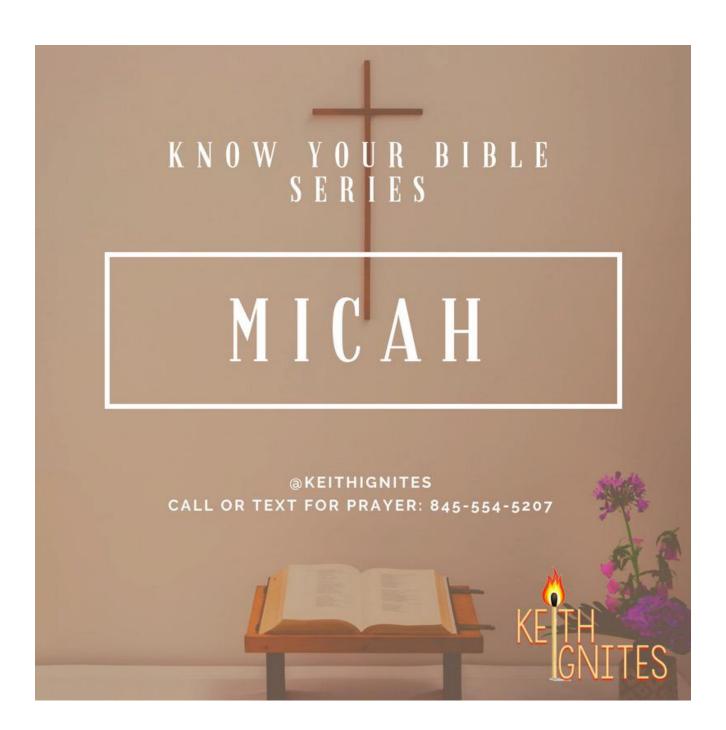
God commands Jonah to preach a message of repentance in Nineveh, Assyria's capital. Jonah decides to sail in the opposite direction, disobeying God. A very heavy storm strikes the ship Jonah is on, and he opts to be thrown overboard to calm the storm. Jonah is swallowed by a great fish, and he spends three (3) days in its belly before he decides to obey God. Nineveh repents when they hear Jonah's message and God spares the people from being destroyed as He had warned. In the end, God expresses His concern even for the wayward pagans.

Facts

Jonah's prophecy did not come to pass because the people of Nineveh repented.

Significance

God deeply loves every individual- even the foes of His chosen people.



The Book of Micah

Author

The writer is not clearly stated. Micah may have written it or instructed someone to write down the prophecies revealed to him.

Period

Around 700 BC.

Brief Summary

Suffering awaits Israel and Judah because of idol worship and injustice.

Details

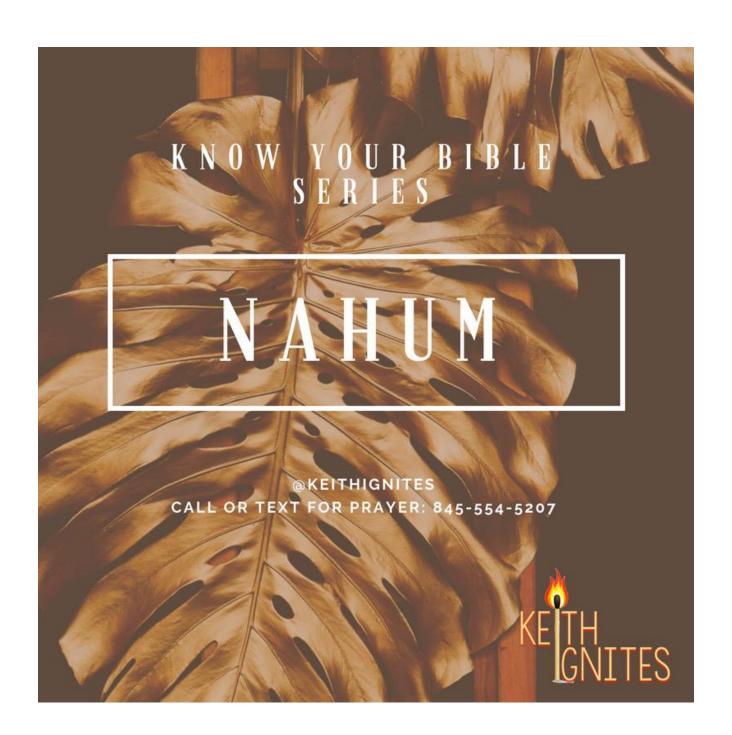
Micah rebukes Israel and Judah for their roles in worshipping false gods and mistreating the poor in society. The northern and southern Jewish nations will be destroyed by Assyria's invasion, but God will intervene and "gather the remnant of Israel" -Micah 2:12 NKJV.

Facts

Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, Micah predicts the town the Messiah will be born. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." -Micah 5:2 NKJV

Significance

Micah demonstrates how merciful God is: "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy." -Micah 7:18 NKJV



The Book of Nahum

Author

The writer is not clearly stated. Nahum may have written it or instructed someone to write down the prophecies revealed to him.

Period

Around 663-612 BC.

Brief Summary

God's judgment befalls the wicked and mighty Nineveh.

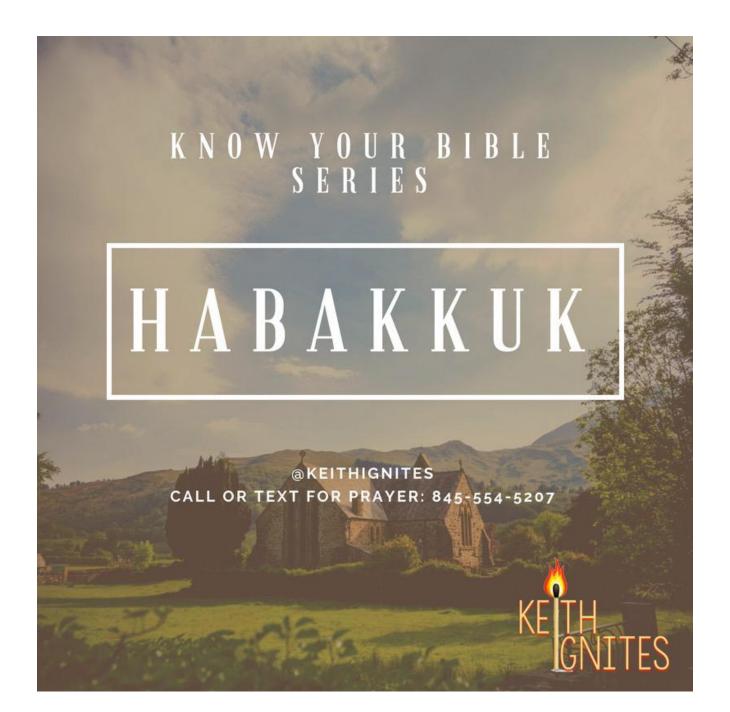
Details

The capital of the bloodthirsty Assyrian Kingdom, Nineveh, is targeted by God because of sins relating to idol worship and sheer wickedness. The prophecy of Nahum comes to pass when Babylon takes the reins of Nineveh in 612 BC. "Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs" -Nahum 3:1 NKJV. God makes His punishment known: "I will cast abominable filth upon you, Make you vile, And make you a spectacle" -Nahum 3:6 NKJV.

Facts

Nahum is somewhat the sequel to the story in the Book of Jonah. Nineveh had once avoided God's punishment when the people heeded to the message delivered by Jonah. However, in a little over one hundred (100) years later, the people perish for their sins.

Just as the most influential city on our planet is matchless in relation to God's power, so are the biggest problems and worries in our respective lives.



The Book of Habakkuk

Author

The writer is Habakkuk.

Period

Around 600 BC.

Brief Summary

God must be trusted even when He appears to be unfair or impassive.

Details

Prophet Habakkuk complains to God for allowing injustice and violence among His people. Habakkuk expresses his astonishment when He finds out God's plan to send the "bitter and hasty" Chaldeans (Babylonians) to punish Judah (Habakkuk 1:6 NKJV). The prophet presents his case to God, claiming that the Chaldeans are way more disobedient than the Jews. God responds, telling Habakkuk that He's only using the Chaldeans for His purposes and in only a matter of time, He will repay them for their sinful nature. Habakkuk eventually submits to God's authority after realizing that he's not in a position to question God.

Facts

Apostle Paul cites Habakkuk 2:4 in his inspirational message of the gospel in Romans 1.

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith." -Habakkuk 2:4 NKJV

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith.""- Romans 1:17 NKJV

Significance

Our world today suffers the same troubles and injustices as Habakkuk's era, but God is in control. God is working His purposes out, whether we realize it or not.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

ZEPHANIAH

@KEITHIGNITESCALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Zephaniah

Author

The writer is Zephaniah (Zephaniah 1:1).

Period

Around 640-620 BC, when King Josiah ruled.

Brief Summary

A fast-approaching "day of the Lord" promises intense judgment against Judah.

Details

The Book of Zephaniah kicks off with a heavy prophecy: ""I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land," says the Lord." -Zephaniah 1:2 NKJV. God's wrath will consume people, animals (land creatures), birds, and fish because of Judah's worship of idols. Punishment also awaits the nearby nations in "the fire of jealousy" of God (Zephaniah 3:8 NKJV). Nonetheless, there's hope as God promises to be merciful on His remnant in Israel who "shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies." -Zephaniah 3:13 NKJV

Facts

Zephaniah introduces himself as the great-great-grandson of Hezekiah, which provides more information about him in relation to the other minor prophets.

Significance

God made His people in Judah fully aware of His judgment, just as it is today. For the followers of Christ, we need not fear the coming "day of the Lord" because His Word clearly states what we should expect.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

HAGGAI

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Haggai

Author

The author is Haggai (Haggai 1:1).

Period

Exactly 520 BC, as Haggai states "in the second year of King Darius" -Haggai 1:1 NKJV, which can be tracked in Persian records.

Brief Summary

Jews make a return from exile and need to reconstruct God's temple.

Details

Haggai, one of the three post-exile prophets, encourages the returning Jews, who were in captivity in Babylon, to rebuild the destroyed temple in Jerusalem. Persia, the new super power in the world, allows the Jews to return to Jerusalem, but the people become distracted with constructing their own homes. Haggai delivers God's Word to His people to rebuild the temple first in order to bring an end to a drought in the country.

Facts

Haggai points out to the second coming of Christ and the tribulations during the end times when he quotes God saying: "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts." -Haggai 2:6-7 NKJV

When we make Goo	d our priority, H	He is more inclined to	pour out His blessings on u	s.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

ZECHARIAH

®KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Zechariah

Author

The author is Zechariah (Zechariah 1:1). Scholars believe a second writer added chapters 9-14.

Period

Around 520-475 BC.

Brief Summary

Jewish exiles are encouraged to rebuild the temple and be expectant of their Messiah.

Details

Zechariah, another post-exile prophet, follows Haggai's example by encouraging the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. He prophesies several times about the coming Messiah, and a vision of an end-times battle over Jerusalem.

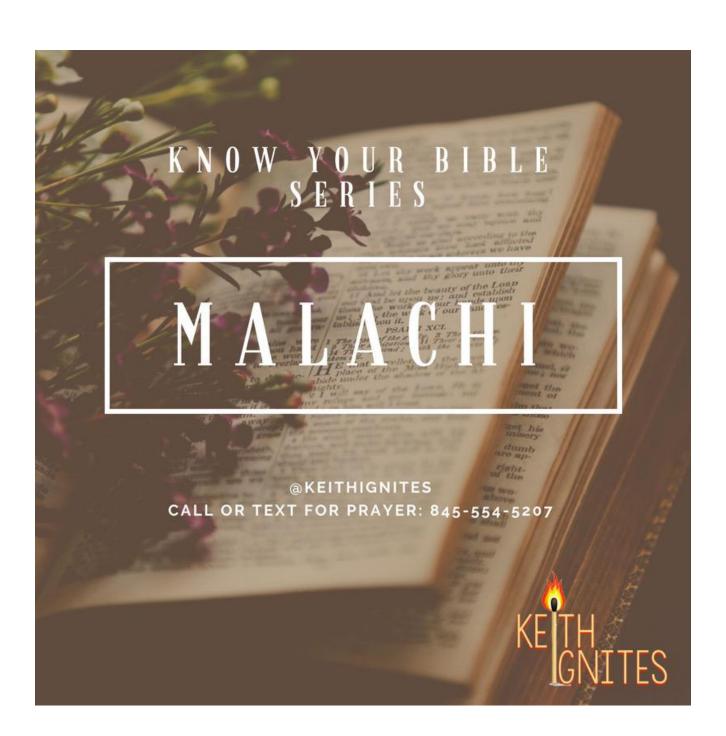
"Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south." -Zechariah 14:3-4 NKJV

Facts

Zechariah prophesied about the Messiah riding a donkey into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9), which fulfilled Jesus' triumphal (triumphant) entry. The prophecy about piercing (Zechariah 12:10) was fulfilled when the Roman soldiers pierced Jesus' sides with a spear after His crucifixion, causing blood and water to ooze (John 19:34).

Significance

Given that a number of Zechariah's prophecies came to pass through Jesus, we can fully trust that his other revelations of the end times will also be fulfilled. Let's pay particular attention to the times and seasons, and walk right with God.



The Book of Malachi

Author

The author is Malachi (Malachi 1:1), which means "my messenger."

Period

Around 450 BC.

Brief Summary

The Jews become negligent and fail to show reverence to God.

Details

About a century after the Jews return from exile, Prophet Malachi rebukes the people for offering "lame and sick" sacrifices (Malachi 1:8 NKJV); for divorcing their wives and chasing after pagan women (Malachi 2:11, 14); and for their failure to pay tithes and offerings to the temple- the storehouse (Malachi 3:8). God became angry because of the careless attitude of the people- "it is useless to serve God" (Malachi 3:14 NKJV). However, God made a promise to bless the obedient: "But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves." -Malachi 4:2 NKJV

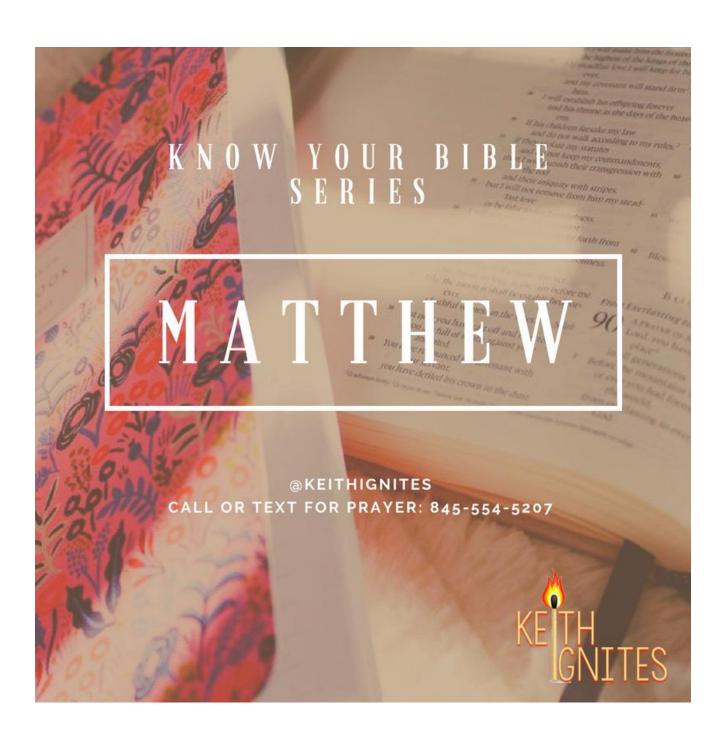
Facts

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. In this book, God gives His final word and remains silent for about four hundred (400) years, until John the Baptist and Jesus appear on the scene as prophesied:

"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts." -Malachi 3:1 NKJV

Significance

God detests religious rituals that are meaningless. He desires for His children to worship Him "in spirit and truth." -John 4:24~NKJV



The Book of Matthew

Author

The author is not stated but by tradition, it is attributed to Matthew, a tax collector (Matthew 9:9). He was also known as "Levi" -Mark 2:14.

Period

Around AD 70, following the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Romans.

Brief Summary

The prophecies of a coming Messiah stated in the Old Testament are fulfilled by Jesus.

Details

The Book of Matthew is the first (1st) of four (4) Gospels, which means "good news," and it marks the beginning of the New Testament. Its content primarily addresses the Jews, and it makes a number of references to the Old Testament to serve as proof that Jesus is the promised Messiah the Jewish people have been looking forward to for centuries.

The Book starts with a genealogy (ancestry) of Jesus through King David and Abraham the patriarch. Matthew provides details of the announcement of Jesus' birth by angels and the visit of the "wise men" carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The character of John the Baptist, the relative and forerunner of Christ, is introduced by Matthew. Matthew then highlights the calling of pioneer disciples Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

The teachings of Jesus are profiled in depth, with details of His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7), which includes the Beatitudes ("Blessed are"), and the

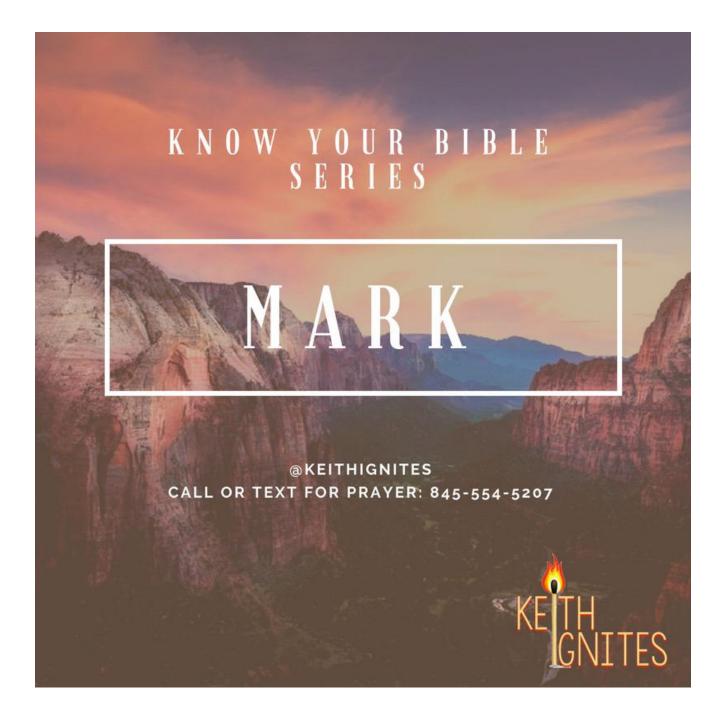
Lord's Prayer ("Our Father, who art in Heaven...."). Matthew describes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, just like the other Gospels. Matthew is the only Gospel that captures several miracles- the tearing of the veil in the temple, an earthquake, the opening of tombs, and raising of dead saints back to life, immediately after Jesus died on the cross (Matthew 27:50-54).

Facts

Matthew is the only Gospel that used the words "church" and "Kingdom of Heaven."

Significance

Jesus Christ is still our Messiah and King, and He is worthy of our worship and reverence to Him.



The Book of Mark

Author

The author is not stated but by tradition, it is credited to John Mark, a missionary who worked with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25). He was also a friend of Apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:13).

Period

It was estimated to have occurred around AD 60s, when the Romans persecuted Christians.

Brief Summary

Jesus is the Son of God, who suffered and served all people.

Details

The Book of Mark is the second (2nd) of four (4) Gospels, which is believed to be the very first (1st) one written. Mark is the most active and shortest of the four biographies of Jesus, with most of its content repeated in the books of Matthew and Luke. Mark speaks to the Gentile people, profiling Jesus as a man active in ministry, with the divine ability to heal the sick, having dominion over nature, and battling the forces of Satan.

Jesus faces a lot of doubters- the Jewish authorities who want Him killed (Mark 9:31); His neighbors who are offended by Him (Mark 6:3); and sadly, even the members of His family, who think "He is out of His mind" -Mark 3:21 NKJV. Jesus' sufferings and successes embody what servant leadership is all about: "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." -Mark 10:44-45 NKJV

Facts

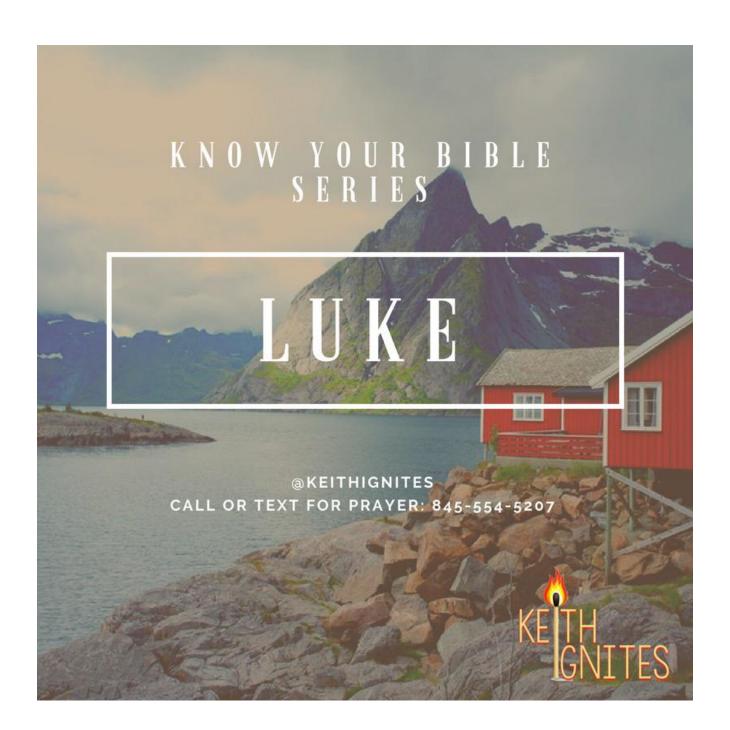
Many scholars believe the witness at Jesus's arrest, whose name was not provided in the Gospel of Mark, was presumably Mark himself:

"Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked." -Mark 14:51-52 NKJV

Significance

Suffering and servant leadership help shape up the character of a true Christian.

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." -Mark 8:35 NKJV



The Book of Luke

Author

It is credited to Luke, a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:14), who was also a missionary associate of Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 4:11).

Period

Probably the AD 70s-80s, while the Gospel was expanding to the Roman Empire.

Brief Summary

Jesus is the Savior of the world- to both the Jews and Gentiles.

Details

The Book of Luke is written to a man by the name Theophilus (Luke 1:3), "to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us" about Jesus Christ- Luke 1:1 NKJV. There's uncertainty as to who Theophilus was, but some scholars believe he could have been a Roman official. Luke is the most universal and least Jewish of the four Gospels. Luke highlights Jesus' genealogy beyond the Patriarch Abraham- the father of the Jews; it dates back to Adam, "the son of God" (Luke 3:38 NKJV), and father of all people.

The Book of Luke reflects Jesus' compassion for all manner of people including: Roman army men (Luke 7:1-10), widows (Luke 7:11-17), those living in sin (Luke 7:36-50), terminally ill- the woman with an issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48), lepers (Luke 17:11-19), and a criminal who was set to die on a cross next to Jesus (Luke 23:40-43). Luke also showcases the resurrection of Jesus in details- He showed Himself to two (2) believers on the Emmaus road and His eleven disciples left after the departure of Judas Iscariot. Luke's gospel ends with the ascension of Jesus into Heaven (Luke 24:1-53).

Facts

The Book of Luke is the only of the Gospels to share many of stories of Jesus- the parables, including but not limited to: The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15), The Parable of the Revealed Light (Luke 8:16-18), The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9), The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Luke 13:18-19), The Parable of Leaven (Luke 13:20-21), The Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24), The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7), The Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10), The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), The Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-13), The Wealthy Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8), The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14), The Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:11-27), The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers (Luke 20:9-19), The Widow's Two Mites (Luke 21:1-4), The Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 21:29-33), and more. Luke doubles as the only Gospel that records the details of Jesus' birth and His words captured when He was a child (both found in Luke 2).

Significance

Your lineage, who you are, and your deeds (whether good or sinful) do not disqualify you, as Jesus came and sacrificed His very life to save us all! Never allow the enemy to deceive you!

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

JOHN

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of John

Author

It is credited to John, who was described as the "disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:7 NKJV), also a son of Zebedee and brother of James (Matthew 4:21).

Period

Around AD 90s when the last Gospel was published.

Brief Summary

Jesus is the Savior of the world, and He is God.

Details

The Gospel of John differs from the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which are collectively referred to as the "Synoptic Gospels" because they provide a general overview and common theme. John, the fourth (4th) Gospel, has no record of the parables of Jesus, and it features only seven (7) of the miracles He performed. John provides an in-depth analysis of why Jesus came to earth: to provide abundant life-"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10 NKJV); to express His intimate relationship with God the Father-"I and My Father are one" (John 10:30 NKJV).

Jesus also expressed how He felt about the assignment He came to perform on earth: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him" (John 17:1-2 NKJV). John also highlights how patient Jesus was toward His disciples Thomas, who had doubts about His resurrection (John 20:24-29), and finally Peter who denied the Lord (John 18:15-27).

Facts

The Book of John records Jesus' first ever miracle- changing water to wine during a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12). It also covers Jesus' miracles of bringing Lazarus back to life (John 11:1-44), healing a man who was blind from birth (John 9:1-41), healing the son of a nobleman from afar (John 4:46-54). Nicodemus is only mentioned in the Gospel of John, when he heard Jesus' teaching that he "must be born again" (John 3:7 NKJV).

Significance

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." -John 20:31 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

ACTS

@KEITHIGNITES

CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Acts

Author

Luke, a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:14), a missionary friend of Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 4:11), and writer of the Book of Luke.

Period

It is based on events from around AD 30s-60s, but Acts was probably penned between AD 62 and 80.

Brief Summary

The Advocate- the Holy Spirit replaces Jesus, marking the beginning of the Christian church.

Details

The Book of Acts, also called the "Acts of the Apostles" is essentially a link between the life and story of Jesus captured in the Gospels and the life of the church in the subsequent letters. Luke kickstarts the story with Jesus' ascension into Heaven, following forty (40) days of work after His resurrection, during which He occasionally appears to the apostles and talks to them "about the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3 NKJV). Ten (10) days later, God sends down the Holy Spirit on the festive day of Pentecost, marking the birth of the church we know today.

The disciples are filled with power through the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, leading three thousand (3000) people to give their lives to Christ that day. The Jewish authorities filled with fear due to the new campaign called "the Way" (Acts 9:2 NKJV), set up a persecution movement against believers, who are forced to scatter and spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Saul, the chief persecutor, has an encounter with Jesus on his way to Damascus, as a heavenly bright light shines on him, which converts him into a Christian and preacher of the Gospel. Saul's name later becomes Paul, and he joins forces with Peter and other Christian pioneers to preach, perform miracles, and aid in the growth of the budding church.

Facts

The first Christian martyr, Stephen, who was stoned to death for accusing Jewish leaders for their part in the death of Jesus, is introduced in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 7:1-59). In the Book of Acts, we witness the transition of the Gospel from a heavily Jewish teaching to a message for people from all walks of life (Acts 9:15, 10:45), and the birth of the Christian missionary wave (Acts 13).

Significance

Christians today are led by the same Holy Spirit described in the Acts of the Apostles: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." -Acts 1:8 NKJV

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams." -Acts 2:17 NKJV

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES ROMANS @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of Romans

Author

The author of this epistle is Apostle Paul, with the help of Tertius. (Romans 16:22).

Period

Around AD 57, near the end of Paul's third (3rd) missionary assignment.

Brief Summary

Sinners are redeemed only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Details

The Book of Romans is somewhat considered a theology manual because it explains in depth what the Christian life should exemplify. Paul starts off by analyzing God's righteous anger against human sin (Romans 1 and 2), pointing out the fact that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NKJV). However, God pinpoints how sin can be defeated: "through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe" (Romans 3:22 NKJV).

When we live right through complete faith in Jesus Christ, we become: "dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:11 NKJV). The Spirit of God will "give life" (Romans 8:11 NKJV) to all who believe in Jesus, which in turn enables us to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1 NKJV). God empowers us to "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21 NKJV).

Facts

Paul had written a number of letters to various churches, however, the Book of Romans was written to a church division he had never met. It was Paul's hope to meet the Roman Christians on his journey to Spain (Romans 15:23-24). It is not stated if Paul was able to complete his travel to Spain.

Significance

In the words of Apostle Paul, we have "been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." -Romans 5:1 NKJV

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

1 CORINTHIANS

®KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of 1 Corinthians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the help of Sosthenes (1 Corinthians 1:1).

Period

Around AD 55-57.

Brief Summary

Apostle Paul addresses the issue of sin among the Corinthian congregation.

Details

Apostle Paul had provided assistance in the establishment of the church in Corinth (Acts 18), before turning his focus on other missionary activities. It later comes to Paul's notice while in Ephesus that alarming sin problems have plagued the church in Corinth, so he writes a lengthy letter to tackle those issues. An argument over who should lead the church arises, and Paul advises the people to "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV).

Paul admonishes a man involved in an abominable relationship with his stepmother, saying "put away from yourselves the evil one" (1 Corinthians 5:13 NKJV). A number of church members filing lawsuits against others are cautioned by Paul to "know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV). Paul also teaches on the subjects of the Lord's supper, spiritual gifts, Christian freedom, marriage, and the raising up of the dead. In the popular chapter thirteen (13) of 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses the greatest gift of love, which is described as the "more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:13 NKJV).

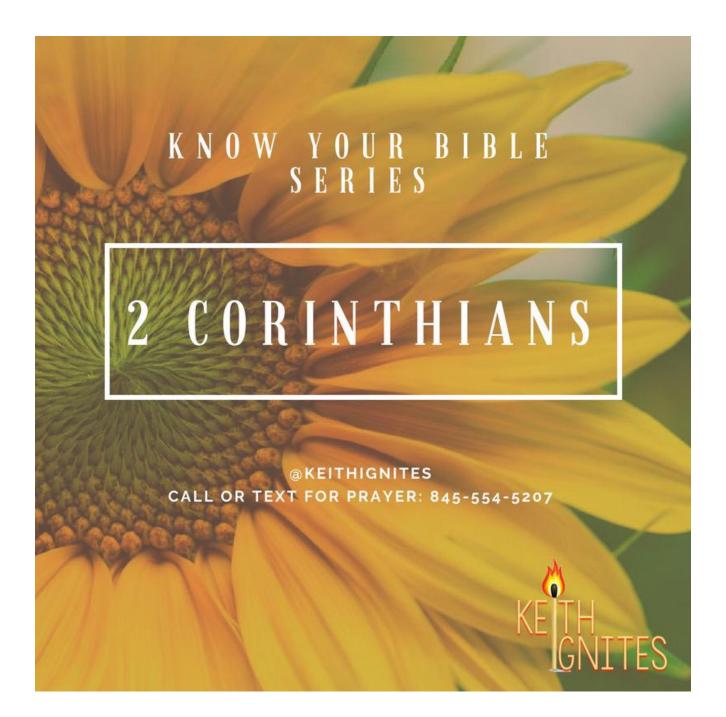
Facts

Paul counters opposing individuals who question the legality of he being an apostle, by insisting that he qualifies as one just like the original twelve (12) disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?" -1 Corinthians 9:1 NKJV

Significance

Problems within the church have existed even before Apostle Paul's era. The perfect way to address and solve such issues is through love for others, discipline, and undiluted truth based on the Word of God.



The Book of 2 Corinthians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the help of Timothy (2 Corinthians 1:1).

Period

Around AD 55-57, right after 1 Corinthians was written.

Brief Summary

Apostle Paul defends his ministry while addressing the church in Corinth.

Details

After receiving Paul's first letter, the Christians in Corinth tackle some of the problems that had plagued them. The Corinthians still have other issues and keep questioning the authority of Paul. This leads Paul to "speak foolishly" (2 Corinthians 11:21 NKJV), highlighting the turmoil he had endured while serving Jesus: "in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often" (2 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV).

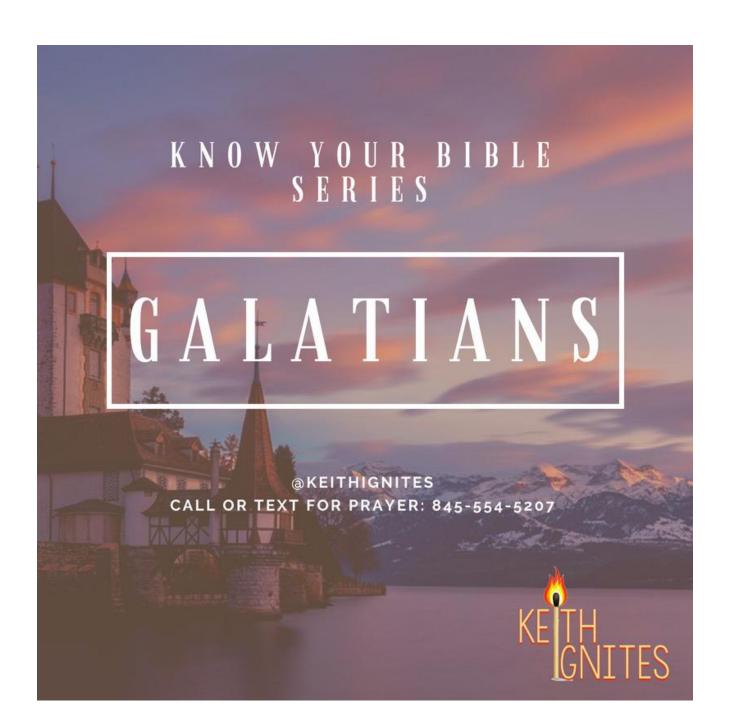
Paul's sufferings go as far as having to endure a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV), which God opted to deny healing, saying to him: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV). Paul's warns the Corinthians before departing, saying: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified" (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV).

Facts

Paul never pinpoints the "thorn in the flesh," as some scholars presume it may have been poor eyesight, temptations, or perhaps physical unattractiveness.

Significance

It is the duty of Christians to respect authority wherever they are planted- whether in the church, workplace, or in the society at large.



The Book of Galatians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (Galatians 1:1).

Period

Probably around AD 49, one of Paul's very first letters.

Brief Summary

Christians experience freedom from confining Jewish laws.

Details

Addressing several churches within the region through letters, Paul is "shocked" by how Galatian Christians "turn away so soon from God" (Galatians 1:6 NKJV) to follow the laws of Old Testament Judaism. Some of the Christians were urged to "follow the Jewish traditions" (Galatians 2:14 NKJV), a mistake even Apostle Peter made (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul made a strong case ""that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God [is evident], for "the just shall live by faith"" -(Galatians 3:11 NIV).

Facts

Paul made a closing remark: "See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!" -Galatians 6:11 NKJV. This comment makes some scholars believe that the "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV) Paul had mentioned earlier was indeed poor eyesight.

Significance

The laws in the Old Testament no longer apply or govern the lives of Christians. Paul advises: "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." -Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

EPHESIANS

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Ephesians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (Ephesians 1:1).

Period

Around AD 62, before Paul passes away.

Brief Summary

All Christians are members of the body of Jesus Christ- the church.

Details

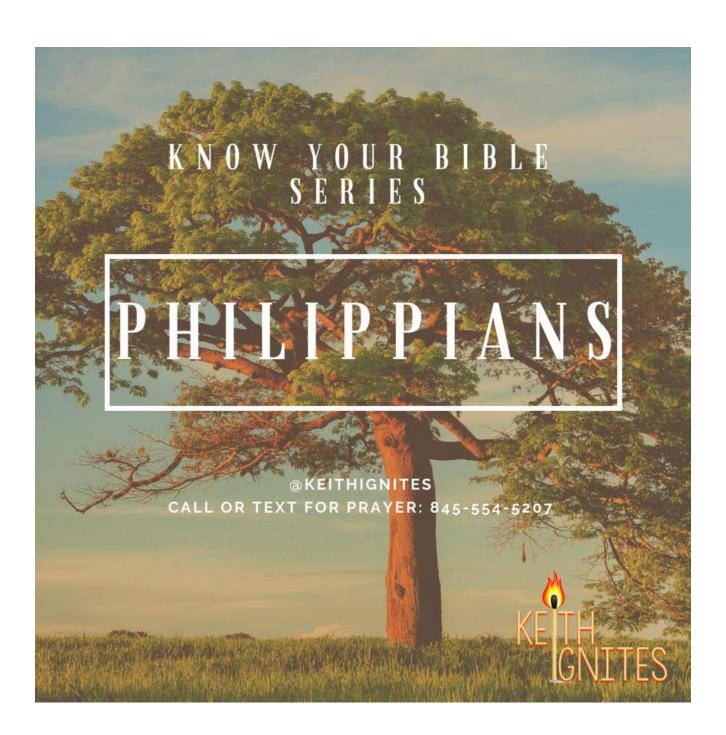
Apostle Paul had established the church in Ephesus (Acts 19) and he goes on to explain in depth the link between the church congregation and Jesus Christ: "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church" (Ephesians 4:15 NLT). By way of Jesus Christ, God syncretizes both Jesus and Gentiles to Himself (Ephesians 2:11-18). Our redeemed lives through Jesus should culminate in living as Children of the Light in the church and society at large.

Facts

Paul instructs servants to "be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ" (Ephesians 6:5 NKJV). "Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free." -Ephesians 6:8 NLT

Significance

"And in Him [Jesus] you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." -Ephesians 2:22 NIV



The Book of Philippians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the assistance of Timothy (Philippians 1:1).

Period

Likely around the early 60s AD.

Brief Summary

A letter of friendship between Apostle Paul and a cherished church in Philippi.

Details

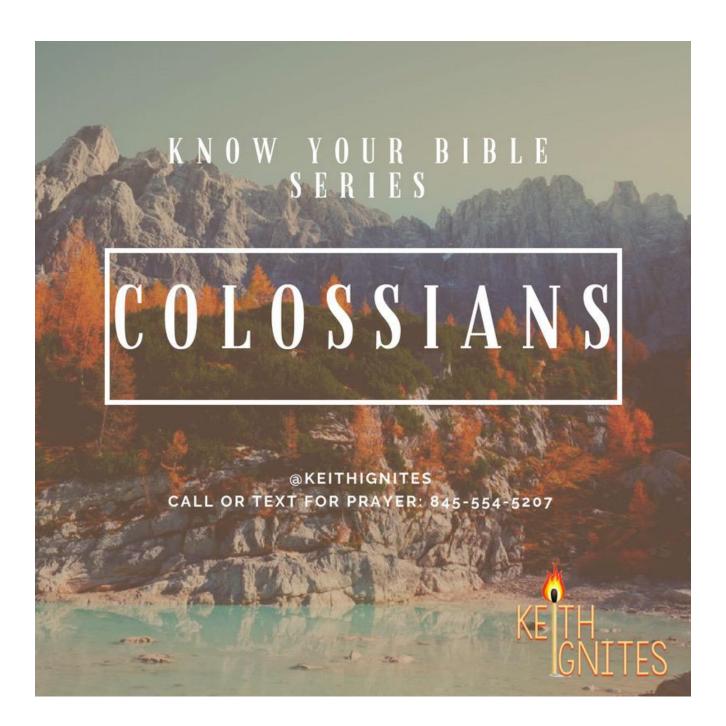
The Book of Philippians is one of Apostle Paul's most cheerful letters, although he penned it when he was "in chains because of Christ" (Philippians 1:3 NLT). The words "joy" and "rejoicing" appear about sixteen (16) times. Paul acknowledges the church in Philippi for partnering with him "in spreading the Good News about Christ" from the time the people heard it until the time the letter was written to them (Philippians 1:5 NLT). In Paul's concluding remarks, he encourages the people saying: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" -Philippians 4:4 NKJV

Facts

The Book of Philippians is written in an upbeat tone and its theme revolves around togetherness. However, Apostle Paul had to point out two (2) Philippians ladies, Euodia and Syntyche, admonishing them "to be of the same mind in the Lord" (Philippians 4:2 NKJV).

Significance

Living in the joy of the Lord is His desire for all His children. When we live in such a manner, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard [our] hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7 NKJV).



The Book of Colossians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the assistance of Timothy (Colossians 1:1).

Period

Likely around the early 60s AD.

Brief Summary

Our Lord Jesus Christ reigns supreme over absolutely everyone and everything.

Details

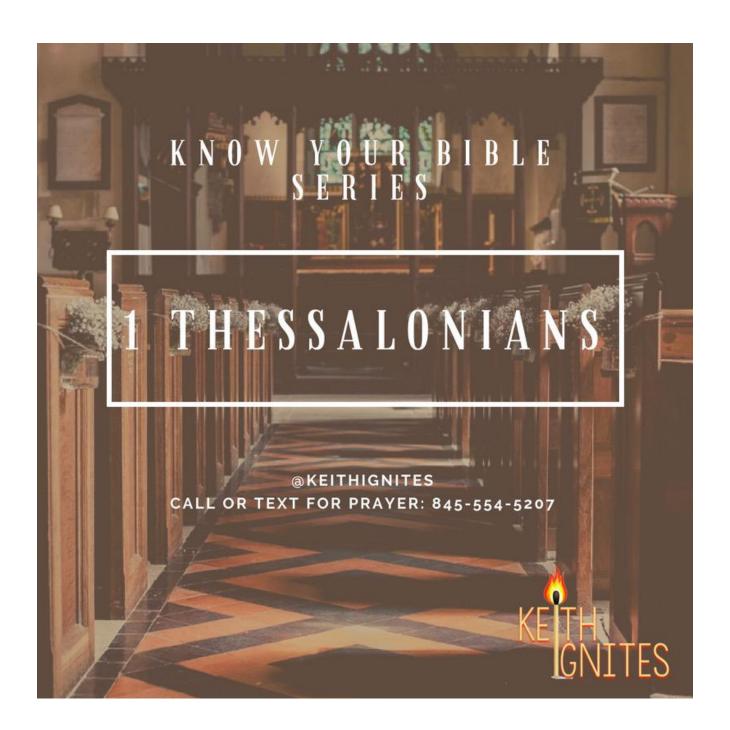
The church at Colosse had been plagued with false doctrines or "persuasive words" (Colossians 2:4 NKJV), causing some individuals to add misleading and unnecessary philosophical components to their Christian faith. Apostle Paul, in a letter, cautions the Colossian Christians, pointing out to the sovereignty of Jesus over Jewish rituals, rules and regulations (Colossians 2:16), the worship of angels (Colossians 2:18), and every other doctrine or self-imposed religion (Colossians 2:22-23). Paul describes Jesus, saying: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15 NKJV).

Facts

Apostle Paul wrote an epistle to the church in Laodicea, and he made reference to that letter in Colossians 4:16. However, that letter was not published as a book or scripture in the New Testament.

Significance

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8 NKJV).



The Book of 1 Thessalonians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the help of Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1).

Period

Likely around the early 50s AD- probably Paul's first letter.

Brief Summary

The return of Jesus is promised and He will gather His followers to reveal His glory.

Details

Apostle Paul writes to a church he helped establish (Acts 17), teaching them about the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is an issue of concern to the Thessalonians. Paul paints a picture of how Jesus will return but he doesn't pinpoint exactly when the Great Day of the Lord will happen (1 Thessalonians 5:1-28). In the words of Apostle Paul, the key factor that we must all keep in mind is "that [we] would walk worthy of God who calls [us] into His own kingdom and glory" (1 Thessalonians 2:12 NKJV).

Facts

The Book of 1 Thessalonians records two (2) of the shortest verses in the Bible: "Rejoice always" (1 Thessalonians 5:16 NKJV) and "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJV).

Significance

Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to be upright in their walk with God in relation to the second coming of Jesus. Two Thousand (2000) years later, we are charged to do the same for we do not know the hour of Jesus' return.

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." -1 Thessalonians 5:2 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S 2 THESSALONIANS @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 2 Thessalonians

Author

The author is Apostle Paul, with the help of Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy (2 Thessalonians 1:1).

Period

Likely around the early 50s AD- probably Paul's second letter.

Brief Summary

Christians are encouraged to work until Jesus returns.

Details

Apostle Paul writes a follow-up letter to the Thessalonians, because a false letter had been addressed to them in his name, which leaves them "shaken in mind or troubled" (2 Thessalonians 2:2 NKJV), thinking Jesus has already returned. Paul gives the people the assurance that the second coming of Jesus is a future event, and he also encourages them to live just and fruitful lives until His return. Paul warns those who experience a drop in productivity and anticipation in relation to working until Jesus' second coming, saying: "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10 NKJV).

Facts

Apostle Paul wrote the letter in 2 Thessalonians and shows proof, which is evident from this comment: "The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write" (2 Thessalonians 3:17 NKJV).

Significance

The Christian journey is one which demands balance. The children of God should always anticipate the second coming of Jesus, and be occupied with positive and productive work while waiting on the Great Day of the Lord. Do good always!

KNOW YOUR BIBL SERIES 1 TIMOTHY @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 1 Timothy

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 1:1).

Period

Around AD 63.

Brief Summary

Pastors are provided guidance in relation to their lives and managing churches.

Details

The Book of 1 Timothy is the first (1st) of three (3) pastoral epistles. Apostle Paul shares his knowledge and wisdom with an upcoming generation of church leaders and officials. Timothy, a very close associate of Paul in ministry, is serving as a pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3). Paul cautions him against legalism and false teachings (chapter 1), lists what qualifies pastors and deacons (chapter 3), and gives a description of an exemplary "minister of Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 4:6 NKJV), which is covered in the last three (3) chapters.

Facts

The Book of 1 Timothy advocates for a good reward for pastors: "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."" -1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV

Significance

Apostle Paul addresses this letter to Timothy, but he leaves us all with this lesson: "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God,

which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." -1 Timothy $3:15~\mathrm{NKJV}$

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 2 Timothy

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 1:1).

Period

Likely around the mid-60s AD.

Brief Summary

Apostle Paul's closing remarks to his beloved associate in ministry.

Details

The Book of 2 Timothy is probably the last known letter by Apostle Paul. Paul kicks off with "Timothy, my dearly beloved son" (2 Timothy 1:2 KJV), warning the young Man of God against false doctrines and encouraging him to live a pure and just life in the eyes of his congregation. Timothy is cautioned about the perilous times ahead: "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV).

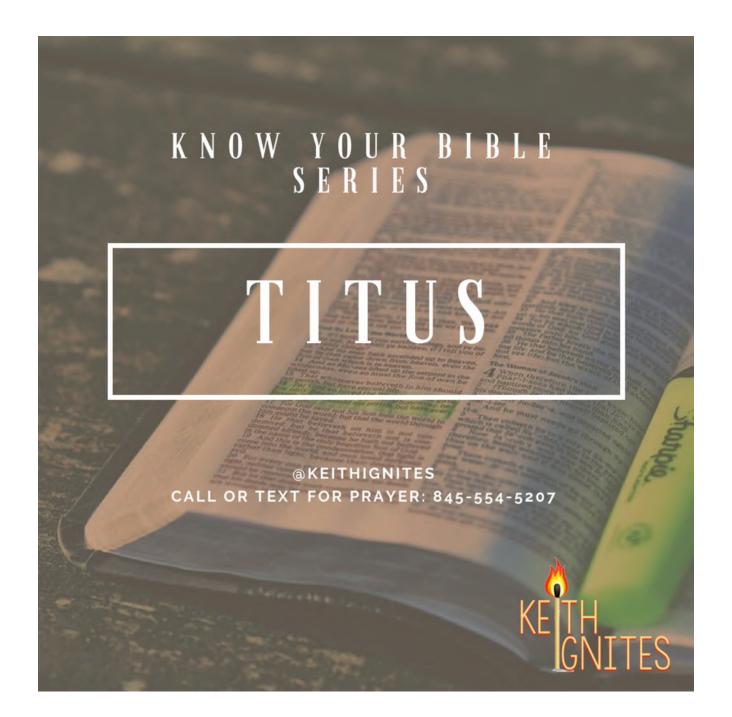
However, God's faithfulness will prevail: "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom" (2 Timothy 4:18 NKJV). Paul asks Timothy to join him as soon as possible, saying "the time of my departure is at hand" (2 Timothy 4:6 NKJV).

Facts

Apostle Paul tells us the source of the Bible: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV). The word inspiration in this case means "breathed out."

Significance

In terms of how we live out our lives and respective God-given purposes, like Paul may we individually say: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." -2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV



The Book of Titus

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (Titus 1:1).

Period

Likely around AD 63.

Brief Summary

Leaders in the church are given instructions concerning their lives and teaching.

Details

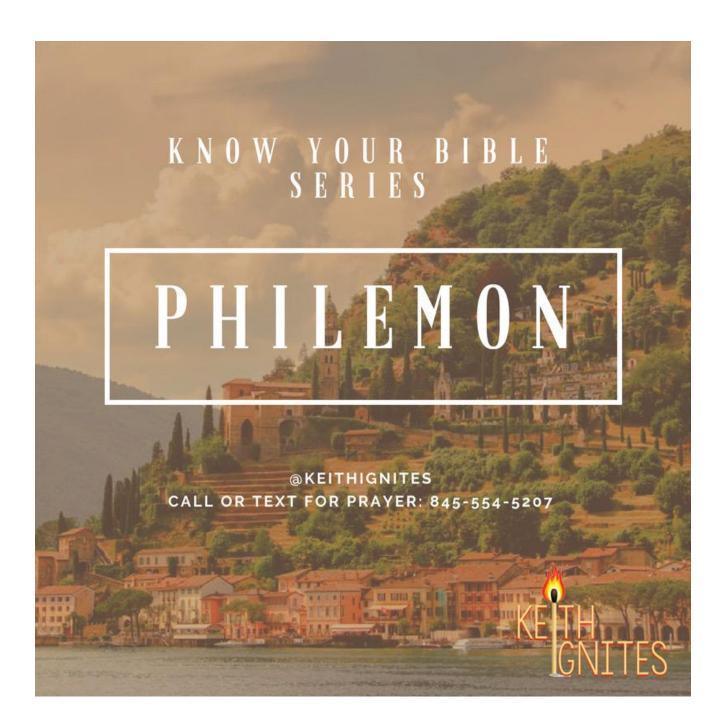
As the church experiences growth, Paul appoints Titus on the Mediterranean island of Crete to "set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city" (Titus 1:5 NKJV). "One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12 NKJV). The people of Crete, as a result, are in need of a disciplined leader who operates, "holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict" (Titus 1:9 NKJV).

Facts

Apostle Paul quotes a Cretan philosopher by the name Epimenides of the sixth (6th) century BC: "One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12 NKJV).

Significance

Leaders in a church are held highly accountable, which should also apply to the members or congregation. The standard to which pastors are held is good and should apply to all members.



The Book of Philemon

Author

The author is Apostle Paul (Philemon 1:1).

Period

Likely around AD 63, while Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

Brief Summary

Apostle Paul pleads on behalf of an escapee slave converted to Christianity.

Details

Philemon is described as a "beloved friend and fellow laborer" (Philemon 1:1 NKJV) of Apostle Paul, through whom "the hearts of the saints have been refreshed" (Philemon 1:7 NKJV). The apostle writes to Philemon and humbly pleads with him to take back a slave on the loose, who had accepted Christ under the teaching of Paul. "I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains" (Philemon 1:10 NKJV). Paul adds: "If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me." -Philemon 1:17 NKJV

Facts

The Book of Philemon is the least lengthy of all Paul's letters in the Bible, with just one chapter and twenty-five (25) verses.

Significance

The Book of Philemon provides a practical example of forgiveness. Let's learn to forgive others so in turn we may be forgiven.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES

HEBREWS

@KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

> KEITH GNITES

The Book of Hebrews

Author

The author is not stated. Paul, Luke, Apollos, and Barnabas have all been proposed.

Period

Likely before AD 70 since Hebrews mentions sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple, which was destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans.

Brief Summary

Jesus Christ supersedes every Old Testament person or sacrifice.

Details

The Book of Hebrews was addressed to Jewish Christians, hence its name, and it demonstrates the superiority of Christianity to Old Testament Judaism. Jesus is "so much better than the angels" (Hebrews 1:4 NKJV), Moses and other prophets, and animal sacrifices from times past. "For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" -Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJV.

A number of the Jewish Christians experiencing shaky commitment to Jesus Christ, are reminded that He "is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6 NKJV)- a one-time ransom on the cross, "having obtained eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12 NKJV) for us all.

Facts

The Book of Hebrews is one (1) out of two (2) letters in the New Testament (the other book is 1 John) that leaves out greetings or a sign of its author.

Significance

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." -Hebrews 10:19-22 NKJV

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S JAMES @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of James

Author

The author is James (James 1:1), most likely a brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3).

Period

Around AD 60.

Brief Summary

True Christian faith is demonstrated by a person's good works.

Details

Apostle Paul teaches that salvation is secured by faith apart from the deeds of the law (Romans 3:28). However, James sheds light that true faith is followed by good works: "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?" -James 2:14 NKJV. James goes on to urge Christians to view everyday trials as a path to spiritual growth, to tame their tongues, to avoid partiality, to assist the needy, and to make peace. Here is the ultimate outcome: "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17 NKJV).

Facts

James clarifies that it's never enough when we claim to have full belief in God. He goes on to add: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" -James 2:19 NKJV. Faith in Jesus that moves mountains should be our desired goal.

Significance

The Book of James outlines all the steps of practical wisdom for everyday Christian life.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S 1 PETER @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 1 Peter

Author

The author is Apostle Peter (1 Peter 1:1), with the help of Silvanus (Silas, 1 Peter 5:12).

Period

Around AD 65.

Brief Summary

Suffering because of our service to Jesus is a just and worthy cause.

Details

The Roman Empire persecutes Christians of the gradually budding and early church, but Peter gives the people assurance that God is still in charge: "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13 NKJV). Rejoicing is the right response to persecution and suffering. Instead of worrying, we are called upon to worship, and we will experience the move of God.

Facts

Apostle Peter reveals the exact number of people God rescued when Noah and his family experienced the great flood on the ark: "eight (8) souls" (1 Peter 3:20 NKJV). "So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood" (Genesis 7:7 NKJV). "And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth" (Genesis 6:10 NKJV).

Significance

The Book of 1 Peter demonstrates that life can be tough and challenging, but our Heavenly Father is good and a Day of Revival awaits His children, when His glory will be revealed.

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

2 PETER

@KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of 2 Peter

Author

The author is Apostle Peter (2 Peter 1:1).

Period

Likely around the late AD 60s, just before Apostle Peter's execution.

Brief Summary

Be on the lookout for false teachers within the church.

Details

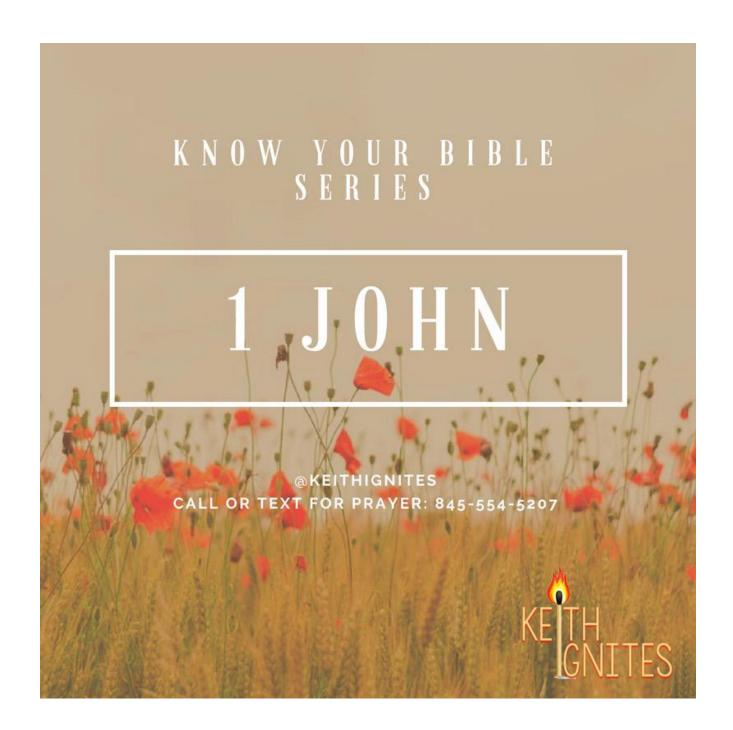
To identify and avoid false prophets and false teachers "who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1 NKJV), Christians are called upon to rely on the qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, and love. In addition to that, Christians are admonished to fully rely on the true prophetic Word (2 Peter 1:19-21) in the Bible (scriptural teachings).

Facts

Apostle Peter wrote the Book of 2 Peter, bearing in mind that his execution was near: "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction." -2 Peter 2:1 NKJV

Significance

"You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:17-18 NKJV).



The Book of 1 John

Author

Apostle John is credited as the author, though it is not stated.

Period

Around AD 92.

Brief Summary

Jesus is really God just as He was as real in human form.

Details

Apostle John debunks a false claim that Jesus Christ had existed on earth only in spirit, and not in flesh: "and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world" (1 John 4:3 NKJV). John publicly declares his personal knowledge of and encounter with Jesus.

John described Jesus as: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—" (1 John 1:1 NKJV). Knowledge of Jesus Christ in turn leads to a saving belief in Him and we know that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9 NKJV

Facts

The Book of 1 John leaves out the traditional greetings and the naming of the author as usually found in the letters of the Bible. However, this letter is still presented in a friendly and empathetic tone

Significance

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13 NKJV).

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES 2 JOHN @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207 KE TH GNITES

The Book of 2 John

Author

Apostle John is credited as the author, based on church tradition. The writer is referred to as "The Elder" (2 John 1:1).

Period

Around AD 92.

Brief Summary

Be wary of false teachers who deny Jesus Christ's physical life and presence on earth.

Details

Apostle John continues to debunk false claims that Jesus Christ had existed on earth only in spirit, and not in flesh. This letter was addressed to "the elect lady and her children" (2 John 1:1 NKJV), which may refer to a real family or a figurative representation of the church. This letter may have been a response to the "Gnostics" of that era who taught others that Jesus was spirit only and that He only appeared on the scene to be crucified. However "The Elder" cautions us not to give in to the teachings of "a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 John 1:7 NKJV).

"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds." -2 John 1:9-11 NKJV

Facts

The Book of 2 John is one of the New Testament's one-chapter letters. It also has the shortest verse count, which is thirteen (13).

Significance

Our world today, is filled with many false teachers who teach very dangerous ideas to people yearning to grow in their Christian faith. Every teaching has to be measured against what is written in scripture. "He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 1:9 NKJV).

KNOW YOUR BIBLE SERIES 3 J O H N @KEITHIGNITES CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

The Book of 3 John

Author

Apostle John is credited as the author, based on church tradition. The writer is referred to as "The Elder" (3 John 1:1).

Period

Around AD 92.

Brief Summary

Humility must be a character trait of church leaders, not pride.

Details

The Book of 3 John was addressed to a believer named Gaius by "The Elder." Gaius was praised for demonstrating "love before the church" (3 John 1:6 NKJV). Another Christian, Demetrius, was also praised for his good works. However, Diotrophes was condemned for his love "to have the preeminence" among the people he did not receive (3 John 1:9 NKJV). He wasn't kind to the traveling evangelists.

Facts

The Book of 3 John is one of the New Testament's one-chapter letters. It also has the second shortest verse count, which is fourteen (14).

Significance

Christians are called on to demonstrate hospitality not just to their fellow believers, but strangers as well. This particularly applies to those in full-time ministry.

"Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God" (3 John 1:11 NKJV).

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

JUDE

®KEITHIGNITES
CALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207

KEITH GNITES

The Book of Jude

Author

Jude is credited as the author (Jude 1:1), probably the half brother of Jesus Christ named Judas (Matthew 13:55).

Period

Around AD 82.

Brief Summary

Be wary of false teachers and their damaging doctrines based on heresies.

Details

Jude addressed the same issue of false teachers just like Apostle Peter in the Book of 2 Peter and Apostle John in his second (2nd) letter (2 John). These heretical teachers were leading members of the early church off the true Christian course. "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage" (Jude 1:16 NKJV).

The false teachers used God's grace as an excuse for their sinful and lustful nature, and encouraged other believers of the Christian faith to follow suit. True believers radiate the love of God, show compassion to others, and pull sinners "out of the fire" (Jude 1:23 NKJV).

Facts

The Book of Jude covers the detailed story of two (2) events in the Old Testament- the fight Archangel Michael had with Satan over the body of Moses (Jude 1:9), and the prophecy of Enoch concerning God's judgment (Jude 1:14-15).

Significance

Satan employs his agents to confuse members of the Body of Christ (true believers). Christians must wholeheartedly defend the faith that has been preserved and passed on for multiple of generations through the disciples of Jesus and based only on the Bible (the unadulterated Word of God).

K N O W Y O U R B I B L E S E R I E S

REVELATION

@KEITHIGNITESCALL OR TEXT FOR PRAYER: 845-554-5207



The Book of Revelation

Author

John is credited as the author, possibly the apostle (Revelation 1:1).

Period

Around AD 95.

Brief Summary

God will pass judgment on evil and reward His children- the saints.

Details

The Revelation of Jesus Christ passed on to Him by God, is in turn relayed to the servant John by Jesus Himself. Jesus' intention is to make John aware of the "things which must shortly take place" (Revelation 1:1 NKJV). Jesus gives John the words needed to address the seven (7) churches- words to encourage and challenge the churches concurrently. The setting of the vision becomes an actual throne room of God, with a lamb appearing "as though it had been slain" (Revelation 5:6 NKJV) breaking seven seals from a scroll, which causes war, famine, death, and other disasters on earth.

A dragon and two (2) beasts, who team up against God, force the people who survive the earlier calamities on earth to worship them. The satanic legions and people who give in to worship the creatures, incur "the wrath of God on the earth" (Revelation 16:1 NKJV), causing plagues, darkness and huge hailstones. The pandemonium causes destruction to "Babylon the great" (Revelation 18:2 NKJV), the evil and prideful world order, right before an angel from heaven captures Satan, "that serpent of old" (Revelation 20:2 NKJV), and imprisons him for one thousand years.

Satan is then briefly released to initiate a world war, after which he is "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone," in which he will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10 NKJV). God reveals "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1 NKJV, where He "will wipe away every tear" (Revelation 21:4 NKJV) from His children's eyes.

Facts

The Book of Revelation is described as apocalyptic literature, meaning it unveils deep secrets of what is to come. It is the only one of such books in the New Testament. Jesus Christ is referred to as the "Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 1:8 NKJV). The number 666 is also revealed as "the number of the beast" (Revelation 13:18 NKJV).

Significance

God has equipped His children with a preview of the end times, and the new and better world we will get to enjoy for good. The sting of sin and death will be gone forever, and we will live in perfect harmony with our Father Himself and "reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5 NKJV). All our bad days will forever be behind us, giving us hope in our present times. Let's surrender our lives to God to be counted among His saints!