

T3 TEEN WORKBOOK

Contents

Pop Quiz	iv
An Introduction to T3: The Teen Timeline Bible Study	vi
Lesson 1: An Introduction to the Bible	2
Lesson 2: The Early World	4
Lesson 3: The Patriarchs	6
Lesson 4: Egypt and Exodus, Joshua, and Judges	8
Lesson 5: The Kingdom of God—United and Divided	10
Lesson 6: The Exile, The Return, and The Revolt	12
Lesson 7: Jesus and the Gospels—Messianic Fulfillment	14
Lesson 8: The Early Church and the Church Today	16
Old Testament Messianic Prophecies	18
Egypt and Exodus	19
An Overview of the Prophets	22
An Overview of the Gospels	25
Fifteen Key Events in the Life of Christ (and Where to Find Them)	28
Parables of Christ	30
Miracles of Jesus	32
Biblical Evidence for the Sacraments	33
The Wisdom of the Saints	36
Lectio Divina	37
Introduction to the Cycle of Sunday Readings	39
Verses for Thought/Favorite Verses/Verse by Theme	42
Random Fun Facts	46
Pop Quiz: Reloaded	48
Get More Out of Your Bible Study	52
Chart of Northern and Southern Kings	56
Chart of Narrative and Supplemental Books	58
Reading through the Bible Historically: 90-Day Reading Plan	59
Outline of Bible Periods	60

— T3: THE TEEN TIMELINE BIBLE STUDY



Written in more languages, read by more people, and with more copies published and sold than any other written work in the history of the world, the Holy Bible stands alone. Kings and rulers have tried to outlaw it, wars have been waged over it, and millions of lives have been lost (but also found) because of it. With seventy-three “books,” inspired by God and recorded over a span of about 1,600 years by more than forty separate authors, the Bible is one of our greatest family heirlooms.

Despite all of this, many Christians today—including many Catholics—don’t really know the Bible, at least not in comparison to generations past. As the Scriptures themselves affirm, in Christ there is always hope. And the word of God was not only given to bishops, priests, and religious, but to all of God’s faithful. Neither was it given just to adults. The word of God has been given to all, young and old alike.

Understanding the Bible

Many modern Christians don’t really read the Bible on a regular basis because it is just too confusing. And since everyone is busy, any activities which don’t immediately gratify and enliven us usually fall by the wayside. The Bible becomes “another way” of knowing God but not a *primary* way. It’s seen as a work of art, but not art that deserves *our* work. The art of Scripture study is seen more as a novelty than a necessity. But the Bible is not like other forms of literature, and studying the Scriptures is more than an artistic hobby.

Opera, for instance, is one of the oldest forms of musical entertainment, made popular centuries ago when the voice was still considered the foremost instrument in creation. Opera is still popular in certain parts of the world with select groups of fans, but its popularity has decreased significantly. When asked why they don’t “care for” opera, most say that (since it’s usually performed in foreign languages) they “just don’t understand it” and can’t follow what is going on.

Sacred Scripture works in much the same way. If you’ve ever opened up your Bible and tried

reading it without any instruction or background to help you, you might end up feeling like some do at the opera—lost, confused, or just plain bored. Of course, opera has no bearing on your salvation; the Bible does. There’s no better time to start reading, studying, and praying the Scriptures than right now.

T3 will help you begin to understand the basic “story” of the Bible, how the 73 books go together and which ones you’ll need to read in order to see the plot and learn how the characters fit together.

Think of T3 like a friend sitting in the chair next to you as you encounter opera for the first time. It will help you understand how the different characters fit, help you understand language that sometimes sounds foreign, and help you see how a story that is centuries old is still relevant today—and how you fit in it.

The Journey to God

Your journey through the great adventure of the Bible isn't supposed to start when you're out of college and back living in the suburbs. You are already on your journey, already steps down the path ... the question is, "What path are you on?" If you are not on the path to your salvation, it is time to turn around. If you are on the right path,

it is time to increase in your knowledge to insure that the vocation you are pursuing is the one that God has created for you. Only when we approach God in humility and trust and encounter him face-to-face in sacrament and word (Luke 4:4), will we learn who we are and who we are called to become in His sight.

The Word Of God

The Bible is unlike any other book. The Bible is prayer, the very breath and life of God. It is the word of God, not mere words about God. This distinction necessitates our attention and demands reverence; this distinction should comfort you in your afflictions and "afflict" you when you get too comfortable. The journey to God is about joy, not happiness. Happiness is fleeting, but joy—the eternal joy of life in Christ both on earth and in heaven—is eternal.

As the Second Vatican Council affirmed,

Therefore, since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation.

— *Dei Verbum* (Chapter 3, Paragraph 11)

The Bible contains no errors. It is the word of God written through the pens of men. That being said, there are some potential problems associated with studying Scripture when we do not study it correctly. Too often people "read into" the Scriptures through the lens of self, carrying their own misconceptions and personal biases along with them. The Church, however, helps us to "read out of" (*exegesis*) the Scriptures their intended meanings, taking things like language, literary devices, history, etc. into account.

Remember, the Bible was assembled (into the form you know) more than 1,600 years ago. The Bible you have and will be using is a translation of a translation of a translation. It is important,

therefore, to read the Scriptures correctly and intelligently. This is one of the reasons you should be thankful to be Catholic. Christ gave us the Church as our guide through the sometimes overwhelming waters of God's word. He doesn't just throw us in with a life preserver; he gives us the Church as our ark to preserve us from drowning and to help keep us afloat as we sail toward salvation.

The teaching authority of the Church, the Magisterium, helps insure that we read and pray Sacred Scripture through the fullness of God's revelation, utilizing both the written and oral traditions that were handed down to us from the apostles. The oral and written tradition make up for us the "sacred deposit" of faith. We need both, as St. Paul affirms (2 Thessalonians 2:15), for only through both will we "know how to live" (1 Timothy 3:15).

LESSON 5: THE KINGDOM OF GOD: UNITED AND DIVIDED

The Royal Kingdom

As short as this time period is, we see how different our vision of perfection is from God's. We see Saul rise to power and promptly assert himself as a king in the line of the kings of the surrounding countries. His inability to focus on God leads him down a road of madness that is only reflected thousands of years later in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. Unfortunately, the sins of Saul are reflected in the kingdom as it almost breaks apart.

David, however, is a man after the heart of God. Notice how he continually surrenders to the will of God in his life and trusts entirely in Him. God

blesses David, and even when David falls into sin with Bathsheba (a warning to anyone who lets lust linger in their hearts), his repentance and penance is sincere. His son, Solomon, seems to be on the right track but is led astray by his own desires. Despite being blessed with wisdom, his fall is a tragic warning to those who would put their desires and the people they are dating before God. The common theme here is not just God's faithfulness but His mercy, along with the impact our sin has on the entire community around us. If we are given much responsibility and a position of leadership, the consequences of our sins become greater.

Divided Kingdom

Reading this section gets complicated unless you are able to keep the two kingdoms straight: Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom). One way to do this is to go through your Bible and determine the chapters that deal with each kingdom and mark them accordingly. Notice how the North (Israel) does nothing to remove sin from their kingdom, just like people who know they are committing sin but won't make the sacrifice necessary to change. This will always result in a failure to achieve the perfect love offered by God. Israel eventually secedes from the union, but you'll notice that the blood line of Christ continues on in the Judah, the

Southern Kingdom. Judah has a few good kings sprinkled in the mix who drive out idolatry in the land and follow the will of God.

In the end, both kingdoms fail to keep the commands of God and it seems that the covenants will never come to fruition. Note the number of prophets who come to the forefront during this period. These great prophets offer hope in the darkest times and offer a path to redemption, a way out of the quicksand of sin. In the end, it is up to the people of Israel and Judah (as it is with us) to decide whom they will serve, God or their own will.

confusion. How can the God who commands the Israelites not to kill place a ban on a city so that the Israelites must wipe out every man, woman, child, and animal? The violence which the Israelites attack the Canaanites is only matched by the Canaanites' documented cruelty for each other and their own children, whom they would sacrifice in fire to their gods.

After taking possession of the land, they had long

of rejecting God and returning to Him after a prolonged period of suffering (the cycle of sin). God sends a judge to rescue and lead them and their repentance. The people enter a time of "romance" with God, only to let their guard down and fall into sin again. Just when it seems the Israelites are prepared to fulfill the covenant, re-enter the garden, and learn to love, it slips from their grasp. They are learning, however, and they are growing into the mighty kingdom they will become.

TIME PERIOD(S) COVERED _____

WHERE WE ARE ON THE JOURNEY _____

OPENING QUESTION _____

VERSE TO REMEMBER _____

BREAKING IT DOWN

1. What was the name of the prophet God sent to the house of Jesse?
2. Why did David predict he would beat Goliath when he fought him?
3. What was the name of Bathsheba's husband who was killed in battle?
4. What is it that David wants to build for God?
5. What is the Hebrew translation of the name "Solomon"?

NOTES

world. What was the pressure to conform to the popular culture of the time? When Antiochus Epiphanes takes control and there is a concerted effort to make the entire world Hellenistic (i.e., Greek in its language and customs), God saves the faithful of Israel through the rebellion of the few. Though a short time period—one filled with blood—we see the impact that a small group of people, focused on God, can have not only on their local region or culture, but on the entire world, for history.

Yet again many Israelites deny God and follow the popular culture—this time at the hands of the Greeks. But as we read in the narrative of the Maccabees, we are also given a picture of true hope. A small but faithful family stands up to the mighty Greek armies and leads a revolt that shows us what it means to have courage in the face of cultural pressures, temptations, and death. Before you read, be sure that you understand what Alexander the Great had done in conquering the known

The Exile

Assyria effectively removes the Northern Kingdom (Israel) from the face of the earth and replaces it with conquered people from five different nations. These eventually merge and later come to be known as Samaritans.

Later, Jerusalem is destroyed by Babylon. God actually uses the king of Babylon to bring the His children back into line. Things look bleak except for a people named Israel.

The Return

After a period of 70 years, the Jews are allowed to return to their land. This means an extreme separation from the outsiders who introduced false ideas into the worship of the one true God. The Temple is rebuilt despite efforts to sabotage its reconstruction.

As we see in Ezra, it is because the Israelites were unfaithful to God that he was forced to teach them a lesson. God is not faithful to the promise he made to His children, however. From the remnant His servants will come Messiah

Maccabean Revolt

LESSON 6: THE EXILE, THE RETURN, AND THE REVOLT

The Exile

Assyria effectively removes the Northern Kingdom (Israel) from the face of the earth and replaces it with conquered people from five different nations. These eventually unite and later come to be known as Samaritans. Later, Jerusalem is destroyed by Babylon. God actually uses the king of Babylon to bring the His children back into line. Things look bleak except for a prophet named Daniel and

a promise about a Persian king named Cyrus who will allow the Jewish people to return to the promised land. Even in exile, God is still perfecting and forming His people. They will one day bring humanity back to the Garden and teach us how to love again. It's dark days for the children of God, but the flame of hope is still flickering like a candle that can never be extinguished.

The Return

After 70 years, the Jews are allowed to return and rebuild Jerusalem. This time, they must do whatever they can to remain faithful to God. This means an extreme separation from the outsiders who introduced false idols into the worship of the one true God. The Temple is rebuilt despite efforts to sabotage its reconstruction.

As we see in Ezra, it is because the Israelites were unfaithful to God that he was forced to teach them a lesson. God is ever faithful to the promise he made to His children, however. From the remnant that returns will come Messiah

to save them, in fulfillment of the Scriptures (remember the *protoevangelion*).

There are actually three returns, and the story doesn't entirely take place in the land of Canaan. Notice what the people are returning to in each of the three returns. How are they preparing themselves to receive the Messiah that Isaiah and the other prophets spoke of? Pay particular attention to how certain heroic people turn their backs to the crowds, to public opinion, and even to the threat of death to lead the Israelites through this period.

Maccabean Revolt

Yet again many Israelites deny God and follow the popular culture—this time, at the hands of the Greeks. But, as we read in the narrative book of 1st Maccabees, we are also given a picture of true hope. A small but faithful family stands up to the mighty Greek armies and leads a revolt that shows us what it means to have courage in the face of cultural pressures, temptations, and death. Before you read, be sure that you understand what Alexander the Great had done in conquering the known

world. What was the pressure to conform to the popular culture of the time? When Antiochus Epiphanes takes control and there is a concentrated effort to make the entire world Hellenistic (i.e., Greek in its language and customs), God saves the faithful of Israel through the rebellion of the few. Though a short time period—one filled with blood—we see the impact that a small group of people, focused on God, can have not only on their local region or culture, but on the entire world, for history.

TIME PERIOD(S) COVERED _____

WHERE WE ARE ON THE JOURNEY _____

OPENING QUESTION _____

VERSE TO REMEMBER _____

BREAKING IT DOWN

1. How many kingdoms are included in Daniel's vision to the king? _____
2. What happened to Daniel's three friends? _____
3. What is the name of Esther's uncle? _____
4. How did Esther demonstrate her humility and repentance to God? _____
5. What does the name "Maccabee" mean and why is it an appropriate name?

NOTES

LESSON 7:

JESUS AND THE GOSPELS: THE MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT

The Israelites seem to be lost with no hope in sight. They are slaves of the Roman Empire under Caesar Augustus, and they are under the thumb of King Herod the Great. He massacred children, murdered countless adults, and kept himself in power through bribes taken from taxing the visitors to the new Temple he was renovating in Jerusalem. The stage is set for the coming of the Messiah.

In Nazareth, a town of probably no more than 150 people, a young woman by the name of Mary is

about to be visited by an angel. She will conceive the one who will bring us back to the Garden, the one who will not just teach us but show us how to truly love again: the new Paschal Lamb, the Son of Man, the King of Kings, Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23). God comes "down" to take us "up." Pay attention to the importance of gardens: Gethsemane and the garden tomb. Remember God's plan on teaching us about perfect love?

TIME PERIOD(S) COVERED _____

WHERE WE ARE ON THE JOURNEY _____

OPENING QUESTION _____

VERSE TO REMEMBER _____

BREAKING IT DOWN

1. How many times did angels visit Joseph in his sleep? _____
2. What was the first miracle that Jesus performed and who asked Him to do it? _____
3. What happens during a year of jubilee (that Jesus announced)? _____
4. In what chapter of Matthew do we read of Jesus giving Peter "the keys" to the Kingdom? _____
5. What is a tabernacle, by definition? _____

the Great had done in conquering the known

teach us how to love again. It's dark days for the children of God, but the time has never been so still. Remember like a candle that can never be extinguished. How many kingdoms are there in the world? 2. What happened to Daniel's three friends? 3. What is the meaning of the word "jubilee"? 4. How did Jesus announce the Kingdom of God? 5. What are the three temptations, and the enemy does not enter into the heart of a man. Notice what the people are returning to each of the three tabernacles. How are they turning themselves away from the Messiah that Isaiah and the other prophets spoke of? They turn their backs to the Jews, to public opinion, and even to the threat of death to lead the Israelites through this period.

LESSON 8: THE EARLY CHURCH AND THE CHURCH TODAY

The final act begins with the Acts of the Apostles and continues still today. The kingdom of God is established, and its first years are filled with growth and hope. Keep in mind the Church's three stages of growth, through the Jews (Jerusalem) to the Gentiles (Judea and Samaria) and then to the whole world. God continues to walk with His people and guide them. As in the

Old Testament, there are times when people will fall away from God's will and selfishly succumb to sin. God continues to keep His promise, however, and the gates of hell will not prevail against his Church. The once-and-for-all covenant, in Jesus Christ and in the Eucharist, insures that "he will be with us until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

TIME PERIOD(S) COVERED _____

WHERE WE ARE ON THE JOURNEY _____

OPENING QUESTION _____

VERSE TO REMEMBER _____

BREAKING IT DOWN

1. What does the word "witness" (Acts 1:8) translate to mean? _____
2. What Old Testament event does Pentecost mirror yet "undo" or "counteract"? _____
3. How many days was Saul blind? _____
4. What does the word apostle mean, literally? _____
5. What is the third step of the Lectio Divina? _____