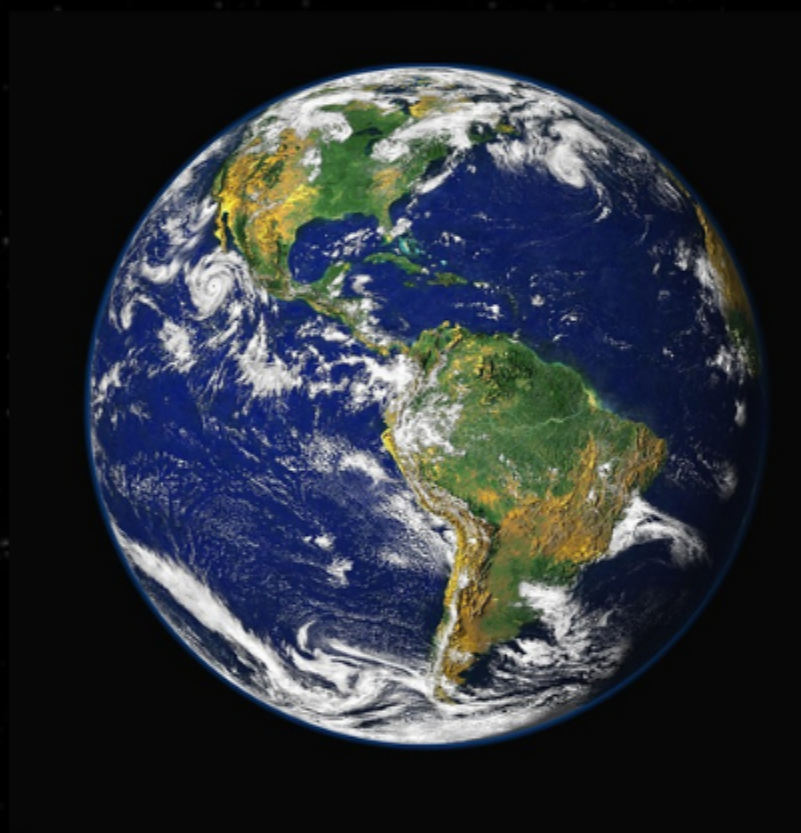


The Bible in Brief

**A Historical Summary of God's Story
From the Beginning to the End of Time**



Betty Johansen



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First Edition

You have purchased two versions of *The Bible in Brief*.

You are reading a PDF version now. It is a great version, BUT the links cannot be opened in a new window. As a result, every time you go to a link and then return to *The Bible in Brief*, it will have to reload. I have found that if I read the book in Chrome, the reload will always go to the top of the book, and I have to find where I left off. (Use the Table of Contents to shorten this procedure.) When I read *The Bible in Brief*, PDF version, in Edge, the reload takes me back to the place where I left off. So, I think you will find it simpler to use Edge as your browser when you read the PDF version.

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Notice: The flipbook version cannot be downloaded. But you can download the PDF, then access the flip version using the link. I have placed the link at the end of the book. If you navigate to PDF page 62, you will find it approximately in the middle of the page. It will look like this:

Flipbook Link

This book is dedicated with adoration and praise to
Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory,
who loves me and gave Himself for me.

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Intro



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This book is a brief synopsis of the Bible. I have skimmed over details and doctrines because my purpose is mainly to give a quick historical overview. My secondary purpose is to make clear the answers to some of the time-honored questions that everyone asks, such as “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” “Where did evil come from?”

I will even try to explain, in some small way, why God has done what He did in a couple of cases where He has been commonly libeled. I don’t delude myself that I can explain God. I can’t, and my explanations are admittedly superficial - God’s wisdom is infinitely over my head!

I hope this brief work will encourage you to study the whole Bible and discover its depth and richness.

Just to be sure we’re on the same page...

This summary leaves out *thousands* of details. If you want to know more about any part of God’s story, please read the “rest of the story.” My favorite online Bible is the **Blue Letter Bible**. When I cite a Scripture, I link it to that passage in the Blue Letter Bible. When you get to the BLB website, you can choose to read the Bible version of your choice.



One Person’s Opinion

Probably no book in history has been more discussed and argued over than the Bible. In the past, whole denominations have developed because people could not agree on their interpretations and applications of it.

It is not my purpose to present a biased view or to support a particular denomination. I just want to give you a quick picture of the Bible as a whole. Please keep in mind that my presentation of this detailed, complex work is simply one person’s understanding of it.



Disclaimer: I've had a lot of trouble convincing myself to click the "Publish" button on this book for two reasons: 1) I keep thinking of events that really shouldn't be left out, and 2) I'm worried that some concepts need to be explained better so they won't be misunderstood. Since my whole purpose in writing the book is brevity, I had to force myself to stop, even though there's much more to say.

Let me solve both of these problems with this disclaimer. I learned most of what I have written here in a Bible class I took in my public high school. (My mother, by the way, was the teacher.) She had students from many churches in her classes, and she did not teach doctrine. She taught the Bible as history.

I am trying to follow her example. My main goal is to relate a story at a high school level. If you're interested in a deep dive into hermeneutics, please don't look for it here. If you want a seminary education, you don't want a summary of the Bible. And don't base a doctrine on anything you read here. Any doctrine must comply with the whole Bible; it cannot be formed from a simple summary.

If, as you read, you think I'm trying to convince you to believe the Bible, please understand that it sounds that way because I believe the Bible. I'm not specifically trying to convince you; I'm only trying to report what the Bible says in an abbreviated form. (Of course, if you *want* to be convinced, I heartily recommend the book *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek.)



FYI, throughout this book, a **blue link** will take you to a passage of Scripture in the Blue Letter Bible. A **pink link** will take you to a website that I hope will clarify or amplify a particular concept I'm discussing.



Framework of the Bible

The Bible is a story. More specifically, it is a frame story in which one or more shorter tales are contained within the framework of one overarching story.

Would it surprise you to hear that the overarching story of the Bible is the story of Cosmic War?

God

The God of the Bible is infinitely powerful and infinitely intelligent. He is present everywhere in the universe. He has always existed. He will always exist. Therefore, I can't explain where God came from. Nobody can. I can only say that His eternal existence is a requisite part of the definition of "God."

Also, the God of the Bible is one God. Although He is ONE, He reveals Himself as a Trinity - as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God is perfectly good. He is holy. He cannot lie or be corrupted.

And He is the ONLY God. He has created lesser spiritual beings who are sometimes referred to as "gods." But these beings are not omnipotent. They are not omniscient. And they are not omnipresent. God, or Yahweh in Hebrew, is the one and only true God.



Photo credit: PhilipBarrington on pixabay

Genesis

The first book of the Bible is Genesis. Genesis discloses the history of origins, including the origin of humans. Genesis also introduces the reality of a Cosmic War.

A thorough understanding of the book of Genesis is the foundation for an accurate understanding of God's whole story.



Creation

If you're wondering why an eternal God suddenly decided to create humans, you're not the only one who wonders. The best answer I've heard to this question is that God's nature is Love. He has an infinity of Love to give, and He created people to be recipients of His Love.

Genesis 1 and **2** describe the creation of the world we live in. In six days, God created day and night; sky and sea; continents; plants; sun, moon, and stars; animals; and, last, the man and woman we know as Adam and Eve.

God formed Adam from the dust of the Earth, and He formed Eve from one of Adam's ribs. As He worked, He created these humans in His own image. Then, He told them they were to rule over His creation.

God rested on the seventh day.

