

# KNOW YOUR BIBLE

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Each chapter in this book relates to a book in the Bible as shown on page 3. Match the colour of the chapter headings to the colour of the books on page 3.



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## SECTION 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT

# What is The First Book of The Bible?

The very first book of the Bible is the **Book of Genesis**. It is not a history or science book, but a book about beginnings. It tells stories of God's Creation of the world and all that is in it. All of God's Creation is named as 'good'.

### Q: What is the Creation story in Genesis?

Genesis begins with two different stories of Creation.

The first story in Genesis 1: 1-2:3, gives us a very ordered story of Creation over seven days. We may be familiar with this story:

#### THE SEVEN DAYS OF THE CREATION STORY

1 On the first day, God created light. Genesis 1:3-4

2 On the second day, God created the sky. Genesis 1:6, 8

3 On the third day, God created dry land and the plants. Genesis 1-9, 11

4 On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars. Genesis 1:14, 16

5 On the fifth day, God created the fish and the birds. Genesis 1:20

6 On the sixth day, God created animals of all kinds and human beings. Genesis 1:24, 26, 27, 31

7 On the seventh day, God rested. Genesis 2:1-2

The very first line is:  
In the beginning  
when God created  
the heavens and  
the earth.  
**Genesis 1:1**



At the end of each day, we are told that God's Creation was good and on the sixth day, Creation is described as 'very good'. Gen 1:31

Note that the number 7 is a special biblical number that speaks of completion and of what is perfect.

#### The second story of Creation:

In Genesis 2:4-25, the Creation story tells us of how God created the first man, Adam and the first woman, Eve. The Hebrew word for earth is *Adamah*, and God creates the first man from the earth.

This story or account looks at the relationship between God and humans and our responsibility to care for the earth and all that God had created. As part of God's Creation, Adam and Eve are called to tend God's Garden of Eden. In verses 10-14 we are given a description of this garden and the rivers that bound it. If we look at a modern-day map, showing the places around Turkey, Iran and Iraq, we can find both the rivers Tigris and the Euphrates.

It is here in this Garden of Eden that Adam and Eve are tempted to disobey God, wanting to be greater than God. Their disobedience leads to them being sent out from the garden, having to learn how to work and struggle to survive.

Then the lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. **Gen 2:7**



**Q: Who were Jacob's twelve sons?**

Jacob had 12 sons who later became the 12 tribes of Israel.

**The twelve tribes of Israel**

Jacob's twelve sons were the fathers of the original twelve tribes of Israel.



Jacob

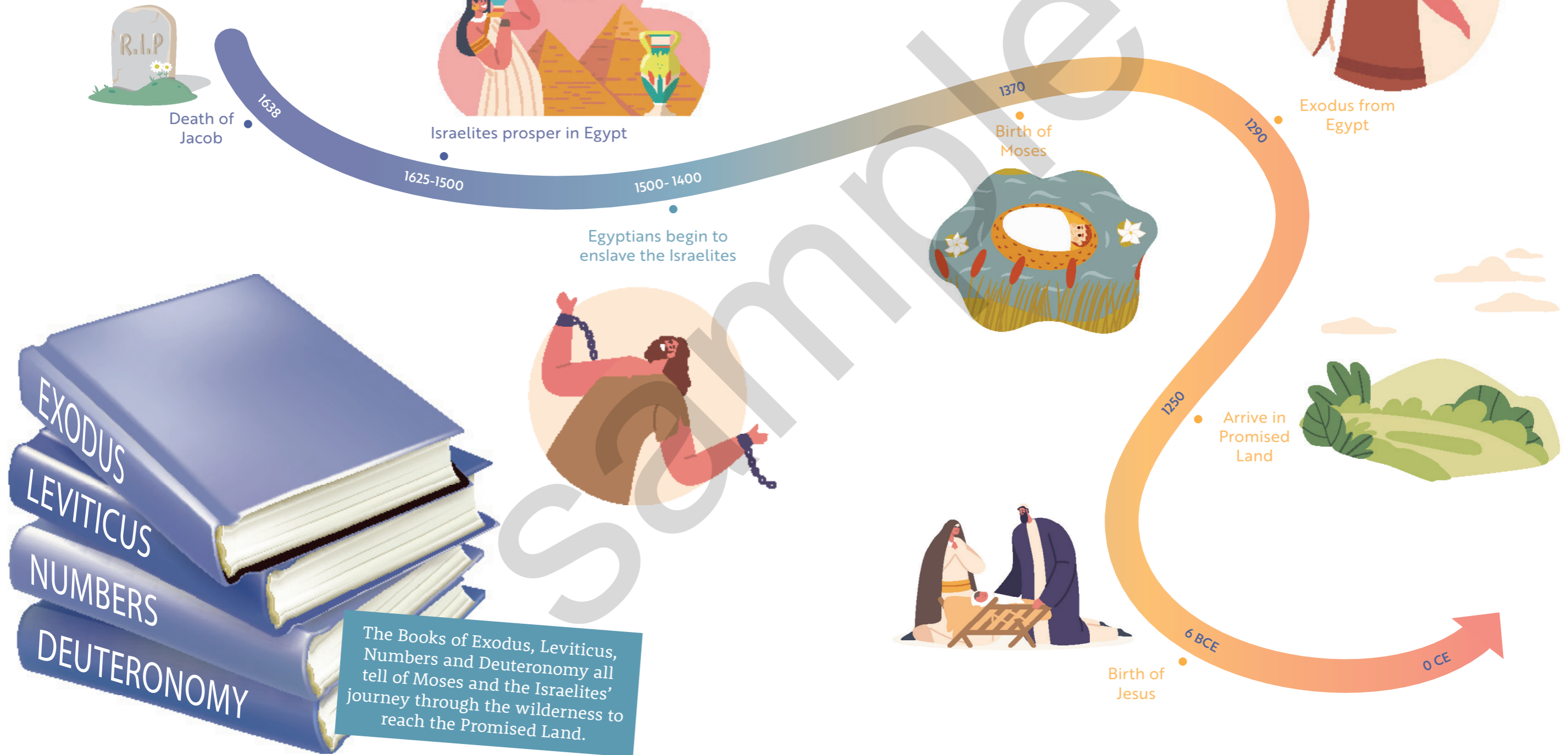
- Reuben
- Simeon
- Ephraim \*
- Judah
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Dan
- Naphtali
- Gad
- Asher
- Manasseh \*
- Benjamin

\*Joseph and Asenath's sons



This map shows the division of the Promised Land to the children of Israel.

# How Did Moses Reach The Promised Land?



## SECTION 2: THE NEW TESTAMENT

# Who Wrote the Gospels and Why?

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, THE GOSPEL OF MARK, THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, ACTS, THE LETTERS, REVELATION

If we were to list the four gospels in the order in which they were written, it would be Mark: 65–70 CE; Matthew: 80–100 CE; Luke: 70–80 CE; John: 90–100 CE.

**1st** Mark: 65–70 CE

**2nd** Matthew: 80–100 CE

**3rd** Luke: 70–80 CE

**4th** John: 90–100 CE

They were written to help their communities know the story of Jesus, what he taught, what he did, the why of his crucifixion and death and their belief in his Resurrection. They were written to enable the communities to believe in Jesus and to follow his way of life.

Although each gospel was written during different time periods and in different historical situations and places, they have similar stories and ideas of Jesus' life, his works and his teachings.



All four gospels, each in their own way, tell us of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, his last days, his final meal with his apostles followed by his arrest, death on the cross and the joy of his Resurrection. Within the Christian tradition, we follow this journey in Holy Week.



### Q: How are the gospels different?

The gospels, like other books within the Bible, began as oral storytelling – that is, they were stories that were remembered and passed from person to person, told and retold. Most of the population at this time didn't know how to read or write. These stories were later collected and written down for a particular community, in a particular place responding to the needs of the community.

