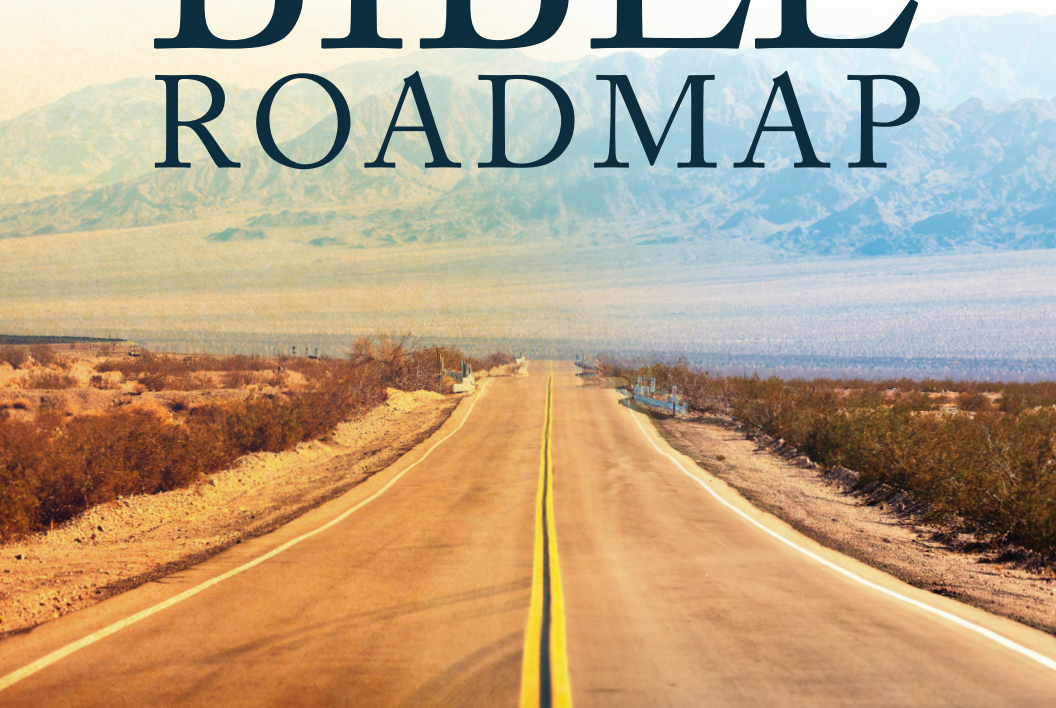
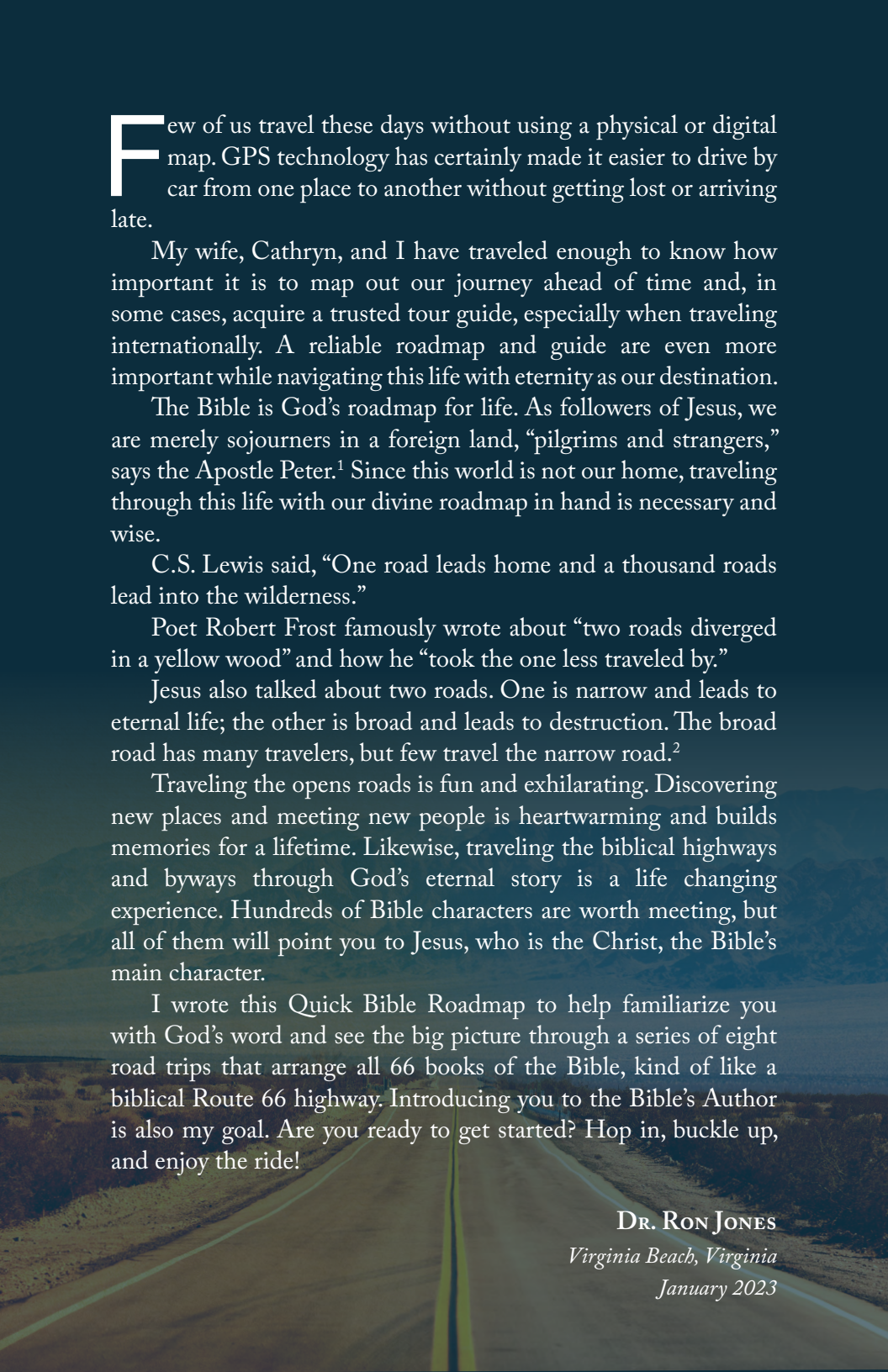


RON JONES

Author of *The Ultimate Road Trip Through the Bible*

Quick
BIBLE
ROADMAP





Few of us travel these days without using a physical or digital map. GPS technology has certainly made it easier to drive by car from one place to another without getting lost or arriving late.

My wife, Cathryn, and I have traveled enough to know how important it is to map out our journey ahead of time and, in some cases, acquire a trusted tour guide, especially when traveling internationally. A reliable roadmap and guide are even more important while navigating this life with eternity as our destination.

The Bible is God's roadmap for life. As followers of Jesus, we are merely sojourners in a foreign land, "pilgrims and strangers," says the Apostle Peter.¹ Since this world is not our home, traveling through this life with our divine roadmap in hand is necessary and wise.

C.S. Lewis said, "One road leads home and a thousand roads lead into the wilderness."

Poet Robert Frost famously wrote about "two roads diverged in a yellow wood" and how he "took the one less traveled by."

Jesus also talked about two roads. One is narrow and leads to eternal life; the other is broad and leads to destruction. The broad road has many travelers, but few travel the narrow road.²

Traveling the opens roads is fun and exhilarating. Discovering new places and meeting new people is heartwarming and builds memories for a lifetime. Likewise, traveling the biblical highways and byways through God's eternal story is a life changing experience. Hundreds of Bible characters are worth meeting, but all of them will point you to Jesus, who is the Christ, the Bible's main character.

I wrote this Quick Bible Roadmap to help familiarize you with God's word and see the big picture through a series of eight road trips that arrange all 66 books of the Bible, kind of like a biblical Route 66 highway. Introducing you to the Bible's Author is also my goal. Are you ready to get started? Hop in, buckle up, and enjoy the ride!

DR. RON JONES

Virginia Beach, Virginia

January 2023

ROAD TRIP 1

The Books *of the* Law

Our first road trip along the biblical Route 66 focuses on the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch, the books of the law. They include Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Jews refer to them as the written Torah.

Genesis reveals the beginning of all things. Exodus tells the story of the Hebrew people's emancipation from Egyptian slavery, a picture of eternal salvation and our escape from sin's bondage. With multiple foreshadows of the coming Messiah, Leviticus is a handbook on holiness for the priests who served God in the tabernacle. Numbers records the wilderness wanderings of the Hebrew people while on their way to the Promised Land. Finally, Deuteronomy, meaning "second law," contains several speeches Moses delivered to the next generation of Israelites, reminding them about the laws of God before the conquest of Canaan.

These books, especially Genesis, are attacked and maligned by skeptics who deny the supernatural assumption in the first ten words of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Modern ears also find the Ten Commandments, which

Road Trip 1: **THE BOOKS OF THE LAW**

God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, burdensome, while believers in all generations receive them as blessings. The best scholarship, though challenged by the same skeptics, says Moses penned this robust library under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit nearly thirty-five hundred years ago. These ancient writings have stood the test of time because they are God's holy word.

Overview of **THE BOOKS OF THE LAW**

BOOKS	<i>Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy</i>
THEME	<i>The beginning of all things, God's law, and the Messianic promises made to the patriarchs</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>The Hebrew people</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Moses</i>
GENRE	<i>Historic Narrative</i>
TIMELINE	<i>4000 BC to 1400 BC</i>

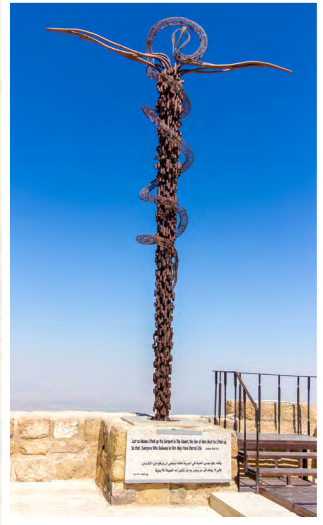
Did you know?

Three months after they escaped Egyptian slavery, the Hebrew people arrived at Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two clay tablets.

PLACE TO VISIT

Mount Nebo

Mount Nebo, located in Jordan (formerly Moab), is the place where God granted Moses a view of the Promised Land before he died. A brazen serpent sculpture located near a monument atop Mount Nebo remembers Moses's death with a stunning view across the Jordan River valley toward the Dead Sea. On a clear day, one can see the West Bank, Jericho, and Jerusalem.



Question

TO PONDER

How does Genesis answer the big questions about your identity, origin, purpose, and destiny?

ROAD TRIP 2

The Old Testament Historical Books

Our second road trip along the biblical Route 66 focuses on twelve Old Testament Historical Books, which include Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

The twelve historical books focus on the conquest and settling of Canaan under Joshua's leadership, the rise of the Davidic monarchy, the dividing of the twelve tribes of Israel into two kingdoms (Northern and Southern), the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, and the return to the Promised Land.

These twelve books cover approximately 1000 years and put on display the good, the bad, and the ugly of Israel's spiritual history. The kings in the Northern Kingdom (known as Israel) mostly followed in the evil footsteps of a wicked monarch named Jeroboam, who lured Israel into generational idolatry. The Assyrian invasion forever scattered the ten tribes that went north. Southern Kingdom monarchs were mixed morally. However, God preserved the Davidic dynasty in the Southern Kingdom (known as Judah) and, thus, the Messianic line. After the Babylonian exile, Judah returned to Jerusalem, reestablished worship, and rebuilt the Jewish temple—all under the excellent leadership of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel.

Road Trip 2: THE OLD TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BOOKS

In a 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Winston Churchill paraphrased George Santayana when he said, “Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.” The adage certainly applies to Israel’s spiritual history recorded in the Old Testament for our learning. Like the Books of the Law, these ancient writings have also stood the test of time because they are God’s holy word.

Overview of THE OLD TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BOOKS

BOOKS	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther</i>
THEME	<i>The continuation and presentation of God’s redemption story and Messianic promise to Israel through her history</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>The Hebrew people</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Various authors include Joshua, Samuel, Gad, Nathan, Ezra, and anonymous</i>
GENRE	<i>Primarily historic narrative, plus poetry, genealogy, prayer, prophecy, letter, and covenant</i>
TIMELINE	<i>1400 BC to 450 BC</i>

Did you know?

Esther does not mention God, which leads some people to question why the Old Testament canon includes the book about a queen who served “for such a time as this.” However, Esther reminds us that God’s work is not always as obvious as a miracle. Sometimes God operates providentially or behind the scenes, as He did by elevating Queen Esther and rescuing the Jews from Haman’s planned holocaust.

PLACE TO VISIT

Tel Dan

In northern Israel, Tel Dan is a beautiful nature reserve with streams that feed half of the Jordan River. There, you will also discover rare archeology that dates to an ancient Canaanite civilization, including a stunning triple-arched Middle Bronze Age gate. A wicked king named Jeroboam built an altar in the Northern Kingdom, luring the Israelites into idolatry for generations. “From Dan to Beersheba” describes the entire land of Israel from north to south.



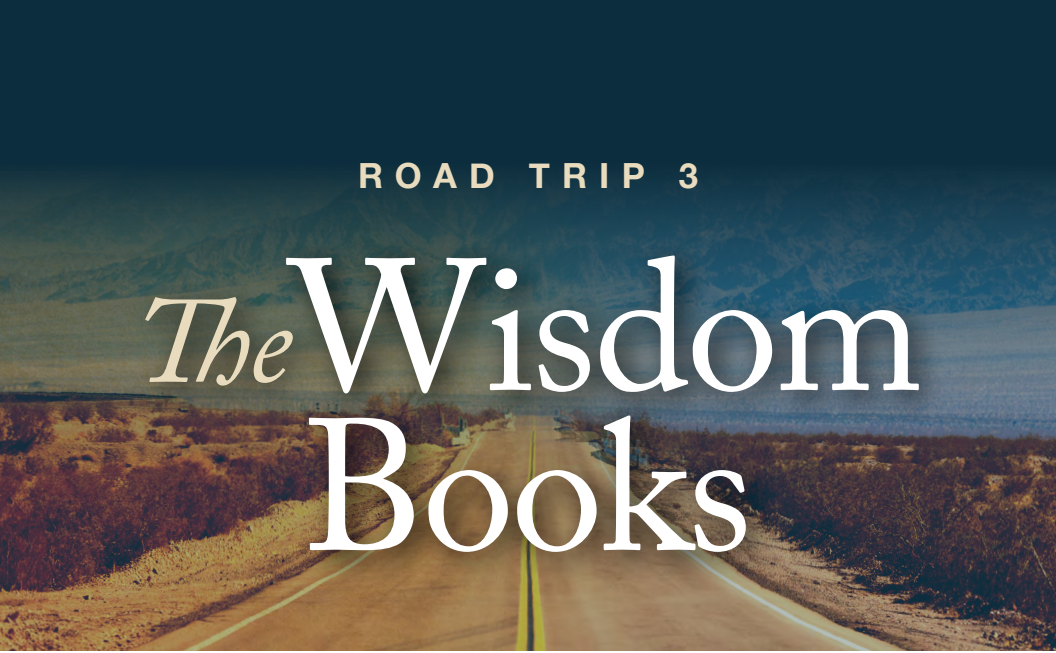
Question

T O P O N D E R

King David is a major figure in Old Testament history who acted graciously to others, even his enemies. How does the grace of God flow through your life to others?

ROAD TRIP 3

The Wisdom Books



Our third road trip focuses on five Old Testament Wisdom Books, which include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. More than mere knowledge or education, wisdom is the ability to apply truth skillfully to life.

Thus, Job is God's wisdom during times of pain and suffering. Psalms is God's wisdom for our vertical relationship with God, while Proverbs is divine wisdom for the life we live horizontally. Ecclesiastes is God's wisdom about the ultimate meaning of life. Finally, the Song of Solomon is God's wisdom about love, marriage, sex, and romantic relationships. This small library of divine wisdom is a treasury worth reading repeatedly.

The book of James tells us to ask God for wisdom if we lack it. When we ask, we should ask in unwavering faith (1:5-8). Like Proverbs, James, which is New Testament wisdom literature, also differentiates between divine and earthly wisdom (3:13-18). Proverbs lays out the wise and foolish paths in life. Do you know and recognize the difference?

Overview of **THE WISDOM BOOKS**

BOOKS	<i>Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon</i>
THEME	<i>The wisdom of God skillfully applied to all areas of life, vertically and horizontally.</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>The Hebrew people</i>
AUTHOR	<i>David and other psalmists, Solomon; the author of Job is uncertain</i>
GENRE	<i>Poetry, proverb</i>
TIMELINE	<i>1410 to 430 BC; the date of Job is uncertain</i>

Did you know?

Called the “Mount Everest of the Psalms,” Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses. Divided into twenty-two stanzas, the 176 verses also form an alphabetic acrostic with one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Within each stanza, each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter, making it a poetic masterpiece. Every verse in Psalm 119 exalts the word of God and the God of the word.

PLACE TO VISIT

En Gedi

Known as the “back door” to Jerusalem, Ein Gedi (“spring of the goat”) is a popular nature reserve and oasis located on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert and near the Dead Sea. When you arrive, follow a short trail to enjoy the beautiful waterfalls in the middle of the desert. One of the falls is well worth the short climb that it requires. Look for the ibex (wild goats) that have made this region their home since the time of King David. Also, gaze at hundreds of caves in the cliffs that made it easy for David to hide from King Saul (1 Samuel 23:29).



Question

T O P O N D E R

How has God’s wisdom influenced a recent decision you made?

The Major Prophets

Our fourth road trip focuses on the Major Prophets and their writings: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. These books are called “major” due to their length, compared to the shorter writings of the twelve Minor Prophets, which are equally impactful. The Old Testament prophets arose during the ministry of Samuel, who began the first school for prophets (1 Samuel 19:18-24). There were many more prophets who spoke into Israel’s national life than the sixteen who contributed to the canon of Scripture.

God sent prophets with messages that called Israel, His wayward bride, to repentance. The Old Testament prophets ministered before, during, and after Israel’s Babylonian exile. Of the Major Prophets, Isaiah is the only one who served God during the pre-exile period, warning the Israelites of coming judgment if they persisted in their idolatrous ways. The rest lived and delivered their stern messages during the exile, always inserting hope into the hearts of God’s chosen people.

Prophets called by God delivered both forthtelling and foretelling messages. In a forthtelling manner, the spirit of the prophetic office is still active in the church today through the bold proclamation of God’s word (Ephesians 4:11).

Overview of **THE MAJOR PROPHETS**

BOOKS	<i>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel</i>
THEME	<i>Sorrow and judgment over Judah's departure from the Lord, and prophetic promise if they repent and return to God</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>Israel and Judah</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel</i>
GENRE	<i>Historic narrative, prophecy</i>
TIMELINE	<i>740 to 537 BC</i>

Did you know?

God told Isaiah to walk around naked and barefoot for three years as a sign of shame against Egypt and Cush.³ God also told Jeremiah to wear his underwear but never wash it as a sign that pride had spoiled Judah.⁴

PLACE TO VISIT

Mount Carmel

About one hour north of Tel Aviv is a beautiful range with lush, evergreen forests and steep ravines known as Mount Carmel. The area is most famous for the contest between the prophet Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The Muchraka, a Carmelite monastery, commemorates the biblical scene recorded in 1 Kings 18 by including a large statue of the fiery prophet. Muchraka is an Arabic word that means “a place of burning,” reminiscent of the fire Elijah called down from heaven to defeat the false prophets and claim victory over their gods.



Question

T O P O N D E R

Read Lamentations 3:22-23. Written by Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, Lamentations is a collection of pensive poems. How have you experienced God’s faithfulness during the saddest times of your life?



The Minor Prophets

Completing the Old Testament, our fifth road trip along the ultimate road trip through the Bible focuses on the Minor Prophets and their writings: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. These books are called “minor” due to their length, compared to the longer writings of the four Major Prophets.

The Minor Prophets can appear harsh and judgmental upon the first reading, laying shame upon those who departed from God’s grace. However, in various ways, these brave messengers of Yahweh faithfully delivered God’s word to ancient, wayward Israel by saying, “Return to the Lord your God!” All but Obadiah offer hope to God’s chosen people if they repent and turn back to Him. Obadiah’s prophecy, the exception, predicts the final doom of Edom, Esau’s descendants, because of the way they treated generations of Jacob’s descendants. Time and God’s patience ran out on Edom, a stern warning to nations today.

A study of the Minor Prophets reveals the seriousness of sin, the need for repentance, and the real hope found in obedience to God and His commands. We need to hear their proclamations today.

Overview of **THE MINOR PROPHETS**

BOOKS	<i>Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</i>
THEME	<i>Repent and return to the Lord Your God!</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>Israel and Judah</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</i>
GENRE	<i>Historic narrative, prophecy, songs, sermons, and poetry</i>
TIMELINE	<i>841 to 435 BC</i>

Did you know?

The Minor Prophets are known for their forceful pronouncements, calling God's wayward people back to Him. However, these Old Testament firebrands are full of gracious invitations to repent, return to God, and enjoy divine blessings again. The only Minor Prophet that does not offer a pathway back to God is Obadiah, who delivered God's final doom to the Edomites, Esau's descendants, because of the violence they did to Jacob's descendants.

PLACE TO VISIT

Petra

The Edomites settled in a mountainous region south of the Dead Sea called Mount Seir, of which Petra (Sela) was the capital, also known as the “Rose City” for the beautiful, red-colored rock from which the builders carved the ancient city.⁵ Petra is nearly impregnable by enemy armies because of the single entrance to the city, a narrow crevice called the Siq that meanders for nearly one mile through towering mountain walls. The film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* features the Siq and Petra’s treasury building. *Smithsonian Magazine* lists Petra (one of the “Seven Wonders of the World”) as one of twenty-eight places you should visit before you die.



Question

T O P O N D E R

The spirit of the prophets is still active in the church today through the bold proclamation of God’s word. Do you have ears to hear the Minor Prophets? If not, why?

ROAD TRIP 6

The Gospels *and the* Early Church

The New Testament begins with four portraits of Jesus Christ, followed by an anthology of the early church, known as the Acts of the Apostles. Like four journalists reporting on the same story but from a different angle, Matthew Mark, Luke, and John present Jesus as the Christ to different audiences—Jews, Romans, Greeks, and the Church, respectively. Matthew presents Jesus as King of the Jews; Mark presents Jesus as Jehovah’s Servant; Luke portrays Jesus as the perfect God-man, with an emphasis on His humanity; John gives us many reasons to believe “the Word was God” (John 1:2).

The first three books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—are known as the Synoptic Gospels due to their similarity in content, order, and statement. Some scholars raise the “Synoptic Problem.” They try to explain the similarities and differences in Matthew, Mark, and Luke by introducing a supposed “source” document they call “Q,” from the German word *quell*, which means “source.”

The problem with the Synoptic Problem is that there is no evidence for the Q document, not even a scant scrap of a manuscript. So how do we explain the synopsis in the first three

Gospels? Since the same Holy Spirit inspired each of the Gospels written about the same Jesus, we should expect consistency and continuity. Notwithstanding, Luke freely admits to using sources from eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-4). If Mark wrote the first Gospel, even with the help of Peter, Matthew and Luke could have used portions of Mark in their writings.⁶

C.S. Lewis famously offered the following ‘trilemma’ about Jesus in response to the way the Gospels present Him. Because Jesus claimed to be God and the Messiah, He is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. Modern critics of Christianity offer a fourth consideration, suggesting the Gospels are legends. This option puts forth the idea that the early Christians glorified Jesus by inflating the stories they wrote about him, making Him appear divine and messianic. The problem with the legend hypothesis is that people are not willing to suffer and die to simply perpetuate a legend. Regarding the so-called legend about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which all four Gospel writers record, Chuck Colson famously quipped:

I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because twelve men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for forty years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled twelve of the most powerful men in the world, and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me twelve apostles could keep a lie for forty years? Absolutely impossible.

Though attacked vigorously by skeptics of the Christian faith, the Gospels have stood the test of time. They are the historically reliable sources of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ; likewise, it seems dubious to me that anyone who lived centuries later could offer a more accurate record. The nearness of the Gospel writings to the actual events makes them trustworthy. Also, Matthew and John were Jesus's disciples, making them eyewitnesses of His majesty, as Peter exclaims (2 Peter 1:16).

Road Trip 6: THE GOSPELS AND THE EARLY CHURCH

Furthermore, though Mark was not one of the Twelve, he apparently used Peter as his primary source, which adds apostolic authority to his writing. Think of Mark's gospel as Peter's memoirs. Luke, the physician and traveling companion of the Apostle Paul, interviewed eyewitnesses, carefully researching his two-volume work (Luke-Acts) with the precision of a scientist.

Overview of THE GOSPELS AND THE EARLY CHURCH

BOOKS	<i>Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts of the Apostles</i>
THEME	<i>The life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the start of the early church</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>Matthew writes to the Jews, Mark writes to the Romans, Luke writes to the Greeks and Theophilus, and John writes to everyone.</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John</i>
GENRE	<i>Historic narrative and gospel</i>
TIMELINE	<i>50s to 90s AD</i>

Did you know?

*After the Apostle Paul, John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, is the most prolific writer in the New Testament, having penned *The Gospel According to John*, three epistles, and *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.*

PLACE TO VISIT



Gethsemane

Parallel to the eastern slope of Jerusalem and across the Kidron Valley, Gethsemane is a metropolitan garden of beautiful olive trees located on the Mount of

Olives. According to all four gospels, it is the place where Jesus prayed with His disciples on the night before He was crucified. He was also arrested there. The word Gethsemane means “oil press” in Aramaic, suggesting not only the presence of olive trees but also an olive press.

Question

T O P O N D E R

After reading Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
who do you say Jesus is?

The Pauline Epistles

Thirteen letters written by the Apostle Paul (also Saul of Tarsus) form a significant library in the New Testament known as the Pauline Epistles. The fact that these foundational documents of Christianity are letters, not catechisms or dry theological theses, is significant and unique among the world religions.

Letter writing conveys warmth, passion, energy, and freshness that is missing in a theological textbook or formal statement of faith. The author's personality also emerges in an epistle. The fact that Paul writes most of his letters to a church or pastor means the Pauline Epistles deliver Christian doctrine in the context of real, life-giving congregations of people who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, love God and people, serve one another, enjoy biblical community, and live out their faith authentically. A personal epistle is the best way for a thoughtful and pastoral theologian to deliver the doctrines of our living faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ.

In the order in which they appear in the Bible's New Testament, the Pauline Epistles include Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Thessalonians, Second Thessalonians, First Timothy, Second

Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Smaller collections within the Pauline Epistles include the Pastoral Epistles (First Timothy, Second Timothy, and Titus) and the Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon).

Pauline Theology (not to be confused with “Pauline Christianity”—the unbiblical idea that Paul’s New Testament teaching conflicts with the Gospels) forms our understanding of justification by faith, sanctification, glorification, redemption, and reconciliation—all of it in perfect harmony with all Scripture, which is “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Paul, the apostle of grace, also addresses thorny theological ideas like predestination, election, and foreknowledge. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul waxes eloquently on the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, judgement seat of Christ, and glorious two-stage return of Jesus Messiah at the end of the age, beginning with the Rapture of the Church. He writes plainly about salvation, the church, and the Christian life.

Overview of **THE PAULINE EPISTLES**

BOOKS	<i>Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon</i>
THEME	<i>Salvation, grace, faith, sanctification, and how one lives the Christian life, inside and outside the church</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>Various churches Paul planted and three individuals: Timothy, Titus, Philemon</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Paul</i>
GENRE	<i>Epistle</i>
TIMELINE	<i>49 to 67 AD</i>

Did you know?

The Apostle Paul and Saul of Tarsus are the same person. Saul was his Jewish/Hebrew name, derived from Israel's first king, who was likewise from the tribe of Benjamin. However, Paul was his Hellenistic/Greek name, derived from the Latin name Paulus. This was not uncommon among Greek-speaking Jews in the first century. When Saul began his ministry to the Gentiles, it was natural for him to use his Greek name. Thus, Jesus did not change Saul's name to Paul on the road to Damascus, which is a common misunderstanding.

PLACE TO VISIT

Tre Fontane

Located outside the boundaries of ancient Rome, Tre Fontane Abbey, also known as The Church of Saint Paul at the Three Fountains, is the place that commemorates the Apostle Paul's martyrdom. Tradition says that because Paul was a Roman citizen he was beheaded, not crucified, by Emperor Nero's order. Belonging to the Trappist order, the abbey is run by the Cistercian monks, who raise lambs and use their wool to weave a narrow band worn by priests during liturgical services.



Question TO PONDER

Which of Paul's epistles is most compelling to you and why?



The General Epistles *and* Revelation

The General Epistles include the following eight books: Hebrews, James, First Peter, Second Peter, First John, Second John, Third John, and Jude. The book of Revelation follows Jude and concludes the New Testament canon.

The General Epistles, which offer strong objections to false teachers, are called general because the writers—James, Peter, John, and Jude—address general or “catholic” audiences, unlike the Apostle Paul who wrote his letters to specific, recognizable people and churches. James writes “to the twelve tribes of the Dispersion” (James 1:1), and Peter writes “to those who are the elect exiles of the Dispersion” (First Peter 1:1).

The Apostle John writes his third epistle to Gaius, which makes Third John the exception to the general audience rule. Revelation stands alone because of its unique writing style and apocalyptic content, although John writes generally to seven first-century churches located in Asia Minor: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

Two of the authors—James and Jude—were the half-brothers of Jesus. As two of Jesus’s disciples who saw the risen Savior, Peter and John wrote with apostolic authority. The human author who penned Hebrews is not known emphatically.

Overview of **THE GENERAL EPISTLES AND REVELATION**

BOOKS	<i>Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude, and Revelation</i>
THEME	<i>Faith, hope, love, and end times</i>
AUDIENCE	<i>The Dispersion (those scattered by persecution), house churches near Ephesus, Gaius, the elect lady, and the seven churches of Asia Minor</i>
AUTHOR	<i>Peter, John, James, Jude, and anonymous</i>
GENRE	<i>Epistle, apocalyptic</i>
TIMELINE	<i>45 to 90 AD</i>

Did you know?

After the Apostle Paul, John, the beloved disciple, is the most prolific writer in the New Testament, having penned The Gospel According to John, three epistles, and The Revelation of Jesus Christ. He was part of Jesus's inner circle, which also included Peter and James, John's brother. John was also the last of the living apostles when he wrote The Revelation of Jesus Christ while imprisoned on the island of Patmos.

PLACE TO VISIT



Patmos

Persecuted for his Christian faith, the aged Apostle John was exiled to Patmos (95-97 A.D.), a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea. While imprisoned

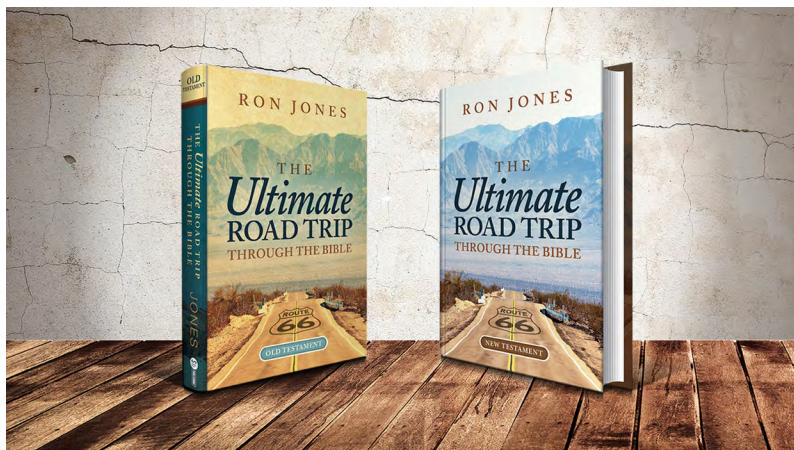
in the Cave of the Apocalypse, John received prophetic visions about the end of the age, which he recorded in a book called *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, the last book of the New Testament. The grotto is located about halfway up the mountain along the road between the two villages of Chóra and Skala, where you will also find a 10th century monastery and a carefully preserved museum.

Question TO PONDER

Both James and Peter write to people who had been scattered or dispersed by those who persecuted Christians. Consider their experience and isolation. How would the loss of Christian community impact you?

The Drive Home

Like a brief weekend getaway, I hope this Quick Bible Roadmap has refreshed your spirit, stirred your soul, and deepened your desire for more. A slower and more exhaustive series of biblical road trips is available in a 2-volume book I wrote called *The Ultimate Road Trip Through the Bible*. Volume 1 (374 pages) covers the 39 books of the Old Testament, and Volume 2 (272 pages) introduces the 27 New Testament books. Each book of the Bible receives its own chapter and small group discussion questions.



I encourage you to order your copy of *The Ultimate Road Trip Through the Bible* today and continue the journey through God's story. When you purchase both books, you will also receive unlimited access to the Route 66 Digital Library, which contains,

- 66 video sermons
- 66 audio messages
- 66 downloadable sermon notes
- 8 eBooks
- 8 online courses



I look forward to leading you on the ultimate road trip through the Bible and promise to make it an enjoyable experience. However, whether the road trip through God's word transforms your life depends on your response to the Author's salvation message.

The Bible is one continuous story about God's plan to redeem lost humanity. The divine story has one main character—Jesus, who is the Christ, the promised Messiah and Savior of the world. Each book of the Bible advances God's story and points the reader to Jesus. Every story within each book does the same thing. Keeping this in mind will help you get the most out of your spiritual journey through God's word.

One more thought. God loves you more than you can imagine. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 is the gospel of Jesus Christ in a nutshell.

As much as the Bible is a roadmap for life, it is also a love letter from God. *The Ultimate Road Trip Through the Bible* provides you with an overview of each book of the Bible. However, eventually you will want to read each book as though it is God’s love letter to you, because it is. Slow down, pour over, and ponder every word, phrase, and sentence to discover its meaning. Read it as though your life and eternity depend on responding to the Lover of your soul, because it does. If we can help you or answer a question, please contact us at Something Good. We are here to serve God and you.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ron Jones is a pastor, author, discipleship coach, and radio Bible teacher. For more than two decades, he has devoted his life to leading and preaching in the local church. He currently serves as lead pastor of Atlantic Shores Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he delivers his Bible teaching for everyday life.

Ron's ministry extends beyond the local church he serves through a daily radio broadcast heard around the world called Something Good with Dr. Ron Jones. Something Good Radio (est. 2011) exists to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, make disciples, and strengthen the body of Christ through life-changing Bible teaching.

A lifelong learner, Dr. Jones earned degrees from Purdue University, Dallas Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of *The Ultimate Road Trip Through the Bible (Vols. 1 and 2)* and *Mysteries of the Afterlife: Exploring Its Amazing Secrets*.

Through Something Good Travel, Ron and his wife, Cathryn, lead spiritual tours to biblical sites in Israel, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan. They have been married for 28 years and live five minutes from their happy place, the beach. They have two adult children.

ENDNOTES

- 1 1 Peter 2:11
- 2 Matthew 7:13-14
- 3 Isaiah 20:1-6
- 4 Jeremiah 13:1-11
- 5 Petra, also called Sela in the Bible, is Bozrah in the Hebrew language. Bozrah is located about 150 miles south
- 6 Modern scholarship says Mark wrote his Gospel first, although the early church fathers report that Matthew wrote first.