Books of the Bible Overview

Old Testament Book Summaries

Book Name: Genesis

Genre: Torah, historical narrative

Summary: Genesis tells the beginnings of humanity. God creates the world and everything in it, with humankind as the crown of His creation. Humans were made in God's image to fellowship with Him and steward His creation, but their sin separated them from Him. God then promises a Savior who will deliver people from sin and death and restore their fellowship with Him. The promise which reverses sin and death will come through a descendent of Abraham. Abraham believes this promise, and his grandson's twelve sons (the twelve tribes of Israel) eventually settle in Egypt. **Theological Themes:** origins, God's promises, God's character, the nature of humankind, theocracy

Book Name: Exodus

Genre: Torah, historical narrative

Summary: Exodus, which means "exit" or "going out," tells the story of the creation of Israel as a nation. God delivered His people from bondage and established them as His promised people from whom salvation would eventually come.

Theological Themes: deliverance, power, giving of the Law, presence of God, tabernacle

Book Name: Leviticus

Genre: Torah

Summary: Leviticus centers on how to approach the holy God on His terms—that of blood sacrifice (the substitution of life for life) and on how to continue in fellowship with Him in all areas of life.

Theological Themes: instruction, purity, holiness, Law giving

Book Name: Numbers

Genre: Torah, historical narrative

Summary: Numbers records the Israelites' journey in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land, the place of mission for God's people. On the journey. they learn to respond to problems in faith and obedience or in mistrust and disobedience. Theological Themes: journeys, perseverance, Hebrew census, wilderness wanderings, faith of the sojourner

Book Name: Deuteronomy

Genre: Torah, historical narrative

Summary: Deuteronomy is Moses's farewell address to the people of Israel. It is his restatement of covenant life with the Lord—of a choice to love and obey Him. Theological Themes: obedience, preparation

Book Name: Joshua

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: Joshua tells the story of how the Israelites began to fulfill their mission from the Lord, that of possessing the Promised Land, the place of rest and inheritance. The Israelites conquer and divide the land according to God's designs for distributing enough space for each family to live, minister, and enjoy God's blessings through the courage of their faith.

Theological Themes: conquest, God's promises, faith, courage, deliverance

Book Name: Judges

Genre: historical narrative, apologetic

Summary: Judges details the cyclic failure of God's people to continue operating in His promise. They do not follow the Lord's directives, but instead pursue their own interests. The cycle follows a pattern of salvation—spiritual slumber—sin—servitude—sorrow—supplication—return to salvation again. This book serves as an apologetic for why Israel needs a king.

Theological Themes: moral deterioration, rebellion, Israel's history

Book Name: Ruth

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: Ruth is a Gentile (non-Jew) in the line of the Davidic king, the promised Savior and Messiah. Her story is one in which God's grace, combined with Ruth's faithfulness, shows the landowner Boaz to be a model of the coming Savior. Theological Themes: redemption, the ancestry of David (who leads eventually to Christ, as evidenced in the New Testament), faith of the sojourner

Book Name: 1 Samuel

Genre: historical narrative, apologetic

Summary: First Samuel shows the uniting and organizing of the tribes of Israel. Their organization establishes Israel as a kingdom beginning with the prophet Samuel and with king Saul.

Theological Themes: transition, godly priorities, obedience

Book Name: 2 Samuel

Genre: historical narrative, apologetic

Summary: Second Samuel details David's rise to kingship and hinges on God's promise in chapter 7 that one of David's descendants would be the Promised One who would establish God's eternal kingdom. This book hinges on the rebellion of Absalom, son of King David, and this discord incites a failed open rebellion against his father. Theological Themes: unification, kingship, the origins of the Messiah's royal line, obedience

Book Name: 1 Kings

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: First Kings highlights the kingship of Solomon, a son of David, who built God's temple—the one place where the God of Israel would manifest His presence. After temple construction, the Kingdom splits North (Israel) and South (Judah). First Kings chronicles the kings up to Jehoshaphat (Israel) and Ahaziah (Judah). The prophets call people in both kingdoms to repentance in light of God's coming judgment.

Theological Themes: disruption, obedience, unification

Book Name: 2 Kings

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: Second Kings details the rise and fall of the remainder of the kings until the Northern Kingdom was taken captive by Assyria and later, the southern kingdom was taken captive by Babylon. In both cases, captivity was due to the people's unfaithfulness to the Lord and His covenant.

Theological Themes: dispersion, disobedience, obedience

Book Name: 1 Chronicles

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: First Chronicles revisits the blessed reign of King David to remind God's people of their connection to their ancestors and the covenant which they followed. This book emphasizes the centrality of temple worship to Israelite life. Theological Themes: Israel's and Judah's spiritual and physical history

Book Name: 2 Chronicles

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: Second Chronicles covers again the story of Solomon and the kings of Judah through their exile to Babylon and on to the edict of King Cyrus of Persia to return to their homeland. This book emphasizes the ensuing blessing that comes from seeking the Lord and the judgment that comes from rejecting Him. Theological Themes: Israel's and Judah's spiritual and physical history

Book Name: Ezra

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: In Ezra, the people of God return to their homeland to rebuild the temple under the direction of Governor Zerubbabel. Ezra leads the people in reform according to the covenant God made with them.

Theological Themes: restoration, return from captivity, temple rebuilding

Book Name: Nehemiah

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: Nehemiah, cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, returned to Jerusalem from Persian captivity to rebuild the city wall in a record fifty-two days. In the face of enemies threatening to disrupt the rebuilding process, Nehemiah mobilized the people and instituted reforms.

Theological Themes: reconstruction, perseverance, faith, divine favor

Book Name: Esther

Genre: historical narrative

Summary: God used Esther, a courageous Jewish woman, to save His people from annihilation in the Persian capital city of her time.

Theological Themes: preservation of the Jewish people

Book Name: Job

Genre: wisdom literature, poetry

Summary: Job gives the ultimate example of the suffering of righteous people: these people trust God though they do not understand all that is going on in and around them. They reveal God to be both all-powerful and all-loving, and they understand that suffering is not necessarily punishment.

Theological Themes: wisdom, suffering, God's sovereignty, pain

Book Name: Psalms

Genre: wisdom literature, poetry

Summary: Psalms is filled with poetic prayers, songs, and meditations of heartfelt response to the Lord and His promises in many different life situations from blessings to challenges.

Theological Themes: wisdom, deliverance, praise, justice, the goodness of God

Book Name: Proverbs

Genre: wisdom literature, poetry

Summary: Proverbs is a collection of sayings on God's wisdom. This book explains how to live in a practical, successful, healthy, blameless way in harmony with Him and others.

Theological Themes: wisdom, fear of the Lord, knowledge, discernment, spiritual and physical maturity, spiritual and physical growth

Book Name: Ecclesiastes

Genre: wisdom literature, poetry

Summary: Ecclesiastes is the human search for meaning. The wise King Solomon writes that he finds emptiness in a self-centered life and contrasts it with a lifestyle of wholeness and joy through the covenantal faith relationship with the Lord. Theological Themes: fear of the Lord, obedience, futility, fulfillment, pleasure, selfishness, purpose, vanity Book Name: Song of Solomon

Genre: wisdom literature, poetry

Summary: This book is a celebration of the beauty of human love expressed physically between a man and a woman in marriage. It presents marriage as a portrait of God's love.

Theological Themes: love, marriage, passion, sexuality

Book Name: Isaiah

Genre: major prophets

Summary: Isaiah centers on presenting a theology of the Holy Lord of Hosts. His prophecies emphasize judgment and restoration: judgment on pride and restoration for repentant people through the Servant-Messiah. As Isaiah looks forward to this restoration, he envisions future glory.

Theological Themes: salvation, glory, hope, prophecy

Book Name: Jeremiah

Genre: major prophets

Summary: Jeremiah, the longest book of the Bible, first gives warnings of judgment to God's people for breaking the covenant and then gives hope for a new covenant made possible by God's grace and accessed through repentance. Theological Themes: divine judgment, lamentation

Book Name: Lamentations

Genre: poetry

Summary: Lamentations is a funeral lament over the judgment on Jerusalem—its destruction—blended with hope in the Lord's faithful love. Theological Themes: lament, faithfulness, mercy

Book Name: Ezekiel

Genre: major prophets

Summary: Ezekiel details the departure of God's glory from His temple because of His people's idolatry. Ezekiel looks forward to the future when God gives His people a new heart with new and right desire.

Theological Themes: God's glory, visions, prophecy, warning, comfort

Book Name: Daniel

Genre: major prophets

Summary: The deeds and writings of Daniel emphasize God's sovereignty over history to fulfill His purpose: to have His kingdom rule over all kingdoms through His Messiah. Theological Themes: God's sovereignty, prophecy, history

Book Name: Hosea

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Hosea gives a living illustration through the prophet's relationship with his wife to detail Israel's adultery-like unfaithfulness and God's faithful love, both discipline-laden and unconditional.

Theological Themes: unfaithfulness, faithfulness, prophecy, relentless love

Book Name: Joel

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Joel first calls God's people to repentance in response to God's judgment, and then he issues a reversal of the judgment on the people and promises judgment on their enemies instead. In place of judgment on His people, God promises an outpouring of the Spirit.

Theological Themes: the day of the Lord, prophecy, judgment on God's people

Book Name: Amos

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Amos holds Israel accountable for breaking God's covenant through their social injustice.

Theological Themes: divine judgment, justice, prophecy, oppression, judgment on God's people plus neighboring nations

Book Name: Obadiah

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Obadiah issues a punishment to the Edomites, Esau's descendants, for their sins of violence against God's people, the descendants of Esau's brother. Jacob. Theological Themes: righteous judgment, enemy nations,

Book Name: Jonah

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Book of Jonah details God's mercy toward the repentant Gentiles of Nineveh despite the lack of mercy in His prophet Jonah, whose attitude represents that of Israel.

Theological Themes: God's grace despite His people's unforgiveness, bitterness, repentance, divine deliverance, compassion

Book Name: Micah

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Micah calls for judgment on the leaders of God's people in which they receive what they did to others. Then he issues the promise of the Lord's Davidic Ruler and Deliverer who will save the faithful remnant of God's people and restore peace. Theological Themes: divine justice, mercy, humility, judgment Book Name: Nahum Genre: minor prophets Summary: Nahum details the Lord's righteous judgment on Nineveh for its cruelty and idolatry and shares a message of comfort for Israel. Theological Themes: comfort, wrath

Book Name: Habakkuk Genre: minor prophets Summary: Habakkuk supplies the answer to the why questions of the ways of God in relation to evil and of the suffering of God's people: the righteous shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

Theological Themes: trust, God's sovereignty, patience, faith

Book Name: Zephaniah

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Zephaniah proclaims the Day of the Lord as a day of judgment on the idolaters of Judah and the other nations while offering restoration for the Lord's people as well.

Theological Themes: judgment

Book Name: Haggai

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Haggai encourages the Israelites to put God first and to finish rebuilding His temple, motivating them by the promise of God's glory.

Theological Themes: temple rebuilding, selfishness, purpose, renewal

Book Name: Zechariah

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Zechariah issues encouragement for God's people to keep building the temple through the power of His Spirit. This message is communicated through visions of how the Lord will preserve His faithful remnant and establish His kingdom through the humble Priest-King and Savior.

Theological Themes: God's deliverance, the Holy Spirit, restoration

Book Name: Malachi

Genre: minor prophets

Summary: Malachi broadcasts the insincerity of God's people which caused them to doubt His faithful love during a delay of His promises. Then Malachai issues the challenge to repent and be ready for the Messiah's coming.

Theological Themes: worship, the coming of Christ

New Testament Book Summaries

Book Name: Matthew

Genre: Synoptic Gospel, historical

Summary: The Gospel of Matthew was written primarily for a Jewish audience to declare Jesus as King. The gospel describes Jesus in royal terms, with a lineage coming from King David and a public ministry that ends in His death when people reject His kingship. He resurrects as the Son of God.

Theological Themes: Savior-King, Messiah, Kingdom of Heaven, teachings of Jesus, fulfillment of Old Testament Scriptures

Book Name: Mark

Genre: Synoptic Gospel, historical

Summary: The Gospel of Mark was written primarily for the Roman world to declare Jesus as the divine Servant. Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and presents Jesus in action, detailing more of His deeds than His speech, demonstrating that Jesus is the all-powerful Son of God as well as the Servant who gave His life as a ransom for many.

Theological Themes: Son of God, Servant, divine power, miracles, Jesus

Book Name: Luke

Genre: Synoptic Gospel, historical

Summary: The Gospel of Luke was written primarily for the Gentile world (Luke addresses Theophilus in 1:3) to declare Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God, both human and divine. Luke presents Jesus as perfect in every way, sympathetic to the plight of humanity in this inclusive Gospel which shows Jesus giving attention to minorities and women.

Theological Themes: Son of Man, Son of God, Savior, parables of Jesus

Book Name: John

Genre: theological Gospel

Summary: The Gospel of John covers some of the same events as do the Synoptic Gospels (the similar gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke), but it is different in the sense that it focuses less on the Kingdom and more on the person of Jesus and what it means to have faith in Him. This Gospel contains no parables but gives seven signs, or miracles of Jesus, in order to demonstrate His deity. John gives these signs of His deity to move readers to faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

Theological Themes: Son of God, faith, belief, deity, miracles, signs, eternal life

Book Name: Acts

Genre: historical

Summary: Acts and the Gospel of Luke are written by the same author to the same audience (Theophilus). Acts bridges the time between the four Gospels and the apostle Paul's letters. This book details the progress of Christianity from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The "Acts" in the name are those of the resurrected Jesus through His Holy Spirit in the lives of His apostles.

Theological Themes: Holy Spirit, Day of Pentecost, the resurrection, ministry to Gentiles, ministry apostles

Book Name: Romans

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: The letter to the Romans was written primarily to the Romans to explain God's gospel and Christ's cross. Paul's letter explains that the answer to human sinfulness lies in the deliverance that Jesus bring through His death and resurrection. Romans is arguably the most influential of all of Paul's writings.

Theological Themes: justification by faith, grace, salvation, sinful nature, the gospel

Book Name: 1 Corinthians

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: This letter to the Corinthians deals with more topics than does any of Paul's other letters, but it has the central theme of how to apply the cross of Christ to social situations. The teachings and experiences associated with Christianity put the Corinthian believers in conflict with the pagan culture around them. Paul's teachings offer timeless advice on how to apply spiritual principles to varied challenges. Theological Themes: Christianity, doctrine, paganism, spiritual maturity, spiritual gifts, marriage, virginity, sin in the church

Book Name: 2 Corinthians

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: Whereas I Corinthians deals primarily with doctrinal and ecclesial issues of belief and church governance, 2 Corinthians deals with personal matters, disclosing Paul's feelings and intentions. Paul writes in part to defend himself against the accusations of his enemies who attempted to discredit his ministry. Through much of the defense, this epistle remains a positive letter about the ministry of Christ and what He offers through His people.

Theological Themes: false teachers, ministry, paganism

Book Name: Galatians

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: The apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian believers about what makes someone a Christian: faith alone or faith plus observation of the tenets of Judaism? Paul emphasized that Christians were not under the Old Testament Jewish laws, in contrast to the Judaizers who wanted to force Gentiles to observe their traditions. Paul emphasized that people cannot add to God's grace. He asserts that no one, regardless of nationality, can achieve freedom from sin by law-keeping. Rather, freedom for everyone is found only through Christ's death and resurrection and is received only through faith in His finished work.

Theological Themes: the Law (of the OT) versus grace, circumcision, the flesh versus the Spirit, works of the Law versus faith in Jesus Christ

Book Name: Ephesians

Genre: prison epistle

Summary: The Book of Ephesians exists to explain the calling Christians have as followers of Christ. Paul wrote this letter after he had founded many churches. This is the only New Testament letter which speaks of Church in terms of the body of Christ rather than in terms of a local worshipping community. Paul wrote to mature Christians more so than new believers and explained the unity that they, Jews and Gentiles, have in their faith.

Theological Themes: the sovereign purpose of God, the Christian walk of faith, the Holy Spirit, the Church as the body of Christ, unity a slave to Christ, the armor of God

Book Name: Philippians

Genre: prison epistle

Summary: This personal letter of Paul thanks the Philippian believers for their monetary gift and is a letter of joy over the condition of their hearts. Paul also warns against division within their church body by noting that unity comes through humility, giving the example of Christ's humility by dying on a cross. Paul also warns against those who would seek to add works to faith as a means of salvation. Theological Themes: generosity, joy, humility, unity, division, the loss of all things to gain Christ, heavenly citizenship

Book Name: Colossians

Genre: prison epistle

Summary: The emphasis of the letter to the Colossians is Jesus—and His centrality to belief in and life according to God. The apostle Paul writes primarily to Gentiles to speak out against a heresy that devalued the work and divinity of Christ. He emphasizes that Jewish traditions are foretastes of the finished work of Christ and that worshipping anything or anyone else detracts from the worship of Him. The mystery of Christianity for Paul is that Christ is within His followers.

Theological Themes: work and person of Christ, divinity, Jewish legalism, Greek philosophy, oriental mysticism, Christ as the head of His body/the Church, doctrine, Christian living

Book Name: 1 Thessalonians

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: In 1 Thessalonians, the apostle Paul praises believers for their progress in the faith and encourages them to persevere in light of Jesus' return to earth. Paul is pleased with the church's progress and offers the comfort of resurrection for the believers who have died.

Theological Themes: second coming of Christ, encouragement to keep on in the faith, prophecy

Book Name: 2 Thessalonians

Genre: general Pauline epistle

Summary: In 2 Thessalonians, the apostle Paul again encourages the believers but provides corrections on facts surrounding the second coming of Christ: it was not as immediate as the Thessalonians believed. They were tempted to stop work because they believed it to be so near, and they wished it to come soon because they were under persecution. The apostle Paul promises Jesus' return and judgment of evil, although this will be at a time that no one expects. He details the suddenness and the precursory Antichrist who will first deceive the world.

Theological Themes: second coming of Christ, the man of lawlessness, prophecy, persecution

Book Name: 1 Timothy

Genre: pastoral epistle

Summary: First Timothy provides pastoral instruction by issuing a warning from Paul to pastor Timothy regarding people who mishandle God's laws. Paul shares qualifications for bishops and deacons, and gives guidelines for other aspects of church administration including caring for widows and elders and leading by example.

Theological Themes: pastoral discipline, false teachers, trustworthy saying, bishops, deacons, treatment of elders and widows, orthodoxy, orthopraxy, heterodoxy, heteropraxy

Book Name: 2 Timothy

Genre: pastoral epistle

Summary: The apostle Paul writes to Timothy again to encourage him away from timidity and into power, love, and self-discipline as he pastors in the midst of false teachings and practices.

Theological Themes: orthodoxy, orthopraxy, heterodoxy, heteropraxy

Book Name: Titus

Genre: pastoral epistle

Summary: This is a letter to Titus, a Christian leader whom the apostle Paul has appointed to pastor and organize the church on the island of Crete. The letter to Titus emphasizes God's grace and the Holy Spirit as the bases for the guidelines on proper conduct which Titus must share with the Cretans. Paul also instructs Titus on appointing bishops and quelling false teachers.

Theological Themes: Christian conduct, grace, the Holy Spirit, orthodoxy, orthopraxy, heterodoxy, heteropraxy

Book Name: Philemon

Genre: prison letter

Summary: In his letter to Philemon, the apostle Paul asks Philemon, a Colossian Christian, to receive back his runaway slave Onesimus who has become a Christian through Paul's influence. Paul requests further partnership with Onesimus, but only with the consent of Philemon, whom Paul asks to treat Onesimus as a brother in Christ.

Theological Themes: Christian conduct, forgiveness, partnership in the faith

Book Name: Hebrews

Genre: general epistle

Summary: The letter to the Hebrews asserts that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament religious system. He is greater than the angels, the prophets, and the patriarchs. Jesus is the Great High Priest to whom the Old Testament traditions and patterns point. The author of Hebrews wrote to encourage Jewish Christians not to revert to Judaism, but to trust in Christ as the fulfillment of the sacrificial system. **Theological Themes:** Jesus Christ's superiority, high priestly office, Old Testament sacrifices, faith

Book Name: James

Genre: general letter

Summary: The letter of James was written originally to Jewish Christians on matters of faith-driven conduct. This letter does not emphasize doctrine so much as right behavior. James calls Jewish Christians (and by extension, all Christians) to demonstrate their faith by their good actions, and he emphasizes controlling the tongue. He outlines many behavioral topics including rejoicing in trials, asking God for wisdom, not desiring wealth, and discerning the differences between trials and temptations.

Theological Themes: Christian conduct, faith, God's law, practicality, good works

Book Name: 1 Peter

Genre: general letter

Summary: First Peter was written originally to Gentile Christians in Asia Minor facing persecution. He encourages them by calling to their minds the suffering of Christ before He was taken into glory. Just as God vindicated Christ through His death and resurrection, God will vindicate His people through their good conduct, which will reveal them to be undeserving of the persecutions they face. Peter calls the Christians to show their faith by their good conduct, holiness, and love.

Theological Themes: persecution, holiness, suffering of Christ, reward, baptism as a symbol, not a substitute for repentance

Book Name: 2 Peter

Genre: general letter

Summary: The letter of 2 Peter addresses false teachers who attempted to spread false doctrine, specifically denying the second coming of Christ. To counter their teachings, Peter emphasizes the teachings of Jesus and surety of His return. In contrast to false prophecy, Peter insists that the promises of God are reliable and result in Christian virtue. God will bring judgment on wickedness, but He is also infinitely patient. Theological Themes: false doctrine, false prophecy, true doctrine, true prophecy, immorality, virtue, judgment, Second Coming

Book Name: 1 John

Genre: general letter

Summary: First John gives Christians knowledge, joy, and assurance in their faith despite the false teachings that swirl around them. The primary false teachers 1 John countered were those who denied that God became flesh in Christ. John addresses heresies by giving Christians criteria with which to test what they hear as well as their own hearts: they should live righteously, they should love other believers, and they should believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Theological Themes: orthodoxy, heterodoxy, incarnation, heresy, false teaching, the gospel

Book Name: 2 John

Genre: general letter

Summary: Second John calls believers to demonstrate Christian love. He warns Christians against opening their homes and hearts to false teachers. Theological Themes: truth, Christian love, heresy, hospitality, false teachers

Book Name: 3 John

Genre: general letter

Summary: Third John commends a believer for extending hospitality to Christian teachers. John's letter centers on an ecclesial dispute in which one believer showed hospitality to Christian teachers and another did not.

Theological Themes: hospitality, the gospel

Book Name: Jude

Genre: general letter

Summary: The letter of Jude speaks out strongly against false teachers. He counters their teachings with the truth of the gospel, and he looks back at the history of God's people to show that false teachers face divine judgment.

Theological Themes: false teaching, false prophets, divine judgment, truth, the gospel

Book Name: Revelation

Genre: Jewish apocalyptic literature

Summary: The Book of Revelation uses symbolic language to explain the end of human history. It was given to John in a series of visions, in which God exacts final judgment on the wicked and ultimate reward for the righteous. These messages were originally given to Christians who were facing persecution for their faith. **Theological Themes:** prophecy, eschatology, Second Coming, Christ triumphing over anti-Christian influences, God's kingdom come in fullness, encouragement

Terms

Apocalyptic – of or relating to the events to take place at the end of the world and of human history

Apologetic – a defense, vindication, or justification of a particular topic; from apologia ("defense")

Epistle – a letter

Heterodoxy – contrary to what is accepted as right belief; from hetero ("other, dissimilar") + doxia ("opinion, tenet")

Heteropraxy – contrary to what is accepted as right practice; from hetero ("other, dissimilar") + praxis ("deed, action")

Orthodoxy – accepted, sound teaching; from ortho ("straight, correct") + doxia ("opinion, tenet")

Orthopraxy – accepted, sound doing; from ortho ("straight, correct") + praxis ("deed, action")

Pauline – of or relating to the apostle Paul

Torah – term used to represent the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). Used interchangeably with "the Law," this refers to the commands God gave His people in the Old Testament.

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