

What is the “big idea” of each book in the Bible?

Genre of the Bible	Book of the Bible	Theme of the Book	Chapter Summary or Book Notes
PENTATEUCH Laying the Framework for the Redeemer	Genesis	The inception of Redemption [1:1].	History of world [1-11] and Israel [12-50].
	Exodus	Redemption through Israel [12:13].	Israel enslaved [1-12], en-route [12-18], and encamped [19-40].
	Leviticus	Worship of the Redeemed [19:2].	Way to God [1-16] and fellowship with God [17-27].
	Numbers	Refusal of the Redeemed [13:31].	Wandering through Sinai [1-10], Kadesh [11-14], Wilderness [15-25], and Canaan [26-36].
	Deuteronomy	Review of Redemption [30:19-20].	Journey [1-4], Law [5-26], future [27-30], Moses [31-34].
HISTORY The Redeemers Lineage	Joshua ^Δ	Spiritual Success [1:8] Importance of the written Word of God	(Establishing Theocracy = God rules) Possessing the Promised Land [11:23] - Conquest
	Judges ^Δ	Spiritual Dark Ages [21:25] – opposite Joshua	7 Cycles of Failure: silence, sin, slaves, supplication, salvation [x7]
	Ruth ^Δ	Kinsman Redeemer	Rest, Redeem [1:9]
	1 Samuel [£]	From Theocracy to Monarchy / Saul as King	(Establishing monarchy = God appoints ruler) Prayed [11:15]
	2 Samuel [£]	Transgression to Trouble / David as King	Before the Lord [5:4]
	1 Kings [£]	Solomon reigns / divided kingdom [9:4-5]	Israel = 19 bad kings & 1 good king Judah = 11 bad kings & 8 good
	2 Kings [£]	Spiritual decline of the Jews / captivity of the Jews [17:18-19]	Israel = 722BC (Assyria) Judah = 606 BC Babylon
	1 Chronicles [£]	Spiritual focus on David’s reign [29:12]	Most comprehensive genealogy in the Bible [Judah]
	2 Chronicles [£]	Spiritual focus on Temple (symbol of God’s presence)	Concentration on the good kings of Judah [1:1; 20:20]
	Ezra ⁺	Return of the remnant Obeying God’s Word [7:10]	Temple & people rebuilt [6:21-22; 2:1] Restoration [Ch.1-6] and Reform [Ch.7-10]
	Nehemiah ⁺	Building for the future; leadership; 2:17; 6:3	Political restoration [1-7] & Spiritual revival [7-13]
	Esther ⁺	God protects the Jews [4:14]	No mention of God in the book
POETRY Sing of the Redeemer	Job	Why the righteous suffer [23:10]	Testing develops character in God’s servants
	Psalms	The Lord Reigns	5 Books / 9 Authors / Types of Psalms: praise, messianic, acrostic, penitent, imprecatory
	Proverbs	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom [1:7; 9:10]	Wisdom for life, use of simile and comparison Solomon [1-22] Hezekiah [25-29] Agur/Lemuel [30-31]
	Ecclesiastes	Human authority vs. living under God’s authority [1:14; 3:14]	Testimony of a wasted life [12:10, 14] Failures: Fame, fad and fortunes [4 sermons on futility]
	Song of Solomon	Illustration of a godly intimate marriage relationship [2:16; 6:3; 8:6] – redeeming relationships	Courtship [1-2], Wedding [3-4], Married Life [5-8] Love expressed [1-4] & love experienced [5-8] Quest [1-4] & conquest [5-8]
PROPHECY The Call of the Redeemer	Isaiah ^{*†π}	Redemption of the Redeeming nation [49:7]	God is on His Throne [6:3] – He rules with holiness [1-39] with grace [40-66]
	Jeremiah ^{*^π}	Redeeming nation called to Remember [31:31-34]	Judgment on Jerusalem / follows Josiah, Jehoiakim, & Zedekiah / return to the LORD [1:10; 3:12, 22]
	Lamentations ^{*^π}	Grief of the Redeeming nation [1:1, 28]	Sacred Sorrow [1:5; 2:17; 3:22; 3:39; 4:39; 5:21] – Hebrew Acrostic – God is merciful and to be praised
	Ezekiel ^{*†Σ}	Future of the Redeeming nation [34:22-24]	Judgment to come [1-32] & Restoration to come [33-48] The Glory of the Lord!
	Daniel ^{*†Σ}	World of the Redeeming nation [7:1-3; 4:17]	God Rules over the nations / Daniel interprets Dreams [1-6] & Angel interprets dreams [7-12]
	Hosea ^{^π}	Symbolic sin of the Redeeming nation [4:15]	Hosea’s story [1-3]; God is holy [4-8], just [9-10], love [11-14]. An adulterous people with a faithful God [3:1; 6:4; 10:12; 11:3, 8; 14:4]
	Joel ^{†π}	Redeeming nation called to Repent [1:13]	Day of the Lord [1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14, 18]
	Amos ^{^π}	Judgment upon Redeeming nation [2:13-14] (Israel)	Prepare to meet God [4:12]
	Obadiah ^{†π}	Judgment for offending the Redeeming nation [1:10]	Destruction [1-9] and judgment of <u>Edom</u> [10-14], Day of the Lord near [15-21]
	Jonah ^{^π}	Missions of the Redeeming nation [1:2] (Nineveh)	Seas [1-2] and city [3-4] – each with a commission
	Micah ^{†π}	Ultimatum for the Redeeming nation [2:3; 6:8] / sin-pardon	Who is like YHWH [7:18] Retribution 1-2, kingdom [3-5], and worship [6-7]
	Nahum ^{†π}	Condemnation on the foe of the Redeeming nation [2:13]	Woe to Nineveh / Judge-justice-verdict-execution [1:3, 7-8]
	Habakkuk ^{†π}	Faith in judgment of the Redeeming nation [1:13]	Q&A [1], decrees [2], worship [3] / 2 Questions, 2 Answers, 1 God to worship [3:18]
	Zephaniah ^{†π}	Judgment upon the Redeeming nation [3:8] (Judah)	Day of Wrath [1:2] and day of deliverance [3:19] God’s anger vs. Man’s joy [1:15; 2:3]
	Haggai ^{†∂}	Correction of the Redeeming nation [1:5-8]	4 sermons, peoples work [1] and God’s work [2]
	Zechariah ^{†∂}	Rebuke of the Redeeming nation [1:3]	King of the earth [8:3; 14:9] / 8 visions [1-6], 4 sermons [7-8], 2 burdens [9-14]
	Malachi ^{†∂}	Rebuke of the Redeeming nation [2:2, 17]	Can a man rob God? [3:1, 8] Sins of the priests and peoples
GOSPEL & ACTS The Supremacy of the Redeemer	Matthew	The Promised Redeemer King [4:23] To Jews	Messiah—fulfills OT prophecy [2:2]
	Mark	The Servant Redeemer [10:45] To Romans	1/3 of Mark is the last week (passion) of Christ
	Luke	Redeemer as Man [19:10] To Greeks	Seek and save lost
	John	Redeemer as Son of God [20:30-31] To the world	Believe in Jesus—God in flesh [I AM]
	Acts	The Kingdom of the Redeemed expands	Church in transition [1-2], church in expansion [3-28] Peter [1-12], Paul missionary journeys [13-28]
PAUL’S LETTERS The Truth and Teaching of the Redeemer	Romans	The Subjects of the King / gospel of the redeemed	Gospel Systematic: justification, sanctification, and glorification. God’s plan for Jews and Gentiles.
	1 Corinthians	The Foolishness of the Kingdom / organization of the redeemed	Disunity in the church (immorality, lawsuits, etc.) Idols, marriage, Lord’s Supper, resurrection
	2 Corinthians	The Weakness of the Kingdom / ministry of the redeemed apostle	Defense of apostleship—servant of God & devotion to Christ
	Galatians	The Enemies of the kingdom (Legalism) / redemption by grace	Errors in legalism/grace
	Ephesians ^{**}	The Glory of the Kingdom / position of the redeemed	Position in Christ
	Philippians ^{**}	The fellowship of the Kingdom / partnership of the redeemed	Paul’s love letter from prison—partnership in the gospel Joy
	Colossians ^{**}	The sufficiency of the king / Christ of the redeemed	Supreme Jesus—in creation, redemption, and godliness. All you need is Jesus!
	1 Thessalonians	The consummation of the kingdom / hope of the redeemed	Purity Return of Christ
	2 Thessalonians	The consummation of the kingdom / deliverance of the redeemed	Day of the Lord Teaching
PAUL’S PASTORAL LETTERS Shepherding the Redeemed	1 Timothy	The Leaders of the Kingdom / discipline of the redeemed	Leadership in the church (elders & deacons) false teachers, roles of women
	2 Timothy	The Continuation of the Kingdom / encouraging the servants to the redeemed	Encouraging strength in young Timothy
	Titus	The Consistency of the Kingdom / organization of the redeemed	Care for the church / church leadership
	Philemon ^{**}	The sufficiency of the king / attitude of the redeemed	Encouraging Philemon to forgive Onesimus (his runaway slave)
GENERAL LETTERS The Witness of the Redeemed	Hebrews	The Kingdom Comes / superior work of Christ is redemption [11:40]	Continuity between NT and OT / don’t return to Judaism Jesus is Better! Supreme! Warnings: Sifting out the sheep from wolves/goats [6 & 10]
	James	The Wisdom of the Kingdom / working faith in redemption [1:22]	Live like a regenerate—evidence of faith and transformation. Proverbs of NT
	1 Peter	The Enemies of the Kingdom (Persecution) / encouragement of the persecuted redeemed [5:12]	Faith Under Fire Suffering with humility like Christ
	2 Peter	The Enemies of the kingdom (License) / reminders of the redeemed [1:12]	Inner man False Teachers Day of the Lord
	1 John	The Love of the kingdom / fellowship of the redeemed [1:7]	True fellowship, walk in Christ God is light and love, assurance
	2 John	Life of the redeemed [4]	Praise for walking in Christ
	3 John	Walk of the redeemed [4]	Praise Gaius, rebuke Diotrophes/Demas
	Jude	The Enemies of the kingdom (License) / exhortation of the redeemed [3]	Exposing false teachers Contend for the faith OT allusions to judgment
REVELATION The Victory of the Redeemed & Worship of the Redeemer		Future of the redeemed [1:19-20] Tribulation [4-19] Second Coming [19] Millennium [20]	(Past) <i>seen</i> [1], (Present) <i>are</i> [2-3] (Future) <i>shall</i> be [4-22] Worship, redemption, suffering, victory

KEYS FOR OT HISTORY :: ^Δ Theocratic History :: [£] Monarch History :: ^{*} Restoration History
KEYS FOR OT PROPHETS :: ^{*} Major Prophets :: ^{**} Paul’s Prison Letters :: [^] Prophet to Israel :: [†] Prophet to Judah
KEYS FOR EXILE DATES :: ^π Pre-Exile Prophets [887-588 BC] :: ^Σ Exile Prophets [606-536 BC] :: [∂] Post-Exile Prophets [520-400 BC]

What is the “big idea” of the Bible?	Jesus, the Redeemer, is the big idea of the Bible. Jesus’ redemptive plan for mankind weaves its way through each book of the Bible.	
What is the “big idea” of the Testaments?	OT = the progress & promise of redemption	NT = redemption in Christ & the Covenant of the Redeemed