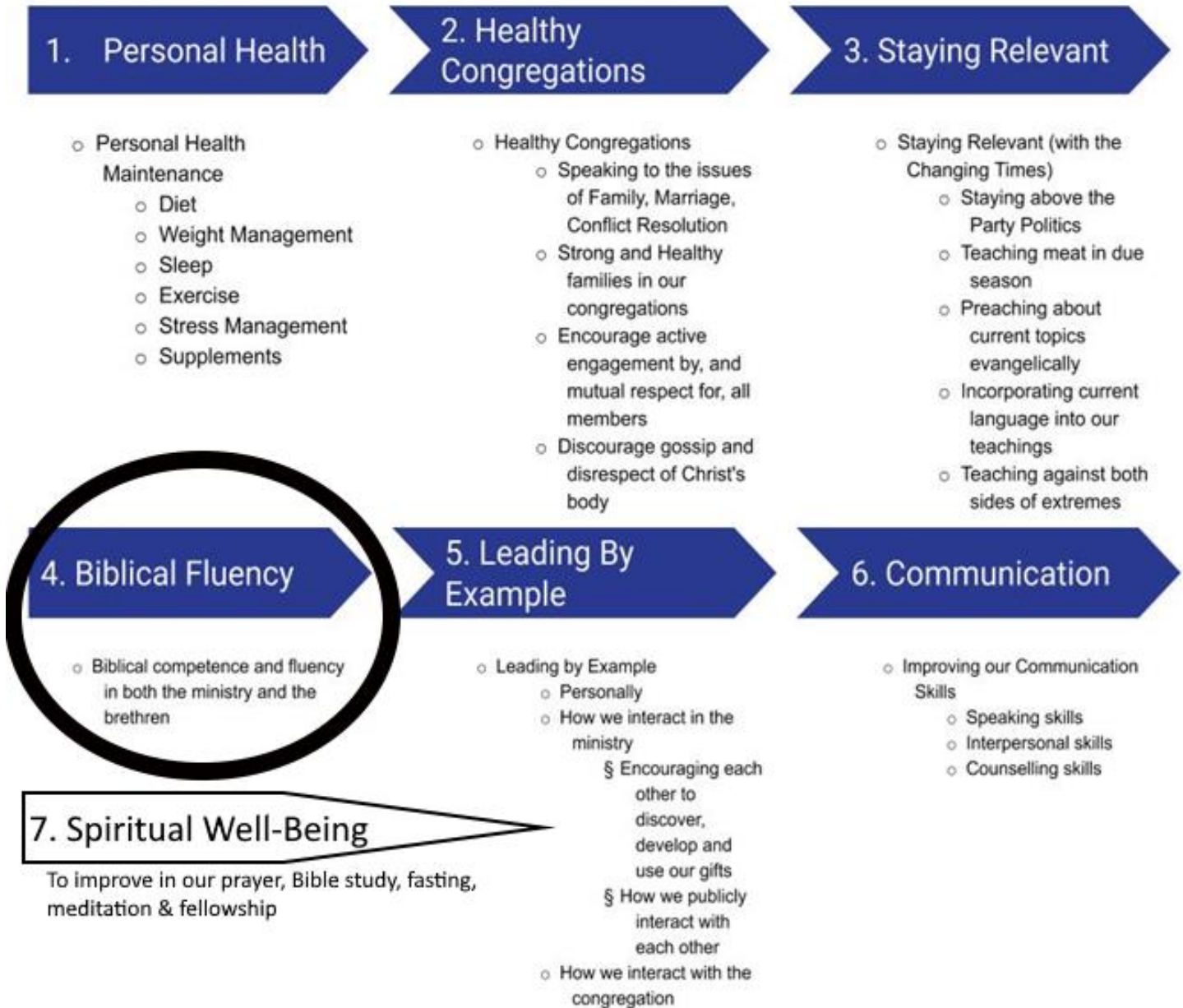


Our relationship with ... *The Bible!*

As part of our Cgi2025 *5 year plan* ... we are as a congregation working on ...

Our Six Critical Success Factors +1 = 7 !



Is the Bible ... the most important thing a Christian can have in their lives?

When I asked "the Internet" What is the **most relevant** verse in the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:14-15 You, however, continue in the things you have **learned** & become **convinced** of, knowing from **whom** you have learned them, and that **from childhood** you have known the **sacred writings** which are able to give you the **wisdom** that leads to **salvation** through **faith** which is in **Christ Jesus**.

Interesting Facts ...

- The Bible has been a massive influence on literature and history, especially in the Western World, where the Gutenberg Bible was the first book printed using movable type.
- According to the March 2007 edition of Time Magazine, the Bible “has done more to shape literature, history, entertainment, and culture than any book ever written. Its influence on world history is unparalleled, and shows no signs of abating.”
- With estimated total sales of over 5 billion copies, it is widely considered to be the most influential and bestselling book of all time.
- As of the 2000s, it sells approximately 100 million copies annually. — Wikipedia

Did Jesus (& others) emphasize the importance of **written scripture** vs Oral tradition?

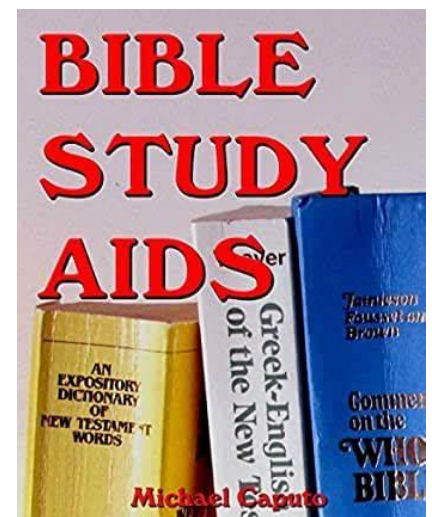
- 127 verses in the New Testament reference “it is written”
Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "**It is written**, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "
- Jesus also referred to tiny WRITTEN punctuation marks when establishing truth - it is too easy for mankind to lie (or be sincerely mistaken with oral tradition) - writing has permanence - hence the 10 Commandments were written with the finger of God!
Mat 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one **jot** or one **tittle** will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Clearly, there is a **difference** between **reading** the Bible and **studying** the Scriptures.

- **Reading** the Bible (or listening to an audiobook) is no different to reading a novel if you are only interested in the story - and is also good for “reminder oriented” review
- When you **study** the Scriptures, you are not just interested in the stories but also in the divine teachings, promises and messages it carries.

I Knew That!

- The Holy Bible has been translated into **2,018 languages**, with countless more partial translations, and audio translations (for unwritten languages). (This is an enormous amount of translations. In comparison, Shakespeare, considered by many to be the master writer of the English language, has only been translated into **50 languages**.) In 2023 there are 195 countries in the world
- It was written over a period of some 1,500 years, from around 1450 B.C. (the time of Moses) to about 100 A.D. (following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ).
- The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors from all walks of life: shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests, philosophers and kings. Despite these differences in occupation and the span of years it took to write it, the Bible is an extremely cohesive and unified book.



7

REASONS

7 Important Reasons Why We Should Study The Scriptures

1. To Truly Know God

Isa 45:15 Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!

Jer 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the **wise** man glory in his wisdom, Let not the **mighty** man glory in his might, Nor let the **rich** man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising **lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness** in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

Joe 2:13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is **gracious and merciful, Slow to anger**, and of great **kindness**; And He **relents** from doing harm.

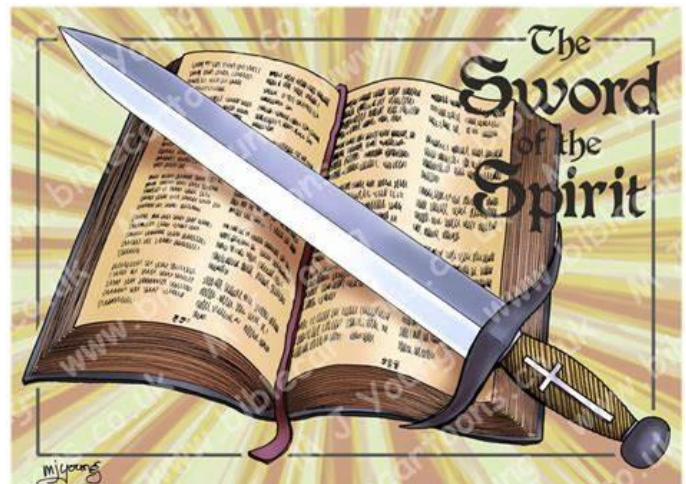
2. To Teach And Defend Our Christian Doctrine

Act 17:11 These (*Bereans*) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the (*preached*) word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God;



3. It Helps us Fight Temptation

Psa 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "

4. It Gives us Direction

Psa_119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

Jer_10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is
not in himself; It is not in man who walks to
direct his own steps.



Joh 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; & these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

5. Gives Wisdom

Psa 119:42 So shall I **have an answer** for him who reproaches me, For I trust in **Your word**.

Pro 9:9 Give **instruction** to a wise man, and he will be still **wiser**; Teach a just man, and he will **increase** in learning.

6. For Discernment

Heb 4:12 For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner** of the **thoughts and intents of the heart**.

1Ki 3:9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may **discern between good and evil**. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive **the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

7. Nourishes Us For Spiritual Growth

Rom 15:4 For whatever things were **written** before were written **for our learning**, that we through the **patience & comfort** of the Scriptures might have **hope**.

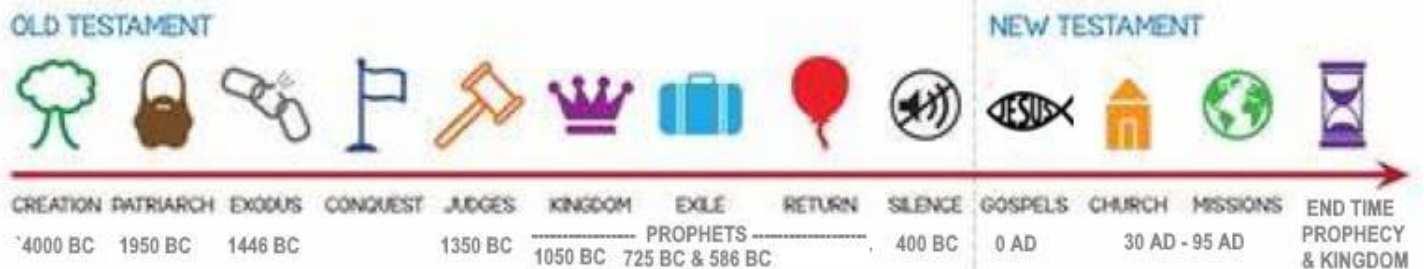
Col 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled** with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and **spiritual understanding**; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being **fruitful** in every good work and **increasing** in the **knowledge of God**;

It is important (& Motivating) to understand **WHY** Bible fluency is important...
... But **HAVING** Bible fluency is the target of this “Critical Success Factor”

So Here are some fun & interesting ways we can increase our Bible knowledge!

1. Get the overview ... so you can see where things fit ...

BIBLE TIMELINE



<http://timeline.biblehistory.com/>

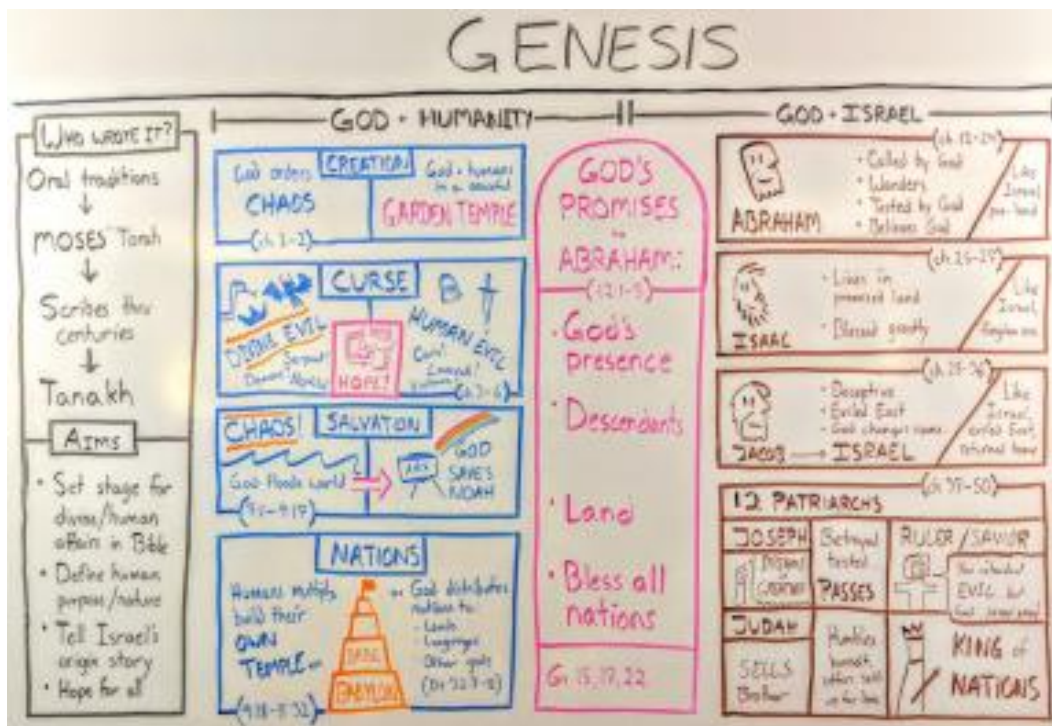
2. Ernie's Sunday Bible Quiz ... in slack or 5 volumes on the new CgiCanada website
<https://cgicanada3.org/?s=quiz>

3. More overview ... What is each book of the Bible about?

<https://bibleproject.com/>



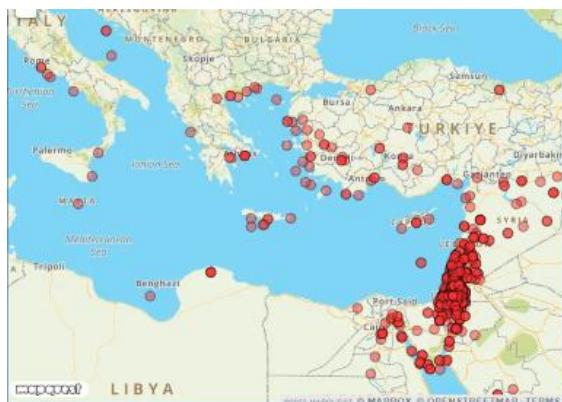
<https://overviewbible.com/>



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Bible>

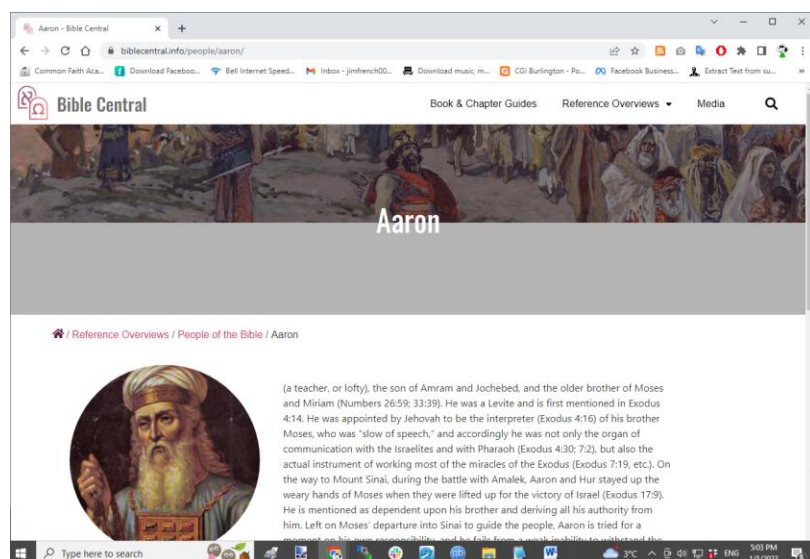
4. Bible maps

<https://www.azbible.com/all-biblical-places-map.html>



5. Bible People

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_major_biblical_figures



6. Some Major Bible themes

- Theme Of God's unfolding Revelation to man

Matthew 13:17 "For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

Matthew 13:35 "so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world."

- Theme of The Covenant God & His Relationship with Israel

Eze 16:8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

Eze 16:62 And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD,

- Theme of Sin, it's Consequences, & Christian Virtue ... as ways of living

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live

7. Bible Aids - Commentaries, Concordances, Bible Dictionaries, Bible Handbooks, Topical Studies, Literary styles, literary devices

8. Key Chapters or verses ... To inspire, evidence a doctrine, create fear!, etc

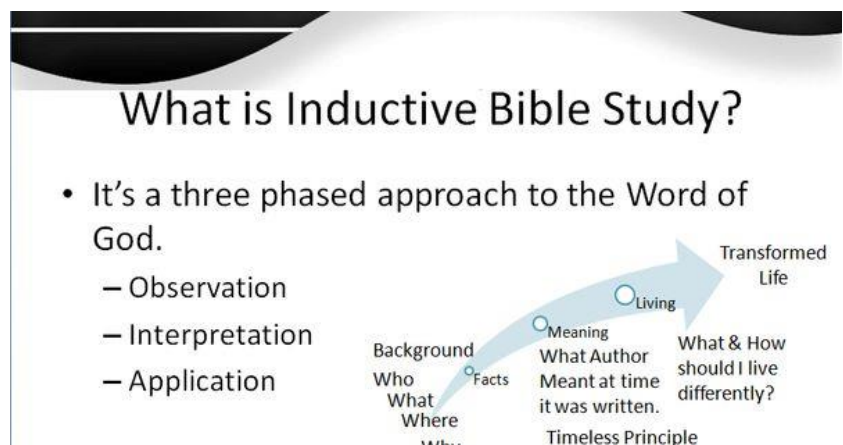
Flash cards & quizzes on 386 Verses! https://quizlet.com/_3hhkon

9. Types of Bible studies ...

1. Topical
2. Character
3. Chronological
4. Book
5. Word

10. Audio Bibles ... Different translations ...

- I catch myself stopping ...
Whoa! What did they say?!?



The Plan of God (STP - Systematic Theology Project, Statement of Beliefs)

2-Father

4-Jesus

7-Angels

- Michael
- Gabriel
- Satan
- Demons

13-Kingdom of God

(King, subjects, territory, laws)

Family of 1-God

"Sons of God" (Eternal Life)

5-Holy Spirit

(essence, power, mind & spiritual extension & presence of God)

- **Fruit** - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control
- **Gifts** - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, & fear of the Lord

19-Biblical Covenants

Lifecycle-6-Mankind & Spirit in man

(essence which imparts the power of the human mind to physical brain tissue)

3-Bible

- People
- Places
- Dates
- Actions
- 15-Prophecy*



- Birth
- Learning
- 26-Sin
- ...Illness, 31-Healing
- Work
- ...Marriage, 30-Family
- ...Calling
- Old Age
- Death
- 17-Judgment
- 14-Resurrections

8-Salvation

- 9-Faith
- 10-Repentance
- 11-Baptism
- 12-Laying on of hands

27- The Christian

Prayer

Meditation

Fasting

- 24-Food laws

Worship

- 23-Tithing

Virtues

- Integrity
- Courage
- Care
- Courtesy
- Consideration
- Armor of God
- Good Choices
- Other

Vices

- pride
- greed
- wrath
- envy
- lust
- gluttony
- sloth
- other

35-Traditional Christian Doctrines

a-Fall, b-Immortal soul, c-Heaven, d-Hell, e-Trinity, f-Gospel, g-Kingdom, h-Born again, i-Sunday, j-Xmas, k-Easter, l-Rapture, m-Lord's Prayer, n-Predestination, o-Speaking in tongues, p-Law & grace, q-Infant baptism, r-Baptism, s-Penance, t-Eternal security, u-Universalism, v-Church, w-The cross, x-Pictures of Jesus, y-Religious medals/statues, z-Religious titles, aa-Faith healing, ab-Abstinence/Asceticism, Other

Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)