

RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE

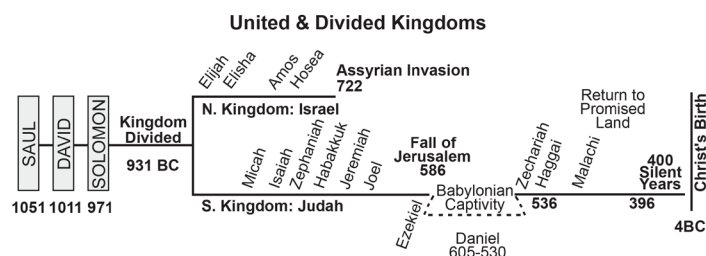
ATHLETE STUDY

WEEK 12

HE'S HERE

All the way back in Week 1, we introduced the “Snake-crusher.” That in the moment sin entered the world, God promised that one day a child would come who shall crush the head of the serpent that tempted Eve. As we’ve *Run Through the Bible*, we’ve read about Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel & Saul, David & Solomon, Rehoboam, and Daniel. Most are heroes of the faith, admirable, and worthy of our respect. But none were perfect. Even the best were *deeply* flawed. On this list, only Joshua and Daniel finished their race without a recorded significant failure.

The beauty of the Old Testament isn’t in people’s perfection, it’s in the perfection of the Perfecter. The Bible accurately records sinful people doing sinful things without trying to hide or minimize the ugliness within. We’ve continued to look, but the “Snake-crusher” is nowhere to be seen. Until now...



RHYME REVIEW

1	CREATIONS GLORY NOW UNDONE
2	FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU
3	NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY
4	THE SOD, THE SEED, AND BLESS SOME MORE
5	WALK THROUGH RED SEA AND STAY ALIVE
6	POSSESS THE LAND, BUT DO NOT MIX
7	IN SIN, ENSLAVED, THEN LOOK TO HEAVEN
8	WE WANT A KING AND WILL NOT WAIT
9	OBEYING GOD AND DOIN' FINE
10	THE KINGDOM SPLIT, TWO AND TEN
11	FRACTURE, CAPTURE, 10 X 7
12	HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE GOD DID SHELVE

JOHN 1:1-4, 11-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

It's no surprise that we finish our semester talking about Jesus. As much as we like dramatic tension, we spoiled our ending from the first Week. But we also hope you understand how everything points to him. Christ described this on the road to Emmaus, “*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself*” (Luke 24:27). Scan the QR code to illustrate that idea.



DISCUSSION

What has been one of the most encouraging or significant things you've learned through this study?

1. What timeframe does this passage reference? (1a)

2. What do we learn about the Word—who he was with, who he was, and what he made? (1–3)

3. What happened when he came to his own people, and what did he give to those who received him? (11–12)

4. John opens with “In the beginning” — the exact words of Genesis 1:1, where we started this semester. Why start the story of Jesus there instead of the manger?

5. As we finish this study, how are you going to live differently than when we started? Is there something you need to stop, start, or continue doing?

This is it! We've reached the end of our study. Thanks for hanging in there. Now, if there's anything left on the field that you need to ask, speak up! Talk to your coach.

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



STUDY NOTES

400 YEARS

Take a second and think about what life was like 400 years ago. Go on, I'll wait.

The U.S. wouldn't declare independence for another 150 years. People got around on horses and ships with sails. Doctors didn't ever wash their hands because germs wouldn't be discovered for another 200+ years. Also, forget about modern sports. Baseball, basketball, and football didn't exist—at least not in any recognizable form. Cricket was just being invented, but that's probably why it's so hard for most of us to understand.

Our *Run Through the Bible* has covered centuries, but we haven't really taken a moment to appreciate how much time has passed. Last Week, Israel was being led into the Babylonian Exile. We mentioned how the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great returned Israel from exile. The Old Testament recorded several things including the rebuilding of Jerusalem in the decades that followed the exile. Then, silence.

You can see in the chart on the other side the introduction the history of events from the time of the kings through the divided kingdom, the Babylonian Exile, and then 400 years of "silence."

Many things changed in the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments. It's called the "silent years" because God delivered no special revelation—no books were written, no prophets spoke for God. But, that doesn't mean God wasn't at work. Quite the opposite.

The Old Testament ends with the Persian Empire in charge. It opens with Israel under Roman rule. Not only that, because the Greeks had conquered the world while Rome was in its infancy, most of the world spoke Greek as the common language. Additionally, in Israel, groups of religious leaders had emerged known as the Pharisees and Sadducees. Religious leadership and political leadership had become one. And after 400 years, the stage was set.

GOD'S SILENCE GROWS GODLY PATIENCE

Although we're finally at the point where Jesus Christ comes on the scene, he is eternal. That means, when we started in *Genesis*, he was there. Adding to the Genesis 1 story, John wrote, "***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***" So not only is Jesus the "Snake-crusher," heir to David's throne, he is God.

Interestingly, *John* refers to Jesus as "the Word" ("Logos" in Greek). Early Greek philosophers

used "logos" to refer to the reason or logic behind all reality in the universe. We might assume that *John* takes that idea and builds on it. Additionally, as we shall see, "Word" indicates God's desire to communicate. The "logos" didn't remain hidden. God revealed himself.

Emphatically, *John* notes ***all things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*** That explains our world, but not his purpose: ***in him was life, and the life was the light of men.*** God didn't simply desire to communicate, he brought life.

Stepping out of eternity and into history, ***He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*** From the time sin entered the world, humanity has had a love relationship with sin. We love it. We're addicted to it. Christ came to crush it. Some people reacted strongly to the attack on their love. Others understood a greater love existed. Nobody understands this in our own flesh, but God initiated that love so that we might be adopted into his family.

As we said, the "logos" didn't remain hidden. ***The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.***

#12, HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE GOD DID SHELVE

As we bring our study to a close, look at the two descriptors used of Jesus—***full of grace and truth.*** Truth acknowledges our sin problem. It doesn't sweep it under the rug. Grace overcomes our sin problem by offering life when sin deserves death.

Even in our brief *Run Through the Bible* we've seen God's people fail, flounder, and forsake the One who created them, brought them through a flood, and delivered them from slavery. On and on, over and over, he was faithful while they were faithless. Now consider Jesus Christ, the Son of God, stepping out of the throne room of heaven into our history. He didn't come as royalty. He didn't come to condemn, which he had every right to do. He came to crush sin by taking our place—dying the death our sin deserves. He came to redeem humanity from the clutches of eternal death.

Through God's promise to Abraham, through the line of David, God has blessed the world with his Word. Have you received the Word? Have you shared the Word? Are you fully surrendered to the Word? Our "run" is done, but the story isn't over. The ending is yours to write.