



An Overview of a Book of the Bible Study

Today we may be familiar with a lot of individual verses as little bits of wisdom or inspiration, because we see them on social media... but we may not be as familiar with their context. Getting to know a whole book helps us to see the whole argument or reason behind it. A good approach for Bible study is to start with the whole, and then "zoom in" on details afterwards. When you study a "Book Overview" you are studying to understand the overall message of the book.

1. Read through the book once and look for the answer to the following questions as you read, noting the information below (including chapter and verse). If you are not able to find the information in your reading, consult Bible reference study tools (eg a study Bible, or Bible handbook).
 - WHO DID GOD INSPIRE TO WRITE THIS BOOK?
 - THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ARE DIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT KINDS OF WRITING (E.G. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, THE LAW, WISDOM, PSALMS, PROPHECY, GOSPEL, EPISTLES). WHICH TYPE OF WRITING DOES THIS BOOK FALL UNDER?
 - WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD FOR THIS BOOK, AND WHAT OTHER BIBLICAL EVENTS WERE HAPPENING AROUND THE TIME OF ITS WRITING?
 - WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN TO SOMEONE IN PARTICULAR (EG. THE EPISTLES)?
2. Read through the book a second time slowly. Look for key events, key people, key verses, and key themes and jot them down or color code them.
3. On your next read, summarize each section with one sentence on a separate sheet of paper. As you write your summaries, notice information in the passages given about who God is and what He does. Look for lessons and principles, and any key Bible teachings.
4. Once you are finished, write a one sentence summary of each chapter in the book.