

CONTENTS

PART ONE: THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES



General Introduction **6**

Unit One: Genesis **12**

CHAPTER 1 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible **14**

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Biblical Allusions **20**

CHAPTER 2 In the Beginning **22**

Genesis 1–2

CHAPTER 3 From the Garden to the Tower **30**

Genesis 3–11

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Milton and the Bible **38**

CHAPTER 4 Abraham and Sarah **40**

Genesis 11–23

CHAPTER 5 Ancestors **46**

Genesis 24–50

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Literary Views of Abraham and Isaac **52**

Unit Two: Exodus and the Land of Promise **54**

CHAPTER 6 Out of Slavery **56**

Exodus 1–15

CHAPTER 7 The Wilderness and the Law **64**

Exodus 15–40, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

CHAPTER 8 The Promised Land **72**

Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Exodus and Emancipation **80**

Unit Three: Kingdom and Exile **82**

CHAPTER 9 David the King **84**

1 Samuel, 2 Samuel

CHAPTER 10 The Kingdom Falls **92**

1 Kings; 2 Kings

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Exile and Return **100**





Unit Four: The Prophets 102

CHAPTER 11 Warning and Comfort 104

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel

CHAPTER 12 Called to Account 116

Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Haggai,
Zechariah, Malachi

**FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Thirst for Justice 124**

Unit Five: Writings and Wisdom 126

CHAPTER 13 Songs and Poetry 128

Psalms

CHAPTER 14 Wisdom 136

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

CHAPTER 15 The Problem of Suffering 148

Job

**FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
The Bible and Shakespeare 156**

Unit Six: Narratives of Commitment 158

CHAPTER 16 Women of Valor 160

Ruth, Esther

CHAPTER 17 Visions of the Future 170

Daniel

CHAPTER 18 Renewed Commitment 178

Ezra, Nehemiah

SPECIAL FEATURE: The Bible in English 184

CONTENTS

PART TWO: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Unit Seven: Another Covenant **188**

CHAPTER 19 Introduction to the New Testament **190**

CHAPTER 20 Other Jewish Texts in the Christian Bible **198**

1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach,
Tobit, Judith, Daniel

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
A Summary of Literary Genres **206**

Unit Eight: The Four Gospels **208**

CHAPTER 21 Mark **210**

CHAPTER 22 Matthew **218**

CHAPTER 23 Luke **226**

CHAPTER 24 John **234**

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
Parables of Mercy **242**

Unit Nine: The Early Christian Community **244**

CHAPTER 25 The Birth of the Church **246**

Acts 1–7

CHAPTER 26 The Church Grows **254**

Acts 8–12

CHAPTER 27 The Journeys of Paul **260**

Acts 13–28

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE
A Death with Meaning **268**





Unit Ten: The Letters of Paul 270

CHAPTER 28 Grace and Faith 272
Romans

CHAPTER 29 The Power of Love 280
1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians,
Galatians, Ephesians

CHAPTER 30 The Christian Community 288
Philippians, Colossians,
1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians

CHAPTER 31 The Social Order 296
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Philemon

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE 304
Augustine

Unit Eleven: Other Letters 306

CHAPTER 32 The Fulfillment 308
Hebrews

CHAPTER 33 General Letters 316
James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE 324
Legacy of the Reformation

Unit Twelve: Revelation 326

CHAPTER 34 Crisis and Persecution 328
Revelation 1-3

CHAPTER 35 A Great Battle 336
Revelation 4-20

CHAPTER 36 A New Jerusalem 344
Revelation 21

FEATURE: FOCUS ON INFLUENCE 352
Dante's Purgatorio

Conclusion 354

Glossary 355

Credits 359

Index 362

