

Guide for the **2008 Bible Brief**

Here is a versatile tool that brings the Bible to life and enhances your appreciation and understanding of it in a very short time! As you open the **2008 Bible Brief**, or "**Brief**" for short, you will notice many colors, maps, timelines, and special features that will greatly help you to explore the Bible, and here is how to get the most out of them.

First, you will notice that the **Brief** is made up of 72 slides that can be shown with a projector, and is arranged with two slides on each page. The first two slides explain features of the **Brief** and the unique character of the Bible, and have an Hourglass Chart showing the 12 sections of the **Brief**. For example, starting on the 3rd slide there is a large white number 1 in a black box beside the words "The Beginning" to denote the first section. You will also notice that each paragraph is numbered and has scripture references at the end for easy checking with the Bible. Also, the books of the Bible appear in the **Brief** in the order in which they were written.

Now let's look at some of the ways that you can use the **Brief** to help study the Bible.

- You can do a Study of Events in the Bible by simply reading the **Brief** to quickly get a sense of the flow of the biblical account from beginning to end.
- You can do a Study of Prophecy in the Bible by reading the red text in the **Brief**. The bold red text shows some of the 700 prophecies in the Bible and the normal red text shows how some of them were fulfilled. The underlined red text is about prophecies concerning Jesus the Messiah.
- You can do a Study of Places in the Bible by following the 77 maps in the **Brief** that highlight the movement and activity of the people mentioned in the text. See where the children of Israel moved and settled at God's command, where battles were fought, where Jesus and the disciples traveled, and where churches were started and books of the Bible were written.
- You can do a Study of Highlights in the Bible by reading the purple text in the **Brief**. Key points are in bold purple text and covenants are underlined in normal purple text.
- You can do a Study of People in the Bible by following the 45 timelines in the **Brief**. It might surprise you to notice which prophets and kings lived at the same time. Also notice how time passes more slowly as the Bible's focus moves closer to the day of the crucifixion of Jesus.
- You can do a Study of History in the Bible by clicking on the 38 hyperlinks in the **Brief**, which is easiest if you download a free pdf file version from the <http://2008biblebrief.com/> website. One click opens up the ancient world of the church fathers, King Cyrus, King Sennacherib's Prism, King Nebuchadnezzar's records and much more. There are also scholarly articles on key topics.
- You can do a Study of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in the Bible, which can be very confusing but is made clear in the **Brief** by highlighting events in Israel in green text.
- Are you interested in seeing Important Facts such as the miracles, parables and prophecies of Jesus in the Bible? There are 12 grey boxes listing many of them in the **Brief**.
- You can do a Study of Major Teachings in the Bible by reading the 24 green boxes in the **Brief**.
- You can see the Seasons and Festivals in the Bible and their prophetic importance on slide 8.
- You can see important Relationships of Jesus in the Bible on slide 37.
- You can do a Study of the Individual Books of the Bible in the 75 gold boxes in the **Brief**.

While the **2008 Bible Brief** slide-show/magazine gives you a quick glimpse of the incredible account of the Bible, its companion book, called the **2008 Bible Brief Narrative** or "**Narrative**" for short, gives about 10 times as much detail and information. The **Narrative** uses the same paragraph numbers as the **Brief** to help teachers to answer questions when presenting the **Brief** as a slide-show. The **Narrative** is also available for free online and has an explanation of its additional features on page 4 that let you study other topics, such as the growing conflict in brown text that led to the crucifixion of Jesus. Also, the **Narrative** has even more Bible references to help you to check things in more detail.

The 12 sections of the **Brief** and **Narrative** are the suggested teaching units for a course over a 13 week period. Normally 4 hours is required to present the Brief slide-show in a single session.

We hope that the **2008 Bible Brief** and **2008 Bible Brief Narrative** are a real blessing to you in helping to better understand the Bible and to teach others who need to know the Bible.