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OLD TESTAMENT

50

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



GENESIS

The first book in the Bible, Genesis records the Creation and the Flood through early-Bible history, from around 4000 BC to 1800 BC. It begins with Adam and Eve, then covers the lives of Noah and Abraham (and three generations of Abraham's many descendants), and tells the stories of patriarchs Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Wondrous workings of God amaze them, and trials and tribulations reveal their persistence in faith.







CREATION --TOWER OF BABEL

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM THE LIFE OF ISAAC

THE LIFE OF JACOB

2

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

GENESIS 1-11

God creates the world and mankind. Several generations follow Adam and Eve. Men become wicked, and God sends a Flood. The only survivors are Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. Men build the Tower of Babel, and God confounds the languages.

GENESIS 12-25

Abraham and Sarah leave their hometown of Harran and travel to the Promised Land. They move to Egypt during years of famine. Lot and Abraham eventually separate, and God promises to make Abraham's descendants a great nation.

GENESIS 25-27

Abraham and Sarah pray to have a baby in their old age. Isaac is born—a miracle! He's saved from sacrifice by an angel of the Lord and also promised that his descendants will be a great nation. Rebekah is chosen to be the wife of Isaac. She arrives after the passing of Sarah, and Isaac is comforted.

GENESIS 28-36

Rebekah bears twins, Esau and Jacob. Jacob must deceive his elder twin, Esau, to take the birthright. He works 14 years to marry Rachel, after first being tricked into marrying Leah. He fathers 12 sons, the future tribes of Israel. Jacob's name is changed to Israel after he visits the future Promised Land.

GENESIS 37-50

Israel's (Jacob) 11th son, Joseph, is sold by his brothers into slavery and taken to Egypt. There, he rises to power through interpreting dreams, including the Pharaoh's. With God's help, Joseph prepares Egypt against future famine. He reconciles with his family when they arrive, seeking food. Joseph invites them to live with him in Egypt. Joseph promises the Israelites that God will bring them out of Egypt back to the Promised Land.

40

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



Exodus records the return of the nation of Israel to the Promised Land, having spent nearly 400 years in Egypt as slaves. The people cried out to God, who reminded them that the Israelites are a chosen people and He would help them return to the Promised Land. The book contains the first laws of Israel which Moses recorded, as well as many well-known stories of miracles.







HEBREW HISTORY
AND MOSES'
BACKGROUND

MOSES LEADS
THE PEOPLE TO
FREEDOM

WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS

LAWS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE

GOLDEN CALF
IDOL AND
REPENTANCE

6 CONSTRUCTING
THE TABERNACLE

EXODUS 1—3

After over 400 years of the Israelites living in Egypt, a new Pharaoh comes into power and enslaves the Hebrews. Moses is born, sent down the river in a basket by his loving mother, saved by the Pharaoh's daughter from death. and later called by God at the burning bush to deliver the people of Israel out of Egypt.

EXODUS 4-14

Moses returns to Egypt and repeatedly asks the Pharaoh to free the Israelites. The Pharaoh refuses, and God sends ten plaques upon Egypt. The Israelites are protected against the plagues, and after the tenth plaque the Pharaoh allows them to go. He changes his mind and sends his army to recapture the slaves, but they escape when Moses parts the Red Sea. Moses and his people pass through. the sea falls back, and the Egyptian army perishes.

EXODUS 15-19

The Israelites travel in the desert, constantly watched over by God, who provides them with manna (bread from heaven), quail, and water. They often complain about their hardships. Moses ascends Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God.

EXODUS 20—31

Moses teaches the
Israelites God's laws,
including the Ten
Commandments.
Following that, Moses
records social and
moral laws,
instructions for
festivals, and explicit
instructions for
designing the
Tabernacle.

EXODUS 32—34

Israelites make a golden idol in the shape of a calf and Moses, in anger, breaks the stone tablets that contain the Commandments. The Israelites repent and are forgiven. Moses returns to Mount Sinai, sees God's glory, and receives new stone tablets.

EXODUS 35—40

The Tabernacle is built, including the Ark of the Covenant, and rules are given that govern its use. The book does not end with the death of Moses (covered in Deuteronomy).

27

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



The book derives its name from Levi, the tribe of Israel designated to serve as priests. It contains instructions for the priests to perform sacrifices and ceremonies in the Tabernacle, and the duties of the Israelites in offering them. After living in Egypt for so long, many of the Israelites had adopted Egyptian customs and idols, so these Levitical Laws were needed to point them back to God's law. It governs the new nation in righteous living with explicit examples of the Law of Love pronounced in the New Testament.







Moses

WRITTEN TIME PERIOD COVE 1445 BC 1445 BC-70 AD

The laws applied until shortly after the death of Christ, when the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

1 TYPES OF OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

THE DEATHS OF AARON'S SONS

RULES OF HYGIENE AND MORALITY



MISCELLANEOUS RULES

LEVITICUS 1—9

The Lord gives laws for worship, including instructions for different types of offerings and how to prepare them. **LEVITICUS 10**

Two of Aaron's sons die, following their decision to add to an unauthorized sacrifice.

LEVITICUS 11—20

The Lord reveals laws regarding cleanliness. including instructions for those who have suffered disease and experienced childbirth. These laws offered protections against the spreading of germs, and correlate with modern medicinal practices. Today. people often return to this section. recognizing that these principles promote health.

LEVITICUS 21—27

The Lord gives more instructions regarding priests and establishes festivals, holy days, feasts, crop preparation and more. The rewards for obedience and consequences of disobedience are also outlined.

NUMBERS

4

36

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



The name of this book comes from the Lord's instruction to count the Israelite males who were able to go to war. It begins where Exodus ends, with the journey of Israel through the wilderness, and contains events as they wandered for 40 years. The reading can be quite engaging if the context is understood—proof that the Hebrews were extremely accurate record keepers, both of numbers and of events. This is evidence that they can be trusted to present an Old Testament that is reliable.







ISRAEL PREPARES
TO LEAVE MOUNT
SINAI

2 ISRAEL MOVES TO KADESH

REBELLION IN KADESH

4

THE JOURNEY
FROM KADESH TO
MOAB

5

ISRAEL
ANTICIPATES
TAKING THE
PROMISED LAND
WHILE IN MOAB

6

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

NUMBERS 1-10

The Israelites complete the Tabernacle and Moses completes the Levitical Laws. The people prepare to leave Mount Sinai. Moses conducts a census, recording the number of adult males in the tribes (excluding the Levites), and the Lord reveals more rules.

NUMBERS 10—12

The Israelites complain often, desiring meat instead of manna. God sends fire to stifle the complainers as well as quail to quench their desire for meat. Moses' siblings, Aaron and Miriam, rebel and Miriam becomes leprous for a week.

NUMBERS 13—20

Moses sends spies to the Promised Land of Canaan, and they bring back a mixed report, destroying faith of the Israelites so they become afraid to enter the land of Canaan. As a result. God reveals that the Israelites will wander for 40 years in the desert. Moses brings forth water by striking a rock, and more rebellions and laws are recorded.

NUMBERS 20-21

Aaron dies at Mount Hor, shortly after Miriam dies at Kadesh, and Israel wins its first battles. Fiery serpents afflict the people, and those who are bitten become sick and many die. Moses holds up the bronze snake in the wilderness as a foreshadowing of Christ on the cross, and all who look at the serpent are healed.

NUMBERS 22-32

In Moab, King Balak asks the Moabite prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites. and the donkey of Balaam speaks words from God. Balaam instead blesses the Israelites and prophesies of Christ. Some Moabites invite Israelites to worship their gods and fornicate. Those that accept are destroyed and a plaque kills 24,000 before others repent. The Lord reveals more laws for Israel.

NUMBERS 33-36

Moses writes a review of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan. Laws of inheritance are revealed and outlined so that some women can own property.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

5

34

HISTORY/LAW, PENTATEUCH



The entire Book of Deuteronomy takes place in Moab, in preparation for Israel entering Canaan. Moses gives his farewell address and encourages the army to stay God-centered after crossing the Jordan River. The title of the book means "second law" or "repetition of law" and Moses repeats many of the laws and commandments that were revealed by the Lord.







A DETAILED
HISTORY OF THE
EXODUS

STIPULATIONS ON SUCCESS AND FAILURE

3

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

4

THE COMMISSION OF JOSHUA AND THE DEATH OF MOSES

DEUTERONOMY 1—3

Moses recounts the past 40 years, including the details of the Israelite battles.

DEUTERONOMY 4—26

Moses provides encouragement based on commitment to obedience and reminds the Israelites of their past failures so they will commit to obey. He warns of superstitions, false gods, and practices of other nations. He provides instructions for kings in case Israel decides to have one. He also prophesies of Jesus Christ, and tells the Israelites how to identify a true prophet.

DEUTERONOMY 27—30

Moses emphasizes the importance of being faithful to God's ways, and the Lord's promise to make Israel a great nation. He also reveals the blessings for following the Lord's Commandments and the curses for disobedience.

DEUTERONOMY 31—34

Moses again appeals to Israel to choose wisely. Moses dies (the only place in the Bible where it is fully chronicled) and Joshua leads Israel in Moses' place.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

6

24

HISTORY



This book is named after Joshua, who is installed as the leader of Israel after Moses' death. It recounts how the Israelites obtain the Promised Land, starting with the crossing of the Jordan River and the seven-year battle to take Canaan.







SPIES ENTER JERICHO

DEFEATING
JERICHO, BATTLES
WITH AI, AND
DEFEATING THE
GIBEONITES

SUN STANDS
STILL AND GREAT
VICTORIES

T 4

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND

5

JOSHUA'S FINAL ORDERS AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH

JOSHUA 1-5

Joshua sends spies into Jericho, and Rahab the harlot conceals them. In return, she is instructed to hang a red cord from her window and is saved when Israel returns. The Israelites miraculously cross the Jordan River, enter the Promised Land, and begin their conquest.

JOSHUA 6-9

Israel defeats Jericho when God commands them to march around the city and blow trumpets, after which the walls tumble down. The Israelites are defeated by the people of Ai because some of the Israelites were breaking God's command and keeping plunder. The men are stoned and the Lord instructs Joshua in defeating Ai and the Gibeonites.

JOSHUA 10-12

Through Joshua, God makes the sun miraculously stand still in the sky. The Israelite army conquers nations and lands around the Promised Land, and a list is provided of the defeated kings.

JOSHUA 13-21

The war ends in
Joshua's old age,
likely 87, with some of
the land yet to be
possessed. A bio of
Caleb is contained
here. The land is
divided among the
tribes in the
subsequent chapters.

JOSHUA 22-24

The Israelite tribes settle in to their new territories. The tribes of Gad and Reuben build a controversial altar. Joshua predicts his death and offers encouragement to leadership, then dies at age 110.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

HISTORY



After Joshua's death, Israel instituted God's rule of 12 judges, in lieu of a king. The nation quickly deteriorated due to its unfaithfulness to God. The book outlines the cycle of betrayals and repentance, and some good judges are featured.







TRIBES REFUSE TO **DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY: THE FIRST THREE JUDGES**

DEBORAH AND GIDEON

JUDGES 4-8

ABIMELECH

TOLA. JAIR. JEPHTHAH. IBZAN, ELON, **ABDON**

SAMSON

CIVIL WAR

JUDGES 1—3

Israel continues to

Moab, and Shamgar

delivers Israel from

the Philistines.

conquer the Deborah, the only Canaanites; however, female judge of Israel, some tribes refuse to defeats the king of drive them out and a Canaan. Gideon defeats list of their sins are 10.000 Midianites with revealed. Othniel only 300 men, who judges Israel, Ehud were chosen based on delivers Israel from how they drank water. Eglon the king of

JUDGES 9

Considered one of the most evil men in history, Abimelech murders 70 of his half-brothers to obtain the judgeship. He dies via assisted suicide after a woman fractures his skull.

God-fearing judges Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon judge Israel righteously, restoring Israel each time it wanders. Their stories are outlined in

JUDGES 10-12

chronological order. some more brief than others.

JUDGES 13-16

Samson is given the special gift of great strength, as long as he keeps his long hair. Samson is betrayed by Delilah, who learns his secret, cuts his hair, and delivers him to the Philistines.

The tribes of Israel kill 26,000 Benjamites after they hide men of Gibeah. These men were the perpetrators of the first rape and murder of a woman on record. Only 600 men remain of the tribe of Benjamin and they take wives from the land of Shiloh to continue their lineage.

JUDGES 17—21



4

HISTORY



This book tells the story of Ruth, who became the great-grandmother of King David. She was from Moab, a seedy place that had taunted Israel since the Exodus. Ruth chose to move with her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem instead of remaining in her home country.







RUTH'S BACKGROUND

n

2

RUTH MEETS BOAZ 3

RUTH CARRIES OUT A STRANGE PLAN

4

BOAZ MARRIES RUTH

RUTH 1

Elimelech and Naomi move with their two sons to Moab to escape famine. The two sons marry Moabites, but after the death of her husband and two sons, Naomi encourages her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Ruth instead chooses to stay with Naomi and the two leave Moab for Bethlehem, Naomi's ancestral home.

RUTH 2

Boaz is a kinsman of Naomi, and although he is a great deal older than Ruth, both women see him as an honorable prospect to relieve them of their state of poverty. Boaz shows kindness as Ruth gleans wheat fields with his servants. **RUTH 3**

Naomi tells Ruth to lie on Boaz's blankets on the threshing floor at night. Ruth proposes marriage to Boaz and he promises that he will marry her, seeing that she is honorable. **RUTH 4**

After Boaz consults
with a kinsman in the
village square, he
marries Ruth. Their first
son is Obed, father of
Jesse, and grandfather
of King David.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

9

31

HISTORY



The Book of 1 Samuel records Israel's history from the birth of the prophet Samuel up through David's trials before he became king. It ends with the death of King Saul, which opens the door for David to ascend to the throne. The biography of Samuel, story of David and Goliath, and the biography of King Saul are included.







1150 BC-1000 BC

Samuel, Nathan, Gad, and an unknown scribe who served as compiler

THE BIRTH AND
LIFE OF SAMUEL
THROUGH THE
FINAL JUDGE

2

SAUL BECOMES KING

3

KING SAUL CONTINUES TO REIGN AND DAVID FLEES



THE DEATH OF KING SAUL

1 SAMUEL 1—8

Hannah prays for a child and is blessed with Samuel. She dedicates him to the Lord and Samuel is brought up by priests. He is called by the Lord and ministers to Israel. Israel asks for a king instead of judges. Samuel warns of the nature of kings and the Lord consents to give Israel a king.

1 SAMUEL 9—16

Saul is anointed king.
Saul is blessed as king
but eventually loses
power as he forgets to
follow the
commandments of the
Lord. Because of Saul's
wickedness, David is
anointed to become the
next king, years before
he actually assumes
power.

1 SAMUEL 17—27

David slays Goliath and is honored by the people. Saul becomes very jealous and tries to kill David. David then flees for a period of seven years, and although he has the opportunity to kill Saul twice, he refuses. The prophet Samuel dies.

1 SAMUEL 28—31

Saul contacts the witch of Endor, who serves as a medium to contact the dead Samuel. She foretells of Saul's death and the defeat of Israel by the Philistines. Saul dies in battle as predicted, along with his two sons.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

10

24

HISTORY



Initially, 1 and 2 Samuel were combined, so 2 Samuel is a continuation of 1 Samuel. It begins with David's seven years as king and finishes with the end of his life, having served as king from age 30 to 70.







DAVID NEARS KINGSHIP

DAVID REIGNS From Jerusalem

TROUBLE IN THE HOUSE

4 EVE

EVEN MORE BLOODSHED END OF DAVID'S LIFE AND A FINAL TALE

2 SAMUEL 1—5

David is crowned king of Judah, but Saul's son still rules the rest of Israel. The houses of David and Saul battle for 6-7 years as Saul's house weakens and David's house receives strength. 2 SAMUEL 6-10

David takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites and the Ark of the Covenant is brought to Jerusalem. David dances before the Lord, offers a solemn prayer, and shows kindness to Jonathan's son.

2 SAMUEL 11—19

David's kingship is filled with family difficulties. He commits adultery with Bathsheba, and his daughter Tamar is raped by his son Amnon, who is then killed by Absalom. Absalom later betrays David and is killed.

2 SAMUEL 20-21

David has conflicts with other nations. He stops the rebellion of Sheba and delivers seven of Saul's sons to the Gibeonites, who die as payment for their father's sins.

2 SAMUEL 22-24

David writes a famous psalm and records many military heroes and their deeds. He then sins, showing a lack of faith, by taking a census of his military, and repents.



22

HISTORY



This book records King David's death and King Solomon's ascent to the throne, followed by the division of the kingdom for its first 100 years. The book relates the prophet Elijah's battles with King Ahab and his wife Jezebel.







Unknown; stories appear to be written during the Great Exile to Babylon

SOLOMON
ASCENDS AND
BUILDS THE
TEMPLE

2

THE GREAT DIVIDE

3

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM SUFFERS ITS FIRST KINGS



THE DEEDS OF ELIJAH THE PROPHET

1 KINGS 1-10

King David dies, choosing Solomon to reign. Solomon prays for wisdom and is blessed by the Lord. Solomon builds the temple and a palace. God speak to Solomon, promising him great blessings if he is obedient, and curses if he forsakes the Lord. The Queen of Sheba visits. Solomon's wealth and wisdom are greater than any other kingdom.

1 KINGS 11-12

Solomon dies, and his son Rehoboam reigns in his stead. Rehoboam decides to increase taxes and the Israelites revolt, dividing themselves into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Jeroboam becomes the king of 10 tribes of Israel in the north. Rehoboam reigns over Judah in the south, the leader of the other two tribes.

1 KINGS 12-17

Subsequent kings of Judah and Israel are named, as the people drift further into wickedness, worshipping Baal and other false gods. The only righteous king is Asa, King of Judah. Jeroboam and his house are destroyed and his name becomes a biblical curse.

1 KINGS 17-22

King Ahab and his wife Jezebel establish worship of Baal throughout the land. The prophet Elijah announces a drought because of these pagan practices. The Lord preserves Elijah, who raises a widow's son from the dead. Elijah also challenges the priests of Baal to a contest and shows that God's power is supreme. He hears God proclaim that there are 7,000 Israelites who are faithful to the Lord. Jezebel and Ahab die and Ahaziah reigns in wickedness.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

12

25

HISTORY



This book contains the remaining history of the biblical kings. Elijah continues his work as prophet, and Elisha succeeds him. It is a very dark period, as God's warnings about the evil nature of kings come to pass. The only way to repentance is through misfortune, and both kingdoms fall to invaders; only Judah repents.







Unknown; stories appear to be written during the Great Exile to Babylon

FINISHING THE JOURNEYS OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA HISTORY
LEADING TO THE
ASSYRIAN
INVASION OF
ISRAEL, 722 BC

HISTORY LEADING
TO THE
BABYLONIAN
INVASION OF
JUDAH, 585 BC

2 KINGS 1-10

Elijah is taken up to heaven, and is only the second person in history to circumvent death (see Enoch of Genesis 5). Elisha begins his series of miracles, including multiplying a widow's oil, raising a child from the dead, and healing a man of leprosy. Jehu, a good king of Judah, kills Ahab's 70 sons and all worshippers of Baal.

2 KINGS 11—17

Various kings reign
over Israel. Good kings
include only five from
Judah; all Israel's are
evil. Elisha dies and
Assyria invades Israel.
Hoshea reigns over
Israel, which becomes
subject to the
Assyrians. The ten
tribes of Israel are
carried away as
captives.

2 KINGS 18-25

Several kings, beginning with Hezekiah, reign over Judah. They reign in various states of righteousness and wickedness. King Josiah calls people to repentance, but it is only temporary, as the kings that follow him lead the people back into wickedness. Under King Zedekiah, Babylon invades Judah; Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed, and the people are taken into bondage.

1 CHRONICLES

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

13

29

HISTORY



While similar to 1 and 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles was written after the Great Exile to Babylon had ended. Its focus is the things on which God would have wanted the remnant and their descendants to concentrate. It contains a more spiritual perspective of Israel's history, beginning with Adam and ending with King Solomon's ascension to the throne.







Unknown, but may have been Ezra the Scribe, a scribe and scholar.

1 GENEALOGIES

HISTORY OF KING DAVID

3

A DETAILED LOOK AT DAVID'S PLANS

1 CHRONICLES 1—9

Genealogies are presented, linking the Israelites back to Adam, and aligning with other histories presented in previous books of the Old Testament.

1 CHRONICLES 10—22

Saul and his sons die, and the Philistines defeat Israel. David is anointed king and he defeats the Philistines. David praises God, brings the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, and prepares to build God's Temple.

1 CHRONICLES 23-29

Solomon is made king and uses David's plans to build God's Temple. Details are provided for every aspect from priests to musicians and security. Solomon's coronation precedes David's death.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

14

36

HISTORY



This book continues where 1 Chronicles left off, recording Solomon's reign and the kings up until the Babylonian invasion and Great Exile. It focuses on the history of Judah without the northern Kingdom of Israel.







-525 BC Unknown, but Ezra is cited as a contributor along with other scribes

KING SOLOMON
BUILDS THE TEMPLE

2

REHOBOAM THROUGH THE INVASION

2 CHRONICLES 1—9

Solomon prays for wisdom and God grants it—and much more. Solomon carries out the detailed plan of David and builds the Temple. He offers sacrifices and God accepts them, promising that Israel will prosper if they are obedient. The Queen of Sheba visits and Solomon reigns in wealth and wisdom, then dies.

2 CHRONICLES 10-36

Rehoboam reigns and increases taxes, and the people divide into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. Subsequent kings reign over Judah, some in wickedness and some in righteousness. The promise of the Lord is fulfilled; when righteous kings reign, their kingdom prospers and is protected. Several kings reign in wickedness until Babylon invades and the city of Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed. After many years, King Cyrus of Persia promises to rebuild the Temple.

10

HISTORY



Ezra records the end of the Great Exile and the return of Jews to Jerusalem. Under Cyrus, the king of Persia, the people were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Another 60 years later, King Artaxerxes of Persia chose Ezra to lead more Jews back to Israel with funds and materials to beautify the Temple.







1

STRUGGLE TO RESTORE THE TEMPLE

2

STRUGGLE WITH THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL REFORM

EZRA 1—6

King Cyrus of Persia aids in the return of the Jews to Jerusalem and instructs them to rebuild their Temple. The work begins, but after the altar is rebuilt and the foundation laid, construction is halted by the Samaritans who challenge the Jews. The Temple is finally completed when King Darius (of Daniel's lion's den) renews the decree of King Cyrus to build the Temple.

EZRA 7—10

About 60 years later, King Artaxerxes offers support by sending Ezra back to Jerusalem with supplies to decorate the Temple. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Ezra learns that the Jew who had arrived earlier had intermarried with heathen nations, and he advises them to repent. The Jews repent and separate themselves from other nations.



13

HISTORY



Nehemiah is living in exile as the cupbearer of Artaxerxes when he hears about the horrible condition of Jerusalem's walls. Inspired of the Spirit, he returns to oversee the renovation and help the people keep God's commandments. This is the only book in the Old Testament written in first person.







THE REBUILDING
OF THE WALL

RESISTANCE ARISES; AID GIVEN TO THE POOR WALL IS
COMPLETED IN
MIRACULOUS
TIME;
RESISTANCE
CONTINUES

RECORDS, LISTS, AND A DEDICATION

2

NEHEMIAH'S FINAL CONCERNS

NEHEMIAH 1—3

After praying and fasting, Nehemiah approaches King Artaxerxes and asks to return to Jerusalem to aid in building the walls. The king grants letters of passage, allowing Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and provides him with additional supplies.

NEHEMIAH 4-5

The Samaritan army makes the work of building walls increasingly difficult, resulting in half the men provide security duty while the other half build. Nehemiah discovers that people are in bondage to one another, having borrowed money to pay taxes, and he calls them to repent.

NEHEMIAH 6—8

Nehemiah experiences more opposition from neighboring foes, yet the wall is completed incredibly in just 52 days. Nehemiah gives the genealogy of Jews who have returned to Jerusalem and they celebrate the completion of the work.

NEHEMIAH 9-12

Nehemiah records the remnant of the Jews' formal repentance of past sins and promise to keep God's commandments. He also provides a list of overseers and priests, and the walls of Jerusalem are dedicated

NEHEMIAH 13

Nehemiah removes
Tobiah from the
Temple, a leader who
had been living there.
Nehemiah helps the
Levites suffering from
neglect and prays that
the work is preserved.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

17

10

HISTORY



The Book of Esther takes place following the end of the Great Exile, when the remnant of Judah is returning to Jerusalem. Its location is Susa (Persia) which would be modern Iran. The king unknowingly signs a decree containing the proposed genocide of all the Jews in Persia. Esther is chosen to deliver and protect her people from the danger.







Unknown scribe in the court of the King of Persia, Queen Esther's husband

ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

THE PLOT OF THE JEWISH GENOCIDE

ESTHER 3

ESTHER AGREES
TO HELP HER
PEOPLE

4

TWO BANQUETS AND A TWIST

2

HAMAN EXECUTED 6

THE DAMAGES REVERSED

ESTHER 1—2

and she wins the

king's favor and

becomes queen.

Queen Vashti loses favor by her A manipulative royal disobedience to the official, Haman, is king, and is stripped outraged when of her title. The king Mordecai refuses to decides to choose a bow down to him. As a new queen from the result. Haman women in his manipulates the king into agreeing to a kingdom. Esther is genocide of all Jews, presented by her not just Mordecai. guardian Mordecai,

ESTHER 4

Mordecai pleads for Esther's help in saving the Jews. After requesting the Jews to pray and fast with her for three days. Esther decides to present herself to the king. Her husband often put people to death for annovances, and she knew she was risking her life by approaching him without being summoned.

ESTHER 5-6

Esther flatters the king by inviting him and Haman to two banquets she prepares. After the first banquet, the King is unable to sleep and reads the records of Mordecai's past heroics. He unwittingly tells Haman to honor him.

ESTHER 7

Haman plans a public execution for Mordecai. Esther alerts the King to Haman's plot at her second banquet, and Haman is killed instead.

Both the king and Mordecai write documents that prevent the genocide of the Jews. Mordecai becomes second in command under the king.

ESTHER 8—10



42

WISDOM/POETRY



This book records the story of Job, a righteous man who responds with faith to difficult trials in his life, including the loss of his children, property, and eventually his own health. This may be the only other book written before Genesis.







GOD AND
DARKNESS
STRIKE A DEAL

JOB'S THREE
FRIENDS TRY TO
OFFER
EXPLANATIONS

GOD SPEAKS

4

JOB REPLIES

JOB 1-2

Satan and God discuss
Job's faithfulness and
God states, "there is
none like [Job]." When
Satan suggests Job is
only faithful because of
his prosperity, God
gives Satan permission
to try Job's faith
through various means,
but not kill him.

JOB 3-39

Eliphaz, Bildad, and
Zophar arrive to
comfort Job in his
afflictions, but speak
about the just nature of
God and declare that
Job must have sinned
to warrant his
afflictions. Job
maintains his
righteousness and trust
in God, and answers all
questions without
confessing to sin.

JOB 38-39

God appears to Job, explaining that His ways and perspective are different and more difficult for mortals to see. Job humbly submits to God, recognizing His power and judgment.

JOB 40-42

Job humbles himself and repents. His friends repent for not understanding the truth about God. God forgives and restores Job's property twofold, with an equal number of children and 140 years of healthy life.

150

WISDOM/POETRY



Initially written as poetry to be set to music, the Book of Psalms is often considered the first hymnal. All psalms express emotions to or about God. The psalms were collected over 1,000 years by various scribes from 1400 BC to around 450 BC. They are organized somewhat chronologically.







THE 12 PSALMS REMAINING THE 73 PSALMS **WRITTEN BY SMALLER BY KING DAVID PSALMS ASAPH AND CONTRIBUTIONS SONS OF KORAH FAMILY MEMBERS** 42; 44-49; 84-85; 50; 73-83. 3-9; 11-32; 34-41; Heman, Psalm 88: 87-88. 51-65; 68-70; 86; All other psalms are Solomon, Psalms 72 101; 103; 108—110; 122; anonymous. and 127; Moses, Psalm 124; 131; 133; 138-145. 90; Ethan the Ezrahite, Psalm 89.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

20

31

WISDOM/POETRY



Primarily written by Solomon, Proverbs speaks truth about life, human nature, and consequences of righteous and wicked behavior. Unlike the Book of Psalms which was compiled chronologically, Proverbs is compiled by format and theme.







Like Psalms, Proverbs was compiled over centuries, meant to be timeless. Solomon, with other contributors

PROLOGUE,
WISDOM TO
DESCENDANTS

COUPLETS, COMPARISONS

3 QUADS AND MORE

4

ADDITIONAL PROVERBS

5

WRITINGS BY AGUR AND KING LEMUEL

PROVERBS 1—9

Solomon writes to the younger generation, sharing the importance of obtaining wisdom. He expresses the importance of relying on God, avoiding sin, and keeping the Commandments to receive blessings.

PROVERBS 10-23

Solomon shares many couplets that offer a comparison between opposites: good and evil, right and wrong. Syntax and potency may have lost meaning in translation over time, but themes are universal.

PROVERBS 24-26

Solomon shares similar messages, but in greater depth, through stanzas that generally run from two to six lines. He details goodness and wickedness, but doesn't follow the same method of providing a contrast for each thought.

PROVERBS 27—29

Solomon provides additional proverbs, which may have an addendum to an earlier compilation.

PROVERBS 30-31

Other individuals write poems which are included, specifically the famed poem about a Virtuous Woman.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

21

12

WISDOM/POETRY



The book contains the thoughts and wisdom of King Solomon, but in a different writing style which departs from the short rhyming verses in Proverbs. He shares his musing on the purpose of life, the impermanence of worldly possessions, and the eternal nature of God and His commandments. While not extremely joyful, it may be comforting to those living with depression, confusion, or any unresolved issues.







The book is meant for all generations, being timeless

King Solomon, son of King David

MEANINGLESS
AND
MEANINGFUL

A SEASON FOR ALL; MORE MEANINGLESSNESS

ADMONISHMENTS

4 ENCOURAGEMENT

2

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

ECCLESIASTES 1—2

Solomon shares his efforts to find meaning in life. He finds through his own efforts that pleasure, great works, and riches are not satisfying. Wisdom, knowledge, and joy come from God.

ECCLESIASTES 3—4

Solomon shares that "for everything there is a season," indicating that good and bad things happen to everyone, and God's works are eternal. He writes further about more fleeting follies: oppression, toil, loneliness, advancement in earthly jobs, riches, and old age.

ECCLESIASTES 5—6

Solomon admonishes the importance of keeping vows made to God, money not granting happiness, and wisdom being found in unlikely places.

ECCLESIASTES 7—12

Solomon further encourages that wisdom comes from God and any view of the universe without God will bring hopelessness.

Knowledge about God learned in youth will prevent departure from the truth, and wisdom is more beneficial than riches.

ECCLESIASTES 12

Solomon concludes that obedience to God's commandments is most important because one day we will die and God will judge us for how we lived our lives.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

22

8

WISDOM/POETRY



Written by Solomon, this book contains words and poetry that complement the Bible's teachings about love and sexual sin. Solomon's writings serve as a reminder that romantic passion can be a great gift, and many sections can be used as an interpretation of Christ's love for His church.







1 BRIDE AND GROOM

2

A POEM OF ROMANTIC LOVE

SONG OF SOLOMON 1—4

A bride muses about her future husband and her feelings towards him. The groom shares his feelings and describes the beauty of his love.

SONG OF SOLOMON 3—8

Ceremonious words to be shared as the husband and wife describe each other, and their statements are joined by a chorus of friends.



PROPHECY, MAJOR



Isaiah was a prophet who served under four Judean kings. It is likely he met his death as a martyr under the evil King Manasseh. being sawn in half. His prophecies contain events concerning his day as well as the future, and foretold of Jesus Christ. Isaiah's writings focus on the consequence of those who have turned their backs on the Lord and the restoration of Israel. Although later prophets quote Isaiah frequently, his writings may be often difficult to understand due to the use of symbolism and literary style.







700 BC-25 AD (some prophecies concern the life of Christ)



Isaiah the Prophet

THE SINS OF THE **KINGDOMS**

THE **RESTORATION OF JUDAH AFTER** THE EXILE

NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH

ISAIAH 1—39

Isaiah is called by God to teach repentance to the people. He announces the sins of both the southern and northern kingdoms, as well as neighboring countries, and consequences if they don't repent. Isaiah prophesies of Jesus Christ being born of a virgin.

ISAIAH 40—55

Isaiah prophesies about the destruction of Jerusalem and Babylon prevailing over Israel. He also prophesies of the Exile and the restoration, which would happen in the next 100 years. Isaiah continues prophesying of Jesus Christ, including His suffering and death on the cross.

ISAIAH 56—66

Isaiah writes of the new heavens and new earth with some beautiful and hopeful passages. He proclaims hope for the afflicted and judgment for the evil.



52

PROPHECY, MAJOR



Jeremiah is one of the few prophets who warned the people of impending disaster and was able to experience the events as they unfolded. For over 40 years, Jeremiah found himself addressing a nation who refused to change its ways despite many warnings, and as a result found itself facing judgment from God.







NAMING THE GROSS SINS OF JUDAH

JUDGMENT AGAINST JUDAH 3

HOPE AND DELIVERANCE, JEREMIAH ABUSED

4

PEOPLE REFUSE TO HEED GOD'S PROPHET

JEREMIAH 1—10

Jeremiah is called by
God to preach
repentance to Judah.
Jeremiah shares God's
disappointment as he
tries to teach and
reason with the people,
but they are unwilling
to listen.

JEREMIAH 11—28

Because of the people's refusal to repent,
Jeremiah prophesies of the judgments that will fall upon them—including death, starvation, and captivity—providing a stunningly accurate warning of the impending invasion.

JEREMIAH 29—39

Jeremiah prophesies that God will return a remnant of the Jews to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. Jeremiah writes of restoration and hope, though the people will not escape punishment. Because of his preaching, Jeremiah is imprisoned.

JEREMIAH 40-52

The people who are not taken captive ask
Jeremiah whether they should stay or go to Egypt. Jeremiah prophesies destruction for the Jews in Egypt because they worship false gods, and the conquest of Egypt by Babylon. He then details the actual invasion as it occurs in the last chapter.

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

5

PROPHECY, MAJOR



Written by Jeremiah, the Book of Lamentations shares his sorrow at the destruction of Jerusalem and the wickedness of the people. Having warned and prophesied of the event for over 40 years, Jeremiah grieves Judah's ruin and captivity. He writes a series of poems expressing both God's view and his own feelings, which are closely aligned.







JEREMIAH
MOURNS THE
FORMERLY
BEAUTIFUL CITY

GOD'S ANGER EXPRESSED

THE DEPTHS OF
DESPAIR; THE
HEIGHT OF HOPE
AND FAITH

4

FURTHER
IMAGERY AND A
HOPE IN GOD

LAMENTATIONS 1

Jeremiah recounts the destruction of Jerusalem. He touches on several topics including weeping, loneliness, affliction, labor, grief due to sin, captured children, and hunger.

LAMENTATIONS 2

Jeremiah writes from the Lord's perspective expressing anger, then the people's perspective as they cry out in misery and sorrow.

LAMENTATIONS 3—4

Jeremiah describes the wickedness of the people and their suffering in great detail because of their departure from God. He describes a foreshadowing of the suffering and crucifixion of Christ. He also describes with hope God's promise of restoration as the people repent.

LAMENTATIONS 5

Jeremiah prays
regarding the miserable
state of the people. He
praises God and
invokes His mercy for
the Jews and long
suffering toward them.

48

PROPHECY, MAJOR



EZEKIEL

Ezekiel was a priest and one of those carried away in captivity. He prophesies from captivity for a period of over 20 years. His prophecies cover a range of topics and history, and include God's explanation of His current wrath, the recent reformation of Israel, and the Millennial Kingdom.







1 EZEKIEL'S WHEEL

EZEKIEL'S CORONATION AS A VOICE OF GOD

GOD EXPRESSES
HIS ANGER

JUDGMENT ON THE MOCKERS

5

THE FUTURE

EZEKIEL 1

Ezekiel receives a vision from God and describes four living creatures and four wheels, whose descriptions have been difficult for many to visualize and understand.

EZEKIEL 2—3

Ezekiel is called to preach to the people of Israel. He is warned emphatically that he must speak or be held accountable for the evil deeds of the people.

EZEKIEL 4-24

Ezekiel is commanded to teach the Jews using examples instead of just writing them, and because of this his writing are full of visions, imagery, and symbols. Ezekiel pleads with the Jews to repent and to return to God.

EZEKIEL 25—32

Ezekiel speaks about the wickedness of surrounding nations, including Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt. These nations have mocked both God and the Judeans, and God announces His judgments on them all.

EZEKIEL 33—48

God renews Ezekiel's calling, then proceeds to give visions about the distant future. He shares his vision of dry bones symbolizing the resurrection of Israel and visions of the future, including the restoration of the Temple.



12

PROPHECY, MAJOR



Daniel was one of the victims of the exile, carried away into Babylon. In captivity, Daniel was trained for service in the king's household, and found favor there. The first part of the book contains Daniel's narratives wherein he chose to keep the Lord's law and was blessed in many ways, gaining favor and power in the kingdom. The second part contains Daniel's prophetic visions, which are like Ezekiel's in their depth and clarity, and covering the end times.







1 STORIES OF FAITH

PROPHECIES OF DANIEL

THE CLOSING OF THE MEANING

DANIEL 1-6

Three famous tales appear: the three faithful prophets in the fiery furnace, the handwriting on the wall, and Daniel in the lions' den. Daniel finds fame by interpreting the king's dreams.

DANIEL 7—11

Daniel sees a vision of the future which includes events from Daniel's time and the earthly kingdoms around him. He also shares visions of the coming Messiah and the apocalyptic events. DANIEL 12

Daniel has another vision and declares the answers are sealed until the end of time.



14

PROPHECY, MINOR



Hosea was the only prophet from the northern kingdom of Israel to have a written record. The Lord commanded Hosea to marry a harlot, and God used this as a symbol of His relationship with His covenant people. This fueled the prophet to understand God's feelings about Israel's unfaithfulness and His promise of redemption.







MARRIAGE TO AN ADULTEROUS WOMAN

GOD SPEAKS TO
ISRAEL AND
JUDAH

ASSYRIA NAMED
AS ASSAILANT

4

WARNING TO EPHRAIM

HOSEA 1—3

God asks Hosea to marry the adulterous woman Gomer, then guides him to redeem and forgive her. HOSEA 4-7

Hosea outlines the charges against Israel from lying to murder.
Specifically, he emphasizes the sins of Ephraim, Samaria, and Judah for legalism instead of love.

HOSEA 8—11

Hosea prophesies of the approaching Assyrian invasion.
Hosea gives vivid detail of sins and judgment, and finally names Assyria as the impending attacker.

HOSEA 12-14

Hosea warns Ephraim against focusing on politics and other nations instead of worshipping and listening for God. He then reminds the people to repent.



3

PROPHECY, MINOR



Joel was a prophet of Judah who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and other events, futuristic by even today's standards. The book speaks to all generations, encouraging all to be ready for the "Day of the Lord." Terms like "the latter rain" and "approaching darkness" come from its texts, which are used by Christians to describe current and near-future trends.



WRITTEN TIME PE BC, date unknown 725



TIME PERIOD COVERED AUTHOR
725 BC- future The Prophet Joel

COMPARISON OF
UPCOMING
EVENTS TO A
PLAGUE OF
LOCUSTS

DESCRIPTION,
CALL TO
RETURN, DAY OF
THE LORD

JUDGMENT MELTS INTO VICTORY

JOEL 1

Joel prophesies at the time of drought and a plague of locusts, and uses that imagery to inspire fear of an invading army that is "mighty and without number."

JOEL 2

Joel continues in his terrifying description of an invading army which all generations should fear, and the Second Coming of the Lord. **JOEL 3**

Joel prophesies that all nations will be at war, but his people will prevail and be blessed. The Lord will dwell in Zion at the Last Day.



9

PROPHECY, MINOR



Amos was a shepherd from Tekoa, a small town 10 miles south of Jerusalem. This was unusual, as most prophets did not have previous occupations. Amos predicted the overthrow of the Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians, which happened in 722 BC. He also predicted the doom of Judah and many surrounding nations.







AMOS' CALLING
AND JUDGMENT
AGAINST MANY
NATIONS

JUDGMENTS AGAINST ISRAEL

AMOS IS
ATTACKED
PERSONALLY

THE PEOPLE ARE COMPARED TO RIPE FRUIT

5

THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

AMOS 1-2

Amos is called to be a prophet and declare God's Word to Israel. Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel are specifically named for their transgressions and warned that they will fall under God's judgment.

AMOS 3-6

Amos preaches about the judgment that the people are inflicting upon themselves because of their wickedness. Amos tells the people that they are obstinate because they have wealth and are successful.

AMOS 7

Amos asks God to end the planned plagues to give the people more time to repent. The people curse Amos, accuse him of being evil, and demand that he leave. Amos responds by recalling his mission as a prophet and the Lord's command to prophesy to Israel.

AMOS 8

Amos declares the downfall of the people. He reprimands the country for proclaiming to be righteous while neglecting its poor and needy, and taking advantage of the weak. Amos prophesies of future famine.

AMOS 9

Amos warns of God's promise to destroy the people and land, which eventually comes to pass when the Assyrians invade.

Amos closes with promises of restoration in the end days.



NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

31

1

PROPHECY, MINOR



Obadiah's name means "worshipper of Yahweh" and his writings are one of the few instances where God speaks solely to another culture rather than Israel. At the time, the people of Edom were mocking and harassing God's people, and Obadiah prophesies to them and warns them of their impending punishment. During this time, Judah was very vulnerable to invasion. It had been attacked by the Philistines and also by the Arabians. Edom may never have invaded, but they rejoiced when others would do so.



There isn't enough evidence to pin down an exact time, but historians say it is most likely circa 840 BC





EDOM'S PRIDE PUNISHED

OBADIAH 1

Obadiah prophesies that God will punish Edom for gloating over God's people while they suffered. Obadiah teaches that we are mocking God when we gloat over suffering of others.



4

PROPHECY, MINOR



The book contains the story of Jonah and the great fish. God calls Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, who were known for their cruelty and misdeeds. Jonah attempts to flee and hide, but ultimately God's will prevails.







JONAH DISOBEYS
GOD AND FLEES

JONAH IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH

3

JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH 4

GOD FORGIVES AND JONAH IS ANGRY

JONAH 1

Jonah refuses to follow God's instructions to go to Nineveh, and flees on a ship. He finds himself in the middle of a storm and, fearing that his disobedience is putting the others at risk, he tells the others to throw him overboard. He is swallowed by a giant fish.

JONAH 2

Jonah cries out to the Lord for help and forgiveness as he wallows in the belly of the fish. God hears Jonah and commands the fish to spit him out on land. **JONAH 3**

Jonah goes to Nineveh and declares repentance to the people, warning them of God's punishment. News of this reaches the king, who covers himself in sackcloth and repents. The king then tells the people to do likewise so that they may all be forgiven.

JONAH 4

Jonah sees the forgiveness of the Ninevites, becomes angry, and questions God. God then explains to Jonah that He loves all people, even those who need to repent.



7

PROPHECY, MINOR



Micah prophesied at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea, during the tragic years surrounding the Assyrian invasion of Israel. Micah's earlier prophecies concern judgment of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for idolatry. His later prophecies concern the future kingdom Jesus speaks of during His ministry.







JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S CRIMES
NAMED, LEADERS
CALLED OUT

FUTURE HOPE

4 AGAI

GOD'S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL; ISRAEL WILL RETURN

MICAH 1

Micah predicts the
Assyrian invasion,
which comes to pass
10-15 years later, in 722
BC. He also prophesies
the downfall of both
Samaria and Jerusalem,
implying all of Israel is
evil.

Mica
cri
includ
sei
robbe
God's
share
impen
but als
of re

MICAH 2—3

Micah names many crimes of Israel, including fraudulently seizing property, robbery, and silencing God's prophets. Micah shares the grief of the impending destruction, but also God's promise of restoration in the end.

MICAH 4-5

Micah prophesies with great hope for the future. He specifically names Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah, and describes the Messiah as a just ruler.

MICAH 6—7

Micah chastises Israel for its idolatrous ways and for forgetting God. He names their crimes against each other and ends with a promise of eventual deliverance.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

34

3

PROPHECY, MINOR



Nahum means "comfort," and God sends him to prophesy during one of the darkest periods in Judah's history, when King Manasseh was allowing the worst of idolatry. Nahum fixates on the fall of the Assyrian city Nineveh, to whom the prophet Jonah had preached repentance some 150 years earlier. This time, the people do not repent and the prophecies of Nahum predicting the city's destruction come to pass in 612 BC.







1

GOD BRINGS COMFORT TO JUDAH

2

DETAILS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH

NAHUM 1

Nahum speaks to Judah, announcing the destruction of the Assyrian nation. Nahum speaks about the nature of God—His love and loyalty for the people despite their constant wavering.

NAHUM 2-3

Nahum shares his vision detailing how Nineveh will fall. He speaks of people taken prisoners, their homes pillaged, and the nation stripped of their vast dominion.

Nahum reveals a series of punishments for Assyria's violence and idolatry, including humiliation, terror, and death.

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

3

PROPHECY, MINOR



Habakkuk was a prophet and this book contains an exchange between him and the Lord when Habakkuk is frustrated with the wickedness of the people. This book teaches us that even when we feel like God is doing nothing, He is always with His people and will eventually prevail.







HABAKKUK ASKS GOD FOR JUSTICE

GOD RESPONDS
TO HABAKKUK

3

HABAKKUK'S PRAYER

HABAKKUK 1

Habakkuk complains to God, asking why evildoing is ignored and why God has been so silent. God explains that Babylon will invade Judah and that this will be a punishment for the wicked behavior of His people.

HABAKKUK 2

God uses various examples of treachery and pride to describe the reason for His anger. He explains how all of this will result in pain and shame for those who have been haughty and disobedient.

HABAKKUK 3

Habakkuk praises God and declares all of the great things the Lord has done.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

36

3

PROPHECY, MINOR



Zephaniah is known for his seven mentions of "the Day of the Lord," more mentions than any other prophet. Often, the term refers to the end of time, but can mean any time in history where God personally intervenes to protect His people. Zephaniah has immediate importance for the people, as well as future generations.







WHOLE WORLD DESTROYED

THE FALL OF NATIONS TAKES ANCIENT AND FUTURE

3

JERUSALEM REMAINS UNREPENTANT

ZEPHANIAH 1

Zephaniah tells of the destruction of Judah, foreshadowing the End Times. Specifically, he speaks of the destruction of all men and beasts, referring to both local and future events.

ZEPHANIAH 2

Zephaniah tells of the destruction of many nations, foreshadowing the global destruction in the Day of the Lord. Zephaniah predicts the fall of the Assyrian capital, Nineveh, which would occur 10-20 years later.

ZEPHANIAH 3

Zephaniah likens
Judah's leadership to
lions and wolves. He
warns Jerusalem that
they remain as
unrepentant as the
nations who have
already been
destroyed. Zephaniah
prophesies of the
promised restoration.



2

PROPHECY, MINOR



One of the few books written after the return from the Great Exile in Babylon, Haggai wrote to encourage the people of Judah to rebuild the Temple. He wanted them to stop focusing on their own misfortune and to remember that devotion to God brings true rewards.







1

HAGGAI ENCOURAGES
THE PEOPLE TO
REBUILD THE TEMPLE

2

THREE MORE PROPHECIES

HAGGAI 1

Haggai tells the people that they have procrastinated rebuilding the Temple, which is why they are not flourishing. The people are fixated instead on rebuilding their own houses and, as a result, they have forgotten about unity, love for God, and for each other. As a result of Haggai's preaching, the people heed the call to rebuild the Temple.

HAGGAI 2

Haggai shares three prophecies.
First: God will "shake up the
earth and restore peace." Second:
God will bless His people even
though they have been defiled by
unclean people and customs.
Third: God will use Zerubbabel as
His chosen leader.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

38

14

PROPHECY, MINOR



Zechariah prophesies after the return from the Great Exile. The scope of his prophecies covers a wide range of topics and timelines, as he often speaks of Old Testament events and the First and Second Coming of Christ in the same passage. There is a lull of decades between his two sets of prophecies.







1

ZECHARIAH'S EARLY PROPHECIES

2

ZECHARIAH'S LATER PROPHECIES

ZECHARIAH 1—8

Zechariah's ministry begins with calling on Judah to repent. He then receives eight metaphoric visions in one night, from horns to horses and flying scrolls. He warns the people to repent and prepare for the Messiah.

ZECHARIAH 9—14

Zechariah sees the Coming of the Lord. He sees that the Messiah will be rejected by the Jews, and specifically mentions Palm Sunday. He sees the Second Coming of the Lord and the final victory for Israel with the Messiah.



4

PROPHECY, MINOR



The people of Judah had been living in Jerusalem for more than 100 years after the Babylonian exile. Although the Temple had been rebuilt, there was corruption in the priesthood and the people had become spiritually disinterested. Through Malachi, God calls the priests and people to repentance.

2







THE SIN OF BAD SACRIFICE

THE SINS OF BREAKING COVENANT AND OTHERS

A FINAL
JUDGMENT AND A
PROMISE

MALACHI 1

Malachi reprimands the people for offering blind and lame animals to God, which was contrary to the law given by Moses.

MALACHI 2-3

Malachi rebukes the priests for being a poor example to the people and not keeping the Law of the Lord. Other sins include disrespecting wives, sorcery, lying, and cheating employees.

MALACHI 4

Malachi tells of the consequence to fall on evil and good people at the end of the days. He reminds the people to not forget Moses and their history, then promises the return of Elijah.