**The Old Testament Books**

**LAW**

The first five books are called **the** **Law** or *Torah* or *Pentateuch*. Genesis, contains the account of Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, and the calling of Abraham to father a great people, the Israelites. Ab’s descendants go to Egypt to escape famine, and are later enslaved. In Exodus through Deuteronomy we are told how God used Moses to deliver them and of their wandering in the wilderness, before going into the promised-land. Also included, is the giving of the Ten Commandments and the various ritual and communal laws.

After Moses’ dies the Jews are led by Joshua, and then by various judges. The people want a king. The other **historical** books give accounts of the rule of Saul, David, and Solomon, the division of Israel into two kingdoms, and the unfaithfulness of both Israel and Judah. Finally, the two kingdoms are captured; the North by Assyria in 721 BC, the South by Babylon in 586 BC. Ezra and Nehemiah tell of the return after 400 years of captivity to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem wall. (Note—The captivity and return were prophesied, ahead of time.)

The **wisdom** books focus on worship and wisdom. “The Psalms, known in Hebrew as “the book of praises,” promote worship by declaring the works and attributes of God. Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon promote wisdom, telling God’s people not only how to live, but to live with God’s blessing.”

The **prophet’s** main duty was to speak forth God’s message to His people in the historical context of what was happening. They warned against idolatry. They declared judgment on the people when they departed from God’s ways, but they also spoke about the love and compassion of God to forgive, call His people back, establish a new covenant, send a promised Messiah and ultimately fulfill His purposes on earth.

The **Minor Prophets** are called minor because they are shorter books. These prophetic writers also speak of judgment and comfort. Through prophets, the Jews are constantly warned of the punishments for unfaithfulness to God’s ways and God’s faithfulness to restore his people, in spite of their sins. The prophetic books, themselves, often describe the high price these faithful mouthpieces paid for their unpopular and courageous declarations. Then, as now, people did not want to hear truth.

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| Genesis |
| Exodus |
| Leviticus |
| Numbers |
| Deuteronomy |

**HISTORY**

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| Joshua |
| Judges |
| Ruth |
| 1 and 2 Samuel |
| 1 and 2 Kings |
| 1 and 2 Chronicles |
| Ezra |
| Nehemiah |
| Esther |

**WISDOM**

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| Job |
| Psalms |
| Proverbs |
| Ecclesiastes |
| Song of Solomon |

**PROPHETS**

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| Isaiah |
| Jeremiah |
| Lamentations |
| Ezekiel |
| Daniel |

**MINOR** **(OR** **SHORTER)**

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| Hosea |
| Joel |
| Amos |
| Obadiah |
| Jonah |
| Micah |
| Nahum |
| Habakkuk |
| Zephaniah |
| Haggai |
| Zechariah |
| Malachi |