



OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE

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ONE-PAGE STUDY OUTLINES FOR EACH & EVERY BOOK IN THE BIBLE

JONAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT: 32 NUMBER OF CHAPTERS: 4

OVERVIEW

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 wickedness. Jonah attempts to flee and hide, but ultimately God's will prevails.

WRITTEN 772-754 BC

1	2	3
JONAH DISOBEYS GOD AND FLEES	JONAH IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH	JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH
JONAH 1	JONAH 2	JONAH 3

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 a storm and fearing that his disobedience is causing the others at sea to die, he prays to God.

Jonah cries out to the Lord for help and forgiveness as he is swallowed by the fish. God hears Jonah and commands the fish to spit him out on land.

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 will be forgiven.

GENESIS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT: 1 NUMBER OF CHAPTERS: 50 TYPE: HISTORY/PENTATEUCH

OVERVIEW

The first book in the Bible, Genesis records Creation and the Flood through early-Bible history, from around 4000 BC to 1200 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.

WRITTEN 1430 BC during the Exodus

TIME PERIOD COVERED 4000-1200 BC (2200 years)

AUTHOR MOSES

1	2	3	4	5
CREATION → TOWER OF BABEL	THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM	THE LIFE OF ISAAC	THE LIFE OF JACOB	THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
GENESIS 1-11	GENESIS 12-25	GENESIS 25-27	GENESIS 28-36	GENESIS 27-50

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.

Abraham and Sarah leave their hometown of Haran 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.

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.

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.

Jacob's 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.

PROVERBS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT: 20 NUMBER OF CHAPTERS: 31 TYPE: WISDOM

OVERVIEW

Primarily written by Solomon, the 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.

WRITTEN 970-675 BC

TIME PERIOD COVERED Like the Book of Psalms, Proverbs was compiled chronologically, but the content is more varied.

1	2	3	4	5
COUPLETS, COMPARISONS	QUADS AND MORE	ADDITIONAL PROVERBS	WRITINGS OF AGUR AND LEMUEL	WRITINGS OF AGUR AND LEMUEL
PROVERBS 10-23	PROVERBS 24-26	PROVERBS 27-29	PROVERBS 30-31	PROVERBS 30-31

Solomon shares many similar messages, but in greater depth, through stanzas that generally run from two to six lines. He details goodness and wisdom in translation time, but the

Solomon provides additional proverbs which

Other individuals

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OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

1 50

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

The first book in the Bible, Genesis records Creation and the Flood through early-Bible history, from around 4000 BC to 1200 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.



WRITTEN
1430 BC during
the Exodus



TIME PERIOD COVERED
4004-1805 BC
(2200 years)



AUTHOR
Moses

1

**CREATION →
TOWER OF BABEL**

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.

2

**THE LIFE
OF ABRAHAM**

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.

3

**THE LIFE
OF ISAAC**

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.

4

**THE LIFE
OF JACOB**

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.

5

**THE LIFE
OF JOSEPH**

GENESIS 27-50

Jacob's 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.

Exodus

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

240

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

Around 1400 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

1525–1400 BC



AUTHOR

Moses

1
HEBREW HISTORY
AND MOSES'
BACKGROUND

EXODUS 1–3

After over 400 years of the Israelites living in Egypt, a new Pharaoh comes into power and enslaves the descendants of Joseph. 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.

2
MOSES LEADS
THE PEOPLE TO
FREEDOM

EXODUS 4–15

Moses returns to Egypt and repeatedly asks the Pharaoh to free the Israelites. The Pharaoh refuses, and God sends ten plagues upon Egypt. The Israelites are protected against the plagues, and after the tenth plague 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.

3
WANDERING IN
THE WILDERNESS

EXODUS 16–19

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.

4
LAWS GIVEN TO
THE PEOPLE

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.

5
GOLDEN CALF
IDOL AND
REPENTANCE

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.

6
CONSTRUCTING
THE TABERNACLE

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).

LEVITICUS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

3 27

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

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 direct them back to God's law. It directs the new nation in righteous living with explicit examples that govern the Law of Love pronounced in the New Testament.



WRITTEN
1445 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1445 BC-70 AD

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



AUTHOR
Moses



NUMBERS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

4
36

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

Around 1400 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

1450–1400 BC



AUTHOR

Moses

1 ISRAEL PREPARES
TO LEAVE MOUNT
SINAI

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.

2 ISRAEL MOVES
TO KADESH

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 become leprous for a week.

3 REBELLION IN
KADESH

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.

4 THE JOURNEY
FROM KADESH TO
MOAB

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.

5 ISRAEL
ANTICIPATES
TAKING THE
PROMISED LAND
WHILE IN MOAB

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 plague kills 24,000 before others repent. The Lord reveals more laws for Israel.

6 MISCELLANEOUS
ISSUES

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.



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DEUTERONOMY

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

5

34

HISTORY/LAW, PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

Around 1400 BC
during and following
the Exodus



TIME PERIOD COVERED

1450–1400 BC



AUTHOR

Moses and
unnamed scribes

1

A DETAILED
HISTORY OF THE
EXODUS

DEUTERONOMY 1–3

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

2

STIPULATIONS ON
SUCCESS AND
FAILURE

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.

3

BLESSINGS AND
CURSES

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 commands and the curses for disobedience.

4

THE COMMISSION OF
JOSHUA AND THE
DEATH OF MOSES

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.

JOSHUA

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

6 24

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
1375 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1400-1375 BC



AUTHOR
Joshua and scribes

1

SPIES ENTER
JERICHO

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.

2

DEFEATING
JERICHO, BATTLES
WITH AI, AND
DEFEATING THE
GIBEONITES

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.

3

SUN STANDS
STILL AND GREAT
VICTORIES

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.

4

DISTRIBUTION OF
THE LAND

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.

5

JOSHUA'S FINAL
ORDERS AND
SUBSEQUENT
DEATH

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.

JUDGES

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

7 21

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

After Joshua's death, Israel instituted God's rule of 12 judges, installed 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.



WRITTEN
Around 1050 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1350–1050 BC



AUTHOR
Most likely the prophet Samuel

1
TRIBES REFUSE TO
DRIVE OUT THE
ENEMY; THE FIRST
THREE JUDGES

JUDGES 1–3

Israel continues to conquer the Canaanites; however, some tribes refuse to drive them out and a list of their sins are revealed. Othniel judges Israel, Ehud delivers Israel from Eglon the king of Moab, and Shamgar delivers Israel from the Philistines.

2
DEBORAH AND
GIDEON

JUDGES 4–8

Deborah, the only female judge of Israel, defeats the king of Canaan. Gideon defeats 10,000 Midianites with only 300 men, who were chosen based on how they drank water.

3
ABIMELECH

JUDGES 9

Considered one of the evillest 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.

4
TOLA, JAIR,
JEPHTHAH,
IBZAN, ELON,
ABDON

JUDGES 10–12

God-fearing judges Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon judge Israel righteously, restoring Israel each time it wanders. Their stories are outlined in chronological order, some more brief than others.

5
SAMSON

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.

6
CIVIL WAR

JUDGES 17–21

The tribes of Israel kill 26,000 Benjamites after they hide men of Gileash. 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.

RUTH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

8 4

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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's pagan lifestyle.



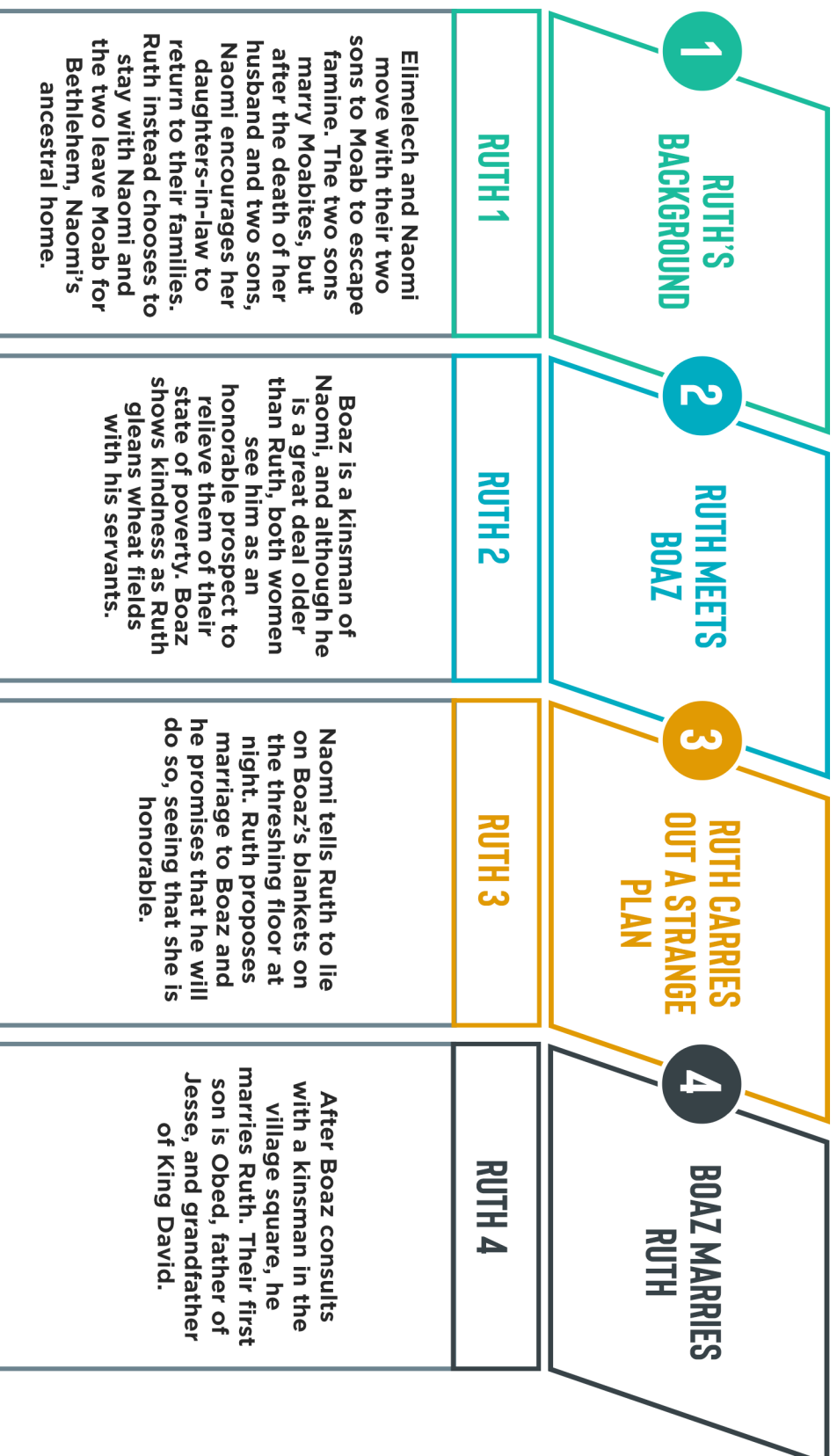
WRITTEN
1050-1000 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1150-1100 BC



AUTHOR
Most likely the prophet Samuel



1 SAMUEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

9 31

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



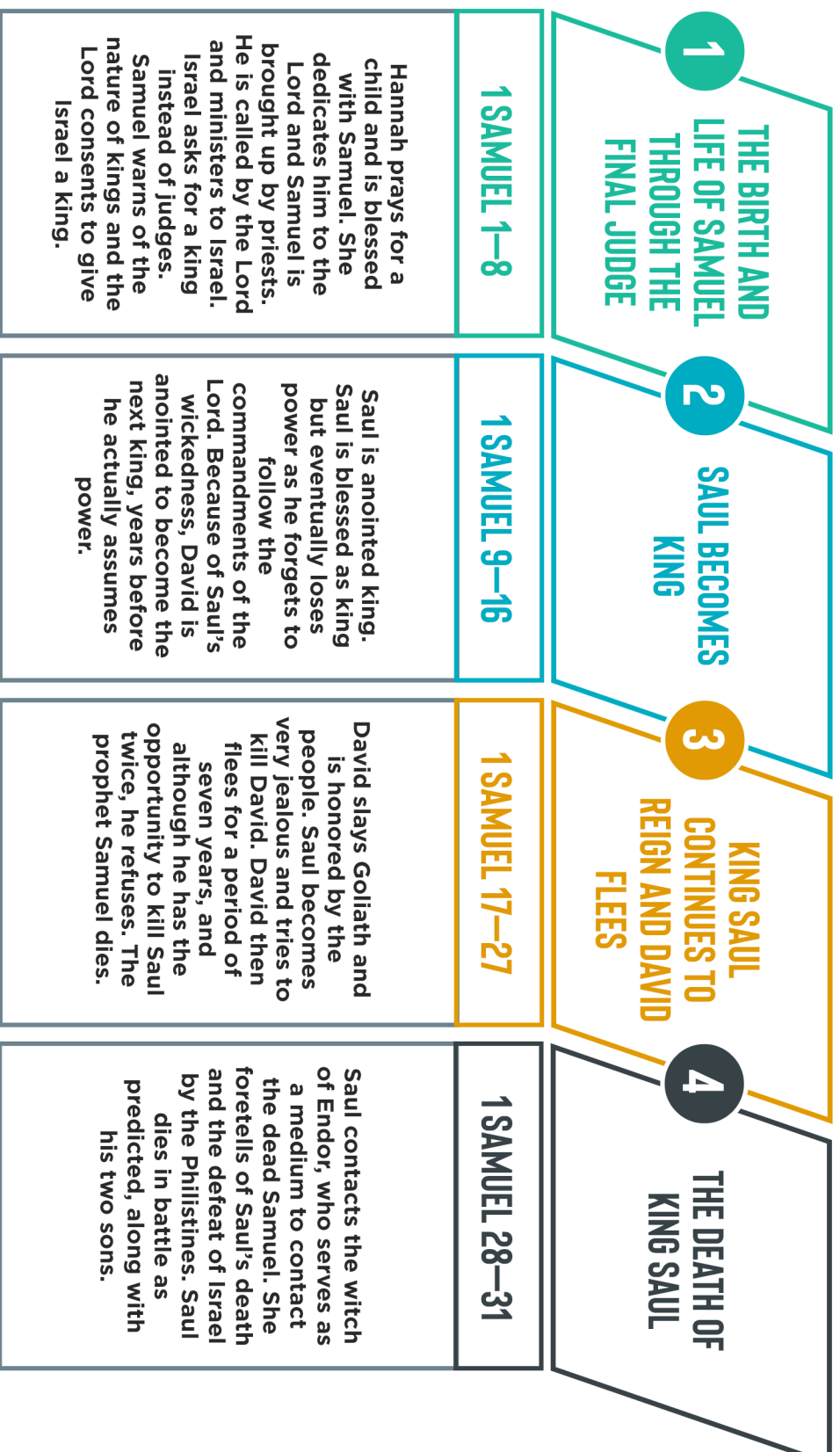
WRITTEN
900 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1150 BC–1000 BC



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



2 SAMUEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

10 24

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
900 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1000-975 BC



AUTHOR
Prophets Nathan and Gad with records from Samuel

1

DAVID NEARS
KINGSHIP

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

DAVID REIGNS
FROM
JERUSALEM

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.

3

TROUBLE IN THE
HOUSE

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.

4

EVEN MORE
BLOODSHED

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.

5

END OF DAVID'S
LIFE AND A FINAL
TALE

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.

1 KINGS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

11 22

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
550 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
975–850 BC



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

1
SOLOMON ASCENDS AND BUILDS THE TEMPLE

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 blessing 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.

2
THE GREAT DIVIDE

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.

3
THE DIVIDED KINGDOM SUFFERS ITS FIRST KINGS

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.

4
THE DEEDS OF ELIJAH THE PROPHET

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; and he hears God proclaim that there are 7,000 Israelites who are faithful to the Lord. Jezebel and Ahab die and Hazariah reigns in wickedness.

2 KINGS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

12 25

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
550 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
850–575 BC



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

1

FINISHING THE
JOURNEYS OF
ELIJAH AND
ELISHA

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

HISTORY
LEADING TO THE
ASSYRIAN
INVASION OF
ISRAEL, 722 BC

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.

3

HISTORY LEADING
TO THE
BABYLONIAN
INVASION OF
JUDAH, 585 BC

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

13

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

29

TYPE

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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 focus. It contains a more spiritual perspective of Israel's history, beginning with Adam and ending with King Solomon's ascension to the throne.



WRITTEN
450 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
4000–975 BC



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

1

GENEALOGIES

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.

2

HISTORY OF
KING DAVID

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.

3

A DETAILED LOOK
AT DAVID'S
PLANS

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.

2 CHRONICLES

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

14 36

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
About 340 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
975–525 BC



AUTHOR
Unknown, but Ezra is cited as a contributor along with other scribes

1

**KING SOLOMON
BUILDS THE TEMPLE**

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

**REHOBOAM THROUGH
THE INVASION**

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.

EZRA

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

15 10

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
450 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
550–510 BC



AUTHOR
Ezra the Scribe

1

STRUGGLE TO
RESTORE THE TEMPLE

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.

2

STRUGGLE WITH THE
NEED FOR SPIRITUAL
REFORM

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.

NEHEMIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

16 13

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
425-400 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
450-430 BC



AUTHOR
Nehemiah

1

THE REBUILDING
OF THE WALL

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.

2

RESISTANCE
ARISES; AID GIVEN
TO THE POOR

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.

3

WALL IS
COMPLETED IN
MIRACULOUS
TIME;
RESISTANCE
CONTINUES

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.

4

RECORDS, LISTS,
AND A DEDICATION

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 list of overseers and priests, and the walls of Jerusalem are dedicated

5

NEHEMIAH'S
FINAL CONCERNS

NEHEMIAH 13

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

ESTHER

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

17 10

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

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, which would be modern Iran. King Xerxes 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.



WRITTEN
450 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
480–475 BC



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

1 ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

ESTHER 1–2

The former Queen Vashti loses favor by her disobedience to the king, and is stripped of her title. The king decides to choose a new queen from the women in his kingdom. Esther is presented by her guardian Mordecai, and she wins the king's favor and becomes queen.

2 THE PLOT OF THE JEWISH GENOCIDE

ESTHER 3

A manipulative royal official, Haman, is outraged when Mordecai refuses to bow down to him. As a result, Haman manipulates King Xerxes into agreeing to a genocide of all Jews, not just Mordecai.

3 ESTHER AGREES TO HELP HER PEOPLE

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 annoyances, and she knew she was risking her life by approaching him without being summoned.

4 TWO BANQUETS AND A TWIST

ESTHER 5–6

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

5 HAMAN IMPALED

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.

6 THE DAMAGES REVERSED

ESTHER 8–10

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

JOB

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

18 42

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

About 1900 BC



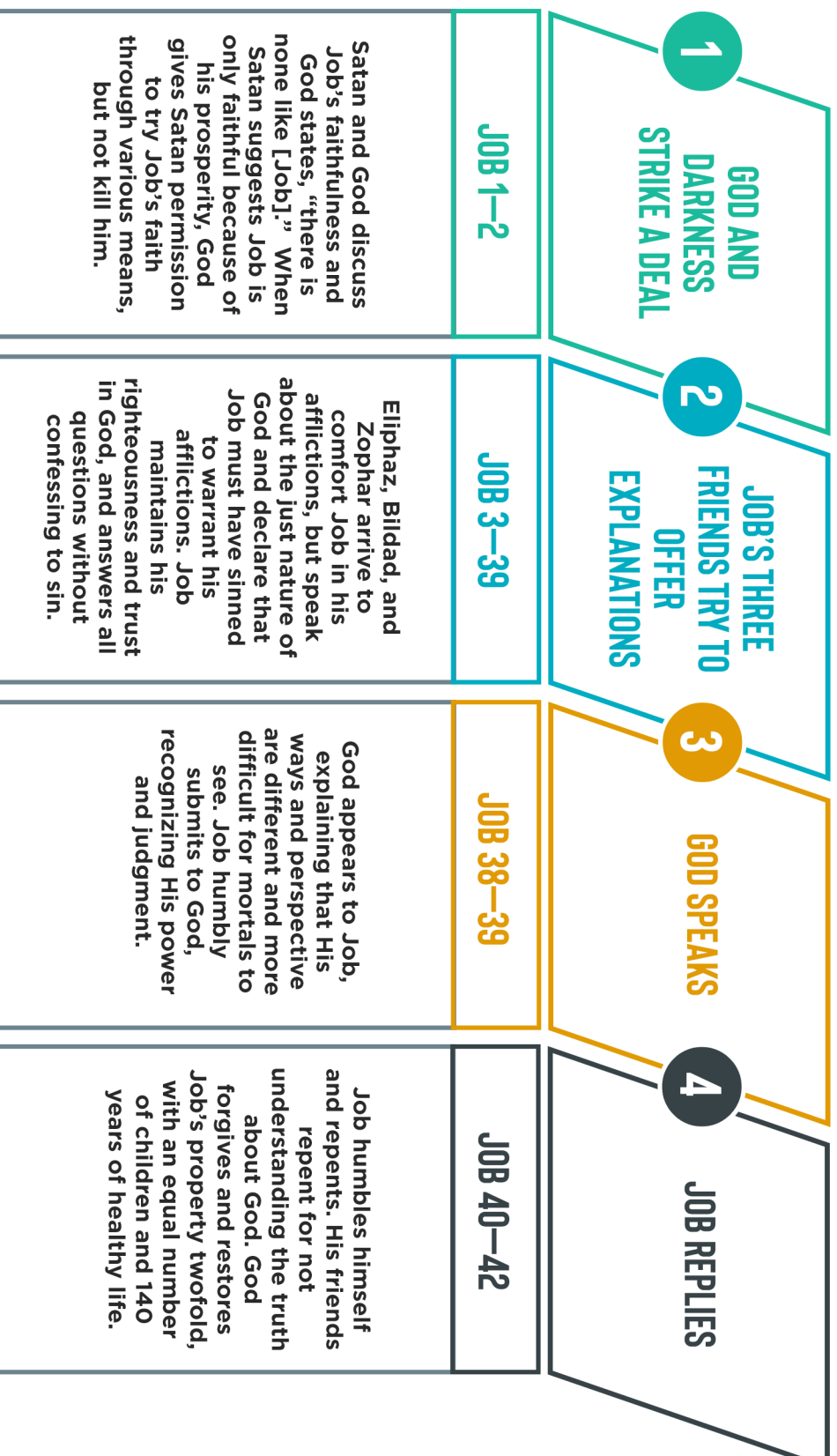
TIME PERIOD COVERED

2100–1900 BC



AUTHOR

Unknown



PSALMS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

19

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

150

TYPE

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

1400–450 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

Meant to be timeless



AUTHOR

Multiple contributors:
King David wrote 75 psalms

1

THE 73 PSALMS
BY KING DAVID

3–9; 11–32; 34–41;
51–65; 68–70; 86;
101; 103; 108–110; 122;
124; 131; 133; 138–145.

2

THE 12 PSALMS
WRITTEN BY
ASAPH AND
FAMILY MEMBERS

50; 73–83.

3

THE 11 PSALMS
WRITTEN BY THE
SONS OF KORAH

42; 44–49; 84–85;
87–88.

4

SMALLER
CONTRIBUTIONS

Heman, Psalm 88;
Solomon, Psalms 72
and 127; Moses, Psalm
90; Ethan the Ezrahite,
Psalm 89.

5

REMAINING
PSALMS

All other psalms are
anonymous.

PROVERBS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

20 31

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

Primarily written by Solomon, the 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.



WRITTEN
970-675 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
Like Psalms, Proverbs was compiled over centuries, meant to be timeless.



AUTHOR
Solomon, with other contributors

1

**PROLOGUE,
WISDOM TO
DESCENDANTS**

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 from God.

2

**COUPLETS,
COMPARISONS**

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.

3

QUADS AND MORE

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.

4

**ADDITIONAL
PROVERBS**

PROVERBS 27–29

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

5

**WRITINGS BY
AGUR AND KING
LEMUËL**

PROVERBS 30–31

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

ECCLESIASTES

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

21 12

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
940-931 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
The book is meant for all generations, being timeless



AUTHOR
King Solomon, son of King David

1

MEANINGLESS
AND
MEANINGFUL

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.

2

A SEASON FOR ALL:
MORE
MEANINGLESSNESS

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.

3

ADMONISHMENTS

ECCLESIASTES 5-6

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

4

ENCOURAGEMENT

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.

5

THE CONCLUSION
OF THE MATTER

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.

SONG OF SOLOMON

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

22 8

WISDOM/POETRY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
970-950 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
Meant to be timeless



AUTHOR
King Solomon

1

BRIDE AND GROOM

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.

2

A POEM OF ROMANTIC
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.

ISAIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

23

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

66

TYPE

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

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 sawed in half. His prophecies contain events concerning his day as well as the future, and foretell 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.



WRITTEN
700-680 BC



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



AUTHOR
Isaiah the Prophet

1

THE SINS OF THE
KINGDOMS

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.

2

THE
RESTORATION OF
JUDAH AFTER
THE EXILE

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.

3

NEW HEAVENS
AND EARTH

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.

JEREMIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

24 52

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
585–570 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
575 BC–25 AD



AUTHOR
The Prophet
Jeremiah

1

**NAMING THE
GROSS SINS OF
JUDAH**

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.

2

**JUDGMENT
AGAINST JUDAH**

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.

3

**HOPE AND
DELIVERANCE,
JEREMIAH
ABUSED**

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.

4

**PEOPLE REFUSE
TO HEED GOD'S
PROPHET**

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.

LAMENTATIONS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

25

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

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.



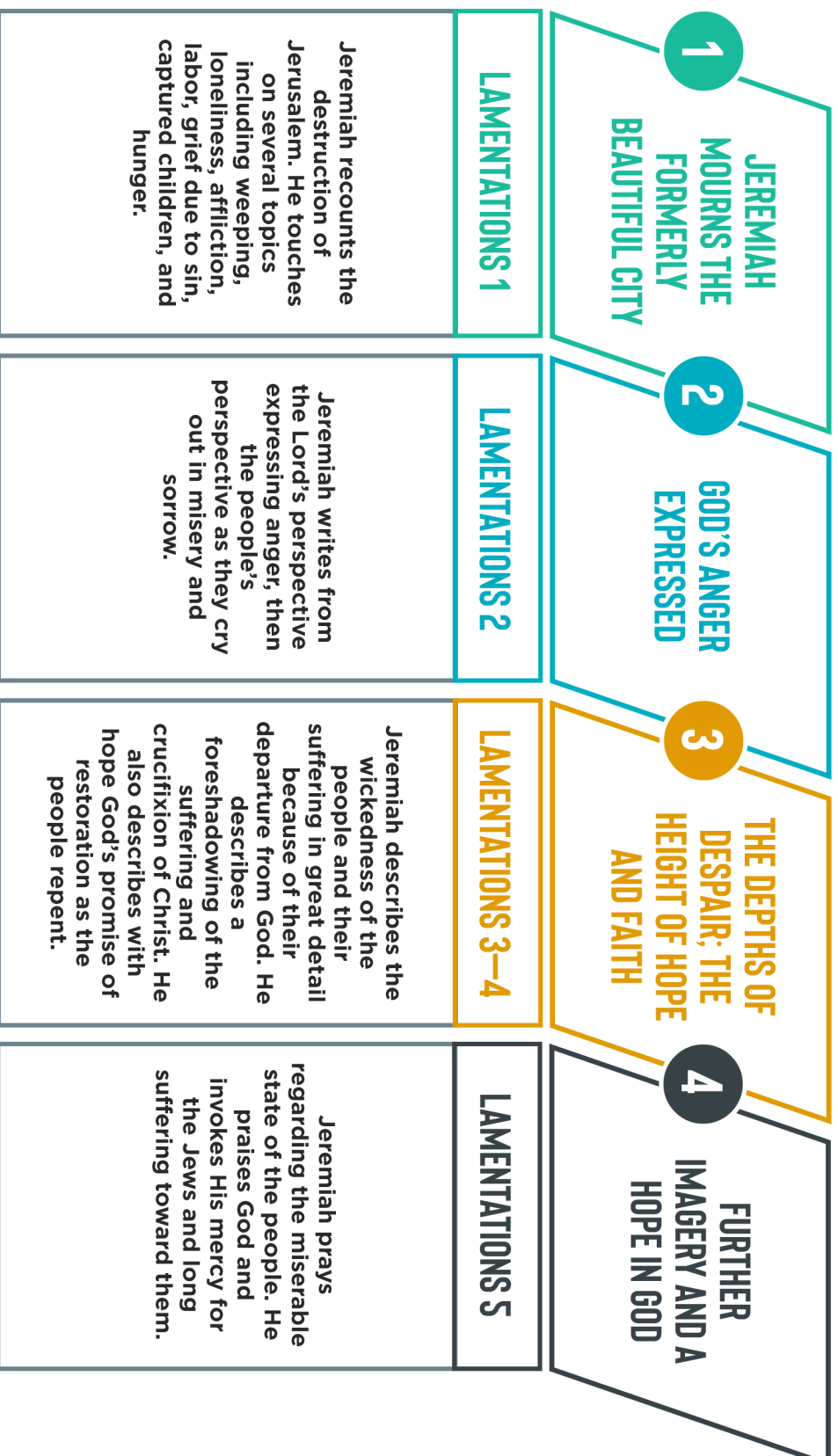
WRITTEN
585 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
586–585 BC



AUTHOR
The Prophet
Jeremiah



EZEKIEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

26 48

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

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 current wrath, the recent reformation of Israel, and the Millennial Kingdom.



WRITTEN
590–570 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
585 BC through the end of times



AUTHOR
The Prophet Ezekiel

1

EZEKIEL'S WHEEL

EZEKIEL 1

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

2

**EZEKIEL'S
CORONATION AS A
VOICE OF GOD**

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.

3

**GOD EXPRESSES
HIS ANGER**

EZEKIEL 4–24

Ezekiel is commanded to teach the Jews using examples instead of just writing it, 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.

4

**JUDGMENT ON THE
MOCKERS**

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.

5

THE FUTURE

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.

DANIEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

27 12

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

PROPHECY



OVERVIEW

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 especially the end times.



WRITTEN
536–530 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
530 BC to End of Time



AUTHOR
Daniel the Prophet

1

STORIES OF FAITH

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.

2

PROPHECIES OF DANIEL

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.

3

THE CLOSING OF THE MEANING

DANIEL 12

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

HOSEA

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

28 14

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
750-710 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
750-6 BC



AUTHOR
Hosea the Prophet

1

MARRIAGE TO AN
ADULTEROUS
WOMAN

HOSEA 1-3

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

2

GOD SPEAKS TO
ISRAEL AND
JUDAH

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.

3

ASSYRIA NAMED
AS ASSAILANT

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.

4

WARNING TO
EPHRAIM

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.

JOEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

29

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

Joel was a prophet of Judah who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and other events, futuristic by 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

BC, date unknown



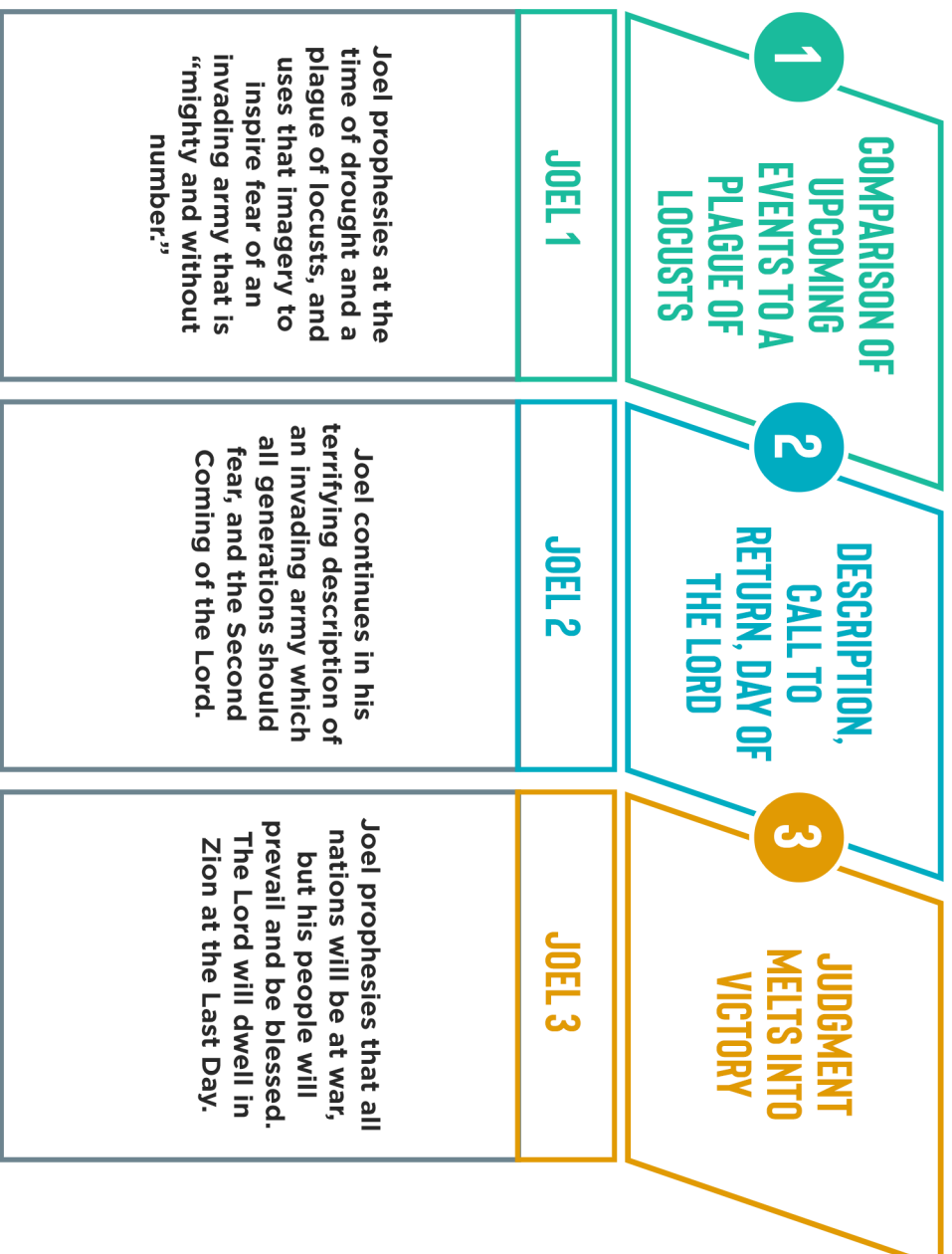
TIME PERIOD COVERED

Unknown: sometime between 835–450 BC



AUTHOR

The Prophet Joel



AMOS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

30 9

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
750 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
722-516 BC



AUTHOR
The Prophet Amos

1

AMOS' CALLING
AND JUDGMENT
AGAINST MANY
NATIONS

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.

2

JUDGMENTS
AGAINST ISRAEL

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.

3

AMOS IS
ATTACKED
PERSONALLY

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 leaves. Amos responds by recalling his mission as a prophet and the Lord's command to prophesy to Israel.

4

THE PEOPLE ARE
COMPARED TO
RIPE FRUIT

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.

5

THE DESTRUCTION
OF ISRAEL

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.

OBADIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

31

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

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



TIME PERIOD COVERED

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.



AUTHOR

Obadiah

1

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.

JONAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

32 4

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN

772-754 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

At this time Israel was a political power, having been made up of twelve tribes. The people of Israel were corrupting the people.



AUTHOR

Jonah the Prophet

1

JONAH DISOBEYS
GOD AND FLEES

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.

2

JONAH IN THE
BELLY OF THE
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.

3

JONAH GOES TO
NINEVEH

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.

4

GOD FORGIVES
AND JONAH IS
ANGRY

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.

MICAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

33
7

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
735-710 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
722 BC to the End of Days



AUTHOR
The Prophet Micah

1

JUDGMENT OF
ISRAEL

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.

2

ISRAEL'S CRIMES
NAMED, LEADERS
CALLED OUT

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.

3

FUTURE HOPE

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.

4

GOD'S CASE
AGAINST ISRAEL;
ISRAEL WILL
RETURN

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.

NAHUM

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

34 3

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
650 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
658–615 BC



AUTHOR
Nahum the Prophet

1

GOD BRINGS COMFORT
TO JUDAH

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.

2

DETAILS OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF
NINEVEH

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.

HABAKKUK

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

35

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

Habakkuk was a prophet. 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.



WRITTEN

Around 604 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

615–605 BC



AUTHOR

Habakkuk the Prophet

1

HABAKKUK ASKS
GOD FOR JUSTICE

HABAKKUK 1

Habakkuk complains to God, asking why evil-doing 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.

2

GOD RESPONDS
TO HABAKKUK

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.

3

HABAKKUK'S
PRAYER

HABAKKUK 3

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

ZEPHANIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

36

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
635–625 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
605 BC to the End of Days



AUTHOR
The Prophet Zephaniah

1

**WHOLE WORLD
DESTROYED**

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.

2

**THE FALL OF
NATIONS TAKES
ANCIENT AND
FUTURE**

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.

3

**JERUSALEM
REMAINS
UNREPENTANT**

ZEPHANIAH 3

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

HAGGAI

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

37 2

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
526 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
526 BC



AUTHOR
Haggai the Prophet

1

HAGGAI ENCOURAGES
THE PEOPLE TO
REBUILD THE TEMPLE

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.

2

THREE MORE PROPHECIES

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.

ZECHARIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

38 14

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

Zechariah prophesies after the return from the Great Exile. The scope of his prophecies covers wide ranges 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.



WRITTEN
520–484 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
520 BC–End of Days



AUTHOR
The Prophet
Zechariah

1

ZECHARIAH'S EARLY PROPHECIES

ZECHARIAH 1–8

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

2

ZECHARIAH'S LATER PROPHECIES

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.

MALACHI

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

39

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

4

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

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.



WRITTEN
433-424 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
424 BC-24 AD



AUTHOR
Malachi the Prophet

1

THE SIN OF BAD
SACRIFICE

MALACHI 1

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

2

THE SINS OF
BREAKING
COVENANT AND
OTHERS

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.

3

A FINAL
JUDGMENT AND A
PROMISE

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.