



Old Testament Survey

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Part 1

History

Chapter 1

Pentateuch: Preparation

Basic Structure of the Bible

- 39 books
 - 17 books of history
 - 5 books of Law: Preparation
 - 9 books of pre-exile history: Occupation
 - 3 books of post-exile history: Repossession
 - 5 books of poetry
 - 5 books of personal experience
 - 17 books of prophecy
 - 5 books of major prophets
 - 9 books of pre-exile minor prophets
 - 3 books of post-exile minor prophets

Genesis: Beginnings

I. Primeval History, 1-11

1. Creation, 1-2
2. Fall, 3-4
3. Genealogy, 5
4. Flood, 6-9
5. Genealogy, 10
6. Tower of Babel, 11:1-9
7. Genealogy, 11:10-32

II. Patriarchal History

1. Abraham, 12:1-25:11
2. Isaac, 25:1-35:29
3. Genealogy, 25:12-28
4. Jacob, 25:19-49:33
5. Genealogy, 36
6. Joseph, 37:1-50:26

Major characters

began to build the temple in the 400th year after the children of Israel came up out of Egypt. Exodus 12:40-41 tells us that the sojourn of the children of Israel in Egypt was 430 years. Since historians are generally agreed that Solomon died in 930 bc, they have been able to calculate backwards to establish the date of the Exodus and the date of Jacob's descent into Egypt and then backwards to Abraham's birth, as shown in the chart above.

Beyond that, the only data available for calculating chronology is the genealogies, which although extensive, have been shown to be abbreviated through comparison of the Biblical genealogies. Any dates prior to Abraham are, therefore, somewhat speculative. However, the gaps in the genealogies certainly do not allow for the millions of years proposed by evolutionists on the basis of uniformitarian geological assumptions. Ussher's dates, based primarily on the genealogies, dates Creation at 4004 bc. Most creationists would be more general and would say that Creation took place not more than about 10,000 years ago, that is, not more than about 8000 bc. It would seem reasonable to agree that we cannot be more specific than that.

Exodus: Deliverance

I. Bondage, 1:1-12:28

1. Preparation of Moses, 1-4
2. Confrontation with Pharaoh, 5-11
3. Passover, 12:1-30

II. Deliverance, 12:31-18:27

1. Exodus, 12:31-13:22
2. Red Sea Crossing, 14:1-15:22
3. Provision, 15:23-18:27

III. Covenant, 19-40

1. Preparation of the people, 19
2. Giving of the Law, 20-24
3. The Tabernacle, 25-40

Major characters

- Moses ("drawn out")
- Aaron ("very high, mountain")
- Miriam
- Pharaoh ("the sun-god" or "the great house")

Major events

- Burning bush, 3
- 10 plagues, 7-12
- Passover, 12

- Exodus, 12-13
- 4 miracles of provision, 15-17
- 10 commandments, 20

Major themes

- Deliverance
- Sovereignty
- Covenant

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Moses
- Passover, 12
- Manna, 16
- Water from the rock, 17
- Tabernacle, 25-40

Why should [the Spirit of God] dismiss the creation of all the suns and stars of space in five brief words – “He made the stars also” - yet devote about fifty chapters to telling of the tabernacle?... [Because] God is writing into the pages of His Word a full-length portrait of His Son...

John Philips, Bible Explorers Guide

History of Egypt

1. Predynastic, 3500-3100 BC
2. Protodynastic, 3100-2686 BC
3. Dynastic, 2686-332 BC
 1. Old Kingdom (Dyn. 3-6), 2686-2181 BC
 1. Great pyramids built
 2. First Intermediate Kingdom (Dyn. 7-11), 2181-1991 BC
 1. Time of decline
 3. Middle Kingdom (Dyn. 12), 1991-1786 BC
 1. Golden age of art & craftsmanship
 2. Joseph's rise to power in Egypt
 3. Jacob moves to Egypt (1876 BC)
 4. Second Intermediate Period (Dyn. 13-17), 1786-1567 BC
 1. Decline during 13th & 14th dynasties
 2. Hsykos rule during 15th & 16th dynasties
 5. New Empire Period (Dyn. 18-19), 1567-1223 BC
 1. "One of the most brilliant periods in Egyptian history"
 2. Ahmose I (1567-1546)
 3. Amenhotep I (1546-1526)
 4. Thutmose I (1526-1512)
 1. Birth of Moses (1526)

5. Thutmose II (1512-1504)
 1. Hatshepsut (1503-1482)
6. Thutmose III (1504-1450)
7. Amenhotep II (1450-1425)
 1. Pharaoh of Exodus (1446)
8. Thutmose IV (1425-1417)
9. Amenhotep III (1417-1379)
10. Amenhotep IV (1379-1362)
 1. Wife: Queen Nefertiti
11. Smenkhare (1364-1361)
12. Tutankhamon (1364-1352)
13. Ay (1352-1348)
14. Horemheb (1348-1320)
15. Rameses I (1320-1318)
16. Seti (1318-1304)
17. Rameses II (1304-1236)
18. Mernptah (1236-1223)
6. Later New Kingdom (Dyn. 20), 1223-1085 BC
7. Third Intermediate Period (Dyn. 21-25), 1085-663 BC
8. Late Period (Dyn. 26-31), 663-332 BC
9. Alexander the Great, 333-322 BC
10. Ptolemaic Dynasty, 323-30 BC

based on John Hannah, *Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, and Walter Kaiser, *A History of Israel*

Leviticus: Holiness

I. Offerings, ch. 1-7

1. Burnt offering
2. Grain offering
3. peace offering
4. Sin offering
5. Trespass offering

II. Priesthood, ch. 8-10

1. Consecration, 8
2. Commission, 9
3. Conduct, 10

III. Holiness, ch. 11-27

1. Cleanliness, 11-17
 1. Day of Atonement, 16
2. Conduct, 18-24
 1. Feasts of Jehovah, 23

3. Redemption, 25-27

Major characters

- Moses
- Aaron
- Nadab (“generous”) & Abihu (“worshipper of God”), 10

Major themes

- Holiness
- Offerings, 1-7
- Feasts, 23

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Burnt offering, 1 & 6
- 1. žComplete dedication to His Father’s will
- Grain offering, 2 & 6
- 1. žPerfect, sinless character of Christ
- Peace offering, 3 & 7
- 1. žChrist is our peace and the basis of our fellowship
- Sin offering, 4 & 6
- 1. žCleansing power of the blood of Christ
- Trespass offering, 5 & 7
- 1. žChrist paid the debt we couldn’t pay
- Aaron
- 1. žHigh priest, who has suffered with the people, making offering before God
- Scapegoat
- 1. žBearing our sins to an uninhabited country
- Year of Jubilee
- 1. žDebts forgiven, slaves set free

Numbers: Wanderings

I. Preparation, 1:1-10:10

1. First census, 1
2. Arrangement of tribes, 2
3. Levites, 3
4. Duties of Levites, 4
5. Census of Levites, 4
6. Various laws, 5-6
7. Consecration of tabernacle & Levites, 7-8
8. Second Passover, 9:1-14
9. Guidance for the journey, 9:15-10:10

II. Pilgrimage, 10:11-21:35

1. Journey begins, 10:11-36

2. Criticism of God's provision, 11
3. Criticism of God's prophet, 12
4. Criticism of God's power, 13-14
5. Criticism of God's priests, 16-17
6. Various laws, 15, 18-19
7. Moses strikes the rock, 20
8. Bronze serpent, 21
9. Defeat of Sihon & Og, 21

III. Preparation, 22-36

1. Balaam's four prophecies, 22-24
2. Harlotry with Baal of Peor, 25
3. Second census, 26
4. Joshua's inauguration, 27
5. Various laws, 28-30
6. Conquest east of Jordan, 31-34
7. Cities of refuge, 35
8. Inheritance laws, 36

Major characters

- Moses
- Aaron & Miriam
- Korah ("ice, hail"), Dathan ("of a fountain") & Abiram ("father of height, proud")
- Joshua ("Jehovah the Saviour") & Caleb ("wholehearted")
- Balak ("empty, spoiler") & Balaam ("lord of the people")

Major events

- Census, 1 & 26
- Dissension of Aaron & Miriam, 12
- Spying out the land, 13
- Rebellion of Korah, Dathan & Abiram, 16
- Death of Miriam & Aaron, 20

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Manna, 11
- Aaron's rod, 17
- Rock, 20
- Bronze serpent, 21

Deuteronomy: Remembrance

"The book of Deuteronomy... is directly quoted over 40 times in the NT (exceeded only by Psalms and Isaiah) with many more allusions to its content."

MacArthur Study Bible

I. Remember God's Dealings in the Past, 1:1-4:43

1. Failure to enter the land, 1
2. Wanderings, 2:1-25
3. Victory, 2:26-3:29
4. Exhortation, 4:1-43

II. Remember God's Laws in the Present, 4:44-26:19

1. Review of 10 Commandments, 5
2. Exhortation, 6-11
3. Various laws, 12-26

III. Remember God's Warnings for the Future, 27-30

1. Blessings & curses, 27-28
2. Covenant renewed, 29
3. Exhortation, 30

IV. Transition, 31-34

1. Leadership passed to Joshua, 31
2. Song of Moses, 32
3. Blessing of Moses, 33
4. Death of Moses, 34

Major themes

- Remembrance
- Obedience
- Exhortation

Major words/phrases

- Remember (14x)
- Forget (13x)
- Hear/listen/take heed/be careful (82x)
- LORD your God (239x of 392 uses in OT)

Christ in all the Scriptures

- The Lord will raise up a Prophet like Moses, 18:15 (cp. John 1:21; 6:14; 7:40)

Chapter 2

History: The Promised Land

Joshua: Promised Land

I. Entering the Land, 1-5

1. Joshua assumes leadership, 1
2. Rahab and the spies, 2
3. Crossing the Jordan, 3-5

II. Possessing the Land, 6-12

1. Jericho, 6
2. Ai, 7-8
3. Gibeonites, 9:1-10:27
4. Summary of Conquest, 10:28-12:24

III. Distributing the Land, 13-21

1. The eastern tribes, 13
2. The western tribes, 14-19
3. Cities of refuge, 20
4. Levitical cities, 21

IV. Rest in the Land, 22-24

1. Eastern tribes, 22
2. Joshua's farewell speech, 23
3. Covenant renewal, 24

Major characters

- Joshua ("Jehovah the Saviour")
- Caleb ("wholehearted")
- Eleazar ("God has helped") the priest

Major events

- Crossing the Jordan, 3
- Walls of Jericho fall down, 6
- Sin of Achan, 7
- Treaty with the Gibeonites, 9
- Lord casts down hailstones on Amorites, 10
- Sun stands still, 10

- Death of Joshua, 24

Major themes

- Covenant
- Judgement on the nations

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Scarlet cord, 2:18
 - Commander of the army of the Lord, 5:13-15
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Judges: Failure

I. Transition, 1:1-3:6

1. Conquest incomplete, 1
2. Israel's disobedience, 2
3. Nations left in the land, 3:1-6

II. History of the Judges, 3:7-16:31

1. Othniel, Ehud & Shamgar, 3
2. Deborah & Barak, 4-5
3. Gideon & Abimelech, 6-9
4. Tola & Jair, 10:1-5
5. Jephthah, 10:6-12:7
6. Ibzan, Elon & Abdon, 12:8-15
7. Samson, 13-16

III. Moral Climate, 17-21

1. Micah & the Danites, 17-18
 2. A Levite, his concubine, and the Benjamites, 19-21
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Major characters

- Deborah ("bee, eloquent")
- Gideon ("feller, cutter-down")
- Samson ("of the sun, sun-like")

Major themes

- Idolatry and evil leads to oppression
- Calling upon the Lord results in a deliverer
- Deliverer brings rest during his lifetime

Major words/phrases

- "did evil in the sight of the LORD"
- "the children of Israel cried out to the LORD"
- "the land had rest for... years"
- "in those days there was no king in Israel"

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Angel of the Lord, 6
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Ruth: Faithfulness

I. Faithfulness demonstrated, 1-3

1. Famine in the land, 1:1-6
2. Faithful in her dealings with Naomi, 1:7-22
3. Faithful in her dealings with Boaz, 2-3

II. Faithfulness rewarded, 4

1. Her redeemer, 4:1-16
 2. Her genealogy, 4:17-22
-

Major characters

- Naomi (“my delight, my pleasant one”)
- Ruth (“friend, beauty”)
- Boaz (“in him is strength”)

Major themes

- Kinsman-redeemer

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Kinsman-redeemer

“God overruled the affairs of her life until she was brought face to face with the one who was to become her redeemer.

“From this point on the story moves swiftly. She was taught by Naomi to put herself at the feet of Boaz and ask to be redeemed, ask to be put into the family. Then she was bought by Boaz, according to the redemption laws of Israel, and made his very own.

“One does not have to look very far to see how all this pictures our own redemption. First, God takes the initiative and begins to move behind the scenes to bring us into the presence of His Son and under the sound of His word. He teaches us the simple plan of redemption and makes us willing to ask the Lord Jesus to become ours and to make us His. Then He shows us the redemption price has been paid at Calvary and, unworthy as we are, He lifts us up and makes us His very own.”

John Phillips, *Exploring the Scriptures*

1 & 2 Samuel: Kingdom Established

I. 1 Samuel

1. **Eli & Samuel, 1-7**
 1. Birth & childhood of Samuel, 1-3
 2. Ark captured & restored, 4-6
 3. Last judge of Israel, 7
2. **Samuel & Saul, 8-15**
 1. Saul chosen & crowned, 8-12
 2. Saul's failure & rejection, 13-15
3. **Saul & David, 16-31**
 1. David chosen & anointed, 16
 2. David fights Goliath, 17

3. David resented, 18-20
4. David as a fugative, 21-30
5. Death of Saul & Jonathan, 31

II. 2 Samuel

1. David's reign, 1-24

1. David's kingdom established, 1-6
2. Davidic covenant, 7
3. David's victories, 8-10
4. David's failure, 11-12
5. David's sorrows, 13-18
6. Restoration of David's kingdom, 19-24

Major characters

- Eli (“ascent”)
- Samuel (“heard of God”)
- Saul (“asked for”)
- Jonathan (“whom Jehovah gave”)
- David (“beloved”)
- Absalom (“father of peace, peaceful”)

Major themes

- Mediatorial kingdom
- God’s covenant with David

1 & 2 Kings: Rise & Fall of the Kingdom

I. United Kingdom, 1 Kings 1-11

1. David apppints Solomon, 1:1-2:9
2. David's death, 2:10-11
3. Solomon's greatness, 2:12-10:29
4. Solomon's downfall, 11

II. Divided Kingdom, 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 25

1. History of kings of Israel & Judah

Major characters

- Solomon (“peaceable, peaceful”)
- 19 kings of Northern Kingdom (Israel) - none good
- 19 kings/1 queen of Southern Kingdom (Judah) - 8 good
- Elijah (“whose God is Jehovah”)
- Elisha (“salvation of my God”)

Major events

- Elijah's ministry, 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2
- Elisha's ministry, 2 Kings 2-8
- Captivity of Israel, 2 Kings 17
- Captivity of Judah, 2 Kings 24-25

Major themes

- The sin and failure of Israel and Judah, particularly with regard to idolatry
- God's covenant with Israel

Major words/phrases

- He reigned...
- He did what was right...
- He did what was evil...
- He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam... who made Israel sin

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Solomon (cp. Matt 12:42 - a greater than Solomon is here)
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1 & 2 Chronicles: Spiritual History of Judah

I. 1 Chronicles

1. **Genealogy, 1:1-3:34**
2. **Saul, 9:35-10:14**
 1. His line, 9:35-44
 2. His death, 10
3. **David, 11-29**
 1. David anointed king over all Israel, 11:1-9
 2. David' military strength, 11:10-12:40
 3. The Ark, 13-16
 4. Davidic covenant, 17
 5. David's victory, 18-20
 6. David's pride, 21
 7. Preparations for the temple, 22-29

II. 2 Chronicles

1. **Solomon, 1-9**
 1. God appears to Solomon, 1
 2. The Temple, 2-7
 3. God appears to Solomon again, 7
 4. Solomon's greatness, 8-9
2. **Kings of Judah, 10-36**
 1. Rehoboam & Abijah, 10-13
 2. Good King Asa, 14-16
 3. Good King Jehoshophat, 17-20
 4. Jehoram, Ahaziah & Athaliah, 21-22
 5. Good Kings Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, 23-27
 6. Ahaz, 28
 7. Good King Hezekiah, 29-32

8. Manasseh & Amon, 33
 9. Good King Josiah, 34-35
 10. Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jejoiachin, Zedekiah, 36
 11. Fall of Jerusalem & rebuilding of the Temple, 36
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Major themes

- Temple worship
- Priests and Levites
- The high places (idolatry)

“The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history described in 2 Samuel through 2 Kings, but the perspective is different. These books are no mere repetition of the same material but rather form a divine editorial on the history of God’s people. While 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings give a political history of Israel and Judah, 1 & 2 Chronicles present a religious history of the Davidic dynasty of Judah. The former are written from a prophetic and moral viewpoint and the latter from a priestly and spiritual perspective.” (from the book introduction in the New King James Wide Margin Bible)

- 1 Chronicles 1-9 is a genealogy of Israel
 - The record of David’s life begins in 1 Samuel, although the record of his reign doesn’t begin until 2 Samuel. His death is recorded in 1 Kings
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Kings of Israel

1. **Jerobboam***
 1. Reigned 22 years
 2. 931-910 BC
 3. 1 Kings 11:26-14:20
2. **Nadab**
 1. Reigned 2 years
 2. 910-909 BC
 3. 1 Kings 15:25-28
3. **Baasha***
 1. Reigned 24 years
 2. 909-886 BC
 3. 1 Kings 15:27-16:7 (2 Chr. 16:1-6)
4. **Elah**
 1. Reigned 2 years
 2. 886-885 BC
 3. 1 Kings 16:8-10
5. **Zimri***
 1. Reigned 7 days

2. 885 BC
3. 1 Kings 16:10-20
6. **Omri***
 1. Reigned 12 years
 2. 885-874 BC
 3. 1 Kings 16:16-27
7. **Ahab**
 1. Reigned 22 years
 2. 874-853 BC
 3. 1 Kings 16:28-22:40 (2 Chr 18:1-34)
8. **Ahaziah**
 1. Reigned 2 years
 2. 853-852 BC
 3. 1 Kings 22:40, 51-53; 2 Kings 1:1-17 (2 Chr 20:35-37)
9. **Joram**
 1. Reigned 12 years
 2. 852-841 BC
 3. 2 Kings 3:1-9:26 (2 Chr 22:5-7)
10. **Jehu***
 1. Reigned 28 years
 2. 841-814 BC
 3. 2 Kings 9:1-10:36 (2 Chr 22:7-12)
11. **Jehoahaz**
 1. Reigned 17 years
 2. 814-798 BC
 3. 2 Kings 13:1-9
12. **Jehoash**
 1. Reigned 16 years
 2. 798-782 BC
 3. 2 Kings 13:10-25; 14:8-16 (2 Chr 25:17-24)
13. **Jeroboam II**
 1. Reigned 41 years
 2. 793-753 BC
 3. 2 Kings 14:23-29
14. **Zechariah**
 1. Reigned 6 months
 2. 753-752 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:8-12
15. **Shallum***
 1. Reigned 1 month

2. 752 BC
3. 2 Kings 15:13-15
16. **Menahem***
 1. Reigned 10 years
 2. 752-742 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:16-22
17. **Pekahiah**
 1. Reigned 2 years
 2. 742-740 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:23-26
18. **Pekah***
 1. Reigned 20 years
 2. 752-732 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:27-31 (2 Chr 28:5-8)
19. **Hoshea**
 1. Reigned 9 years
 2. 732-722 BC
 3. 2 Kings 17:1-41

*Indicates start of new dynasty

- Not one of the 19 kings of Israel were godly.
- Chronicles deals primarily with Judah; kings of Israel are mentioned only as they interact with Judah.

Kings of Judah

1. **Rehoboam**
 1. Reigned 17 years
 2. 931-913 BC
 3. 1 Kings 12:1-14:31; 2 Chr 10:1-12:16
2. **Abijam**
 1. Reigned 3 years
 2. 913-911 BC
 3. 1 Kings 15:1-8; 2 Chr 13:1-22
3. ***Asa***
 1. Reigned 41 years
 2. 911-870 BC
 3. 1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chr 14:1-16:14
4. ***Jehoshaphat***
 1. Reigned 25 years
 2. 872-848BC
 3. 1 Kings 22:41-50; 2 Kings 3; 2 Chr 17:1-20:37
5. **Jehoram**

1. Reigns 8 years
 2. 853-841 BC
 3. 2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chr 21:1-20
6. **Ahaziah**
1. Reigns 1 year
 2. 841 BC
 3. 2 Kings 8:25-29; 9:27-29; 2 Chr 22:1-9
7. **Athaliah (queen)**
1. Reigns 6 years
 2. 841-835 BC
 3. 2 Kings 8:18-28; 11:1-20; 2 Chr 22:1-23:21; 24:7
8. ***Joash***
1. Reigns 40 years
 2. 835-796 BC
 3. 2 Kings 11:1-12:21; 2 Chr 22:10-24:27
9. ***Amaziah***
1. Reigns 29 years
 2. 796-767 BC
 3. 2 Kings 14:1-20; 2 Chr 25:1-28
10. ***Uzziah (Azariah)***
1. Reigns 52 years
 2. 790-740 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chr 26:1-23
11. ***Jotham***
1. Reigns 16 years
 2. 750-731 BC
 3. 2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Chr 27:1-9
12. **Ahaz**
1. Reigns 16 years
 2. 735-715 BC
 3. 2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chr 28:1-27
13. ***Hezekiah***
1. Reigns 29 years
 2. 715-686 BC
 3. 2 Kings 18:1-20:21; 2 Chr 28:1-32:33
14. **Manasseh**
1. Reigns 55 years
 2. 695-642 BC
 3. 2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chr 33:1-20
15. **Amon**

1. Reigns 22 years
 2. 642-640 BC
 3. 2 Kings 21:19-23; 2 Chr 33:21-25
16. ***Josiah***
1. Reigns 31 years
 2. 640-609 BC
 3. 2 Kings 22:1-23:30; 2 Chr 34:1-35:27
17. **Jehoahaz**
1. Reigns 3 months
 2. 609 BC
 3. 2 Kings 23:31-33; 2 Chr 36:1-4
18. **Jehoiakim**
1. Reigns 11 years
 2. 609-597 BC
 3. 2 Kings 23:34-24:5; 2 Chr 36:5-7
19. **Jehoiachin**
1. Reigns 3 months
 2. 597 BC
 3. 2 Kings 24:6-16; 2 Chr 36:8-10
20. **Zedekiah**
1. Reigns 11 years
 2. 597-586 BC
 3. 2 Kings 24:17-25:7; 2 Chr 36:11-21

name signifies a "good" king

Chapter 3

History: After the Exile

Chronology of the Post-Exilic Era

- Decree of Cyrus
 - 538 BC
 - Ezra 1:1-4
- First return under Zerubbabel
 - 536 BC
 - Ezra 1-6
- Rebuilding of Temple begun
 - 536 BC
 - Ezra 3:8
- Ministry of Haggai
 - 520 BC
 - Ezra 5:1; Haggai 1-2
- Ministry of Zechariah
 - 520 BC
 - Ezra 5:1; Zechariah 1-14
- Temple completed
 - 516 BC
 - Ezra 6:15
- Accusation made to Xerxes
 - Ezra 4:6
- Esther
 - 483-465 BC
 - Ezra 6:22-7:1; Esther 1-10
- Second return under Ezra
 - 458 BC
 - Ezra 7-10
- Third return under Nehemiah
 - 445 BC
 - Nehemiah 1-2

- Nehemiah's first term as governor
 - 445-433 BC
 - Nehemiah 1-12
- The Wall built in 52 days
 - 445 BC
 - Nehemiah 3-12; 6:15
- Nehemiah in Persia
 - 433-424 BC
 - Nehemiah 13:6
- Nehemiah's second term as governor
 - 424 BC
 - Nehemiah 13
- Ministry of Malachi
 - 396 BC
 - Malachi 1-4

The Persian Kings

- Cyrus II
 - 559-530 BC
- Cambyses II
 - 530-522 BC
- Gaumata
 - 522 BC
- Darius Hystapes
 - 522-486 BC
- Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
 - 486-465 BC
- Artaxerxes I
 - 464-424 BC
- Darius II
 - 423-404 BC
- Artaxerxes II
 - 404-358 BC

from *A History of Israel*, Walter C. Kaiser, Broadman & Holman, 1998

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Ezra: Rebuilding the Temple

I. Return under Zerubbabel, 1-6

1. Return decreed and described, 1-2
2. Restoration of Temple worship begun, 3
3. Resistance encountered, 4

4. Restoration resumed, 5
5. Restoration completed, 6

II. Return under Ezra, 7-10

1. Return decreed & described, 7-8
 2. Repentance of the remnant, 9-10
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Major Characters

- Ezra “help”
- Cyrus – 559-530 bc
- Darius I (Hystapes) — 522-486 bc
- Artaxerxes I — 464-465 bc
- Haggai (“festive, festival”)
- Zechariah (“Jehovah remembers”)

Major words/phrases

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“hand of the Lord his God upon him...”, 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31

decrees of kings

1. žCyrus, 1
2. žDarius, 5-6
3. žArtaxerxes, 7

Major themes

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Sovereignty of God

Goodness of God

Restoration to the promised land

Restoration of temple worship

The problem of pagan wives, 9-10

Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Walls

I. Rebuilding the Walls, 1-7

1. Return of Nehemiah, 1-2
2. Rebuilding of walls begins, 3
3. Resistance to the work, 4:1-6:14
 1. Mockery, 4:1-9
 2. Discouragement, 4:10-23
 3. Oppression, 5:1-19
 4. Conspiracy, 6:1-14
4. Rebuilding of walls completed, 6:15-7:3
5. Record of first return, 7:4-73

II. Rebuilding the People, 8-13

1. Reading the Law, 8
 2. Repentance of the people, 9-10
 3. Repopulating of Jerusalem, 11
 4. Religious leaders of the return, 12:1-26
 5. Rejoicing at the dedication of the walls, 12:27-47
 6. Reforms under Nehemiah, 13
-

Major Characters

- Nehemiah (“consolation of Jehovah”), son of Hachaliah, cupbearer of the king, appointed governor of Judah
- Artaxerxes, king of Persia/Babylon (464-424 bc), son of Ahasuerus (Xerxes) and Vashti
- Sanballat (“hate in disguise”) the Horonite official who opposed Nehemiah
- Tobiah (“goodness of Jehovah”) the Ammonite
- Ezra (“help”), a scribe who led second return from captivity (Ezra 7-8), and was used of God in bringing revival to Judah (Neh. 8)

Major words/phrases

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 pray, prayed, prayer (12x)
 “good hand of my God”
 The Law (19x)
 work (19x)
 remember (8x)

Major themes

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 Prayer
 Sovereignty of God
 Perseverance under persecution
 Revival
 Reforms

Esther: Hidden Hand of God

I. King's Decrees, 1-2

1. King's feast, 1:1-11
2. King's first decree, 1:12-22
 1. Vashti's imprisonment
3. King's second decree, 2:1-18
 1. Choosing a queen
4. Morecai's discovery about the king, 2:19-23

II. Haman's Decree, 3-7

1. Haman's rise, 3:1
2. Haman's decree, 3:2-15
 1. Destruction of the Jews
3. Esther's intervention, 4:1-5:8
4. Haman's anger, 5:9-14
5. King's discovery about Mordecai, 6
6. Haman's fall, 7

III. Esther's Decrees, 8-10

1. Esther's first decree, 8
 1. Defence of the Jews, 8
2. Jew's Victory, 9:1-17
3. Esther's second decree, 9:18-32
 1. Feast of Purim
4. Mordecai's rise, 10

Major Characters

- Ahasuerus / Xerxes, King of Persia (486-465 bc)
- Esther ("star," from Ishtar, a Persian god); her Hebrew name is Haddassah ("myrtle")
- Mordecai ("Marduk," a Babylonian god); he was a Benjamite, a descendent of King Saul
- Haman ("magnificent") an Agagite, (possibly a descendent of Agag the Amalekite (cp. 1 Sam. 15:8), or from the Persian province of Agag)

Major words/phrases

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decree (16x)
Jew, Jews, Jewish (53x)
feast/banquet (20x)

Major themes

<

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Anti-Semitism
Providential care of God
Secularism of Jewish captives in Persia

Part 2

Poetry

Chapter 1

Wisdom Literature

Job: Suffering & Sovereignty

I. Job's heartaches, ch. 1-3

1. His character, 1:1-12
2. His suffering, 1:13-2:8
3. His response, 2:9-3:26

II. Job's counsellors, ch. 4-37

1. Eliphaz, 4
 1. Job, 5-7
2. Bildad, 8
 1. Job, 9-10
3. Zophar, 11
 1. Job, 12-14
4. Eliphaz, 15
 1. Job, 16-17
5. Bildad, 18
 1. Job, 19
6. Zophar, 20
 1. Job, 21
7. Eliphaz, 22
 1. Job, 23-24
8. Bildad, 25
 1. Job, 26-31
9. Elihu, 32-37

III. God's answer, 38-41

1. Nature, 38-39
2. Justice, 40:1-14
3. Nature, 40:15-41:34

IV. Job's restoration, 42

1. Repentance, 42:1-6
2. Intercession, 42:7-10

3. Restoration, 42:11-17

Major characters

- Job (“persecuted”)
- His wife
- Eliphaz (“God is strength”) the Temanite
- Bildad (“son of strife”) the Shuhite
- Zophar (“exultation, chirping”) the Naamathite
- Elihu (“God Jehovah”)

Major themes

- Suffering
 - Man
 - The character of God
 - God’s sovereignty over Satan
 - God’s power in creation
-

Psalms: Hebrew Hymnbook

I. Book 1

- Psalm 1-41
- cp. Genesis
- Emphasis: Man & his ways

II. Book 2

- Psalm 42-72
- cp. Exodus
- Emphasis: Israel as a nation

III. Book 3

- Psalm 73-89
- cp. Leviticus
- Emphasis: God's assembly & sanctuary

IV. Book 4

- Psalm 90-106
- cp. Numbers
- Emphasis: Israel & the nations

V. Book 5

- Psalm 107-150
- cp. Deuteronomy
- Emphasis: God & His Word

based on Arthur G. Clarke, *Analytical Studies in the Psalms*, John Ritchie 1979

Major themes

- Praise
- Prayer

- Penitence
- History

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Psalm 2 - Messianic King; Sonship of Christ
- Psalm 8 - Humanity of Christ; dominion of Last Adam
- Psalm 16 - Resurrection of Christ
- Psalm 22 - Sufferings of Christ
- Psalm 24 - Entrance of the King of Glory
- Psalm 40 - Incarnation
- Psalm 41 - Betrayal
- Psalm 45 - The King-Bridegroom
- Psalm 68 - Ascension, procession
- Psalm 69 - Sufferings of Christ
- Psalm 72 - Messianic Kingdom
- Psalm 89 - Davidic covenant
- Psalm 91 - Temptation of Christ
- Psalm 102 - Loneliness of Christ; eternity of Christ
- Psalm 110 - Reign of Christ
- Psalm 118 - The rejected stone

Authors

- David - 73; Sons of Korah - 10; Asaph - 12; Solomon - 2;
- Moses - 1; Ethan - 1; Heman - 1; Anonymous - 50

Proverbs: Wisdom

The book of Proverbs does not lend itself to division as it is a collection of miscellaneous proverbs.

I. In Praise of Wisdom, ch. 1-9

II. Proverbs of Solomon ch. 10-29

III. Proverbs of Agur, 30

IV. Proverbs of King Lemuel, 31

Major words/phrases

- Wise/wisdom
- Fool/foolish
- Fear of the Lord
- My son...

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Wisdom personified, 3:19-20; 8:22-31

Major themes

- **Wisdom** - 1:7; 1:33; 2:1-11; 3:13-18; 4:5-9; 7:1-5; 8:1-36; 9:11-12; 9:1-6; 10:13-24; 12:8; 14:33; 15:24; 16:21-23; 17:24; 18:4; 18:15; 19:8; 23:19; 23:24-25; 24:3-4; 24:13-14

- **Folly** - 15:14; 17:12; 18:2; 23:9
- **The tongue** - 8:7-8; 10:18-21; 10:31-32; 11:12-13; 12:13-14; 12:18; 12:23; 13:2-3; 13:17; 15:1-2; 15:4; 15:23; 15:26; 15:28; 16:24; 16:27-28; 17:9; 17:27-28; 18:4; 18:6-8; 18:13; 18:20-21; 19:5; 19:9; 20:6; 20:15; 20:17; 20:20; 20:25; 21:9; 21:19; 21:23; 22:11; 25:8-10; 25:11-12; 25:13; 25:15; 25:18; 25:23
- **Anger** - 12:16; 14:16-17; 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; 19:19; 22:24-25; 25:28
- **Counsel** - 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 16:20; 19:20; 20:5; 20:18; 24:5-6
- **Guidance** - 3:5-6; 16:1-3; 16:9; 16:33; 18:18; 19:21; 20:24; 21:15
- **Money** - 3:9-10; 6:1-5; 10:2; 10:4; 10:15; 11:15; 11:24-26; 11:28; 13:7-8; 13:11; 13:22; 17:18; 19:4; 19:17; 20:16; 20:21; 21:14; 21:17; 21:26; 22:7; 22:9; 22:26-27; 23:4-5; 25:14
- **Pride** - 11:2; 13:10; 16:5; 16:18-19; 18:12; 21:4; 21:24; 22:4; 25:6-7; 25:27
- **Laziness** - 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 10:26; 12:11; 12:24; 12:27; 13:4; 13:11; 14:4; 15:19; 18:9; 19:15; 19:24; 20:4; 20:13; 21:25-26; 22:13; 22:29; 24:30-34
- **Fear of Lord** - 9:10; 10:27; 14:26-27; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 23:17

Ecclesiastes: Vanity of Vanities

I. The Preacher's Subject, 1:1-11

1. He states his text, 1:1-2
2. He states his topic, 1:3-11

II. The Preacher's Sermon, 1:12-2:26

1. Some of the things he sought, 1:12-2:26
2. Some of the things he had seen, 3:1-6:12
3. Some of the things he had studied, 7-10

III. The Preacher's Summary, 11-12

1. He repeats his complaint about life, 11
2. He relates his conclusions about life, 12

based on John Phillips, *Exploring the Scriptures*, Loizeaux, 1965, 1970

Major characters

- The Preacher (Solomon, 1:12-13)

Major words/phrases

- Vanity of vanities, all is vanity
- Grasping for the wind
- Nothing new under the sun
- Fear God
- A gift from God

Major themes

- Futility of life without God

- Fear God
- Enjoy life

Ecclesiastes is a difficult book to read, as it appears to present a very pessimistic outlook on life, and one could easily become discouraged reading it.

The author is stressing the nature of “life under the sun,” life apart from God. If God is taken out of the equation, life is most distressing and futile. This futility is seen in the oft repeated phrases “vanity of vanities” (the word vanity occurs 35 times in the Old Testament, 33 of those occurrences being in Ecclesiastes); and “grasping for the wind” (the phrase occurs 9 times in this book).

But the Preacher does not leave this as his final word. Interspersed throughout are references to life and labour as a gift from God (2:24-25; 3:12-13); and he says that life is to be enjoyed (cp. 1 Tim. 6:17). Five times the Preacher encourages us to “fear God” (8:12-13; 12:13).

Song of Solomon: True Love

I. True Love Separated, 1:1-2:7

- The Shulamite taken to Jerusalem
- Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases

II. True Love Searching, 2:8-3:5

- The Shepherd-lover comes for her
- Dream, 3:1-4
- Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases

III. True Love Surviving, 3:6-8:4

- Solomon's flattery
- Dream, 5:2-8
- Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases

IV. True Love Sealed, 8:5-14

- The lovers return home

Major characters

(see comments below)

- The Shulamite
- The Shepherd-lover
- Solomon, the King
- The daughters of Jerusalem, the women of Solomon's court

Major themes

- Love
- Faithfulness

It is best to understand the book first and foremost as a description of historical events, during the time of King Solomon. It describes the

nature of true love and provides a valuable description and approval of physical love between a man and a woman.

However, there are still interpretative difficulties that must be considered. Some would see two main characters and some three. Those who see two characters see Solomon and the Shulamite, and a description of their love. The problem with this approach is that Solomon is hardly the best role model for a God-ordained view of marital fidelity.

So some have proposed a view that sees three main characters: the Shulamite maiden, her Shepherd-lover, and Solomon, who attempts to woo the Shulamite from her Shepherd-lover. (This view is held by John Phillips, *Exploring the Song of Solomon*, and William MacDonald, *Believers Bible Commentary*) The challenge that arises at times is determining who is speaking, although it is apparently clearer in Hebrew than English.

Having determined the historical basis for the book, and the interpretation of those historical facts, there is then the typical application.

Christ in all the Scriptures

“There are three main characters in this song. There is Solomon, of course, and the Shulamite, a lovely country girl who has caught the king’s roving eye. The third character is the shepherd, the Shulamite’s true beloved to whom she has given her heart and to whom she remains true. The real romance in the Song of Solomon centres around the mutual love of the Shepherd and the Shulamite. The shepherd himself, however, remains largely in the background. He is absent, but the shepherdess loves him, longs for him, looks constantly for his coming. Solomon in all his pomp and power, makes every effort to impress the Shulamite and to draw her affections from her beloved to himself.

“Thus the allegory begins to emerge. The Shulamite represents the Church, the betrothed of Christ, or the individual believer. The shepherd pictures the Lord Jesus who has already won the believer’s heart. He is absent right now although He visits us, makes Himself real to us in our moments of communion, and has promised to come again and receive us to Himself. Solomon depicts the tempter, the enemy of our souls, who uses all the allurements of the world in his efforts to seduce us from our loyalty to Christ... The world is all about us. It is like the sea, lapping against the ship, ever probing for a crack through which it can pour and so submerge the vessel. The answer to this constant pressure of the world upon our souls is Christ! If we keep our hearts singing in His love, our minds filled with thoughts of Him, and our wills enslaved to His, then the world will not get very far.”

from John Phillips, *Exploring the Song of Solomon*

Part 3

Prophecy

Chapter 1

Major Prophets

Isaiah: Evangelical Prophet

I. Judgement, 1-36

1. Judgement on Judah, 1-7
 1. Isaiah's call, 6
2. Assyrian invasion foretold, 8-10
 1. Immanuel, 7
 2. Messiah, 9
3. The Branch, 11
4. The Kingdom, 12
5. Judgement on the Nations, 13-24
6. Promise of restoration, 25-27
7. Woes on Israel, 28:1-31:3
8. Promise of restoration, 31:4-35:10

II. Historical Interlude, 36-39

1. Sennacherib, 36-37
2. Hezekiah, 38-39

III. Salvation, 40-66

1. Idols vs. the one true God, 40-48
2. The Messiah, 49-57
3. Final restoration, 58-66

Major characters

- Isaiah (“Jehovah is salvation”), son of Amoz
- Uzziah (790-740 bc), Jotham (750-731 bc), Ahaz (735-715 bc), and Hezekiah (715-686 bc), kings of Judah
- Sennacherib, king of Assyria

Major themes

- Judgement
- Sin
- Salvation
- Messiah

- God

Major words/phrases

- “in that day” (43x)
- salvation (28x)
- woe (23x)
- Holy One (30x)
- sin, sins, sinful, sinners (23x)
- sing (16x)
- glory (48x)
- holy (29x)

Major locations

- Ephraim (Israel)
- Assyria (Capital city: Ninevah)
- Babylon
- Syria (capital city: Damascus)
- Moab
- Tyre

Christ in all the Scriptures

- The Virgin Birth, 7:14
- A Child born, a Son given, 9:6-7
- A Branch, from the stem of Jesse, 11:1
- A Precious Cornerstone, 28:16
- A light to the Gentiles, 42:6; 49:6; 9:2 (cp. 60:19-20)
- The Anointed One, 61:1-3
- The Glorious One, 63:1-6
- The Servant of the LORD, 42, 49-53

The name “servant” is applied by Isaiah to the Messiah, to the entire nation of Israel, to the godly remnant (43:10), and to Cyrus. Usually the context makes clear which one is intended. (William MacDonald)

William MacDonald gives the following outline of chapters 49-57:

- The Messiah as Servant, 49
- The Messiah as True Disciple, 50
- The Messiah as Righteous Ruler, 51:1-52:12
- The Messiah as Sin-Bearing Sacrifice, 52:13-53:12
- The Messiah as Redeemer and Restorer, 54
- The Messiah as World Evangelist, 55:1-56:8
- The Messiah as Judge of the Wicked, 56:9-57:21

Jeremiah: Weeping Prophet

I. Call of the Prophet, 1

II. Concerning Judah, 2-45

1. Case against Judah, 2-29
2. Promise of restoration, 30-33
3. Judgement on Judah, 34-45

III. Concerning the Nations, 46-51

1. Against Egypt, 46
2. Against Philistia, 47
3. Against Moab, 48
4. Various, 49
5. Against Babylon, 50-51

IV. Summary, 52

1. Fall of Jerusalem
 2. Temple plundered
 3. Captives to Babylon
-

Major themes

- God has spoken
- False prophets
- Judgement for disobedience
- Mistreatment of Jeremiah and the prophets
- New covenant

Major words/phrases

- "the word of the LORD" (52x)
- "Thus saith the LORD" (149x)
- "Lord has spoken" or "I have spoken" (11x)
- LORD (Jehovah) (712x)
- obey(s) or obeyed (38x)
- forsaken (23x)
- forget or forgotten (14x)
- return (45x)

Christ in all the Scriptures

- The Branch, 23:5; 33:15
- Lord our Righteousness (Tsidkenu), 23:6

Object lessons

- Linen sash, 13:1-11; Wine bottles, 13:12-14
 - Potter and the clay, 18:1-11; Broken flask, 19:1-14
 - 2 baskets of figs, 24:1-10; Wine cup, 25:15
 - Bonds & yokes, 27:1-28:17
 - Field and purchase deed, 32
-

Lamentations: Oh, Jerusalem

Structure of Lamentations

- **First Dirge: Jerusalem's destolation, 1**

- **Second Dirge: God's judgement, 2**

- **Third Dirge: Jeremiah's response, 3**

- **Fourth Dirge: The Lord's anger, 4**

- **Fifth Dirge: Remnant's response, 5**

based on Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament

Lamentations is a series of five laments, or funeral dirges; each chapter is a separate lament. A lament was a funeral poem or song written and recited for someone who had just died (cf. 2 Sam. 1:17-27)... Jeremiah was lamenting the tragic "death" of the city of Jerusalem and the results of her demise which were being experienced by the people. Thus he used the form of a funeral lament to convey the feeling of sadness and loss being experienced by the survivors...

One key stylistic element that defies translation is the acrostic arrangement of chapters 1-4. An acrostic is a composition in which the first word of each sentence or line, when taken in order, forms a word, a connected group of words, or the regular sequence of the letters of the alphabet. In the Book of Lamentations each of the first four chapters is arranged in an acrostic pattern... Only chapter 5 is not arranged acrostically, though (like chaps. 1-2, and 4) it has 22 verses... (from Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, pages 1208-1211)

Ezekiel: "You shall Know, I am the Lord"

I. Ezekiel's Call, 1-3

II. Against Israel, 4-24

- Object lessons on judgement, 4-5
- Promise of restoration, 11:14-25
- Appeal: Turn & live, 18:19-32
- Promise of restoration, 20:33-40
- Prophet's wife dies, 24:15-27

III. Against the Nations, 25-32

1. Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, 25
2. Tyre, 26-28
3. Egypt, 29-32

IV. Judgement on Israel, 33-35

1. Watchmen's task, 33:1-21
2. Fall of Jerusalem, 33:22-33
3. Failure of Israel's shepherds, 34
4. Judgement on Mount Seir, 35

V. Promise of Restoration, 36-48

1. Promise of restoration, 36
2. Vision of dry bones, 37

3. Gog & Magog, 38-39
 4. Renewal of worship, 40-46
 5. Renewal of the land, 47-48
-

Major characters

- Ezekiel (“God will strengthen”)

Major themes

- Judgement for sin
- Promise of restoration
- Sovereignty of God
- Millennial kingdom

Major words/phrases

- “you/they shall know that I am the Lord... ” (57x)
 - “word of the Lord” (60x)
 - “Son of man” (93x)
 - “I am against” (12x)
-

Daniel: God’s Greatness & Sovereignty

I. Historical: Daniel's Victories, 1-6

- Nebuchadnezzar, 1-4
 - Daniel's convictions, 1
 - Daniel's competence, 2
 - Daniel's companions, 3
 - Daniel's compassion, 4
- Belshazzar, 5
 - Daniel's confrontation
- Darius, 6
 - Daniel's constancy, 6

II. Prophetic: Daniel's Visions, 7-12

- 4 Beasts & the Ancient of Days, 7
 - Ram & the male goat, 8
 - Daniel's prayer & Gabriel's revelation of 70 weeks, 9
 - Concerning Persia & Greece, 10
 - Concerning Kings of North & South, 11
 - Great Tribulation & Resurrection, 12
-

Major characters

- Daniel (“God is my judge”); name changed to Belteshazzar (“Bel protect the king”)
- Hananiah (“The Lord is gracious”); name changed to Shadrach (“Command of Aku”)
- Mishael (“Who is like the Lord?”); name changed to Meshach (“Who is what Aku is?”)

- Azariah (“The Lord is my helper”); name changed to Abed-Nego (“Servant of Nego/Nebo”)
- Nebuchadnezzar (“Prince of the god Nebo” or “Nebo protect the crown”)
- Belshazzar, “Bel protect the king”
- Darius (“restrainer or supporter”) the Mede
- Cyrus (“sun”) the Persian

Major themes

- Prophecy
- Greatness of God
- Sovereignty of God
- Omniscience of God
- Future events
- Pride of man
- Angels

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Messianic kingdom, 2:44-45
- One like the Son of Man, 3:25
- Messiah the Prince, 9:25-26

Chronology of the Babylonian Captivity

- 608 BC
 - Death of Josiah
 - Pharaoh Necho installs Jehoiakim on the throne of Judah in place of Jehoahaz
- 605 BC
 - Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem
 - Daniel taken to Babylon
 - 70 years of captivity begins
- 597 BC
 - Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem again
 - Jehoiachin taken to Babylon along with 10,000 captives, including Ezekiel
 - Zedekiah installed as king of Judah
- 593 BC
 - Ezekiel begins his ministry
- 562 BC
 - Death of Nebuchadnezzar
 - Evil-Merodach becomes king of Babylon
- 560 BC
 - Evil-Merodach assassinated by Neriglissar

- Neriglissar becomes king of Babylon
- 556 BC
 - Labashi-Maruk, son of Neriglissar becomes king but assassinated after two months
 - Nabonidus becomes king
- 539 BC
 - Nabonidus leaves administration of Babylon to his son Belshazzar
- 539 BC
 - Fall of Babylon
 - Death of Belshazzar
 - Darius the Mede rules over Babylon, Syria, and Palestine
- 538 BC
 - Cyrus the Persian proclaims return for Jews
- 536 BC
 - Foundation of the temple laid
 - End of 70 year captivity

from John Phillips, *Exploring Daniel*, Loizeaux, 1990

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“The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history described in 2 Samuel through 2 Kings, but the perspective is different. These books are no mere repetition of the same material but rather form a divine editorial on the history of God’s people. While 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings give a political history of Israel and Judah, 1 & 2 Chronicles present a religious history of the Davidic dynasty of Judah. The former are written from a prophetic and moral viewpoint and the latter from a priestly and spiritual perspective.” (from the book introduction in the New King James Wide Margin Bible)

- 1 Chronicles 1-9 is a genealogy of Israel
- The record of David’s life begins in 1 Samuel, although the record of his reign doesn’t begin until 2 Samuel. His death is recorded in 1 Kings

Chapter 2

Minor Prophets: Pre-exile

Hosea: Heartbroken Prophet

I. A Living Parable of an Unfaithful Wife, 1-3

1. Hosea's family, 1
2. Hosea's people, 2
3. Hosea's response, 3

II. A Loving Pleas to an Unfaithful Nation, 4-14

1. Israel's sin, 4-8
2. Israel's judgement, 9-13
3. Israel's restoration, 14

Major characters

- Hosea ("Salvation") - Prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah; and Jeroboam II, king of Israel
- Gomer ("Complete, vanishing") - Unfaithful wife of Hosea
- Jezreel ("God sows," or "God will scatter") - Firstborn son of Hosea and Gomer
- Lo-Ruhamah ("No mercy") - Daughter of Gomer
- Lo-Ammi ("Not my people") - Son of Gomer

Major themes

- Israel's unfaithfulness to God
- God's broken heart, 7:13-16; 11:1-8; 14:4-9
- God's judgement of Israel
- God's restoration of Israel, 1:10-11; 3:5; 14
- The knowledge of God, 4:1-6; 6:1-3; 8:1-2; 13:4

"The only message I find whenever I come to the close of one of these prophecies is something about God's love.

... I expected to study a very magnificent section of prophecy in which I should hear stern, hard, magnificent Hebrew prophets thundering against sin. I found this even more than I had expected, but the supreme thing in every one of

their prophecies is that the God with whom these men were intimate was known by them to be a God of tender love, of infinite compassion, angry because He loves, dealing in wrath upon the basis of His love, and proceeding through judgement to the ultimate purpose of His heart. It is the heartbeat of God that throbs through these pages.” G. Campbell Morgan

Christ in all the Scriptures

- While there are no clear Messianic passages in the book, there is a strong parallel between Hosea and Gomer, God and Israel, and Christ and the Church. The desire of Christ is to call out a Bride for Himself, that He can present as spotless (Ephesians 5:27).

Joel: The Day of the Lord

I. Disaster in the Land, 1:1-14

1. Destruction, 1:1-4
2. Awake, 1:5-7
3. Lament, 1:8-10
4. Be ashamed, 1:11-12
5. Lament, 1:13-14

II. The Day of the Lord, 1:15-2:11

1. Imminent, 1:15-2:1
2. Illustrated, 2:2-11

III. Dependence on the Lord, 2:12-3:21

1. Turn to Me, 2:12-17
2. I Will answer, 2:18-3:21
 1. Restoration of the land, 2:18-21
 2. Outpouring of the Spirit, 2:28-32
 3. Judgement of the Nations, 3:1-16a
 4. Blessing for Israel, 3:16b-21

Major characters

- Joel (“The Lord is God”), the son of Pethuel

Major themes

- Day of the Lord, 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14

The Day of the Lord is a phrase used repeatedly in the Old Testament as a reference to a time of judgement by God upon the nation of Israel and also upon the Gentile nations. (Note that it is not here a 24 hour day, but rather a reference to an undefined period of time.) Sometimes the reference is to a judgement that was to occur in the near future (Isa. 13:6, 9; Jer. 46:10) and has subsequently been fulfilled, although these are generally seen as but a foreshadowing of the final great Day of the Lord.

Joel, speaking of the day of the Lord, says “it shall come as destruction from the Almighty” (1:15). He goes on to say “it is great and terrible;

Who can endure it?" (2:11). He warns of cosmic disturbances that will precede this great day of God's judgement (3:14-15). Then the Lord will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel" (3:16).

The Day of the Lord *"will be a lengthy time period including both judgement and blessing. It will begin soon after the Rapture and will include the seven-year Tribulation, the return of the Messiah, the Millennium, and the making of the new heavens and new earth."*

Robert Chisholm, Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament

Amos: "You have not returned"

I. The Judgement of God, 1-2

1. Against the nations, 1:3-2:3
2. Against Judah, 2:4-5
 1. For forsaking the Law
3. Against Israel, 2:5-16
 1. For injustice
 2. For idolatry
 3. For immorality
 4. For idleness

II. The Message of God, 3:1-9:10

1. Three sermons, 3:1-5:15
 1. "Hear this word", 3:1; 4:1; 5:1
2. Three woes, 5:16-6:14
 1. "Woe to you", 5:18; 6:1; 6:3
3. Five visions, 7:1-9:10
 1. Locusts, 7:1-2
 2. Fire, 7:3-6
 3. Plumb line, 7:7-9
 4. Summer fruit, 8
 5. The LORD, 9:1-10

III. The Promise of God, 9:11-15

1. Restoration
-

Major Characters

- Amos ("burden"), a farmer from Tekoa, called to be a prophet to the Northern Kingdom (1:1; 7:14-15)
- Uzziah, king of Judah (1:1)
- Jeroboam II, king of Israel (1:1)
- Amaziah, a priest of Israel's false religion (7:10-17)

Major words/phrases

- “for three transgressions... and for four”
- “Yet you have not returned to Me...”
- “Seek the Lord and live!”
- “Thus the Lord God showed me”

Major themes

- The judgement of God on the sins of the nations
- The judgement of God on the sins of Judah
- The judgement of God on the sins of Israel
- The purpose of Divine discipline

God’s intent is always to bring His people back to Himself. His discipline and punishment is not merely punitive but restorative. But though God sent famine, drought, disease, death, and destruction, “Yet you have not returned to Me, says the Lord” (4:6-10)

Obadiah: Judgement on Edom

I. Judgement on Edom, vv. 1-14

1. Announced, vv. 1-9
2. Explained, vv. 10-14

II. Impact of the Day of the LORD, vv. 15-21

1. On the nations, vv. 15-16
 2. On Israel, vv. 17-21
-

Major Characters

- Obadiah (“servant of the Lord”) — nothing more is known of him. Even the time of his prophecy is unsure although tied to an Edomite attack on Jerusalem.

Major words/phrases

- In the day... (vv. 11, 12, 13, 14)
- The day of the Lord (v. 15)

Major themes

- Judgement on Israel’s enemies
- Deliverance of God’s people

Edom

Edom is the nation descended from Esau, Jacob’s brother (Gen. 25:22-34). When Israel came out of Egypt, the Edomites would not allow the Israelites to pass through their land (Num. 20:14-21). According to Obadiah, they watched as Jerusalem was invaded (v. 11); rejoiced over their destruction (v. 12); entered the city (v. 13); and cut off those who tried to escape (v. 14). Their destruction was repeatedly prophesied (Isa. 34:5,6; Jer. 49:7-18; Ezek. 25:13; 35:1-15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11; Mal. 1:3, 4), and remarkably fulfilled.

Jonah: Reluctant Prophet

I. His perils, 1

1. The cause, vv. 1-3
2. The extent, vv. 4-10
3. The cure, vv. 11-17

II. His prayer, 2

1. His cry, vv. 1-3
2. His confidence, vv. 4-7
3. His commitment, vv. 7-10

III. His preaching, 3

1. Jonah's response, vv. 1-4
2. Ninevah's response, vv. 5-9
3. God's response, v. 10

IV. His pouting, 4

1. At God's character, vv. 1-4
2. At God's provision, vv. 5-9
3. At God's compassion, vv. 10-11

Major characters

- Jonah ("a dove"), son of Amittai, who prophesied to Ninevah during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel (793-753 bc)

Major themes

- Salvation
 1. žof mariners, 1
 2. žof Jonah, 2
 3. žof Ninevites, 3-4
- Compassion of God
 1. žin giving Jonah a second chance
 2. in responding to the repentance of Ninevah (3:10; cp. Jer. 18:8; 26:3)

Jonah's lack of compassion

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Jonah, a type of Christ
 1. "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly..." (Matt. 12:39-40)
 2. žJonah's prayer (ch. 2) could have been prayed by the Lord in the grave

Compare notes on Nahum for further information on Ninevah.

Micah: Judgement & Promise

Three sermons

1. **Hear, all you peoples, 1-2**

1. Judgement, 1:1-2:11
 2. Promise, 2:12-13
 2. **Hear now, O heads of Jacob, 3-5**
 1. Judgement, 3:1-12
 2. Promise, 4-5
 3. **Hear now what the Lord says, 6-7**
 1. Judgement, 6:1-7:7
 2. Promise, 7:8-20
-

Major characters

- Micah (“Who is like Jehovah?”)
- Jotham (750-731 bc), Ahaz (735-715 bc), & Hezekiah (715-686 bc), kings of Judah
- Note: It was during the reign of Ahaz that the northern kingdom of Israel went into captivity (722 bc).

Major words/phrases

- “Hear... ”, 1:2; 3:1; 6:1
- my people (10x)

Major themes

- Judgement
- Promise of restoration
- Character of God, 7:18-19
- Injustice

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Messianic kingdom, 4:1-8
- Birth place of the Messiah, 5:2

He has shown you, O man, what is good;

And what does the LORD require of you

But to do justly,

To love mercy,

And to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Nahum: Judgement on Ninevah

I. The character of God, 1:1-7

1. His anger, vv. 2-3a
2. His power, vv. 3b-6
3. His goodness, v. 7

II. The judgement of God, 1:8-3:19

1. Announced, 1:8-15
 2. Described, 2:1-3:7
 3. Assured, 3:8-19
-

Major characters

- Nahum (“comfort” or “consolation”) — The Elkoshite (unidentified location). Probably written between the fall of No Amon (3:8-10) in 663 bc, and the fall of Ninevah in 612 bc. Jonah would have prophesied to Ninevah about 760 bc, about 150 years before its final destruction.

Major themes

- The character of God
 1. Jealous, 1:2
 2. Vengeance, 1:2
 3. Angry, furious, 1:2, 6
 4. Good, 1:7
- The certainty of judgement
- “The vindication of vengeance” (G. Campbell Morgan)

Ninevah

Ninevah, built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:11), became the capital of Assyria. At the time of Jonah it was “an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent” (Jon. 3:3), with a population of 120,000 “persons who cannot tell their right hand from their left” (Jon. 4:11).

Assyria was “one of the cruelest, vilest, most powerful and most idolatrous empires in the world” (BKCOT), and truly worthy of God’s wrath and anger.

In 612 BC, this great city was so completely destroyed that it “became like a myth until its discovery by Sir Austen Layard and others in the nineteenth century” (New Unger’s Bible Dictionary).

*The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.*

Nahum 1:7

Habakkuk: The Just Shall Live By Faith

I. His burden, 1-2

1. The problem of evil: injustice, 1:1-4
 1. God's answer: Judgement on Judah, 1:5-11
2. The problem of evil: enemies, 1:12-2:1
 1. God's answers: Judgement on Chaldeans, 2:2-20

II. His prayer, 3

1. His petition, vv. 1-2
2. His praise, vv. 3-15
3. His faith, vv. 16-19

Major characters

- Habakkuk (“One who embraces”)

Major words/phrases

- “Woe to him...”, 2:5-20
1. Plundering, vv. 6-8
 2. žCoveting, vv. 9-11
 3. žInjustice, vv. 12-14
 4. žUncovering, vv. 15-17
 5. žIdolatry, vv. 18-20

Major themes

- The problem of evil
 - The justice of God
 - The just shall live by faith
1. žRom. 1:17
 2. žGal. 3:11
 3. žHeb. 10:38

Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labour of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength... Habakkuk 3:17-19

Zephaniah: The Great Day of the Lord

I. The Day of the Lord, 1

1. Far fulfillment, vv. 2-3
2. Near fulfillment, vv. 4-13
3. Far fulfillment, vv. 14-18

II. Seek the Lord, 2:1-3

III. Fear the Lord, 2:4-3:7

- Judgement on:
1. Philistia, vv. 4-7
 2. Moab & Amon, vv. 8-11
 3. Ethiopia, v. 12
 4. Assyria, vv. 13-15
 5. Jerusalem, 3:1-7

IV. Worship the Lord, 3:8-20

1. He will avenge, v. 8
2. He will restore, vv. 9-13
3. He will be present, vv. 14-17
4. He will act, vv. 18-20

Major characters

- Zephaniah (“The Lord hides”), descendent of King Hezekiah

- Josiah (640-609 bc), king of Judah

Major words/phrases

- "I will..." (20x)

Major themes

- The day of the Lord, 1
- Judgement of the Lord, 2
- Greatness of the Lord, 3

The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. Zephaniah 1:14-16

Chapter 3

Minor Prophets: Post-exile

Haggai: Problems & Promises

A Series of Four Messages: Consider Your Ways

1. **The problem of priorities, 1:1-15**
 1. And the promise of God's presence
2. **The promise of God's glory, 2:1-9**
3. **The problem of pollution, 2:10-19**
 1. And the promise of blessing
4. **The promise of Messianic victory, 2:20-23**

Major characters

- Haggai ("festive or festival")
- Zerubbabel ("sown in Babylon" or "seed of Babylon"), governor of Judah
- Joshua ("salvation of Jehovah"), the high priest

Major words/phrases

- Lord of hosts (12x)
- Consider your ways, 1:5, 7
- the word of the Lord came... (5x)

Major themes

- Challenge to rebuild the Temple
- Promise of the Lord's presence

Christ in all the Scriptures

- Zerubbabel, a type of Christ

The significance of comparing Zerubbabel to a "signet ring" (a seal of royal authority or personal ownership) is clarified by the imagery in Jeremiah 22:24-25. God said that if Jehoiachin (Zerubbabel's grandfather) were his signet ring, He would pull him off His hand and give him over to Nebuchadnezzar. Possibly Haggai was saying that in Zerubbabel God was reversing the curse pronounced on Jehoiachin. At any rate, Zerubbabel's place in the messianic descent (Matt. 1:12) confirmed his

representative role in typifying the Messiah. Since the words “on that day” point to a yet-future fulfilment in the Messianic Age, it is wrong to suggest that Zerubbabel would actually rule as the anointed one on the Davidic throne in Haggai’s day.”

F. Duane Lindsay, Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, pg. 1544

Zechariah: The King is Coming

I. Eight Visions, 1-6

- Return to Me, 1:1-6
- 1. Vision of horses, 1:7-17
- 2. Vision of horns, 1:18-21
- 3. Vision of measuring line, 2
- 4. Vision of high priest, 3
- 5. Vision of lampstand, 4
- 6. Vision of flying scroll, 5:1-4
- 7. Vision of woman in a basket, 5:5-11
- 8. Vision of 4 chariots, 6:1-8
 - High priest crowned, 6:9-15

II. Four Messages, 7-8

- Fasting, 7:1-3
- 1. Why did you fast, 7:4-7
- 2. Exile explained, 7:8-14
- 3. Promise of restoration, 8:1-17
- 4. Fasts to feasts, 8:18-23

III. Two burdens, 9-14

1. Against the nations, 9-11
 1. The Lord will defend Judah, 9:1-8
 2. Your king is coming, 9:9-10
 3. The Lord will save His people, 9:11-11:17
 2. Against Israel, 12-14
 1. The nations gather against Jerusalem, 12
 2. False religion removed, 13
 3. The Day of the Lord, 14:1-15
 4. Millennial Kingdom, 14:16-21
-

Major Characters

- Zechariah (“Jehovah remembers”), son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo
- Zerubbabel, governor of Judah
- Joshua, the high priest

Major words/phrases

- Lord of hosts (46x)
- Angel of the Lord (6x)
- Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you, 2:9, 11; 4:9; 6:15
- Word of the Lord (13x)
- Thus says the Lord [of hosts] (21x)
- in that day (20x – 17x in ch. 12-14)
- I will (54x)
- Jerusalem (42x)

Major themes

- Restoration
- Messianic Kingdom

The Visions Explained

1. Horses – God sees & knows conditions on earth & will intervene
2. Horns & craftsmen – God will judge the Gentile world powers
3. Measuring line – Jerusalem will be rebuilt & inhabited
4. High priest – Restoration of priestly office, ultimately through the Branch
5. Lampstand – Israel will be a light to the nations
6. Flying scroll – Judgement by the Law fully implemented
7. Woman in a basket – Removal of “idolatrous and mercenary religion” back to Babylon
8. Four chariots – Divine judgement on the Gentile nations

Christ in all the Scriptures

- The Branch, 3:8; 6:12
- The Angel of the Lord
- The Shepherd
- The King
- Triumphal entry, 9:9
- The betrayal by Judas, 10:12-13

Malachi: The Fear of the Lord

I. They do not fear Me, 1:1-3:15

- A list of accusations:
 1. They denied His love, 1:1-5
 2. They despised His name, 1:6
 3. They defiled His altar, 1:7-14
 4. They wearied Him, 2:1-17
 1. By breaking the covenant of Levi, 2:1-9
 2. By breaking the covenant of the fathers, 2:10-12
 3. By breaking the covenant of marriage, 2:13-17

5. They refused His appeals, 3:7
6. They robbed His tithes, 3:8-12
7. They resented His service, 3:13-15

II. Those who feared the Lord, 3:16-4:6

- A book of remembrance was written
 1. The Lord listened, 3:16
 2. The Lord promised blessing, 3:17-18
 3. The Lord promised judgement, 4:1-3
 4. The Lord promised revival, 4:4-6
-

Major Characters

- Malachi (“the Lord’s messenger”)

Major words/phrases

- Lord of hosts (24x)
- “Yet you say...” (9x)
- “In what way have we...” (6x)
- covenant (6x)

Major themes

- Questions (28 questions asked)
- The fear of the Lord, 1:14; 2:5; 3:5, 16; 4:2
- The Day of the Lord, 3:2; 3:17; 4:1, 5
- The character of God, 1:2; 3:6

Christ in all the Scriptures

- The Messenger of the covenant, 3:1-5
 - The Sun of righteousness, 4:2
-



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