

Christian Life Foundation Course

Sessions 6 & 7 – Old Testament Overview

Review

Session 1 – Fundamental Beliefs

Inerrancy of God's Word the Bible – basis for all the others

Doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Creation of the Universe by God

Fall of Man – universal inherited sin nature of all mankind

Virgin birth - necessity of virgin birth for redemption

Deity of Jesus

Present work of God's Spirit

Angels

- created eternal beings

- not omni-anything

- not dead people

- Jesus is NOT an angel – or any other created being

Ordinances of Jesus

- Baptism

- LORD's supper

The Gospel

- universal need for salvation

- substitutionary redemption

- coming universal judgement

- salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone

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Session 2 – Growing in our Relationship with God

All relationships flourish on communication

Spiritual disciplines

Prayer

Fasting

Bible Study

Worship

Ordained Sacraments

Session 3 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Coequal facet of our triune God

“With” relationship with all people always

“In” relationship with born-again believers

“Upon” relationship with those He so chooses whenever He so chooses for His own purposes

Spiritual Gifts

Edification of individual believers – private tongues in the Spirit

Signs and wonders for unbelievers – public tongues and healings

Edification of the Body of Christ – the main purpose of spiritual gifts

Session 4 – Growing Together in Christ

The Church as the Body of Christ

Spiritual gifts empower service to one another, and corporate outreach service

Edification of the Body of Christ – the main purpose of spiritual gifts

Session 5 – Growing Together in the Community

Called to love all people – even the “unlovable” – as Christ loved the Church

Love is an action word

James 2:14-18 – You show me your faith without works...

Jesus’ Honey Do List

Matthew 25:31-40 – Whenever you did it to the least of these my brethren...

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Session 6 – Old Testament Overview

Since the Old Testament was written (mostly) in Hebrew by (mostly) Jews for a Jewish audience, it is logical to analyze it as Jewish tradition does.

The Hebrew Bible – Tanakh (תנ"ך)

aka Mikra (מִקְרָא)

Sometimes called Torah (תּוֹרָה)

Made up of three parts

Torah (תּוֹרָה) – teaching

Nevi'im (נְבִיאִים) – prophets

Ketuvim (כְּתוּבִים) – writings

Torah (תּוֹרָה)

Also known as the law

The first five books of God's Word – aka Pentateuch (Greek – five books)

Written by Moses

Genesis

1 & 2 – Creation of the universe and mankind

3 – Fall of Man

4 – Murder of Abel by his brother Cain

5 – Genealogies Adam to Noah

6–9 – **The flood and Noaic covenant (rainbow)**

10 – Descendants of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth

11 – Nimrod and tower of Babel, genealogy Shem – Abram

12-26 – Life of Abraham

Calling

Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek

Abrahamic covenant

promise of Isaac – through whose seed (Jesus) all the world would be blessed

Birth of Ishmael by Hagar

circumcision

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Birth of Isaac by Sarah

Call to sacrifice Isaac

Marriage of Isaac to Rebecca

Birth of Esau and Jacob

27-36 – Life of Jacob

Twelve sons by four wives

Renamed Israel

37-50 – Life of Joseph

Sold by brothers into slavery in Egypt

Rescues Israel and his descendants from famine

Beginning of Israelite enslavement in Egypt

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Exodus

1 – Enslavement in Egypt

2-4 – Birth and calling of Moses

Burning bush encounter

5-11 – Moses before Pharaoh & plagues of Egypt

12 – Initiation of Passover & final plague of Egypt

13-19 – Escape from Egypt and beginning of wilderness wandering

Parting of the Red Sea (14)

20 – Giving of the Ten Commandments

21-31 – Details of the Law given to Moses on Mt. Sinai (Mosaic Covenant)

Instructions for building Tabernacle of Meeting, Ark of the Covenant, animal sacrifices

32 – Idolatry of the golden calf & destruction of tablets of the Covenant

33-40 – Remainder of the Mosaic Covenant instructions

Construction of the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant

God's glory descends on the Tabernacle and Ark (cloud by day, pillar of fire by night)

Leviticus

1-7 – Instructions for offerings

8-10 – Consecration of priests

11 – Dietary laws

12-15 – Cleanliness and purification laws

16 – Yom Kippur (יום כיפור) – The Day of Atonement

17 – Forbidding of eating blood

18 – Sexual purity laws

19 – Command to love your neighbor as yourself with practical instructions

20-22 – More laws regarding holiness and punishments for child sacrifice and sexual impurity

23 – Feasts of the LORD, sabbatical year, and year of jubilee

24-27 – Remainder of the Law

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Numbers – The Forty-year wilderness wandering

1-2 – First census of warriors, arrangement of camp & order of march by tribes

3-8 – Duties of the priests by clan and priestly instructions

9 – First Passover after escape from Egypt

10-12 – First rebellion against Moses

13-14 – Sending of spies into the promised land

bad report except Caleb and Joshua

God condemns adults to die in the wilderness

15 – More laws about sacrifices

16-17 – Rebellion of Korah and budding of Aaron's staff

18-19 – More laws regarding priestly duties and purification

20 – Moses' rebellion at Meribah – not allowed to enter promised land

21 – First battles with surrounding nations

22-24 – Balaam's blessing (talking donkey)

25 – Israel falls into idolatry of Baal of Peor

26 – Census of warriors who didn't die during the wandering

27-31 – More laws concerning offerings

Joshua chosen to succeed Moses

32 – Reuben, Gad, and half tribe of Manasseh elect to settle east of the Jordan

33-36 – Boundaries of the land of promise

Provision for cities of refuge, Levite cities, and laws of inheritance

Deuteronomy – reiteration of the Law

1-4 – Summarization of the wilderness wandering

5 – Reiteration of the Ten Commandments

6 – The Shema – greatest commandment

7-9 – Encouragement to conquer the land as God's people

10 – Moses carves replacement tablets of the Law

11 – More encouragement to love and serve the LORD

12 – God promises to show them a place (Jerusalem) where He is to be worshipped

13 – Admonishment against idol worship

14-26 – Reiteration of the detailed instructions of the Law

27 – 34 – Moses' final encouragements, admonitions, and death

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Nevi'im (נביאים) – prophets

Former Prophets

Joshua – conquest and division of the land of promise

- 1 – Joshua takes Moses' place
- 2 – Rahab of Jericho hides Israelite spies and aids their escape
- 3-4 – Crossing of the Jordan
- 5 – Reinstitution of circumcision, 1st Passover in Canaan, & Joshua encounters Commander of the Army of the LORD
- 6 – Fall of Jericho
- 7-8 – Defeat and then conquest at Ai
- 9 – Cheating of Gibeonites (misuse of circumcision)
- 10 – 12 – Completion of the conquest of Canaan
- 13-21 – Apportionment of the land
- 22 – Reuben, Gad, & half-tribe of Manasseh return across the Jordan
- 23-24 – Joshua's final encouragement, admonition, and death

Judges

Repeated cycle - blessing, rebellion, oppression, desperate plea, rescue

Approximately 300 years

- 1-2 – Remainder of the (incomplete) conquest of the land, reiteration of the death of Joshua
- 3 – Othniel (the first judge), Ehud, & Shamgar
- 4-5 – Deborah (prophetess) & Barak
Victory at Mt. Tabor
Assassination of Sisera by tent peg through temple – nice!
- 6-8 – Gideon
- 9-12 – Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, & Abdon
- 13-16 – Samson
- 17-21 – Civil war between Benjamin and other tribes

Samuel – last judge of Israel

1 Samuel

- 1-3 – Samuel's birth, dedication to God, and calling by God
Prophetic vision against his boss Eli the corrupt judge
- 4-6 – Philistines capture and then return Ark of the covenant
Death of Eli and his sons
- 7 – Samuel becomes last judge
- 8-14 – Reign of King Saul
Samuel resigns as judge with a warning against kings
- 15 – God rejects Saul for rebellion with spoils of Amalek
- 16 – Samuel anoints David to replace Saul
- 17 – David defeats Goliath
- 18-30 – Saul seeks to kill David
21 – David's men eat the LORD's show bread unlawfully
- 31 – Death of Saul

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2 Samuel – Reign of David

1-4 – David in Hebron. Saul's son reigns over Israel

5 – 10 – David reigns over all Israelite land

5 – David's men conquer Jebusite city (Jerusalem)

11-12 – David's sin with Bathsheba

13-19 – Rebellion of David's son Absalom – David exiled from Jerusalem

20-23 – David's reign after death of Absalom

24 – David numbers the people in rebellion against God

God sends plague of judgement at David's request

David buys threshing floor of Araunah – eventual site of Temple Mount

Kings

1 Kings – reign of Solomon, building of 1st temple

1-4 – Death of David. Solomon becomes king. Solomon prays for wisdom

5-6 – Building of 1st temple

7 – Solomon builds himself a palace

8 – Dedication of the temple

Ark moved from tabernacle to temple

Glory of the LORD fills the most holy place

Temple sacrifices begin

9-10 – Reign of Solomon. Visit from Queen of Sheba

11 – Solomon falls into idolatry with gods of foreign wives and concubines

God removes kingdom from Solomon's heirs except Judah and Benjamin

Why Judah? – Genesis 49:9-10, 2 Samuel 7:12-17, Jeremiah 33:17

Death of Solomon

12-14 – Rehoboam (Solomon's son) reigns in Judah. Jeroboam I reigns in Israel

15 – Reigns of Abijam then Asa in Judah. Reigns of Nadab then Baasha in Israel

16 – Reigns of Elah → Zimri → Omri → Ahab in Israel

17-19 – Elijah the prophet in Israel

17 - Widow of Zarephath during drought

18 – Prophets of Baal defeated at Mount Carmel

19 – Elijah runs from Jezebel. Elijah calls Elisha

20-22 – Wickedness of Ahab and Jezebel

Death of Ahab

Jehoshaphat reigns in Judah

Ahaziah reigns in Israel

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2 Kings

1-2 – Elijah taken up to heaven.

3-8 – Elisha succeeds Elijah and performs many miracles

9-10 – Jehu assassinates Ahaziah to become king in Israel

Jehu executes Jezebel

Jehu eliminates Ahab's entire family

11-12 – Reigns of Athaliah → Joash (Jehoash – alternate spelling?) in Judah

13 – Reigns of Jehoahaz in Judah and Jehoash in Israel

Death of Elisha

14 – Reigns of Amaziah in Judah and Jeroboam II in Israel

15 – Reigns of Azariah → Jotham in Judah and Zechariah → Menahem →

Pekahiah → Pekah in Israel

16 – Reign of Ahaz in Judah

17 – Hoshea is last king in Israel. Northern kingdom defeated and carried away captive to Assyria

Assyrians resettle Samaria – Samaritans begin to worship Assyrian idols

18-20 – Reign of Hezekiah in Judah

Angel slaughters 185,000 besieging Assyrians

Hezekiah extends wall around Jerusalem's water source

Hezekiah prays for healing and receives 15 extra years

First mention of Isaiah

21 – Reign of Manasseh → Amon in Judah

22-23 – Reign of Josiah – last good king in Judah

Repairs temple

Reads lost book of the Law

23:31-25:30 – Reigns of Jehoahaz → Jehoiakim → Jehoiachin → Zedekiah in Judah

Jerusalem destroyed. Judah carried captive to Babylon

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Latter Prophets

Isaiah

Isaiah prophesied in both Israel and Judah

Much of prophecy concerned coming of Assyrians and Babylonians

Several well-known Messianic prophecies

- 1 – Isaiah’s call and general condemnation of Judah’s idolatry
- 2 – (Then) future rebuilding of the temple. Coming Day of the LORD
- 3 – More condemnation of Judah
- 4 – Future glory of Jerusalem and rule of the Branch
- 5 – LORD’s disappointment in His “vineyard” Israelites
- 6 – Vision of the Heavenly throne. Calling of Isaiah to “go for Us”
- 7 – Immanuel prophecy
 Isaiah 7:14
- 8 – Coming of Assyrians
- 9 – For unto us a Child is born (Isaiah 9:1-7)
- 10 – (Then) coming judgement upon Assyria
- 11-12 – Coming reign of the Branch from the root of Jesse
- 13-14 – Coming (then & now) judgement on Babylon and restoration of Israel
- 15-20 – Oracles against Moab, Damascus, Cush, Egypt
- 21 – Fall of Babylon
- 22 – (Then) coming fall of Jerusalem
- 23 – Oracle against Tyre and Sidon
- 24 – Coming judgement on the entire Earth
- 25-27 – Messianic prophecy of the final redemption
- 28 – (Then) coming judgement on Ephraim and Jerusalem
- 29 – (Then) coming famine of Jerusalem under siege and redemption afterward
- 30-31 – Warning against seeking refuge in Egypt (symbolically the world)
- 32 – Reign of the coming King
- 33 – Song of prayer
- 34 – Coming judgement on the nations (Gentiles)
- 35 – Return of the redeemed to Zion
- 36-39 – Historical account – reign of Hezekiah
- 40-41 – Words of comfort for God’s chosen people Israel
- 42-43 – Coming of God’s Servant – Israel’s Savior
- 44 – More words of encouragement for Israel and a warning against idolatry
- 45 – Specific prophecy about Cyrus of Persia by name before he was born
- 46 – Curses on Babylonian idols by name
- 47 – Coming judgement on Babylon (ancient and symbolic)
- 48 – Refinement of Israel through adversity
- 49-55 – Messianic prophecy about Israel’s redemption by God’s Servant
- 53 – “He was pierced for our transgressions...”
- 56 – God’s salvation for the Gentiles as well
- 57-59 – Admonishment against Israel’s sins
- 60-62 – Coming glory of Israel
- Isaiah 61:1-3 – “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me...”
- 63-66 – God’s coming judgement and final salvation

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Jeremiah – Jeremiah prophesied in Judah just before and during the beginning years of the Babylonian captivity

Known as the weeping prophet due to his emotional writings (particularly Lamentations – see below)

- 1 – Call of Jeremiah
- 2-8 – Admonishment of Judah and warning of coming disaster from the North
- 8:18-9:26 – Song of lament for Israel
- 10 – Admonishment against idolatry
- 11 – Israel’s broken covenant
- 12 – Jeremiah’s complaint against God and the LORD’s answer
- 13-16 – Warning of coming suffering in captivity
- 17 – Pronouncements about Judah
 - 17:7-8 – Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD...
 - 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things...
- 18 – The Potter’s house
- 19 – Illustration of the broken pot
- 20 – Jeremiah’s persecution by the priests
- 21-22 – Warning about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar
- 23 – The coming of the righteous Branch from David
 - Warning about false prophets
- 24 – Illustration of good and bad figs
- 25 – Prediction of 70 years of captivity in Babylon
- 26 – Persecution of Jeremiah by priests and the people
- 27 – Illustration of the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar
- 28 – Jeremiah’s conflict with the false prophet Hananiah
- 29 – Jeremiah’s letter of encouragement for the Babylonian exiles
 - 29:11 – “If My people who are called by my Name...”
- 30-32 – Prophecy of Israel’s restoration
- 33 – Promise of God’s eternal covenant with David by the righteous Branch
- 34-35 – More warnings of impending disaster
- 36 – Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah’s prophecy scroll
- 37-38 – Jeremiah persecuted for his prophecies
- 39-40 – Jerusalem falls to Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah remains in Judah
- 41 – New Babylonian governor is assassinated
- 42 – Jeremiah warns against going to Egypt to flee the Babylonians
- 43 – Jeremiah taken by force to Egypt
- 44 – Warning against idolatry with Egyptian gods
- 45 – Jeremiah sends a message to Baruch

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Ezekiel – Prophetic visions of Ezekiel while exiled in Babylon

1 – Vision of Heavenly throne, God in His glory, and four living creatures

2-3 – Ezekiel sent by God to exiled Israel

4-5 – Illustrations of siege and destruction of Jerusalem

6 – Admonishment against idolatry

7 – Prophecy of the coming Day of the LORD's wrath

8-9 – Vision of abominations committed by Israel in the temple and punishment of death upon those committing them

10 – Second vision of the four living creatures and the glory of the LORD

11 – Promise of Israel's renewal

Ezekiel 11:16-18 – "I will gather you..."

12 – Illustration of Babylonian exile and eventual global diaspora

13-14 – Condemnation of false prophets and idolatrous elders

15 – Comparison of Jerusalem with a barren vine

16 – Comparison of Israel with an adulterous wife

17 – Parable of the two eagles and the vine

18 – Punishment of death for sin

Ezekiel 18:32 – "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone..."

19 – Song of lament for Israel's leaders

20-22 – Condemnation of Israel's continuing sinfulness

23 – Comparison of Jerusalem (Judah) and Samaria (Israel) to two sisters playing the whore with Assyria and Babylon

24 – Description from captivity of the siege of Jerusalem

25-32 – Prophecies against Amon, Moab, Seir, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt

33 – God appoints Ezekiel as Israel's watchman.

34 – Prophecy against leaders of Israel

35 – Prophecy against Seir

36 – Encouragement to Israel – God will restore them for the sake of His Name

37 – Valley of dry bones prophecy

38-39 - Prophecy against Gog of Magog. Foretelling of His intervention into their still coming invasion of Israel

40-46 – Vision of the future temple

47-48 – Vision of water flowing from the new temple east and west. Reallocation of the new promised land

Who's missing?

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Minor Prophets (The Twelve)

Hosea – Last prophet in northern kingdom before conquest by Assyria

God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute as an illustration of Israel's idolatry

- 1 – Hosea marries Gomer – a prostitute – who bears him children
- 2 – Condemnation of Israel's idolatry with promise of redemption
- 3 – Hosea redeems Gomer
- 4 – God accuses Israel
- 5-10 – Prophecy of coming punishment for unrepentant Israel and Judah
- 11 – God's love for Israel
- 12-13 – God's indictment and judgement on Israel
- 14 – Hosea's plea for Israel to return to God

Joel – Illustration of swarming locusts regarding the coming Day of the LORD

- 1 – Locust invasion as punishment for sin. Call to repentance
- 2 – The coming Day of the LORD. Call to return to the LORD before it
Joel 2:12-14
Joel 2:25
Joel 2:28
- 3 – God's judgement of the nations

Amos

- 1-4 – Condemnation of the sins of Judah, Israel, and surrounding nations
- 5 – Call to sincerely seek the LORD and live. God declares hate of empty ceremonies
- 6 – Condemnation of luxury at others' expense
- 7-9:10 – Vision of coming destruction and exile
- 9:11-15 – Promise of Israel's restoration

Obadiah

- 1 – Condemnation of Edom for aiding Israel's enemies

Jonah – so-called "reluctant prophet"

Sent to Nineveh against his will – disliked Ninevites' reputation

Jonah is an historical narrative more than prophecy per se

- 1 – Jonah disobeys God's command to preach to Nineveh. Runs away, and is swallowed by great fish
- 2 – Jonah prays for deliverance
- 3 – Jonah preaches at Nineveh. Ninevites repent
- 4 – Jonah angry with God for sparing the Ninevites

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Micah – contemporary of Isaiah prophesied during fall of northern kingdom

1-3 – Foretelling of coming destruction. Condemnation of oppression in Israelite society and false prophecy

4 – Exaltation of the mountain of the LORD (Zion)

5 – Promise of ruler coming out of Bethlehem

Micah 5:2

6 – Declaration of what God requires

Micah 6:8

7 – Encouragement to remain steadfast

Nahum

Prophecy against apostate Nineveh about a century after Jonah

1-3 – Condemnation of Assyrian cruelty and sin. Prediction of Nineveh's fall

Habakkuk – Habakkuk questions why and how God uses the wicked to punish the seemingly righteous

1 – Habakkuk questions God's means. God answers

2 – Habakkuk commits to follow the LORD without understanding His actions. Woe pronounced on the Chaldeans

3 – Habakkuk's prayer of praise and joy in the LORD

Zephaniah – Prophesied during the reign of Josiah – Judah's last good king

1 – Coming judgement Day of the LORD on Judah

2 – Coming judgement on Judah's enemies

3 – Coming judgement on Jerusalem and the Gentiles followed by all turning to the LORD and being restored

Haggai – main thrust is a call to rebuild the temple

1 – Chastisement for unwillingness to rebuild the temple after the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt

2 – Encouragement to rebuild temple and promise of restored glory

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Zechariah – encourages spiritual revival among those returned from exile

- 1 – Call to return to the LORD. Visions of a horseman, horns, and craftsmen
- 2 – Vision of man measuring Jerusalem
- 3 – Vision of Joshua the high priest
- 4 – Vision of the golden lampstand
Two witnesses of Revelation 11
- 5 – Visions of flying scroll and woman in a basket
- 6 – Vision of four chariots. Prophecy of temple to be rebuilt by the Branch
- 7 – Call for mercy and justice for the oppressed
- 8 – Promise of coming peace and prosperity for Jerusalem (Zion)
- 9 – Promise of coming King of Zion
Zechariah 9:9
- 10 – Promise of restoration for Judah and Israel
- 11 – Warning of coming slaughter to leaders of Judah and Israel
- 12-13 – The salvation of the LORD through refinement of His people
Zechariah 12:10
Zechariah 13:7
- 14 – The coming Day of the LORD

Malachi – rebuke about corruption in the priesthood and dead worship following completion of the 2nd temple

- 1-2 – Reminder of God's love for Israel, chastisement for priestly corruption, outcry against oppression within the Israelite community
- 3 – Foretelling of the coming of God's messenger and Messiah. Outcry against stinginess in giving
Malachi 3:1
- 4 – The coming Day of the LORD
Malachi 4:5-6

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Ketuvim (כתובים) – writings

Psalms – longest book in the Bible at 150 chapters

Longest chapter in the Bible – Psalm 119

Hebrew poetry uses format (e.g. Psalm 119 acrostic) and repetition rather than rhyme

Categories of the Psalms

Songs of praise

Laments – cries to God in the midst of a trial

Confessions of sin

Wisdom

Royal

Messianic

Authors

David

Solomon

Sons of Korah

Anonymous

Songs of Ascents – Psalm 120-134

Sung by pilgrims on road up to Jerusalem for ordained feasts

Proverbs

Authors

Solomon at the height of his wisdom and power

Agur

King Lemuel

Proverbs 3:5-6

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Job

Date and author unknown

Theme of the book is why God allows good people to suffer

1 – Satan granted permission to attack Job’s property and children

Job 1:21

2 – Satan granted permission to attack Job’s person. Introduction of Job’s friends

3 – Job curses his own birth

4-5 – Accusation of Eliphaz – the innocent don’t suffer (hogwash)

6 – Job replies to Eliphaz that his complaint is just

7 – Job cries out without hope

8 – Bildad advised Job to repent of the sin that has brought calamity upon him

9 – Job complains of his helplessness before all-powerful God

10 – Job cries out to God for answer why he is suffering

11 – Zophar says Job’s suffering is less than he deserves

12 – Job replies that God has caused his undeserved suffering

13 – Job rebukes his friends’ counsel as worthless. Tells them to be quiet

14 – Job proclaims the inevitability of death

15 – Eliphaz accuses Job of not actually fearing and honoring God or acknowledging His blessings

16 – Job rebukes his friends’ lack of compassion

17 – Job again proclaims his hopelessness

18 – Bildad proclaims that Job is being punished for wickedness

19 – Job protests innocence and proclaims reliance on God

Job 19:25

20 – Zophar says the wicked shall suffer – implies Job deserves his suffering

21 – Job contradicts Zophar saying the wicked prosper while the innocent suffer

22 – Eliphaz again accuses Job of great wickedness and urges Job to confess

23-24 – Job complains about God’s seeming absence and inattention

25 – Bildad proclaims that man is incapable of righteousness

26 – Job replies that God can’t be understood

27 – Job vows to maintain his uprightness

28 – Job complains about lack of wisdom in the world – implying lack of wisdom among his friends

29-31 – Job gives the closing arguments of his defense and throws himself on God’s mercy

32-37 – Elihu bursts out in anger against Job and his other friends, and extols God’s virtues

38-41 – God answers Job – “Who are you to...? Where were you when...?”

42 – Job confesses and repents of his accusation of God. God rebukes Job’s friends. God restores Job’s health and fortune.

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Song of Songs

Authors – Solomon in his youth and his lover

Exchange of mutual flattery between the lovers and proclamation of the lover's fine attributes to outsiders

Song of Solomon 4:1

Ruth – Story of devotion and family affection of a Gentile widow and her widowed Jewish mother-in-law

1 – Naomi of Bethlehem widowed in Moab. Her two half-Jewish sons also die. Her widowed Moabite daughter-in-law refuses to leave Naomi when she returns to Judah
2-3 – Ruth meets a distant relative Boaz who is kind to her and falls in love with her
4 – Boaz buys the field of Ruth's dead husband and redeems for himself Ruth herself in the bargain. Ruth marries Boaz, and they become the great-grandparents of David

Lamentations

Collection of five poems of lament over the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians

Commonly attributed to Jeremiah, but not "signed" by him

Lamentations 3:22-23

Ecclesiastes – An exploration of the meaning of life and purpose of man

Author – Solomon in his old age

1 – All pursuits are in vain. The vanity of acquiring wisdom
2 – The vanity of self-indulgence. The vanity of toiling for transient possessions
3 – There is a proper time for everything. Death comes to all – wicked and just
4 – Solomon's disgust at the evil deeds of mankind
5 – Vanity of wealth and honor
6 – The evil that wealth is inherited by those who didn't strive for it
7 – Wisdom is better than folly
8 – Advice to obey the king and to fear God
9-10 – Inevitability of death for everyone. Advice to enjoy life with the one you love
11 – Advice not to be stingy. Cast your bread upon the waters
12 – Remember your creator in your youth. Fear God and keep His commandments.
This is the entire purpose of our lives

Ecclesiastes 12:1 & 13

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Esther – story of a young Jewish woman in Persian exile who becomes queen of Persia and defeats a plot to wipe out the Jewish exiles

1 – Queen Vashti refuses invitation to King Ahasuerus' banquet

2 – King chooses Esther to replace Vashti. Ester's cousin Mordecai discovers plot to assassinate the king. Esther warns the king

3-4 – King's advisor Haman plots to eradicate the Jewish exiles. Mordecai finds out, tells Esther, and convinces her it won't be safe for her to do nothing

Esther 4:14

5-8 – Esther prepares a trap for Haman. The plot is defeated. Haman is hanged.

9-10 – The Jewish exiles kill their enemies. The feast of Purim is inaugurated to celebrate the defeat of the plot. Mordecai takes Haman's place.

Daniel

Life story of four young Jewish exiles raised in the court of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel continued in the court of the Median and Persian kings who succeeded the Chaldeans as rulers in Babylon

Contains several prophetic visions of the end times

1 – Four Jewish boys taken to Babylon to serve in the court of Nebuchadnezzar

2 – Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream of a large statue representing four empires

3 – Daniel and his companions refuse to worship a golden image of Nebuchadnezzar. Three of them are thrown into a fiery furnace but survive

4 – Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree that is chopped down.

Nebuchadnezzar goes mad and is cast out of the palace for a time. He is then restored to the throne and praises God.

5 – Nebuchadnezzar's successor Belshazzar sees a disembodied hand writing on a wall. Daniel is called to interpret the writing. The writing predicts the overthrow of Babylon by Darius the Mede which happens that very night.

6 – Darius is tricked into signing a decree that forbid worship of anyone but himself. Daniel is caught in prayer to God, and thrown into a den of lions. He survives and Darius praises God.

7 – Daniel has a vision of four beasts, and the throne of God. In the vision, one like a son of man is given dominion over all the earth. The four beasts parallel the four parts of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's first dream

8 – Daniel has a vision of a ram and a goat. Michael the angel interprets the vision with the goat being Greece and the ram being Persia. Daniel is directed to seal up the prophecy for the end times.

9 – After reading in Jeremiah that the captivity will last 70 years, Daniel prays for the restoration of Israel. Michael once more comes to him and gives Daniel the 70 weeks prophecy of the end times.

10-12 – Daniel has a vision of a man beside the Tigris. Michael and the man comfort Daniel. The man foretells the events of the end times. Daniel is directed to seal up the vision and the prophecy until the time of the end.

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Ezra/Nehemiah – In the Hebrew Bible, Nehemiah is included as the second part of the book of Ezra. Together, the two books recount the return of the Babylonian exiles to the land.

Ezra – The account of the first two waves of returning exiles. They reinstated sacrifices, and rebuilt the temple.

- 1 – Persian King Cyrus issues decree releasing exiles to return to Jerusalem
- 2 – First wave of 42,300 exiles returns to Jerusalem
- 3 – The exiles rebuild the altar and temple
- 4 – The people who remained in Judah during the exile oppose the rebuilding wanting to join in. King Artaxerxes issues a stop work order
- 5-6 – The exiles continue rebuilding, claiming authorization from Cyrus. The old decree of Cyrus is found in the archives. The temple is finished and dedicated. Offerings at the new temple begin.
- 7-8 – Artaxerxes sends Ezra and more exiles to Jerusalem. Finding no Levites serving the temple, Ezra requests them to be sent.
- 9-10 – Ezra calls out the unlawful intermarriage of the returning exiles with the local people. Those who had foreign wives divorce them.

Nehemiah – The story of the third wave of returning exiles who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. They faced resistance from both the Persian government administrators and the local residents.

- 1 – Nehemiah living in Persian city of Susa learns the walls of Jerusalem are still destroyed. He prays to be allowed to return to Jerusalem
- 2 – King Artaxerxes sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem to assess the damage.
- 3 – Rebuilding of the wall begins.
- 4 – The local Samaritan leaders plot to stop the rebuilding, but the plot is discovered and the rebuilding continues.
- 5 – Nehemiah as the Persian governor halts government oppression of the local population.
- 6-7 – The local officials plot to kill Nehemiah but he avoids their trap and the wall is completed. A census is made of the returned exiles.
- 8-10 – Ezra reads the Law before the assembled exiles, the people celebrate the feast of tabernacles, confess their sins, and establish a new covenant with the LORD.
- 11-12 – The leaders and the priests in Jerusalem are listed
- 13 – After being absent from Jerusalem, Nehemiah returns to discover significant corruption within the priesthood and leadership, violations of the Sabbath among the people, and resurgent intermarriage of the exiles and the locals. Nehemiah institutes reforms to put an end to these sinful practices.

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Chronicles

Author unknown. Attributed to Ezra.

1 Chronicles – History of Israel from Adam through the reign of David

1-9 – Genealogies: Adam → Abraham → Jacob (Israel), Jacob → David → David's descendants, descendants of the sons of Jacob, Saul, the returned exiles

10 – The death of Saul

11-12 – Establishment of David's reign

13 – Return of the Ark following its capture by the Philistines

14 – Further exploits of David as king

15-16 – Return of the Ark to Jerusalem

17 – The Davidic covenant

1 Chronicles 17:16

18-20 – Further exploits and details of David's reign

21 – David buys the threshing floor of Ornan (Araunah in 2 Samuel 24), and builds an altar there. This eventually became the Temple Mount

22-26 – David makes preparations for building of the temple by Solomon. David organizes the priests, Levites and temple guards establishing their schedule by divisions.

27 – The organization of David's army

28-29 – David exhorts the people to follow the LORD, makes offerings for the temple, anoints Solomon as king, and dies

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2 Chronicles – History of Solomon’s reign and the kings of Judah until the exile up to the command of Cyrus to rebuild the temple.

1 – Solomon prays for wisdom, and receives great wealth

2 Chronicles 1:11-12

2-4 – Building and furnishing of the temple

5 – Ark brought into the temple.

6-7 – Dedication of the temple. Solomon’s prayer. The glory of the LORD fills the temple.

2 Chronicles 7:1

2 Chronicles 7:14

8 – Solomon’s accomplishments

9 – Visit from the Queen of Sheba. Solomon’s wealth. Solomon’s death.

10-12 – Division of the kingdom. Rehoboam’s reign.

13 – Abijah’s reign

14-16 – Asa’s reign

17-20 – Jehoshaphat’s reign

21 – Jehoram’s reign

22 – Ahaziah’s reign

23-24 – Joash’s reign

25 – Amaziah’s reign. Civil war with northern kingdom (Israel)

26 – Uzziah’s reign

27 – Jotham’s reign

28 – Ahaz’s reign

29-32 – Hezekiah’s reign

33 – Manasseh’s reign. Amon’s reign

34-35 – Josiah’s reign. The book of the Law is found in the temple. Josiah vows to follow the covenant written in the Law

36:1-21 – Decline of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem, and beginning of the Babylonian captivity.

36:22-23 – Proclamation of Persian King Cyrus commanding that the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt, and all exiles who wish to return to Jerusalem

Trivia Questions

What other language(s) if any apart from Hebrew comprise the Old Testament?

What portion(s) – if any – of the Old Testament was written by Gentile(s)?

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What other language(s) if any apart from Hebrew comprise the Old Testament?

Aramaic – the official language of the Babylonian empire

Daniel 2:4b-7:28

Ezra 4:8-6:18 & 7:12-26

What portion(s) – if any – of the Old Testament was written by Gentile(s)?

Daniel 4 – Portions or all written by Nebuchadnezzar in 1st person