

Lesson 8

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study for the Survey of the Bible:

To guide the student in seeing how the books of the Bible are structured, and how they fit together to reflect God's salvation plan for mankind.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Different parts of the Bible speak to us in different ways
 - C. Three major regions of O.T. History
 - D. Six Journeys
 - E. How to do a survey
 - F. An Overview of the Old Testament Books

- II. SUMMARY
 - A. Old Testament

I. OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

A. Introduction

Number of books in Bible, in O.T.

1. Divisions of books:

Pentateuch (Books of the Law) - *"five-fold vessel"*

2. History:

- a. Union among the tribes - Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- b. Rise and fall of the monarchy - 1 Samuel to 2 Chronicles
- c. Captivity and return - Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- d. Poetry - literary style
- e. Major Prophets (because of size of book)
- f. Minor Prophets

All the prophets ministered in the period of 900 to 400 BC to either Israel (northern kingdom) or Judah (southern kingdom), or both.

"All Scripture is inspired by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness .." **2 Timothy 3:16**

"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." **2 Peter 1:21**

"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction..." **1 Corinthians 10:11**

"These are a shadow of things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." **Colossians 2:17**

O.T. is full of types, or pictures. Example: Passover and blood

B. Different parts of the Bible speak to us in different ways:

1. Conviction of sin **Jeremiah 2**
2. Laws show the way to please God **Exodus 20**
3. Psalms encourage praise and prayer **Psalms 107**
4. We are inspired to walk in the paths of righteousness **Deut 1: 24-32:47**

5. History directs us to learn **Psalm 78**
6. Prophecies warn of danger and give hope **Zechariah 14**
7. The story of Israel's kingdom gives background for understanding the reign of Christ

C. *Three major regions of O.T. History:*

1. Canaan – homeland of Israel. At crossroads of international traffic.
2. Syria, Assyria and Babylon to the north. Israel's strongest enemies.
3. Egypt – also Israel's enemy.

D. *Six Journeys:*

1. Abraham, from Ur of Chaldees to Canaan.
2. Jacob and family to join Joseph in Egypt.
3. Exodus from Egypt to Canaan, led by Moses.
4. Northern kingdom carried into exile to Assyria.
5. Southern kingdom taken captive to Babylon.
6. Two separate, large groups of Israelites return from Babylon, led by Zerubbabel and Ezra.

E. *How to do a survey:*

Observation - Interpretation - Application

To see each part in its relation to the other parts

1. Scan book
2. Right down first impressions
3. Identify the atmosphere of the book
4. Learn key words and/or phrases

Look for: MAIN EVENTS - MAIN PEOPLE - KEY VERSE/s

PENTATEUCH: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Genesis: Origins of the nation - man's creation, fall and hope.

Exodus: Deliverance of the nation.

Leviticus: Life of the nation - laws - access to God.

Numbers: Test of the nation - traveling to Canaan - conditions for inheritance.

Deuteronomy: Reminders to the nation - final preparations for entering Canaan - consecration required.

F. *An overview of the Old Testament Books*

1. GENESIS: "Beginnings"

Author : Moses
 Written : About 1445 BC
 Main theme : Man's sin and the initial steps taken for his redemption by a divine **covenant** made with a chosen race.
 Key thought in Genesis : Book of Beginnings

Genesis 1-12	Deals with the human race as a whole. After that, the nation of Israel.
Chapter 17	The covenant of circumcision. Every Jewish male, even to today, observes this. Permanent reminder of God's covenant. Circumcision - cutting off of flesh.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Type of Father - Son - Holy Spirit

2. EXODUS

Author : Moses
 Written : About 1445 BC
 Main theme : History of Israel from the death of **Joseph** to the erection of the Tabernacle.

Key thought in Exodus : Book of Redemption
Four periods in the history of Israel:

- a) **Bondage** in Egypt
- b) **Deliverance** under Moses
- c) **Discipline** in the wilderness
- d) The giving of the **Law**

Key thought in Numbers : Israel's wanderings

The wanderings of Israel a type of the Christian life:

Egypt	The world
Bondage	Sin
Pharaoh	Satan
Moses	Christ
Passover lamb	Christ, the Lamb of God
The exodus	Leaving the sinful life behind
Red Sea crossing	Hindrances removed
Pillar of cloud/ fire	Presence of God with us
Manna	Christ, Bread of Life
Water from rock	Christ, living water
Upholding Moses' hands	Need for co-operation between leaders

3. **LEVITICUS: (From tribe of Levi)**

Author : Moses
Written : About 1445 BC
Main Theme : How can sinful man approach a **holy** God? The Word '*holy*' occurs over 80 times in the book.

The book of Hebrews is closely related to this book.

Key thought in Leviticus : "*Ye shall be holy*"

- a) The way of access to God:
 - (i) Through sacrifices and offerings
 - (ii) Through the High Priest

- b) Special laws regarding:
 - (i) Food
 - (ii) Cleanliness
 - (iii) Purity of priests and offerings

- c) Seven annual feasts:
 - (i) Passover, remembering the exodus - deliverance from
 - (ii) Sin's bondage
 - (iii) Unleavened bread - speaking of Christ
 - (iv) First Fruits - speaking of the resurrection
 - (v) Pentecost, remembering the giving of the law -
outpouring of Holy Spirit - law on hearts
 - (vi) Trumpets, speaks of coming of the Lord
 - (vii) Day of Atonement, when high priest enters Holy of
Holies to atone for the sins of the people - Christ
 - (viii) Tabernacles - millennial reign of Christ

- d) Five offerings:
 - (i) Burnt - total sacrifice, surrender of whole life to Christ
Romans 12:1-2
 - (ii) Meal - giving the fruits of my labor to Christ
 - (iii) Peace - part to God, part eaten by priest, part eaten by
giver - fellowship
 - (iv) Sin - for sins not deliberate
 - (v) Trespass - restoring plus 20% to those who have been
sinned against by me.

4. NUMBERS: (From numberings of Israel)

Author : Moses
 Central lesson : Unbelief stops entrance to abundant life.
 Written : Toward end of 15th century BC

- a) Key thoughts:

Chapter 11	The people despise the manna Moses becomes discouraged 70 elders appointed to help him God sends quail in to the camp
Chapter 12	Miriam and Aaron murmur against Moses

Chapter 13	The sending of the 12 spies and their reports, with the result that Israel had to wander for 40 years
Chapter 20	Moses strikes the rock in anger and cannot enter the Promised Land
Chapter 21	Bronze snake for murmuring - picture of Christ lifted up
Chapter 35	Cities of refuge - Christ our refuge
Last 3	Speak of Christ.

b) Seven complaints:

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| (i) | The way | Chap. 11 |
| (ii) | The food | Chap. 11 |
| (iii) | The giants | Chap. 13 |
| (iv) | Their leaders | Chap. 16 |
| (v) | The divine judgments | Chap. 16 |
| (vi) | The desert | Chap. 20 |
| (vii) | Again, concerning the manna | Chap. 21 |

5. DEUTERONOMY: "Second Law"

The previous generation had died in the wilderness, therefore it was necessary for the law to be repeated.

Author : Moses
 Key word : **Remember (8:2)**
 Key passage : "... watch yourself lest you forget" (6:4-12)

Main themes :

Chapters 1-4	Remembrances of the past
Chapters 5-26	Commandments for the present
Chapters 27-30	Blessings and curses - options affecting future
Chapters 31-34	Parting words of Moses

6. JOSHUA

Author : Probably Joshua
 Main theme : The conquest and division of the land of Canaan

Key verses :

1:3	<i>"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given it to you just as I spoke to Moses."</i>
1:9	<i>"Be strong and of good courage ..."</i>
11:23	<i>"Joshua took the whole land according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And the land had rest from war."</i>

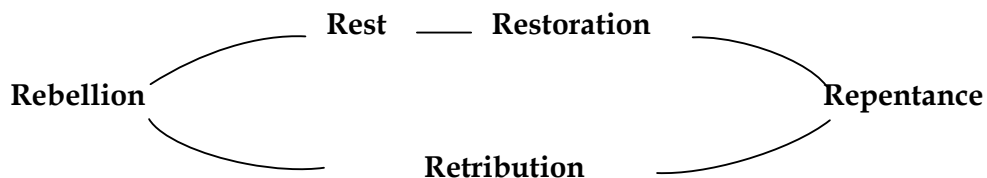
Written : around 1400 BC

Chapters 1-5	Preparation for war to take the land
Chapters 6-12	Taking the land: Jericho, Ai (Achan's sin), campaigns in south and north. It took 7 years to take the land. Secret: Obedience They defeated their enemies but did not drive them all out as God had told them to, which brought problems for Israel later.
Chapters 13-21	Dividing the inherited land.
Chapter 22	Consecration for continued blessing.

7. JUDGES

Author : Unknown prophet. Some suggest could be Samuel.
 Written : Around 1000 BC
 Main theme : History of Israel during period of 14 judges, who were raised up to be deliverers of Israel

Israel's religious experience:



Best-known judges : Deborah, Gideon, Samson

Key to book : *"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."*
(21:25)

8. RUTH: "Friendship"

Author : Unknown, possibly Samuel
 Written : Around 1000 BC

Key verse : *"Where you go I will go; where you stay I will stay; your people will be my people; your God my God; where you die I will die; where you are buried I will be buried." (1:16-17)*

Life-long commitment to her mother-in-law by Moabitess.

Key interest : Ruth gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of David. Jesus came from the line of David.

9. 1 and 2 SAMUEL: "The Name of God"

Author : Possibly two or three authors
 Written : Around 1000 BC

Deals with the first two kings of Israel

Three main characters:

a. Samuel	Last of the judges, and prophet his call as a small boy
b. Saul	Anointed by Samuel to be first king of Israel, and his disobedience
c. David	Anointed by Samuel as king in place of Saul Victory over Goliath Anointed as king over Judah, then all of Israel

Key verses : *"They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them" (1-8:7)*

"Obedience is better than sacrifice" (1:15:22)

"Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart" (1-16:7)

10. 1 and 2 KINGS:

Author : Unknown, but probably one author for both books
 Written : Between 562 and 536 BC

Records events of the kings of Judah and Israel, from Solomon to Zedekiah, the last king.

Main themes:

- a) **Solomon** as king
 - i) Wise choice - "Give your servant an understanding heart to judge the people to discern between good and evil" (1 - 3:9)
 - ii) Built the House of the Lord - took 7 years
Priests could not stand to minister because the glory of the Lord filled the house. (1-8:10-11)
 - iii) Heart turned away from God
- b) **Kingdom** divided:
10 tribes - Israel;
2 tribes - Judah (**chap. 12**)
 - i) All of Israel's kings did not follow the Lord
 - ii) Judah's kings alternated between bad and good
Powerful influence of leaders over the nation: when the King followed the Lord, the people did, cf. today, African nation

(Charts of Kings of Israel and Judah)
- c) The ministry of **Elijah** (1-17-21)
- d) The ministry of **Elisha** (2-2-13)

11. 1 and 2 CHRONICLES: "The accounts of the days"

Author : Uncertain. May have been Ezra.
Written : Between 450 and 425 BC

A supplement to the books of Kings and Samuel

The books of Samuel and Kings refer to events in both Israel and Judah, here as Chronicles refers to only Judah

Main themes:

- a) Reign of David (1 Chronicles)
- He brings the Ark into Jerusalem
 - Builds a tent for the Ark
 - Desires to build a temple for the Lord
- b) Five periods of reform under:
- King Asa
 - King Jehoshaphat
 - King Joash
 - King Hezekiah
 - King Josiah

EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER - deal with return of Jewish remnant from exile.

Three returns to Judah:

536 BC

458 BC

445 BC

First return, under Zerubbabel

Second return, under Ezra

Third return, under Nehemiah

12. EZRA

Author : Probably Ezra
Written : About 450 BC, soon after arriving in Jerusalem

Main theme : Return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon, the rebuilding of the **temple**, social and religious reforms

The first return of the Jews, under Zerubbabel, rebuilt the temple
The second return, under Ezra, brought in social & religious reforms

Key verse : *"The hand of our God was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy ..."* (8:31)

13. NEHEMIAH: "The comfort of Jehovah"

- Author : Nehemiah
 Written : About 420 BC
- Key themes : The rebuilding of the broken down **walls** of Jerusalem
 Opposition to the rebuilding by enemies
- Key verse : *"The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no right in Jerusalem."* (2:20)

Nehemiah finished the wall

- Key verse : *"And it came about when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. (6:15-16)*

- Outline of book : This book has been used to teach the principles of:
- Leadership
 - Ministry Planning
 - Spiritual Warfare

14. ESTHER

- Author : Unknown. Some suggest could be Ezra or Nehemiah.
 Written : Around 430 BC
- Main theme : The deliverance of the Jews by Queen Esther. The **name of God** does not appear in this book.
- Key people : **King Ahasuerus** - dethroned **Vashti** and chose **Esther**
Mordecai - Esther's foster father
Haman, who tried to have Mordecai executed and he, in fact, was executed.
- Key verse : *"Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."* (4:14)

BOOKS OF POETRY:

Main themes:

Job	The problem of pain. Blessing through suffering.
Psalms	The way to pray. Praise through prayer.
Proverbs	The behaviour of the believer.
Ecclesiastes	The folly of forgetting God.
Song of Solomon	Love relationship between Bridegroom and His beloved

15. JOB: "The persecuted one"

Author : Unknown
 Writing : About 950 BC, so out of sequence

Key events : Satan accuses Job before God - *"Does Job fear you for nothing? You've given him everything!"*

How could Satan come into the presence of God?

Key verses : *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord" (1:21)*

2:10	Shall we accept good from God and not accept adversity?
13:15	Though He slay me yet will I trust Him
19:25	I know that my Redeemer lives
23:10	He knows the way that I take; when He has tried me I shall come forth as gold.
42:5	I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you.

16. PSALMS

Authors : David, Korah and Asaph
 Written : Between 1000 and 500 BC

a) *Poetic writing:*

- (i) Compares two things using "like" or "as".
"He will be like a tree ..." **Psalm 1:3**
- (ii) Compares two things without using "like" or "as".
"The Lord is a sun and shield" **Psalm 84:11**
- (iii) Exaggeration for effect.
"Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with tears". **Psalm 6:6**
- (iv) Applies personality traits to objects.
"All my bones will say, 'Lord, who is like Thee?'" **Psalm 35:10**

b) *Major themes of Psalms:*

- (i) **Instruction** 1,5,7,15,17,50,73,94,101
- (ii) **History** 78,105,106,136
- (iii) **Praise** 106, 11-113, 115-117, 135, 146-150
- (iv) Confession of **sin** 6,32,38,51,102,130,143
- (v) **Intercession** 86
- (vi) **Thanksgiving** 16,18
- (vii) The coming of the **Messiah** 2,20-24, 41,68,118

17. PROVERBS: "To be like" cf. poetic style of writing

Author : Solomon
Written : 950-900 BC

Key thought : The gaining of Wisdom

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (1:7)

18. ECCLESIASTES: "The Preacher"

Author : Solomon
 Written : 930 BC

The writings of a philosopher seeking the meaning of life without God, and the futility of a value system based on material possessions and ambitions.

Key phrase : All is vanity - 39 times
 Key verse : 12:13 Fear God and keep His commandments

Key thoughts:
 There is a time for everything (3:1)
 Two are better than one (4:9)
 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth (12:1)

19. SONG OF SOLOMON

Author : Solomon
 Written : 965 BC

Bridegroom – Christ Bride - the Church

Chapters 1 and 2	The bride is thinking of her courtship days
Chapters 3 and 4	The Groom is thinking of the wedding
Chapters 5-8	Their married life together

Key verse : “My beloved is mine, and I am His.” (2:16)

Key verses relating to the relationship between Christ and the Church:

“Draw me and I will run after you....” (1:4)
 “His banner over me is love.” (2:4)

20. ISAIAH: “Salvation of Jehovah”

Author : Isaiah
 Written : About 760 BC

Key word : Salvation

12:3	Wells of salvation
25:9	Joy of salvation
26:1	Walls of salvation

49:8	Day of salvation
59:17	Helmet of salvation
61:10	Garments of salvation
62:1	Light of salvation

Key phrase : *“Holy One of Israel”* - more than 25 times

Call of Isaiah in his vision of the throne of God
“Here am I, send me” (Chap. 6)

Judgment of God. (Chaps. 1 - 39)

He speaks of the judgment of God on Judah and Jerusalem for their sin, and on the nations which are their enemies. But throughout there are promises.

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.” (9:2)

Predictions of the coming Messiah:

7:14	A virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel - God with us.
9:6	For a child is born to us.. and the government will be upon His shoulders ... His name will be called Wonderful ...
11:1-2	A shoot will come from the stem of Jesse, and the Spirit of the Lord will be upon Him.

The comfort of God. (Chaps. 40-66)

40:1	Comfort my people
40:31	They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength
43:1-2	Do not fear ... when you walk through the rivers they will not overflow you; when you walk through the fire you will not be scorched.
52:7	How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news ...
53:4-6	He has borne our griefs and sorrows ... by His stripes we are healed.
55:6-12	Seek the Lord while He may be found My thoughts are not your thoughts ... My Word shall not return to me empty but will accomplish the purpose for which I sent it You will go out with joy and be led forth with peace

61:1-3	The Spirit of the Lord is upon me and has anointed me to preach good news to the poor...
64:8	Potter and clay

21. JEREMIAH: "Jehovah establishes"

Author : Jeremiah, often called 'the weeping prophet'
 Written : About 605 BC

Main theme : The judgment of God on Israel for constant rebellion, and the foretelling of Israel's captivity in Babylon.

a. Jeremiah's 'Job Description'

"Appointed over the nations to pluck up and break down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (1:10)

b. Throughout the book you see God's love for His people.

"I have loved you with an everlasting love ..." (31:3).

Continually Jeremiah calls them back to God and warns them of God's judgment on their idolatry. The word 'return' appears 47 times.

"Return, faithless Israel, I will not look upon you in anger, for I am gracious." (3:12)

Key verses : *"For I know the plans that I have for you.. plans for your good and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope." (29:11)*

31:33	I will put my law within them, and on their heart I will write it.
33:3	Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.

But Israel continually rejects God.

Chap. 36	King Zedekiah burned the scroll Baruch had written.
Chap. 37	God gave the word again.
Chap. 44	People said they were not going to listen to the word of the Lord from Jeremiah, but they would offer

	burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven for then they had plenty of food and saw no misfortune!
v. 22	The Lord was no longer able to endure it.

Jeremiah thrown into prison, into a pit, under house arrest, but courageously spoke the Word of the Lord.

Book ends with Judah in Exile, and no word of what happened to Jeremiah.

22. LAMENTATIONS: "Mourning"

Author : Probably Jeremiah
Written : Soon after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC

BOOK OF JEREMIAH	Fall of Jerusalem 586 BC	BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS
_____		_____

a) Jeremiah's mourning over Jerusalem's judgment for sin.

"Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain." (1:12)

b) Confession of sin

"The crown has fallen from our head; Woe to us for we have sinned." (5:16)

c) Word of hope

"Your loving kindness never ceases; your compassion never fail; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (3:22-23)

23. EZEKIEL: "God strengthens"

Author : Ezekiel
Written : 591-586 BC

Ezekiel's commissioning

"A watchman over the house of Israel. Whenever he heard a word from God he was to warn the people." (3:17)

a) Comparison of main themes of the four major prophets:

Isaiah	<u>Salvation</u> of the Lord
Jeremiah	<u>Judgment</u> of the Lord
Daniel	<u>Kingdom</u> of the Lord
Ezekiel	<u>Glory</u> of the Lord

b) Ezekiel stressed three things in his preaching:

- (i) The people must repent and return to God.
- (ii) The exile would last for 70 years, even though false prophets were reaching an early return.
- (iii) There would be a future restoration of Israel for the believers

c) Warnings he gave:

- (i) Must warn unbelievers of the punishment for sin. (3:18-21)
- (ii) If don't their blood is upon us. (33:7-9)
- (iii) Shepherds feeding themselves and not the flock. (34:1-4)

d) Ezekiel's visions:

- (i) **Four living beings**, with human form and wings
Four sides: man, lion, bull, eagle (1:4-28)
- (ii) **Scroll, that he ate** (2:9-3:3)
- (iv) **The plain**, where he saw the glory of the Lord (3:22-23)
- (iv) **Visions of Jerusalem:**
 - Four abominations in the temple (8:1-18)
 - Inhabitants killed (9:1-11)
 - City destroyed by fire (10:1-22)
 - The Lord leaves the city (11:1-25)

(v) **Valley of dry bones** (37:1-10)

(vi) **Gog and Magog** (Chap. 38)

Gog	A powerful ruler
Magog	Russia
Rosh	Ancient name for Russia
Meshech	Ancient name for Moscow
Tubal	Ancient name for Tobolsk
Persia	Iran
Cush	Iraq
Put	Central Europe or Libya ?
Gomer	Germany, the Crimea and Turkey
Beth-Togarmah	Armenia and Afghanistan
From the far north	Russia
v.8	Speaks of Israel returning to the land - fulfilled in 1948 for the first time in history. Suggested: Russia will move through Afghanistan, (already) through Iran and Iraq to Israel.
v.13	Sheba and Dedan - ancient trade centres in Arabia. Tarshish - Arabia - OIL
v.20	May speak of massive atomic blast

(vii) **The new temple** (40:1-48:35)

(viii) **Life-giving water flowing from temple - water to swim in!** (47:1-12)

e) Ezekiel taught by symbolic action:

4:1-3 Sign of the brick	Israel's siege and fall
4:4-8 Lying on side	Discomforts of captivity
4:9-17 Sign of Famine	Suffering in captivity
5:1-17 Sign of knife & razor	Destruction of city
12:1-7, 17-20 House moving	Moving to another land
21:1-17 Sharpened sword	Judgment near
21:18-2 Nebuchadnezzar's sword	Capture by Babylon
22:17-31 Smelting furnace	Judgment and cleansing
24:15-27 Ezekiel's wife's death	Blessings taken away

37:15-17 Two sticks	Reunion of Israel & Judah
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24. DANIEL: “God is Judge”

Author : Daniel
 Written : 530 BC

Key words : dreams, visions

Key verse : *“The people who know their God will display strength and take action.” (1:32)*

- a) A man of courage and faith:
 - (i) Would not eat the king’s meat (**Chap. 1**)
 - (ii) His friends refused to worship the king’s image and were thrown into the fiery furnace (**Chap. 3**)
 - (iii) Interprets writing on the wall (**Chap. 5**)
 - (iv) Prays three times a day, as is his habit, and thrown into den of lions; *“My God has shut their mouths so that they have not harmed me.”*
- b) Daniel’s dreams:
 - (i) Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of large statue (**2:31-45**)

Speaks of different world powers:

Head	Babylon - 612-539 BC
Breast & Arms	Medes and Persians - 539-331 BC
Belly & thighs	Greeks - 331-63 BC
Legs & feet	Romans - 63 BC - AD 476
Stone	Christ - crushed them all

- (ii) Daniel’s vision of the four beasts. (**7:1-28**)
 - Lion
 - Bear
 - Leopard
 - Terrifying beast
 - 10 horns - governments
 - Little horn - antichrist - time, times, half a time

(iii) Seventy weeks (v.24 esp. read; 9:1-27)

v. 25	7 weeks and 62 weeks until Messiah
v. 26	after 62 weeks Messiah will be cut off
v. 27	will make a firm covenant for one week, but in middle of the week he will put a stop to offerings - worship ceases - then comes complete destruction - Great Tribulation

MINOR PROPHETS:

Three groups:

Prophets of Israel

Jonah, Amos, Hosea

Prophets of Judah

Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

Prophets after exile Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

25. HOSEA: "Salvation"

Author : Hosea
 Written : Between 755 and 725 BC

Hosea's ministry overlapped that of Isaiah and Micah in Judah, and Amos in Israel. During his time there were four kings in Judah and seven kings in Israel.

Main theme : God's patient **love** for Israel shown through way Hosea treats his wife, who was unfaithful to him and bore illegitimate children.

Key verses :

4:6	<i>My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.</i>
6:6	<i>I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice.</i>
14:1,4	<i>Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God ... I will heal their</i>

	<i>apostasy</i>
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26. JOEL: "Jehovah is God"

Author : Joel
Written : 820 BC

Key phrase : The day of the Lord - 5 references to end times

Key thought : National repentance and its blessings

Call to repentance (2:13)

Render your heart not your garments.

Return to the Lord.

Promise of outpouring of the **Holy Spirit (2:28-29)**

Peter quoted on the Day of Pentecost.

Wonders in the heavens - sun turned into darkness and moon into blood - when day of Lord comes (2:31-32)

27. AMOS: "Burden bearer"

Author : Amos
Written : 760 BC

Theme : Certainty of judgment on Israel

Key statement : Seek me that you may live (5:4)

Amos' burden : They have rejected the law of the Lord (2:4)

Amos' warning : Prepare to meet your God (4:12)

a) Five visions:

- (i) Locusts (7:1-3)
- (ii) Fire (7:4-5)
- (iii) The plumb line (7:7-9)

- (iv) A basket of ripe fruit (8:1-3)
- (v) A vision of the altar destroyed (9:1-10)
- b) The book ends with a promise of restoration (9:13-15) fruitfulness.

28. OBADIAH: "Servant of the Lord"

Author : Obadiah
 Written : Between 840 and 825 BC
 Main theme : Judgment of Edom for its treatment of Jerusalem
 Key thought : "As you have done so it will be done to you." (15)

29. JONAH: "Dove"

Author : Jonah
 Written : 770 BC
 Chapter 1 God commissions Jonah - his disobedience
 Chapter 2 Jonah repents inside whale and God delivers GOD'S POWER
 Chapter 3 God commissions Jonah again - obeys - city repents
 Chapter 4 Jonah complains - rebuked GOD'S MERCY

30. MICAH: "Who is Jehovah like"

Author : Micah
 Written : between 734 and 722 BC
 Main theme : Judgment for Judah's sin, but pardon still offered.
 Key verses :

4:2	<i>Come and let us go to the house of the Lord ... and He will</i>
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	<i>teach us His ways.</i>
6:8	<i>He has shown you, o man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</i>
7:8	<i>Rejoice not over me, my enemy. Though I fall, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light unto me.</i>
7:18	<i>Who is a God like you who pardons iniquity?"</i>

31. NAHUM: "Comforter" (shortened form of Nehemiah)

Author : Nahum
 Written : Between 663 and 612 BC
 Regarded by some as a sequel to the book of Jonah

Key theme : Judgment on Ninevah. Fulfilled in 612 BC

Key verse : *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble. He knows those who take refuge in Him." (1:7)*

32. HABAKKUK: "Embracer"

Author : Habakkuk
 Written : Between 609 and 605 BC

Chapter 1 Habakkuk complains about injustice

Chapter 2 Habakkuk Listens

The vision waits for the appointed time. God will use the Babylonians as his instrument of judgment on the nations. (v. 3)

The earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord (v. 14)

Chapter 3 Habakkuk prays, ending in beautiful song (v. 17-19)

33. ZEPHANIAH: "Hidden, or protected, by Jehovah"

Author : Zephaniah
 Written : 625 BC

Main theme : Coming of the day of the Lord and His judgment

Key verse : *"Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion ... the Lord has*

taken away His judgments from you.” (3:14-15)

34. HAGGAI: “Celebration”

Author : Haggai, the Prophet of the temple
Written : 520 BC

Judah has returned to Jerusalem. Their houses, walls and the temple are lying in ruins. They became pre-occupied with building their own homes and neglected to rebuild the house of the Lord.

Key thoughts:

1:5,7	Consider your ways
1:9	My house lies desolate while you while you run to your own house
1:12	The people obeyed the voice of the Lord, and had reverence for Him
2:4	Take courage and work for I am with you
2:7	I will shake all the nations ... they will come with their wealth ... I will fill this house with glory

35. ZECHARIAH: “The Lord remembers”

Author : Zechariah
Written : Two months after Haggai’s prophecy – 520 BC

Written during the building of the temple – 520-516BC

a) Main purposes for writing the book:

(i) To bring about spiritual revival

“Return to Me, that I may return to you.” (1:3)

(ii) To inspire the people to complete the Temple building
“Zerubbabel has laid the foundations... and my hands will finish it.” (4:9)

(iii) To comfort the people during their hard times - -

“The Lord is aroused from His holy place.” (2:13)

(iv) To record prophecies concerning the coming Messiah.

- b) Eight Visions of Messianic kingdom:
- (i) Man on red horse, with white horses, patrolling the earth (1:8)
 - (ii) Four horns scattering Israel, Judah and Jerusalem (1:18)
 - (iii) Measuring Jerusalem (2:1)
 - (iv) High priest standing before the Lord, and Satan accusing him (3:1)
 - (v) Golden lampstand, with 7 lamps, 2 olive trees either side (4:2)
 - (vi) Flying scroll (5:1)
 - (vii) Woman sitting in an ephah = darkness (5:6-7)
 - (viii) Four chariots red, white, black, dappled horses (6:1)
- c) Vision of the Branch (6:12)
- He will build the temple of the Lord, He will bear the honor, He will sit and rule on His throne - the coming of the Messiah.
- d) Four messages:
- (i) Warning to the priests re their worship of God (7:1)
 - (ii) Practice kindness and compassion to each other (7:8)
 - (iii) Calling for truth (8:1)
 - (iv) Time of joy and gladness as people seek the Lord (8:18)
- e) Two burdens:
- (i) *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! ..."* first coming of Messiah (Chapters 9,10,11 - 9:9)
 - (ii) *".. His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives .. will be split .."*
- Second Coming (Chapters 12,13,14 - 14:4)

36. MALACHI: "Messenger of Jehovah"

Author : Malachi
Written : 433 BC, around the time of Nehemiah's visit to
Babylon

Key verse : 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God?... bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house .. test me and see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing"

Seven "stupid" questions:

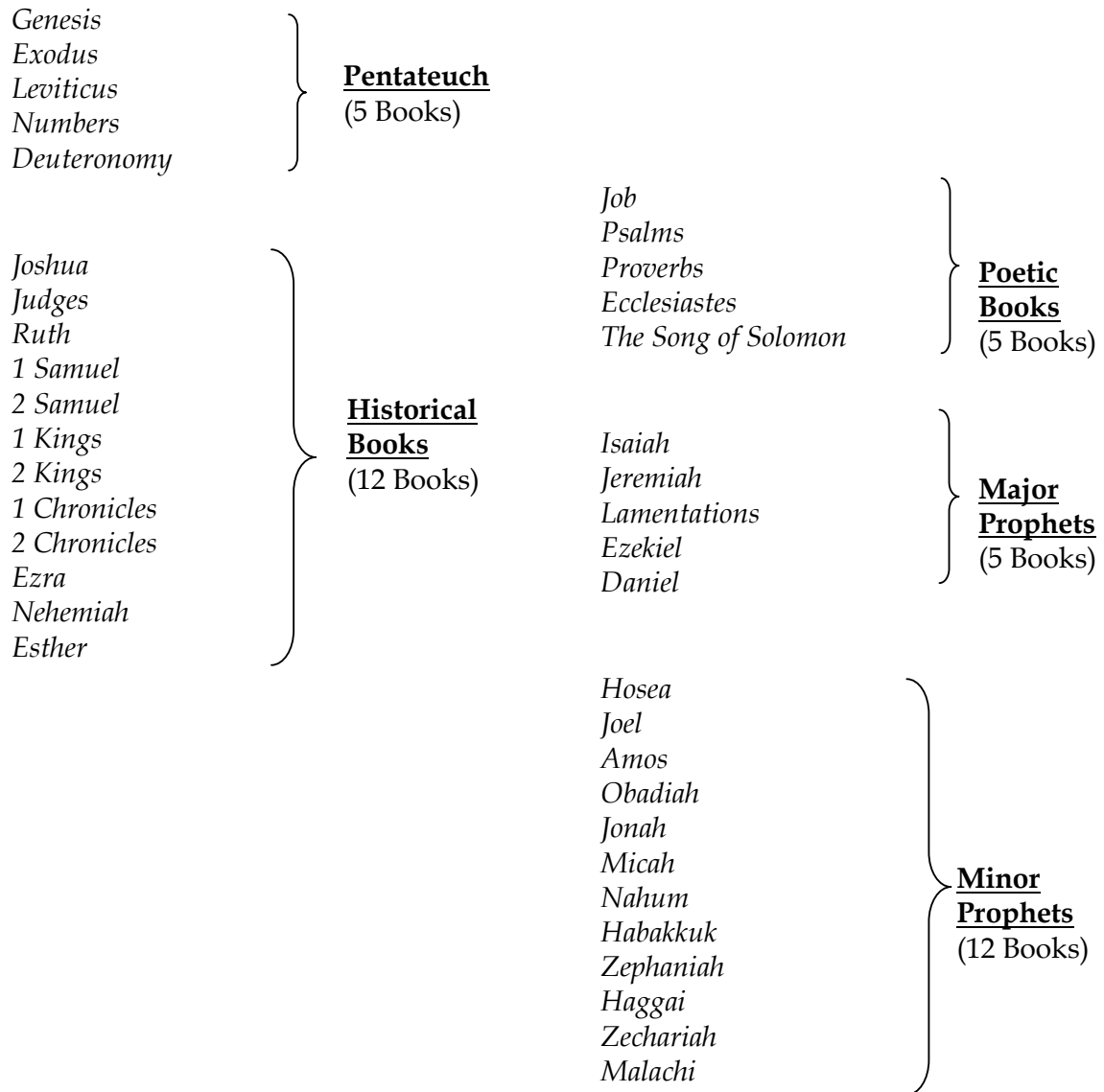
- a) *"In what way have you loved us?" (1:2)*
- b) *"In what way have we despised your Name?" (1:6)*
- c) *"In what way have we polluted You?" (1:7)*
- d) *"In what way have we wearied you?" (2:17)*
- e) *"In what way shall we return?" (3:7)*
- f) *"How have we robbed you?" (3:8)*
- g) *"What have we spoken so much against You?" (3:13)*



OLD TESTAMENT: 39 BOOKS

II. SUMMARY

A. Old Testament



List of References:

1. Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament* (Moody Press, Chicago, USA, 1978).
2. Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament* (Moody Press, Chicago, USA, 1981).
3. Neighbour, Dr. Ralph W. *Cover the Bible* (Touch Ministries International, Singapore, 1991)
4. Thompson, Frank Charles. *Thompson's Chain Reference Bible* (B B Kirbride Bible Co Inc, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 1993, NAS edition).