

Survey of the Old Testament

What is the Old Testament?

#1. The Old Testament is Literature

- A collection of 39 books...
 - ▶ Traditionally classified according to Genre :
 - Law
 - History
 - Prophecy
 - Poetry
 - ▶ Rich in literary Form :
 - Historical narratives.
 - Laws and statutes.
 - Prophetic oracles.
 - Genealogies.
 - Songs
 - Wisdom sayings.
 - Laments.
 - Apocalyptic Visions
 - Many more...
- Written by a variety of authors...
 - ▶ One Divine author—the Holy Spirit.
 - ▶ Various Human authors.
 - ▶ Predominantly written in Hebrew, though some is in Aramaic.
- Over a span of around 1000 years.
 - ▶ Earliest parts written around 1,500 B.C.
 - ▶ Latest parts written around 400 B.C.
- Septuagint = the Greek Old Testament.

#2. The Old Testament is History

- The Old Testament is a Real story set in Real history.
 - ▶ Real Places.
 - ▶ Real People.
 - ▶ Real Time.

- Old Testament history made simple...
 - ▶ In the beginning... Nothing then something.
 - ▶ Creation... life... creatures... Man made in God's image.
 - ▶ The Garden of Eden quickly becomes the location of the Fall.
 - ▶ Humankind degenerates for many generations.
 - ▶ God judges the world with a Flood but he spares one righteous man—Noah—and his family.
 - ▶ Humankind rebels at the Tower of Babel—the result is division and dispersion.
 - ▶ A new beginning... God's faithfulness to Abraham and his family.
 - ▶ Abraham's prosperity turns into Israel's slavery.
 - ▶ The Exodus - Moses leads Israel out of Egypt.
 - ▶ God gives Israel the Law.
 - ▶ The people enter the promised Land where they are ruled for a while by judges.
 - ▶ Eventually a kingdom is established, epitomized by King David and his son Solomon.
 - ▶ Solomon builds a Temple, home of the ark of the covenant and center of the people's worship.
 - ▶ After Solomon dies, the kingdom divides into Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom).
 - ▶ Idolatry grows.
 - ▶ Assyria destroys Israel in 722 B.C.
 - ▶ Babylon destroys Judah from 597-586 B.C.
 - ▶ Survivors taken to exile in Babylon for the next 70 years.
 - ▶ A remnant returns to Jerusalem and rebuilds the temple.
 - ▶ But Israel still longs for the glory it knew under David.
 - ▶ Thus, the Old Testament becomes a story without an Ending...

- Three divisions:
 - ▶ The Story
 - First 17 books. (Genesis to Esther – fairly chronological)
 - ▶ The Writings
 - Next 5 books. (Job to Song of Solomon)
 - ▶ The Prophets
 - Final 17 books. (Isaiah to Malachi – major and minor)

- The story about God's people...
 - ▶ Divided into two major categories:
 - The Law/The Pentateuch—Genesis through Deuteronomy.
 - The History—Joshua through Esther
 - ▶ The essential character of these books is narrative, telling us the story of God's people—Israel.

Genesis

- ▶ Moses is the author of the five books of Law.
- ▶ Primary theme: Genesis literally means “Beginning.”
 - The beginning of creation (before the fall).
 - The beginning of God’s plan to Redeem His creation (after the fall).
- ▶ Overall structure: God’s gracious Election of Abraham’s family.
 - Abraham (12:1-25:18)
 - Isaac (25:19-26:35)
 - Jacob (27:1-36:43)
 - Joseph (37:1-50:26)
- ▶ Minor subplots...
 - Already looking to Christ (3:15; 22:7-14; 35:11-13; 49:8-12).
 - Covenants with Adam, Noah, and Abraham.
 - Major Flaws in main characters.
- Note the first 11 chapters are foundational to the rest of the Bible.
- Note the major themes...
 - The Sovereignty of God.
 - The Sinfulness of man
 - The Promise of redemption.
- Don’t forget—Genesis wasn’t written to answer Every question we may have about these events.

Exodus

- ▶ Literally means “Departure”
- ▶ Primary theme: God is all-powerful and mighty to Save (1-19).
 - God is faithful to His covenant (20-40).
- ▶ Overall structure: three defining moments in Israel’s history...
 - The deliverance from Slavery.
 - The significance of God’s Presence.
 - The terms of the Covenant.
- Note key Chapters
 - Exodus 12 – The sacrifice of the Lamb
 - Exodus 20 – The giving of the Law
- Note key Places
 - Egypt
 - The Red Sea
 - Mount Sinai
- If we don’t understand Exodus, we won’t understand the New Testament!

Leviticus

- ▶ Takes place at Mount Sinai.

- Referred to as “The Law of the Priests .”
- ▶ Primary theme:
 - A book about Holiness (mentioned over 90 times!).
 - A book about Sacrifices .
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Fellowship with God through Righteous offerings (1-17).
 - Fellowship with God through Righteousness living (18-27).
- Note the practical application...
 - God is Holy .
 - Sin is Serious .
 - God is Gracious .

Numbers

- ▶ Named for Census accounts in 1-4 and 26-27.
- ▶ Primary theme: God Honors faith and Punishes unbelief.
 - The root of sin is Unbelief - a lack of trust in God’s Word.
- ▶ Overall structure: six definite failures of God’s people:
 - Complaining at different times (10:11-12:16)
 - Rebelling at Kadesh-Barnea (13:1-14:45)
 - Rebelling at Korah’s rebellion (15:1-19:22)
 - Moses disobeying (20:1-29)
 - More complaining (21:1-35)
 - Then adultery and immorality (25:1-18)
- Note the God who is Faithful despite His people’s failures.

Deuteronomy

- ▶ “ Second Law”—restating the Law to the new generation.
 - A Rehearsal of the covenant as they prepare for Promise Land.
- ▶ Primary theme: the Law applies to All of God’s people.
- ▶ Overall structure
 - Anticipation of the land.
 - Commitment to the covenant
 - A new generation.
 - A new challenge.
 - A new leader.
 - New temptations.
- Note: it’s the most Quoted book in the Bible (356 times—190 in the New Testament!).
- **The next 12 books in the story...**
 - ▶ Pre-monarchy – 3.

- Continuing the story—Joshua and Judges
Ruth (spotlight possibly around Judges 10)
- ▶ Monarchy – 6 (3 double books).
 - Continuing the story—Samuel and Kings
 - Chronicles (spotlight around the Davidic kingdom)
- ▶ Post-monarchy – 3.
 - Continuing the story—Ezra and Nehemiah
 - Esther (spotlight during the time of Ezra)

Joshua

- ▶ Joshua's name literally means "The Lord will Save."
 - In Greek, the name is equivalent to "Jesus"
- ▶ Primary theme: The people claim the inheritance God had promised.
 - God will keep His Word 21:43-45).
- ▶ Overall structure: The journey into the Promised Land...
 - Cross the Jordan (1:1-5:12)
 - Take the land (5:13-12:24)
 - Divide the land among the different tribes (13-21)
 - Serve the Lord is chosen (22-24)
- Note how Joshua is the Application of Deuteronomy 30.

Judges

- ▶ Key Characters: God used judges (Military leaders) to deliver His people out from under their sin.
- ▶ Primary theme: Disobedience results in judgment.
 - Primary verse: "Every man did that which was Right in his own eyes" (17:6).
- ▶ Overall structure: one of oppression and deliverance.
 - Failure to conquer the land (1:1-2:9)
 - Failure to keep the law (2:9-3:6)
 - Oppression & salvation (repeated 8 times from 3-16)
 - Failure to conquer the land (17-18)
 - Failure to keep the law (19-21)
- Note the cycle of disobedience and victory (3-16).
 - Relapse – Ruin – Repentance – Restoration - Rest
- Note the gradual Deterioration of Israel.

Ruth

- ▶ Ruth means "friendship."

- ▶ Primary theme: to Trace the royal lineage of King David (and Jesus).
 - Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer, pays the price to bring Ruth, a Moabite, into the people of God.
- ▶ Overall structure: the transitions in Naomi's life...
 - From emptiness to fullness (1).
 - From despair to hope (2-3).
 - From barrenness to inheritance (4).
- Note: in the darkness of God's people, He shines the Light of His covenant.

1 and 2 Samuel

- ▶ Time frame: From Samuel's birth (1100) to the end of David's kingship (970).
- ▶ Primary theme: Kingship.
 - 1 Samuel depicts transition from theocracy to monarchy.
 - 2 Samuel depicts David's dynasty as king.
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Samuel (1 Samuel 1-7) – the last judge; anoints first two kings over Israel.
 - Saul (1 Samuel 8-15) – Israel's first king.
 - David (1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 24) – Israel's second and most important king.
- Note the key verse: 1 Samuel 15:22 – “To obey is better than sacrifice.”
- Note: the King of Israel was expected to be Loyal to the covenant.
 - Saul's disobedience to the covenant – 1 Samuel 15.
 - David's obedience to the covenant - 2 Samuel 7.
- Note the Transitions in 1 and 2 Samuel:
 - From the rule of periodic judges to a more permanent monarchy;
 - From a typical worldly expectation of a king to a king that is loyal to the Lord;
 - From no central place where God's name dwells to a new center in Jerusalem.
- Note: as a king after God's heart, David's life demonstrates the need for another King who will come in purity and absolute loyalty to the Lord.
 - His kingly Success is described in one chapter (8).
 - His kingly Sin and its effects are described over eleven chapters (10-20).

1 and 2 Kings

- ▶ Contains over 400 hundred years of Israelite history

(970-560).

- ▶ Primary themes:
 - The Rejection by Israel as God's people.
 - The _____ Rise _____ of prophets who proclaim God's Word.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - The united kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)
 - The divided kingdom (1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17)
 - The captive kingdom (2 Kings 18-25)
- Note the chronology grouped into four segments, each ending with a major _____ Catastrophe _____.
 - 970-931 – Division of the twelve tribes.
 - 931-841 – Jehu's slaughter of all but one of the crown-prince heirs of the throne of David.
 - 841-722 – Fall of Samaria to Assyria
 - 722-586 – Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
- ▶ Covers 39 kings from the united and divided monarchy.
- ▶ Covenant loyalty is the measure of success or downfall for a king.
 - 0 of the 19 Northern kings followed the Lord.
 - 8 of the 20 Southern kings followed the Lord.
- ▶ As kings are disloyal, God raises up _____ Prophets like Elijah and Elisha to accomplish His purpose.

1 and 2 Chronicles

- ▶ Final book in the Hebrew Bible.
 - Possibly written by _____ Ezra _____
- ▶ Primary theme: a more spiritual kingdom perspective.
 - Focuses exclusively on the _____ Positive _____ facets of David and Solomon.
 - Demonstrates the blessing of God on Obedient kings.
 - Pictures a more idealized representation of the kingdom of God.
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Genealogies (1 Chronicles 1-9)
 - United Monarchy (1 Chronicles 10 - 2 Chronicles 9)
 - Divided Monarchy in Judah (2 Chronicles 10-36)
- Note the author's perspective – trying to Restore the kingdom.
- Note the emphasis on God's goodness when the _____ Presence _____ of God is renewed in Israel...
 - When the ark is brought to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:34).
 - When the ark is brought into the temple (2 Chronicles 5:13).
 - When the temple is consecrated (2 Chronicles 7:3)

Ezra - Nehemiah

- ▶ The author is likely Ezra or Nehemiah.

- “Ezra” = “helper;” “Nehemiah” = “God is comfort.”
- ▶ Primary theme: God sovereignly works to Preserve His people for His glory.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - National Restoration (Ezra 1-6)
 - Spiritual Reformation (Ezra 7-10)
 - Physical Repair (Nehemiah 1-6)
 - Spiritual Revival (Nehemiah 7-13)
- Note: one book in the Hebrew Bible as they tell one story.
 - The return of the Remnant to Jerusalem.
 - The rebuilding of the Temple.
 - The rebuilding of the city Walls.
- Note: Purity and Obedience to the Word are at the heart of the covenant.

Esther

- ▶ Events take place before or during time of Ezra.
 - ▶ Primary theme: God’s providence is evident, though His name is Never mentioned.
 - The people of Israel are saved by God’s providence from Extinction.
 - ▶ Overall structure: look for evidence of God’s Providence.
 - Esther being chosen...
 - Mordecai discovering the plot to kill the king...
 - Casting lots to destroy the Jews...
 - The king’s welcome to Esther after ignoring her for a month...
 - The king’s deep concern for Esther’s welfare...
 - Note four main characters...
 - Persian King Xerxes (mentioned by name 29 times)
 - Haman (mentioned by name 48 times)
 - Mordecai (mentioned by name 54 times)
 - Esther (mentioned by name 48 times)
 - Note the Influence of the godly on the lost.
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- **The writings of God’s people...**
 - ▶ Also known as Poetic and Wisdom literature.

- ▶ Stand in the final position of the Hebrew Bible.
- ▶ Includes man's Response to the words and deeds of God found throughout the Law and the Prophets.
- ▶ Divine speech is Rare.
- ▶ Primary theme: The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7).

Job

- ▶ A lot of questions...
 - Written anonymously.
 - Written most likely during the patriarchal period.
- ▶ Job was a real man in real history (Ezekiel 14:14-20; James 5:11).
- ▶ Primary theme: How and why do the Righteous suffer?
 - God is completely sovereign in His dealings with His people and will never allow anything to come to them which is not for their Good and His Glory.
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Prologue (1:1-2:13)
 - Poetry (2:14-42:6)
 - > Three dialogues (4-27)
 - > "Where does Ezra come from?" (28)
 - > Three monologues (29-41)
 - Epilogue (42:7-17)
- Note: don't look for an Easy answer.
- Note the practicality...
 - God Alone is Sovereign.
 - Suffering is a Privilege God extends to His children.
 - God is glorified when suffering saints Worship Him.

Psalms

- ▶ Psalm = "a poem sung to musical accompaniment."
 - The Hymnal of the Jewish nation.
 - Written by many authors from early monarchy until after exile.
- ▶ Primary theme: express trust in and praise to the Lord for His greatness and goodness.
- ▶ The Lord is the sovereign King of the universe and the nations.
- ▶ Overall structure: Five divisions, each concluding with a doxology, which reflect Israel's History.
 - Book 1 (1-41)

- Book 2 (42-72)
 - Book 3 (73-89)
 - Book 4 (90-106)
 - Book 5 (107-150)
- Note the types of Psalms...
- Personal Praise
 - Personal Lament
 - Corporate Praise
 - Corporate Lament

Proverbs

- ▶ “Proverb” = “ Comparison ”
 - Solomon wrote most of Proverbs.
 - ▶ Primary themes:
 - Attain Wisdom and reject Folly.
 - Walk in Righteousness and avoid Evil.
 - ▶ Overall structure:
 - Preface (1:1-7)
 - Introduction (1:8-9:18)
 - Proverbs of Solomon I (10:1-22:16)
 - Sayings of the Wise I (22:17-24:22)
 - Sayings of the Wise II (24:23-34)
 - Proverbs of Solomon II (25:1-29:27)
 - Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
 - Sayings of Lemuel (31:1-31)
- Note: things to remember about proverbs...
- Figurative.
 - Practical.
 - Memorable.
 - Variety of literary techniques.
 - Not guarantees, but guidelines.
 - Good advice, but not exhaustive.
- The goal of wisdom literature is to Apply the Word to practical living.

Ecclesiastes

- ▶ Written by “the Teacher” – likely Solomon (1:1-2, 12).
- ▶ Primary themes:
 - God is the Ultimate Reality, the Creator of all.
 - God’s ways are not always Understandable.
 - Life does not always progress as Expected.
 - Death is the ultimate equalizer.
- Note: Ecclesiastes is a book without an Ending.
- Note the practical application...
 - Enjoy the blessings of God Today.
 - Fear God.
 - Obey God’s Word.
- Note key question: Is Life really worth living?
- Note: It is one of the most difficult books in the Old Testament.

Song of Songs

- ▶ Song of Songs = The Finest of all songs!
 - Like Esther, Song of Songs never mentions the name of God.
- ▶ Primary theme: Celebrating the sexual love between a man and woman.
- Note the three main characters...
 - The woman (leading role) – “Beloved”
 - The man – “lover”
 - The woman’s companion’s (“the daughters of Jerusalem”) – “Friends”
- Note: three possibilities for interpretation...
 - Literal – A man and a woman.
 - Historical – God and His people, Israel.
 - Typical – Christ and His church.
- **The Prophets From Among God’s People**
 - ▶ God’s Commentaries on the story of God’s people.
 - ▶ Remember the historical context...
 - A time of political, military, economic, and social upheaval;
 - A time characterized by much Unfaithfulness to God’s covenant;
 - A time of international shifts in the balance of power.
 - ▶ Remember that prophets speak of both the Near future and the Ultimate future.
 - ▶ Remember much of the language of the prophets was Poetic.

Isaiah

- ▶ “Isaiah” = “the Lord Saves”
 - Time period: 760-680 B.C.
 - Historical setting: Isaiah prophesied concerning the destruction of Israel by Assyria and the exile in Babylon.
- ▶ Primary themes:
 - The Lord is the “Holy One of Israel” (mentioned 30 times)
 - Israel is the Lord’s “holy People” (62:12).
 - Jerusalem is God’s “holy City (48:2) and “holy mountain” (11:9; 27:13).
 - The Lord is calling the Gentiles (the nations) to worship Him (2:2; 56:7)
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Present Judgment (1-39)
 - > 39 chapters displaying effects of sin and the judgment of God.
 - Future Hope (40-66)
 - > 27 chapters describes the merciful servant & comfort of God.
- Note how Isaiah gives a rich picture of Christ...
 - His birth (7:14).
 - His life (61:1-2).
 - His death (52:13-53:12).
 - His resurrection (55:3).
- Note: God’s people (and all nations) are destined for Either judgment or salvation.

Jeremiah

- ▶ “Jeremiah” = “The Lord Appoints”
 - Time period: 626-586 B.C.
 - Historical setting: Jeremiah prophesied during the last 40 years of Judah’s history – until its destruction at the hands of Babylon.
- ▶ Primary theme: A call to repent and return to covenant loyalty to God.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - Personal – God’s call to Jeremiah (1)
 - National – Messages to Judah (2-33)
 - Personal – Jeremiah’s Sufferings (34-45)
 - International – Messages to the nations (46-51)
 - Personal – God’s vindication of Jeremiah
- Note: God’s heart for His people is revealed through the Heart of His prophet.
- Jeremiah is the Longest book in the Bible.

Lamentations

- ▶ “Lamentations” = “_____ Funeral _____ poems.”
 - Time period: 586-585 B.C.
 - Historical setting: The Fall of Jerusalem at the hands of Babylon.
- ▶ Primary theme: Reveals the Suffering heart of God over sin.
- ▶ Overall structure: The verses in each chapter are arranged in an _____ Acrostic where the first letter of each stanza (verse) corresponds to the Hebrew alphabet.
 - Chapter 3 is the climax...
- Note: Feel the weight of the destruction of the people of God – famine, thirst, cannibalism, rape, slaughter.
- Note key Passage: Lamentations 3:22-24
 - Great is your _____ Faithfulness .
- Note: Each chapter is a separate funeral poem.

Ezekiel

- ▶ “Ezekiel” = “God _____ Strengthens _____.”
 - Time period: 592-570 B.C.
 - Historical setting: Prophesying to the Jews held _____ Captive _____ by Babylon.
- ▶ Primary themes:
 - Promote _____ Repentance _____ and _____ Faith _____.
 - Stimulate _____ Hope _____ and _____ Trust _____.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - Introduction – God calls Ezekiel (1-3)
 - The Judgment against Judah (4-24)
 - The Judgment against the Nations (25-32)
 - The Restoration of God’s People (33-48)
- Note how it reads like a Picture _____ book – filled with symbolic actions, visions, allegorical pictures.
- Note: Emphasizes the glory of God in His _____ Temple _____.
- Note: Ezekiel _____ Lived _____ out his prophecy.
 - Play at war (4:1-3).
 - Lie on his side a certain number of days (4:4-17).
 - Shave his hair and beard (5:1-4).
 - Act like someone fleeing from war (12:1-16).
 - Sit and sigh (21:1-7).
 - Endure the death of his wife (24:15-27).

Daniel

- ▶ “Daniel” = “God is my Judge.”
 - Time period: Late sixth century (535 B.C.?)
 - Historical setting: Daniel had been deported to Babylon and served in three different kingdoms: Babylonia, Media, Persia.
 - Written in Both Hebrew and Aramaic.
- ▶ Primary theme: God is Sovereign over all kings and all history.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - Personal History - Court stories (1-6)
 - Prophetic Ministry - Apocalyptic visions (7-12)
- Note: Daniel’s prophecy covers time from captivity to Christ’s Return to earth to judge the nations & establish His Kingdom.

Hosea

- ▶ “Hosea” = “Salvation.”
 - Time period: 758-722 B.C. (see 2 Kings 15-17)
 - Historical setting: Prophesying to Israel preceding their captivity by Assyria.
- ▶ Primary theme: God’s unfailing love for an Unfaithful people.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - The picture of Israel’s unfaithfulness (1-3)
 - The prophecy of God’s faithfulness (4-14)
 - > The sins of Israel (4-7)
 - > The judgment of Israel (8-10)
 - > The restoration of Israel (11-14)
- Note Hosea’s metaphors...
 - To describe God – lion, leopard, bear eagle, husband, lover, parent.
 - To describe Israel – adulterer, snare, heated oven, senseless dove, faulty bow, headless talk, a baby refusing birth, mist, chaff, smoke, like a twig on water.
- Note the heart of a God who judges unfaithfulness, yet Burns with love for His people.

Joel

- ▶ Time period: Unknown.
 - Historical setting: Following a locust plague.
- ▶ Primary theme: The impending Day of the Lord is a day of judgment and salvation.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - The day of the Lord typified (1:1-2:17)
 - The day of the Lord prophesied (2:18-3:21)

Amos

- ▶ “Amos” = “ Burden ”
 - Time Period: 765-750 B.C. (see 2 Kings 14:23-15:7)
 - Historical setting: Prophesying in a time of Prosperity approximately 25 years before Israel’s destruction.
- ▶ Primary theme: God has rejected Israel’s religious & social practices.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - Amos looks around - Judgment on the Nations (1-2)
 - Amos looks within - Judgment on God’s People (3-6)
 - Amos looks ahead - Visions of Destruction and Ultimate Restoration (7-9)
- Note the two primary offenses against God:
 - Religious syncretism (1:7-8; 4:4-5; 5:21-26; 8:10, 14).
 - Social injustice (2:6-8; 3:9-10; 4:1; 5:7,24; 6:12; 8:4-6).

Obadiah

- ▶ Time period: 586 B.C.
 - Historical setting: Probably just after the fall of Jerusalem.
- ▶ Primary theme: Prophecy of God’s judgment on Edom for their sins against God’s people.
 - Edom – descendants of Esau.
 - Israel – descendants of Jacob.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - The coming doom of Edom (1-16)
 - The coming restoration of Israel (17-21)
- Note: Shortest book in the Old Testament.
- Note: Be reminded of God’s ultimate Victory over earthly powers.

Jonah

- ▶ Time period: 780-750 B.C.
 - Historical setting: A time when the Assyrians were a cruel, heartless people hated by the people of Israel.
- ▶ Primary theme: The people of God are reluctant to acknowledge the Compassion of God for the nations.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - Jonah’s Resistance (1)
 - Jonah’s Repentance (2)
 - Assyria’s Revival (3)
 - Jonah’s Rebellion (4)
- Connect the story of Jonah with the Purpose of God’s blessing in Genesis 12:1-3.

Micah

- ▶ Time period: 740-686
 - Historical setting: A contemporary of Isaiah before Assyria's destruction of Israel.
- ▶ Primary theme: God's judgment on Idolatry and Injustice
- ▶ Overall structure: three sermons (1-2; 3-5; 6-7).
 - Each sermon includes two emphases:
 - > Oracles of judgment.
 - > Oracles of future hope.
- Note the structure of prophecy reflects Balance of God's justice and mercy.

Nahum

- ▶ Time period: 630-610 B.C. (see 2 Kings 17-23)
 - Historical setting: Assyria had conquered Israel and was at the peak of power when Nahum prophesied concerning her destruction.
- ▶ Primary theme: God is sovereign and will Execute judgment against evil.
- Note: Consider how the God of Goodness and Grace can also be the God of Justice and Judgment.

Habakkuk

- ▶ Time period: sometime between 625-586 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Historical setting: The time period leading up to Babylon's attack on Jerusalem.
- ▶ Primary theme: How do people Get Away with evil while God seems to do nothing?
 - God's people can Trust in His justice, power, and faithfulness.
- ▶ The overall structure:
 - The Prophet's Dialogue with the Lord (1-2)
 - The Prophet's Prayer to the Lord (3)
- Note the overall truth: God will do something about human Sinfulness.

Zephaniah

- ▶ Time period: sometime between 640-609 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Historical setting: A contemporary of Habakkuk, leading up to Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem.
- ▶ Primary theme: God is bringing Present judgment and Future salvation to Judah.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - God will judge Judah (1:1-2:3).
 - God will judge the Nations (2:4-3:7).
 - God will restore His people (3:8-20).
- Note: God's people will one day exchange Shame for honor.

Haggai

- ▶ Time period: Around 520 B.C. (see Ezra 1-6)
 - Historical setting: The people had returned to Jerusalem from the exile and had stalled work on rebuilding the Temple.
- ▶ Primary theme: God's people must rebuild His temple to restore their Worship.
- ▶ Overall structure...
 - The First Word – rebuild the temple (1:1-11).
 - The Second Word – continue the work (1:12-2:9).
 - The Third Word – commit to purity (2:10-19).
 - The Final Word – trust the Lord (2:20-23).
- Note the significance of the temple in Israel's history.
- Note the tension between present hope and future glory regarding the temple (2:1-5, 6-9).

Zechariah

- ▶ "Zechariah" = "The Lord Remembers."
- Time period: Starting in 520 and extending into the 400s.
- Historical setting: A contemporary of Haggai in post-exilic Jerusalem.
- ▶ Primary themes:
 - Israel's city (Jerusalem) will be restored to peace & glory.
 - Israel's king (Jesus) will be slain for the sins of his people and will triumph over his enemies.
- ▶ Overall structure:
 - Visions of Deliverance and Restoration (1-8)
 - Victory of God Over All Nations (9-14)
- Note both present and future fulfillment in Zechariah's prophecy.

Malachi

- ▶ “Malachi” = “My Messenger.”
 - Time period: Around 460-400 B.C.
 - Historical setting: Postexilic Jerusalem close to the time of the reforms of Nehemiah and Ezra.
- ▶ Primary theme: The Lord is Faithful to His covenant and requires Faithfulness from his covenant people.
- ▶ Overall structure: six disputes between the Lord and His people regarding their covenant disloyalty with a similar pattern:
 - The Lord confronts the people.
 - The people question the Lord.
 - The Lord responds to the people.
- Note: Concludes with Expectations of a coming messenger of the covenant.

#3. The Old Testament is Theology

- The purpose of the Old Testament is to reveal how God Redeems His people.
 - God Recreates us in His image, for His Kingdom.
 - A Kingdom... People who are ruled by the King;
 - ...A Place where the King has dominion;
 - ...A Purpose for the King and His Kingdom.
 - God's Kingdom is...
 - ...God bringing His People to His Place for His Purpose

EDEN (Genesis I-2)

- People – God's Blessing on His People
- Place – Perfect Fellowship
 - ...Between God and Man
 - ...Between man and Woman
 - ...Between man and his Environment.
- Purpose – God's Glory Multiplied to All Peoples
 - ...Man to Enjoy a relationship with God;
 - ...Man to Rule over all creation;
 - ...Man to Reproduce God's glory to the ends of the earth.

FALL (Genesis 3-11)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Adam and Eve
- Place – Disrupted Fellowship
- Purpose – God’s Glory Marred for All Peoples
 - The picture of man after the fall...
 - ...Total Disobedience to the purpose of God,
 - ...Total Disregard for the glory of God.

PATRIARCHS (Genesis 12-50)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Place – Promised Fellowship
- Purpose – God’s Glory Made Known to All Peoples through His Faithfulness
 - God provides a Sacrifice for His promise to be realized;
 - God promises to establish His Kingdom for all Nations.

EXODUS & CONQUEST (Exodus – I Samuel 8)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel
- Place – God with His People: Tabernacle
- Purpose – God’s Glory Made Known to All Peoples through His Deliverance

MONARCHY (I Samuel 9 – I Kings 11; I Chronicles – 2 Chronicles 9)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Saul, David, & Solomon
- Place – God with His people: Temple
- Purpose – God’s Glory Made Known to All Peoples through His Anointing
 - God renews the Covenant with David for His renown in all nations.
 - God establishes the Temple to express His glory to people from all nations.
 - God gives Favor to Solomon to increase His fame in all nations.

ANARCHY (I Kings 12 – 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 10 - Esther)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Major Prophets and Minor Prophets
 - God mediates His covenant through Kings
 - God guards His covenant through Prophets
- Place – God with His people: Exile
- Purpose – God’s Glory Made Known to All Peoples through His Discipline

JESUS (Matthew - John)

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through Christ
 - He is our Prophet
 - He is our Priest
 - He is our King
- Place – God among His people: Incarnation
- Purpose – God’s Glory Made Known to All Peoples through His Salvation

PRESENT

- People – God’s Blessing and Judgment through His Church
 - We are now His Spokesman
 - We are now His Kingdom Priest
 - We are now His Heirs
 - We are now under His Judgement
- Place – God in His people: Body
- Purpose – God’s Glory Multiplied To All Peoples

FUTURE

- People – God’s Final Blessing and Judgment
 - Heaven exemplifies the King’s eternal blessing;
 - Hell exemplifies the King’s eternal judgment.
- Place – God with, among, and in His people: Redeemed Body
 - We are co- Residents in His Kingdom
 - We are co- Recipients of His Kingdom
 - We are co- Rulers in His Kingdom
- Purpose – God’s Glory Enjoyed By All Nations
 - The Completion of God’s Kingdom