

# THE BIBLE

66 Books	40 Writers	1500 Years in Writing	4000 years of History
<u>THE OLD TESTAMENT</u> 39 Books		<u>THE NEW TESTAMENT</u> 27 Books	
<u>LAW</u> Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	<u>POETRY</u> Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	<u>GOSPELS</u> Matthew Mark	Luke John
<u>HISTORY</u> Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	<u>PROPHECY</u> <u>MAJOR PROPHETS</u> Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel <u>MINOR PROPHETS</u> Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	<u>HISTORY</u> Acts	<u>LETTERS</u> Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy
			<u>PROPHECY</u> Revelation

# OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AND THEIR MESSAGE

## I. MESSAGES OF THE BOOKS OF LAW

### A. Genesis - "Beginning" - 50 chapters.

1. Genesis begins with creation and ends with the death of Joseph.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1- 5 The creation, the fall, sacrifice
  - b. 6 - 11 The flood and genealogies.
  - c. 12 - 25 The call and life of Abraham
  - d. 26 - 27 The life of Isaac
  - e. 28 - 36 Jacob and his experiences.
  - f. 37 - 50 Joseph and his experiences.

### B. Exodus - "Departure," going out - 40 chapters.

1. Exodus contains a record of the bondage, deliverance, giving of the law and building of the tabernacle.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1 - 18. Bondage, birth of Moses, and deliverance.
  - b. 19 - 24. Giving of the law and the events at Sinai.
  - c. 25- 40. Instructions and building of the tabernacle.

### C. Leviticus - Takes its name from the tribe which descended from Levi - 27 chapters.

1. Leviticus is a record of the laws for offering sacrifices and the duties of the priests and Levites.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1- 7 The laws regulating the sacrifices.
  - b. 8 -27 Consecration of the priests and sundry laws.

### D. Numbers - Named from the numbering or census taking - 36 chapters.

1. Numbers is a record of numbering of the people at God's command and Israel's wandering in the wilderness.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1- 9 The numbering and various laws.
  - b. 10 - 36 The wilderness wandering.

### E. Deuteronomy - "second law" - 34 chapters. Deuteronomy is a record of Moses' final instructions just before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River.

## II. MESSAGES OF THE BOOKS OF HISTORY

### A. Joshua - 24 chapters.

1. Joshua is a record of the entrance into, taking of, and division of the land of Canaan.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1- 5 The entrance into Canaan.
  - b. 6 - 12 The taking of Canaan.
  - c. 13 - 22 The dividing of Canaan.
  - d. 23 - 24 Joshua's farewell address.

### B. Judges-21 chapters - a record of the rule of the judges in Canaan.

### C. Ruth - 4 chapters - the events recorded in the book of Ruth took place during the days of the judges.

### D. I Samuel - 31 chapters - events in the lives of Samuel and Saul.

1. 1- 10 Samuel.
2. 11- 31 Saul as the first king.

### E. II Samuel-24 chapters-the life of David and his experiences.

### F. I Kings - 22 chapters

1. 1 - 11 Life of Solomon
2. 12 - 22. Division of the kingdom
  - a. Rehoboam, king of Judah.
  - b. Jereboam, king of Israel.

### G. II Kings - 25 chapters - rule of the kings, Assyrian and Babylonian captivity.

### H. I Chronicles - 29 chapters - Chronicle is a historical account of events.

1. It is similar to II Samuel in that it gives a more complete record of the reign of David and his plans for building the temple.
2. The chapter divisions are:
  - a. 1 - 9 Genealogies of Israel.
  - b. 10 - 29 Devoted to the story of David.

### I. II Chronicles - 36 chapters - a flashback of historical events.

1. It covers some of the same material as I Kings, except it places emphasis upon the Southern Kingdom (Judah) rather than a parallel account of both kingdoms.
2. It begins with the kingdom at the peak of its glory and power and ends with it in disgrace and bondage.

- J. Ezra - 10 chapters - record of the return from captivity.
  - 1. 1 - 6 Return of the first group of Jews under leadership of Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple.
  - 2. 7 - 10 Return of the second group of Jews with Ezra to restore the temple worship.
- K. Nehemiah 13 chapters - a record of the return of the third group of Jews under Nehemiah's leadership to rebuild the wall and the events connected with the restoration.
- L. Esther - 10 chapters - The events recorded in the book of Esther took place during the days of Ahasuerus who is mentioned in Ezra 4:6,7. Thus Esther should be read in connection with these events in Ezra.

### III. MESSAGES OF THE BOOKS OF POETRY

- A. Job - 42 chapters - named after its author.
  - 1. It is a discussion between Job and his friends regarding human suffering. Mostly written in poetical form.
  - 2. It shows the goodness of God in suffering. It also shows that sickness and misfortune are not always punishments for wrong.
- B. Psalms - 150 chapters - Psalms-means "sacred songs."
  - 1. It has been called the "hymn book of Israel."
  - 2. David wrote most of the Psalms.
  - 3. They set forth events in the life of David as well as history, worship, and prophecy.
- C. Proverbs - 31 chapters - means "wise sayings."
  - 1. Solomon wrote most of the Proverbs.
  - 2. It gives guidance in everyday affairs - in business, in the home, in good health, in finding happiness.
- D. Ecclesiastes - 12 chapters - indicates "the preacher."
  - 1. It shows what Solomon had learned from a survey of all his experiences.
  - 2. It shows that wealth, power, wisdom and prestige can never bring happiness.
  - 3. It shows that happiness can only be obtained by fearing God and keeping His commandments. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14.
- E. Song of Solomon - 8 chapters. literally means "best of songs."
  - 1. It is a long song seemingly spoken back and forth between two lovers.
  - 2. It is one of the most difficult books to comprehend. It is usually thought to represent either God, and Israel, Christ and the church, or the beauty of true love in marriage.

#### IV. MESSAGES OF THE BOOKS OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS

##### A. Isaiah - 66 chapters - named for its author.

1. It has many references to Christ and the church and is quoted frequently in the New Testament.
2. Written when there was prosperity and cue in Judah, along with outward religious formality.
3. Isaiah contains:
  - a. A condemnation of their social and religious sins.
  - b. A warning of captivity.
  - c. A message of hope when they would go into captivity.
  - d. A pointing to a better day that was to -come under Christ. (Isaiah 53)

##### B. Jeremiah - 52 chapters - named for its author.

1. It was written when the Northern kingdom-(Israel) was in captivity and the Southern kingdom Judah) was in its last days.
2. The book of Jeremiah contains:
  - a. Warnings to the people.
  - b. Condemnations of their sins.
  - c. Urgings to repentance.
  - d. Biography, history, literature.
  - e. A looking forward to the great day of the new covenant. Jeremiah 31:31-34

##### C. Lamentations - 5 chapters - means "lamenting or weeping."

1. Jeremiah wrote the book and has been called the "weeping prophet."
2. Jeremiah is a "before captivity" picture of Judah and Jerusalem and Lamentations is an "after picture" of Jerusalem and its inhabitants

##### D. Ezekiel - 48 chapters - named for its author.

1. It was written from within the Babylonian captivity.
2. It contains:
  - a. A discussion of the destruction of Jerusalem.
  - b. Judgments against foreign nations.
  - c. The restoration from captivity.
  - d. The coming of the new covenant.
3. The many figures and similitudes in Ezekiel serve as background study for the book of Revelation.

##### E. Daniel - 12 chapters - named for its author and leading character.

1. It was written in Babylon during the exile and shows the condition of the people.
2. Chapters 1 - 6 give a lot of the personal history of Daniel.
3. Chapters 7 - 12 deal more with visions and prophecies.

4. The overruling power of God in the affairs of nations and the coming of Christ and his kingdom are emphasized in Daniel.

## V. MESSAGES OF THE BOOKS OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

### A. Hosea - 14 chapters - named after the writer.

1. It is a prophecy directed to the Northern Kingdom (Israel) to return to God.
2. It shows how God would receive them back in spite of their spiritual adultery if they would repent.
3. It is the longest of the Minor Prophet books

### B. Joel - 3 chapters - named after the writer.

1. He has been called the "Prophet of Pentecost" because he prophesied of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
2. 1:1 - 2:17 deals with a plague of locusts and the urgent exhortation to repentance
3. 2:18 - 3:21 tells of the promises and blessings of God if they will repent.

### C. Amos -9 chapters named for the writer.

1. It is a prophecy to the Northern Kingdom during a time of great prosperity.
2. Amos was a country preacher" from -a small village in the Southern Kingdom called to cry out against the luxury and indifference of Israel.

### D. Obadiah 1 chapter named for the writer.

1. The destruction of Edom is the heart of the message.
2. Edom's destruction - remember that Esau (Edom) was the twin brother of Jacob (Israel) was due to its rejoicing over the destruction of Jerusalem (verses 10-12).

### E. Jonah- 4 chapters,-named after the writer.

#### 1. The book of Jonah contains:

- a. A narrative of how God sent Jonah to -preach at Nineveh, how he tried to run away and how God chastised him.
  - b. A lesson of how one cannot escape God.
  - c. A lesson that God's love and mercy, extended beyond the Jewish -nation.
2. The three days and nights that Jonah spent in the whale are used as a sign of Jesus' three days in the heart of the earth.

### F. Micah - 7 chapters - named for the writer.

1. He lived at about the same time as Isaiah and wrote under the same conditions.
2. Micah spoke against the abuse of peace and prosperity, religious indifference, and social injustice.
3. He also prophecies:
  - a. The downfall of Samaria and Jerusalem.

- b. The coming of Christ.
- c. The establishment of the church.

G. Nahum - 3 chapters - named after the writer.

1. He prophesies the downfall of Nineveh, the, cruel Assyrian city that had oppressed Israel and Judah.
2. Nahum I declares the destruction of Nineveh.
3. Nahum 2 describes the destruction.
4. Nahum 3 defends or gives reasons why.

H. Habakkuk - 3, chapters - named for the writer.

1. It deals with the destruction of the Chaldeans of Babylon.
2. It is in the form of a discussion between God and the prophet.
3. It shows that God's justice will inevitably be carried out.

I. Zephaniah - 3 chapters - named for the writer.

1. He prophesied during the days of Josiah one -of the good kings of Judah.
2. The book has three divisions:
  - a. A declaration of God's wrath on evil nations.
  - b. A plea for repentance.
  - c. A promise of redemption

J. Haggai - 2 chapters - named for the writer..:

1. He was in the Babylonian Captivity and was among the returning exiles.
2. Haggai was one who encouraged the, Jews to resume and complete the work.
3. The theme of the book is "consider your ways." It is a tribute to preaching.

K. Zechariah - 14 chapters - named for the writer.,

1. He prophesied about the same time and under the same conditions as Haggai.
2. The theme of the book is an urging to rebuild the temple. It records eight visions.
3. It contains many references to Christ and the blessings of the gospel age.

L. Malachi - 4 chapters - named for the writer.

1. It is the last book of inspiration until the New Testament, a period that was about 400 years later.
2. Malachi condemned unrighteous priests, mixed marriages, robbing God and answered the question as to whether it is worthwhile to serve God.