



# An overview of the books of the Old Testament

## **GOD**

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

## **MAN**

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

**Saint Mina Coptic Orthodox Church**  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



# An overview of the books of the Old Testament

- The Bible was written by more than 40 different writers with the **inspiration of the Holy Spirit**
  - That God inspired men to put it on paper (2 Peter 1:21).
    - Writers From Different Backgrounds
- The Bible consists of two Testaments:
  - The **Old Testament** is the period before Christ was born (39+7 books)
  - The **New Testament** covers the period of Christ's birth and after (27 books)
- The **Old Testament** is divided into four basic divisions
  - These divisions are simply man's attempt at categorization for easy remembrance

# An Outline of the Old Testament

Law	History	Poetry	Prophecy
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah <sup>-</sup>
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations
Numbers	1-2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Baruch*
Deuteronomy	1-2 Kings	Song of Songs	Ezekiel
	1-2 Chronicles	Wisdom of Solomon*	Daniel <sup>+</sup>
	Ezra	Wisdom of Sirach*	Hosea Joel
	Nehemiah		Amos Obadiah
	Tobit*		Jonah Micah
	Judith*		Nahum Habakkuk
	Esther <sup>+</sup>		Zephaniah Haggai
	1-2 Maccabees*		Zechariah Malachi

**46  
Books**



# An Outline of the Old Testament

- The **Old Testament** consists of 39 books
- The **Deuterocanonical (Second Canonical) Books** includes 7 more books and 2 additions
  - Tobit, Judith, Macabees I and II and the additions to the book of Esther
  - Wisdom of Solomon and Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach
  - Baruch and the additions to the book of Daniel (The Song of the three Young Men, Susanna)





# Quick Timeline of Hebrew Nation

- The OT Leadership begins with **Adam** → **Seth** → **Noah** → **Shem** (Egyptians come from Ham's son Mizraim)
- **Patriarchs** → **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob**
- **Moses** → the exodus from Egypt around 1440 B.C.
- **Joshua** → Conquest of Canaan around 1400 B.C.
- **Judges** → Gideon, Samson, Deborah, etc..
- Prophet **Samuel** → the Last of the Judges
- **King Saul**, Tribe of Benjamin → 1043 B.C.
- **King David**, (Tribe of Judah) → 1025 B.C.
- **King Solomon** → 985 B.C.
- **King Rehoboam** → The division of the kingdom 931 B.C.



# Division of the Hebrew Nation 931 B.C.

- Under Solomon's son, King Rehoboam's unwise administration, the Hebrew Nation was split in two:
- the **Kingdom of Judea** in the south (Jerusalem ;2 Tribes of Judah, Benjamin which controlled by King Rehoboam)
- the **Kingdom of Israel** in the north (Samaria; the 10 remaining tribes controlled by King Jeroboam)
- From that time there began to be **two lines of kings among the Hebrews**
- The Temple of the Lord was in **the southern kingdom of Judah**



# The Exile of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

- The **First Exile of the Hebrews** occurred in the **8<sup>th</sup>** century B.C. → **722 B.C**
- The **Assyrian King** deported the entire population of the **Kingdom of Israel (10 whole tribes)** from **northern Israel** into **Assyria's capital of Nineveh**
- That was the end of the northern kingdom
- *The Book of Tobit* was written at this time in Nineveh



# The Exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judea

- When the **Kingdom of Judea** in the south had committed horrible sins by introducing other gods in their worship and even built altars for them inside the Temple of the Lord
  - Thus, The Lord decided to punish them
- Consequently, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered **Jerusalem**
- He burned **Jerusalem** along with **God's Temple** and took the Judean people captive to Babylon around → **586 B.C.**
- The Books of *Daniel*, *Esther*, and the *Story of Susanna* were written at that time → **586-538 B.C.** in Babylon





# The Return from Exile

- The Persian Empire, led by Cyrus, overthrew Babylon in 539 B.C.
  - He issued a decree allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. → The leaders of Hebrew when they returning from exile
    - Zerubbabal rebuilt **God's Temple** → 516 B.C.
    - Ezra (Priest) → 457 B.C.
    - Nehemiah **rebuilt walls of Jerusalem** → 444 B.C.
- While in **Jerusalem**, **High Priest Ezra** took care to reprint and publicly spread the Holy Scriptures among the Hebrew people
  - At his time some of these books had not yet been written and therefore were not included in his scriptural edition of the Old Testament of the Holy Bible
    - These same books are later what came to be known as the Deuterocanonical Books or the Second Canonical Books

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Deuteronomy	1-2 Kings	Song of Songs	Daniel
	1-2 Chronicles		Hosea Joel
	Ezra		Amos Obadiah
	Nehemiah		Jonah Micah
	Esther		Nahum Habakkuk
			Zephaniah Haggai
			Zechariah Malachi

39  
Books

+ The **Second Canonical** Books includes 7 more books and 2 additions



# The Law or Pentateuch -5 Books

- **1. Genesis** - Contains the stories of the creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
  - Genesis 1-2 → Creation
  - Genesis 3 → Sin / First promise of Redeemer
  - Genesis 12 → Abraham's call
  
- **2. Exodus** - Contains the stories of Moses, the Israelites leaving Egypt and going into the promised land, the crossing of the Red Sea, the plagues, the ten commandments, and the building of the tabernacle
  - Exodus 20 → The ten Commandments



# The Law or Pentateuch -5 Books

- **3. Leviticus** - This book contains the laws of sacrifices, laws of worship, laws on what is clean and unclean and laws of priesthood
  - Instructions for 5 offerings and 8 feasts
  - Lev.19:18 → “**Love your neighbor as yourself**”
  
- **4. Numbers** - This book mainly gives an account of the numbering of the people in Israel, and a census of the people. It also talks about some of the laws covered in Leviticus.
  - Wilderness wanderings from Sinai to the border of Canaan
    - A period of about 40 years





# The Law or Pentateuch -5 Books

- **5. Deuteronomy** - The theme of this book is the "second law". It is a book that talks about the clarification and the renewal of the covenant God made to his people.
  - It gives the ten commandments for the second time.
  - At the end of Deuteronomy, Moses turns over the leadership of the Israelites to Joshua.
- The five books of Moses are thus Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
  - These five books are called the **Pentateuch**, which is a Greek word meaning five containers or five books.



# The Historical Books – 12 Books

- **6. Joshua** - Joshua was Moses's successor as leader of the Israelites.
  - This book gives the stories of Joshua, the crossing of the Jordan, the falling of Jericho, the story of Rahab, and the capture of Ai.
  - Assigning portions of Promised Land to tribal groups
- **7. Judges** - Talks about the 15 Judges of Israel, contains the story of Gideon, Samson, and Deborah.
- **8. Ruth** - Great book about marriage and relationships between children and their parents and parents-in-law.
  - Establishes family line of David (The Messiah's ancestor)



# The Historical Books – 12 Books

- **9. First Samuel** - contains the stories of Samuel, Saul, and David. It ends with Saul's death. Contains stories of David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, and David and Abigail
- **10. Second Samuel** - Contains stories about David as king of Israel. It talks about David and Bathsheba, David and Nathan, David's sons, the birth of Solomon
- **11. First Kings** - David's son, Solomon, becomes king. The book contains stories about Solomon. Solomon is the wisest man to ever live. It contains stories about Elijah, Elijah raising the widows son, and the contest on Mount Carmel
- **12. Second Kings** - Contains stories about Elisha, including Elisha and the Shunammite woman, the story of Naaman, the story of Hezekiah, Hezekiah consults Isaiah, and Jerusalem conquered by Nebuchadnezzar



# The Historical Books – 12 Books

- **13. First Chronicles** - This book gives genealogies and lists of families. It also gives stories of the life of David.
- **14. Second Chronicles** - Gives stories about the reign of Solomon
  - Division of kingdom
  - History of Judah to the Captivity
- **15. Ezra** - Rebuilding of the temple lead by Ezra
- **16. Nehemiah** - Nehemiah helps rebuild the walls of Jerusalem
- **17. Esther** - Story of Esther, Haman, and Mordecai.
  - A plot to exterminate the Jews





# The Poetic Books – 5 Books

- **18. Job** - Story of Job. He was wealthy, lost all, and regained twice as much as what he had before.
- **19. Psalms** - 150 Psalms, mostly written by David. The Psalms are poetic songs talking about repentance, God's love, God's justice, God's mercy, and prophecies about Jesus.
  - Psalm 50 is a Psalm of repentance read at the beginning of every hour in the Agpeya. The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible.
- **20. Proverbs** - A book of wise spiritual saying written by Solomon. A book of guidance and advice for the young and the old.



# The Poetic Books – 5 Books

- **21. Song of Solomon** - A book of poetic songs of love between the Lord and every soul (or church)
- **22. Ecclesiastes** - A book aiming to understand the reason and meaning for human existence and the good that man can find in life.
  - Chapter 3 is a well known chapter on "**Everything Has Its Time.**"



# The Prophetic Books – (5+12) Books

- The Prophetic Books
  - Major Prophets – **5 books**
  - Minor Prophets – **12 Books**
  
- **NOTE:** There is no such thing as a Major or a Minor Prophet
  - They were all Prophets delivering the Word of the Lord. The one's listed as “Major” simply wrote bigger books
  
- Two kinds of divisions:
  - Major / Minor
  - Pre-exile / post exile



# Major Prophets – 5 books

- **23. Isaiah** - Contains the stories of Isaiah, Lucifer (Satan) (Chapter 14), many prophecies concerning the birth and crucifixion of Jesus (Chapters 49 and 53)
- **24. Jeremiah** - This book contains stories about Jeremiah the priest. It also talks about rewards for following in God's ways and the punishment for sin
  - The sins of the people are revealed and they are urged to repent
  - Contains the story of Jeremiah at the potters wheel
- **25. Lamentations** - This book contains laments following Jerusalem's destruction by the Babylonians.
  - The lamenting is also a call to repentance for committed sins.





# Major Prophets – 5 books

- **26. Ezekiel** - This book talks about Israel's sins, God's judgment, justice and restoration of Israel.
  - Ezekiel also has the powerful verse on the perpetual virginity of the Virgin Mary (Ezekiel 44:2).
  
- **27. Daniel** - Contains stories about Daniel, Daniel in the king's house, Daniel in the lions' den, and Daniel interpreting dreams
  - God's people are being persecuted
    - Three Hebrews in the furnace
  - This book also contains many prophecies regarding the second coming of Christ.



# Minor Prophets – 12 books

- **28. Hosea** - An analogy of sin, forgiveness and grace built on Hosea's relationship with his unfaithful wife, Gomer
  - Prophecy of Jesus, Mary and Joseph leaving Egypt and returning to Galilee
  
- **29. Joel** - the prophet of Pentecost
  - The Spirit poured out on humanity
  - Invasion of crickets
  
- **30. Amos** - message to wealthy and religious leaders about their greed, selfishness, immorality, bribery and injustice
  
- **31. Obadiah** - Shortest book in Old Testament
  - Coming Day of the Lord
  - Prophecy against Edom



# Minor Prophets – 12 books

- **32. Jonah** - gives prophecies about Christ. The book also gives the story about Jonah being in the belly of the whale for three days
  - Missionary book of Old Testament
- **33. Micah** - Prophecy of Bethlehem as Jesus' birthplace
- **34. Nahum** - Downfall of Nineveh and vindication of Judah
  - God will punish arrogant and evil nations
- **35. Habakkuk** - A prophet's questions and complaints and God's answers
  - "The just shall live by faith" (2:4) which is quoted by Paul in his letter to the Romans



# Minor Prophets – 12 books

- **36. Zephaniah** - coming day of the Lord;
  - God's judgment on Judah; righteous remnant
  
- **37. Haggai** - Complete the Temple! “Is it right for you to live in luxurious homes when the Temple lies in ruins?”
  
- **38. Zechariah** - Prophecies of the Messiah
  - The 30 pieces of silver
  - The piercing of Jesus’ side with a spear
  - Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey
  
- **39. Malachi** - Passage on tithing – no one is living and giving like God wants





# The Second Canonical Books

- **1. Tobit** – main themes are fidelity (faithfulness) to the law, the intercessory function of angels, the purity of marriage, reverence for the dead, and the value of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting
- **2. Judith** – this book is a vivid story relating how, in a grave crisis, God delivered the Jewish people through the actions of a pious young widow named Judith.
- **3.4. First and Second Maccabees** – the life of Hebrew after they return from exile



# The Second Canonical Books

- **5. Wisdom of Solomon** - illustrate the marvels of Wisdom, with examples drawn from Israel's history.
- **6. Wisdom of Joshua The Son Of Sirach** - It is a wisdom book with many similarities to Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. It was originally written in Hebrew by a wise man called Joshua the Son of Sirach during the period 246 to 221 BC.
- **7. Baruch** - The book is attributed to Baruch, trusted friend and secretary of the prophet Jeremiah. Chapter 6, which claims to be a letter of Jeremiah addressed to the exiles in Babylon, is a warning against idolatry.
- The additions to the book of **Esther**
- The additions to the book of **Daniel** (The Song of the three Young Men, Susanna)