

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely the Old Testament, with wooden rollers. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing two columns of text. The rollers are made of wood and have a circular design on their ends. The background is dark, making the scroll stand out.

**UNDERSTANDING
THE
OLD TESTAMENT**

Understanding the Book for all the Ages.

Is there a God?

What is He like?

Why was man created?

Why is man so noble, yet so weak and sinful all at the same time?

Does history have any meaning?

Is history heading anywhere?

Man has pondered these questions for thousands of years. As one searches the book for answers to these questions, this book has become the most influential and widely read book in human history. Although the languages that this book was written in, are considered dead languages, this book has been translated into more native tongues than any other book in history. This book ranks as the number one seller of all times.

This book has been band, burned, forbidden and destroyed in an attempt to keep it out of the hands of its readers.

Why such lengths to eradicate it?

What makes it so valuable that people will give up all to possess a copy?

Does it contain the Word of God?

In our study we will examine these questions as we see God's involvement in human history from creation to eternity.

A.G. "Bud" Branscomb

Introduction

A proper understanding of the Bible will depend on two things:

- 1.) the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, and
- 2.) the interpreting work of the reader. By illumination we will be referring to work of the Holy Spirit in making clear the meaning of the scripture under consideration. By interpretation we will be referring to a plain literal understanding of the text.

Plain, straight forward interpretation includes:

- 1.The understand of the words in normal and historical usage.
- 2.The use of figures of speech to make clearer the meaning of the text.
- 3.Understanding the context of the passage.
- 4.A clear knowledge as to whom the text was written.

The basis of our study is found in II Timothy 3:16 –17

*“**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

I. Understanding the Bible.

A. Divisions of the Bible

1. Old Testament
2. New Testament

B. The word “testament” means “Covenant” or “Agreement”

1. An agreement between God and Man
2. An agreement between individuals
3. An agreement between two nations

When speaking of the Old Covenant we are speaking of the **law** given to **Moses**.

When speaking of the New Covenant we are speaking of **grace** given to us through **Christ**.

C. The Old Testament is divided into various stages.

1. Creation Stage 1 - 11 chap. of Genesis
2. Patriarchal Stage
3. Exodus Stage
4. Conquest Stage
5. Kingdom Stage
6. Exile Stage
 - a. Northern Kingdom - Syria
 - b. Southern Kingdom - Babylon
7. Restoration Stage - Rebuilding
8. Poetry

D. The Old Testament covers **1000's** years while the New Testament covers **100's** of years.

E. Five Major Divisions of the Old Testament.

There are **39** books comprising the Old Testament

G E N E S I S	E X O D U S	L E V I T U S	N U M B E R S	D E U T E R O N O M Y
---------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---

The Pentateuch
 The Books of Moses
 The Torah or Books of Law

J O U S H A	J U D G E S	R U T H	1 S A M U E L	2 S A M U E L	1 K I N G S	2 K I N G S	1 C H O R N I C L E S	2 C H O R N I C L E S	E R Z A	N E H E M I A H	E S T H E R
----------------------------	----------------------------	------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	---	---	------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------

The Books of History

J O B	P S A L M S	P R O V E R B S	E C C L E S I A S T E S	S O N G O F S O L O M O N
-------------	----------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	---

The Books of Poetry

I A S I A H	J E R E M I A H	L A M E N T A T I O N S	E Z E K I E L	D A N I E L
----------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	----------------------------

The Major Prophets

H O S E A	J O E L	A M O S	O B A D I A H	J O N A H	M I C A H	N A H U M	H A B A K K U K	Z E P H A N I A H	H A G G A I	Z E C H A R I A H	M A L A C H I
-----------------------	------------------	------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------------	---	----------------------------	---	---------------------------------

The Minor Prophets
 Minor because of Length

F. Five Major Divisions of the New Testament

There are **27** books comprising the New Testament

M A T T H E W	M A R K	L U K E	J O H N
---------------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

The Gospels

A C T S

The Book of History

R O M A N S	1 C O R I N T H I A N S	2 C O R I N T H I A N S	G A L A T I A N S	E P H E S I A N S	P H I L I P P I A N S	C O L O S S I A N S	1 T H E S S A L O N I A N S	2 T H E S S A L O N I A N S	1 T I M O T H Y	2 T I M O T H Y	T I T U S	P H I L E M O N
----------------------------	--	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------------

The Pauline Epistles

H E B R E W S	J A M E S	1 P E T E R	2 P E T E R	1 J O H N	2 J O H N	3 J O H N	J U D E
---------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	------------------

The General Epistles

R E V E L A T I O N
--

The Book of Prophecy

G. The Language of the Bible.

1. Old Testament **Hebrew & Aramaic.**
2. New Testament **Koine Greek**

H. The Canonization of the Bible. Why just 66 books chosen among all the religious writing of the time. The Bible is referred to as a collection of books that passed a test of authenticity and authority.

Canon - **straight rod or bar**

To keep things straight

A boundary line

Canonization is the **process** by which the writings were sorted out to be a part of scripture.

Canonization followed certain rules.

1. **Is it inspired - does it have the marks of inspiration.**
2. **Was it endorsed by God**
3. **Was it endorsed by a prophet of God**
4. **Did Jesus speak of the book**

Not only are the books of the Bible ordered by God but also the order of the books are also planned by God.

Old Testament Book Genesis

Author	Moses	
Recipient	The Nation of Israel	
Date	Circa 1446-1406 BC	
Key People	1. Adam 5. Sarah 9. Rebecca 2. Eve 6. Hagar 10. Jacob 3. Noah 7. Ishmael 11. Joseph 4. Abraham 8. Isaac	
Key Words	1. God - Elohim = 32 times in Genesis - Plural noun - The Almighty God 2. Good - 7 times = after each day. God said it was good. 3. Create - bara = to make out of nothing. God simply spoke and it was so asah = to form or make out of something in existence.	
Major Focus	Four events	Four people
General Outline	1. Creation (1:1-2:25) 2. Fall (3:1-5:32) 3. Flood (6:-9:29) 4. Dispersion (10:1-11:9)	5. Abraham (11:10-25:18) 6. Isaac (25:19-26:35) 7. Jacob (27:1-36:43) 8. Joseph (37:1-50:26)
Major Theological Themes	1. The Beginning of many important things 2. The Beginning of Disobedience 3. The Beginning of Obedience 4. The Beginning of the Nation of Israel	
Timeline	1. Creation undated 5. Birth of Jacob 2006 BC 2. Flood undated 6. Birth of Joseph 1915 BC 3. Birth of Abraham 2166 BC 7. Joseph sold into slavery 1898 BC 4. Birth of Isaac 2066 BC 8. Joseph rules in Egypt 1885 BC 9. Joseph dies 1805 BC	
How Christ is portrayed	Portrays Christ as Creator	

Old Testament Book Exodus

Author	Moses
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 1450 - 1415 BC
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moses 2. Miriam 3. Pharaoh 4. Pharaoh's daughter 5. Jephthah 6. Aaron 7. Joshua
Key Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covenant or agreement 2. 3. Deliverer 4. Law 5. Tabernacle
Major Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redemption from Egypt Revelation from God
General Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birth and early life of Moses 2. Ten Plagues 3. Passover 4. Exodus 5. Ten Commandments 6. The Tabernacle
Major Theological Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Slavery of Israel 2. The Redemption of Israel 3. The Guidance of Israel
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Birth of Moses 1530 BC 2. The burning bush 1450 BC 3. Return to Egypt 1450 - 1449 BC 4. The Plagues 5. Giving of Ten Commandments 6. Giving of plans, construction and consecration of the Tabernacle.
How Christ is portrayed	Portrays Christ as Passover Lamb

The Passover Lamb

Exodus 12:3-14

The Lamb was to be picked on the **10th** Day of the **1st** month.

To be sacrificed on the **14th** day of the month.

The reason for the delay was to give time to check and make sure that it had no blemishes. The people and the Levites would examine the sheep before it was slaughtered.

Qualification for the Lamb.

- 1. Male**
- 2. 1 year old**
- 3. Without blemishes**
- 4. Killed in the evening (9th—12th Hours)**
- 5. Sprinkle the blood**

Christ a picture of the Passover Lamb.

The God picked the **Son** before the _____ of the _____.

Christ was crucified at **9 AM**.

The reason for the delay was to give time to check and make sure that it had no blemishes. The people and the Levites would examine the sheep before it was slaughtered.

Christ's Qualification.

- 1. Son (male) of God (I Cor. 5:7; John 1:29)**
- 2. Without blemish (1 Peter 1:19; Heb. 4:14)**
- 3. Slain (Revelation 5:6)**
- 4. Crucified during the Passover (Mark 14:12)**
- 5. Blood applied to our hearts. (Rom. 6:23) God's will pass over judgment.**

The Giving of the Law

Exodus 20:1-17

A. The primary reasons for the giving of the Law.

1. Given to establish a standard of righteousness
2. Given to expose sin
3. Given to reveal God's Holiness.

B. The three major areas of the Law.

1. The Moral Law (The Ten Commandments)
2. The Civil Law (Chap. 21-23)
 - a. Human rights
 - b. Property rights
 - c. Family Duties
3. Ceremonial Laws (Religious laws Chap. 24)

About 1300 years after God gave these commandments Jesus upheld them. He actually placed them on a higher plane. He stated that not only the **Letter** of the law be upheld but the **Spirit** of the Law be observed as well.

See what Christ declared in Matthew 5:17

Of the Ten Commandments one is not carried over to obeyed in the New Testament. Which one?

Keeping the Sabbath.

Old Testament Book Leviticus

Author	Moses
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1450-1415 BC
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moses 2. Arron 3. Nadad 4. Abihu 5. Eleazar 6. Ithamar
Key Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sacrifice 2. Offering 3. Altar
Major Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship or Praise Atonement
General Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 basis offering 2. 7 major feast 3. Scapegoat
Major Theological Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grace 2. The importance of preparation for meeting God 3. The presence of God 4. The necessity of righteous living. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cleansed lives b. Ethical living
Timeline	About one month in 1450 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our Sacrifice for Sin

Old Testament Book Numbers

Author	Moses
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1450 - 1410 BC
Key People	1. Moses 5. Caleb 2. Miriam 6. Balaam 3. Arron 4. Joshua
Key Words	1. Tribes 2. Number 3. Order
Major Focus	Learning to live by faith
General Outline	1. Duties of the Levities 5. Water from Rock 2. 12 spies 6. Balaam's blessing 3. Fiery Serpents 7. A new Generation 4. 40 year Journey
Major Theological Themes	1. Census 2. Rebellion 3. The Wanderings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shows the severity of God's punishment for sin b. Long enough for all to die that held on to Egypt;s customs c. Time to regenerate and redicate themselves to the ways of God 4. Canaan
Timeline	1st census 1450 BC Arron dies 1430 2nd census 1410 BC
How Christ is portrayed	The lifted up One

Old Testament Book Deuteronomy

Author	Moses (except final summary)
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1410 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moses 2. Joshua
Key Words	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Command 2. Obedience
Major Focus	How will the people of God respond when God fulfills His promises
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giving of the Law a second time 2. Moses' 3 sermons 3. Moses' death 4. Joshua becomes leader
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History - review of the mighty acts of God 2. Laws - renewed with the new generation 3. Love - God's faithful love 4. Choices - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Obey = blessings b. Rebellion = Calamity 5. Teaching
Timeline	<p>The three sermons Circa 1410 BC</p> <p>The death of Moses 1405 BC</p>
How Christ is portrayed	The True Prophet

Old Testament Book Joshua

Author	Joshua
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1405 - 1375 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua 2. Rahab 3. Achan 4. Pinehas
Key Words	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conquest 2. Settlement 3. Canaan - Not a picture of heaven but of a victorious Christian life.
Major Focus	To give a history of conquest of the promise Land
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conquest of Jericho 2. Ai 3. Gibeon 4. Division of the land / Cities for Levites 5. Cities of Refuge
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Success - Victory came when they obeyed 2. Faith - Learning to trust God daily 3. Guidance - Every day dependence on God 4. Leadership - Willing to follow God's man 5. Conquest - Conquer all the Land {this is something that Israel never finished.}
Timeline	<p>Entering the promised land 1410 BC</p> <p>Conquest of the promised land 1410 BC</p>
How Christ is portrayed	The Captain of our Salvation

Old Testament Book Judges

Author	Anonymous / Jewish tradition attributes it to Samuel.
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1100 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naomi 2. Ruth 3. Boaz
Key Words	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evil 2. Deliver
Major Focus	Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Judges (12-15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Warrior-Judge (Gideon/Samson) b. The Priest-Judge (Eli) c. The Prophet-Judge (Samuel) 2. Sin 3. Punishment 4. Deliverer/Judge
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decline and Compromise 2. Decay and Apostasy 3. Defeat and Oppression 4. Repentance 5. Deliverance and Hero
Timeline	The period of the judges began Circa 1390 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our Deliverer Judge

Old Testament Book Ruth

Author	Anonymous
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	1000 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naomi 2. Ruth 3. Boaz
Key Words	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kinsman
Major Focus	How three people remain strong in character and true to God when the society around them was collapsing.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faithfulness 2. Kindness 3. Integrity 4. Protection 5. Prosperity and blessing
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where is God in times of great distress 2. God's reponse 3. Naomi <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Character b. Tragedy 4. Ruth <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Character b. Tragedy 5. Boaz
Timeline	The story takes place during the time of the judges 1100 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our Kinsman Redeemer

Old Testament Book I Samuel

Author	Anonymous / Jewish tradition Samuel
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 1020 BC
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eli 2. Hannah 3. Samuel 4. Saul 5. David 6. Jonathan
Key Thought	1. Transition
Major Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Record the life and death of Samuel 2. Record the reign and decline of Saul the first King 3. Record the choice and preparing of David the second King
General Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decline of the Judges 2. The Rise of Kings
Major Theological Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuel's birth 2. Saul chosen as King 3. God rejects Saul 4. David anointed king 5. David kills Goliath 6. David becomes King
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuel born 1070 BC 2. Samuel called 1060 BC 3. Saul chosen and anointed as king 1040 BC 4. God rejects Saul 1030 BC 5. David anointed as King 1020 BC 6. David kills Goliath 1020 BC 7. Death of Saul 1011 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book II Samuel

Author	Anonymous
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 930 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David 2. Nathan
Key Thought	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Success 2. Failure
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingdom growth 2. Tribal government to centralized government 3. Judge to Monarchy
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political Triumphs 2. Spiritual Triumphs 3. Military Triumphs 4. Sins of adultery and murder 5. Trouble in David's house 6. Troubles in the Kingdom.
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:16)
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David made king over Judah 1011 BC 2. David made king over Israel 1005 BC 3. The sin with Bathsheba 990 BC 4. Birth of Solomon 990 BC 5. Death of Absalom 985 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book I Kings

Author	Anonymous / Jewish tradition Jeremiah
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 646-570 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David 2. Solomon 3. Rehoboam 4. Jeroboam 5. Elijah 6. Ahab 7. Jezebel
Key Thought	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solomon 2. Many Kings
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingdom united 2. Kingdom divided
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solomon reigns 2. Division of the Kingdom 3. Judah falls 4. Destruction of Jerusalem
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King Solomon 2. The Temple 3. Other gods 4. Sin and repentance
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reign of Solomon 971 BC 2. Solomon prays for wisdom 971 BC 3. Solomon builds the Temple 967-956 BC 4. Death of Solomon 931 BC 5. Kingdom Divided 930 BC 6. Elijah on Mount Carmel 870 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book II Kings

Purpose	To demonstrate the fate of all those that refuse to make God their true leader
Author	Anonymous / Jewish tradition Jeremiah
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 646-570 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah 2. Elisha 3. Shunammite woman 4. Nebuchadnezzar 5. Several Kings
Key Thought	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall of Israel 2. Fall of Judah
Major Focus	The kingdom being divided and the surviving kingdom
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha's ministry (more miracles) 2. Evil King vs. Good kings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Northern kings 19 evil 0 good b. Southern kings 12 evil 8 good c. Only 20% of the kings followed God
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of the prophets <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show God's overthrow of the Hebrew kingdom b. How the kingdom was divided and taken away 2. God's hatred for sin
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call of Elisha 860 BC 2. Elijah taken in whirlwind 850 BC 3. Death of Jezebel 841 BC 4. Death of Elisha 798 BC 5. Captivity of Israel 732 BC 6. Fall of Jerusalem 586 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book I Chronicles

Author	Ezra
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 440 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David 2. Solomon
Major Focus	<p>The books of First and Second Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history described in Second Samuel through Second Kings. It is shown from a different perspective.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Second Samuel through Second Kings - a political history b. First and Second Chronicles - a religious history
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Royal line of David 2. Reign of David
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Israel's History - The retelling of the true heritage of Israel 2. David the king 3. True worship 4. The priest <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By leading the people in faithful worship according to His Law b. By leading the people in faithful worship by God's design
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Death of Saul and reign of David Circa 1011 BC 2. David made King 1004 BC 3. David bring ark to Jerusalem 1000 BC 4. Solomon Made King 971 BC 5. Temple began 967 BC 6. Temple completed and dedicated 960 BC 7. Death of Solomon 931 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book II Chronicles

Author	Ezra
Recipient	The Nation of Israel
Date	Circa 440 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solomon 2. Queen of Sheba 3. Various Kings
Major Focus	<p>The books of First and Second Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history described in Second Samuel through Second Kings. It is shown from a different perspective.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Second Samuel through Second Kings - a political history b. First and Second Chronicles - a religious history
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Temple 2. Peace 3. Prayer 4. Reform
Major Theological Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five Doctrines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nature of God b. Covenant commitment by His people c. The importance of worship d. The imperative of Godly leadership e. The redemptive plan of God 2. Revival <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The destruction of Idols b. Obedience to the law c. Restoration of the Priesthood 3. National collapse
Timeline	Subject matter not time line because times are not chorological
How Christ is portrayed	Our King

Old Testament Book Nehemiah

Purpose	This was the last of the historical book written	
Author	Nehemiah 1:1	
Recipient	The Nation of Israel	
Date	Circa 410 BC	
Key People	1. Nehemiah 3. Sanballat 2. Ezra 4. Tobiah	
Key word	1. The walls of Jerusalem The temple completed but the walls remained in ruins for the next 70 yrs. These walls represented 1.) protection 2.) power 3.) beauty for Jerusalem. The walls were need for protection of the Temple.	
Major Focus	Reconstruction of the Walls	Reformation of the People
General Outline	1. Preparation to reconstruct the wall. 2. Reconstruction of Walls	1. Renewal of the Covenant 2. Obedience to the Covenant although the walls were rebuilt it was not complete until they rebuilt their lives.
Major Theological Outline	1. Desire to rebuild the walls 2. Prayer 3. Leadership 4. Problems 5. Repentance & revival	
Major Theological Themes	Seven essential doctrines 1. God's Word is trustworthy and is essential for faith 2. Worship is necessary for God's people 3. God's disciples obey Him 4. God gives His people leaders 5. Opponents hinder God's work 6. Prayer is our response to God's presences 7. God is sovereign	
Timeline	1. Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem 443 BC 2. Building of walls begin 443 BC 3. Walls completed 443 BC	
How it applies	1. See Ezra	
How Christ is portrayed	Our Restorer	

Old Testament Book Esther

Purpose	To demonstrate God’s sovereignty and His loving care for His people	
Author	Unknown possibly Mordecai	
Recipient	The whole of Israel	
Date	Circa 430 - 424. BC reference to King Ahasuerus in past tense 1:1 suggest that the book could have been written during the reign of Artaxerxes I 465-424 BC	
Key People	1. Esther 3. Artaxerxes I 2. Mordecai 4. Haman	
Major Focus	Threat to the Jews	Triumph of the Jews
General Outline	1. Selection of Esther as queen 2. Formulation of the plot of Haman	1. Triumph of Mordecai over Haman 2. Triumph of Israel over her enemies
Theological themes	1. God’s sovereignty 2. Racial hatred 3. Deliverance 4. Action 5. wisdom	
Theological outline	1. Addresses God’s people at the lowest point in their lives 2. Jewish expectations 3. Threats to the unity of God’s people 4. Religious obstacles in their lives 5. Unusual feature – God is not mentioned	
Timeline	1. Haman’s plot Circa 480 BC 2. Esther’s intercedes 3. Haman hung 4. The feast of Purium	
How it applies	1. God works in all history 2. Position of influence is opportunity for service 3. Celebration of God 4. God’s faithfulness 5. God not only uses leaders but lay people as well 6. Status does not limit service for God	
How Christ is portrayed		

Old Testament Book Job

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrate God's sovereignty 2. To demonstrate the meaning of true faith 3. Addresses the question "why do the righteous suffer"
Author	Job - Elihu - Moses - Solomon - Isaiah - Hezekiah - Jeremiah - Baruch - Ezra
Recipient	The whole of Israel
Date	Several theories: Written shortly after it happened; written by Moses in Midian 1485-1445 BC; written during the time of Solomon 950 BC (comp 28 w/ Prov. 8; (problem great time laps). Lastly written during or after the Babylonian captivity.
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Job 2. Courtly - Eliphaz 3. Argumentative - Bildad 4. Blunt - Zophar 5. Youthful - Elihu
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dilemma of Job 2. Debates of Job 3. Deliverance of Job
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversations in Heaven 1:1-12; 2:1-6 2. The afflictions of Job 1:13-22; 2:7-13 3. The debates with the three friends 3:1-26:14 4. Job's final defense 27:1-31:40 5. Elihu's solution 32:1-37:24 6. Conversation of God with Job 38:1- 42:17
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suffering 2. Satan's attacks 3. God's Goodness 4. Pride 5. Trusting
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The age old question 2. Satan questions 3. The testing of Job 4. Five undeserved suffering 5. Reasons for suffering <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A test b. To discipline us or teach us
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no timeline for Job 2. No time line is important
How it applies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suffering may come to anyone at anytime 2. Must have faith in God's goodness and sovereignty 3. We don't have wisdom to understand all the is going on 4. It causes us to renew dialogue with God 5. It reminds us that our redeemer lives
How Christ is portrayed	As our Redeemer

Old Testament Book Psalms

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide poetry for the expression of praise to God 2. To provide poetry for the expression of worship to God 3. To provide poetry for the expression of confession to God
Author	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David 73 Chapters 2. Asap 12 Chapters 3. Son of Korah 9 Chapters 4. Solomon 2 Chapters 5. Unknown 51 Chapters
Recipient	The whole of Israel
Date	Compiled over several centuries
Key People	1. David
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Songs of Worship 2. Hymns of National Interest 3. Anthems of Praise
General Outline	No basic Outline
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Praise 2. God's power 3. Forgiveness 4. Thankfulness 5. Trust
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Songs of Israel 2. Purpose of the Psalms 3. The theology of the Psalms 4. The themes of the Psalms 5. God is the focus of the Psalms <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God is monotheistic b. God is holy c. God is Spirit d. God's steadfast love 6. The mighty acts of God <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Historical acts become basis of faith b. Acts portrayed His character 7. Creative acts of God 8. Ultimate goal is God 9. God reveals Himself 10. Psalms divides people into two groups 11. The gracious goodness of God 12. Creation and destiny of man
How it applies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causes us to pray, praise, to confess and testify 2. Opens the pathway to God 3. The great things he has for us 4. We need to testify daily
Time Line	Written over several centuries Circa 1440 – 586 BC
Christ Protrayed	Our ALL in ALL

Old Testament Book Proverbs

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To teach to be understanding, just and fair in everything we do 2. To make simple minded wise 3. To warn young men of problems they will face 4. To help the wise to become good leaders 5. To apply wisdom to daily life and moral instruction
Author	Most written by Solomon Agur (30) Lemuel (31)
Recipient	To his subjects and people in general
Date	Circa 931 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wise 2. The Foolish
Major Focus	The focus of Proverbs is found in 1:1-7
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purpose of Proverbs 1:1-7 2. Proverbs for Young men 1:8 - 10 3. Proverbs for All Men 11– 20 4. Proverbs for Kings and rulers 21 - 31 5. Proverbs for women 31:10-31
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wisdom 2. Relationship 3. Speech 4. Work 5. Success
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ancient writers seeking to discover the order of nature – then live in that order 2. Israel’s wisdom – fear the Lord 3. The Capstone of Proverbs – how God expects his people to live 4. Two doctrines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Human search for meaning b. Nature of God 5. Israel’s search unique in two ways <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wisdom literature b. Revealed wisdom 6. The contrast theme – Fear of the Lord
How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Search for wisdom as we walk the road of life 2. Acknowledge God as Creator and Sustainer of the World 3. Repent of our sins and trust God as Savior and Lord 4. To so order our lives in accordance with His will 5. To teach these precepts to our children 6. To praise God for the fullness and joy He provides
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Really does not have one 2. Written by Solomon in 1st part of his reign
How Christ is portrayed	As Our Wisdom

Old Testament Book Ecclesiastes

Purpose	To spare future generations form bitterness of learning that life is meaningless apart from God
Author	Solomon but uses a different name “Qoheleth” = Preacher = one who addresses an assembly.
Recipient	His subjects and all people in general
Date	Circa 935 BC
Key People	1. Solomon
Major Focus	The search for meaning and satisfaction in life.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Thesis that “All is Vanity” 1:1-11 2. The Proof that “All is Vanity” 1:12-6:12 3. The Counsel for Living with Vanity 7:1-12:8 4. Conclusion: Fear God and Keep His commandments 12:9-14
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Searching 2. Emptiness 3. Work 4. Death 5. wisdom
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People trying to find the meaning of life 2. The value of the present world 3. The meaning of life <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What does not bring meaning b. What will bring meaning 4. Solomon shares life experiences 5. Primary contribution to Ecclesiastes 6. Sovereignty of God
How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hopelessness of life before Christ 2. Shows a purposeless life before Christ 3. Futility of life 4. What makes life worth living 5. We realize that life is not always just and fair 6. How we can relate activities to life to God 7. Leads us to praise Jesus Christ even more
Timeline	Circa 940 – 935 BC
How Christ is portrayed	The End of All Living

Old Testament Book Song of Solomon

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a wedding song 2. To tell the love between the bridegroom and bride 3. To confirm the sanctity of marriage 4. To picture God's love for His people
Author	Solomon
Recipient	His subjects and to all in general
Date	Circa 965 BC Early in the reign of Solomon
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solomon 2. Shulamite woman (Solomon had a harem of 140 women) as the only wife 3. The Shulamite woman's brother 4. The young women of Jerusalem
Major Focus	The love of husband and wife sets forth the love between God and His people.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falling in love 1:1-3:5 2. United in love 3:6-5:1 3. Struggles in love 5:2-7:10 4. Growing in love 7:11-8:14
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sex – God's gift to His people 2. Love – between 2 lovers 3. Commitment – marriage is daily commitment to each other 4. Beauty 5. Problems – love grew cold
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relationship between the sexes 2. Bible declares all of life stands under God's control 3. Song of Solomon gives new definition to love 4. God's relationship for man and woman
How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Show us the degrading practice of sexuality for human gain 2. Keep ourselves only for our mate
Timeline	Early in Solomon's reign - Circa 1014 BC
How Christ is portrayed	The Lover of Our Souls

Old Testament Book Isaiah

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To call the Nation of Judah back to God 2. To tell of God's salvation through the Messiah
Author	<p>Isaiah - Deutero-Isaiah</p> <p>The messages in Chap. 1-39 were addressed to contemporary situations of the day. Chap. 40-66 are both predictions of the coming Messiah and future events for Israel.</p>
Recipient	Primarily to the Nation of Judah
Date	<p>Two events bracket Isaiah's ministry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) He began his ministry about the time of the death of King Uzziah. [6:1] 2.) His last recorded activity was concerning the crisis of Sennacherib [36:1-37:8] <p>Circa 742 - 700 BC</p>
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isaiah 2. ShearJashub (a remnant shall return) 3. Mahershalalhashbaz (swift to the booty) (longest word in the Bible)
Major Focus	The focus on the first 39 chapters concern prophecies of coming judgments. The focus on the last 27 chapters concern prophecies of coming comfort.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prophecies of Condemnation (1:1-35:10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophecies against Judah b. Prophecies against other nations c. Prophecies of the Day of the Lord d. Prophecies of both Judgments and Blessings 2. A historical Parenthesis (36:1-39:8) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Hezekiah's Salvation from Assyria (36:1-37:38) c. Hezekiah's Salvation from Sickness (38:1-22) d. Hezekiah's Sin (39:1-8) 3. The Prophecies of Comfort (40:1-66:24) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophecies of Israel's Deliverance (40:1-48:22) b. Prophecies of Israel's Deliverer (49:1-57:21) c. Prophecies of Israel's Glorious Future (58:1-66:24)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holiness 2. Punishment 3. Salvation 4. Messiah 5. Hope

Isaiah cont.

<p>Theological outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Content divided into 2 distinct divisions historically <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 8th century BC chapters 1-39 b. 6th century BC chapters 40-66 c. Both parts are complementary 2. Troubled times <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Golden age b. Division of Kingdom 3. Prosperity of Kingdoms 4. Call of Isaiah 5. Control of foreign nations 6. Five major theological points expressed in Isaiah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God is One b. God is sovereign over creation and history c. God is Holy d. God is Judge e. God is Redeemer 7. Portrait of the Messiah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Messiah King b. Suffering servant
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That God guides and inspires us the same way that He guided the prophet 2. We who follow His Son are his elected people today 3. We are encouraged to live these ageless truths 4. God is first no matter where we put Him in our lives 5. We are called to be missionaries
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapters 1-39 occurred during Isaiah's life 700 BC 2. Chapters 40-66 681 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Messiah</p>

Old Testament Book Jeremiah

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To urge the people of God to turn from their sins back to God. 2. If they refused then God's judgment would fall on His people.
Author	<p>Jeremiah. (1:1) Dictated all his prophecies to his secretary Baruch. Jeremiah was called to be a prophet as a young man.</p> <p>Chapter 52 was evidently not written by Jeremiah. May have been added by Baruch. [Identical to II Kings 24:18-25:30.]</p>
Recipient	The Nation of Judah and to the Capital city Jerusalem.
Date	Jeremiah lived and prophesied during Judah's last days. 605 BC (36:1-3)
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The last five kings of Judah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Josiah b. Jehoahaz c. Jehoiakim d. Jehoiachin e. Zedekiah 2. Nebuchadnezzar
Major Focus	<p>Prophecies concerning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Judah b. Gentile nations c. Fall of Jerusalem
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Call of Jeremiah (1:1-19) II. The Prophecies to Judah (2:1-45:5) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Twelve sermons (2:1-25:38) B. Jeremiah's conflicts (26:1-29:32) C. Future restoration of Jerusalem (30:1-33:26) D. Impending fall of Jerusalem (34:1-45:5) III. The Prophecies to the Gentile Nations (46:1-51:64) IV. The Fall of Jerusalem (52:1-34)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Sin II. Punishment III. God is Lord of all IV. New heart V. Faithful service

Jeremiah cont.

<p>Theological outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeremiah’s ministry 2. Deported to Egypt 3. Judah’s three religious options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remain faithful to God b. Continue to worship their own God and foreign gods c. Abandon their God to false gods 4. Reasons for middle ground (Blending of gods) 5. Jeremiah’s message <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The message b. The rejection c. Jeremiah faithfulness 6. Five practical theological teachings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sovereignty of God b. Faithfulness of God c. Necessity of faithfulness in God’s people d. The Grace of God e. God promise of a new Covenant
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To take our new covenant relationship with God serious 2. Believe God 3. Trust God 4. Take our relationship with fellow believers serious 5. Take our agreements serious 6. Be alert to recognize and apply God’s corrections 7. Live in joyful expectation of God’s final restoration of His people and creation
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeremiah becomes a prophet Circa 627 BC 2. Josiah killed in battle 609 BC 3. Ezekiel taken into captivity 605 BC 4. Ezekiel begins to prophecy in Babylon 593 BC 5. Judah falls/Jerusalem destroyed 586 BC 6. Jeremiah’s ministry ends 586 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Righteous Branch</p>

Old Testament Book Lamentations

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To teach people to disobey God is to live in a disastrous situation. To show that God suffers when His people suffer
Author	The author is unnamed but evidence favors Jeremiah
Recipient	The people of Jerusalem.
Date	The book was written soon after the destruction of Jerusalem 586 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremiah The people of Jerusalem
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mourning over the holocaust of Jerusalem A confession of sin and acknowledgement of God's righteousness. The hope in God's future restoration.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Destruction of Jerusalem (1:1-22) The Anger of God (2:1-22) The Prayer for Mercy (3:1-66) The Siege of Jerusalem (4:1-22) The Prayer for Restoration (5:1-22)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of Jerusalem The Consequences of Sin God's Mercy A Future Hope
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jerusalem falls 586 BC Laments Response to the loss of security <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They could decide that their God had been defeated That God did not really exist Abandon their religious ideas for a political position Could consider why God brought into exile and how He was working through it Theological themes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God is just Sinful people will be punished and held accountable for their sin God is not partial – even with His elect If the people will repent they can have hope for the future The results of Jerusalem's sin Hope
How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reminds us of the consequences of sin If we confess - God will forgive Our hope is in Christ
Timeline	Written by Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem Circa 586 BC
How Christ is portrayed	The Righteous Branch

Old Testament Book Ezekiel

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To announce God's judgment on Israel and other nations 2. To tell of the eventual salvation of God's people
Author	Ezekiel - "The word of the Lord came unto me" 24:15 occurs 49 times
Recipient	To the Jews in captivity and people everywhere.
Date	The book was written soon after the destruction of Jerusalem 586 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ezekiel 2. The leaders of Israel 3. Ezekiel's wife 4. Nebuchadnezzar
Major Focus	...ye shall know that I AM the Lord 6:7 Used 70 times in the book
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commission of Ezekiel (1:1-3:27) 2. Judgment of Judah. (4:1-24:27) 3. Judgment on Gentiles (25:1-32:32) 4. Restoration of Israel (33:1-48:35)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Holiness 2. Sin 3. Restoration 4. Leaders 5. Worship
Theological outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conditions of the day 2. Babylonian Captivity 3. Alternatives to Babylonian Captivity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the God's of Babylon superior to Yahweh b. Maintain their political and military reversal c. Submit to social religious and national amalgamation d. That the future held no hope e. Rediscover divine sovereignty 4. Yahweh 5. God's word 6. Individual responsibility 7. Covenant relationship 8. The temple

Old Testament Book Ezekiel

<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calls us to a fresh encounter with Yahweh 2. Nine Challenges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To experience life changing vision of God b. Let God direct us from the expected path of service c. To realize the effectiveness of God Word d. To comprehend the depth of evil that lodges in each human heart e. To identify with humanity of the very ones whose life style we must understand f. To recognize that God holds His servants responsible for warning wicked men g. To understand that momentary tragedy are not ultimate purpose for our lives h. To experience a living relationship with Jesus Christ – the new covenant founded in His blood i. To depend upon God daily – being confident that His kingdom suffice both now and forever
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel taken into captivity 605 BC 2. Ezekiel taken into captivity 597 BC 3. Ezekiel becomes a prophet 593 BC 4. Judah falls and Jerusalem destroyed 586 BC 5. Ezekiel’s ministry ends 571 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Son on Man</p>

Old Testament Book Daniel

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give a historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity 2. To show how God is in control of Heaven and earth directing forces of nature 3. That God is in control of the destiny of the nations and His people 								
Author	Daniel (see 12:4)								
Recipient	Captives in Babylon and God's people everywhere								
Date	Daniel taken Captive to Babylon in 605 BC: Medes and Persians overran Babylon in 539 BC: Daniel was still ministering in Cyrus' 3 year (536 -10:1) and was written by at least the 9th year of Cyrus' reign.								
Key People	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Daniel</td> <td style="width: 50%;">5. Abed-Nego</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Nebuchadnezzar</td> <td>6. Belshazzar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Shadrach</td> <td>7. Darius</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Meshach</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1. Daniel	5. Abed-Nego	2. Nebuchadnezzar	6. Belshazzar	3. Shadrach	7. Darius	4. Meshach	
1. Daniel	5. Abed-Nego								
2. Nebuchadnezzar	6. Belshazzar								
3. Shadrach	7. Darius								
4. Meshach									
Major Focus	Revealing God's prophetic plans for the Gentile nations and Israel's state during the Gentile domination.								
General Outline	<p>There are several ways for outlining the book.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divided into two great sections. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Historical - Narrative (1-6) b. Prophetic - Revelation (7-12) 2. Divided by the reign of kings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nebuchadnezzar (1-4) b. Belshazzar (5; 7-8) c. Darius (6 & 9) d. Cyrus 10-12) 3. Divided by the Prophetic plans <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The personal history of Daniel (1) b. The prophetic plans for the Gentiles (2-7) c. The prophetic plans for Israel (8-12) 								
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is in control 2. Purpose in Life 3. Perseverance 4. God's faithfulness 								

Old Testament Book Daniel

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does God exist 2. Daniel's style of communication 3. Writing styles of communicating 4. Stories that demonstrate proper behavior during perilous days 5. Symbols laden visions 6. The Empire of Daniels visions 7. What hope for the future 8. Theological statements 9. Kingdoms
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It a personal word of encouragement 2. Daniel's life is an example for us today 3. We should have constant faith 4. God call His people to lead His people 5. God does not call us to explain our circumstances He calls us to trust Him 6. We need to realize that God is alive and well
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Events which occurred 605 to about 535 BC.</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Smiting Stone</p>

Old Testament Book Hosea

Purpose	To illustrate God's love for His sinful people through the story of Hosea and his adulterous wife.
Author	Hosea (1:)
Recipient	The Northern Kingdom (5:1) Israel is often called Ephraim after the largest tribe. (5:3, 5, 1, 13)
Date	Circa 715 BC (see chart of kings)
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosea 2. Gomer 3. Jezreel 4. Lo-Rumamah 5. Lo-Ammi
Major Focus	The Loyal love of God for Israel
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Adulterous Wife and the Faithful Husband (1:1-3:5) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The call of Hosea (1:1) B. Hosea's Marriage to Gomer (1:2-2:1) C. The applying the adulterous relationship of Gomer (2:2-23) D. Gomer restored (3:1-5) II. The Adulterous Israel and the Faithful Lord (4:1-14:9) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Spiritual Adultery of Israel (4:1-6:3) B. The Refusal to Repent (6:4-8:14) C. God's Judgment on Israel (9:1-10:15) D. The Restoration of Israel (11:1-14:9)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nation's sin 2. God's judgment 3. God's love 4. Restoration

Old Testament Book Hosea cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does God continue to put up with a rebellious people 2. Unfaithfulness was Israel's besetting sin 3. Baal worship 4. Spiritual adultery 5. Hosea question and ministry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophetic ministry b. Illustrate with marriage c. Doom 5. Doctrinal foundation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Love of God b. Strong warnings c. Promise of forgiveness 6. Five conclusions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God's love prompts Him to enter into a covenant relationship with His people b. God's love for His people is consistent in spite of their unfaithfulness c. God's love leads Him to discipline and to judge His unfaithful people d. God's love causes Him to expect them to love Him e. Genuine repentance on the part of God's people result in divine forgiveness, love and blessing 7. Relationship of God with His people is based on love 8. Names of children 9. What God desired form His people
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The word is relevant to the successful church today 2. Some of the lame lures are present in our day 3. The repentant sinner needs to know that God is faithful to forgive, love, and that blessings are available to him 4. The church needs to know: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God's judgment comes upon His people when they turn away from Him and turn to worldly pagan gods and devote themselves to material prosperity b. God disciplines His people to turn them from false gods c. God's loves His people even when they turn to other gods d. God has a way of calling His people to account for their infidelity e. God ministers are not exempt f. Land, offering and elaborate works are not acceptable substitutes for loyal love g. When God's people repent they can expect God to forgive them and to love them and bless them
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Circa 715 BC Writing of events taken place earlier 753-715 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>Restorer</p>

Old Testament Book Joel

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. To warn Judah of God impending Judgment because of their sin II. To urge them to turn back to God
Author	Joel (1:1)
Recipient	The Southern Kingdom
Date	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date is unknown. There are no explicit time references to pinpoint a date of writing. Joel does write of events as they happened. 2. 825 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joel 2. The people of the Southern Kingdom.
Major Focus	The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Warnings (1) II. The Promise (2) III. The Future (3)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Punishment 2. Forgiveness 3. Promise of Holy Spirit
Theological Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devastation of the land 2. Call of Joel <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To interpret the events that were happening b. To show them a course of action c. He know the problem was a theological matter 3. Results of repentance 4. Future prophesies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Blessing b. Punishment 5. Restoration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not automatic b. Repentance from the heart c. Public testimony 6. The Day of the Lord

Old Testament Book Joel cont.

How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Few of life's tragedies are the direct judgment of God2. It is universal to think that all tragedies are a result of personal sin3. But we should stop to do some self-examination – perhaps sin needs to be confessed and removed4. Members of the body of Christ are the benefactors of God's out poured spirit5. The Spirit indwell us6. Joel reminds us the ongoing need for confession
Timeline	Joel wrote of events as they happened Circa 835-796 BC
How Christ is portrayed	Restorer

Old Testament Book Amos

Purpose	To pronounce God's judgment upon Israel – the northern kingdom
Author	Amos (1:1) (see 7:14)
Recipient	The Northern Kingdom
Date	Circa 755 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amos 2. Uzziah 3. Jeroboam II
Major Focus	Judgment and Hope
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Introduction (1:1-2) II. The Judgment of the surrounding Nations (1:3-2:5) III. The Judgment of Israel (2:6-16) IV. Israel's sin identified through three sermons (3:1-6:14) V. The Five Visions of Judgments (7:1-9:10) VI. The Five Promises of Restoration of Israel (9:11-15)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Everyone answers to God II. Complacency III. Oppressing the poor IV. Superficial religion
Theological Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Amos' call <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Saw himself as a spokesman for God B. Not professional or religious leader C. Sought to call the people to a proper relationship to God leading to a proper relationship with fellow humans D. To call them to righteousness which would reflex a right relationship to God E. Failure to respond properly would result in the judgment of God II. Amos' ministry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Set at the end of the 1st half of the 8th century B. During the reign of Jeroboam the 2nd C. He was the first of the great 8th century prophets D. Amos set before the people several thesis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Popular belief of the day 2. Greed 3. Oppression of the poor 4. Practical righteousness 5. Rebellion will be judged

Old Testament Book Amos cont.

<p>How it applies today</p>	<p>I. God was and is concerned with life as it is and as He intended it to be</p> <p>II. Basic items to the concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Greed to the things of the world can destroy our thinking and our living B. Beliefs are to be measured against God’s Word and not against popular teaching of the day C. Practical righteousness in our dealing with others D. God sometimes use natural calamities to bring His people to repentance
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Written during the reign of Jeroboam 2nd and Uzziah 760-750 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Heavenly Husbandman</p>

Old Testament Book Obadiah

Purpose	That God judges those that has harmed His people
Author	Obadiah
Recipient	The Southern Kingdom
Date	<p>It is hard to date Obadiah because no kings are mentioned. The only possible reference that provides a historical clue is found in verses 10-14 concerning an invasion of Jerusalem. There were 4 such invasions so it is not clear as to which one Obadiah is referring.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 926 BC Shishak of Egypt plundered the temple during the reign of Rehoboam 2. 848-841 BC Philistine invaded Judah during the reign of Jehoram 3. 790 BC King Jehoash of Israel invaded Judah 4. 586 BC King Nebuchadnezzar defeated and destroyed Jerusalem
Key People	Edomites
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Doom of Edom 2. The Deliverance of Israel
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Judgment of Edom (1-16) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Predictions of Judgment (1-9) 2. The Reasons for the Judgment (10-14) 3. The Results of the Judgment (15-16) II. The Restoration of Israel (17-21) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They will repossess their Land (17-20) They will rule over their Land (21)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Justice 2. Pride

Old Testament Book Obadiah cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A future for a defeated people <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foreign land b. Betrayed by Him 2. Israel's options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fall into a deeper state of despair – exile b. Forget God c. Cling to the hatred of the Edomites d. Wait for God to restore His people and Judge them 3. Obadiah's prophecy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restoration b. Judgment to Edomites 4. Two major theological points <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Justice of God b. Grace of God <p style="text-align: center;">Doctrinal conclusions</p>
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proclamation of Obadiah applies to the people of God wherever they find themselves defeated 2. Gives us hope for the future 3. It show us God's involvement in life 4. Good news that God meets His people at the point of greatest need 5. Obadiah calls us <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To believe the Word of God b. To live in the light of God's faithfulness c. To renew our vision of God's justice d. To aid in the liberation of the oppressed people
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Obadiah wrote 853 – 851 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>As Our Saviour</p>

Old Testament Book Jonah

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To show the extent of God's grace 2. The message of salvation is for all people
Author	Jonah
Recipient	Although written concerning a Gentile nation it was written to the people of the Northern Kingdom
Date	<p>The repentance of Nineveh probably occurred during the reign of Ashurdan III (773 - 755 BC). Two plagues in 765 BC & 759 BC along with a solar eclipse in 763 BC may have prepared the people of Nineveh for Jonah's message of judgment.</p> <p>Time of the events 765-759 BC</p>
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonah 2. The Captain of the Ship 3. The King of Nineveh 4. The People of Nineveh
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Patience and Pardon 2. Jonah's Preaching and Pouting
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. God's Patience with Jonah (1:1-17) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Jonah's disobedience (1:1-3) B. Jonah's indifference (1:4-10) C. Jonah's impenitence (1:11-17) II. God's Mercy Toward Jonah (2:1-10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. God hears Jonah's prayer (2:1-2) B. God disciplines Jonah (2:3) C. God honors Jonah's faith (2:4-7) D. God accepts Jonah's confession (2:8-9) E. God restores Jonah's ministry (2:10) III. God's Power Demonstrated through Jonah (3:1-10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. the Gracious Lord (3:1-2) B. The Obedient servant (3:3-4) C. The repentant people (3:5-9) D. The postponed judgment (3:10) IV. God's Ministry to Jonah (4:1-11) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. God hears (4:5-8) B. God teaches JonJonah (4:1-4) C. God comforts Jonah ah (4:9-11)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. God's sovereignty II. God's message to all the world III. Repentance IV. God's compassion

Old Testament Book Jonah cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonah had found a group of people he hated 2. Jews return from Babylon – they felt that their life style was not consistent with God’s love for all people 3. God’s redemptive program is for all people 4. Two major choices <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remain bitter in their hatred and self-pity b. They could join God’s mission and seek the conversion of all people 5. Outline of Jonah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reaffirms the doctrine of Israel b. Underscores the basic thesis of prophecy c. God’s love is not confined to one people d. Missionary emphasis e. God’s love is never to just one nation
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We learn the nature of God and His love 2. The message needed more today than ever before 3. Prejudices 4. All people to repentances 5. Missionary endeavor 6. Five lessons from the book of Jonah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sin offends God’s holiness and must be dealt with b. When God calls we have no option but to obey c. God’s redeeming Grace is for all people no matter who they are or where they are d. God will accomplish His purpose – with us if He can or without us if He must e. Even with the fiercest message of condemnation repentance cannot revert the treat of judgment
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Written Circa 785-760 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>As Our Resurrection and Life</p>

Old Testament Book Micah

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To warn God's people judgment is coming 2. To offer pardon to all who repent
Author	Micah
Recipient	Both Northern and Southern Kingdoms
Date	During the last half of the 8th century - Circa 750 - 715 BC
Key People	The people of Samaria and Jerusalem
Major Focus	God judges sin and calls for justice
General Outline	<p>Micah is divided basically into three messages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. A Warning Message: Judgment is Coming (1:1-2:13) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Judge appears (1:1-5) B. The Nations are Judged (1:6-16) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samaria Judged (1:6-9) 2. Judah Judged (1:10-16) C. Reasons for the Judgment (2:1-11) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Because of Covetousness (2:1-5) 2. Because of false prophets (2:6-11) D. Hope for the remnant (2:12-13) II. A Promise Message: A Deliverer is Coming (3:1-5:15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Messsins of the leaders (3:1-12) B. The future of the nations (4:1-13) C. The coming iah (5:1-5) D. The defeat of the enemy (5:6-15) III. A Challenge Message: Trust the Lord Now (6:1-7:20) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Trust in spite of the indictment (6:1-8) B. Trust in spite of the sentence (6:9-7:6) C. Trust because of the Lord's mercies (7:7-20)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perverting faith 2. Oppression 3. The Messiah 4. Pleasing God

Old Testament Book Micah cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Micah's ministry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Time of peace and prosperity b. Development of social and political life c. Began to adopt the life style of pagan nations d. Oppression of the poor e. Over crowding 2. Canaanite worship <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Most deprived form of religious worship b. Worship Baal c. 4 festivals a year d. Baal and true God worshipped side by side in Jerusalem 3. Micah the person <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Little is known of the man b. Farmer c. Strong supporter of the Sinai covenant 4. Futility of God Covenant 5. The basis of forgiveness 6. God's requirements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Act with justice toward all b. Mercy must be a recognizable part of mental spiritual attitude c. The people must repent of their rebellion and do God's will. 7. God's judgment of His people <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The religious leaders of God's people bare responsibility to help God's people to remember <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. What God has done to redeem them ii. Teach them iii. Or face God's covenant curse b. Political leader have no right to exploit people for face destruction c. Dedication of social and spiritual evil means any hope of salvation must be preceded by a period of punishment for sin 8. God's promises for His people according to Micah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When God's people are unwilling to repent of their disobedience God has no alternative but for punishment b. The Coming Messiah <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Salvation and hope are God's major themes ii) The Birth place predicted. 9. Hope
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Micah's day is much like ours today 2. The moral condition of that day very much being flaunted today 3. Secularism and humanism and pagan oriental religion 4. Lessons for the church <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Life under Biblical covenant is distinctive b. God guarantees provision for our needs c. Life should be lived in submission to the known revealed will of God and must be holy and God is holy d. Privileges of the covenant life are matched by obligations 5. The believer must maintain distinctive faith that rest on the inspiration and authority of God's Word.
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Written Circa 742 – 687 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>As a Witness against Rebellious Nations</p>

Old Testament Book Nahum

Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To pronounce God's judgment on Assyria and to comfort Judah. 2. The prophet teaches that divine judgment of the wicked is certain
Author	Nahum
Recipient	The people of Nineveh and Judah
Date	Circa 664 BC (note 3:8-10 refers to the fall of Thebes 664 BC)
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The people of Nineveh
Major Focus	The vengeance of God on His enemies.
General Outline	<p>Nahum predicts and describes the fall of Nineveh</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Prediction of the Fall of Nineveh (1:1-15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The reason <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect Judah (1:1-2, 7, 13, 15) 2. To punish Nineveh (1:9-12, 14) B. The Power (1:3-6) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Power seen as a raging storm (1:3-5) 2. God's Power seen as a consuming fire (1:6) II. The Description of the Fall of Nineveh (2:1-13) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Medes and Babylonian armies united to attack Nineveh (2:1-4) B. The City Falls (2:5-10) C. The Victors taunt their captives (2:11-13) III. The Reasons Nineveh would fall. (3:1-19) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Because of Nineveh's terrible bloodshed (3:1-3) B. Because of Nineveh's Idolatry (3:4-7) C. Because of Nineveh's Pride and self confidence (3:8-19)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. God Judges - Judges the City of Nineveh <p>So complete was the destruction that when Alexander the Great fought the battle of Arbela nearby in 331 BC he did not know there had ever been a city there. So complete that all traces of the Assyrian Empire disappeared. It wasn't until 1820 that the ruins with thousands of inscriptions were unearthed giving us details of Assyria.</p> II. God Rules - all the earth, even those that know Him not

Old Testament Book Nahum cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The people of Israel had suffered many years under the Assyrian 2. The Assyrians <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Known for their power b. Known for their cruelty c. Pride of complete devastation of their enemies d. Practice idolatry 3. Decisions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sink into even more despair b. Join the Assyrians c. Compromise with Assyrian gods d. Harbor hatred e. Remain true to God 4. Fall of Thebes 5. Nahum the evangelist 6. Four major themes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The sovereignty of God b. The Justice of God c. The Grace of God d. Hope for God's people
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the face of oppression we must remember that God is sovereign 2. Causes us to recognize evil in the world 3. To renew our hope in God 4. To depend upon the Word of God 5. Hope and substance for living
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Nahum prophecy Circa 663 -654 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>A Stronghold in the Day of Trouble</p>

Old Testament Book Habakkuk

Purpose	That God is still in control of the world despite the apparent triumph of evil.
Author	Habakkuk (to wrestle)
Recipient	Primarily to the Southern kingdom and to God's people everywhere
Date	Circa 609 - 597 BC Written in the early part of Jehoiakim's reign
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habakkuk 2. The Chaldeans
Major Focus	<p>That the just shall live by faith. (This phrase is used 3 times in NT.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Romans 1:17 the emphasis is on the just. 2. Galatians 3:11 the emphasis is on how they should live. 3. Hebrews 10:38 the emphasis is on faith.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Problems of Habakkuk (1:1-2:20) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The First Problem (1:1-4) B. God's First Reply (1:5-11) C. The Second Problem (1:12-2:1) D. God's Second Reply (2:2-20) II. The Praise of Habakkuk (3:1-19)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Habakkuk prays for God's mercy (3:1-2) B. Habakkuk Remembers God's mercy (3:3-15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Glory of the Person of God (3:3-4) 2. The Power of the Saving Acts of God (3:5-15) C. Habakkuk Trusts in God's Salvation (3:16-19)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Struggle and doubt 2. God's sovereignty 3. Hope

Old Testament Book Habakkuk cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age old question – why do the righteous suffer and the wick prosper 2. Dialogue <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophet complains b. Prophet complains again c. Honest questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How could God use a wicked instrument to execute His purpose 2) Could the divine purpose be justified 3) Why do the wicked triumph and the righteous suffer 3. Suffering 4. The righteous <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Will live in faith b. Trustworthy c. Faithful d. Will live prosper – successful lives
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevant because injustice and violence plaque Christians 2. Why does God seem to be inactive in time of trouble 3. That we should live by faith 4. Trust God and wait
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habakkuk becomes a prophet Circa 612 BC 2. King Josiah dies 609 BC 3. Daniel taken captive 605 BC 4. Ezekiel Taken captive 597 BC 5. Habakkuk ministry ends 589 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The God of My Salvation</p>

Old Testament Book Zephaniah

Purpose	To shake the people of Judah out of their complaisance and urge them to return to God
Author	Zephaniah
Recipient	Judah (Southern Kingdom) and all nations
Date	Because of the reforms under the last righteous king of Judah, Josiah, the best date for the writing of the book is circa 635—625 BC
Key People	The people of Judah
Major Focus	The Day of the Lord
General Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Judgment in the Day of the Lord (1:1-3:8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Judgment on the Whole Earth (1:1-3) B. The Judgment on the Nation of Judah (1:4-2:3) C. The Judgment on the Nations around Judah (2:4-15) D. The Judgment on the City of Jerusalem (3:1-7) E. The Judgment of the Whole Earth (3:8) II. The Salvation in the Day of the Lord (3:9-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Promise of Conversion (3:9-13) B. The Promise of Restoration (3:14-20)
Theological themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Day of Judgment 2. Indifference to God 3. The Day of Cheer
Theological Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction – how much wickedness will God tolerate before he brings judgment 2. Background 3. Assyrian judgment comes 4. The Day of the Lord 5. Zephaniah prophetic ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During the reign of Josiah b. Name - the Lord Hides c. Three major doctrines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. God is sovereign over all nations ii. The wicked will be punished and the righteous will be vindicated on the day of judgment iii. God blesses those who repent and trust Him 6. Characteristic of the Day of the Lord

Old Testament Book Zephaniah cont.

How it applies today	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Two major emphasis<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. God is offended by moral and religious sins of His peopleb. God's people will not escape punishment when they sin willfully2. Punishment may be painful but may be redemptive3. We are free to sin but not to escape the punishment
Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Zephaniah become a prophet 640 BC2. Josiah becomes king 640 BC3. Jeremiah become prophet 627 BC4. Book of law found in temple 622 BC5. Zephaniah ministry ends 621 BC
How Christ is portrayed	The Jealous Lord

Old Testament Book Haggai

Purpose	To call the people to complete the rebuilding of the temple
Author	Haggai
Recipient	The people living in Jerusalem and people returning from
Date	Book written 520 BC
Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haggai 2. Zerubbabel 3. Joshua (The son of Jehozadak)
Major Focus	Reconstruction of the Temple
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Completion of the Latter Temple (1:1-15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Temple is not complete (1:1-6) B. The Temple Must be completed (1:7-15) II. The Glory of the Latter Temple (2:1-9) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Latter Temple is Not as glorious as the First (2:1-3) B. The Latter Temple will be more glorious than the first (2:4-9) III. The Present Blessings of Obedience (2:10-19) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Disobedience of the Remnant (2:10-14) B. The Obedience of the Remnant (2:15-19) IV. The Future Blessings through Promise (2:20-23) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Future Destruction of the Nations (2:20-22) B. The Future Recognition of Zerubbabel (2:23)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right priorities 2. God's encouragement

Old Testament Book Haggai cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God sought to warm them to heed His Word 2. Jews return <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Worship Him b. Rebuild temple c. Oppression d. Personal needs 3. Choices <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give up old theological priorities and compromise b. Give up the idea of rebuilding the temple until later c. Continue to improve their own lot d. Renew their commitment to God and finish the temple 4. Haggai's ministry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Challenge the people concerning their priorities b. Call them to reverence and glorify God c. To rebuild the temple in spite of the opposition d. Urge them to turn from sinful ways and trust God's power e. The promise of God's presence 5. Set new priorities 6. Three basic doctrines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God is in control of all the nations of the earth b. God can remove all political opposition to His work c. The people of God need to reject the defeatist attitude and act on the basis of God's promises d. God will bless those that strive purity and priority to His desire 7. Discouragement 8. Exhortation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re-consider their priorities b. Overcome their defeatist attitude c. To do God's work d. Put God first e. To live holy lives f. Step out in faith
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It draws out attention to common problems we face 2. To examine our priorities 3. To reject defeatist attitude 4. We have the assurance that God is with us always 5. That God is in control of our circumstances 6. To rest assured in God's hands – knowing that He will abundantly bless us if we faithfully serve Him
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyrus decree Circa 583 BC 2. Exiles return 537 BC 3. Temple construction begins 536 BC 4. Temple work halted 530 BC 5. Temple work resumed after Haggai and Zechariah become prophets 520 BC 6. Temple completed 516 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Desire of All Nations</p>

Old Testament Book Zechariah

Purpose	To give hope to God's people by revealing God's future deliverance through the Messiah
Author	Zechariah (Yahweh Remembers)
Recipient	Remnant that returned to rebuild the Temple
Date	Circa 480—470 BC (a reference to Greece 9:13)
Key People	1. Zerubbabel 2. Joshua
Major Focus	To portray God's future plans for His people. He does this through 1. Eight Visions 2. Four Messages 3. Two Burdens
General Outline	<p>I. The call to Repentance (1:1-6)</p> <p>II, The Eight Visions of Zechariah (1:7-6:8)</p> <p>A. The Horse among the myrtle trees (1:7-17)</p> <p>B. The Four Horns and Four Craftsman (1:18-21)</p> <p>C. The Man with the Measuring Line (2:1-13)</p> <p>D. The Cleansing of Joshua, the High Priest (3:1-10)</p> <p>E. The Golden Lampstand and Olive Trees (4:1-14)</p> <p>F. The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)</p> <p>G. The Woman in the Basket (5:5-11)</p> <p>H. The Four Chariots (6:1-8)</p> <p>III. The Crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)</p> <p>IV. The Question of Fasting (7:1-3)</p> <p>V. The Four Messages of Zechariah (7:4-8:23)</p> <p>A. Rebuke of Hypocrisy (7:4-7)</p> <p>B. Repent of Disobedience (7:8-14)</p> <p>C. Restoration of Israel (8:1-7)</p> <p>D. Rejoice in Israel's Future (8:18-23)</p> <p>VI. The Two Burdens of Zechariah (9:1-14:21)</p> <p>A. The First Burden: The Rejection of the Messiah (9:1-11:17)</p> <p>1. Judgment on surrounding nations (9:1-8)</p> <p>2. Coming of the Messiah (9:9-10:12)</p> <p>3. Rejection of Messiah (11:1-17)</p> <p>B. The Second Burden: The Reign of the Messiah (12:1-14:21)</p> <p>1. The Deliverance of Israel (12:1-13:9)</p> <p>2. The Reign of the Messiah (14:1-21)</p>
Theological themes	1. God's Jealousy 2. Rebuild the temple 3. The King is coming 4. God's protection

Old Testament Book Zechariah cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why had God punished His people by sending leaders into exile b. Why had the people not prospered after returning c. What did God have in mind for His people in the future d. What did they need to do to reap future blessings 2. Problems encountered upon returning <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Little or no finances b. Land dispute c. No leaders 3. Faced with decisions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rebel against the empire b. Give up c. Put themselves before God d. Trust God and follow His plans 4. Zechariah’s challenges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rebuild the Temple under Zerubbabel b. Re-establish a purified priesthood under Joshua c. Cast off foreign influence on their religious life d. Live proper moral lives 5. Zechariah’s ministry 6. Zechariah’s teaching <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophets bring God’s revelation b. God expects morality and not sin c. Salvation is for all d. God is sovereign
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zechariah’s message is just as important today as then – but only when read and obeyed 2. God expects moral and sincere worship 3. Sincere worship and good deeds will result in proper living and worship will bring God’s blessing 4. Financial wellbeing is not an indication of God’s blessing
<p>Timeline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapters 1-8 written Circa 520-518 BC 2. Chapters 9-14 written 480 BC
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>The Righteous Branch</p>

Old Testament Book Malachi

Purpose	To confront the people with their sin and to restore their relationship to God
Author	Malachi (My Messenger)
Recipient	The Remnant of Israel in Jerusalem.
Date	Written Circa 430 BC (Most likely during the Persian domination of Israel)
Key People	Malachi
Major Focus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Israel's privileged status and transgressions and God's future promises. 2. Malachi refers to two key prophets: John the Baptist & Elijah.
General Outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Privilege of the Nation (1:1-5) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. God's devotion to Jacob's descendants (1:1-2; 5) B. God's destruction of Esau's descendants (1:3-4) II. Pollution of the Nation (1:6-3:15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The sins of the Priest (1:6-29) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their rebellion (1:6-14; 2:7-9) 2. Their rebuke ((2:1-3) 3. Their role model (2:4-6) B. The sins of the people (2:10-17; 3:5-17) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their iniquities (2:10-17; 3:5, 8-15) 2. God's invitation (3:6-7) III. Prophets of the Nation foretold (3:1a, 4:5-6) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. John the Baptist (3:1a) Introduces Christ at His first Coming B. Elijah (4:5-6) (Will introduce Christ at His second Coming) IV. Promises to the nation (3:1b-4, 16-18; 4:1-4) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Christ's coming (3:6, 16; 4:1-4) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The place (3:1b) 2. The particulars (3:16; 4:1-4) B. Israel's cleaning (3:2-4, 17-18) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refined as silver and gold (3:2-4) 2. Regarded as a treasure (3:17-18)
Theological themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's love 2. Sins of the priest 3. Sins of the people 4. The Lord's coming

Old Testament Book Malachi cont.

<p>Theological Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desire to rebuild the Temple – renewed their faith in God 2. Neglect of the teaching <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inter-marriage b. Reverence of God c. Did not honor God with proper sacrifices d. Questioned God’s love e. Does it pay to serve God 3. Several options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to disrespect God with improper sacrifices b. Refuse to tithe c. Continue divorcing wives to marry foreigners d. Turn from evil ways and become strict observers of the Mosaic Law e. Form an alternative community to prepare way the messenger of the Lord to come to the temple to judge the wicked and bring the Kingdom of God f. They could confess their sins and revitalize their stewardship of life for God 4. Malachi’s unique style of teaching – questions and answers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sought to challenge the people concerning their lack of honor and respect to God when they worshipped at the temple b. Rebuke the priest for not fearing God and instructing the people in God’s way c. To plead with the people to confess their sins and return to God so that God could bless them d. To assure the righteous and wicked that God is a God of Justice who will one day come and judge the wicked and spare those
<p>How it applies today</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malachi touches on issues that face the church today 2. To take a careful look of our concepts of God and evaluate if we truly reverence Him as King in our lives 3. To honor God with the best that we have in worship and in giving our tithes 4. To confess where we have failed to magnify His name 5. To be assured that God see when we honor and serve Him and will richly bless us
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Written Circa 430 BC</p>
<p>How Christ is portrayed</p>	<p>Sun if Righteousness</p>