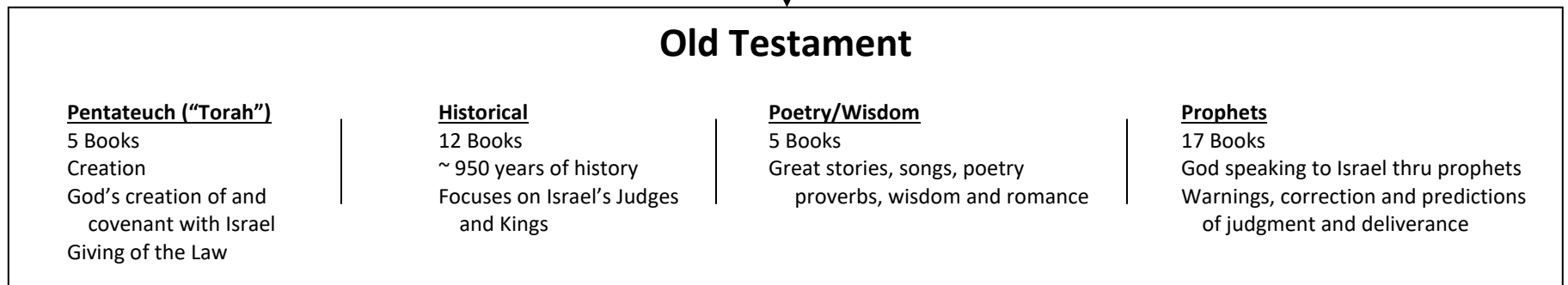
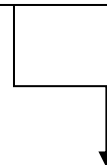
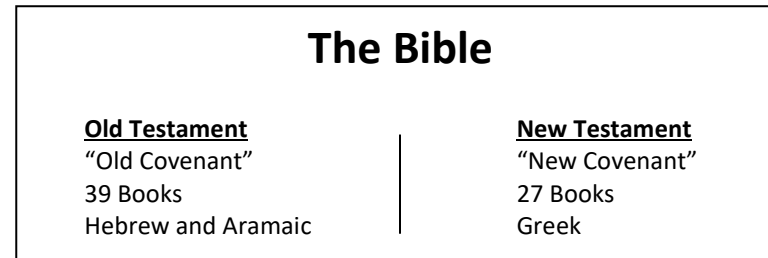


Core Belief

“The Bible is God’s perfect (complete) Word to all peoples at all times”

_____ and _____



Pentateuch

(“Torah” in Hebrew)

Books – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Notes

Timing – written between 1450 - 1406 BC (attributed to Moses as its author/creator)

Major Stories, Characters, Events and Themes

- **Creation** – The eternal God speaks the universe into existence over a six day period and rests on the 7th day; the first man (Adam) and woman (Eve) are created uniquely in the “image” of God (emotionally, mentally, spiritually, etc.)
- **The Fall** – Eve and Adam disobey one of God’s commands; their sin causes them to lose their innocence and interrupts their fellowship with God; God removes them from the Garden of Eden and places them under a curse; as a result of “the Fall”, all mankind inherits a fallen, sinful nature (“original sin”, see Romans 5.12-21)
- **Noah and the Flood** – several generations after Adam, humanity’s sinfulness caused God to judge the whole world through a global flood (Genesis 6); only Noah and his extended family are saved; God uses them to repopulate the earth and “start over”; the Ark becomes a picture of salvation in Christ
- **Abraham** – God initiates an eternal covenant, a relational agreement, with Abraham and His descendants (Genesis 12); the foundation of Abraham’s relationship with God (and ours!) was his faith, not works (Genesis 15.6); Abraham, his son Isaac, and Isaac’s son Jacob (“Israel”) are considered the Patriarchs of the nation of Israel (Jacob’s 12 sons become the founders of the 12 tribes of Israel); Abraham is regarded as the forefather of Christ and His lineage (Matthew 1.1)
- **Moses** – Jewish boy born, raised and educated in Egypt; God called him to lead the Jewish nation out of Egyptian captivity (“The Exodus”); lead them across the Red Sea and in the desert for 40 years; God revealed Himself to Moses on Mt. Sinai where He gave Moses the 10 Commandments; historically considered the author of the Pentateuch
- **The Law** – The core of the Law is found in the 10 Commandments but includes over 600 commands; topics include legal, moral, spiritual, social, cultural, dietary, relational, financial, hygienic, and worship issues including specifications for the Tabernacle; revealed God’s holiness and expectations of us. The Westminster Confession of Faith divides OT law into 3 categories: moral, civil, and ceremonial. While all laws reveal something about God, only moral laws still apply to us today.
- **The Shemah** – Huge, huge, huge passage to the Jewish people ... *“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”* – Deuteronomy 6.4 ... defines Judaism (and eventually Christianity) as a monotheistic (one God) religion verses a polytheistic (multiple gods) religion

Historical

Notes

Books – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Timing – written between 1380 (Joshua) - 430 BC (1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah)

Major Stories, Characters, Events and Themes

- **The “Promised Land”** – God had repeatedly promised to make Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob into a great nation (Israel) and give them a large portion of land; after the death of Moses, God uses Joshua to lead the people as they began the conquest of the “Promised Land”
- **The Judges** – a diverse group of military and spiritual leaders that God used to lead, teach and deliver His people
- **David** – God’s chosen replacement for Saul, Israel’s first king; a “man after God’s own heart” yet he would experience a major spiritual failure in His affair with Bathsheba; healed and restored after repenting (Psalm 6, 32); God would use his 2nd child with Bathsheba (Solomon) to continue the bloodline of Christ; author of many of the Psalms
- **The Kings** – line of David continues with his son Solomon as king; Solomon is blessed by God with wealth and wisdom; he is chosen to build the first permanent temple; he writes several of the books in this section of the Old Testament; after Solomon, Israel would experience a mixture of both God-honoring and God-rebelling kings
- **The Division, Captivity and Exile of Israel** – as a result of their sinfulness and disobedience, God divides Israel up into the northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) and the southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes); the kingdoms go through periods of estrangement from God often leading to captivity by other nations; God’s frustration with them culminates in the 70 year exile into Babylon (605 BC); however, God never abandons His covenant with them; as the nation would repent God would relent and deliver His people; many of the “Prophets” were written during this period of time

Wisdom/Poetry

Books – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

Notes

Timing – written between 2000 (Job) -586 BC (Psalms)

Major Stories, Characters, Events and Themes

- **Job** – earliest book of the Bible recorded; one of the classic pieces of Jewish literature; the story of a righteous man that God allows to suffer at the hand of Satan; Job begins with unwavering faith and worship (“*The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord.*” – Job 1.21) but then goes through a period of questions and doubts, and eventually anger and resentment toward God; towards the end of the story, God reveals Himself to Job and Job is humbled; his faith is renewed and God eventually blesses him with more than he had (and lost) before. Check out www.jobthefilm.com for a compelling film on the life and story of Job.
- **Psalms** – great songs, poems, hymns and contemplations; emotions and content range from quiet and meditative to celebratory and worshipful to songs of depression and despair to cries of repentance and broken-heartedness; written over a span of 900 years of Jewish history
- **Proverbs** – sayings of the wise; focus on gaining wisdom and avoiding folly and foolishness; theological, philosophical, and very practical; topics include avoiding temptation, integrity, work ethic, financial management, relationships, conflict management, etc.; ends with a beautiful description of a virtuous woman; since there are 31 chapters, many people will read a chapter of Proverbs each day
- **Ecclesiastes** – the musings of King Solomon; reflections on his pursuit of pleasure and meaning in life; his final conclusion ... life’s pleasures are fleeting and meaningless, only the pursuit of God brings substance to life. This is a seemingly contradictory book that is only understood if it’s interpreted “under the sun”.
- **Song of Solomon** – the beautiful story of a young couple expressing their feelings, emotions and eventual sexual encounter as they progress from engagement to marriage (We recommend www.minglingofsouls.com).

Prophets

Books – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Notes

Timing – written between 835 (Joel) - 430 (Malachi) BC; most of the Prophets were written during the time of the Historical section

Major Stories, Characters, Events and Themes

- **Summary** – much of the writing in the Prophets are manuscripts of sermons and speeches that these men of God gave to the nation of Israel; Israel's tendency was to periodically ignore or rebel against God; God would send the prophets to warn them of coming judgment and consequences; when Israel would fail to respond to God's warnings, He would often allow them to be taken captive (and eventually exiled) by a neighboring nation; yet even in the midst of their suffering, God would offer hope, renewal, forgiveness and the promise of a coming Messiah
- **Famous stories** – Jonah and great fish; Daniel and the Lion's Den; the fiery furnace; Hosea (a prophet who God tells to marry a prostitute), etc.
- **Well-known passages** – Isaiah 6, Isaiah 53, Jeremiah 1.5, Jeremiah 29.11, Lamentations 3.22-24, Ezekiel 36-37, Malachi 3.8-10, etc.
- **Prophecies** – literally hundreds of prophecies that would be fulfilled both during the Old Testament and New Testament timeframes; prophecies include the fate of the nation of Israel, details of the coming Messiah
- **Silence** – After these Old Testament writings are complete, there is 400 years of "silence" where there is no record of God speaking to His people

Major Old Testament Themes

Notes

God's Choice of and Covenant with Israel – man's relationship with God is based on God's choice, initiation, and desire to create a covenant with man; this pattern began with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; it continued with the nation of Israel; this pattern is perpetuated in the New Testament through God's choice to include us in His people, the Church

God's Sovereignty – despite Israel's frequent rebellion and many foreign nation's aggression towards Israel, God demonstrates His power and sovereignty to continually move His people and His-story towards His intended purposes; *"Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one. "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God." But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them."* – Psalm 2.1-4

The Law – God's law not only revealed the God's holiness and His expectations of us but in establishing standards that were far beyond our reach ("Be holy, because I am holy", Leviticus 11.44) God also revealed our need for Christ for who became the great Lamb of God that was foreshadowed in the sacrifices the Law demanded

The Nature of Man and God – Man is influenced by his fallen nature and inherent tendencies to reject God and live according to his own desires; God's nature is one of both justice and mercy; because He is righteous, He has to punish sin; because He is love, He longs to show compassion to His people

Foreshadowing of Christ – so many of the great stories and concepts of the Old Testament were ultimately previews and pictures of Christ (the sacrifices of the Law, the Temple rituals, Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the whale, etc.). The New Testament reveals that the entire O.T. is one narrative of redemption after another culminating in the arrival of Christ.

Some Major Differences between the Old and New Testaments

Israel ... The Church – In the Old Testament, God is primarily creating, protecting, and promoting a physical people (Israel) that will honor Him and reveal Him to the nations of the earth. In the New Testament, there is a distinct shift to God creating, protecting, and promoting a spiritual people, called the "Church", from all the nations ("ethnos", ethnic groups)

The Law ... Grace – In the opening chapters of the Gospel of John, John summarizes key themes from the Old and New Testaments. He says, *"For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness (grace) came through Jesus Christ."* (John 1.17); in the Old Testament, through the Law, God reveals His perfect standards and thus our inability to live up to His expectations (falling short of those expectations is what the Bible calls "sin", Romans 3.23); in the New Testament, through Christ, God reveals His grace (undeserved favor) that allows Him to forgive our sin and include us in His spiritual covenant relationship

Question and Answers

Next Steps ...

Read it

- Commit to reading 1 Proverb and 1 Psalm a day
- Download the www.YouVersion.com Bible app and check out one of their daily reading plans

Check out the New Testament

- Mark your calendar for our New Testament overview class on Sunday, March 12 or Wednesday, March 15
- Read the book of Hebrews (explains many of the OT stories and concepts in light of Christ and the new covenant)

Additional Resources

Buy a Study Bible – We recommend the esvstudybible.org or the gospeltransformationbible.org. All of the above resources and more are contained in a comprehensive Study Bible like these.

Recommended websites –

- <http://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-Survey.html>
- <http://www.radical.net/resources-secret-church/secret-church-1-survey-of-the-old-testament>

Recommended Books

- *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament* by Lasor, Hubbard, & Bush
- *Jesus on Every Page: 10 Simple Ways to Seek and Find Christ in the Old Testament* by David Murray

Old Testament Timeline

Events

Creation

Books

