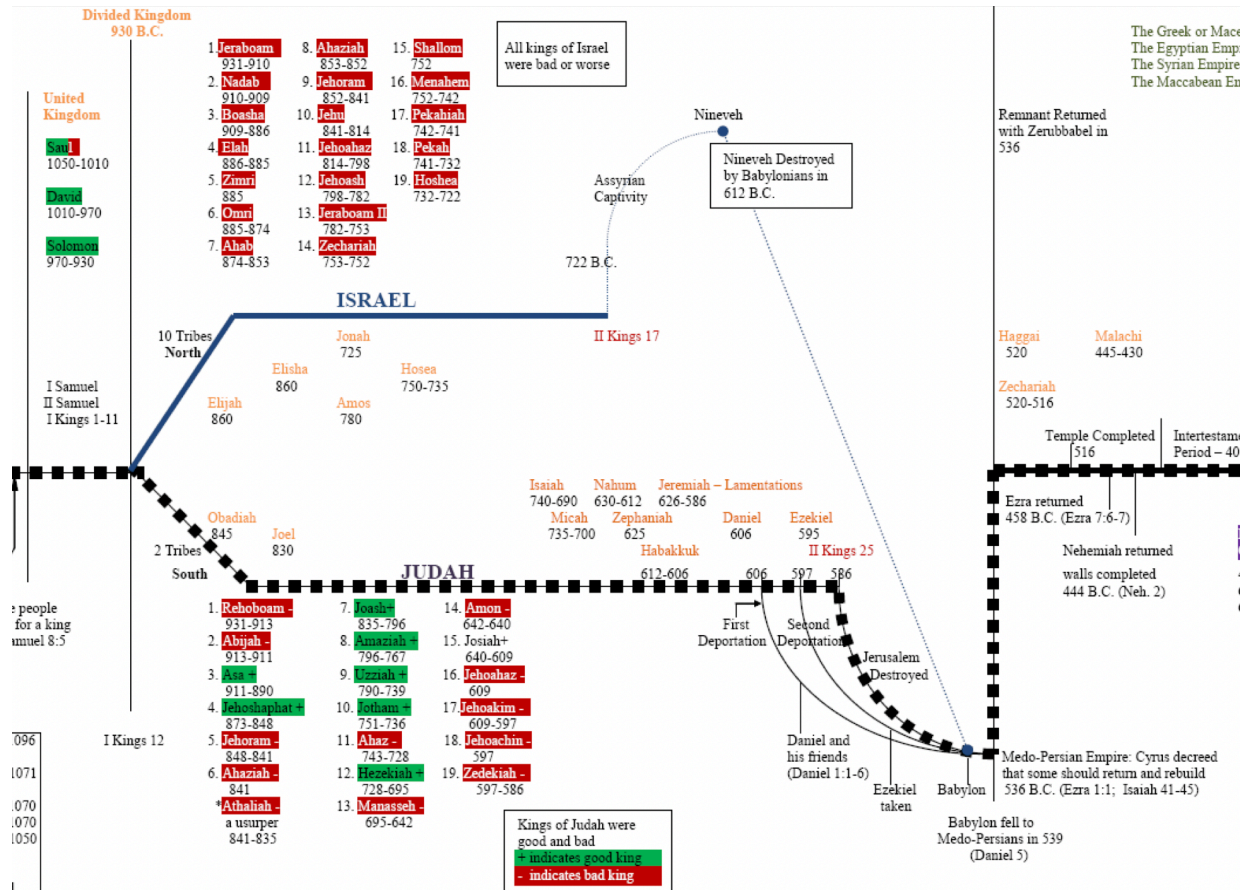


HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP



JOEL

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 2nd Minor Prophet • Written by Joel around 835 BC

- God is the God of **Locusts**
- Joel reflects on the "Day of the Lord" and how true **repentance** will bring about the great restoration hoped for in the other prophetic books.
- Summary >> Joel 2:28-29, 32 | "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit... And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
- Joel was God's spokesman during the reign of King Joash (835-796 B.C.).
- Joel tells the people that even though some disasters have struck, it is not too late to repent & avoid a greater disaster from God.

DANIEL

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 4th Major Prophet • Written by Daniel around 530 BC

- God is the God of **History**

- ▶ Daniel wrote his book around 530 BC, which was the ninth year of **King Cyrus**.
- ▶ The story of Daniel motivates **faithfulness** despite exile in Babylon. His visions offer hope that God will bring all nations under his rule.
- ▶ Summary >> Daniel 2:20-22 | Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.
- ▶ Daniel’s life and ministry span the entire **70** year period of Babylonian Captivity.
- ▶ At a minimum, Daniel would be at least **82** years old when the plot to throw him in the lion’s den occurred.

EZEKIEL

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 3rd Major Prophet • Written by Ezekiel on or before 565 BC

- ▶ God is the God of **Visions**
- ▶ Among the exiles in Babylon, Ezekiel shows that Israel deserved this judgment, and also that God’s justice creates **hope** for the future.
- ▶ Summary >> Ezekiel 36:24-27 | I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries & bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- ▶ Ezekiel means “strengthened by God”. He was **25** years old when he was exiled to Babylon & prophesied during the 70 year Babylonian captivity. He was 30 when he received his commission to be a prophet.
- ▶ In 572 BC, some **14** years after the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel returns in a vision to the fallen city where he is given specifications for the reconstruction of the Temple, of the city of Jerusalem, & of the land.

MALACHI

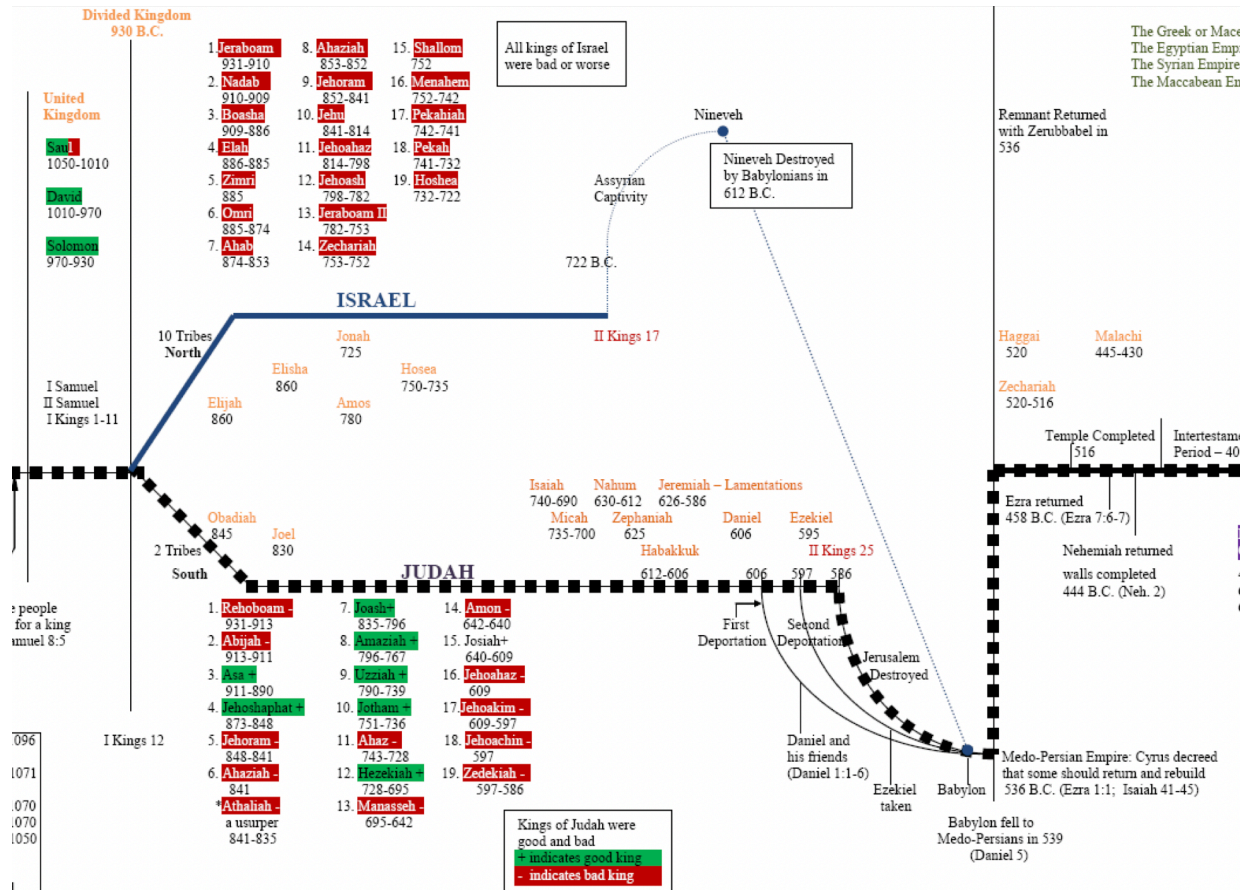
Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • Written by Malachi between 432-425 BC

- ▶ God is the God of **Worship**
- ▶ Malachi accuses Israel of **selfishness** after the exile and announces that the day of the Lord will purify Israel and prepare them for God's kingdom.
- ▶ Summary >> Malachi 3:1 | “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
- ▶ Malachi was a prophet during the time of Ezra & Nehemiah. His message is directed at corrupt **priests**, wicked practices, & the false sense of security regarding their relationship with God.
- ▶ While it is not mentioned specifically, Malachi 2:10-16 addresses a specific decree from **Ezra 10** declaring that the Israelite men should divorce their non-Israelite wives.
- ▶ The people in Malachi’s day had become so sinful that messengers sent from God had no **impact**. Therefore, the Book of Malachi is a prelude to the 400 years of prophetic silence broken finally by the words of the next prophet, John the Baptist (compare Malachi 3:1 to Matthew 3:3 & John 1:29).

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP



JOEL

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 2nd Minor Prophet • Written by Joel around 835 BC

- God is the God of _____
- Joel reflects on the "Day of the Lord" and how true _____ will bring about the great restoration hoped for in the other prophetic books.
- Summary >> Joel 2:28-29, 32 | "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit... And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
- Joel was God's spokesman during the reign of King Joash (835-796 B.C.).
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- God is the God of **History**

- ▶ Daniel wrote his book around 530 BC, which was the ninth year of _____.
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EZEKIEL

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- ▶ Among the exiles in Babylon, Ezekiel shows that Israel deserved this judgment, and also that God's justice creates _____ for the future.
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MALACHI

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- ▶ The people in Malachi's day had become so sinful that messengers sent from God had no _____. Therefore, the Book of Malachi is a prelude to the 400 years of prophetic silence broken finally by the words of the next prophet, John the Baptist (compare Malachi 3:1 to Matthew 3:3 & John 1:29).