

Session 1: Introduction to the Old Testament

Videos:

- [Tanak](#) (The Bible Project)

Readings from the ESV Study Bible:

- The Theology of the Old Testament
- Introduction to the Pentateuch

Handouts:

- [Tanak: The Old Testament](#) (The Bible Project)
- Old Testament Timeline: An Overview (ESV Study Bible)
- Biblical Divisions
- Israel Map overlaid on Mississippi
- History of Old Testament Translation

ANCIENT JEWISH TRADITION:



TaNaK - the

A PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY TH

- REFERRED TO IN:
- DEAD SEA SCROLLS (400BCE)
 - WISDOM OF SIRACH (175BCE)
 - JESUS OF NAZARETH (LURE 27:44)

WHO DID ALL THIS?



SCRIBES & PROPHETS

Guil
GOD'S
PS
75AM

TORAH

GENESIS 1-11 | **GENESIS 12-50**

GOD'S IMAGE = HUMAN (ADAM)
WISDOM TO DISCERN GOOD & EVIL

EXILED TO WILDERNESS → **VIOLENCE** (CAIN & ABEL)

OPPRESSION (LAMECH)

BLESSING (ABRAHAM & SARAH)

COVENANT PROMISE (GENESIS 15)

EXILE IN EGYPT

ABRAHAM TRUSTS GOD (GENESIS 12)

JACOB TRICKS ISAAC (GENESIS 27)

JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 37)

BABYLON EXALTS ITSELF TO THE PLACE OF GOD

ADAMAH, ISAAC & JACOB (GENESIS 3)

12 SONS

ABRAHAM BETRAYS SARAH (GENESIS 12)

THE PLOT:

- GOD WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD THROUGH HUMANS
- HUMANS ARE THE PROBLEM!
- SOLUTION: WE NEED A NEW KIND OF HUMAN

JOSHUA 1

JOSHUA SUCCEEDS BECAUSE: HE'S LIKE MOSES

HE MEDITATES ON THE TORAH

SOME LEADERS TH

YOUR PROMISES ARE TRUE, O GOD!

GOD IS WISDOM & GOOD.

DAVID & SOLOM (2 SAMUEL 7) (1 KINGS)

EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY

MOSES (HAY)

• PROPHET (MATTHEW 10:40)

• PRIEST (LEVITICUS 10:11)

• KING (MATTHEW 23:5)

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

613 LAWS TO BECOME NEW HUMANS

ISRAELITES (LEVITICUS 24)

DEUTERONOMY 27-32

• MOSES PREDICTS ISRAEL'S FAILURE & EXILE

• HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISE TO RESCUE ISRAEL

MOSES (MATTHEW 20)

DEUTERONOMY 30-32

I WISH SOMEONE LIKE MOSES WOULD COME ALONG.

FAIL!

LATTER PROPH

THE PROPHET'S JOB

- TO BE LIKE MOSES
- ACCUSATION & WARNING
- PROMISE = FUTURE HOPE

Old Testament

WHAT REVEALS GOD'S PURPOSE TO RESCUE THE WORLD

WRITTEN BY
SPIRIT
NUMS 14, 119;
A 51:21, DANIEL 9



THROUGH HUMAN WORDS
GOD SPEAKS
TO HIS PEOPLE



COMPLETED
AROUND
3rd or 2nd
CENTURY B.C.

LATER CHRISTIAN TRADITION



NEVI'IM

FORMER PROPHETS

JOSHUA, JUDGES, 1+2 SAMUEL, 1+2 KINGS

ISRAEL'S STORY TOLD FROM THE LATER PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROPHETS

PROPHETS

KINGS

PRIESTS

ADAPMELECH

EXILE IN BABYLON

JEROBOAM

MOSES
DAVID
SOLOMON

POINTERS TO A FUTURE KING

ISAIAH, JEREMIAH & EZEKIEL

HOSEA-MALACHI

NEW COVENANT

THE DAY OF THE LORD = EXILE IN BABYLON

NEW ISRAEL

OLD ISRAEL

HEY READERS! A NEW JESUS-ELIJAH IS COMING!

MALACHI 4:1-6

KETUVIM

including:

PSALMS

PSALM 1 THE RIGHTEOUS ONE

PSALM 2 THE PROMISED KING

SONS OF GOD (2 SAMUEL 7)

the Wisdom Scrolls:

CONVERSATION ABOUT LIVING WISELY IN GOD'S GOOD & CONFUSING WORLD

PROVERBS TRUST IN GOD = SUCCESS!

ECCLESIASTES TRIED THAT!

JOB IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

DANIEL

ISRAEL'S FAILURE AND SUFFERING

A NEW FUTURE FOR THE WORLD

CHRONICLES THE WHOLE TANAK, JUST SHORTER

2 CHRONICLES 36:20-23

WHO IS THERE AMONG YOU, OF ALL GODS PEOPLE, THAT THE LORD GOD IS WITH HIM, SO HE MAY GO UP...?

JEREMIAH 25, LAMENTATIONS 29:10, DANIEL 9, AND MORE!

Old Testament Timeline: An Overview*

From the ESV Study Bible

The following dates (all B.C.) are close approximations based on correlating dates between the Bible and other ancient Near Eastern sources (largely from Assyrian accession lists, Babylonian king-lists, or Egyptian historical sources). Often dates can be confirmed between the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires by narratives recording contacts between these two countries.

Patriarchs to Judges (c. 2166–1030)

| | 1446 Date for Exodus** | 1260 Date for Exodus** |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Abraham | 2166–1991 | 2000–1825 |
| Isaac | 2066–1886 | 1900–1720 |
| Jacob | 2006–1859 | 1840–1693 |
| Joseph | 1915–1805 | 1749–1639 |
| Moses' birth | 1526 | 1340 |
| Exodus | 1446 | 1260 |
| Desert wanderings | 1446–1406 | 1260–1220 |
| Entrance into Canaan | 1406 | 1220 |
| Period of the judges | 1375 to 1050–1030 | 1210 to 1050–1030 |

United Monarchy (c. 1050–931)

| | Dates | Notes |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Saul's reign | 1050–1030 to 1010 | Numerals relating to Saul's age and length of reign may be missing in the Hebrew text (see 1 Sam. 13:1)*** |
| David's reign | 1010–971 | |
| Solomon's reign | 971–931 | |

Divided Monarchy to Exile (931–586)

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Kingdom divided | 931 | See The Divided Kingdom: Kings of Judah and The Divided Kingdom: Kings of Israel |
| Syro-Ephraimite war | 740–732 | Pekah (Israel) and Rezin (Syria) pressure Jotham and Ahaz (Judah) to join their opposition to Tiglath-pileser III (Assyria) |
| Fall of Samaria (Israel) | 722 | Shalmaneser V (727–722) and Sargon II (722–705) of Assyria |
| Josiah's reforms | 628 | |
| Battle of Carchemish | 605 | Daniel and three friends exiled to Babylon |
| Jerusalem attacked | 597 | Nebuchadnezzar II takes exiles to Babylon including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel |
| Fall of Jerusalem (Judah) | 586 | Nebuchadnezzar II takes more exiles to Babylon |

Return from Exile (539–445)

| | | |
|--|-----|------------------------------|
| Fall of Babylon | 539 | Cyrus of Persia (539–530) |
| 1st return of exiles to Jerusalem | 538 | |
| Temple building begins | 536 | |
| Temple completed | 516 | Darius I (522–486) |
| Esther in palace of Xerxes | 478 | Xerxes I/Ahasuerus (485–464) |
| 2nd return of exiles to Jerusalem under Ezra | 458 | Artaxerxes I (464–423) |
| 3rd return of exiles to Jerusalem under Nehemiah | 445 | |

*See also [Historical Books Timeline](#); [The Divided Kingdom: Kings of Judah](#) and [The Divided Kingdom: Kings of Israel](#).

**See [The Date of the Exodus](#).

***Possible dates for the beginning of Saul's reign are calculated based on other data in the OT: e.g., David's age at accession and length of reign ([2 Sam. 5:4–5](#)); Ish-bosheth's age when he became king ([2 Sam. 2:10](#)); and Jonathan's probable age in relation to both Ish-bosheth and David, presuming that Jonathan was Saul's firstborn son ([1 Sam. 14:49](#); [31:2](#)) and was at least 20 when referred to as a commander of troops early in Saul's reign ([1 Sam. 13:2](#)).

See also [The Theology of the Old Testament](#)

Biblical Divisions

The English noun “Bible” derives from two Greek nouns, βίβλος and βιβλίον, translated “book.”

Testaments

-----Old Testament-----

39 *books* 59%
920 *chapters* 77.37%
23215 *verses* 74.47%

-----New Testament-----

27 *books* 41%
269 *chapters* 22.63%
7958 *verses* 25.53%

Therefore . . .

Quantity: OT > NT

Authority: OT = NT

Books: Canon

list, rule, standard

collection of biblical books that Christians accept as uniquely authoritative

√ collection of AUTHORITATIVE books
X AUTHORITATIVE collection of books

Old Testament

I. TORAH

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (5)

II. PROPHETS

A. FORMER

Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings (6)

B. LATTER

1. MAJOR

Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel (3)

2. MINOR

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi (12)

III. WRITINGS

Ruth, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Daniel (13)

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.’”
(Luke 24:44)

Chapters and Verses

Old Testament

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| 900 A.D. | VERSE | Masorettes |
| 1228 A.D. | CHAPTER | Stephen Langton |

New Testament

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| 1555 A.D. | VERSE | Stephanus |
| 1228 A.D. | CHAPTER | Stephen Langton |



How big is Israel?

This "map" of Israel overlaid on that of Mississippi will give you some idea of distances.



