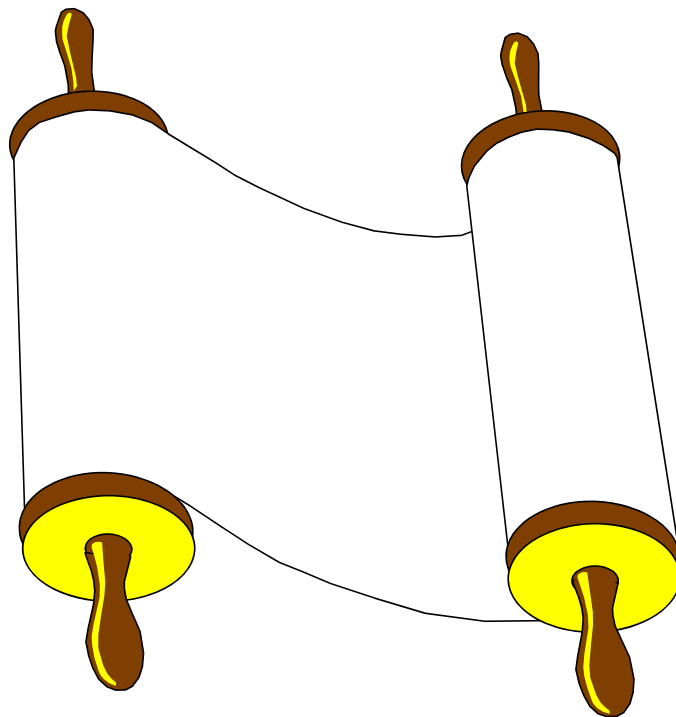


OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY



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OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

These outline notes of a survey of the Books of the Old Testament were those used in the instruction of Old Testament Survey I and Old Testament Survey II during the 1986-87 session of BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE conducted at Grace Free Will Baptist Church. Tapes of these studies are available if you desire further help.

These notes are a revision of many previous notes and are intended to give you a broad overview of the Old Testament. There are two basis ways of looking at the Bible- 1) The MICROSCOPE Method in which you look at every thing in great detail or 2) the TELESCOPE Method in which you simply pick up the major points [These notes use the Telescope Method]. This overview is intended to give you a broad comprehension of what the Old Testament is all about so that later you can go back and "Fill in the details".

One of the best ways to Survey the Old Testament is to Pick out a key word that describes each book and then keep that word in mind as you study the book. Try to keep God's overall plan in mind as you read and don't allow the "individual trees to keep you from seeing the forest".

May the Lord Bless you as you study His Word.

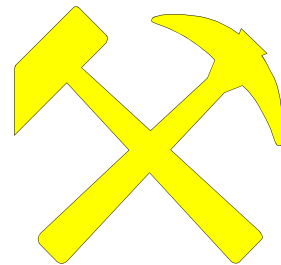
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But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor 2:14). These notes are intended for **INSPIRATION as well as INFORMATION**- and that will only happen if you have a personal relationship with God through Christ. If you have never been Born Again then I invite you to trust Christ today. Then these notes will "Come alive" with meaning and message.

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Bible study is not an option!! We are commanded of God to Study the Bible [II Tim 2:15]. The reason for our study is not to impress others but to please God. Sad to say many Christians do not have a regular system of Bible study and are largely ignorant of many of the Blessings that they miss. We need to realize the importance of the Word and "start digging for gold".



I. REALIZE YOUR WEAKNESS

- A) Your Wisdom is not sufficient- I Cor 1:19-20 2:4-5
- B) The Word is Spiritual I Cor 2:11-14- (This is why Prayer is such a vital part of Bible Study.)

II. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S SUFFICIENCY

- A) It has the answer to ever need- II Tim 3:15-17
- B) It has the Power to conquer any situation- Jer 23:28-29
- C) It goes into the inner most part of man- Heb 4:12-13
- D) It shall never return void (valueless)- Is 55:11

III. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S POWER

- A) Convict of Sin- Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- B) Regenerate- I Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- C) Produce Faith- Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- D) Build up the Christian- Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified
- E) Make us wise- Ps 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- F) Give Assurance of Eternal Life- I Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- G) Bring Peace to the Heart- Ps 85:8 I will hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people...
- H) Produces Joy- Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of Hosts .
- I) Gives Patience, Comfort, and Hope- Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope .
- J) Protects from error and sin- II Tim 3:13-15 Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee .

IV. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S PLACE

- A) The "Seed" we Sow- Luke 8:11
- B) The "Sword" we yield Ep- 6:11
- C) The "Sanctifier" of our lives- Jn 17:17

V. HOW TO STUDY THIS IMPORTANT BOOK:

A) Be aware of the Bible's Purpose. Written by nearly 40 writers over a period of 1500 years it contains God's Revelation of Himself and His method of Redemptive Plan for man so that He and man might have FELLOWSHIP.

B) Consider the Time it was written (Boaz and the shoe in Ruth 4:7-8 makes little sense today), the CONTEXT it is found in, and it's relationship to other Scriptures.

C) Study Systematically

1. By Book
2. By Doctrine or Subject
3. By Character

D) Study Purposefully:

1. What does the passage say about God, about me, about responsibility?

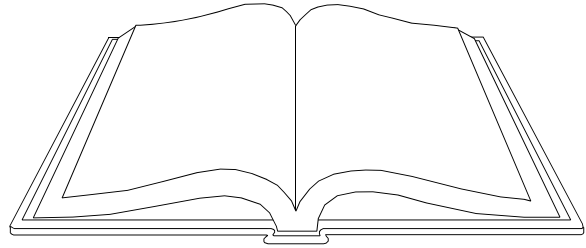
2. Where is God trying to lead me?

The Word is a "lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps 119:105).

As such it reveals what I need for where I am on the Path of Life. As I grow in the Christian life the same

passage may speak many different ways to men about where God wants me to go. Truly the Word is "Alive".

3. What does God want me to do with this verse? Is it for Devotion, for Direction, for Duty, or for Development.



ADDED SUGGESTIONS:

1. Remember that the entire Bible is about Christ. Find Him first.

2. Find some way to share what you learn. The best way to get more Bible knowledge is to give what you have away Luke 6:38

3. Pray thru the New Testament- If it's a promise, claim it; if it's a problem, be warned; if it's a practice, do it.

4. Read some book over and over and over. (Take a book like Ephesians and read it every day for a month. Read it in different versions. Get a commentary on it and learn it's background. Keep a notebook handy and make notes each day as your read.)

5. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. The more you learn in the Bible the more you'll find you don't know. Don't expect to know as much as God- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. (Is 55:8)

6. Remember that GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT HIM and He will give you the wisdom you need. James 1:5

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

There is a purpose and plan to the Bible that once grasp will allow you to understand much that seems to be obscure otherwise.

There are 66 books in the Bible: 39 in the TO and 27 in the NT.
The Old Testament is divided up into 3 groups - 17 - 5 - 17
17 History - 5 (Pentateuch) written by Moses, 12 Historical
5 Personal- Job thru Song of Solomon
17 Prophecy (Preaching)- 5 Major and 12 Minor (Length is difference)
(The 12 Historical books and the 12 Prophecy books are both divided into 9 pre-exile and 3 post-exile)

Genesis: Book of the Beginnings

Exodus: Going Out

Leviticus: Law (Levi)

Numbers: Twice numbered tribes

Deuteronomy: The Law repeated

Joshua: Into Promised Land

Judges: Tribes ruled by God thru Judges

Ruth: Bright spot in a dreary time. Shows God's grace in bringing other nations into Messiah line

I & II Samuel: Judges thru Saul and David

I & II Kings: Tells of both Kingdoms beginning with Solomon

I & II Chronicles: Tells only of Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther: Return of Captivity, rebuild wall and temple, God's preservation of people. (The end of Old Testament HISTORY)

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon: about God's work in the heart.

Isaiah: Told of the coming captivity and much about the coming Messiah
Called the miniature Bible- has 66 chapters: 39 law; 27 about Messiah

Jeremiah: Lived in Jerusalem before and until captivity. Warned of sin's results. (The reason he's the "Weeping Prophet")

Ezekiel: Ministered among the captives (Jews) in Babylon

Daniel: Witnessed to the Gentiles during the Captivity (70 years)

Hosea: Just before fall of Israel- shows God's Loving forgiveness.

Joel: Nearly 100 years before Hosea (Judgment and outpouring of Spirit)

Amos: Came from country to urge city dwellers to repent

Obadiah: Foretold the destruction of Edom (1 chapter)

Jonah: God's Missionary to Nineveh

Micah: Same time as Isaiah- similar message (Contains Messiah's Birthplace)

Nahum: Foretold the ruin of Nineveh (150 years after Jonah)

Habakkuk: Worried over sinners going unpunished

Zephaniah: Shortly after Habakkuk- Called to Repent

Haggai: Urged to build walls of Jerusalem after return from captivity

Zechariah: Similar to Haggai

Malachi: Last of the TO Prophets. Foretold John the Baptist

Note: The sin of Israel; The reason God rejected them- II Kings 17:7-23
The beginning of Samaritans: II Kings 17:24-41

REMEMBER THE BIBLE IS ABOUT **GOD WANTING TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH MAN**. IT SHOWS HOW GOD FOUND A WAY TO FREE MAN FROM SIN'S CAPTIVITY SO THAT HE MIGHT HAVE FELLOWSHIP (The Promised Messiah thru Abraham's seed).

BIBLE SURVEY

The Bible was not written as a history of the world [although it is historically correct and contains the history of the earth from beginning to end]. It was written to show God's PURPOSE for man (Fellowship) and His PLAN to restore that fellowship (Redemption). Much of it was not meant to be understood by the casual reader (I Cor 2:13-14) and they fail to comprehend it's message. Others try to make it fit into THEIR pattern and find themselves trying to put "the ocean into a teacup!!". Our purpose is to "Skim" the entire Bible and learn it's basic make-up and Message and then to apply this knowledge to our own lives as we Fellowship with God.

STUDYING ABOUT THE BIBLE DOES NOT REPLACE STUDYING THE BIBLE. If these studies do not cause you to read and study the Bible more; then they have failed. God is not concerned with simply educating your head; He wants to occupy your heart. Let these studies show you how.

I. **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD**- It speaks with Authority.

A) Authority is needed- Because of the disorder of Sin we need rules and guidelines.

B) Inadequate sources of authority:

1. Writings of great thinkers- Buddha, Plato, Confucius.
2. Writings of Literary men- Milton, Shakespeare, Longfellow
3. Pronouncements of Church Officials- Popes, "Prophets".
4. Findings of Scientist- Darwin, Einstein
5. One's own mind, conscience, or experience.

II. **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S DIRECTION TO US.**

A) It shows us God (Is that what you look for???)

B) It shows us how to find eternal life and abundant life.

III. **THE BIBLE NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD**

A) Scripture needs to be understood in the light of other Scripture (I Cor 10:23 says, "all things are lawful" but other Scriptures show the limits to that).

B) Scriptures need to be studied in it's immediate context:

1. Who is Speaking? God, Man, Satan
2. To whom is he speaking? A man, a nation, a government
3. Is the message intended for others as well as the one spoken to? (The Promises to Abraham or David. The messages to Israel or the Church).
4. Is the Passage intended to be applied to a limited time, under specific circumstances; or is it of universal application? (Sacrifice of animals, Levitical Laws).

IV. **THE BIBLE MUST BE APPLIED**

A) If you don't you fail to receive it's promised Blessings.

B) If you don't you SIN- James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

The Bible is the greatest book in the entire world. Everyone ought to KNOW it in their head, STOW it in their heart, and SHOW it in their lives.

WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT

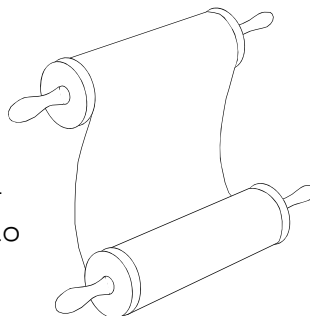
ROM 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our LEARNING, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

I Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples^(**): and they are written for our ADMONITION, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

II Tim 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.

The Old Testament provides the historical background by which we are able to understand the New. The New Testament contains over 600 references or allusions to the Old. (The Old Testament WAS THE BIBLE to Jesus and the Disciples!!).

While it is true that the New Covenant has done away with many of the practices required under the Old [For example, we no longer offer a lamb without spot or blemish because Christ has already been offered for our sin (Heb 10:1-14)] it would do us well to remember that some of the Laws were given for the benefit of the Physical as well as the Spiritual part of man [No pork because of disease and high blood pressure, circumcision to prevent cancer, etc.].



OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

- I. THE BEGINNINGS Genesis 1-11
- II. THE PATRIARCHAL TIME Genesis 12-50
- III. ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION Exodus - Deuteronomy
- IV. CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- V. THE UNITED KINGDOM I & II Samuel; I & II Chronicles (1-9)
I Kings 1-11
- VI. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM I Kings 12- II Kings 25 II Chronicles 10-36
- VII. THE POST-EXILE ERA Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

XX
 (**) The Word "Ensamples" here means Type. There are many TYPES used in the Old Testament. A TYPE may be said to be any person, object, event, act, or institution divinely adapted to represent some spiritual reality; or to prefigure some person or truth to be later revealed. ["Explore the Book" page 56]. For our purposes a Type may be said to be a Representation of a Biblical Truth or Person.

Examples:

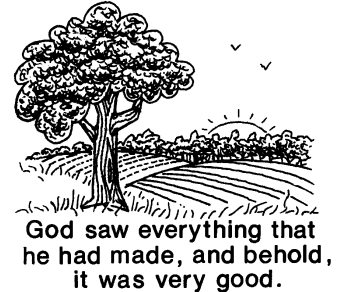
- Person- Adam...is a figure (Type) of Him that was to come. Rom 5:14
 - Object- That ROCK that followed them was Christ I Cor 10:4
 - Event- Abraham...received him from the dead, in a figure (Type) Heb 11:9
- Keep an eye open for these "Types" as you study the Old Testament. They will help you more clearly understand Christ---and that is our ultimate goal.

GENESIS

The first 5 books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch (Five rolls). They were written by Moses and cover the time from the beginning of the world until Israel is preparing to enter the Promised Land (around 2500 years).

The Old Testament was written almost entirely in Hebrew (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Dan 2:4- 7:28; and Jer. 10:11 were written in Aramaic).

The Bible gives God's plans for man from his beginning to the ages to come. The Pentateuch are very important because they show man's beginnings and the foundation God laid to accomplish His plan for man. Keep in mind that the **ULTIMATE GOAL OF GOD IS FELLOWSHIP WITH MAN**. The Old Testament will reveal man's sin and show his need of a redeemer. It will show how God promised this redeemer and made provision for him by choosing a nation from which Messiah would come. The Old Testament is full of "Types" [A representation of a Biblical Truth or Person] that foreshadow the coming Messiah and what would happen as a result of his coming [Example- Faith in Blood sacrifice to cleanse from sin].



There are many questions in Genesis- Cain's wife? The mark of Cain? The Curse of Ham?, etc. God does not readily provide answers to these questions and you need to beware of people who "know more answers than God gives"! Keep in mind that The Just shall live by his Faith and Paul said, God hath made foolish the wisdom of this world I Cor 1:20

THE GAP THEORY:

It is held by many students that the original creation of the universe (1:1) was followed by the fall of Satan (Is 14:12) and the ruin of God's handiwork. It is possible that there is a "gap" between verse 1 and 2 of Genesis 1 so that verse 2 may read, "And the earth BECAME without form and void...". Isaiah 45:18 states that God did not create the earth "in vain" (Hebrew- "without form"). This means that the chaotic condition of the earth must have been caused by Judgment. We find Satan already at work in Gen. 3, so his fall must have taken place earlier. If this is correct, then the creative activities of Genesis chapter one are really a restoration of the ruined Universe.

The word "Create" is not used until day 5 [Gen 1:21]. This does not mean that God did not create the things that came before. It means that at this time He was simply restoring them to a usable condition.

God created Man and gave him dominion over the earth (Gen 1:28). This angered Satan because he wanted to retain control of the earth. The re-created earth thus became a "battleground" where we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph 6:12). This explains why a person must chose either God or Satan. It also explains Satan's unceasing attacks on God's Followers.

From Genesis chapter three through the remainder of the Bible we find this struggle for Man's allegiance- with Satan attempting to force or bribe man into following him (And if he fails in this he attempts to destroy him). God, on the other hand, simply shows Himself to man in Mercy and Love and invites man to FELLOWSHIP with Him.

Outline of Genesis:

I. **THE CREATION** Chapter 1-11

- A) The Fashioning of the World Chapter 1 and 2
- B) The Fall of Man Chapter 3-5
- C) The Flood of God's Judgment Chapter 6-10
- D) The Folly of Man's Rebellion Chapter 11

II. **THE CHOSEN** Chapter 12-50

- A) Abraham- The Faithful Father (Supernatural Call) 12-25:19
- B) Isaac- The Bride Seeking Son (Supernatural Birth) 21-26
- C) Jacob- The Transformed Deceiver (Supernatural Care) 25:19-50:13
- D) Joseph- The "Resurrected" Provider (Supernatural Control) 30:22-50

GENESIS is a Greek Word meaning "Beginnings" or "Generations" [In Matt 1:1 the word "Genesis" is translated "Generation"]. Genesis got it's name from the fact that it shows the beginning of things and lists 10 "Generations" (the Heaven and the earth [2:4]; Adam [5:1]; Noah [6:9]; Shem [11:10]; Terah [11:27]; Ishmael [25:12]; Isaac [25:19]; Esau [36:1]; and Jacob [37:2]). Genesis lists for us the beginning of the Universe, human history, sin, salvation, sacrifice, the family, war, civilization, marriage, etc.

The Beginnings of Genesis:

- A) The earth as man's habitation 1:1 2:3
- B) Human Race 2:4-25
- C) Human Sin 3:1-7
- D) Redemptive Revelation 3:8-24
- E) Human Family 4:1-15
- F) Godless Civilization 4:16 -9:29
- G) Nations 10:1-32
- H) Human Languages 11:1-9
- I) Hebrew Race 11:10 - 50:26

Notice the sharp dividing lines between those who follow God's ways and those who don't (The very first example is the pattern. Cain brings his best while Abel brings what God requires). It is not that God's followers don't do wrong (In fact, because the followers of God are the ones the Scriptures mainly deal with we see much more wrong in their life than in the world.) but they are God's Followers because their heart seeks God and His way instead of the way of the world. [Remember the key is FELLOWSHIP]

Notice also the **DIVINE CHOOSING** -- Isaac over Ishmael; Jacob over Esau; Judah and Joseph over their brethren (See Rom 9 for Paul's comments on this).

From the very beginning we find that God chooses those who choose Him. His choice is not based on Human merit or ability but on the desire for **FELLOWSHIP**. (God is concerned with what we ARE; not just what we DO)

Genesis is the foundation of the Bible. Without it the rest of the Bible would be incomprehensible. The plan of redemption for a lost world would have no significance apart from the account of the fall in Eden. What happened to the First Adam explains the need of what happened to the "Second Adam". In Genesis we are told how we would regain "Paradise"- The Seed of Woman would bruise Satan's head.

Genesis shows God choosing the Race (Semitic), the Nation (Israel), and the Tribe (Judah) from whence this Seed would come.

Another Outline of Genesis:

1. **Creation** 1-2
2. **Fall of man** 3-4
3. **Ten Patriarchs** 5
4. **Flood** 6-9
5. **Development of Nations** 10-11
6. **Abraham** 12:1- 25:10
 - A) Call 12
 - B) Lot 13-14
 - C) Promise 15-17
 - D) Sodom 18-19
 - E) Heritage 20:1 - 25:10
7. **Isaac** 25:11- 27:46
 - A) Promise 26
 - B) Birthright 27
8. **Jacob** 28-36
 - A) Flight 28-30
 - B) Return 31-36
9. **Joseph** 37-50
 - A) Prophet 37
 - B) Prisoner 39-40
 - C) Prime Minister 41
 - D) Reconciliation 42-45
 - E) Reunion 46-50

(Gen 18:17-19) And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; {18} Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? {19} For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Genesis Chapter 1

"In the Beginning"

This is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. It reveals God's original plans for man and the earth. It is the foundation upon which we build all science and the basis for our Theology.

1. The Revelation of God:

A) His Name- "Elohim" (Energy). Infinite, Unqualified, All-sufficient. There is no Weakness and No Weariness with God. He is not just raw energy but energy directed toward ORDER AND BEAUTY [Note how the earth was created- everything in order and orderly (Days, season, times, etc). Note what God did in Creation- added Beauty at every opportunity (Sunsets, Flowers, Green trees against Blue Sky, etc.)].

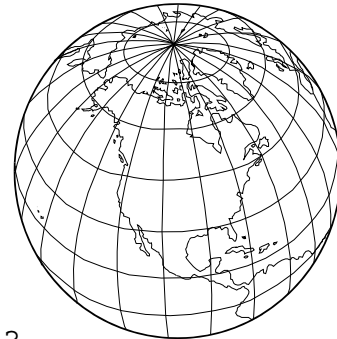
B) His Love- The Spirit "moved" (Brooded) upon the face of the waters (as a hen would gather her chicks beneath her). God's love and care overshadowed the earth even in the midst of darkness and chaos.

2. The Restoration of Earth:

A) It's Original Creation- The Hebrew word for Creation is one that is used only of God because only God can create something out of nothing.

B) It's Chaotic Condition- The Earth BECAME without form and void (of no value). [The GAP Theory]. The earth could not function for God in it's present condition. God had to restore it to a useful place [from the very beginning this is God's message, "I am able to take something of no value and make it into something productive"].

C) It's Restoration- All of this could have been done in a moment of time; that it isn't shows God's desire for GROWTH and ORDER.



Day 1- Light divided from darkness Did God create the Sun or move the earth into it's orbit??
(Sin deforms, destroys, and brings darkness)

Day 2- Heaven divided atmosphere from water

Day 3- Solid Earth appeared along with grass, seed bearing herbs, and fruit

Day 4- Stars, Sun, and Moon appear for signs and seasons. Did God simply create these now or did He allow some atmospheric condition to take place so that they could be seen?

Day 5- Water and air creatures come forth (First mention of Creation- whales)

Day 6- Earth Creatures come forth (Cattle, creeping things, beasts); man is created.

Day 7- God rested. Not because He was tired but because the work was done.

Notice the things we learn about Man:

Man's PURPOSE- Dress and keep (guard) garden

Man's PROBATION- Eat everything but 1 fruit

Man's PROBLEM- Lonely, Needed Fellowship (The solution to Man's problems brought him pain just as God receives "Pain" from fellowshiping with Man.)

EXODUS

The name means "Going Out" and is the record of God's delivering Israel from the bondage of Egypt and the setting up of the Guidelines necessary for God and Man to fellowship together. It's theme is REDEMPTION.

I. THE NEED OF REDEMPTION 1

- A) Ruled over by one who "Knew not Joseph" 1:8 (Loss of Glory)
- B) Taskmasters 1:11-14
 - 1. To afflict with Burdens (Burdens of Sin)
 - 2. To build for the King of Egypt (Building for Satan)
 - 3. To serve with rigor [hardness] (Bondage of Slavery)
- C) Killing the Children- In Adam all die. Rom 5:12 (Notice that only the SONS were to be killed. Satan thought that by doing this he could destroy the line of Christ. He tried it again when Christ was born and the babies of Bethlehem were killed- Matt2:16-18).

II. THE MEANS OF REDEMPTION 2: - 12:

- A) A Person- Moses 2-4 (Represents Christ)
 - 1. Miraculous Birth and Preservation
 - 2. Educated in the World and the Wilderness
 - 3. Stood against the world for God's people
 - B) The Plagues 5-11 (Conviction)
 - 1. Nile River to Blood 6. Boils
 - 2. Frogs 7. Hail
 - 3. Lice 8. Locusts
 - 4. Flies 9. Darkness
 - 5. Murrain 10. Death of first born
- (Each of these showed God's power over a god that the Egyptians worshiped.)
- C) The Passover 12 (Christ shedding His blood for us)
 - 1. Protection in the applied Blood
 - 2. Pilgrims preparing to leave for the Promised Land
 - 3. Punishment of non-believers= Death of Firstborn
 - 4. Profit of Egypt given to God's people
- [Israel dwelt in Egypt exactly 430 years- 12:41]

III. THE RESULTS OF REDEMPTION 13-40

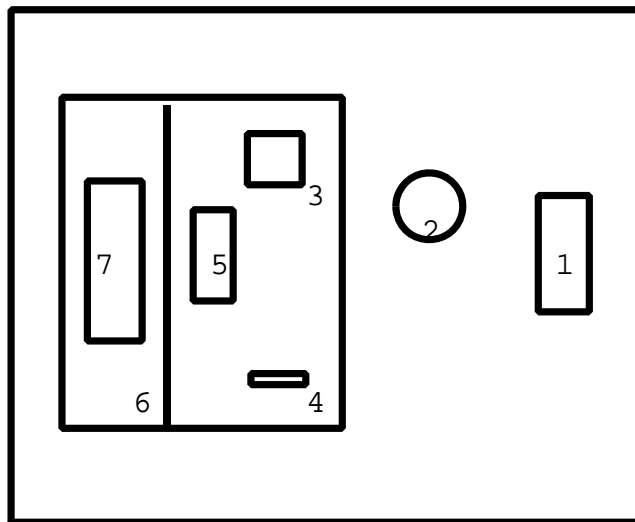
- A) Guidance 13-14
 - 1. Into a Bind- enemy behind and sea ahead (Dependence)
 - 2. Thru a Baptisms- Red Sea Crossing (Death to Self)
 - 3. Without a Battle- God fought for them (Deliverance)
- B) Joy- over Redemption- so they sang a song 15
- C) Supply of Material needs (Manna, quail, water)
- D) Victory over the enemy 17 (Amalek represents the flesh)
- E) Guidelines:
 - 1. The Commandments-express the righteous will of God 20:1-26
 - 2. The "Judgments"- Govern the Social life of Israel 21-24:11
 - 3. The "Ordinances"-govern the Religious Life 24:12 - 31:18
- F) Worship - The Tabernacle
 - 1. Described 25-31
 - 2. Needed because of Israel's Sins 32-34
 - 3. Constructed 35-40

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Ex 40:34

REDEMPTION HAD BROUGHT GOD AND MAN TO THE PLACE OF FELLOWSHIP

GENESIS: Creation and Choosing
 EXODUS: Redemption and Relationship
 LEVITICUS: Sacrifice and Separation
 NUMBERS: Disbelief and Defeat
 DEUTERONOMY: Review and Re-dedication

You approach the Tabernacle via the (1) **BRAZEN ALTAR** (where the Sacrifices were offered). The Priest then went from there to the (2) **LAVER** where they washed each time they approached the **HOLY PLACE**. In the Holy Place you would find the (3) **TABLE OF SHEWBREAD** on the right (Christ our Substance) and the (4) **GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS** (Christ our Light) on the Left. At the rear of this room was the (5) **ALTAR OF INCENSE** (Representing the sweet smell of our Prayers offered morning and night). You would then pass thru the (6) **VEIL OF THE TEMPLE** into the **HOLY OF HOLIES** where you would find the (7) **ARK OF THE COVENANT** where the Glory of God dwelt .



THE TYPES OF OFFERING:

Trespass Offering- (NonSweet) Our many Sins
 Sin Offering----- (NonSweet) Our Sinfulness
 Peace Offering---- (Sweet) At one with God
 Meal Offering----- (Sweet) Our Substance
 Burnt Offering---- (Sweet) Complete Dedication

The Five creatures acceptable for Sacrifice:

1. Ox- Christ as Servant
2. Sheep- Christ as Sacrifice
3. Goat- Christ as Sinner (Numbered with Transgressors)
- 4 & 5- Dove or Pigeon- Christ as Savior of all (Poor)

LEVITICUS

"Fellowship Through Sanctification"

God has chosen a People, redeemed them from Egypt and now He is dwelling in their midst (Ex 40:34-38) [No longer on a Mountain far away but now He dwells in the Tabernacle in the midst of the People. (Remember that Jesus "Pitched his tent" among us also. Jn 1:14)]. He now needs to show how sinful man and a Holy God can have communion [Remember that God wants FELLOWSHIP!]. The word "blood" is found 87 times in Leviticus and the word "holy" and "holiness" are found over 80 times. Therefore Leviticus is a book of Sacrifice and Separation.

The Name comes from the Greek word meaning "Pertaining to the Priests (Levites)". But a more accurate title may be the one the Jews used- "And the Lord called" [The first 4 words of the Book]. This really shows the theme of the Book- The Lord calling His people to commune with Him. [Dr. M.R. DeHaan says that Leviticus deals with our Worship, Numbers with our Walk, and Deuteronomy with our Works. This is God's order but man generally tries to reverse it. We try to Work, then Walk with God, and then Worship. God says when we learn to Worship Him, then we will Walk with Him, and then, and only then, will we really do any meaningful Work for Him].

I. THE GROUNDS OF FELLOWSHIP- SACRIFICE Chapter 1-17

- A) The Offerings (Absolution) 1-7 Acknowledge our Guilt
- B) The Priesthood (Mediation) 8-10 One God and one mediator- Christ
- C) The People (Purification) 11-16 }Clean food, Leprosy, Child Birth, Sex-hygiene, National Cleansing
- D) The Altar (Reconciliation) 17 Only place for Blood- 17:11

II. THE WALK OF FELLOWSHIP- SEPARATION Chapter 18-27 Be Holy as God is

- A) Regulations concerning the People 18-20
 - B) Regulations concerning the Priest 21-22
 - C) Regulations concerning Feasts, etc 23-24
 - D) Regulations concerning Canaan 25-27
- {From "Explore the Book" by J. Sidlow Baxter}

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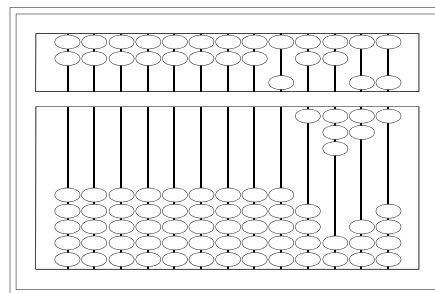
THE OFFERINGS: The first 3 are voluntary and have a "Sweet Savor".

1. Burnt Offering- Completely consumed, signifying complete consecration.
2. Meal [not meat] Offering- No blood. [represents perfect LIFE of Christ].
3. Peace Offering- Part eaten by the Priest and part by the one offering to showing FELLOWSHIP.
The last 2 Offerings are Compulsory and "Non-sweet Savor".
4. Sin Offering- Offered without the camp for our sins of ignorance. This is for our Sinful Nature and a type of Christ "made sin for us".
5. Trespass Offering- Needed when we infringe on the rights of others. Used with restitution when possible. A type of our "sins".

Reverse this order and you'll see how we approach God. First we see our "Sins"; then we see our Sin nature. When we realize that God has dealt with both of these we have Peace with God and fully value the Perfect Life of Christ. Then we want to offer ourselves in complete dedication to God.

NUMBERS

The book takes its name from the two numberings of the men of war in chapters 1-4 and 26-27. The first was made the second year after the nation had left Egypt, and the second was made 38 years later when the new generation was about to enter Canaan. These numberings were not of the entire nation, but only of the men able to fight. The first census revealed that there were 603,550 available men; the second, 601,730.



Numbers is the WILDERNESS book of the TO. It describes the failure of the nation at Kadesh-Barnea and their wanderings in the wilderness until the unbelieving old generation had died. Someone has described Israel's wilderness wanderings as "the longest funeral march in history."

It is interesting to note that the nation did not grow during their wilderness wanderings; in fact the second census showed 1,820 fewer men of war. The nation wasted 38 years, endured unnecessary affliction, did not grow, and did not honor God all the while they were on their "death march". This is what unbelief does to Christians; it produces wasted time, wasted effort, and no blessings. How sad it is when CHURCHES fail to step out by faith, and as a result start to degenerate spiritually, numerically, and materially. May God help us to trust His Word! (Warren Wiersbe)

OUTLINED AS TO EVENTS:

- I. THE OLD GENERATION INSTRUCTED 1-9
- II. THE JOURNEY OF JUDGMENT 10-25
- III. THE NEW GENERATION SET APART 26-36

OUTLINED AS TO MOVEMENTS:

- I. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea 1-14
- II. The Wilderness Wandering
15-20
- III. Kadesh to Plain of Moab
21-36

Chapter by Chapter:

I. THE OLD GENERATION 1-9

- A) The People Numbered 1
- B) The Arrangement of the Camp 2
- C) The Duties of the Levites 3
- D) Various Laws 4-6
- E) The Offering of the Princes 7 (An interesting chapter - of the 89 verses it contains, vs. 15, 21, 27, 33, 39, 45, 51, 57, 63, 69 & 75 are alike: vs. 16, 22, 28, 34, 40, 46, 52, 58, 64, 70, 76 & 80 are alike: vs. 25, 37, 49, 61, 67, 73, & 79 are alike: vs. 31 & 55 are alike: and vs. 43 differs from vs. 31 and 55 by only 1 word.)
- F) The Consecration of the Levites 8
- G) The Observance of the Passover 9

II. THE JOURNEY OF JUDGMENT 10-25

- A) The Trumpets and order of March 10
- B) The 10 Problems (See I Cor. 10:1-11)
 - 1. Murmuring 11:1-3
 - 2. Dissatisfaction with God's provisions 11:4-35
(Help provided for Moses. Quail for the people)
 - 3. Miriam and Aaron withstand Moses 12 (Miriam given Leprosy)
 - 4. The Unbelief of the People 13 & 14
 - a. The evil report
 - b. The murmuring against Moses
 - c. The Condemnation of all but Caleb and Joshua
 - d. The People decided to go forward too late
The Law concerning Offerings 15 (Why put here?? To show what the people should do if they have problems and to prevent problems).
 - 5. Korah's Rebellion 16: 1-40 (The Earth swallowed them up)
 - 6. The People murmur against God's Judgment on Korah 16:41-50
 - a. God sends a plague among the people and Aaron makes an atonement to stop the Plague
 - b. God gives the sign of Aaron's Rod that budded 17
 - c. God Claims the Levites as His Portion and gives them their portion 18
 - d. Red Heifer sacrificed for Purification of Uncleaness 19 (Miriam Dies 20:1)
 - 7. The People murmur because there is no water 20
 - a. Moses and Aaron told to speak to the Rock
 - b. Moses in anger strikes the Rock (A type of Christ who would be smitten only once.)
 - c. Edom refuses to let the people pass
 - d. Aaron dies - Eleazer his son takes his place
 - 8. The People are discouraged because of the Rugged Route 21
 - a. God sends fiery serpents among them
 - b. Moses told to erect the brazen serpent so the People could look and Live
 - c. Various kings are met and defeated (Conquering after the Cross)
 - 9. The Trial of Balaam 22-24 (Satan tries to destroy God's People)
 - a. Balak sends for Balaam twice 22
 - b. Balaam begins his journey and his ass tries to save him
 - c. Balaam blesses Israel 3 times instead of curing them
 - 10. The People are corrupted by the people of Balak 25
If Satan can't kill God's people he'll try to corrupt them!!

III. THE NEW GENERATION 26-36

- A) Numbered 26
- B) The Inheritance 27
 - a. The Daughters of Zelophehad
 - b. Joshua succeeds Moses
- C) The Law concerning:
 - a. Offerings 28 (Repeated and expanded for new generation)
 - b. Feast of Trumpets 29:1-6
 - c. Feast of tabernacles 29:7-40
 - d. Vows 30
- D) The Destruction of the Midianites 31
 - a. The selection of Soldiers
 - b. The folly of incomplete obedience
 - c. The dividing of the Spoils
- E) The Request of Reuben, Gad, and half tribe of Manasseh to stay on wrong side of Jordan 32
- F) The Journeyings 33
- G) The Boundaries of the Land 34
- H) Laws concerning:
 - a. Murder and cities of Refuge 35
 - b. Female Inheritance 36

DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy comes from the Greek words meaning "Second Law". It is so called because the Law is re-given to the New Generation in this book. Much of the book is a Review of past events.

Deuteronomy was our Lord's favorite book - it was the one He Quoted from when withstanding the temptation of Satan in Matt 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. It goes beyond the mere Technical telling of the Law and shows that the real Law must be written in the heart and obeyed from the Heart. Perhaps it can best be summarized by using

10:12-13 And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?



I. **THE PAST REVIEWED** 1-3 God's Commands and Their Failures

II. **THE PRACTICES RESTATED** 4-11 (The "Second Law")

- A) The Law restated and obedience emphasized 5-11
- B) The Statutes 12-18
- C) The Judgments 19-26
- D) The Curses of disobedience and Blessings of obedience 27-30 (EVERY Person ought to read these verses)

III. **MOSES' FAREWELL TALK** 31-34

- A) A New Leader 31 (Joshua)
- B) A New Song 32
- C) A New Blessing 33 (for each of the Tribes) The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: 3:27
- D) Moses sees the Promised Land and dies 34 (The Man whom God buried! What did he die of?? Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. 34:7)

LOOK AT: 3:23-27 where Moses pleads to go over and God tells him to speak no more to me of this matter.

6:23 he brought us out... that he might bring us in

7:6-11 Why did God chose Israel??

- 1) Love and
- 2) His promises to the Fathers.

9:4 Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the Lord thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord doth drive them out from before thee.

28:15-68 The awfulness of the Curse of disobedience!! (Which was fulfilled word for word in later years as Israel disobeyed God.)

JOSHUA

I. ENTRANCE INTO THE PROMISED LAND 1-5

- A) The Charge 1
- B) The Spies 2
- C) The Crossing 3
- D) The Memorials 4
- E) Sharp Knives, Old Corn, and The Captain 5

II. CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND 6-12

- A) The Fall of Jericho 6
- B) The Sin of Achan 7
- C) The Conquest of Ai 8
- D) The Guile of Gibeon 9
- E) Victory over various Foes 10-12

III. DIVISION OF THE PROMISED LAND 13-22

- A) The Land Divided 13-19
- B) Cities of Refuge 20
- C) Portions of the Priest 21
- D) The Altar of Witness 22

IV. JOSHUA'S FAREWELL 23-24

" Chose the Lord and Continue with Him"

In Joshua we see that

(1) Faith is more than believing - it is claiming Every place that the sole of your foot shalt tread upon, that have I given unto you... (Jos 1:3)

(2) God hates sin and deals with it unmercifully. You must conquer sin or it will conquer you!! Thus some cities and all people must be destroyed. (And they don't give up without a fight.)

(3) "We are more than conquerors thru him that loved us." (Rom 8:37) and with God on our side we should be strong and of a good courage because There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of they life... (Jos 1:5)

The Book itself was written by Joshua. It is an action Book and reminds one of the Book of Acts following the Gospels of Christ. The Principles of Genesis thru Deuteronomy now become the Practice of Life.

The Promised Land was a Place of:

- 1) Rest from the Wilderness Wandering
- 2) Refreshment with the Abundance of the Land
- 3) Triumph over the enemy.

It should represent the **NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE** as we develop into the type of person God expects us to be. Far too many Christians are content to Wander in the Wilderness until they die; instead of fighting the good fight of Faith as they claim their Promised Possessions.

J U D G E S

If there is any book in the Bible that you wish would not have been written, this is it. It's such a sad and heart breaking thing to see the people who had such potential in Joshua fall to such depths in Judges.

The Book gets it's name from the men who delivered Israel from their Bondage and then "Judged" them for a time afterward. It begins with Unoccupied Areas and Undefeated Foes and shows Israel's fall into their "**Cycle of Sin**"- 2:16-19 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

The Key Verse is Jud 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes .

WHY DID ISRAEL HAVE THESE PROBLEMS?? They first Tolerated the enemy, then they Taxed the enemy, then they Mixed with the enemy, and finally they Surrendered to the enemy. (Today men tolerate a problem, then they try to use the problem to "make them more efficient" (Drink or Drugs for instance), then they can't condemn what they are doing so they begin to defend it, and finally they surrender to it).

The enemy was supposed to be DISPOSED and their religious articles were to be DESTROYED. Failure to do so would result in Problems for the People (Num 33:50-56). [Paul put it this way- Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the Lusts thereof (Rom 6:12). SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH- if you don't destroy it will control you- Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness (Rom 6:16)].

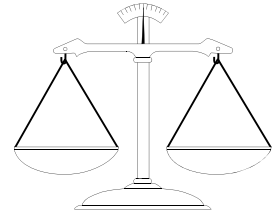
THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM- Israel thought the Problem was the Punishment that came their way. They didn't realize that the CAUSE of the Problem was the evil they had done before the problem came. They wanted relief from the Punishment but that didn't cure the CAUSE of the Problem so it kept returning (Drunks think Alcohol is the Problem. Failing to realize their heart is wrong, they fight a hopeless battle with Alcohol. Programs and Punishment will deal with the Physical Problem but will do nothing about the "Heart" Problem they have).

Since Israel would not deal with the Problem, God allowed THE HEATHEN NATIONS to remain in order to:

1. Punish Israel 2:3, 20-21. A Habit may become a Heartache!
2. Prove Israel 2:22 3:4. A test of Love and Obedience.
3. Provide Israel with experience in warfare 3:2 (Why does God allow Temptation in the life of a Christian? To teach you the Victory Life in Christ! Are you more interested in Character or Comfort??)
4. Prevent the Land from becoming a Wilderness Deut 7:20-24. Are you patience as God develops you??

THE OUTLINE OF JUDGES

Judges was written to show Israel WHY they were continually being defeated as a nation. God wanted them to see the RESULTS OF THEIR REBELLION so He chose several Illustrative Incidents to show how easy it was to defeat them when they rebelled. He also wanted them to see how easy victory was when they faithfully followed God's plan.



The Book is divided into 3 main Segments. Each Segment deals with a different aspect of the failure of Israel to live up to it's potential as a nation governed by God.

I. APATHY Chapters 1-2

A) The Lord sought and Victory Won 1:18 (The example of Adonibezek-"Lord Lightening" -who has his thumbs and big toes cut off!)

B) The Compromise Begins 1:19-36 it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out. 1:28

C) The Nation Rebuked 2:1-5 By an Angel of the Lord

D) The "Untold" Generation rises up to Sin, Serve the Lord and other gods, Separate themselves from God, be Spoiled by the enemy for their sins, be Saved by a God sent deliver, and go back into sin because they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn ways. 2:19 (2:6-23 is a Summary of the entire book)

II. APOSTASY Chapters 3-16

OPPRESSED BY:

DELIVERED BY:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Mesopotamia for 8 years | Othniel 3:1-11 |
| 2. Moab for 18 years | Ehud and Shamgar 3:12-31 |
| 3. Canaanites for 20 years | Deborah and Barak 4-5 |
| 4. Midian for 7 years | Gideon 6-8 |
| 5. (Internal Strife-no time given) | Tola and Jair 9:1- 10:5 |
| 6. Ammonites for 18 years | Jephthah 10:6- 12 |
| 7. Philistines for 40 years | Samson 13-16 |

III. ANARCHY Chapters 17-21

An example of the Confusion in the:

A) Religious Life of the Nation- Micah's Image and Moses's grandson as the opportunistic Priest 17-18

B) Home and Moral Life of the Nation- The Levite's concubine and the sin of the men of Gibeah 20

C) Political Life of the Nation- Civil War against Benjamin and the resulting search for wives for the Benjamites 20-21

* * * * *

MARK IT DOWN!! Your greatest weakness is what you consider to be your greatest strength (And vice versa when you are weak, then are you strong II Cor 12:10). Abraham is remembered for his Faith but twice he went down to Egypt and didn't have enough faith to claim his wife as his own. Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth (Num 12:3) and yet he fell by becoming angry and smiting the rock. David was known for his integrity of heart but committed Adultery and murder and once of his most loyal generals.

Judges should above all tell us to let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall I Cor 10:12.

RUTH

Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled... (Ruth 1:1) that a ray of light springs up among all that darkness. You leave the Book of Judges with a vile taste in your mouth and an ache in your heart. Then God, in His great Wisdom, places this remarkable Love Story of Redemption next. He does so in order to show that He still works (and Loves) even while men are ignoring His purpose and Plan for them.

"This is one of the only two books in Scripture which bears the name of a Woman. These two are Ruth and Esther; and they stand in marked contrast. Ruth is a young Gentile woman who is brought to live among Hebrews and marries a Hebrew husband in the line of royal David. Esther is a young Hebrew woman who is brought to live among Gentiles and marries a Gentile husband on the throne of a great empire. Both Ruth and Esther were great and good women. The Book of Ruth, however is quite alone in this, that it is the only instance in the Bible in which a whole book is devoted to a woman." (From EXPLORE THE BOOK by Sidlow Baxter. The Book of Ruth page 28).



There are many key thoughts in Ruth- It is a Love Story, it shows great Faith, it deals with seeking and finding Rest, but the main thought seems to be the story of the KINSMEN REDEEMER who loved and married a Gentile Bride. It is told from the point of view of the Bride.

I. REDEMPTION - Love and Faith 1

- A) The Famine 1:1 in Israel so the Family moved to Moab
- B) The Family 1:1-5 The Husband dies, The 2 sons marry and die
- C) The Faith 1:6-22 Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem and urges her daughter-in-laws to stay and seek rest at home. One agrees but Ruth says, whither thou goest, I will go:...thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. 1:16 and the two return to Bethlehem

II. REDEMPTION - Guidance and Grace 2

- A) Ruth seeking to earn a living "happens" to come to the field of Naomi's Husband's Kinsman- Boaz
- B) Boaz gives Ruth Protection and Provision as she works. (And Love Blooms!!).

III. REDEMPTION - Seeking and Finding 3

- A) Ruth comes to Boaz and asks him to be her "Kinsmen Redeemer"
- B) Boaz agrees- but must deal with one other Kinsman nearer.

IV. REDEMPTION - Bought and Blessed 4

- A) Boaz confronts the other Kinsman and is given the right to claim Ruth as his bride.
- B) Boaz and Ruth are wed and become the great grandparents of David.

The Kinsman Redeemer was the nearest Kin to a person who was charged with the responsibility of perpetuating the line of a man and ensuring that his property remained "in the family". This was important because God had given specific lands and Blessings to specific tribes [including the birth line of Messiah!]. There were 3 things that could be redeemed- A man, A wife, and Land (Christ has redeemed the man, is redeeming a "Bride", and will one day redeem the Land- Rev 5).

I SAMUEL

This Book evidently got its name from the fact that Samuel is the prominent figure in the first of it and wrote much of it. It is probably the best known of the Historical Books (God calling the boy Samuel and David killing Goliath are in it). Among the interesting things in the book are: 1) This book has the honor of first giving and using the majestic title "Lord of Hosts" 1:3 (It occurs 281 times and denotes the God of Israel as the Lord of all the hosts of heaven and earth). 2) The name of Messiah is first found here (2:10). "His anointed" literally means "His Messiah". 3) It is here we first find the words "Ichabod" [The Glory has departed](4:21), "Ebenezer" [The Rock (the Lord) Helps] (7:12), and "God save the King" (10:24).

There are 3 main characters in I Samuel and they are the Outline of the Book.

I. **SAMUEL** 1-7

A) Birth

1. Given in answer to Prayer 1 and dedicated to God
2. Hannah's Prophetic Prayer 2:1-11 when he is given to the Lord

B) Call

1. Contrasted to Eli's Son 2:12-26 who were called "sons of Belial" (2:12) while Samuel grew in favor with God (2:26)
2. Condemnation of Eli and his sons is foretold by a Prophet 2:27-36. Them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 2:30
3. The Lord reveals Himself to Samuel 3 by a Voice (10) and thru the Word (21)

C) Ministry

1. Capture of the Ark and Death of Eli 4
2. Ark returned to Israel 5-6 God's Power demonstrated to Heathen
3. Victory through Prayer 7 God's Power demonstrated to Israel

II. **SAUL** 8-15

A) Chosen

1. The People request a King 8 (The Nation goes from a Theocracy [ruled by God] to a Monarchy [ruled by one man].
2. Saul Chosen 9 (A lost donkey "Finds" a King!)
3. Saul Anointed 10

B) Reigning

1. Saul's first great Victory 11 Defeats the Ammonites
2. Samuel's last public address to the Nation 12 See 12:22-25

C) Rejected

1. His impatience and presumption in not waiting on God 13
2. His rashness in making a foolish vow 14
3. His incomplete obedience to please the people 15

III. **DAVID** 16-31

A) Anointed 16:1-13

B) Service

1. Saul's minstrel and armourbearer 16:14-23
2. Slays Goliath 17
3. Jonathan and David make a Covenant 18:1-7 20
4. Saul's jealousy - attempts to kill David 18:8-30 19:-

C) Exile

1. David's flight and wanderings 21-30 (Learning to wait on God)
2. Death of Saul and Jonathan 31

(Some of this material is also covered in I Chronicles 1: - 10:-)

II SAMUEL

This Book records the 40 year reign of David as King. It is one of the most interesting books in the Bible and also one of the most sad. It can be summed up in one short sentence - **TRIUMPHS TURNED TO TROUBLES THROUGH SINS.**

I. DAVID'S TRIUMPHS 1-12

- A) King over Judah only, at Hebron 1-4
(Civil War Period- 7 years Ishboshet king over Israel)
- B) King over all Israel, at Jerusalem 5-12 (Conquest Period- 13 years)
 - 1. Various Victories 5
 - 2. The Ark brought to Jerusalem 6 (Delayed due to rashness)
 - 3. David's desire and denial to build the Temple. The Davidic Covenant** 7
 - 4. More Victories 8
 - 5. King who loved a dead dog 9 (David takes in Mepheboeth "for Jonathan's Sake")
 - 6. More Victories 10
 - 7. Sin's Power and Pardon 11-12 (David and Bathsheba)

II. DAVID'S TROUBLES 13-24

- A) David's Troubles in his family 13-19
 - 1. Amon's Incest and Absalom's revenge 13
 - 2. Absalom's Return 14
 - 3. Absalom's Rebellion 15-17
 - 4. Absalom's Defeat and Death 18
 - 5. David's Grief and return 19
- B) David's Troubles in the Nation 20-24
 - 1. Rebellion of Sheba 20
 - 2. Famine because of Saul's past sins 21
 - 3. A psalm of David 22
 - 4. David's mighty men 23
 - 5. David sins in numbering the people and is given a choice of punishments 24 (The site of the Temple is Purchased 24:18-25)

****The Davidic Covenant.** This covenant, upon which the glorious kingdom of Christ, "of the seed of David according to the flesh" is to be founded, secures:

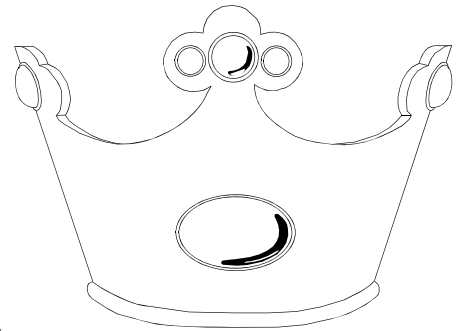
- 1. A Davidic "house"; therefore posterity, family.
- 2. A "throne"; Therefore royal authority.
- 3. A Kingdom; therefore sphere of rule
- 4. In perpetuity; "forever"
- 5. And has but one condition: disobedience in the Davidic family is to be visited with chastisement, but not to the abrogation of the covenant.

NOTICE GOD'S PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH:

- First to the "Seed of Woman" Gen 3:15 (**Race**)
- Second to Abraham - "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (**Nation**)
- Third "the scepter shall not depart from Judah" Gen 49:10 (**Tribe**)
- Then to David (II Sam 7:12) "I will set up thy Seed after thee" (**Family**)
- And Finally to Mary of whom was born Jesus Christ the son of David (Matt 1:1) (**Person**)

I KINGS

The writer of this book (and II Kings as well) is unknown but many think it was written by Jeremiah. First Kings is the BOOK OF THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM. The two divisions are the Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) with it's capital of Samaria and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes) with it's capital of Jerusalem (Ruled over by the descendants of King David) [A good thing to remember is that the Southern Kingdom had some good Kings and some bad Kings while the Northern Kingdom had only bad Kings].



I. THE 40 YEAR REIGN OF KING SOLOMON 1-11

A) Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom 1-4 9-10 HUMAN WISDOM divinely given

B) The Temple and Palace built 5-8

C) Solomon's Sins 11 (Many Wives, Much Wealth, Wrong Alliances, Incomplete Obedience)

[This material is also covered in II Chronicles 1-19]

II. THE FIRST 80 YEARS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM 12-22

A) Rehoboam (Judah) ignores the advice of the elders and the 10 northern tribes revolt under Jeroboam (Israel) 12-14

B) A Series of Good and Bad Kings 15-16

C) Elijah and King Ahab (Northern Kingdom) 17-22

[This material is also found in II Chronicles 10-21]

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IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE TWO BOOKS OF THE CHRONICLES:

1. All those names have a purpose. God had promised a Messiah to come of the seed of David. One of the "Proving Facts" that he was indeed the Promised Messiah would his being able to trace his **LINAGE** back to David (Which was done by both Matthew [Joseph's line] and Luke [Mary's line]).

2. Chronicles deals with things related to the **TEMPLE** and as such shows many additional facts related to the preparation to build it, the building of it, and revivals of interest in it. They also omits many details that aren't related to the Temple.

3. Chronicles deals with the **NATION OF JUDAH**. It ignores the Northern Kingdom of Israel because it was not of the Line of David and did not worship at the Temple.

4. Chronicles were written **AFTER** the Exile while Kings were written **BEFORE** the Exile.

II KINGS

In the Original Hebrew, I & II Kings formed one book (as did I & II Samuel and I & II Chronicles). They were first divided by the Septuagint translators, when they translated the Old Testament into the Greek Language (Greek requires at least one third more space than Hebrew, therefore the Translators were compelled to divide them because of Scroll length).

Put the two together and see that "The Book begins with King David and ends with the King of Babylon; opens with the Temple built and closes with the Temple burnt; begins with David's first successor on the throne of his kingdom, and ends with David last successor released from the house of his captivity." (Bullinger).

II Kings contains the miraculous ministry of Elisha, the fall of Israel and the beginning of the Samaritans, and the captivity of Judah. The sad and tragic sentence "Did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord" is found 21 times in the Book of II Kings and shows why the kings go from glory to captivity.

I. THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL 1-10 (Chapter 1 is a brief story that shows what the whole book is about- Ahaziah falls and sends to Baalzebul to inquire if he will recover. Elijah, the prophet of God, comes and tells Ahaziah he will die because he sought other gods instead of God).

A) The Ministry of Elisha 1-8

1. His "double portion" (He performs 16 miracles to Elijah's 8).
2. His dealings with the Nations (He manifested God to a nation that was increasingly departing from God).
3. His death 13:14-21 (Even his bones had life!!)

B) Jehu anointed King and destroys Ahab's house (& Jezebel) 9-10 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart...In those days the Lord began to cut Israel short... 10:31-32

II. VARIOUS KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH UNTIL ISRAEL'S FALL 11-17 Israel had 19 Kings- ALL BAD

Judah had 19 Kings (1 Queen)- 8 Good and 11 Bad

The Assyrians take Israel captive and put other people in the land. People who feared the Lord, and served their own gods. 17:33

[The beginning of the Samaritans- Chapter 17]

III. KINGS OF JUDAH TO THE CAPTIVITY 18-25

A) Hezekiah- The man who trusted God and lived longer 18-20

B) Manasseh-Hezekiah's son who reigned 55 years and wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger- 21:6

C) Amon-Manasseh's son who walked in all the ways of his father 21:21

C) Josiah who rebuilt the House of God, found and heeded the Word of God, and was blessed because of it. 22: - 23:30

D) Jehoahaz, Jehoakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah (who was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar- who carried away the goods of the Temple & Jerusalem and carried the People of Judah captive into Babylon. Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this upon Judah II Kings 24:3

The land was conquered not because of WEAKNESS but because of WICKEDNESS!!

[This material also found in II Chronicles 22-36]

CHART OF THE KINGS

THE UNITED KINGDOM PERIOD

Saul (1050-1010 I Sam 9-31)
 David (1010-970 I Sam 16- I Kings 2)
 Solomon (970-930 I Kings 2-11)

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM PERIOD (I Kings 12- II Kings 25)

PROPHET

KING:

JUDAH (South)

Rehoboam (931)

Abijam (914)

Asa (911)

Elijah

Jehoshaphat (872)

Elisha
(850-795)

Jehoram (848)

Ahaziah (841)

Athaliah (840)

Joash (835)

Joel
(830-800)

Amaziah (796)

Uzziah (791)

Jonah (pre 750)
 Amos (750)

Jotham (750)

Ahaz (740)

Hosea (Pre 722)
 Isaiah (740-700)

Hezekiah (726)

Micah (Pre 700)

Nahum (650-625)

Manasseh (697)

Jeremiah (626-555)

Amon (642)

Zephaniah (625)

Josiah (640)

Habakkuk (600)

Jehoahaz (609)

Jehoiakim (608)

Ezekiel (592-570)

Jehoiachin (597)

Obadiah (585)

Zedekiah (597-586)

FALL OF JERUSALEM 586

ISRAEL (North)

Jeroboam I(931)

Nadab (910)

Baasha (909)

Elah (886)

Zimri 7 day(885)

Omri (885)

Ahab (874)

Ahaziah (853)

Jehoram (852)

Jehu (841)

Jehoahaz (814)

Jehoash (798)

Jeroboam II(793)

Zechariah (753)

Shallum 1 mo(752)

Menahem (752)

Pekahiah (742)

Pekah (740)

Hoshea (729-722)

FALL OF SAMARIA

FOREIGN KINGS

Syria

Benhadad (910)

Hazael (840)

Assyria

Tiglath-Pileser

Shalmaneser

Sargon 722-705

Sennacherib

Babylon

Nebopolassar

(625-604)

(Nineveh Fall)

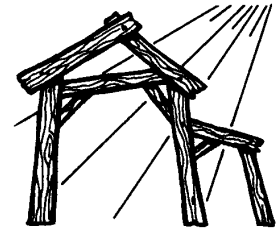
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Nebuchadnezzar

(604-561)

EZRA

Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are the last Historical Books of the Old Testament and describe how God deals with the Nation after the Captivity. It was necessary that the nation return to it's homeland in order for the Messiah to come. (Just as their return the second time is 1948 means that now Messiah can come again!). The first group to return under Zerubbabel began to build the Temple. The Adversaries then hindered the work and it ceased until the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah come on the scene and the temple is completed. Esther is selected as Queen some 40 years later and saves her People from elimination. Ezra arrives 20 years later with another group and brings Revival and Reform to the land. About 13 years after that Nehemiah becomes burdened for the city and is given permission to Return and Rebuild the City walls.



**“Unless the Lord
builds the house,
those who build it
labor in vain.”**

Psalm 127:1

I. **REBUILDING THE TEMPLE** (The Ministry of Zerubbabel) 1-6

A) Returning to the Land 1-3

1. The King obeys God (See Isaiah 44:28)
2. The People obey God
 - a. 50,000 return to rebuild the Temple 1-2
 - b. The Altar is rebuilt 3:1-7
 - c. The work on the temple is begun 3:8-13

B) Resisting the Enemy 4-6

1. Withstanding Compromise but heeding the Law 4
 2. Obeying God instead of men (Ministry of Haggai and Zechariah) 5
 3. The Kings approves the Work and the Temple Completed 5:6-6:22
- (58 Year Gap- The Story of Esther)

II. **REBUILDING THE PEOPLE** (The Ministry of Ezra) 7-10

A) Ezra comes to Jerusalem 7-8

B) Ezra Confesses the sins of his people 9 (What a Prayer!!)

C) Ezra cleanses the nation 10 (Mixed marriage are done away with)

A Brief Chronology of the Events:

- 606 - The Babylonians invade Judah and carry Daniel captive
- 587 - Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians and is destroyed
- 539 - Babylon falls to Cyrus and the Medio-Persian Empire begins
- 538 - Cyrus gives his edict permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem
- 536 - About 50,000 Jews return; The altar is rebuilt & Sacrifice start
- 535 - The rebuilding of the Temple is Begun; then ceases
- 520 - The work begins again; Haggai and Zechariah preaching
- 515 - The Temple completed and dedicated
- 476 - Esther becomes Queen of Persia
- 458 - Ezra comes to Jerusalem; Spiritual reform follows
- 445 - Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls and establish government

NEHEMIAH

This is the last Historical Book of the Old Testament (In Time) and shows how God has the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt by a Burdened Layman [The walls needed to be rebuilt in order to Protect and solidify the People]. Nehemiah is one of the great examples in the Bible of a man who uses all the ingredients of success- Prayer, Pain, and Preservering. He was born in captivity and had risen to a very successful position but, like Moses, he Esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of "Persia" (Heb 11:26)

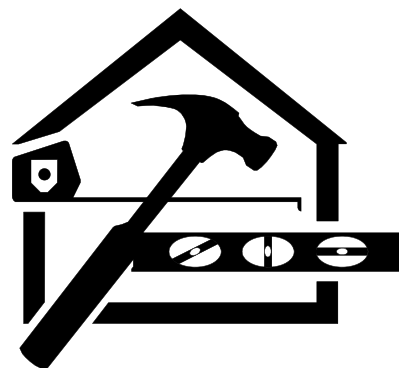
I. **A BURDEN TO BUILD** 1-7 [Building the WALLS]

A) Preparation 1-2

1. Nehemiah hears of the Problem; Prays, and Waits on God.
2. Nehemiah is ready when the opportunity comes to ask the King to allow him to head the work.
3. He Surveys the Problem, determines the need, and then calls the people.
4. He involves EVERYONE in the Work

B) Problems 4-7

1. Scorn "What do these feeble Jews?" 4:2
2. Force "Conspired together to fight and to hinder" 4:8
3. Division Within 5:- The Cancer of greed
4. Craft 6:-
 - a. Deceit 1-4
 - b. Bluff 5-9
 - c. Treachery 10-14
 - d. Division of Brethren 17-19



II. **BACK TO THE BIBLE** 8-12 [Building the PEOPLE]

A) A Bible Revival

1. Joy as the Word of God is read and explained 8:1-12
2. Return to what the Bible Commands 8:13-18 [Passover]
3. A Confession of Sin 9:- (Note 9:37- the result of sin: And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.)

4. A Rededication of doing right 10:-

- a. Separation from Sin 28-29
- b. Straighten out homes 30
- c. Honor the Sabbath 31
- d. Contributions to the house of God 32

B) Resettlement of 1/10 of the people in Jerusalem 11:- 12:1-26

C) Dedication of the Walls 12:27-47

III. **BACKSLIDERS DEALT WITH** 13

- A) The Problems with the Priest 13:4-14
- B) The Sabbath Breakers 13:15-22
- C) The Mixed Marriages 13:23-31

ESTHER

Esther belongs between Ezra 6 and 7 and tells the story of what life was like for the Jews who did not return with the Remnant. It is the story of a Plot to destroy the Jews and the failure of that plot due to the courage of a Jewish girl ("If I perish, I perish" 4:16). The origin of the Jewish feast of Purim is found here (9:26-32) but the name of God is not mentioned.



Outline

I. THE CHOOSING OF ESTHER 1-2

- A) Vashti's Divorce 1 (The Queen refuses to expose herself)
- B) Esther's Choosing 2 (The over ruling Providence of God. God puts Esther "in place" so she will be available when she is needed)

II. THE PLOT OF HAMAN AND THE INTERVENTION OF ESTHER 3-7

- A) Haman's Plot to Destroy the Jews 3 (Part of Satan's continuing plot to destroy the line of Messiah)
- B) Mordecai's concern and Esther's position 4 ("who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?" 4:14)
- C) Esther's intercession and Haman's downfall 5-7

III. THE DEFENSE OF THE JEWS AND THE RISE OF MORDECAI 8-10

- A) The King decree's the Jews can defend themselves 8
- B) The Jews slay their enemies 9
- C) Mordecai is honored 10

Esther shows God's care for His "scattered" people during the "silent years" [Following the return of the Remnant and the rebuilding of the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem there is a 400 year "silent period" during which the Jews are subject to one nation after another except for a short period when the Maccabean's revolted and they were independent. Most of the sects that Jesus had to face and fight were formed during this time. There was no prophet and the nation mourned for the Messiah to come and set them free from their bondage. Yet when he came they rejected and killed Him!]. These people should have returned to Israel with the "Remnant". They chose to remain "in the world" and God's mercy still cared for them (How great is the Love of God!!!).

THE POETICAL BOOKS

The 17 Historical Books shows God dealings with mankind in general and then with Israel in specific. The Poetical Books turn from the **NATION TO THE PERSON**; from the **CARES** of government to the **CRIES** of the human heart. The five Poetical Books taken as a whole show the advancement of a person in the Spiritual life.

Job- death to the Self-Life

Psalms- Worship in the New Life

Proverbs- Blending Spiritual Principles with Natural life

Ecclesiastes- Understanding the Folly of living for Flesh

Song of Solomon- Anticipating the "Royal Wedding"

The Spiritual Life begins with Death of the old self-life (Abhorring equally one's "Goodness" as well as badness), thrives on the wonder of the new life in God, needs practical wisdom to live by, must wean the heart from worldly desires, and hopes in the rapture of communion with the heavenly Bridegroom.

Hebrew Poetry is not the same as English Poetry. In English Poetry a Poem is achieved by repetition of similar SOUNDS (Rhymes). In Hebrew Poetry you have repetition of IDEAS, called Parallelism. There are 3 types of Parallelism:

1. **SYNONYMOUS**- the thoughts are identical
"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed,
A refuge in times of trouble." Ps 9:9
"Enter not into the path of the wicked,
and go not in the way of the evil men." Prov 4:14
2. **OPPOSITES** - The thoughts are contrasts
"For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous:
But the way of the ungodly shall perish" Ps 1:6
"Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" Prov 27:6
3. **COMPLETIVE** - The thought is developed or enriched by the parallel
"And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope;
Yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in
safety." Job 11:18
"The eye that mocketh at his father,
And despiseth to obey his mother;
The ravens of the valley shall pick it out,
And the young vultures shall eat it." Prov 30:17

Part of the reason God wanted to use such Poetry is that it translates into various languages without lose of meaning--whereas, English poetry would lose it's meaning when translated into another language because the word's would not rhyme.

Roses are Red Violets are Blue This would not Make sense to a Jew!!
--

NOTE- Their are several Psalms and much Poetry scattered thru the rest of the Bible. The Poetical Books are called such because their main content is Poetical

JOB

OUTLINE OF JOB

Introduction 1-2 (God shows us "Behind the Scene")

Job's opening Lamentation 3 (After 7 days of silence)

First "Scene" 4-14

Eliphaz/Job 4-7

Bildad/Job 8-10

Zophar/Job 11-14

Second "Scene" 15-21

Eliphaz/Job 15-17

Bildad/Job 18-19

Zophar/Job 20-21

Third "Scene" 22-37

Eliphaz/Job 22-24

Bildad/Job 25-31

Elihu "the Younger" 32-37

God answers Job 38 -42:6 (Not Job's questions but his Faith!)

Conclusion 42:7-17 (Prayer for friends, Property restored)

Faith is the great force in our lives. Faith must have enough information to begin but too much information will not allow it to develop. We must learn that God is as Great and as Good when He hides information as He is when He reveals it! In the case of Job, We see the reasons for his trials at the beginning of the book and the results of his trial at the end of the Book but Job and his friends knew nothing of this. Their debate on the issue of suffering is given from their

own human perspective--and gradually grows more and more accusing; first of Job for having "sinned" and then of God for allowing it to happen. Finally God takes the issue in hand BUT HE DOES NOT ANSWER JOB'S QUESTIONS; He simply reminds Job that He is God and Job must Trust Him. When Job comes to that place of complete trust then God lifts the trial and restores his situation.

Job faced 4 great trials: (These compare, in a Spiritual sense, with Paul's "Losses" in Philippians Chapter 3)

1. Loss of Possession
2. Loss of Loved Ones
3. Loss of Health
4. Loss of Reputation

God understands because **HE HAS SUFFERED THE SAME THINGS!!!:**

1. Loss of Possessions- Satan claims the Earth as His.
2. Loss of Loved ones- Man, created in His own image.
3. Loss of Health- The "Cancer" of sin that must be "cut" out
4. Loss of Reputation- Satan's accusations; Against Saints and God

**THE JUST SHALL
LIVE BY HIS
FAITH**

Job helps us to answer that eternal question, "Why do Saints Suffer?" and, beyond that, "How should we handle suffering??".

I. JOB'S CIRCUMSTANCES

- A) No Bible to Guide him- Job is the earliest book
- B) He did not have the promises of Abraham to sustain him
- C) He suffered more troubles than most people ever do.

II. HIS CHARACTER 1:1

- A) Perfect (Mature)- developed as a Child of God
- B) Upright (Honest)- Had a good character
- C) Feared God (Respect for God)- Devotion for God
- D) Eschewed (Avoided) Evil-

III. HIS CONSISTENCY vs 5 "Thus did Job Continually". He was not a "Hit or Miss" person. He was faithful Consistence means keeping the goal in sight- There are 2 things that make a "crooked row":

1. Not having a goal in mind. So you wander off course (Phil 3:14)
2. Looking back and getting off track (Luke 9:62).

IV. HIS CONTRIBUTION

- A) Large family but all died without affecting the world- 7 sons and 3 daughters
- B) Greatest (Wealthiest) of the men of the East (vs 3) but he is not remembered for his wealth.
- C) Showed the world how to undergo trial vs 22. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

He was remembered for His patience in Trial. It's the diamond and not the marshmallow that makes a mark!!

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; (the Lord's purpose and how He richly blessed him in the end- amp bible) that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy .

That's it!! That's what God is trying to show us- THE END of the situation or circumstance. We get so hung up on the NOW until we miss the "End" and life overwhelms us. Present sufferings tend to overshadow future Joys- I Pet 1:6-7
Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ .

Enough happiness to keep me sweet;
Enough trials to keep me strong;
Enough sorrow to keep me human;
Enough hope to keep me happy, but
Enough failure to keep me humble and
dependent on God.

Job teaches us that God is looking for a people COMMITTED to HIM regardless of the CIRCUMSTANCES. It also teaches us to beware of forming opinions based simply on Human wisdom and what we can see. "The Just shall live by Faith" not only applies to our Salvation but also to our Situation!!

WHY ARE BAD THINGS ALLOWED TO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE??

Job's Four Friend's Philosophy of Suffering are the ones you will hear from people all the time. We need to recognize them for what they are and then see what God has to say about this important subject.

1. **Eliphaz the Temanite: (ADMIT YOU'VE SINNED AND BE HEALED)**

4:7-8 Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness reap the same.

4:12-17 He saw a vision in the night that told him, "Shall mortal man be more just than God?" (vs 17) [If bad has come into your life then it has to be YOUR fault because it can't be GOD'S!!]

His Advice: 5:8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: (PRAY)

5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: (Admit your sickness is a result of Sin and REPENT of it.)

Note his final statement: 5:27 Know thou it is for thy good (We know that it was not for Job's GOOD as much as for God's GLORY).

2. **Bildad the Shuhite: (OTHER'S SINS ARE CAUSING YOU TO SUFFER) 8:3 *Doth***

God pervert Judgment? Your children died because they had sinned (8:4) but "God will not cast away a perfect man," (8:20) and if you will continue to seek God He will "fill thy mouth with laughing"-8:21

3. **Zophar the Naamathite: (BE THANKFUL IT'S NOT MORE)**

11:6 Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth. 11:14 If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

4. **Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite: (SIMPLY SUBMIT)**

33:12-13 Behold in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man. Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

37:23-24 Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.

[This comes closest to being right but it's fatal flaw is that it is "BLIND FATALISM" instead of BUILDING FAITH. God is not looking for "Whipped Dogs"; He is developing Strong Sons--Heb 5:8-9 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him ;]

GOD'S "ANSWER" TO JOB (was not an answer but an assertion): I made the Earth and all it's many secrets, I made the Heavens and defined the laws of nature, I made the animals the way I chose to make them, YOU ARE ONE OF MY CREATURES AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO WITH YOU AS I WISH!!! (Real Faith does not change because Circumstances do). To which Job could only reply, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee...wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes (42:1-6).

Land with only sunshine and no rain becomes a desert. I fear the thunder and wind; yet I desperately need the refreshing rain. Is that a cloud I see??!!

GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE "BAD MAN"

Job 1:6-12 2:1-8

One of my favorite stories about the West is about an old man and his daughter who were being harassed by a "villain". The Bad guy had hired a "gunslinger" to kill the old man so the villain could claim his land and marry the daughter. An out of work actor arrived in town and heard about the situation. He volunteered to help the old man. The way he did so was to pretend to be Wild Bill Hickock. The gunslinger believed his bluff and left town on the run.

Sadly, that is the same way Satan works today. He runs a bluff on people and causes them to live a life of fear instead of the abundant life God intended.

People today believe that Satan is all powerful, everywhere present, and unable to be defeated. They languish in his prisons, or submit to his power; unaware that their bonds are broken and victory is available thru Christ. We need to learn to pray with David: (Psalm 27:1-3) The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident .

Let's look at the story of Job (where Satan did his worst) and find out the "good news about the "bad man" ".

I. THE "BAD NEWS" IS SATAN'S PLAN:

A) To get men to worship him instead of God: Satan wants your worship and he has a progressive plan to get that worship:

(Note temptation of Jesus. Matt 4:1-10--
Self Rule- Turn stones into Bread (Make "Self" most important).
Soul Rule- Cast self off temple and prove God (Make God serve YOU).
Satan Rule- Worship me and I'll give you everything.

B) To Cause all the damage he can: SATAN IS BEHIND THE EARTH'S ILLS-
"Whence cometh thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Satan always looks for trouble. Hate and destruction are part of his nature now. He looks for trouble just to cause trouble!! [The Lord does the same thing for Good- II Chron 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.]

1. Satan is the Accuser of the Brethren- Rev 12:10
2. Satan is the instigator of sin and trouble- Garden of Eden

The Reason for this is that Satan knows he's going to Hell and his hate wants to carry as many others with him as possible. If he can either get you to worship him or get so busy with troubles until you fail to worship God then he has accomplished his purpose.

II. THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THIS "BAD MAN":

A) He is accountable to God- "The sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." There is only ONE GOD and every creature is accountable to Him.

Everyone is accountable- Payday someday!!!

Satan will be cast out of Heaven and then cast into lake of Fire.

B) His mind is open to God- "Hast thou considered (set thy mind on) my servant Job." Satan does not know what God is doing- I Cor 2:8 which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.-- but God knows everything that Satan is doing and planning.

Satan can't fool or hide from God- neither can you.

C) Satan can do nothing without divine permission- "Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" ---Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. 2:6 Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

GOD STILL HEDGES HIS PEOPLE- I Cor 10: 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

"Peculiar people" (I Pet 2:9) means a "surrounded" (Hedged) people.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO CHRISTIANS??:

1. We're on the "Victory" Side- John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. What we need to do is (James 4:7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. (Be careful that you don't think it's your ABILITY instead of your STANDING in Christ- Jude 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, the Lord rebuke thee.)



2. We're saved and on the way to Heaven- Luke 10:19-20 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

BUT THIS IS ONLY FOR CHRISTIANS- LOOK WHAT HE CAN DO TO SINNERS.

1. He can Trap you- II Tim 2:25-26 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

2. He can Control you- John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The Good News of the Gospel is that you can escape Satan's Power and Sin's Penalty by trusting Christ as your Savior. Do so today.

PSALMS

The PSALMS have been called the "Window of the Heart" for they expose the human soul as no other literature does. J Sidlow Baxter says they are like "a stringed instrument which registers every note of praise and prayer, of triumph and trouble, of gladness and sadness, of hope and fear, and unites them all in the full multi-cord of human experience."



The Psalms are quoted more frequently in the New Testament than any other book of the Old Testament. More people come to the Psalms for comfort and encouragement than any other portion of Scripture. The Bible without the Psalms would be like a man with a smile or a tear.

THE TITLES OF THE PSALMS:

At times Authorship is emphasized. Sometimes Relationship. The occasion of the psalm's composition is sometimes pointed out. Certain titles indicate the desired musical effect or setting. Still others describe the basic character of the psalm as (1) a hymn to be sung with musical accompaniment (mizmor), (2) a song (shir), (3) an anthem (maskil), or (4) a lamentation (miktam).

All but 34 of the psalms bear some type of title as a superscription. 73 use the inscription "A Psalm of David". 12 are connected with Asaph, 12 with the sons of Korah, 2 with Solomon, 1 with Ethan, and 1 with Moses.

THE DIVISION OF THE BOOK:

Psalms is divided into 5 "books" that appear to correspond to the 5 books of the Law.

1. 1-41 Mainly written by David and talk about Man- Genesis
2. 42-72 Mainly written by David and talk about Deliverance- Exodus
3. 73-89 Mainly Asaphian and talk about the sanctuary- Leviticus
4. 90-106 Mainly Anonymous and talk about unrest/wandering- Numbers
5. 107-150 David/Anonymous. Emphasis Praise and the Word-Deuteronomy

CLASSIFICATION OF THE PSALMS:

The Psalms are not grouped into specific classifications. There are however 5 Dominate **THEMES:**

1. Realization of God's Presence and Power
2. Thanksgiving for God's Work or Blessings
3. Personal Communion with God.
4. Remembrance of God's part in history
5. Prayer or Praise for deliverance from enemies.

There are also 5 Dominate **TYPES** of Psalm:

1. Hymns of Praise
2. National Laments
3. Royal (Messianic) Psalms
4. Individual Laments
5. Individual Thanksgiving.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord Psalm 150:6

THE DIVISIONS OF THE PSALMS:

Psalm:

3-41 A Davidic Collection with doxology and preference for "Yahweh" [LORD in English] (272 occurrences compared with 15 for "Elohim").

51-72 A Davidic Collection with doxology and preference for "Elohim" [God in English] (208 occurrences compared with 48 for "Yahweh")

50, 73-83 Levitical guild collection ascribed to Asaph

42-49 Levitical guild collection attributed to the Sons of Korah

90-99 Sabbath Psalms closely connected with regular Sabbath worship.

113-118 Hallel of Egypt Psalms, connected in worship with the Passover

120-134 Songs of Ascents or Degrees, probably sung by the pilgrims journeying to the Temple. [The 15 songs of "Degrees" were probably gathered in Hezekiah's time and relate to the 15 years added to his life. (Called songs of "Degrees" because the sundial went back 10 degrees). They are divided into 5 groups of 3 each- 2 probably written by Hezekiah and 1 by either David or Solomon.]

146-150 Hallelujah Psalms sung at festivals. [Each of these begin and end with "Hallelujah"- "Praise ye the Lord"]

THE REPENITENT PSALMS: (6,32,38,39,51,102,143) show the deep heart sorrow and repentance the child of God feels over sin in his life.

THE MESSIANIC PSALMS: (2, 8,16,22,23,24,40,41,45,68,69,72,87, 89,102, 110,118.) foretell the birth, betrayal, agony, death, resurrection, ascension, coming again in glory, and world-wide reign of Messiah. They give us more prophecy and a clearer picture of the Coming of Christ than any other TO Book. [Note especially 22-24 which show Christ as Suffering, as Shepherd, and as Sovereign].

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The "Curses" of the Psalms: (35,43,59,69,83,109,137)

35:1 fight against them that fight against me

69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, . . .

83:17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; . . .

109:18 As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones

137:9 Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones

The Psalmist is aware of his position as "Servant of God". He realizes that an attack on him is an "attack on God" [139:21 Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee?...I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.] He is asking God to deal with SIN thru the Sinner. There is a vast difference between forgiving a sinner and condoning Sin. A sinner who refuses to forsake sin will face all the wrath of God. God's Love would have forgiven him but His justice will not allow him to continue in his Sinfulness.

PROVERBS

Practical Philosophy for Pilgrims

Proverb- A brief saying in the stead of many words (Pro=for, Verba=words)

The purpose of Proverbs is not to explain a matter but to express a Principle. It is done in such a way as to make it easier to remember than to forget.

The Book is divided into 3 parts: (Each part begins with "The Proverbs of Solomon". NOTE: there is some question about chapters 30 and 31. We will deal with that when we come to those chapters in our study.)

Chapter 1-9 Wisdom shows us the contrast between good and evil

Chapter 10-24 The ways of the Wise and Foolish are contrasted.

Chapter 25-31 Practical guidelines for Home, Social, and Business life are given.

THERE ARE 5 BASIC TYPES OF PROVERBS:

1. **Completive** "And"- "Commit thy works unto the Lord
(Prov 16:3) AND thy thoughts shall be established"
2. **Comparative** "Than"- "Better is a little with righteousness
(Prov 16:8) THAN great revenues without right"
3. **Contrastive** "But"- "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine
(Prov 17:22) BUT a broken spirit drieth the bones"
4. **Character study**- The Fool, The Wise, The Simple, etc.
5. **Constructive**- Principles to Build and Guide your life
Prov 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he hearth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Prov 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

SOLOMON GIVES 6 REASONS FOR WRITING PROVERBS IN PROVERBS 1:1-6:

TO KNOW wisdom and instruction; **TO PERCEIVE** the words of understanding;
TO RECEIVE the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgement, and equity;
TO GIVE subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
A wide man will hear, and will **INCREASE LEARNING**; and a man of
understanding shall attain unto wise counsels;
TO UNDERSTAND a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and
their dark sayings.

There are 31 chapters in Proverbs. One for each day of the month. Begin each day by using a chapter to guide you and inspire you.

When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee :
Prov 2:10-11

ECCLESIASTES

The name "ECCLESIASTES" means the "Preacher" or the "Speaker" (It literally means "one who addresses an assembly"). It gets its name from the title Solomon takes at the beginning of the book. We believe this is a "recap" of Solomon's life experiences and he takes this title because he has a very valuable lesson to share with his readers.

This book is not just a "Story", it is basically a Sermon. As such it has an introduction, sets forth a premise, comes to conclusions, and offers an alternate course of action.

The Title of the Sermon could very well be, "What is the Purpose of Life?"; for this is the heart of the book.

The Introduction to the Sermon (1:2-11) is designed to show the futility of life lived by sight. Solomon does this by showing that Life is a "Cycle" instead of an ever advancing "Ladder"- One generation passes and another comes, sun rises and sets, wind blows north and south, rivers continue to flow, man is never satisfied. All this to show that each generation makes its own mistakes regardless of those who have gone before. That being the case, why should a man spend time and effort trying to advance himself or others?.

The Body of the Sermon is to show from personal experience that all earthly goals and blessings, when pursued as ends in themselves, lead to dissatisfaction and emptiness- "Vanity of vanities...all is vanity" Solomon shows that all of the things men use as GOALS cannot satisfy, nor are they lasting- Wisdom (1:12-18 "Much Wisdom is much Grief"); Pleasure, Projects, or Popularity (2:1- 26 "This is also vanity and vexation of spirit"); "Religion" (3:1-22 "For who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?" [Does it really change anything?]); Contemplation, Companionship, and Covetousness ("what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?") (4:1-6:12 "for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?")

He then begins to give some GUIDELINES to keep you from utter despair as you go thru life (7:1-12:12). Here are a few examples:

7:3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better .

7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider:

8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit: neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war;

9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might;

10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.

12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,

Finally, he brings the sermon to a CONCLUSION:

12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil .

The basic of Solomon's Sermon is very simple: In order for life to have Meaning and Motivation you must know its purpose- Rev 4:11 "(God) created all things, and for His pleasure they are and were created. " . GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE MUST BE THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE!

SONG OF SOLOMON

The Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes are opposites- Ecclesiastes finds that this present world and all it offers cannot satisfy the human heart while Song of Solomon shows that the heart is filled and satisfied completely with Christ.

There are many symbols of the union between Christ and his people:

Christ is the Head and we are the body	A LIVING Union
Christ is the Foundation and we are the Building	A LASTING Union
Christ is the Vine and we are the Branches	A FRUITFUL Union
Christ is the Firstborn and we are His Brethren	A FAMILY Union
Christ is the Bridegroom and we are the Bride	A LOVING Union

It is this last symbol that we find in this "Song of Songs" by Solomon. It shows the rapture of relationship; a relationship that involves wooing, times of difficulty, and moments of tender intimacy.

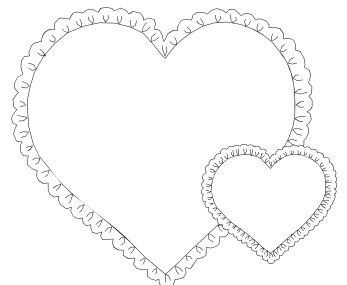
The different views of the "Song"

1. A Drama of 7 scenes of a love story
2. A Compilation of several independent love songs
3. An Allegorical story- every detail has a specific meaning
4. The Song shows "Types" of the love between God and Israel or Christ and the Church. This seems to be the most correct. It is like the Allegorical method except it does not make every detail have a spiritual meaning.

The Basis story is this: King Solomon, with all his royal court, is visiting the royal vineyards upon Mount Lebanon. He comes by surprise upon the fair Shulamite. She flee from him. Solomon returns and visits her in the disguise of a shepherd, and so wins her love. He then comes in all his royalty and asks her to leave Lebanon and become his queen. They are in the act of being wed in the royal palace when the poem opens.

1. The Royal Wedding lived over again 1:1-2:7 1:4
Mutual affection of the Lovers expressed
2. The Bride's Remembers her Courtship 2:8- 3:5
The mutual seeking of the lovers is portrayed
3. The Occasion of the Betrothal Recalled 3:6-5:1
The fetching of the bride and the marriage scene
4. The Bride's troubled Dream related 5:2- 6:3
The Bride's deep longing for her beloved
5. The King's Meditation on his Bride 6:4-7:10
The beauty of the Bride is described
6. The Bride longs to see her old home 7:11-8:4
The Shulamite is described as beautiful but humble
7. The Renewal of Love at Lebanon 8:5-8:14
The Love covenant is ratified in the bride's home

This books should show Christians the need of a Deep Loving Relationship with Christ. A relationship that brings from our heart the deepest adoration, the greatest longings, and an abiding love that makes up for all our shortcomings and sufferings.



INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETS

Prophecy is one of the 7 parts that make up the Word of God. The other Six are: History, Biography, Ethics, Devotions, Messianic Revelation, and Spiritual Guidance.

The Prophetical Books (like the Historical) number 17 and are divided into 2 groups - Major Prophets (5) and Minor Prophets (12). They are called Major and Minor Prophets because of the length of the Books, not because of their importance.

The 12 Minor Prophets are divided into 2 groups - The first 9 are Pre-exile and the last 3 are Post-exile. (Again like the Historical).

"The office of the Prophet was extraordinary rather than ordinary. As His ordinary servants and teachers, God appointed the priests and Levites. They taught what the Law, as it stood, enjoined: and they performed the sacred rites which it demanded. But when, under this more formal teaching, the nation slumbered; when they misapprehended its real character; or when they turned away from it - then appeared the prophet, to rouse, to excite, to warn the people, and to call them back to the real purpose of their own institutions."

The word "Prophet" means - One who speaks in place of another (The Hebrew word means "to boil forth"; another indication of the fact that the Prophet was one driven by something other than himself). Prophecy could involve future events, present truths, or past lessons. The authority of the Prophet is always, "Thus saith the Lord.". They did not speak as a man to men but as a messenger of God to sinful men. Peter tells us that the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (II Peter 1:21). Thus the Prophet did not give the discourse he wanted but the one God commanded (See the example of Nathan in II Sam. 7. He told David it was right to build the Temple but had to come back and tell him not to do so when God spoke.) [Remember that God correctly reported what Satan and Job's Friends said but that does not mean we should obey it as from God]. Many Prophets were unnamed in Scripture and many wrote material that God did not preserve for us- The writings of Nathan, II Chron. 9:29; of Gad, I Chron. 29:29; of Ahijah, II Chron. 9:29; of Jehu, II Chron. 20:34, etc.)

* * * * *

Chronological Grouping of the Prophets:

Prophets of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)	Jonah	862 BC	
	Amos	787	
	Hosea	785-725	
Prophets of the Southern Kingdom (Judah)	Obadiah	887	
	Joel	800	
	Isaiah	760-698	
	Micah	750-710	Northern Kingdom went
	Nahum	713	into captivity in 721 BC
	Habakkuk	626	
	Zephaniah	630	
	Jeremiah	629-588	[Southern Kingdom into
	Lamentations		captivity- 587 BC]
Prophets during and after Exile	Ezekiel	595-574	
	Daniel	607-534	Remnant return 536
	Haggai	520	
	Zechariah	520-518	
	Malachi	397	

THE PROPHETS AND THE MESSIAH

The Prophets saw Christ's Coming as Servant and Savior, Prophet and King AT THE SAME TIME. They did not know that there would be a time between the two Comings and it was a "Mystery" to them. This was why the Jews in Jesus' day looked for a Messiah to set up a Physical Earthly Kingdom RIGHT THEN and relieve them of the oppression of the Roman Empire. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified before hand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. I Peter 1:10-12 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel. Ephesians 3:3-6

"There were 25 specific predictions made by O.T. Prophets bearing on the betrayal, trial, death, and burial of Jesus. These were uttered by different prophets during the period from 1000BC until 500BC, yet they were all literally fulfilled in 24 hours in one person. According to the law of "Compound Probabilities" there was one chance in 33,554,432 that these 25 predictions would be fulfilled as prophesied."

Clarence Larkin

Christ in Isaiah:

Birth 7:14, 9:6 Family 11:1 Anointing 11:2 Character 11:3-4 Plain Diet and Simplicity 7:15 Gentleness 42:1-4 Resurrection 25:8 Death 53:- Glorious Reign 11:6-12

SPECIFIC PREDICTIONS:

Mocked by His enemies---Psalm 22:7-8
His garments parted-----Psalm 22:18
Not a bone of His body broken---Psalm 34:20
Accused by false witnesses-----Psalms 35:11
Betrayed by a Friend-----Psalm 41:9
Be given gall and vinegar to drink--Psalm 69:21
Be Scourged-----Isaiah 50:6
Be dumb before his accusers-----Isaiah 53:7
That He should be buried in a rich man's tomb--Isaiah 53:9
Die with malefactors-----Isaiah 53:12
Messiah would be sold for 30 pieces of silver---Zech 11:12
The Price of His Betrayal would be used to purchase a Potter's field
Zech 11:13
Forsaken by His Disciples-----Zech 13:7

*** **

Men today ask Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation (II Pet 3:4). What we need to realize is that The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (II Pet 3:9). EVERY promise God has ever make either has or will come true- never doubt that.

A summary of ISAIAH

The broadening of Isaiah's Vision in the first half of the Book is amazing-He begins by looking at the hypocritical cold hearts of individual men of Judah and goes to the nation's sins (1-6). Then he deals with "Kin" Israel and her confederacy with Syria against Assyria (7-12). He then shows the futility of trusting in other nations by showing how one after the other would fall (13-23). This leads him to pronounce Judgment on all nations while at the same time holding forth the Promise of God restoring Israel (24-27). He ends this part by rebuking the people for trusting in an alliance with Egypt in the light of the fact that God has shown them they should cease trusting in men and place their trust in God (28-35). The Historical interlude of Hezekiah vividly illustrates this point (36-39). Hezekiah was faced with an overwhelming enemy with no one to turn to because he had sought to turn to Egypt for help and Egypt had been defeated. But when he turned to God in prayer the enemy was destroyed and turned back by the Power of God. Yet, even with this, Hezekiah shows all his treasures to the messengers from Babylon- who would eventually conquer Judah for these treasures. All of this to show Israel that their God was indeed the GOD OF ALL GODS and He ruled, not just in Israel, but in all the world!! The second half of the Book is divided into 3 different parts:

- 1) The PLAN of PEACE (Restoration by Cyrus) (40-48);
- 2) The PRINCE of PEACE- Messiah revealed (49-57); and
- 3) the PROGRAM of PEACE- the Millennial Kingdom (58-66).

The first section deals with the fact that Israel should not lose hope because God has not forsaken her- simply chastised her. He will yet deliver her (because He alone is God and other gods cannot prevent Him !!) and "wean" her from the sin of idol worship (Amazingly true. Before captivity Israel seemed drawn to Idols in spite of all God did but after captivity it was never a national problem again). Seeing themselves delivered by a man God had called by name 150 years before his time (Cyrus Is. 44:24-45:4) and seeing Prophecy after Prophecy fulfilled had the effect of convincing Israel that God was the only God. And that is God's primary requirement of any nation or person- "Thou shalt have no other gods before me; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul."

God then tells about the Prince of Peace- The long sought Messiah- who would provide an offering for sin and righteously rule the nation as they worshiped God. This was the great hope of Israel- a King to lead them back to their place of glory as God's chosen people. But they could not understand that God's plan called for Messiah to come TWICE- once as the suffering Savior and the second time as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Even the Prophets misunderstood this- I Pet 1:10-12 and Ep 3:3-6). They wondered how he could be a Suffering Servant and yet claim the throne of David in a new empire. Not understanding, they eventually began to ignore the suffering and look only for a great leader that would set up the Kingdom on Earth immediately. This is why Christ was rejected: He didn't meet the people's expectations (Even though He did fulfill the Bible Prophecy).

The final part deals with God's Program of Peace- The Millennial Kingdom set up with people who realize that God sees the HEART and therefore forsakes the "form of religion" for that which is based on "Spirit and Truth". Chapter 64 is Isaiah's great prayer for God to come and set up his Kingdom and chapters 65 and 66 are God's answer- a New Heaven and a new Earth, New Hearts, and judgement upon the wicked who refuse to follow God.

No wonder Isaiah is often called the "Fifth Gospel". It reaches out as no other Old Testament Book to show that God's plan of Salvation is for ALL the world and not just for Israel.

ISAIAH

HIS BACKGROUND: Isaiah was apparently from a good family, since he had access to the palaces of several kings. His name means "The salvation of Jehovah".

HIS MESSAGE: He shows more about the coming Christ than any of the other Prophets. His message can be summed up in one verse, (1:2) Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me .

I. THE PUBLIC PREACHING ABOUT SINS 1-35 (During the reigns of Uzziah, Jothan, Ahaz, and Hezekiah- 1:1)

- A) Sermons about the Sins of Judah- Ending with Isaiah's Vision 1-6
- B) Sermons about the confederacy of Israel with Assyria- highlighted by promises of the coming Messiah. 7-12
- C) Burdens of Judgment on other nations 13-23
- D) Songs of Judgment and Promises 24-27
- E) The Six "Woes" against people's sins 28-35

Historical Interlude (Showing what God could have done if Israel would have only been obedient). Hezekiah the Example:

- 1. His victory over Assyria by prayer 36-37
- 2. His sickness and Healing 38
- 3. He shows his wealth to Babylon 39

II. THE PRIVATE WRITINGS ABOUT THE SAVIOR 40-66 (During the reign of Manasseh- when he probably was unable to speak in public.

Manasseh was one of the most ungodly Kings ever and tradition says he had Isaiah killed by being sawn asunder (cp Heb 11:37)).

- A) The Purpose of Peace 40-48 Comfort ye my People
- B) The Prince of Peace 49-57 Christ the Suffering Savior
- C) The Program of Peace 58-66 Cry aloud against Sin as you prepare the way for the coming Kingdom.

ISAIAH'S TWO SONS: Their names symbolically illustrate the two main messages of Isaiah's ministry: Shear-hashub means "a remnant shall return" and ties in with the second part of Isaiah's Prophecy; the return of the remnant from Babylon. Maher-shalal-hash-baz means "Speed to the spoil, haste to the prey" and parallels chapter 1-39; the defeat of Assyria.



It has been suggested that Isaiah's book is a "Bible in miniature". It's 66 chapters are divided into two parts; 39 chapters in the first part (TO) and 27 in the second part (NT). Like the TO, the first 39 chapters emphasize judgment; while the last 27 emphasize mercy and comfort like the NT.

The thing that makes God sick (Rev 3:16) and Tired (Is 1:13-14) is lukewarm worship. Sin makes Him angry but lukewarm worship breaks His heart!

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah ("The Lord Exalts") was the son of a Priest. He was called at an early age to be a Prophet to a nation on the verge of captivity. His ministry extended from the 13th year of Josiah to the 11th year of the reign of Zedekiah when Judah was carried away captive. (He actually continued his work in Egypt until he was stoned to death by the people). His 40 year ministry was in the most trying time of any of the Prophets. God's Judgment was finally going to fall on His rebellious people and Jeremiah had to deliver that message- A message the people did not want to hear and would not heed!!

Jeremiah is known as the Weeping Prophet (Jer 9:1). His Messages were a blend of condemnation of, and Judgment upon, sin; yet his messages were unequalled, until Christ, in showing how God's heart ached over Judah's sins (O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. Matt 23:37-38).

Jeremiah used "Backslider" and Backsliding" more than all the rest of the writers of the Bible put together!! (13 times). He told the People to return 47 times in 52 Chapters! But, alas, the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart." 12:11



I. **JEREMIAH'S CALL** 1:- (A Divine Conviction of God's plan for his life).

II. **JEREMIAH'S MINISTRY** 2 - 39

- A) Sermons against Jerusalem and Judah 2 - 19
 - 1. Reproved and Pleaded with 2-6
 - 2. False Religion attacked and True Repentance called for 7-9
 - 3. The Broken Covenant 10-12
 - 4. Sign Sermons 13-19
 - a. The marred girdle 13
 - b. The Famine 14:1-9
 - c. The Prayerless Prophet 14:10- 15:21 (Note 14:11)
 - d. The denial of the comforts of a Family 16
 - e. The Stone Hearts 17:1-18
 - f. The Broken Sabbaths 17:19-27
 - g. The Potter's Vessel 18-19
- B) Jeremiah's imprisonment and despondency 20
- C) Zedekiah's inquiry and the Pronouncement of Doom 21
- D) Proclamations against Judah's Kings and false Prophets 22-23
- E) The parable of the good and bad figs 24

F) Dated Messages: 25-39

1. Fourth year of Jehoiakim 25 (Reveals length of captivity- 70years) (25:12)
 2. Beginning of reign of Jehoiakim 26 (Jeremiah threatened with death)
 3. The "Yoke" message to Jehoiakim (27:1-11) and Zedekiah (27:12 -22)
 4. Hananiah's false prophecy to Zedekiah and his death 28
 5. After Jeconiah carried captive to Babylon 29 (A letter to the captives telling them to dwell content in Babylon because it would be 70 years before the captivity would be lifted).
 6. Tenth year of Zedekiah 32-33 (Jerusalem was under seize and Jeremiah was in prison- told to redeem land to show there is hope for the future).
 7. At the beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's seize of Jerusalem 34 (Don't resist. This is God's will).
 8. During Jehoiakim's Reign 35 (The Faithfulness of the Rechabites compared to Israel's unfaithfulness)
 9. Fourth year of Jehoiakim 36 (The Prophecies recorded on a Roll which Jehoiakim burned)
 10. During Zedekiah's reign 37-38 (The Seize is lifted and Jeremiah is arrested but protected by Zedekiah).
- G) Jerusalem falls 39:1-10
H) Jeremiah committed to Gedaliah's care to remain in Jerusalem 39:11-40:6

III. JEREMIAH'S FINAL YEARS 40-45

- A) Gedaliah murdered 40-41
- B) People ask for, but refuse to obey, Jeremiah's advice 42-43:7
- C) Jeremiah in Egypt 43:8-44:30 (Stones hidden for throne)
- D) Baruch advised- Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not 45

IV. JEREMIAH'S MESSAGES AGAINST FOREIGN NATIONS 46-51

- A) Against Egypt 46
- B) Against the Philistines 47
- C) Against Moab 48
- D) Against the Ammonites 49:1-6
- E) Against Edom 49:7-22
- F) Against Damascus 49:23-27
- G) Against Kedar & Hazor 49:28-33
- H) Against Elam 49:34-39
- I) Against Babylon 50-51

APPENDIX- In Wrath God remembers Mercy 52

- A) Jerusalem's Fall 52:1-30
- B) Jehoiachin Favored 52:31-34



For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. 2:13

LAMENTATIONS

And it came to pass, after Israel was taken captive, and Jerusalem made desolate, that Jeremias sat weeping, and lamented with this lamentation over Jerusalem, and said. . . . Thus begins the Lamentations in the ancient versions of the Scriptures. Said to have been written by Jeremiah as he sat on a hill called Golgotha, these are some of the saddest writings known to mankind.

There two great lessons are: (1) High Calling, flaunted by low living, inevitably issues in deep suffering. And (2) God doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children (3:33) and In all their afflictions He was afflicted (Is. 63:9). Sin MUST be punished but God NEVER enjoys doing so.

The five chapters are actually 5 poems written in Acrostic form. The Hebrew Alphabet has 22 letters and each verse of Chapters 1, 2, and 4 begin with the succeeding letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. Chapter 3 is 3 times as long as the other chapters (The first 3 verse begins with the first letter of the Alphabet, the second 3 with the second, etc.). The fifth chapter (while containing 22 verses like 1,2, & 4) is not written in Acrostic form but is a Prayer.

I. JERUSALEM'S PLIGHT (The City represented as a Weeping Widow) 1

A) Jeremiah bemoans the Plight 1-11 How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! How is she become as a widow 1:1

B) Jerusalem bewails her condition 12-22 (Note change of "her" to "my").
Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto MY sorrow. 1:12

II. JEHOVAH'S ANGER (The city represented as a Deserted Sweetheart bearing the anger of a "Jilted Lover".) 2

A) The Destruction of the City is from the Lord 1-17 (The Lord hath done that which he hath devised vs 17).

B) The People cry out to God because of the Trouble 18-22
Behold, O Lord, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord? 20

III. JEREMIAH'S GRIEF (The City represented by the Weeping Prophet who still hopes in the Love of God). 3

A) Afflicted- yet Hope 1-36 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not 3:22

B) Confession and Appeal 37-66 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again unto the Lord. 3:40

IV. JUDGMENT DESCRIBED (The City represented as Gold which is cast away because it can't meet the people's needs) 4

A) Judgment contrasted 1-11 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers. . . 4:2

B) Judgments looked upon by others 12-22 The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem. 4:12

V. JERUSALEM'S PRAYER (The City represented as a Suppliant pleading with God) 5 Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old. 5:21

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel was a Priest, who, at the age of 25; just 11 years before the destruction of the Temple, was carried captive to Babylon. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel. In Babylon he dwelt in his own house (6:1). He was married, but his wife died in the year the final siege of Jerusalem began (24:18). He began his ministry five years after reaching Babylon, at the age of 30, as Jeremiah was approaching the end of his great and tragic career.

By false prophets, the captives were led to imagine that Jerusalem would not be destroyed, and they would soon be restored to their beloved city and land. Jeremiah heard of this, and from Jerusalem, wrote them a letter (Jer. 29). Ezekiel began his ministry the following year, endorsing all that Jeremiah had said, and endeavoring to convince them that **BEFORE THEY COULD EVER HOPE TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM THEY MUST FIRST RETURN TO THEIR LORD.** Though the task was a difficult one, and though at first he met with very great opposition, ultimately he was blessed with success, and his people's return to the Lord and the land were largely the fruit of his ministry.

Ezekiel is concerned above all with the GLORY OF GOD. (He emphasizes the work of the Spirit, Isaiah the work of the Son, and Jeremiah the heartbreak of the Father.)

I. THE APPEARANCE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD 1-3 (Preparation and call)

"... and, behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face. Then the Spirit entered into me, ..." (Ez 3:23-24)

II. THE DEPARTURE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD 4-24

(Prophecies of Destruction of Jerusalem)

A) Various object lessons and Prophecies of the imminent Doom 4-7

B) Vision of the temple and city: The Glory Departs 8-11 (Notice the Glory over the ark (10:1), then it moves to the threshold of the Temple (10:4), and finally, the Glory leaves the city (11:23).

Yet even then it tarries on the nearby mount in hope that Israel will repent and allow it to return!)

C) Symbols and Sermons leading up to Jerusalem's fall 12-24

III. GOD'S GLORY AND THE SURROUNDING NATIONS 25-32

(Prophecies against Seven Nations)

A) Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia 25

B) Tyre/Zidon 26-28 (28:11-19 gives us insight into Satan's History)

C) Egypt 29-32 (God is against these nations. Not only for their sins, but also for their ill treatment of His chosen, Israel.)

IV. THE RETURN OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD 33-48

(Prophecies in relation to Israel's Future)

A) Promise of restoration to the penitent 33

B) The Good Shepherd contrasted with the bad 34

C) Judgment on Edom (Mt Seir was where Edom's capital was located. Israel- God's only Chosen)

D) Moral Restoration 36

E) Corporate Restoration 37 ("Valley of Dry Bones")

F) Destruction of the enemy - Gog and Magog 38-39

G) Millennial Temple 40-43 (The return of the Glory of the Lord to the rebuilt Temple 43:1-5)

H) Millennial Worship 44-46 (Ordinances of Worship. note 44:18)

I) Millennial Distribution 47-48 And the name of the city from that day shall be, the Lord is there. (Ez 48:35)

DANIEL

The Captivities- The fall of Jerusalem was in 3 stages:

1) in 605BC Nebuchadnezzar captured the city (Beginning the 70 year period of Jeremiah) but as he did he learned of his father's death. In his haste to return to Babylon he simply took some of the Temple vessels and a few of the choice men of Israel (Among whom were Daniel and his friends- Dan 1:1-4).

2) in 597BC, after Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar again conquered the city and carried off 10,000 captives. (Among them King Jehoiachin and Ezekiel- Ez 1:1-3).

3) Finally, in 587BC, after a long siege, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and the Temple and carried most of the people into captivity. (Although Jeremiah and some poorer people were left- Jer 40)

While Ezekiel ministered to the Captive Jews, Daniel bore witness to the Gentile Nations about the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD. They needed to know that their victory over God's people was not a result of their POWER; It came about because of God's PUNISHMENT of His people.

I. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY SHOWN THRU HIS SERVANTS 1-6 (Personal)

A) By Blessing those who steadfastly follow Him. 1 (Not eating Kings's meat resulted in them being "ten times better").

B) By revealing the secret of the Dream to Nebuchadnezzar 2
The Secret which the King hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king; But there is a God in Heaven that revealeth secrets," (Dan 2:27-28) [The Great Image destroyed by the stone].

C) By protecting His servants in Trial 3 [The Fiery Furnace]

D) By humbling the leader of the world 4 [Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree cut down; his resultant sickness and return]. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of Heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. (Dan 4:37)

E) By punishing those who mock Him 5 [Belshazzar's feast, the writing on the wall, and fall of "invincible" Babylon].

F) By overruling the Law of the World 6 [Daniel in Lion's Den]



II. GOD'S VIEW OF THE WORLD KINGDOMS 7-12 (Prophecy)

A) The Four Beast's Kingdom 7 [Lion= Babylon; Bear= Medo-Persia; Leopard= Greece; and the 10 horned dreadful beast= Rome {eventually the kingdom of Antichrist}].

B) The Ram and the Goat Kingdom 8 [Ram= Medo-Persia. He-Goat= Greek {whose "notable horn" was Alexander the Great}].

C) Daniel prays for his own nation and is told the order of events of Israel's future 9 [The great 70 week prophecy].

D) What shall befall the Jewish Nation in the Latter days 10-12. Some of the great Prophecy in the Bible. Vital to the understanding of Revelation.

PROPHECY POINTERS

THE KINGDOMS OF DANIEL:	Chapter 2	Chapter 7
1. Babylon (606-539 BC)	Head of Gold	The lion with (36-38) eagle wings (4)
2. Media-Persia (539-330 BC)	Arms and Chest of Silver (39)	Bear with 3 ribs (5)
3. Greece (330-150 BC)	Thigh of Brass (39)	Leopard with four heads (6)
4. Rome (150 BC-500 AD)	Legs of Iron (40)	Dreadful Beast(7)
5. Anti-Christ	10 toes iron and clay (41-43)	Little horn (8)
6. Christ	Stone that smites 44-45)	Ancient of Days (9-14)

A Prophecy year = 360 days (Rev 11:2-3).

42 months = 3 ½ years = 1260 days = 360 days per year)

Times, Times, and half a time = 42 (Time= 12. Times= 24. ½ time= 6)

The "little horn" is **Antiochus Epiphanes** (but it also refers to Antichrist). He was a wicked leader who came out of Syria, one of the four divisions of Alexander's empire. He invaded Palestine and set up a statue to Jupiter in the temple! He even went so far as to sacrifice a pig on the altar and sprinkle its blood around the courts! Imagine how the orthodox Jews felt about this! History tells us that the temple lay desolate until Dec. 25, 165 BC when the Jewish patriot, Judas Maccabeus, rededicated the temple and cleansed it; and the total number of days between desecration and dedication was 2300! (See Dan. 8:13-14.) This is a type of the Abomination of Desolation (Matt 24:15) that Jesus spoke of. Anti-Christ will defile the Temple in the middle of the Tribulation, an Image will be erected to him in the Temple, and everyone will be forced to worship it. (Rev. 13:11-15)

How accurate is Prophecy?? From the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah shall be cut off shall be 69 weeks (Dan 9:24-27)(69 X 7 = 483 years X 360 days = 173,880 days). The command to rebuild Jerusalem was given to Nehemiah on the first day of Nisan in the 20th year of Artaxexes (or March 14, 445 BC on our calendars). The verse divides the time into 7 weeks and 62 weeks (Dan 9:25). History tells us it took 49 years to complete the rebuilding of the entire city (Amazingly it took only 49 days to rebuild the walls. (Nehemiah says it was completed in 52 days (Neh 6:15) but he was in the city for 3 days before the work began (Neh 2:11)). Christ entered Jerusalem and is proclaimed as Messiah but rejected by the leaders of the People on April 6, 32 AD or exactly 173,880 days after the command to rebuild the city!! (See Luke 19:41-47 "at least in this thy day")

Daniel Chapter 8 -The Ram represents the Media-Persia (20) Empire. The 2 horns represent the Medes and the Persians. One was higher than the other because the Persians were stronger. The He-goat represents Greece. The great horn is Alexander the Great and 4 horns that come in his place are the 4 generals that take over when he dies (Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Cassander and Selenus).

HOSEA

Hosea begins the **MINOR PROPHETS** (So called because of their LENGTH; not their lack of importance. All of the Minor Prophets combined contain only one more chapter than the book of Isaiah). The Minor Prophets are divided into 2 groups: 9 before the Exile, 3 after the Exile.

Hosea was a prophet to the NORTHERN Kingdom of Israel (Which he refers to as Ephraim. He is the only Writing Prophet that came from the Northern Kingdom and Prophesied against the Northern Kingdom). He ministered during the wicked reign of Jeroboam (II) and his ministry probably continued until Assyria carried Israel into Captivity.

Hosea's wife proved unfaithful to him, left him for other "lovers", and finally became a Prostitute of the street. In spite of this, Hosea continued to love her and eventually brought her back when she had fallen so low until she was being sold as a slave. God used this wayward Wife as a tragic symbol of the unfaithfulness of His wayward wife, Israel (Who had sought other "lovers" and was now going to be sold into slavery). Because Hosea was so intimately acquainted with what he preached his message burns with zeal and "floats with tears". (He is to Israel what Jeremiah was to Judah- A prophet to show God's heartbreak over an unrepentant nation)

I. THE PROPHET'S MARRIAGE 1-3

A) The Symbolic Children and the Wayward Wife 1

1. Jezreel- God's judgment will fall on Israel in the valley of Jezreel 1:5.

2. Lo-ru-hamah- Not having obtained a father's love (Hosea was not sure that this was his daughter and her name signifies this). God will no more have mercy on Israel 1:6.

3. Lo-ammi- Not my People (Hosea knew that this was not his son). You are not my people and I will not be your God 1:9.

4. Gomer- The wife who goes into adultery but will one day be restored

B) The application of this to the nation of Israel 2

C) The forgiveness and redemption of the Wayward Wife 3 Love an adulteress according to the Love of God toward the Children of Israel 3:1. The Love of God is simply amazing.

II. THE PROPHET'S MESSAGE 4-14

A) Practices described 4-7 The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. (4:1)

1. My People are destroyed for lack of knowledge 4:6 (Left God)

2. My people ask counsel at their stocks. (4:12) (Ephraim is joined to Idols: let him alone. 4:17)

3. O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled 5:3 (They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the Lord: but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them. 5:6. See also 5:15)

4. Your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. 6:4. See 6:6

5. Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned 7:8.

B) Punishment Pronounced 8-10 They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind; 8:7. My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him;/they shall be wanderers among the nations 9:17

C) Pardon Promised 11-14 How shall I give thee up? 11:8. O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help 13:9

JOEL

Joel is possibly the earliest of the Prophets (Around the time of Elijah and Elisha). His short book contains; the text of Peter's Pentecost sermon (comp 2:28-32 with Acts 2:16-21), the Prophecy of the great battle of Armageddon in the valley of Jehoshaphat (3:9-17), and a remarkable description of an invasion by locust (1-2:11).

Joel means "The Lord is God" and his book shows that God can raise up and bring down- and which he does is determined by our relationship to Him.

I. **THE PLAGUE** 1-2:11 The harvest of the field is perish 1:11

A) The Literal Meaning- A plague of locust had devastated the countryside, destroying the crops, and bringing famine.

B) The Figurative meaning- Future destruction will overtake Judah and all her goods will be consumed by armies of "Locust" if she doesn't turn from sin unto God

II. **THE PLEA** 2:12-17

A) Whole hearted Repentance 2:12-14

B) Whole hearted Dedication 2:15-17 Wherefore should they say among the people, where is their God? 2:17

III. **THE PITY** 2:18-27 I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, 2:25

A) The Goods Restored

B) The Enemy Removed

IV. **THE PROMISE** 2:28-32 I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh 2:28

A) The Spirit

B) The Signs (Not yet accomplished) To the Jewish nation (They would have occurred if the Jews had accepted Christ as Messiah.).

V. **THE PUNISHMENT** 3:- (Upon the Gentile Nations)

A) As you have done to my people so shall it be done to you.

B) prepare war, beat your plowshares into swords. (Peace will turn to war) . *M*ultitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision; for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 3:14



AMOS

Amos ("Burden") was a simple shepherd and dresser of Sycamore fruit (7:14). He was called from Tekoa (in the southern kingdom of Judah) to witness to the northern kingdom of Israel at her religious center of Bethel. He witnessed during the reign of Jeroboam- a time when the land was prospering and sin was rampant. He did not go to the Prophet's School (7:14-15) but his preaching was with power and to the point. God gave him power to withstand the Priest of that day and preach the true message of God (Remember the Disciples were "Unlearned and ignorant men" Acts 4:13).



I. DESTRUCTION PROCLAIMED 1-2

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| A) Damascus 1:3-5 | E) Ammon 1:13-15 |
| B) Gaza 1:6-8 | F) Moab 2:1-3 |
| C) Tyrus 1:9-10 | G) Judah 2:4-5 |
| D) Edom 1:11-12 | H) Israel 2:6-16 |

II. DISCOURSES AGAINST ISRAEL 3-6

- A) Present Lack of Fellowship with God 3
(Therefore your Blessings will fail 3:11-15)
- B) Past Failure to heed God's Chastisements 4
(Therefore prepare to meet a Holy God 4:12-13)
- C) Future Problems to come because of continued disobedience 5-6
(Therefore they shall go into captivity with the first that go captive 6:7)

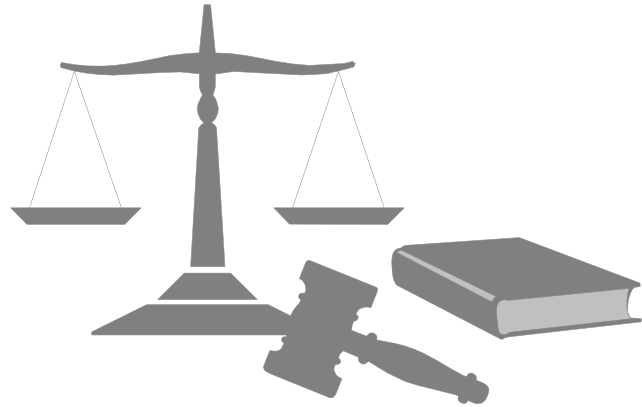
III. DREAMS OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL 7-9

- A) Grasshoppers 7:1-3 (Amos Prays and halts the plague)
Judgment **AVERTED**
- B) Fire 7:4-6 (Possibly devastation left by locust (Joel 2:3) and again halted by Prayer)
Judgment **RESTRAINED**.
- C) Plumblines 7:7-17 (Includes the denouncement of Amos by Amaziah the Priest of Bethel). Israel has become so "warped" by sin until God declares it is hopeless to try to get them to meet His standards now. He must begin again. I will not pass by them any more (7:8)
Judgment **DETERMINED**
- D) The Summer Fruit 8:- Judgment is "ripe" and soon to come. (See 8:11-12 on the Famine of the Word).
Judgment **IMMINENT**
- E) God upon the Altar 9:1-10 Judgment will be rendered by God Himself and though they dig into Hell (9:2) God will find and punish them.
Judgment **EXECUTED**
- F) The Promise of Future Restoration 9:11-15 I will bring again (9:14)

OBADIAH

Obadiah ("The Servant of Jehovah") is nowhere identified in scripture. The Book is the shortest book in the Old Testament and was written after the fall of Jerusalem (vs 10-14).

Obadiah is called the Prophet of "Poetic Justice" because his message concerned the destruction of Edom due to its enmity and treachery against Israel (The Edomites were the descendants of Esau- Jacob's Brother. They were so called because Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of RED Pottage [Gen 25:30]. Edom also means Red).



The Edomites had a "brotherly" hatred of Israel because they thought the birthright to the promised land should have been theirs. The feud had gone on for centuries (see Numbers 20:14-22 where the Edomites refuse to let Moses and the Children of Israel cross their land) and the Edomites rejoiced for glee and even helped when Jerusalem was spoiled by the Babylonians. They dwelt in their strongholds (such as the Rock City of Petra) and felt that they were unconquerable but God tells them thru Obadiah that their day would come and they'd reap what they had sown!! As thou has done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. vs 15

I. THE DESTRUCTION OF EDOM 1-16

A) The Certainty of it 1-9 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence wilt I bring thee down, saith the Lord. vs 4

B) The Reason for it 10-16 For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. vs10

II. THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL 17-21

A) The Promise of it 17-18 The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions vs 17

B) The Fullness of it 19-21 (The Captives shall be Captors!!)

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Notice how often "Brother is against Brother" in Scripture:
Cain withstood Abel about God's Way of Redemption
Ishmael withstood Isaac about Faith in the Promises of God
Esau Withstood Jacob about the Spiritual over the Physical

JONAH

The Book of Jonah has been one of the most attacked books in the Bible. Modern "critics" claim it is just imagination or a parable. The Bible, however, says Jonah was indeed a prophet of God (II Kings 14:25) and the Lord Jesus himself bore record of his ministry (Matt 12:39-41).

Jonah is the "Missionary Book" of the Old Testament and shows that God loved everyone- not just the Jews. Jonah was called to go and proclaim to Nineveh (the capital of Assyria, the leading world power at the time) that God would destroy it because of it's wickedness. The Policy of Assyria was to so terrorize a nation thru killing and torture that they would remain quiet even though only a few guards were left with them. They later expanded this policy to include the deportation of entire nations- as happened to Israel in II Kings 17:23-24. Rape, murder (The Assyrian army used pyramids of skulls to mark their Progress), the skinning of people alive, and the impaling of a person on a stick to die slowly in the sun were common.



Jonah was thrilled to hear that God was going to bring destruction on Nineveh (He knew that God had said Nineveh would destroy Israel) but he knew that if he proclaimed God's Judgment on Nineveh and they repented that God would forgive them (Jonah 4:2). He therefore chose to renounce his Prophetic office and be lost himself that Nineveh might be destroyed and Israel survive (If no one warned Nineveh then they wouldn't repent and God would punish them.).

The Book of Jonah tells how God deals with Jonah about this attitude and served as a vivid reminder to the Jews that the Gentiles, hearing God's message, would repent while the Jews, God's chosen people, wouldn't.

I. **RUNNING FROM GOD** 1 (Fleeing from God's will)

Notice that the Path of disobedience is always down: down to Joppa, down into the ship, down into the sea, down into the fish. Upon receiving his commission Jonah runs from God's Will but finds that God uses whatever means are necessary to discipline His children.

II. **REMORSE OVER DISOBEDIENCE** 2 (Praying to God)

"Out of the belly of Hell" he prayed and God heard. He now determines to obey God and "pay that he had vowed".

III. **REPENTING OF SIN** 3 (Speaking for God)

Remarkable as it may seem, this Heathen city repented after only 1 day's preaching and God stayed His wrath.

IV. **REBELLIOUS PROPHET** 4 (Learning from God)

Jonah is angry because God spared Nineveh and now sits to see what will happen. God prepares a gourd to shade him, a worm to kill the gourd, and a hot wind to discomfort Jonah to teach him the lesson of the whole Book- God is concerned about every thing in the world; not just a private corner!, as the Jews thought.

Far too many people today want Mercy for themselves and wrath for their enemies; not realizing that one day they too were enemies against God. Aren't you glad God gave them mercy instead of wrath? Go and do thou likewise.

MICAH

Micah ("Who is like Jehovah") was a contemporary of Isaiah. He prophesied during the latter part of Isaiah's Ministry. He was from Judah but his messages also concerned Israel.

Micah was quoted 3 times in the Scriptures at major events: (1) to save Jeremiah's life (Jer 26:18, Micah 3:12), (2) When the Wise Men came to Jerusalem seeking Christ (Matt 2:5-6, Micah 5:2), and (3) By Jesus when he sent out his disciples (Matt 10:35-36, Micah 7:6).

I. THE DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT 1-3

- A) Against Samaria and Judah and the surrounding towns 1
- B) Against Moral Corruption 2 (Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy; you, even with a sore destruction. 2:10 Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly? 2:7)
- C) Against False Prophets and Leaders 3 (The True Prophet was Full of power by the spirit of the Lord, and of Judgment, and of might to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin 3:8)

II. THE DELIVER IS PROMISED 4-5

- A) His Kingdom is described 4 (Note vs 12 where the Prophet says the other nations do not understand God's dealings with Israel.)
- B) His Place of Birth is announced 5:1-2
- C) His Rejection and Return is foretold 5:3-15

III. THE DEBATE OF GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE 6-7

- A) God should be worshiped from the heart; not just in form 6:1-8
- B) God cannot satisfy a wicked heart 6:9-16
- C) The Lord must be trusted even in difficult circumstances 7:- Who is God like unto thee? 7:18

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NAHUM

Nahum ("Comfort") ministered nearly 150 years after Jonah and his message was the destruction of Nineveh because she had gone back into sin and turned her back on God. Assyria was at it's peak but Nahum saw that God's Judgment would soon fall (And there would be no repentance this time- There is no healing of thy bruise 3:19). Through the example of Nineveh, Nahum hoped to show Judah that she too would fall if she refused to submit to God. This was also a message of Hope to a people faced with the danger of Assyrian Captivity.

I. NINEVEH'S DOOM DECLARED 1

- A) The Character of God 1:1-8
- B) The Cause of Nineveh's Doom- Her withstanding God 1:9-15

II. **NINEVEH'S DOOM DESCRIBED** 2 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved. 2:6 This is exactly what happened!! The Babylonians were unable to capture Nineveh until the rainy season when they released a dam and the water dissolved the walls.

III. **NINEVEH'S DOOM DESERVED** 3 Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery 3:1

THOUGH GOD WILL FORGIVE SIN REPENTED OF;
HE WILL NOT CONDONE SIN PERSISTED IN!!

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk ("To Embrace") ministered just after the fall of Nineveh and as Babylon was rising to become a world power. Just as the people of Judah were rejoicing that Nahum's prophecy of Nineveh's destruction was fulfilled they found they had "jumped from the frying pan into the fire". Babylon was out for world conquest and already was knocking at Jerusalem's door (Many think Habakkuk was written after the first captives [Daniel and others] were carried to Babylon). This short book reveals God's purpose in all of this and the fact of Babylon's ultimate downfall.

While most prophets are intent on proclaiming a message, Habakkuk is intent on solving a Problem- God's government of the Nations (And from that the doubts that arise because of the rise and fall of nations). The particular nation Habakkuk is concerned with is the Chaldean Nation, and why God was allowing this ungodly nation to conquer God's chosen nation Israel.

Habakkuk has been called the **grandfather of the Reformation**. He proclaimed the great statement The Just Shall Live by His Faith (2:4) and it was echoed 3 times by Paul in his great declarations of the Christian Faith (Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38). It became the battle cry of Martin Luther during the Protestant Reformation when Christians realized the need to serve God by Faith and not just by works. It is one of the basic statements of the Christian Faith.

I. THE PROPHET SIGHING 1

- A) Over Unrepented Sins by his countrymen 1-11 God's answer- The Chaldeans will conquer the land to chasten the people.
- B) Over the "Worst" sinners of Chaldea punishing the "Better" sinners of Judah 12-17 [Even though he knows the Chaldeans are being used for judgment and correction]. (Why do the wicked prosper and Christians undergo trials??)

II. THE PROPHET SEEING 2

- A) God reveals His plan 2:1-5
 - 1. Wait upon the Lord
 - 2. Write the Message Plainly
 - 3. Be Patience
 - 4. Don't let outer circumstances sway you. "First shall be Last"
 - 5. Nothing gives peace to the wicked- Who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied. vs 5
- B) God reveals the ultimate end of those who withstand Him 6:20
 - 1. Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! 6-8 (As thou hast done it shall be done to thee)
 - 2. Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness in his house 9-11 (Thou hast sinned against thy soul. What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul).
 - 3. Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity 12-14 (The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord- unless the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.)
 - 4. Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink 15-17 (The Lord will make you drink of His cup- see Rev 16:19)
 - 5. Woe unto him that saith to the wood, awake 18-20 (But the Lord is in His holy Temple; let all the earth keep silence before HIM).

III. THE PROPHET SINGING 3

- A) A Plea for Revival NOW 1-2
- B) A Remembrance of Past deed by God 3-15
- C) A Rejoicing in Faith in God 16-19

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah ("The Lord Hides") preached during the reign of godly King Josiah (He was probably the great-great-grandson of King Hezekiah). It was a time of great religious revival (see II Kings 22-23) but Zephaniah saw that the reform was only skin deep. The people had gotten rid of the idols in their homes but not in their hearts!! Zephaniah was a prophet of the Jealousy of God over a people who wanted to serve God for His Blessings and yet hold to the world for it's enjoyments. Then, as now, the people had to learn that Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Ex 20:3) and that The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: (Mark 12:29-30)

Zephaniah's message is full of the terror and Judgment of God upon a people who had eyes to see and yet would not see. How sad that this is even the case today. There is much religious activity but so little Holy living and whole hearted seeking after God. We see God's Judgment on sin but refuse to believe it could happen to us. [NOTE the way God brings Judgement in the Old Testament- Upon Israel, THEN upon the nation that captured Israel. Upon Judah, THEN upon Babylon. I believe God will bring Judgment upon America, THEN upon Russia during the Tribulation].

I. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON JUDAH 1: - 2:3

A) I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord (vs 2) because they have not sought the Lord, nor enquired for Him. (vs 6). God list 5 groups that caused him to bring judgment upon Judah (4-6): (1) Baal Worship vs 4 [worship the flesh]; (2) Star Worship vs 5a [Astrology. Worship of knowledge]; (3) Combination Worship (Lord/Malcham); (4) Backsliders (Them that turn back from the Lord) (5) Lost (those that have not sought the Lord, nor inquired of him) 1:1-11

B) I will search Jerusalem with candles (vs 12) because they have sinned against the Lord (vs 17) 1:12-2:3

This pronouncement of Judgment ends with God calling to the people, Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. 2:3

II. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON SURROUNDING NATIONS 2:4 -3:8 (See 2:15)

A) Philistines on the West 2:4-7

B) Moab and Ammon on the East 2:8-11

C) Ethiopia on the South 2:12

D) Assyria on the North 2:13-15 (NOTE how important a map is in Bible study). All of this was to show Judah that God had dealt with the sins of the surrounding nations and He would deal with her also (See 3:6-7)

III. FUTURE BLESSINGS FROM GOD 3:9-20

A) Destruction of the enemies 3:8-11

B) A Remnant to Return 3:12-13

C) God Himself to dwell in the midst of the People 3:14-20

3:17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty (STRENGTH); he will save (SALVATION), he will rejoice over thee with joy (SATISFACTION); he will rest in his love (STABILITY), he will joy over thee with singing (SONG).

HAGGAI

THE POST-EXILE PROPHETS: The last 3 Minor Prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi), like the last 3 Historical Books, deal with Judah after the Captivity in Babylon. They are mainly concerned with rebuilding the Temple and preparing for Messiah to come.

Haggai ("My Feast") ministered during one of the most important times in the history of God's Chosen People. His messages only cover about 4 months time but they came at a pivotal time in Israel's relationship with God. The Remnant had returned from captivity in 536BC under a decree issued by Cyrus. The first thing they did was begin construction of the Temple so that everyone would realize that God must have first place in the Nation (They didn't want a repeat of the sins that had carried them into captivity). But almost as soon as the work began the neighboring Samaritans began to oppose it. They finally wrote King Artaxexes and he sent back a decree for the work to cease (See Ezra 4).

For 16 years the temple lay unfinished and the people set about to establish their own homes and lands. Haggai comes on the scene in 520BC and rebukes and encourages the people until the work is begun again. The Lord had sent a famine on the land to get the people to see that they had neglected HIS work for THEIR work. Sadly, instead of causing them to return to God's work they used it as an excuse to delay the work longer. Who knows what God would have done if Haggai hadn't rebuked the people and the work began again.

While Habakkuk dealt with the problem of DOUBT, Haggai deals with the problem of DISCOURAGEMENT.

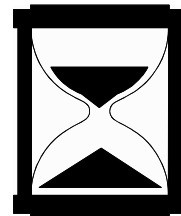
All of Haggai's messages are specifically dated and the last date is very important:

1. Sixth month, First day 1:1-15 To Arouse the People to work
2. Seventh Month, 21st day 2:1-9 To Encourage the People
3. Ninth Month, 24th day 2:10-19 To Confirm God's Chastening
4. Ninth Month, 24th day 2:18-23 To Assure the People/Governor

It is not time (1:2). The Problem the Returned Remnant had was that they had failed to rightly divide the Word of God. Jeremiah had prophesied TWO 70 year periods in connection with Babylon's captivity of Judah. One was a 70 year period of Captivity that began in 606BC when Nebuchadnezzar carried the first Jews captive (Daniel and others) (See Jer 29:10). This ended in 536BC with Cyrus' decree freeing the Jews to return home.

The Second 70 year period (Jer 25:8-12) was a 70 year period of desolation on the land that began when the King of Babylon set siege to Jerusalem (Ez 24:1-2). This period ended on the 24th day of the Ninth month of 520BC.

The people thought there was only ONE 70 year period and so they did not understand why they were still suffering after their return. All too often in history people have made the same mistake- The Jews rejected Jesus because they only read the Scriptures about Messiah as King and ignored those about Him as the "suffering Savior". Today people need to beware lest they read only about God's Redemption and fail to see the need of Repentance.



OUTLINE OF HAGGAI

I. DISCOURAGEMENT BECAUSE OF SIN'S PUNISHMENT 1:-

A) The Sin Exposed- Human Wisdom vs God's Plan
It is not Time

B) The Results Proclaimed- Consider your ways, you have sown much and bring in little, you earn money to put it into a bag with holes .

C) The Response- The People fear, God Presence is proclaimed, The Work begins

THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM- Repent and come back to God's Plan



II. DISCOURAGEMENT BECAUSE OF COMPARISON 2:1-9

(They that compare themselves among themselves are not wise. II Corinth 10:12).

A) The New Temple was as nothing compared to Solomon's Temple

B) God Promises HIS Presence in this Temple.

C) God Promises a GREATER Glory to come to this Temple (When God became Flesh and dwelt among men He came to This Temple!!)

THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM- Our Weakness is God's Strength (II Cor 12:9)

III. DISCOURAGEMENT BECAUSE SIN'S POLLUTION PROLONGED BLESSINGS

2:10-19

A) Pollution takes time to get out of the system (You cannot give someone else your Holiness or Health but you can give them your uncleanness and sickness!!)

B) God's Blessings will come if you continue with Him.

THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM- Holiness is Spiritual Health. You can "wash" instantly but you need time to return to Health.

IV. ENCOURAGEMENT IN GOD'S PROMISES 2:20-23

A) God is Lord of all the Earth- Therefore don't let anything get you down (See John 16:33)

B) God has a Plan for YOU!!! So be Patient until HE needs you.

Discouragement due to Problems and Lack of Progress can sap the strength of any worker. Like John the Baptist, we can start out strong but grow discouraged when things don't progress the way we assume they should. If we are to be effective workers for God we must learn to make sure we are doing His Will in His Way and then live by FAITH.

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah began his ministry around the same time as Haggai but, where Haggai was mainly concerned with the Temple and the religious life of the people, Zechariah's messages dealt with the Nation and it's political life and centered around God's care of His chosen city Jerusalem.

The Book of Zechariah contains more Prophecies specifically concerning the crucifixion of Christ than other TO Book except Psalms.

Zechariah is the Prophet of "Encouragement". He pointed the people to the future Blessings promised by God as a means of enduring trials now.

I. PROPHECIES AS THE TEMPLE WAS BEING REBUILT 1-8

Introduction- A call to Repentance 1: 1-6

A) Eight Visions 1:7-6:8

1. The rider 1:7-17 God has not forgotten Jerusalem
2. The horns and craftsmen 1:18-21 God will destroy Jerusalem's enemies
3. The Surveyor 2:1-13 Jerusalem will be restored to greater glory than ever
4. Joshua the high priest 3:1-10 The nation will be cleansed
5. The candlestick and trees 4:1-14 God's power will enable Joshua and Zerubbabel to finish their difficult task
6. The Flying Roll 5:1-4 Sin will be judged in the land
7. The Woman 5:5-11 Wickedness carried from the land to Babylon, which is the source of all idolatry and religious error
8. The war Chariots 6:1-8 God controls the nations; Jerusalem is safe

B) An Object Lesson 6:9-15 Crowns of silver and gold are placed on the head of Joshua the high priest. These represented the union of the Priestly and Kingly office in the Messiah .

C) Four Messages 7-8

Dealing with the Fast celebrated in memory of Jerusalem's fall.

God shows them the hypocrisy of their fasts, the true meaning of fasting, and promises to restore Peace and Glory to Jerusalem.

II. PROPHECIES AFTER THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT 9-14

A) First Burden (Describes the rise of Alexander the Great, The Maccabees, and the Roman Empire but only to show that Messiah will help Jerusalem in each case.) 9-11

- 1) The King comes to overcome the oppressor 9:- (See 9:9)
- 2) Israel and Judah restored 10:- (See 10:6)
- 3) The Jews desire a Foolish Shepherd instead of the True Shepherd 11 (Contains the fact that the Messiah the Jews had longed for for so long will be sold for the price of a common slave- 30 pieces of silver 11:10-13)

B) Second Burden 12-14

- 1) Jerusalem to be restored to first place among the nations 12-13
- 2) God will defend Jerusalem in the "Day of the Lord" 14

MALACHI

Malachi ("My Messenger") was the last of the TO Prophets. His message was a reassurance of God's Love for His chosen People and a revelation of God's displeasure over the sins of the People.

Malachi's message is important because it shows us the state of the Returned Remnant after the Temple and the Walls were rebuilt and it is the last picture we have before Christ comes. (One writer said that Malachi's Message was 4 basic things: Remember, Repent, Return, and Rehearse).

Malachi used a form of Debate in his Discourse.

I. THE PEOPLE HAD FORGOTTEN GOD 1

A) They doubted His Love 1:1-5 (Why haven't we regained our Glory?).

GOD'S ANSWER- I Chose you instead of Esau

B) They Despised His Name 1:6-14 (Violate 3rd Commandment)

1. By offering Polluted Sacrifices- Offer them to your Governor!

2. By seeking Profit for God's Work- Wouldn't close door without pay.

3. By Profaning God's altar thru hypocrisy (Behold what a weariness it is to serve God but we must keep up the forms!)

GOD'S ANSWER- I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen. If YOU won't worship me the GENTILES will; which is exactly what has happened!!]

II. THE PRIESTS HAD BECOME POLLUTED 2

A) God compares the Polluted Priest with the Perfect Priest 2:1-9 [Note the "Perfect Priest"- "Fears" (Respects) God, Preaches the Word and not the World, Fellowships with God, and is a Soul Winner.]

B) God condemns them because of their unfaithfulness to their wives 2:10-16 [Satan's way to corrupt the Holy Seed].

[**GOD'S ANSWER-** I am tired of people questioning me!!]

III. THE PROPHECY FROM AN ANGRY GOD 3

A) The Purifying Messenger 3:1-6

B) The Plea for Repentance 3:7

C) The Pronouncement of a Curse on those who rob God 3:8-12

D) The Profit of Serving God compared to Rebellion 3:13-18

[**GOD'S PROMISE-** You'll be mine in the day when I make up my Jewels. Your Testimony will be part of God's "Remembrance Book".]

IV. THE PROMISE OF BLESSING IN THE DAY OF THE LORD. 4

A) God's People will be Blessed 4:1-3 ye shall tread down the wicked;

B) God's Prophet will Come 4:4-6 (Malachi predicted the return of Elijah before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Our Lord indicated that John the Baptist could have fulfilled this prophecy IF he would have been received [Matt 11:14]. However, like the One whom he announced, he was rejected. Our Lord declared after John's death that Elijah would come and restore all things [Matt 17:11]. Therefore, this prophecy of the coming of Elijah must yet be fulfilled. Some believe that Elijah will be one of the two witnesses [Rev 11] who will appear during the Tribulation).

4 THINGS THAT ANGER GOD

Malachi

Four times in Malachi God tells His people that He will "Curse" certain things they are doing. If these things anger God so much then we need to know them and correct them. (Sadly they are a common problems in TODAY'S CHURCH.)

1. PEOPLE GIVING THEIR "LEFTOVERS" INSTEAD OF THEIR BEST Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen. see vs 8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts .

What do we give to God that is not our best?? Do we give God our best time or our spare time?? Rom 12:1-2 Says to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God .

2. PREACHERS REFUSING TO HEAR AND HEED GOD'S VOICE 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Are we willing to listen to God's voice and obey His commands? Who are we looking to glorify? God or self. Do Preachers Preach what God says or what the people want to hear?? Are sermons simply times to learn about God-- or Messages from a Holy God on how we are to live??

3. FAILURE IN YOUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES 3:9-10 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Do we honor God with our money?? Does God get the "first fruits" of your income- or do you think your needs are more important than God's work?

4. FAMILY PROBLEMS 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Do we recognize the importance of the Family? What do we do to build it up??

The Four Things that anger God-

1. People who "Play" Religion,
2. Preachers who "Play" Church,
3. Tithers who "Rob" God, and
4. Families who are more interested in building a House than in building a Home.

If God is "angry" at you then you need to correct the situation--TODAY.

THE CAPTIVITY

There were at least Five Blessings that came out of Israel's captivity:

1. The nation lost it's "Love for Idols". The Jews (as a nation) never again had a problem with Idol worship.
2. The institution of the synagogue was born. With the Temple destroyed the Jews came to worship together with the Priest and the Synagogue was born.
3. The Scriptures were gathered together and the Bible began to take a united form instead of scattered Books.
4. The Remnant that returned were the most dedicated of the Jews. They returned to Jerusalem with a new love for God, His Holy City, and the Temple.
5. The Nations of the world came to hear about God thru His dealings with and thru His People. He is no longer the isolated God of the Jews but a God known in all nations.

What have YOU learned at you observed God's Dealings with His chosen people?? Did you see how He HAD to chasten them for continuing to rebel against His will and go their own way? Did you see His heartache as He continually called His people back to repentance and FELLOWSHIP?

Can you see that God is not after a Religion we observe; He longs for a Relationship we enjoy. Oh, how the heart of God calls you today to come to Him for rest, refreshment, and Fellowship. Don't allow the idols of this world to steal your time and affection. They will only leave you, as they left Israel, empty, destitute, and destroyed.

I beg of you today, look beyond the facts of this study and seek the Face of a loving Heavenly Father. He is not so much interested that you know the History of Israel as He is in drawing you to Himself.

The entire Old Testament was written to show you the need of, and reveal the promises of, a coming Savior. This Savior has now come and we know His name was Jesus. There is nothing left for you to wait on. Come to Christ for pardon and life today.

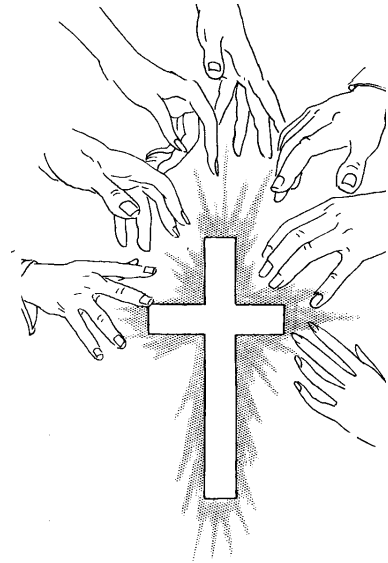
Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

The most important decision you will ever make is your decision about receiving Christ as your Savior. It's the most important decision you'll ever make because:

1> It's an **ETERNAL DECISION**- Heb 9:15 for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The decision you make about Christ will effect you NOW and for ETERNITY. This is not something to be treated lightly or put off until a later time.



2> It's a **NECESSARY DECISION**- Heb 9:27 it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:. Every person MAKES A DECISION about Christ- Either to Accept Him as Savior or reject Him and be lost. EVERY man must Die, EVERY man must face the Judgment. Only the Blood of Christ can deliver us from Condemnation.

WHO SHOULD BE SAVED: YOU-ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ROM 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAVED: HELL AWAITS THE LOST- ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ROM 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

WHEN TO BE SAVED: NOW!!-ROM 5:8 God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

THE WAY TO BE SAVED: TRUST CHRIST-ROM 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

HOW TO LIVE AFTER YOU ARE SAVED: FOR CHRIST- ROM 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Have you Accepted Christ as Savior?
If you need help or follow up booklets then contact--
Grace and Glory Ministry
P O Box 1003
Lake City, S C 29560

GRACE AND GLORY OUTREACH MINISTRY

"Grace and Glory" Outreach Ministry is a faith-supported ministry that the Church allows me to operate in order to extend our witness for Christ. It began with a 15 minute weekly radio program, "Glory to His Name" (Hence the name of the Outreach- "Grace and Glory") and has grown into a method of reaching thousands of people each week with the Good News of God's Grace.

Join with me in prayer about:

1. **REACHING SOULS THROUGH THIS MINISTRY:** The Goal of this Ministry is to get as many people as possible, using every means available, TO KNOW CHRIST as their personal Savior and then TO SHOW Him in their changed life. If the Power and Direction of God is not on everything we do then it's a failure before it starts.

2. **FINANCES:** We operate entirely as a Faith Ministry. We don't sell anything, nor do we solicit funds from anyone. We simply trust God to meet our needs, and then try to use the money He provides as wisely as possible.

3. **METHODS OF MINISTRY:**

A) **GRACE AND GLORY NEWSLETTER-** Our newsletter is presently mailed to over 1000 families each month. Pray that God would provide sermons and study courses that would change lives and families. Pray also that God would provide the equipment we need to print and distribute the newsletter.

B) **BOOKLET MINISTRY-** We presently distribute thousands of books each year. Some are **BIBLE STUDIES** of subjects or books of the Bible. Some are **DEVELOPMENT** books (such as our Prayer Book). Some are **DEVOTIONAL** books from the weekly newspaper articles we write.

Pray that God would give the wisdom needed to write these books. Pray that God would give the ability and finances to print and distribute these books. Pray that God would use these books to convert the lost, as well as encourage and enlighten the saved.

C) **NEWSPAPER MINISTRY-** Our weekly newspaper articles appear in several local papers and reach thousands of people each week. Pray that God would direct in everything that is written. Pray that God would open more doors to this ministry.

D) **TAPE MINISTRY-** Thousands of Audio and Video tapes of our church services are given away each year. This allows us to greatly multiply our ministry as we reach many People who are unable, or unwilling, to attend our services. Pray for the dedicated People who record these services each week.

E) **INTERNET MINISTRY-** We are able to "reach the world" through our Internet Ministry- WWW.GraceandGlory.Com. This site enables you to view and listen to our services, read our books and newspaper articles, and provides additional help for Bible Study Students. Log on !!

E) **HELPING HAND MINISTRY-** We presently help as many people as possible each year with food or financial help. Our resources are limited; and that limits our help. Pray for God to provide what we need to distribute to those in need. Pray for volunteers to help administer this program, as well as minister to those in need. Also pray that we would have the wisdom to use every opportunity to turn Welfare into Workfare.

F) **RADIO MINISTRY-** We broadcast our 11am Service over WHYM (1260 AM) each week. We also broadcast a 5 minute Daily Program (M-F) entitled "Lessons for Living" at 8:05am over WOLS/WHYM. Pray for God to Bless this Work.

II Cor 9:8 God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.