

NAHUM	The destruction of Ninevah because of its ungodliness.
HABAKKUK	God's mysterious plan, why evil prospers and God's people must suffer.
ZEPHANIAH	Threatenings; God's judgments are for <i>all</i> people, not only for the Jews.
HAGGAI	People think of themselves and their own needs first instead of God & His work; slow rebuilding of the temple.
ZECHARIAH	Rebuilding the temple; eight visions.
MALACHI	Close of Old Testament history; preparations necessary for the birth of the Messiah.

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The Apochrypha

Books written between the Old and New Testament; not part of the Bible.

I & II ESDRAS	BARUCH & THE EPISTLE OF JEREMIAH
TOBIT	THE SONG OF THE THREE CHILDREN
JUDITH	THE STORY OF SUSANNA
THE REST OF ESTHER	THE IDOL, BEL & THE DRAGON
WISDOM	THE PRAYER OF MANASSES
ECCLESIASTICUS	I & II MACABEES

BIBLE STUDY

Introduction

The OLD TESTAMENT is the story of a NATION – Israel (God's people).

The NEW TESTAMENT is the story of a MAN – Jesus (God's Son).

The Nation was started and expanded so that it could bring the Man (the Messiah) into the world.

The Bible centers around that Man and was written chiefly so that we can know, understand, believe and follow Him. Christ is the heart (center) of the Bible and of History. The Old Testament and its prophecies point ahead to Christ; the New Testament points back to Christ, telling us that the Promised Messiah (Savior) has come and completed His work of redemption.

The Bible is God's Word – not the thoughts or words of the men who wrote the books. The Bible is "inspired" by God; that means, God gave the exact words to the men who wrote it. Only the Bible is God's word – no other book in the world is God's Word. The Bible is not the story of man's efforts to find God; it is God revealing Himself and His Will (*wish*) to people on earth.

The OLD TESTAMENT is divided into books written by different men, called prophets. Each book has a certain theme or purpose. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT

3 =====>9 = 39

5 Books of Law (<i>Genesis – Deuteronomy</i>)	17 Books of Prophecy
12 Books of History (<i>Joshua – Esther</i>)	5 Major Prophets (<i>Isaiah-Daniel</i>)
5 Books of Poetry (<i>Job – Song of Solomon</i>)	12 Minor Prophets (<i>Hosea – Malachi</i>)

The SEPTUAGINT (LXX) is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament finished about 150 B. C. Most of the quotations in the New Testament from the Old Testament are from the Septuagint.

No dates as we know them are given in the Old Testament, and it is very hard to fix exact dates for many events. However, we can give some general dates for the major events of the Old Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT DATES

Commonly accepted dates for the Old Testament were arranged by Bishop Ussher, 1650 A.D. (A.D. means “*Anno Domini*”, *the Year of Our Lord*). These dates are based on the generations listed in Genesis 5:1-32; St. Matthew 1:1-17; and St. Luke 3:23-38.

Adam & Eve	4000 B.C.	David	1000 B.C.
The Flood	2400 B.C.	Isaiah	800 B.C.
Abraham	2000 B.C.	Daniel	600 B.C.
Moses	1500 B.C.	Malachi	400 B.C.

There is a gap of about 400 years between the last book of the Old Testament and the first book of the New Testament (*Malachi to Matthew*). It is during this time that the books of the APOCHRYPHA were supposedly written. These are pious tales, but not part of the Bible.

MOSES was the first author of the Bible and wrote the first five books of the Bible. He knew the history of the world from the beginning until his time, a period of about 2500 years. He knew this from the telling of history by father-to-son. Yet God kept that telling of the history accurate and correct.

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GENESIS	M	<i>Beginnings</i> ; History of God’s people, Israel.		
EXODUS	O	<i>Road Out</i> ; Deliverance from Egypt; 10 Commandments.		
LEVITICUS	S	<i>Levi</i> ; Ceremonial (worship) and political laws.		
NUMBERS	E	<i>Census (counting)</i> of the people; many sins.		
DEUTERONOMY	S	<i>Second giving of the law.</i>		
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JOSHUA		Conquest and division of Canaan (Promised Land).		
JUDGES		14 Judges; people sin, God punishes, judge saves.		
RUTH		A Gentile (non-Jew) is the grandmother of King David and an ancestor of the promised Messiah (Jesus).		
I SAMUEL		Lives of the prophet Samuel, Kings Saul and David.		
II SAMUEL		King David and his very large kingdom.		
I KINGS		King Solomon; building of the beautiful temple.		

II KINGS

Divided kingdom; *Israel* (North) and *Judah* (South), the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

I & II CHRONICLES

King Solomon and the kingdom of Judah.

EZRA

Return from exile (*captivity*) in Babylon (70 years).

NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding of Jerusalem.

ESTHER

Queen Esther (Jewess) helps the Jewish people escape death.

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JOB

Why does God let innocent people suffer?

PSALMS

Prayers & hymns used in the Jewish church.

PROVERBS

Wise sayings and good morals.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher; the vanity (*uselessness*) of life.

SONG OF SOLOMON

A poem showing Jesus’ love for His church.

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ISAIAH

Many warnings about the coming captivity; prophecies about the promised Messiah (Jesus).

JEREMIAH

Weeping Prophet; backsliding, bondage, salvation.

LAMENTATIONS

Dirges (*funeral songs*) about the impending (*soon*) destruction of Jerusalem.

EZEKIEL

Many prophecies; mystery book written after the exile.

DANIEL

Many prophecies; great ruler, shows that God rules over all men.

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HOSEA

Forsaking God is the same as adultery.

JOEL

National repentance needed; blessing will follow.

AMOS

A herdsman; five visions, his life similar to Jesus.

OBADIAH

The doom (*future destruction*) of Edom, God cares for His people.

JONAH

The reluctant missionary to heathen people (*Ninevah*).

MICAH

The sinful condition of the nations; the birthplace of the promised Savior is foretold: Micah 5:2.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

The NEW TESTAMENT was written during the first century A.D. by men called *Apostles* (men sent) and *Evangelists* (carrying good news). Some of these men were of the *Twelve Disciples*, some were not.

NEW TESTAMENT

$$3 \times 9 = 27$$

4 Books of Gospels (*Matthew – John*) 8 General Epistles (*Hebrews – Jude*)
 1 Book of History (*Acts*) 1 Book of Prophecy (*Revelation*)
 13 Epistles of Paul (*Romans – Philemon*) Epistle means LETTER

Books of the New Testament

MATTHEW (*tax collector*) Jesus the promised Messiah; written for the Jew.

MARK (John) Jesus the wonderful; supernatural power, miracles.

LUKE (*doctor*) Jesus Son of Man; most complete life history.

JOHN (*the Beloved Disciple*) Jesus Son of God; many quotations of Jesus.

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ROMANS (*To the church in Rome, Italy*) Christ's work; the plan of salvation.

I CORINTHIANS (*Corinth, Greece*) Doctrinal instruction; correcting various disorders.

II CORINTHIANS Paul defends his apostleship and ministry.

GALATIANS (*Province of Galatia, Turkey*) Justification by grace; not by keeping the law.

EPHESIANS (*Ephesus, Turkey*) No division between Jew and Gentile; unity of the church.

PHILIPPIANS (*Philippi, Macedonia*) Devotion to Christ; remain steadfast in sound doctrine.

COLOSSIANS (*Colosse, Greece*) The glory of Christ, the head of the church.

I THESSALONIANS (*Thessalonica, Greece*) Various exhortations; approaching the advent of Christ.

II THESSALONIANS Explanations about second coming of Christ.

I TIMOTHY (*a young minister*) Advice to a young pastor.

II TIMOTHY Paul's last letter; more help to a minister.

TITUS (*another young minister, Greek*) Advice and encouragement to a pastor.

PHILEMON (*Christian owner of the slave, lived in Colosse*) Conversion and return of Onesimus, a runaway slave.

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HEBREWS Glory of Christ; blessings of the New Testament compared with the promises of the Old Testament.

JAMES To Jews; practical religion of good works based on faith.

I PETER Encouragement to scattered and persecuted churches.

II PETER Warning against false teachers; many will fall away.

I JOHN The duty of fellowship and brotherly love.

II JOHN Divine truth and worldly error; avoid false teachers.

III JOHN A letter about different people in the church.

JUDE Warnings about apostasy and divine judgment on sinners.

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REVELATION *of St. John* Visions about heaven and final triumph of Christ.

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The Old Testament was written during a period of about 1500 years; the New Testament was written during a period of about 100 years, for a total of about 1600 years for the whole Bible. There were about 36 writers, yet every book in the Bible agrees with the others – they never contradict each other.

HOW TO USE YOUR BIBLE

We should NOT use the Bible:

1. *as a safe place to keep money – or a place to press flowers;*
2. *as a decoration in the center of the table;*
3. *as a good luck charm for the home.*

We should:

1. *read the Bible every day;*
2. *study it often;*
3. *hear it preached in church;*
4. *believe it and live according to it!*