

The Big Picture of Scripture

OLD TESTAMENT



Scripture and the Big Picture: Old Testament

Wednesday Nights, 6:00-7:30

A-104

October 25 **Timeline(s) of the Old Testament:** We will review the whole story of the Old Testament, compare it to a timeline of world events. Then we will consider the timeline of how and when the Old Testament as we have it came together.

November 1 **Torah (Law).** We will explore how the various source documents come together to form what we have as the first five books of the Old Testament. We will also look at how the context of when they came together shapes how key stories are told, including Creation, Flood, Abraham, and Joseph, and the Exodus

November 8 **Nevi'im (Prophets).** We will explore the key messages of the former prophets and the latter prophets, including Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. We will also review key texts that make what we consider "history" to be prophetic writing.

November 15 **Kethuvim (Writings).** We will explore key texts of Poetry, the Five Scrolls, and other writings, including the Psalms, Ruth, and Daniel

November 22 **NO CLASS**—Thanksgiving Week

November 29 **Intertestamental Period**—We will explore the period leading up to the New Testament, including the Hasmonean Dynasty, the Book of Maccabees, and the historic realities of that time period.

Timeline of the Bible

Biblical Characters

3746 BC-1800 Adam to Seth to Noah to Abraham

1800-1700 BC Abraham & Sarah

1700-1600 BC Jacob & Family into Egypt

1300-1200 Moses, Exodus

Israelite Conquest of Promised Land (1250-1200)

1200-1100 Judges

1100-1000 Samuel and Saul

World Events

Homo Sapiens on the scene 300,000 years ago, Migrate out of Africa 100,000 years ago, etc. ...

3300 BC Bronze Age Begins, lasts until 1200 BC, Potential time of Trojan War, Idyllic figures like Agamemnon appear

Hammurabi (1728-1686 BC)

Egyptian Control/Hittites

Rise of Assyria (1356-1197)

Hittite Collapse/Assyrian Decline

Philistine Ascent/Egypt Decline

Timeline of the Bible (cont'd)

Biblical Characters

1000-900 David (1000-961)
 Solomon (961-922)
 Kingdom Divides (922)

World Characters/Events

1000-900 Egyptian Decline/Assyrian
 Decline

900-700 Assyrian Revival/Egypt
 invades

8th century Homer writes Iliad &
 Odyssey

722 Assyria Destroys Northern Kingdom

Divided Kingdom

Judah (Southern Kingdom)

Rehoboam (922-915)

Abijah (915-913)

Asa (913-873)

Jehoshaphat (873-849)

Jehoram (849-843)

Ahaziah (843-842)

Athaliah (842-837)

Joash (837-800)

Amaziah (800-783)

Uzziah (783-742)

Jotham (750-735) PROPHET ISAIAH 1 (742-700)

Jehoaz/Ahaz (735-715) PROPHET MICAH (722-701)

Israel/Ephraim/Samaria (Northern Kingdom)

Jeroboam (922-901)

Nabad (901-900)

Baasha (900-877)

Elah (877-876)

Zimri (876)

Omri (876-869)

Ahab (869-850)

PROPHET ELIJAH (c. 850)

Ahaziah (850-849)

Jehoram (849-843/2)

Jehu (843/2-815)

Joahaz (815-801)

Jehoash (802-786)

PROPHETS AMOS (c.750) & HOSEA (745)

Jeroboam II (786-746)

Shallum (1 month)

Menahem (745-737)

Pekahiah (737-736)

Hoshea (732-724)

FALL OF SAMARIA (722-721)

Southern Kingdom of Judah

Hezekiah (715-687/6)

Manaseh (687-642)

Amon (642-640)

Josiah (640-609)

PROPHET ZEPHANIAH (628-622)

PROPHET JEREMIAH (626-587)

DEUTERONOMIC REFORM (621)

Jehoaz II (609)

Jehoiakim (609-598)

PROPHET HABBAKUK (605)

FIRST DEPORTATION

Jehoiachin (597)

Zedekiah (597-587)

FALL OF JERSUALEM 587 BC BEGINNING OF EXILE

World Events

700-600 ASSYRIAN DOMINATION

605 RISE OF BABYLONIANS

◦ 605-562 Nebuchadrezzar King of Babylon

Judah/Israel History

587-538ish Exile PROPHECY ISAIAH II 540
C. 525 Restoration
500-400 Ezra and Nehemiah
PROPHECY ISAIAH III 500 ish
PROPHECY MICAH (500-450)

400-300 Greeks Invade
300-200
200-100 Daniel Written?
200-100 Maccabean Revolt (168)

168-63 Hasmonean Dynasty

6-4 BC? Birth of Jesus of Nazareth

WORLD EVENTS

Persians Rise 550-425 Cyrus II (550-530)

Darius (521-486)

Xerxes I (486-465)

Artaxerxes (465-424)

Greeks Rise Alexander (336-323)

Seleucids Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164)

Romans Pompey Captures Jerusalem 63 BC
Caesar Augustus 27 BC-14 AD

When Did the Old Testament Come Together?



The Hebrew Bible / Tanak / Mikra

Contains Three Major Collections of Writings:

- Torah (Law)
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Ketuvim (Writings)

Torah/Pentateuch

Bereshith	בְּרֵאשִׁית	"In the beginning"	Genesis
Shemot	שְׁמוֹת	"The names of"	Exodus
Vayikra	וַיִּקְרָא	"And He called"	Leviticus
Bimidbar	בְּמִדְבָּר	"In the desert of"	Numbers
Devarim	דְּבָרִים	"Things" or "Words"	Deuteronomy

Four Source Documents for Torah

J- "Yahwist Source"	Southern Kingdom
E- "Elohist Source"	Northern Kingdom
P- "Priestly Source"	Southern Kingdom
D- "Deuteronomic Source"	Southern Kingdom

When did these sources come about?

Yahwist (J source)

- Oral tradition dating back to Exodus events begins to be formed during Solomon's reign, roughly 950 BC
- Stories of Samuel, Saul, David, & Solomon that will source 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings also begin being brought together at the same time

Elohist (E source)

- Oral traditions that inform E begin to take written form in early 8th century BC in the Northern Kingdom (790-780's BC)
- E blends with J during Southern Kingdom's 8th century, into the 7th —scholars speak of "JE"

Deuteronomic (D source)

- Early parts come together in Northern Kingdom alongside E, book of Deuteronomy is "discovered" during reign of King Josiah in the south in late 7th century, c. 620's BC

Priestly (P Source)

- Comes together in the 6th century during Babylonian Exile, informed by oral traditions around cultic practice going back to Temple and even Tabernacle times (Moses in the Wilderness)

Nevi'im/Prophets

The Former Prophets נביאים ראשונים Nevi'im Rishonim

Yəhōšúa' יהושע Joshua

Šōfṭīm שופטים Judges

Šəmū'ēl שמואל Samuel

Məlākīm מלכים Kings

The Latter Prophets נביאים אחרונים Nevi'im Aharonim

Yəša'yāhū ישעיהו Isaiah

Yīrməyāhū ירמיהו Jeremiah

Yəḥezqē'el יחזקאל Ezekiel

The Twelve Minor Prophets (, עשר, Trei Asar, "The Twelve"), which are considered one book:

Hōšēa' הושע Hosea

Yō'ēl יואל Joel

'Āmōs עמוס Amos

'Ōbadyā עבדיה Obadiah

Yōnā יונה Jonah

Mīkā מיקה Micah

Naḥūm נחום Nahum

Həbāqqūq נבקיך Habakkuk

Şəfanyā צפניה Zephaniah

Ḥaggay חגי Haggai

Zəḵaryā זכריה Zechariah

Mal'ākī מלאכי Malachi

When did Nevi'im Come Together?

Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings)

13th Century BC—Oral Traditions

- Joshua, Judges

12th to 11th Century BC

- Oral Traditions that will lead to 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings

10th Century BC

- Beginnings of 1 Kings take written form

8th into 7th Century BC

- Joshua, Judges and 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings start to take written shape

6th Century—Exilic period

- likely take form we have today

When did Nevi'im Come Together?

Latter Prophets and Minor Prophets

8th Century BC

- Northern Kingdom: Amos and Hosea
- Southern Kingdom: Isaiah I (1-39) and Micah

7th Century BC—Southern Kingdom

- Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakuk, Ezekiel

6th Century BC—Exile

- Isaiah II (40-55)
- Much of Ezekiel

Post Exilic—530-300 BC

- Haggai, Malachi, Obadiah, Zechariah, Joel
- Isaiah III (56-65), also 24-27, 34-35

Kethuvim (Writings)

Poetic Books

Təhīllīm	תְּהִלִּים	Psalms
Mīšlē	מִשְׁלֵי	Proverbs
'Īyyōḇ	אִיּוֹב	Job

Five Scrolls

Šīr hašŠīrīm	שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים	Song of Songs (On Pesach)
Rūt	רוּת	Ruth (on Shavuot)
'Ēkā	אֵיכָה	Lamentations (on Tisha B'Av)
Qōheleṭ	קֹהֶלֶת	Ecclesiastes (on Sukkot)
'Estēr	אֶסְתֵּר	Esther (on Purim)

Other Books

Dānī'ēl	דָּנִיֵּאל	Daniel
'Ezrā	עֶזְרָא	Ezra and Nehemiah
Dīvrē hayYāmīm	דִּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים	Chronicles

When did Kethuvim come together?

Poetic Books

- Psalms—oral tradition extends from 10th century through 1,000 years
- Proverbs—begin being assembled during Solomon (10-21,) others in 8th to 7th BCE, 1-9 likely post-exilic
- Job—Origins are VERY OLD, likely Persian, “Judaized” likely during exile and post-exilic as “counter-testimony”

Five Scrolls—likely exile and post-exilic

Other Books—likely much later, 300-100 BC

Glimpses Behind The Curtain

Genesis 26:4-5

⁴I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and will give to your offspring all these lands; and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring, ⁵because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, **my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**

Glimpses Behind the Curtain

2 Samuel 7:11b-16

Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Glimpses Behind the Curtain

1 Kings 6:1-3, 38-7:2

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD. ²The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was **sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.** ³The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits wide, across the width of the house. Its depth was ten cubits in front of the house. ...³⁸In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts, and according to all its specifications. **He was seven years in building it. Solomon was building his own house for thirteen years,** and he finished his entire house. He built the House of the Forest of the Lebanon **one hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high,** built on four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams on the pillars.

God's House v. Solomon's House

Cubit= 18 inches

God's House:

- Seven Years to Construct
- 90 ft. x 30 ft. = 2,700 square feet

Solomon's House:

- 13 Years to Construct
- 150 ft. X 75 ft. = 11,250 square feet