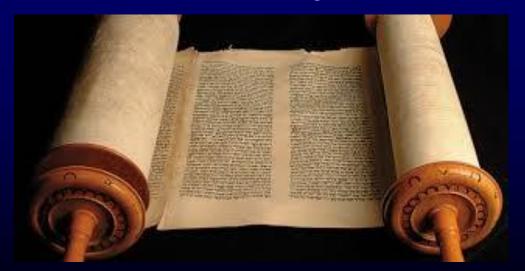
Session 3

The Hebrew Bible and Old Testament

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How the OT Came to be

- Took shape over a lot of centuries
- 1st 50 Chapters (Genesis) covers 2300 years
- Exodus to Sinai is 81 Chapters Just over a year.
- Numbers covers 40 Years
- Deut 34 Moses last 1 or 2 days

Three Assumptions

- We have multiple canons with different orders. This tells us stories can be arranged differently and they are. They are different between the Hebrew arrangement and Christian arrangement.
 - Hebrew bible 24 books
 - Christian Bible 39 Books
 - Christian Bible with Approrypha 46 Books
- Note; torah includes both the law and the story
 - Holy spirit had a role in the final formation
 - Bible grew from oral tradition and final form achieved in stages



•

The Oral Tradition

- Discerning the Oral Roots of Scripture
- 6 Critical test for the Oral tradition
- 1. Indication of earliest traditions of scripture formulated into small oral units (periocopes)
- 2. Is it attached to a local place
- 3. Is there a worship element to the story. Godly encounter.
- 4. Tends to be arch-typical can be identified with a whole people
- 5. Stands out awkwardly- Takes pieces out and you can get to the next story.
- 6. Usually about individuals e.g Joseph



The OT Particulars

The Old Testament has...

- 39 books
- 929 chapters
- 23,214 verses
- 593,493 words
- Longest book-Psalms
- Shortest book-Obadiah



Two Versions of the OT





The Hebrew Canon What is It?

- The 24 Books of the Hebrew Bible
- In their simplest form, the twenty-four books of the Jewish Bible the Tanach present a history of the first 3500 years from creation until the building of
 the second Temple in Jerusalem.
- The books also relate the history of the Jewish nation from its earliest stage, through the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, and until the end of the first commonwealth.
- But the Tanach is much more than just history. In it one can learn about G-d's plan for the world and of His relationship with mankind, specifically, His chosen nation - the Jews.
- Here is where G-d tells us what He wants us to do!
- "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your G-d want of you? Only to fear the Lord your G-d, to go in all His ways and to love Him and to serve the Lord your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul. To guard the commandments of G-d and His statutes..." (Deuteronomy 10 12-13)



The Hebrew OT Canon

- Rabbinic Judaism recognizes the twenty-four books of the Masoretic Text (Jewish Scholars) commonly called the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible.
- Evidence suggests that the process of canonization occurred between 200 BCE and 200 CE,
- The Torah was canonized circa 400 BCE,
- The Prophets circa <u>200 BCE</u>,
- The Writings circa 100 CE at Council of Jamnia
 - however this position is increasingly criticized by modern scholars.
- The book of Deuteronomyi ncludes a prohibition against adding or subtracting (4:2) which might apply to the book itself or a prohibition against future editing) or the whole test.

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The 24 Books of Hebrew Bible

The Five Books of Moses (Chumash)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Former Prophets

Joshua

Judges

Samuel

Kings

Latter Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekial

The Twelve (minor prophets) Trei-Assar

The Eleven Books of the Writings (Kesuvim)

Psalms - Tehilim

Proverbs - Mishlei

Job - Iyov

Song of Songs - Shir HaShirim

Ruth - Rus

Lamentations - Eicha

Ecclesiastes - Koheles

Esther

Daniel - Doniel

Ezra/Nehemia

Chronicles - Divrei Hayamim



The Septuagint

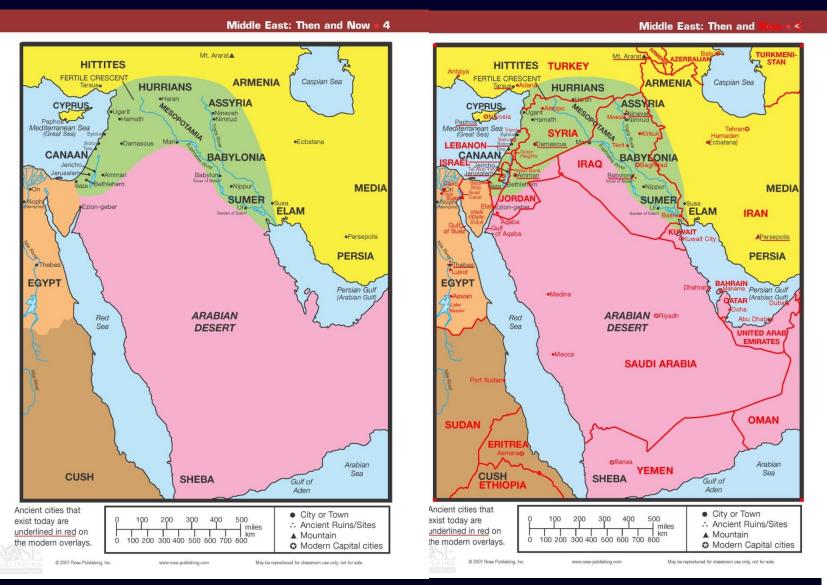
- About 300 BCE the Jews in Alexandria, undertook a translation of the Bible (which we call the OT) into Greek. About 70 translators worked on it; hence it is called the <u>Septuagint</u>, from the Latin word for "seventy." It took 70 Days
- The Septuagint translators gave the books of the Bible Greek names and put them in a different order, categorizing them as Law, history, writings, and prophecy. They also numbered verses
- So there are two Jewish Bibles that differed slightly in content: the
 Hebrew Bible (the Palestinian canon) and the Greek Bible (the
 Alexandrian canon), which had a few more books than the Hebrew
 Bible. The reason they differed is that the third portion (the Writings)
 were still in the process of becoming canonical.



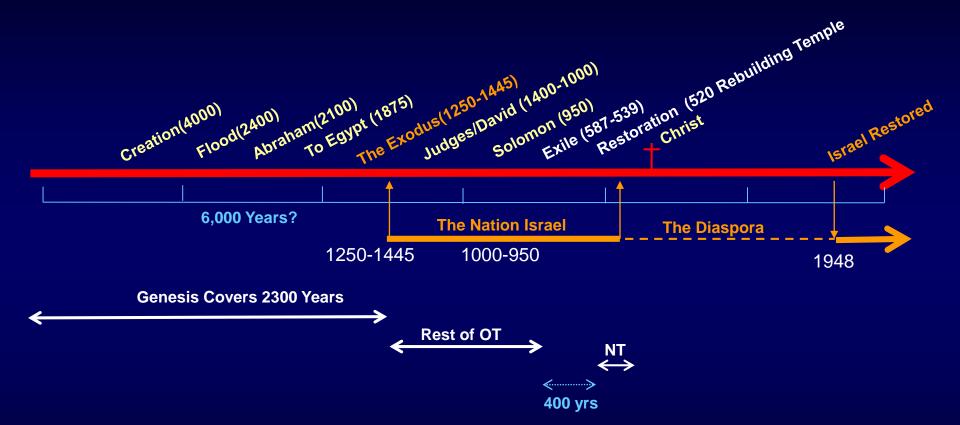
Old Testament Greek Canon



Where it All Took PLace



A Snapshot of the Timeline



- •The Northern Kingdom fell in 722 BCE (200Years after Solomon). It was fallen by Assyria (Syria).
- •The Southern Kingdom fell in 586 BCE (Iraq m(300 Years after Solomon)
- 1st Temple Destroyed
- •Ezra Rebuilds 2nd Temple 515



OT Time Line -1

1875 Abraham was called by God to the land of Canaan.

1250-1000 Exodus from Egypt - Disputed

~1450-1400 Emergence of Israel to Cannan (40 Years in Desert)

• 1400-1000 Period of the Judges

1000-960 King David – Monarchy Begins

960-922 Solomon Reign – Builds 1st Temple (Disputed)

• 922 Kingdom Divides – North and South

722 No. Kingdom Overrun by Assyrians- Samaria Destroyed

586 Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylonian king

Nebuchadnezzar. The Jews were taken into captivity to Babylon. They remained in Babylon under the Medo-

Persian Empire and there began to speak Aramaic.



OT Time line-2

• 539	Cyrus of Persia Overruns Babylon- Jews return
• 555-545	The Book of Daniel Chapters. 2:4 to 7:28 were written in Aramaic.
• 520	Temple Rebuilt
• 458	Ezra sent from Babylon with a copy of the Law
• 400	Ezra Chapters. 4:8 to 6:18; and 7:12-26 were written in Aramaic. – <i>OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD ENDS</i>
• 336-323	Alexander the Great Captures Persia
• 312 -198	Judah Controlled by Ptolemies of Egypt (Greek Dynasty under Alexander)
• 198	Jerusalem conquered by Selecuids – Syria
• 168	Jews in Jerusalem persecuted by Antichus IV
• 167	The Maccabean Revolt
• 63	Jerusalem Conquered by Rome – General Pompey





Genesis

Who: Moses? (Josh 1:7, Dan 9:11. Luke)

16:29, Jn 7:19, Acts 26:22, Ro 10:19

(Authorship Contested, more likely

Scribes in Solomon's Time)

What: The Beginnings, (bereshith) Note: There

are 613 laws in the Torah.. Parallels to

The Enuma Elish.

Where: Egypt to Canaan. Covers 2300 Years

Why: To demonstrate that God is Sovereign

(Monotheism)

Key Verse: 17:3-7. Abrahams Covenant Theology

You will bethe father of many nations



Exodus

Who: Moses (Contested, more likely Scribes in

Solomon's Time)

What: Deliverance from Slavery. A Latin Word

meaning *Exodos* given the name by Greek

Translators

Where: Egypt & Canaan about 1446 bce (1Kings)

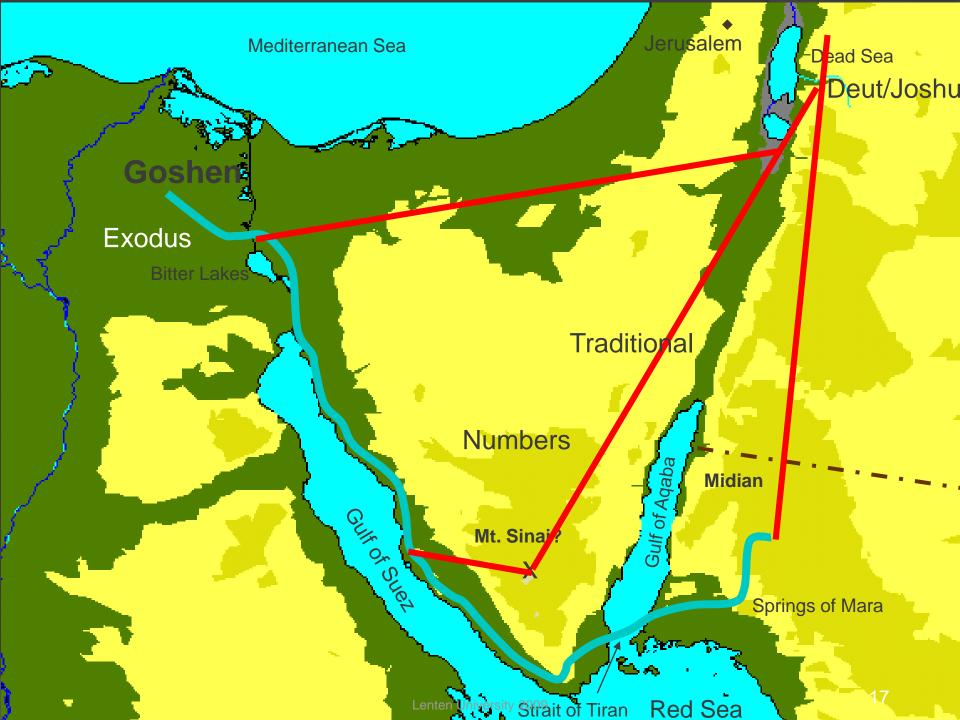
6:1, 480 Years before birth of Solomon in

966 bce COVERS 1 Year

Why: To show God's faithfulness to the

covenant. Theme "Let my People be"

Key Verse: 3:14 ("I Am Who I Am" See Jn 8:58-59,
 The Faithful one) 35:1-29, Sabbath and Tabernacle





Leviticus

Who: Moses (Contested, more likely Scribes)

in Solomon's Time)

What: Law and Sacrifice . A Latin Word

meaning relating to the Levites the Priestly Tribe

Where: Sinai and Canaan

When: 1445-1400 bce

Why: To instruct Israel on how to be holy

Key Verse: 20:7,8 and Holiness Code Ch 11-18,



Numbers

Who: Moses (Contested, more likely Scribes)

in Solomon's Time). Hebrew Title

bemidbar meaning in the desert

What: Census and History

Where: Sinai and Canaan

When: ~ 1445 -1400 bce Covers 40 Years

Why: A reminder of what happens when

people rebel against God. Tells of

Desert Wanderings

Key Verse: 6:24-26 'Aarons Blessing"

 Exodus and Leviticus `2 Million People over 40 years. The number of people is questioned



Deuteronomy

- Who: Moses (Contested, more likely Scribes in
 - Solomon's Time). Hebrew (Copy of this law)
- What: Repetition and Law. 'A Vassal Treaty"
- Where: Sinai and Canaan, Specifically Moab(Where)
 - Jordan flows into the Dead Sea)
- When: 1401-1400 bce Covers 1 or 2 Days
- Why: A reminder to future generations of what God
 - expects. To Maintain their Culture and Faith
- Key Verse: 5, Ten Commandments, 6:4-5 Shema (HEAR)
 (See Ch 34 Moses records his own death)



What are the History Books

The 12 books continue the story of the people of Israel and the conquest of the promised land, the disporia, the divided kingdom, the Assyrian and Babylonian Invasion and return from exile during Persian rule.



The History Books

Joshua Judges Ruth 1 /2 Samuel ½ Kings ½ Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther



Joshua

Who: Unknown, Possible period of Kings 800

years after the events took place

What: Conquest of Canaan after 40 years in

the desert

Where: Canaan,

When: 1405-1383bce, about 40 years earlier

than Ramses II in 1406 bce

Why: To assure the people that obedience to

God is rewarded

• Key Verse: 1:6-7



Judges(Military Deliverers)

Who: Samuel by Tradition-But uncertain(Maybe)

Nathan and Gad in David's court (1 Ch 29:29)

What: Death of Joshua to Rise of Monarchy. Organized

by Theme not Chronology

Where: Canaan,

When: 1375-1050 (Rise of Saul) bce,

• Why: Stresses the importance of remaining Loyal to

God.

Period between Joshua and Saul (1st King)

Each has a unique cycle 1. Renunciation of God,, 2.
 Oppression, 3.Distress, 4.Return to God)

Ruth

Who: Samuel by Tradition

• What: Great grandmother of David. History

before the kings. Love and Family,

redemption

• Where: Moab

When: 1046-1050 (Rise of Saul) bce, Judges?

Why: Stresses the importance of remaining

Loyal to God and to family

Key Verse: 1:16 -18, 2-4 Ancient Greeting





1Samuel

Who: Samuel by Tradition

What: Transition Story to Kingship from the Judges

Where: Moab

• When: ~1050 bce,

Why: Samuel Anoints Saul and David (1st 2 Kings).

Jealousy between Saul and David. Saul kills

himself after being wounded

Key Verse: 3:8-10,15:22, 7



2 Samuel

Who: Samuel by Tradition

 What: David's Kingship. Nathan told David he would not build the temple to house the ark. David

wrote 73 of 150 psalms. Ps 23 at the end of

his life. Sleeps with Bathsheba and has

Solomon

Where: Israel and Judah

• When: 1050-750 bce,

Why: Because you Prosper when you listen to

God. Davidic covenant Psalm 89:34-37. Ultimate

Victory over evil. David is also weak but *God*

loves him because he acknowledges his sin

Key Verse: 7:9,11:1-16, David fails 13:1-15



½ Kings

Who: Maybe Jeremiah but unknown

What: 1 Literary Work divided by Greek translators.

Evaluation and history of the Kings. Solomon's reign,

Building & Destruction of the temple, Queen of Sheba.

Kings of Israel an Judah Kingdom Splits

Where: Israel and Judah

When: 590-570 bce, Written at end of the exile in 538

Why: Demonstrates value of following Gods will. No real

statement of purpose or theme. Sequence of History to 1/2

Samuel. 29 Kings in Israel all destructive. 20 Kings in the

South all Descendents of David (except Athaliah)

Key Verse: 1 Kings 3:9a,3:16-28, 5, 6, 8:1-9,11:41, (Elijah/Elisha

Former Prophets 17,18,19) 2 Kings, 2:1-13,17:5-6,18:17-

19:1-13, 30, 20:16-19, (KEY :22 an 23 Book of the Law

Found by Josiah)(25 Jerusalem's fall and burning of

the temple)

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1 Chronicles

• Who: Ezra (Priest)

What: Divided when translated to LXX. Same period as 2

Samuel except Chronicles provides a religious not

a political History. 1st 9 Chapters are most complete

genealogical in scripture

Where: Judah

When: 430-450 bce,

Why: To encourage the Remnant after almost 70 years

since people experienced any unity. Remind

people of there heritage

• Key Verse:

Davidic Covenant 17:7-27

David's preparations to build the temple 22:1-6

Divisions for the Priesthood 24:1



2 Chronicles

Who: Ezra

What: Divided when translated to LXX. Same period as 1 and 2

Kings except Chronicles provides the spiritual nature of the

Davidic kingdom up thru the return under Cyrus of Persia

70 years after being in exile

Where: Judah

When: 430-450 bce,

Why: The Theme is remembrance. Major focus in the

construction of Solomon' Temple. And then the tragedy

of the divided kingdom

• Key Verse:

Kings who restored the Temple 14:1-16:14

Josiah 34-35

Revival under good king Jehoshapat 20:1-30

King Hezekiah who purified the temple and thru out the idols 29-31



Ezra

Who: Ezra " Called the Architect of Judaism"

What: Ezra picks up at the end of Chronicles. This is the

story about the return of two small remnants from

exile. Ezra calls on and references Persian

documents

Where: Jerusaleum

When: 457-444 bce,

Why: The Theme is remembrance. And restorationGod

did not forget the remnant. God keeps his promises.

- Key Verse:
 - Zerubbablel The leader of the first return 2:2
 - Prohibition of marriage against NON JEWS 91-0
 - Temple Work Begins 3:8-10



Nehemiah

Who: Nehemiah

What: About reconstruction. Sequel to Ezra.. This 13 years

after Ezra returns. Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple and

Ezra is the Priest. Nehemiah is concerned with restoring

the people and rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem

Where: Jerusalem

When: 424-400 bce,

Why: The Theme is remembrance. And restoration God did

not forget the remnant. God keeps his promises

Key Verse:

Nehemiah's Prayer for Jerusalem , 1

Dedication of the Temple 12

Every Chapter is a great story



Esther

Who: Unknown (MOST SCHOLARS CONSIDER THE WORK Persian)

Fiction under King Ahasuerus (Succeeded Cyrus))

What: Deals with vast majority of Israelites who decided to stay in

Persia because they had intermarried and had

businesses there. Only one of Two books with a woman's

name

Esther a Jew is made Queen of Persia after Queen Vashti

refuses to appear at a banquet of drunken men. She overhears a plot to kill the king and winds up having to risk her life to save

the Jewish people by telling the king

Where: Persia (IRAN)

When: 450-431 bce,

Why: To Save the Jews from Extinction. Feast of Purin celebrates this

book.

Key Verse:

Mordeci's Statement 4:14, Esther's decision 4:16

Feast of Purin 9:20-24

Every Chapter is a great story



Poetry & Wisdom

Job **Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes** Song of Solomon



Poetry and Wisdom Books

The 5 Books include Hymns, Poetry and drams that illustrate the ways the people of Israel expressed themselves to God and Others

 THEY ARE ABOUT THE CULTURE OF A PEOPLE



Job

Who: Unknown

What: A Good Man Job is Challenged by God to show his

faith and Gods Sovereignty. A Counterpoint to the

common sense Philosophy of Proverbs. Satan arises

as a Spiritual force which did not show itself until later

in Judaism

Where: Mesopotamia (Uz)

When: Unknown; maybe 1800-2000 bce. Written Post Exile

Why: Could be a lively debate over Jewish Deuteromic

Theology. Why are the Good Punished?

Key Verse:

• 19:25, 26

Ecclesiastes(Qoheleth-Teacher/Preacher)



Who: Solomon but hotly Contested (But title means)

Official Speaker) Who is the preacher 1-1?

• What: A Counterpoint to the common sense

Philosophy of Proverbs. Rabbis hotly contest

why this book about

Where: Jerusalem

When: 935 bce

Why: All searching for wisdom ends in vanity.

• Key Verse:

Vanity of Vanities 1:2

To Everything there is a season 3:1-8



Psalms

Who: Various, 150 Total. About half by David.

David is credited with over 3600 in the

DSS. (151 in LXX)

What: Songbook of the second Temple. Five

collections. Hymns, Communal

Laments, Personal Laments, Songs

of Thanksgiving and royal psalms.

Where: Jerusalem

When: 1410-430bce

Why: Praise to God

Messianic, 2,22, (Recited from Cross) 4, 101



Song of Solomon

Who: Solomon

What: Love Poem

Where: Jerusalem

When: 965 bce

Why: Illustrate the Joy found in marriage

Key Verses:

All About couples

Courtship 1:2-3:5,

First Night 4:1-5:1

Disagreement 5:2-6:3

Power of Love 8:6-7



Proverbs

Who: Solomon but hotly Contested

What: About Practical Wisdom

Where: Jerusalem in Everyday Life

When: 971-686 bce

Why: Seven (7) Collections of writings. All searching

for practical wisdom. Four Themes (1) Advice

from Parents to Children (2) Wealth & Poverty

(3) Self control (4) Drinking to much

• Key Verse:

Fear of the Lord1:7

12:8, 16:15, 23:20-21, 20:10,20:29, 21:30, 24:23b, 26:11



The Prophets Job

- There are 3 basic functions of the prophets in Israel. The prophets functioned as divinely appointed preachers; they were truth tellers; and were watchmen over the affairs of God's people.
- As preachers, the prophets expounded and interpreted the Mosaic law to the nation.
- It was their duty to admonish, reprove, denounce sin, threaten with the terrors of judgment, call to repentance, and bring consolation and pardon. Their activity of rebuking sin and calling for repentance consumed far more of the prophets' time than any other feature of their work..



True and False Prophets

- False prophets told the Kings what they wanted to hear
- True Prophets had a direct link to God, Suffered and told the truth
 - They were not popular with the kingship
- The Practiced as the Court Officer and Covenant Law Suit



How the Prophets are Divided

- The Prophets are divided into the four books of the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings;
- Three of the <u>Latter</u> Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,
- Twelve Minor Prophets [Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi] are counted as one book.
- Note; Daniel is considered Apocalyptic

Major Prophets



	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Daniel (Only in Evangelical Churches)
Prophesied To:	Jews in Judea	Jews in Judea and captivity	Jews captive in Babylon	Jews captive in Babylon and Gentile kings
Concerning	Judah and Jerusalem (Isa 7:14; 53) Messiah Predictions	Judah and Nations (Jer. 1:5, 9-10, 2:1-2)	The whole house of Israel (Ezek. 2:3-6, 3:4-10, 17)	Israel and Gentile Nations (Dan. 10,11)
During the reigns of	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah (kings of Judah)	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (kings of Judah)	Zedekiah (king of Judah); Nebuchadnezza r (king of Babylon)	kings of Judah). Nebuchadnezzer (king of Babylon
Dates:	740-680 B.C.	627-585 B.C.	592-570 B.C	605-536 B.C

Minor Prophets-1



Date	Prophet	Theme	To Who	Why
840 - 830		Day of the Lord; Destruction of Edom; Israel's restoration	Against Edom	Edom had continual violence toward Jacob. Edom cheered when Judah taken captive.
830 - 750	Joel	The Day of the Lord	Israel, Northern Kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.
780 - 740		Sign of Commitment; Type of Jesus Christ; God's mercy to repentant	Nineveh, with implications to all peoples	Cruelty of the Assyrians
765 - 725	Hosea	Salvation	Israel, Northern Kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.
760	Amos	The Day of the Lord; The Eternal will roar		Oppression of the poor; Sexual Immorality; Wanton Luxury; Corruption of law & men

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Minor Prophets -2



Doto	Drophot	Thoma	To Who	Mby
Date	Prophet	Theme	10 VVNO	Why
740 - 700	Micah	Justice	Samaria, Jerusalem and then the whole earth	Lack of justice in the land, injustice, oppression
640 - 620	Nahum	Judgment on Nineveh; Comfort to Israel	Assyrians, primarily Nineveh	Cruelty of the Assyrians, overstepped boundaries
640 - 609	Zephaniah	God's indignation on the earth; Who may be hidden?; Israel repents, God saves them	Judah, Jerusalem, all Israel	Spiritual fornication
608 - 605	Habakkuk	God Embraces Judah through destroying the Chaldeans	Babylon with implications for all peoples	Aggression/plunder; Greed/self-assertion; Graft/violence in building; Inhumanity; Idolatry
520	Haggai	Restoration Temple points to the Church	Zerubbabel, and the returned remnant	Neglect in building God's House. Procastrination.
520 - 480	Zechariah	The coming of God's Kingdom preceded by building of Temple	Zerubbabel, and the returned remnant	Filthy garments. Lack of Judgment, mercy & peace. Living in evil ways.
420 - 400	Malachi	Be prepared for the messenger that is to come. (Elijah)	Israel (twelve tribes) and Israel of God today (Church)	Priests neglecting duties. People chided for divorce, adultery, robbing God and criticizing.

What is the Exile?

- After Solomon 6th C the kingdoms tribes divided into North (Israel) and South (Judah)
 - Southern Conqueror Babylonians
 - Northern Conqueror Assyrians
- Northern kingdom survived 200 years
- Southern Kingdom survived 300 Years
- The period came to an end with Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon
- Jews could now return to Judah
- 2nd temple built by Cyrus Great (Ezra) ~513
- Judah becomes ruled by Persia (Ptolomies) and Syrians(Selecuids) then Rome
- These are pretty Good Dates and can be correlated



Why Not Jerusalem?

- All of the Southern Kingdom was taken except for Jerusalem.
- God did not let Assyria take Jerusalem in 701. Was it divine intervention?
- Probably it was disease in Jerusalem and Politics in Assyria that kept Jerusalem safe

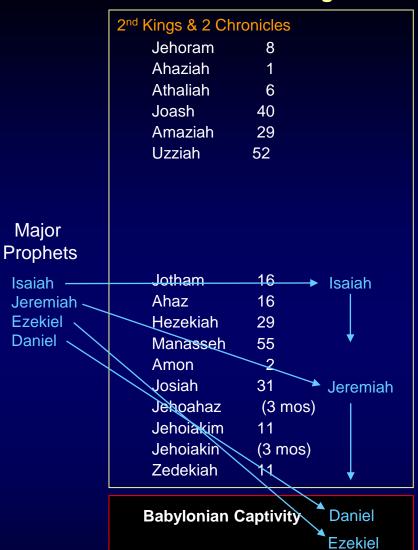


The Prophets & The Exile

- Hebrew Bible received its shape in the Post Exile period (~200 BCE)
- Joshua Kings "Deuteromic texts" the Former Prophets were edited in 6th C although the events they describe cover 1200 BCE to 586 BCE
- To keep the culture alive (Monotheism)
- Great Latter prophets(Amos etc.) wrote in the 8th c BCE and edited in 2nd temple period (< 513 BCE)



The Southern Kingdom



The Northern Kingdom

2 nd Kings		
Jehoram	12	Elisha
Jehu	28	
Jehoahaz	17	
Jehoash	16	
Jeroboam II	41	
Zechariah	1/2	
Shallum	(1 mo)	
Menahem	10	
Pekahiah	2	
Pekah	20	
Hoshea	9	



The Point

The Books of the Hebrew bible were all written after the fact and redacted – edited

Moses Probably Did not Write the Torah someone wrote about him to pass the law onto other generations

