

Old Testament: Survey of its History

**Presented by:
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Just to start us off

- **What is the Bible?**
- **What is the Bible's overall message?**
- **Is the Old Testament relevant to us today?**

The Bible – What it is

- **“This is not a history, science, or geography book. While all those are in here, this is a book of truths.”**
 - *Dr. Roberta Hestenes – Fuller Seminary*
- **“The authors of the Bible were children of their age with respect to science. It was not God’s intention to teach men science, it was his intention to instruct them in the way which leads to eternal salvation.”**
 - *Dr. Paul Heinisch from “History of the Old Testament”*

The Bible – What it is

- **Genesis 1:1-25**
 - All of Creation, the entire universe
- **Genesis 1:26 – Revelation 22:21**
 - Man's relationship to God and to each Other
- **The OT is mainly concerned with Israel**
 - Always the nation

Old Testament Origins

- **Tanakh (TaNaKh) (OT Canon: 450 BC according to Talmud)**
 - Torah = Law
 - Nevi'im = Prophets
 - Ketuvi'im = Writings
- **Septuagint (Quoted by Jesus and NT writers; 4th – 3rd century BC)**
 - LXX or “The Seventy”
- **Masoretic Text (Our text for OT translations; 7th – 10th century AD)**
 - Masoretes
 - First version with vowels added
- **Dead Sea Scrolls (3rd century BC to 1st century AD)**
 - Found post WWII
 - Great Isaiah Scroll

Tanakh

- **24 Books** in Tanakh (same as our 39 books)
- **Torah** = 5 Books of Moses (same as us)
- **Nevi'im** = 8 Books but we count 21:
 - 1, 2 Samuel = Samuel
 - 1, 2 Kings = Kings
 - All 12 Minor Prophets = One book
- **Ketuvim** = 11 Books but we count 13
 - Ezra and Nehemiah are one book
 - 1, 2 Chronicles = Chronicles

Tanakh

- **“Whoever brings together in his house more than twenty-four books brings confusion.”**
 - Midrash (Commentary) Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 12:12
- **Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical**
 - Intertestamental Period (400 BC - 100 AD)
 - Second in canonical order

The Prophets

- **Major Prophets (3)**

- Isaiah = 66 chapters
- Ezekiel = 48 chapters
- Jeremiah = 52 chapters

- **Minor Prophets (12)**

- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- All of these books have 14 or less chapters each

The Prophets

- **What is a Prophet? What is Prophecy?**
- **The prophet's burden was to proclaim judgement on their own people, people they loved.**
- **The prophet's number one duty was to instruct the people to live morally and upright (righteous) lives.**
- **Miracles or fulfilled prophecies were “calling cards” of the prophet; they were the prophet's credentials.**
- **As such, prophetic books were written for the benefit of the current audience of the time.**
- **Prophecies were usually fulfilled within the prophet's lifetime.**
- **God can and does speak farther into the future via prophets.**

Isaiah

- ***“In the year that King Uzziah died...”*** Is 6:1
 - Uzziah died in **740 BC**
- ***“Who says of Cyrus ‘He is my shepherd’”*** Is 44:28
 - Persian King Cyrus released Israel in **539 BC**
- **Isaiah “School”**
 - **First Isaiah** = Chapter 1-39 (8th century BC)
 - **Second Isaiah** = Chapters 40-55 (6th century BC)
 - **Third Isaiah** = Chapters 56-66 (5th/4th century BC)

The Writings

- **Psalms, Proverbs and Job**
 - 3 distinct books but always presented together
 - Hebrew “emet” which means “Truth”
- **Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther**
 - Five different scrolls
- **Daniel**
 - Considered apocalyptic – revealing of hidden things
 - Prophecy of history together with eschatology
- **Ezra-Nehemiah and 1, 2 Chronicles** considered histories

Questions?