

# Old Testament Survey

Introduction to the Old Testament, Part 1

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# Course overview

- Book-by-book introduction to the Old Testament
  - 6 months (2 terms)
  - following loosely chronological order
- Introduction to the content and major themes of each book
  - in the context of the larger storyline of the Bible (Old and New Testaments)
  - in light of Jesus Christ and the New Testament

# Schedule - Term 1

Date	Topic
October 7	Introduction to the OT, part 1
October 14	Introduction to the OT, part 2
October 21	Genesis 1-11
October 28	Genesis 12-50
November 4	Exodus
November 11	Leviticus
November 18	Numbers
November 25	Deuteronomy
December 2	Joshua, Judges, Ruth
December 9	1 & 2 Samuel
December 16	Psalms
December 23	Job
December 30	TBD

# Homework

- Optional, but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- One of two options (see Attached Reading Plans):
  - Read the entire Old Testament (4 chapters/weekday, and 8 chapters/day on weekends)
  - or
  - Read the Old Testament narrative passages (stories) (1 chapter/weekday, 2-3 chapters/day on weekends)

# OT Overview

- Written over a span of ~1000 years (~1400s-400s B.C.), by up to 40 writers
- Comprises 39 books in the Protestant Bible
- 24 books in the Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*)
  - Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles are single books
  - the 'Minor Prophets' form a single book ('The Twelve')
  - Ezra-Nehemiah is a single book

# OT Overview

- 3 major divisions in the Hebrew Bible:
  - the Law (*Torah*)
  - the Prophets (*Nebi'im*)
  - the Writings (*Kethubim*)
- Order of the books differs somewhat than in the Protestant Bible

# OT Overview

## Hebrew Bible

- *Torah*
  - Genesis
  - Exodus
  - Leviticus
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy

## Protestant Bible

- *Pentateuch*
  - Genesis
  - Exodus
  - Leviticus
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy

# OT Overview

## Hebrew Bible

- *Nebi'im*
  - Joshua
  - Judges
  - Samuel
  - Kings
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah
  - Ezekiel
  - The Twelve

## Protestant Bible

- *History*
  - Joshua
  - Judges
  - Ruth
  - 1 & 2 Samuel
  - 1 & 2 Kings
  - 1 & 2 Chronicles
  - Ezra
  - Nehemiah
  - Esther



# OT Overview

## Hebrew Bible

- ***Kethubim***
  - Psalms
  - Job
  - Proverbs
  - Ruth
  - Song of Songs
  - Ecclesiastes
  - Lamentations
  - Esther
  - Daniel
  - Ezra-Nehemiah
  - Chronicles

## Protestant Bible

- ***Poetry/Wisdom***
  - Job
  - Psalms
  - Proverbs
  - Song of Songs
  - Ecclesiastes
- ***Major Prophets***
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah
  - Lamentations
  - Ezekiel
  - Daniel

# OT Overview

## Hebrew Bible

- (The Minor Prophets form one book – the Twelve)

## Protestant Bible

- *Minor Prophets*
  - Hosea
  - Joel
  - Amos
  - Obadiah
  - Jonah
  - Micah
  - Nahum
  - Habakkuk
  - Zephaniah
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
  - Malachi

# Canonicity of OT books

- "Canon"
  - Hebrew word qaneh ("reed" - often used as a measuring stick)
  - Greek word: kanon ("rule", "model")
  - signifies a standard against which other things are measured/evaluated
- Refers to books that are recognized to be Scriptures (as opposed to others that are not)

# Canonicity of OT books

- Criteria for canonicity included
  - inspiration
    - ' God-breathed'
    - written under the supernatural direction of the Spirit of God → human authors, but ultimate author is God
    - process by which Divine inspiration was recognized is uncertain
      - the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing would also lead God's people to recognize it as Scripture

# Canonicity of OT books

- Criteria for canonicity included
  - written by a prophet or someone with the prophetic gift
  - written before ~400 B.C.
    - Jewish tradition that no prophets arose after Malachi
  - could not have been lost and recovered after the close of the canon
    - God would not inspire writing of Scripture, then not be able or not care to preserve it
    - Timeless quality, intended for all generations

# Canonicity of OT books

- Books likely canonized as soon as, or soon after they were written
  - e.g. Joshua 1:7-8; 22:5,9 → Law written by Moses recognized as Scripture immediately
- All books in the OT were included in the canon by 2nd-3rd century B.C.

# Canonicity of OT books

- The OT books were accepted by Jesus and the NT writers as Scripture
  - e.g. Matthew 5:17-19; Luke 24:25-27,44-45; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45)

- OT Scriptures are quoted ~300 times in the NT

# Brief storyline of the OT

- See handout for “50,000 foot view”



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- >4000 to ~1800 B.C.      **Genesis** - Beginnings – From Creation to the emergence of Israel
- >4000 B.C.
  - Creation (Gen. 1)
  - Creation & Fall of Man (Gen. 2-3)
  - Emergence of two lineages - Cain and Abel - and Seth (Gen. 4)
  - Judgment and Re-Creation/Fall
    - Noah & the Flood (Gen. 5-9) to the Tower of Babel (Gen. 10-11)

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 2166 to ~1800 B.C Age of the Patriarchs
  - Abraham (2166-1991 B.C.) (Gen. 12-25)
  - Isaac (2066-1886 B.C.) (Gen. 24-26)
  - Jacob (Israel) & Esau (2006-1859B.C.) (Gen. 25-36)
  - Joseph (1915-1805 B.C.) and the sons of Israel (Genesis 37-50)
  - Jacob (Israel) and his family settle in Egypt ~1876 B.C.
- **Job** – uncertain date; thought to be during time of the patriarchs

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- **1800-1406 B.C.**      **Exodus** - Israel's suffering in Egypt and deliverance by God from Egypt, led by Moses
- 1526 B.C.              Israel's suffering in Egypt, and Moses' birth (Exodus 1-2)
- 1486-1446 B.C.        Moses in exile in Midian (Exodus 2-4)
- 1446 B.C.              Moses returns to Egypt and leads Israel out (Exodus 5-18)  
God's covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-24)  
Building of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40)



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 1406 to ~1100 B.C. **Joshua** - Conquest of the Promised Land (Canaan) by Joshua & the Israelites
- **Judges** - Israel spirals downward through cycles of turning away from God → oppression by surrounding peoples → deliverance by judges raised up by God to save His people
- **Ruth** - Account of Ruth and Boaz, ancestors of David, the coming king

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- ~1100 to ~970 B.C. ***(1 & 2) Samuel*** - Account of Samuel, the last judge, and establishment of the monarchy in Israel
  - Samuel (born ~1100 B.C.) (1 Sam. 1-8)
  - Saul (reigned ~1050-1010 B.C.)  
(1 Sam. 9-31)
  - David (reigned 1010-970 B.C.)  
(1 Sam. 16-2 Sam. 24)
  
- ***Psalms*** - Collection of poetry, prayers, praise, and laments; approx. half written by David

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- **970 to 586 B.C.**      **(1 & 2) Kings** - Account of the Kings of Israel and Judah
  - from Solomon to the fall of Jerusalem and the Exile to Babylon
- (1 & 2 Chronicles)** - Recapitulation of account of the Kings of Judah
  - likely written after the Exile to Babylon
  - last book of the Hebrew Bible →
  - encapsulates the history of God's people from Adam to that time
  - looks forward to God's ultimate salvation



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 970-930 B.C. United Kingdom under Solomon (1 Kings 1-11)
- **Proverbs** - Collection of wise sayings (proverbs)
  - instruction of how to live wisely
  - composed largely by Solomon
- **Ecclesiastes** - Musings of an old man on the meaning of life
  - typically attributed to Solomon
- **Song of Songs** - Collection of love songs between a man and his bride
  - typically attributed to Solomon



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 930 B.C. Israel divides into Southern Kingdom (Judah; 2 tribes) and Northern Kingdom (Israel, 10 tribes)
- 930-722 B.C. The Northern Kingdom almost immediately turns away from God
  - suffers an unbroken string of evil kings
  - destroyed with the fall of Samaria at the hands of the Assyrians in 722 B.C.

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# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 930 B.C. Israel divides into Southern Kingdom (Judah; 2 tribes) and Northern Kingdom (Israel, 10 tribes)
- 930-586 B.C. The Southern Kingdom ruled by the House of David
  - has both good and evil kings
  - but overall downward trend
  - destroyed with the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 970 to 586 B.C.
- *Prophets of the time*
- Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah (1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 8) and others
- **Obadiah** (~840-830?) - Prophesied against Edom for siding with Judah's enemies in a time of trial
- **Joel** (~830-820?) - Prophesied God's coming judgment on Judah in the form of a locust invasion
- **Jonah** (~785-775 B.C.) - Account of Jonah, who called Nineveh to repentance

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 970 to 586 B.C.
- *Prophets of the time*
- **Amos** (~765-755 B.C.) - Prophesied God's judgment on Israel (Northern Kingdom) & surrounding nations, but looked forward to a day of restoration
- **Hosea** (~755-715 B.C.) - Prophesied of God's dealings with unfaithful Israel, using his own marriage to a prostitute as an illustration
- **Isaiah** (~739-680 B.C.) - Prophesied against Israel, Judah, and the surrounding nations. Isaiah 1-39 speak primarily about God's judgment, while Isaiah 40-66 look forward to His coming redemption and restoration

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 970 to 586 B.C.
- *Prophets of the time*
- **Micah** (~735-700 B.C.) - Prophesied against the social and moral evils of his day, in both Israel and Judah
- **Nahum** (~650-620 B.C.) - Prophesied God's judgment on the Assyrians
- **Zephaniah** (~635-625 B.C.) - Prophet in Judah during the reign of King Josiah; prophesied of a coming Day of the Lord in which God would judge Judah

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 970 to 586 B.C.
- *Prophets of the time*
- **Jeremiah** (~627-575 B.C.) - Account and prophecies of Jeremiah, who lived in Judah before, during, and after the fall of Jerusalem
- **Lamentations** - Jeremiah's lament regarding the fall of Jerusalem
- **Habakkuk** (~620-610 B.C.) - Prophesied God's coming judgment through the Babylonians

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- **586-516 B.C.**      Babylonian exile lasting 70 years, to the rebuilding of the Temple (2 Kings 24-25)
  - Several waves of captives taken to Babylon beginning ~605 B.C., culminating with the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- **538 B.C.**      Cyrus permits exiles to return to Judah
- **520-516 B.C.**      Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ezra 1-6)



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 586-516 B.C.          Babylonian exile
- *Prophets of the time*
- **Daniel** (~605-536 B.C.) - Account of Daniel and his friends, who were among the first waves of exiles to Babylon (~605 B.C.)
- **Ezekiel** (~597-560 B.C.) - Prophecies of Ezekiel
  - taken into exile near Babylon, ~597 B.C.
  - prophesied against Judah and the surrounding nations, but also looked forward to the future restoration of the kingdom



# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 586-516 B.C.          Babylonian exile
- *Prophets of the time*
- **Haggai** (520 B.C.) - Post-exile prophet who called on those who had returned from Babylon to rebuild the Temple
- **Zechariah** (520-518 B.C.) – Contemporary of Haggai, who rebuked the returned exiles and encouraged them to finish rebuilding the Temple

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- 516 to ~430 B.C. Rebuilding and renewal
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- ~483 B.C. **Esther** - Account of Queen Esther, who together with Mordecai, saved the Jews from destruction
- 458 B.C. **Ezra** - A second group of exiles returns to Jerusalem, led by Ezra, who implemented significant reforms (Ezra 7-10)

# A Brief Timeline of the OT

- **516 to ~430 B.C.** Rebuilding and renewal
- ~445-433 B.C. ***Nehemiah*** - Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and leads the people in further reforms
- Prophets of this period:
- ***Malachi*** (mid-5th century B.C.)
  - Final prophet in the OT canon
  - prophesied against the people's spiritual apathy and called them to repentance
  - looked forward to the day that the Lord would come, preceded by the prophet Elijah

# Next class

- Introduction to the Old Testament, Part 2
  - Major themes in the OT
  - Christ in the OT

# References

- Longman, Tremper III, and Raymond B. Dillard. An Introduction to the Old Testament, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- Merrill, Eugene H. An Historical Survey of the Old Testament, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991.
- ESV and NIV Study Bibles