

# The Old Testament

## The Law

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## Poetry

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## Minor Prophets

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## History

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

## Major Prophets

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

### Conquest of Canaan

Joshua

### Judges

Judges, Ruth

### United Kingdom

1 & 2 Samuel  
1 Chronicles

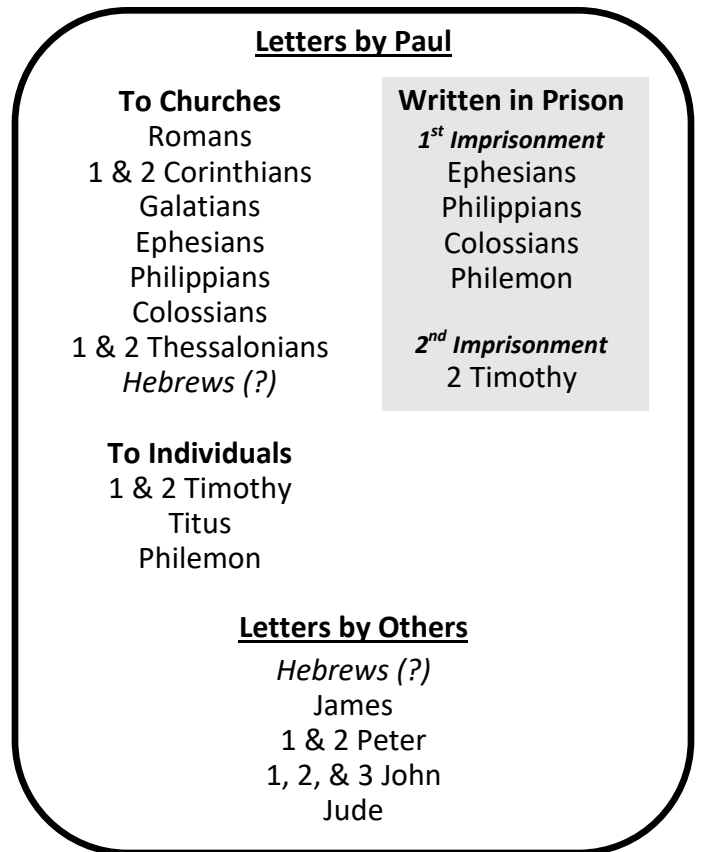
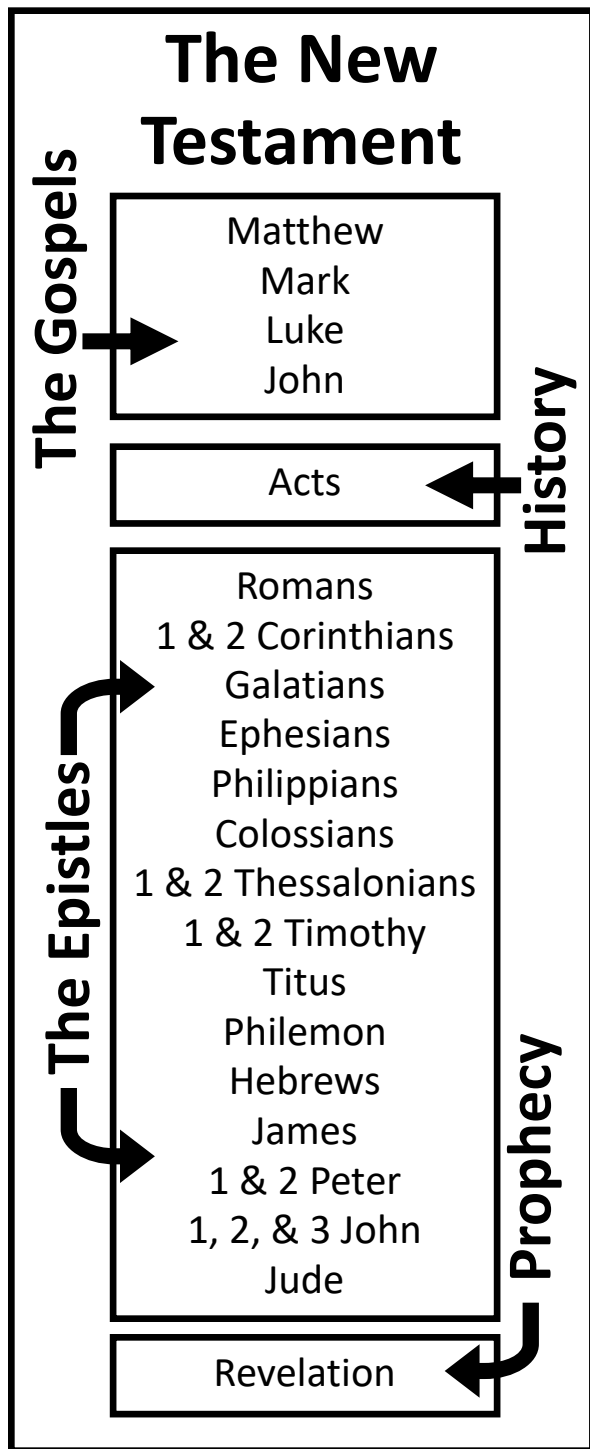
### Divided Kingdom

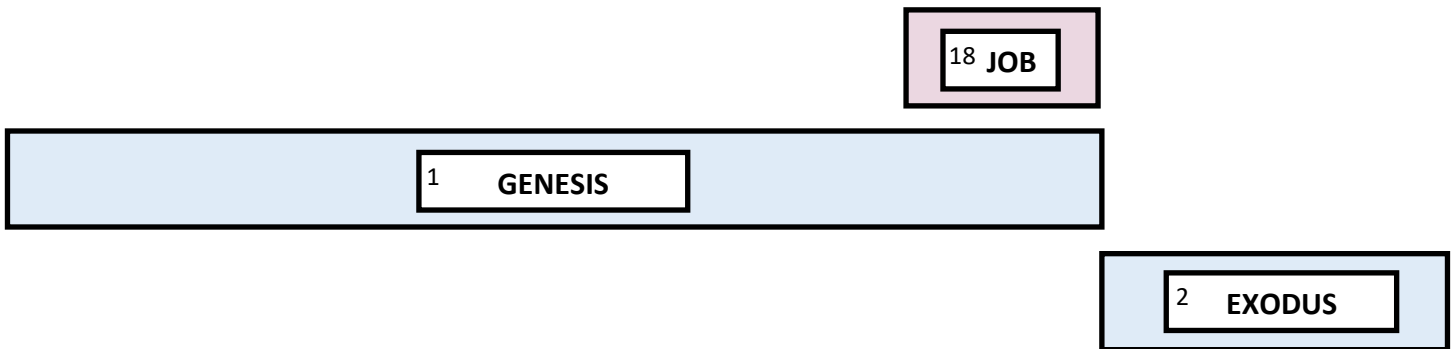
1 & 2 Kings  
2 Chronicles

### Return From Captivity

Ezra, Nehemiah,  
and Esther







CREATION



THE FLOOD



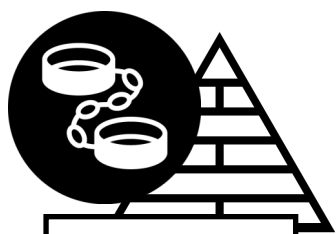
ABRAHAM



ISAAC



JACOB



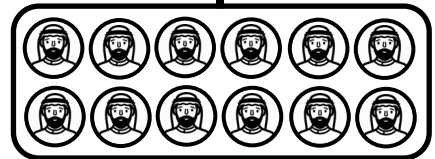
EGYPTIAN BONDAGE



THE FALL



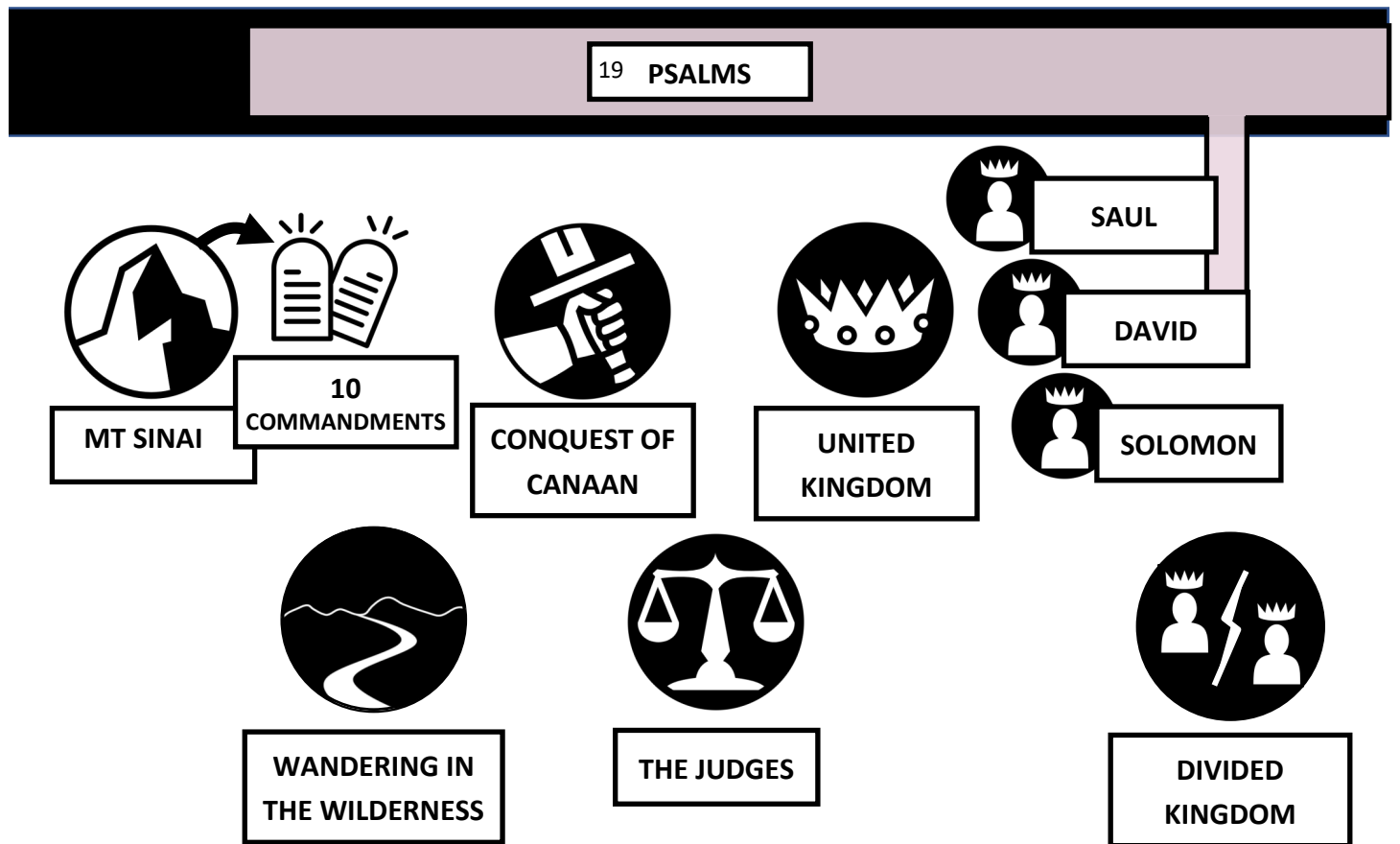
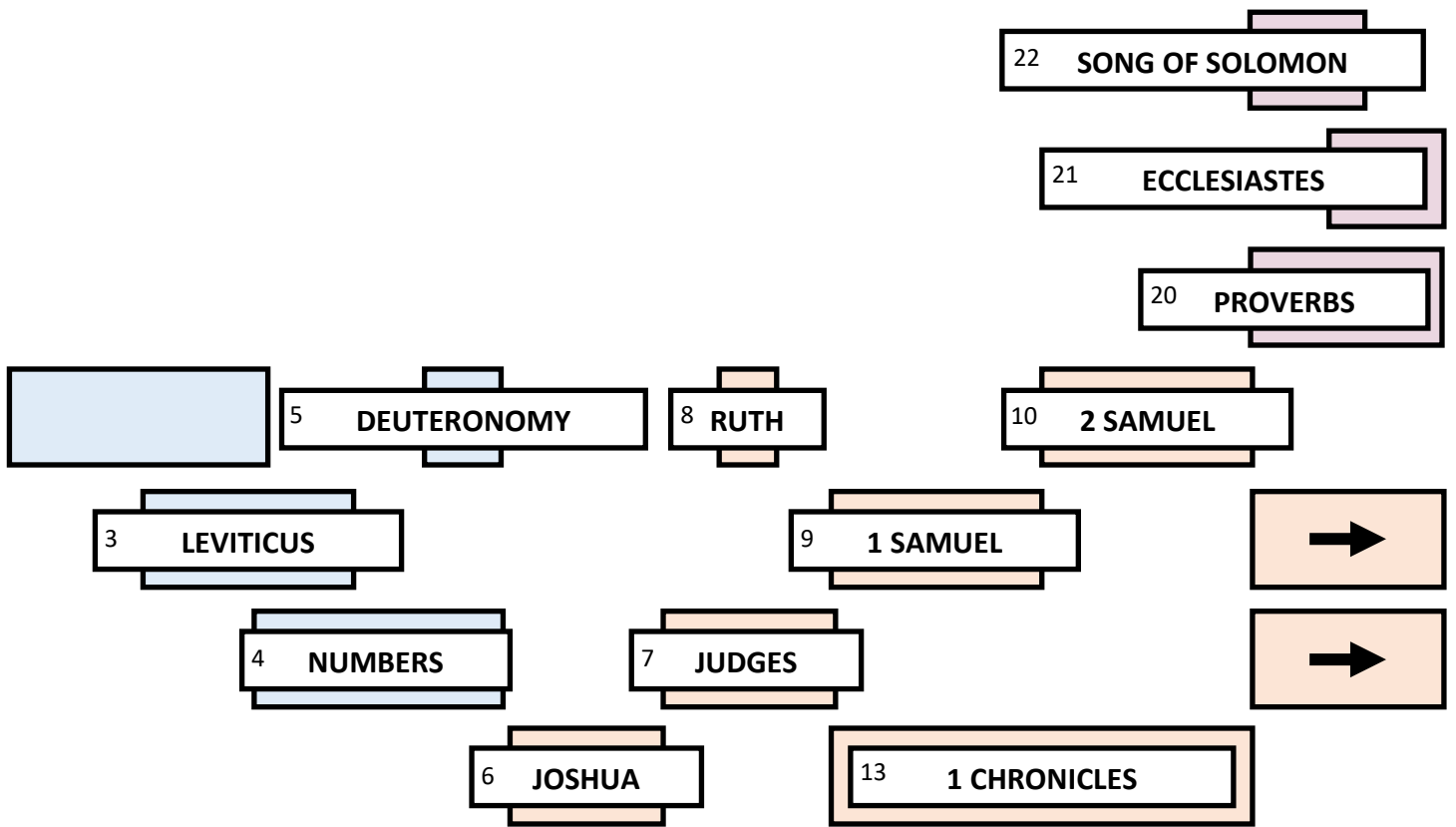
BABEL



- 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL**
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| REUBEN   | GAD      |
| SIMEON   | ASHER    |
| LEVI     | ISSACHAR |
| JUDAH    | ZEBULUN  |
| DAN      | JOSEPH   |
| NAPHTALI | BENJAMIN |



THE EXODUS

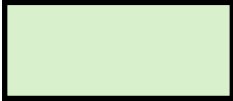


29 JOEL ?

32 JONAH



11 1 KINGS



14 2 CHRONICLES

30 AMOS



19 PSALMS

ISRAEL



Zimri



Jehu



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Jeroboam



Omri



Jehoahaz



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Nadab



Ahab



Jehoash



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Baasha



Ahaziah



Jeroboam II



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Elah



Joram



Zechariah

JUDAH



Rehoboam



Jehoshaphat



Joash



Abijam



Jehoram



Amaziah



Asa



Ahaziah



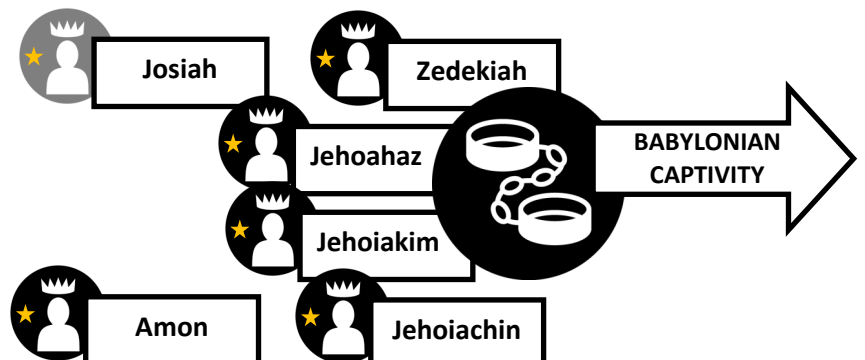
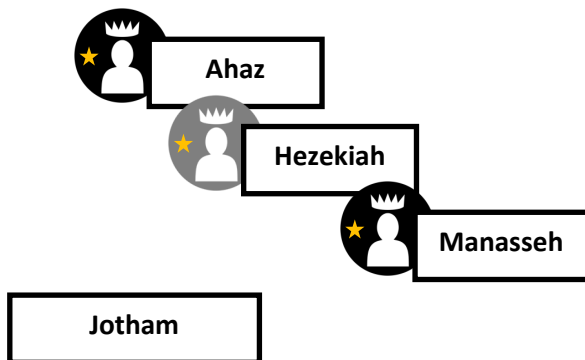
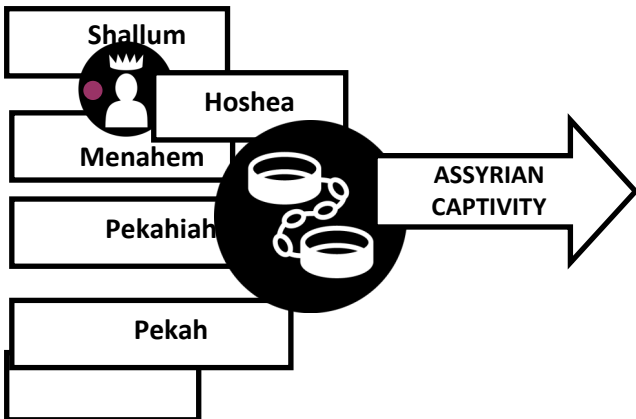
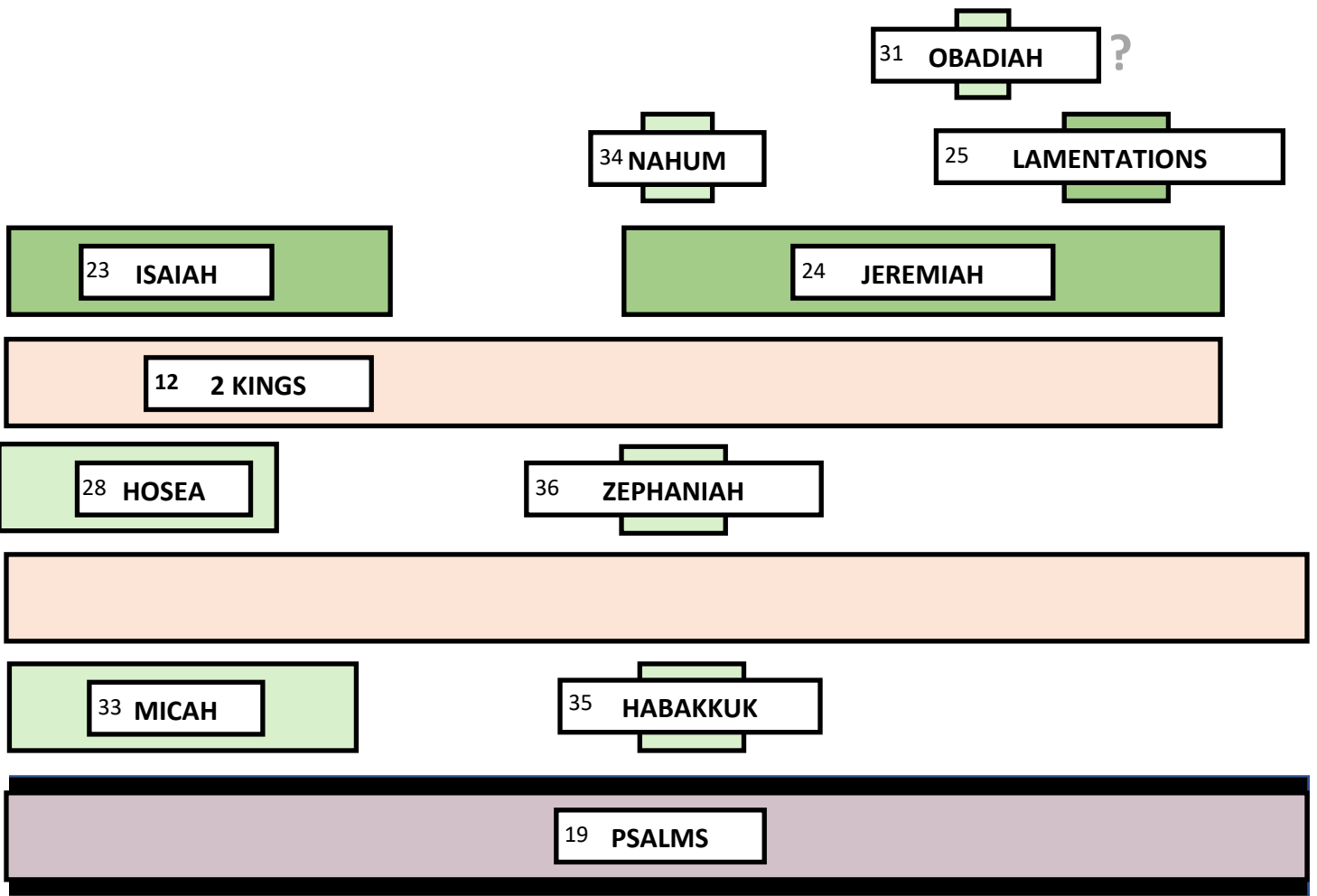
Uzziah

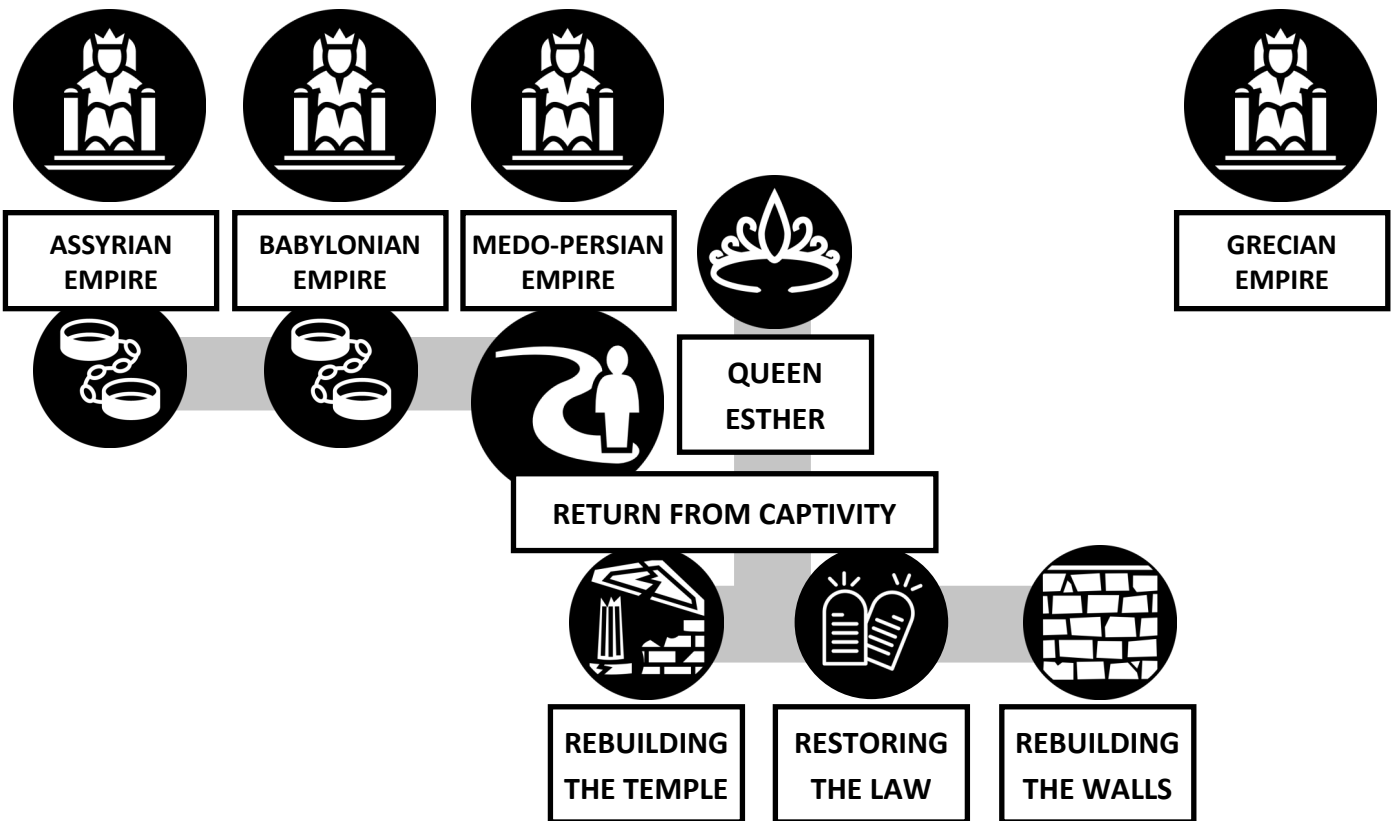
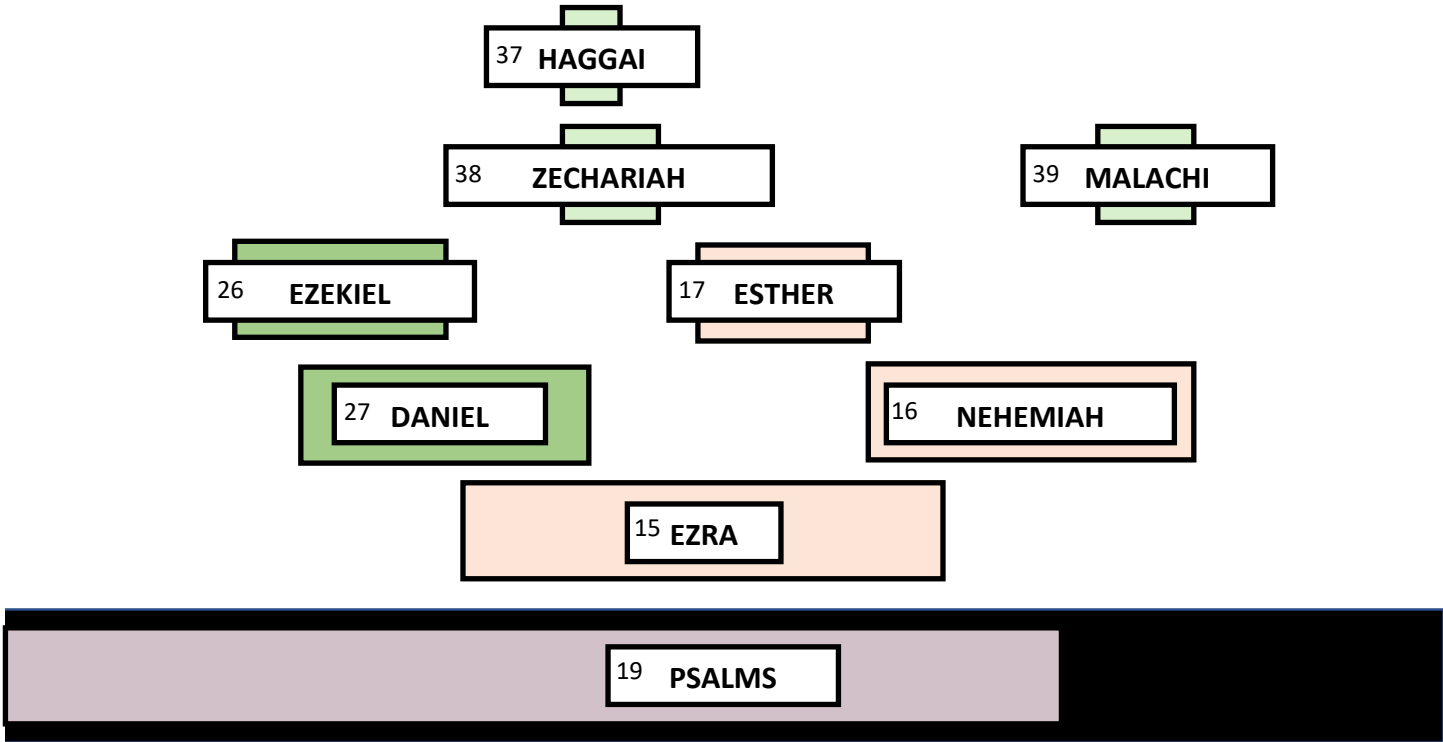


Athaliah



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1 MATTHEW

2 MARK

3 LUKE

4 JOHN

5 ACTS



ROMAN EMPIRE



BIRTH OF CHRIST



JOHN THE BAPTIST



**12 APOSTLES**

PETER	MATTHEW
ANDREW	THOMAS
JAMES	JAMES
JOHN	SIMON
PHILIP	JUDAS
BARTHALOMEW	JUDAS ISCARIOT



JESUS' MINISTRY



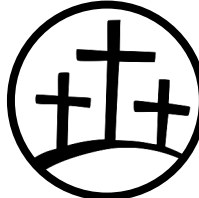
PENTECOST



PAUL'S JOURNEYS



PAUL IN PRISON



THE CROSS



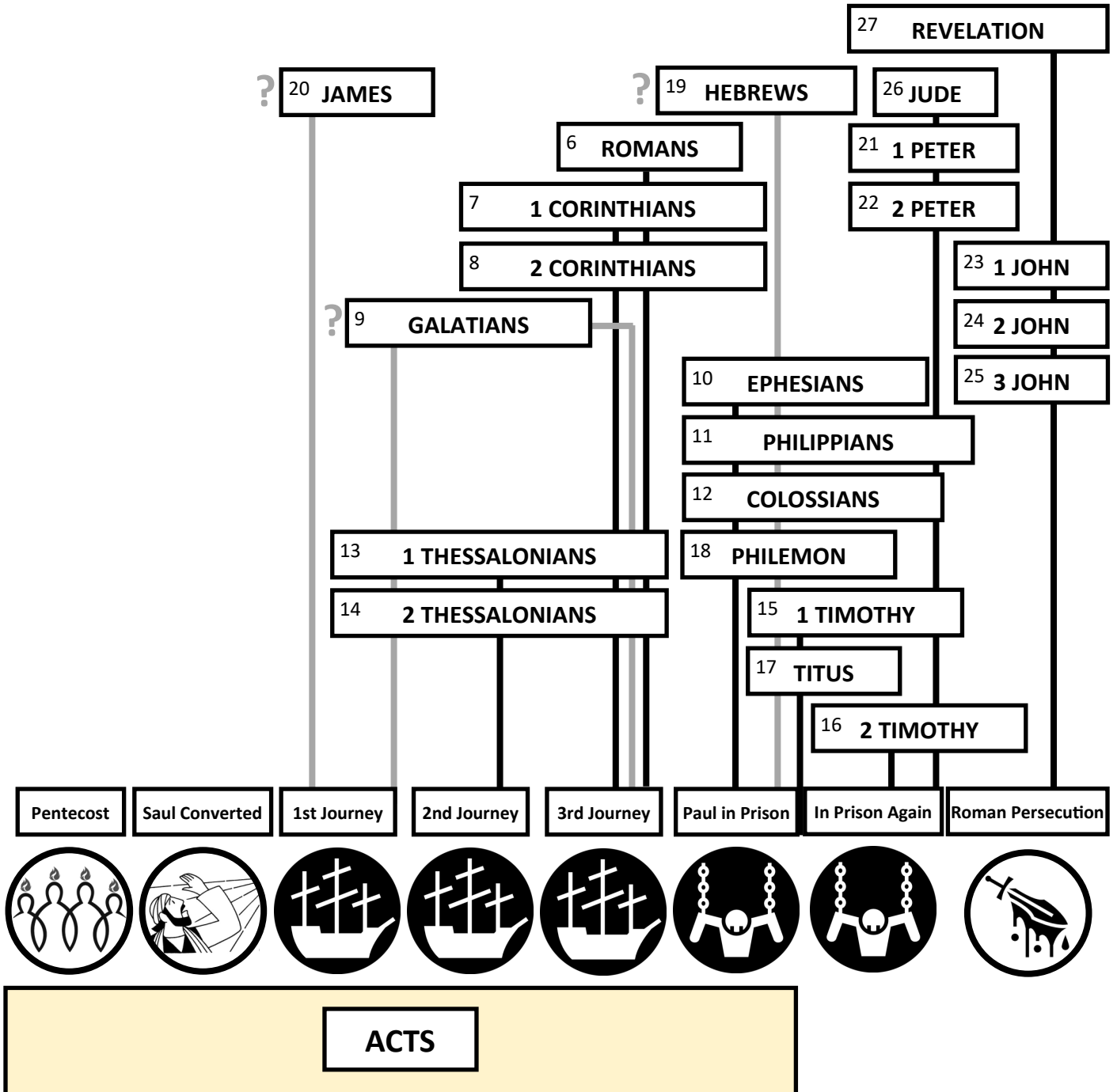
GROWTH OF THE CHURCH



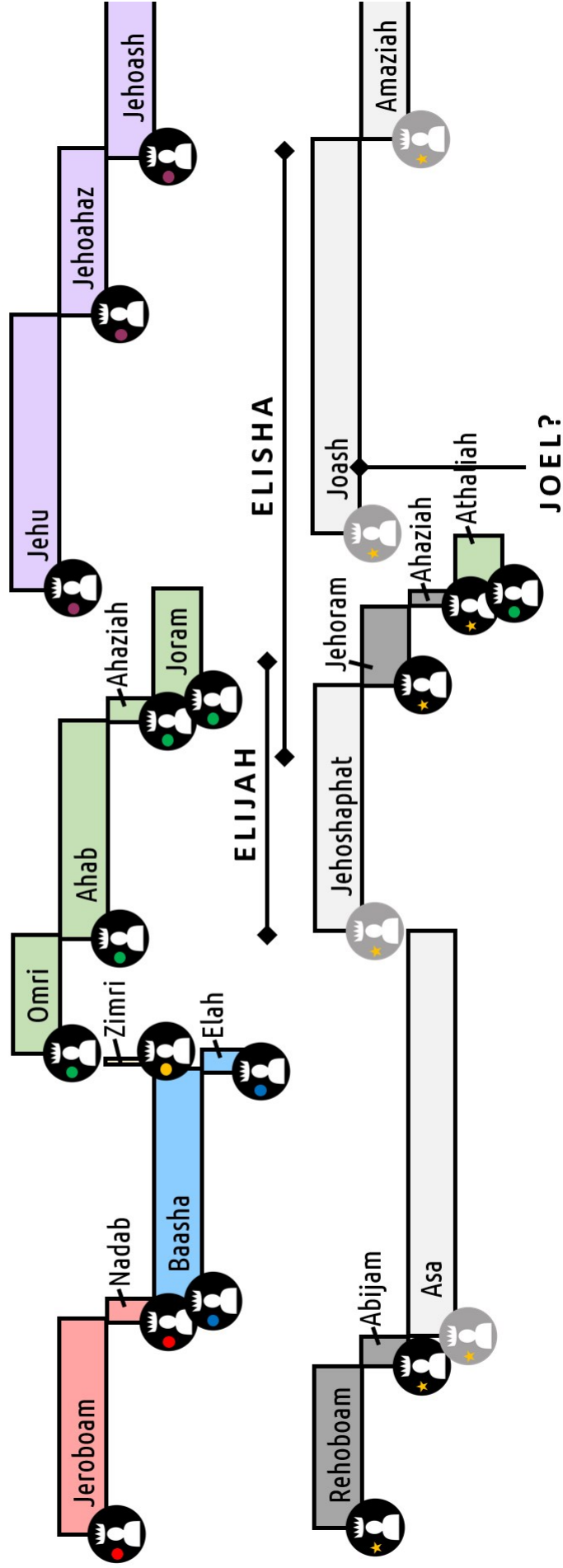
LETTERS TO CHRISTIANS

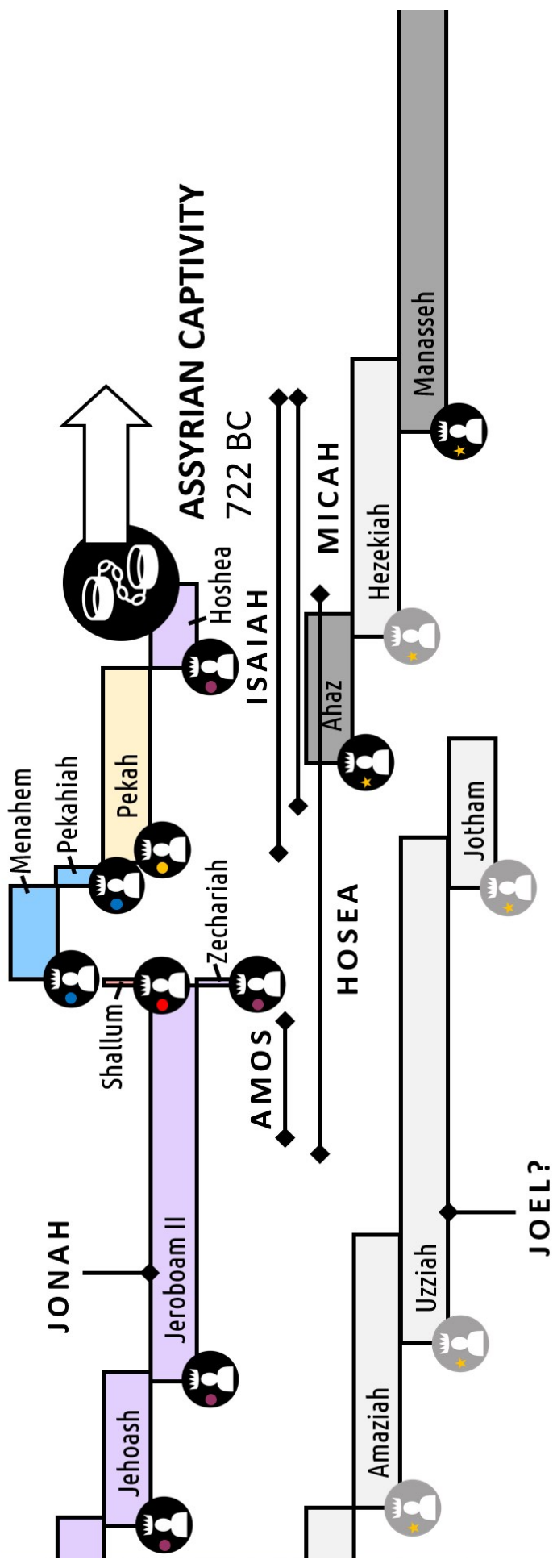


# The Epistles

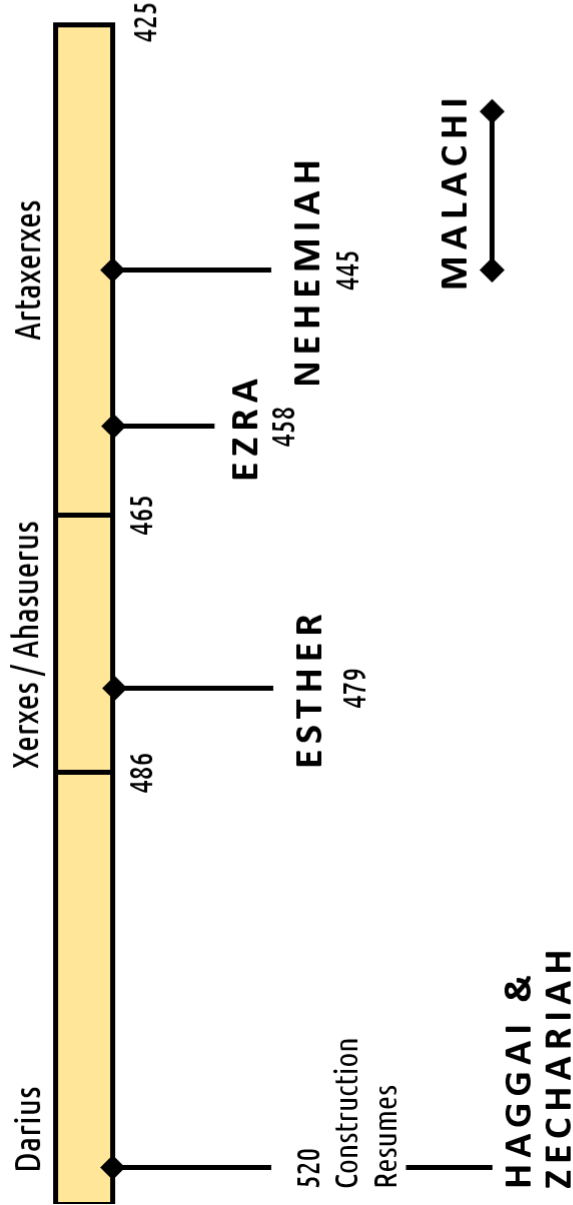












# GENESIS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Moses
  - a. Earlier source material ?
    - i. "Generations / accounts"
      - Heavens and earth (2:4)
      - Adam (5:1)
      - Noah (6:9)
      - Sons of Noah (10:1)
      - Shem (11:10)
      - Terah (11:27)
      - Ishmael (25:12)
      - Isaac (25:19)
      - Esau (36:1)
      - Jacob (37:2)
  - b. Divine inspiration
2. The Beginning to the Death of Joseph in Egypt
  - a. Records the origins of mankind and the people of Israel
  - b. A book of beginnings

## Summary

1. 4 Major Events (1-11)
  - a. Creation (1-2)
  - b. The Fall (3-5)
  - c. The Flood (6-10)
  - d. The Tower of Babel (11)
2. 4 Major People (12-50)
  - a. Abraham (12-23)
  - b. Isaac (24-26)
  - c. Jacob (27-36)
  - d. Joseph (37-50)

## Key Verses

1. Genesis 3:15
2. Genesis 12:2-3
3. Genesis 49:10
4. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Melchizedek (14:17-20 / Ps 110)
  - b. Sacrifice of Isaac (22:1-14)



# EXODUS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Moses
  - a. Mark 7:10 (Ex 20:12; 21:17)
  - b. Mark 1:44 (Lev 14)
  - c. Matt 19:8 (Deut 24:1-4)
  - d. Luke 24:44 – The Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms
2. From Egyptian bondage to the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai

## Summary

1. God's Redemption of Israel (1-18)
  - a. The Birth of Moses (1-2)
  - b. The Call of Moses (3-6)
  - c. The 10 Plagues (7-12)
  - d. The Exodus (13-18)
2. God's Covenant with Israel (19-40)
  - a. The Covenant (19-24)
  - b. Blueprint of the Tabernacle (25-31)
  - c. Covenant Broken & Renewed (32-34)
  - d. Building of the Tabernacle (35-40)

## Key Verses

1. Exodus 20:1-17
2. Exodus 34:6-7
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The Passover Lamb (12)
  - b. The Red Sea Crossing (14)
  - c. The Blood of the Covenant (24)

# LEVITICUS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Moses
2. At Mount Sinai after the building of the Tabernacle (1:1; 27:34)

## Summary

1. Ritual Sacrifices (1-7)
2. Priests Ordained (8-10)
3. Ritual Purity (11-15)
4. Day of Atonement (16-17)
5. Moral Purity (18-20)
6. Regulations for Priests (21-22)
7. Ritual Feasts (23-25)
8. Call to Covenant Faithfulness (26-27)

## Key Verses

1. Leviticus 11:45
2. Leviticus 19:18
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Priesthood (Hebrews 7)
  - b. Sacrifices (Hebrews 9-10)

# NUMBERS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Moses
2. Mount Sinai to the east side of the Jordan River

## Summary

1. Mt Sinai (1-10a)
  - a. 1st census
  - b. arrangement of camp
  - c. various laws
2. Travel (10b-12)
  - a. People complain
  - b. Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses
3. Wilderness of Paran (13-19)
  - a. 12 spies
  - b. Korah's rebellion
4. Travel (20-21)
  - a. Death of Miriam
  - b. waters of Meribah
  - c. Death of Aaron
  - d. fiery serpents
  - e. Sihon and Og defeated
5. Plains of Moab (22-36)
  - a. Balaam
  - b. Phinehas
  - c. 2nd census
  - d. preparations to enter the land

## Key Verses

1. Numbers 14:19-23
2. Numbers 24:17
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The Bronze Serpent (21:9; John 3:14-15)

# DEUTERONOMY

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Moses
2. On the east side of the Jordan preparing to enter the promise land.

## Summary

1. Opening Speech (1-11)
  - a. Review of Israel's history (1-3)
  - b. Call to covenant faithfulness (4-11)
2. Collection of Laws (12-26)
3. Closing Speech (27-34)
  - a. The blessing and cursing of the covenant (27-30)
  - b. Moses' final words and death (31-34)

## Key Verses

1. Deuteronomy 6:4
2. Deuteronomy 18:18-19
3. Deuteronomy 30:19
4. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Circumcision of the Heart (30:6; Rom 2:29; Col 2:11)

# JOSHUA

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Joshua
  - a. “According to the Talmud, Joshua the son of Nun is responsible for writing the book by his name. However, it also acknowledges that Joshua’s death was subsequently recorded by Eleazar son of Aaron, and that the death of Eleazar son of Aaron was recorded by Phinehas son of David” (Ziese, p. 21).
2. The conquest and settling of Canaan (From the death of Moses to the death of Joshua)

## Summary

1. Joshua leads Israel into Canaan (1-5)
  - a. Spies
  - b. Rahab
  - c. Crossing the Jordan
  - d. Circumcision
  - e. Passover
2. Battles with the Canaanites (6-12)
  - a. Jericho
  - b. Ai (Achan)
  - c. Gibeonites
  - d. 5 kings of the Amorites (Sun stands still)
  - e. Etc.
3. Division of the Land (13-22)
4. Joshua’s Final Words (23-24)

## Key Verses

1. Joshua 1:7
2. Joshua 5:13-14
3. Joshua 24:15
4. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Joshua = Jesus
  - b. Promised Land
  - c. Rahab (Mt 1:5)

# JUDGES

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Samuel?
  - a. “Traditional Christian interpretation has followed the lead of the Rabbis who recognized Samuel as the author not only of the books by his name but also Judges and Ruth” (Block, p. 44).
2. The “canaanization” of Israel
3. From the death of Joshua to the death of Samson
  - a. Note: chapters 17-21 are not chronological (18:30; 20:28)

## Summary

1. Israel’s failure to drive out the Canaanites (1-2)
2. Downward spiral of the Judges (3-16)
  - a. Othniel / Ehud (3)
  - b. Deborah (4-5)
  - c. Gideon (6-9)
  - d. Jephtah (10-12)
  - e. Samson (13-16)
3. The depths of Israel’s immorality
  - a. Micah’s Levite and the tribe of Dan (17-18)
  - b. The Levite and his concubine (19-21)

## Key Verses

1. Judges 2:18-19
2. Judges 21:25
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Judges that Save! (2:16) – These corrupt deliverers highlight Jesus as the holy and perfect Savior by contrast.

# RUTH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Samuel?
  - a. “Traditional Christian interpretation has followed the lead of the Rabbis who recognized Samuel as the author not only of the books by his name but also Judges and Ruth” (Block, p. 44).
2. “In the days when the judges ruled...” (1:1)

## Summary

1. Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi (1)
2. Ruth meets Boaz (2)
3. Ruth petitions Boaz to be her redeemer (3)
4. Boaz redeems Ruth and she gives birth to a son (4)

## Key Verses

1. Ruth 1:16
2. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Redemption of the nations (2:12; 3:9)
  - b. The lineage of Jesus (4:17; Matt 1:5)

# 1 SAMUEL

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Samuel, Gad, and Nathan ? (1 Chron 29:29)
  - a. Referenced by Jesus (1 Sam 21:6—Matt 12:3; Mark 2:25-26; Luke 6:3-4)
2. The birth of Samuel to the death of Saul

## Summary

1. Birth and Call of Samuel (1-3)
2. The Ark is Captured and Returned (4-7)
3. Saul: The King Israel Wanted (8-12)
4. Saul is Rejected for Disobedience (13-15)
5. David: The King God Wants (16-17)
6. Saul Seeks David's Life (18-27)
7. Saul Dies in Battle (28-31)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Samuel 2:10
2. 1 Samuel 13:14
3. 1 Samuel 16:17
4. 1 Samuel 17:45-47
5. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The Lord's Anointed (Christ)
  - b. The Righteous Sufferer (Psalms)



# 2 SAMUEL

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Samuel, Gad, and Nathan ? (1 Chron 29:29)
  - a. Referenced by the Apostles (2 Sam 7:12 – Acts 2:30)
2. The kingship of David

## Summary

1. The rise & success of King David (1-10)
  - a. David and Ish-bosheth (1-5)
  - b. The Ark Brought to Jerusalem (6)
  - c. God's Covenant with David (7)
  - d. David's Victories and Kindness (8-10)
2. David's sin & its consequences (11-20)
  - a. David and Bathsheba (11-12)
  - b. Amnon and Tamar (13)
  - c. Absalom's Rebellion (14-19)
  - d. Sheba's Rebellion (20)
3. Other conflicts and challenges of David's reign (21-24)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Samuel 7:12-16
2. 2 Samuel 12:7-13
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The "Son of David" / Messianic King / Everlasting Kingdom
  - b. Theme of kingship and house of the LORD in the Psalms

# 1 KINGS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jewish tradition attributes the composition of Kings to Jeremiah
  - a. Luke 11:31—Jesus refers to Solomon and the queen of Sheba
  - b. Luke 4:25-27—Jesus refers to the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the leper
  - c. Romans 11:3-4—A direct quotation from God’s interaction with Elijah in 1 Kings 19
2. The anointing of Solomon to the death of Ahab

## Summary

1. Solomon’s Reign (1-11)
  - a. Solomon established as King (1-2)
  - b. Solomon’s prayer for wisdom (3-4)
  - c. Solomon builds the temple (5-8)
  - d. Solomon’s prosperity and downfall (9-11)
2. Division of the Kingdom (12-16)
  - a. Notice 14:30; 15:7,16 / 22:4
3. The Ministry of Elijah
  - a. Drought and Widow of Zarephath (17)
  - b. Mt. Carmel and the Prophets of Baal (18)
  - c. Elijah’s Discouragement (19)
  - d. Ahab’s Wars with Syria (20)
  - e. Naboth’s Vineyard (21)
  - f. Ahab’s Death (22)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Kings 9:1-9
  - a. Kings are continually compared to the obedience of David (11:4; 14:8; 15:3,11) and the sins of Jeroboam (15:34; 16:19,26,31)
2. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Resurrection evidences the working of God (17:23-24)
  - b. Failure of the kings points us forward toward the perfect King

# 2 KINGS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jewish tradition attributes the composition of Kings to Jeremiah
2. Death of Ahab to Babylonian Captivity

## Summary

1. Elisha's Ministry (1-8)
  - a. Elijah's departure (1-2)
  - b. Elisha's Miracles (3-8)
    - i. War in Moab (3)
    - ii. The Widow's Oil, The Shunammite's Son, The Deadly Stew (4)
    - iii. Naaman the Leper (5)
    - iv. The Axe Head, The Syrian Army and Siege of Samaria (6-7)
    - v. Prophecies Ben-hadad's Assassination (8)
2. The Slaughter of Ahab's Household (9-11)
3. Righteous Kings in Judah and Turmoil in Israel after Jehu's Dynasty (12-15)
4. Assyria Conquers Israel and Threatens Judah (16-20)
5. Wickedness and Reform in Judah (21-23)
6. Babylon Conquers Judah (24-25)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Kings 17:7,13-14
2. 2 Kings 22:16-17
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The miracles of Elisha (healing leper, raising dead, feeding multitude, defying gravity on water's surface, life giving tomb—13:21)

# 1 CHRONICLES

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jewish tradition attributes the composition of Chronicles to Ezra
  - a. Luke 11:51—Jesus refers to the stoning of Zechariah in the court of the temple (2 Chron 24:20-22)
2. Genealogies / Death of Saul to Death of David

## Summary

1. Genealogies (1-9)
2. David Established as King in Jerusalem (10-16)
3. God's Promise of an Eternal Kingdom and David's Military Success (17-20)
4. Plague of the Census and Preparations for the Temple (21-29)  
*see Exodus 30:12*

## Key Verses

1. 1 Chronicles 17:11-14
2. 1 Chronicles 22:5
3. 1 Chronicles 28:9-10
4. Images that Look Forward
  - a. The seed of David
  - b. Zeal for God's house (Psalm 69)

# 2 CHRONICLES

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jewish tradition attributes the composition of Chronicles to Ezra
2. From the Building of the Temple to the Rebuilding of the Temple

## Summary

1. Kingship of Solomon (1-9)
  - a. Building and Dedication of the Temple (2-7)
2. Judah at War with Israel (10-16)
  - a. Rehoboam—Kingdom divided, punished by attack of Shishak king of Egypt (10-12)
  - b. Abijah—Given victory over Jeroboam (13)
  - c. Asa—Religious reforms, trusted in God against Zerah the Ethiopian, trusted in Syria against Baasha, trusted in physicians with disease (14-16)
3. Judah Allied with Israel (17-22)
  - a. Jehoshaphat – Officials taught the Law, allied with Ahab against Syria, granted deliverance from Ammon-Moab-Edom (17-20)
  - b. Jehoram – Killed brothers, walked in the way of Ahab, death by disease prophesied by Elijah (21)
  - c. Ahaziah / Athaliah – Killed by Jehu after allying with Joram, mother takes the throne (22)
4. Good Kings Corrupted by Pride (23-27)
  - a. Joash – Religious reforms during life of Jehoiada, idolatry, murders Zechariah for rebuke (23-24)
  - b. Amaziah – Given victory against Edom, serves gods of Edom, defeated by Israel (25)
  - c. Uzziah – Granted great military success, struck with leprosy for entering the temple (26)
  - d. Jotham (27)
5. Judah and the Threat of Assyria (28-32)
  - a. Ahaz – Allies with Assyria against Syria and Israel (28)
  - b. Hezekiah – Widespread religious reform, trusts in God against Assyria, boasts of wealth to envoys from Babylon (29-32)
5. Delayed Downfall of Judah (33-36)
  - a. Manasseh / Amon – Horribly wicked, repents after captured by Assyria (33)
  - b. Josiah – Finds book of the Law, extensive religious reforms, killed by Pharaoh Neco (34-35)
  - c. Babylonian Captivity, Destruction of Jerusalem, Hope of Return (36)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Chronicles 7:14
2. 2 Chronicles 7:21-22
3. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16
4. Images that Look Forward
  - a. Temple (God dwelling with His people) - 1 Peter 2:4-5

# EZRA

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Ezra
  - a. Ezra 8-9—"I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days..."
2. Rebuilding of the Temple and Restoring of the Law
  - a. Cyrus (539-530)
    - i. **539—Zerubbabel returns to rebuild the temple**
  - b. Cambyses (530-522)
  - c. Darius (522-486)
    - i. **520—Construction of temple resumed**
    - ii. **516—Construction of temple completed**
  - d. Xerxes / Ahasuerus (486-465)
    - i. 479—Queen Esther
  - e. Artaxerxes (465-425)
    - i. **458—Ezra restores the Law**
    - ii. 445—Nehemiah rebuilds the walls

## Summary

1. Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple (1-6)
  - a. Zerubbabel's return journey (1-2)
  - b. Laying the foundation (3)
  - c. Opposition to the work (4)
  - d. Work resumed and temple completed (5-6)
2. Ezra restores the Law (7-10)
  - a. Ezra's return journey (7-8)
  - b. Ezra's reforms (9-10)

## Key Verses

1. Ezra 3:11
2. Ezra 7:10
3. Images that Look Forward
  - a. A picture of restoration, repentance, and revival (New Temple)

# NEHEMIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Nehemiah
  - a. Nehemiah 1:1—"The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah..."
2. Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem
  - a. Cyrus (539-530)
    - i. 539—Zerubbabel returns to rebuild the temple
  - b. Cambyses (530-522)
  - c. Darius (522-486)
    - i. 520—Construction of temple resumed
    - ii. 516—Construction of temple completed
  - d. Xerxes / Ahasuerus (486-465)
    - i. 479—Queen Esther
  - e. Artaxerxes (465-425)
    - i. 458—Ezra restores the Law
    - ii. **445—Nehemiah rebuilds the walls**

## Summary

1. Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (1-6)
  - a. Nehemiah is allowed to return to Jerusalem and inspects the walls (1-2)
  - b. Rebuilding begins (3)
  - c. Opposition to the work (4)
  - d. Nehemiah frees the poor from oppression (5)
  - e. Wall is finished despite continued opposition (6)
2. Nehemiah's Reforms (7-13)
  - a. The people assemble to read the Law and celebrate the Feast of Booths (7-8)
  - b. Israel confesses their sins and renews the covenant (9-10)
  - c. A list of the people living in Jerusalem and those who participated in the wall's dedication (11-12)
  - d. Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem 20 years later and has to institute the reforms all over again (13)

## Key Verses

1. Nehemiah 4:6
2. Nehemiah 6:16
3. Nehemiah 8:10

# ESTHER

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jewish tradition attributes the book to Mordecai (Esther 9:20,23)
2. The deliverance of the Jews commemorated by the feast of Purim
  - a. Cyrus (539-530)
    - i. 539—Zerubbabel returns to rebuild the temple
  - b. Cambyses (530-522)
  - c. Darius (522-486)
    - i. 520—Construction of temple resumed
    - ii. 516—Construction of temple completed
  - d. Xerxes / Ahasuerus (486-465)
    - i. **479—Queen Esther**
  - e. Artaxerxes (465-425)
    - i. 458—Ezra restores the Law
    - ii. 445—Nehemiah rebuilds the walls

## Summary

1. Esther Becomes Queen (1-2)
2. Haman Plots Against the Jews (3)
3. Esther Approaches the King (4-5)
4. Mordecai Exalted (6)
5. Esther Appeals for Her People and Haman is Killed (7)
6. The Jews are Saved and Purim Instituted (8-10)

## Key Verses

1. Esther 4:14
2. Theme
  - a. The Providence of God (God's Word "Behind the Scenes")



# JOB

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Unknown
  - a. Referenced in Ezekiel 14:14 and James 5:11
2. Sometime during the patriarchal period
  - a. Note the absence of any covenant language, Job as a priest of his own family (1:5), Job's lifespan (42:16), *qesitah* as a unit of money (42:11; Gen 33:19), etc.

## Summary

1. Job's Trials (1-2)
2. Job's Lament (3)
3. First Round of Speeches (4-14)
4. Second Round of Speeches (15-21)
5. Third Round of Speeches (22-28)
6. Job's Final Defense (29-31)
7. Elihu's Input (32-37)
8. God's Response to Job (38-41)
9. Job's Repentance and Restoration (42)

## Key Verses

1. Job 1:20-21
2. Job 19:23-26
3. Job 42:1-6
4. Themes
  - a. The Sovereignty of God and Suffering of the Innocent
  - b. Serving God Selflessly
  - c. Faith in the midst of Trial

# PSALMS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. David (73), Sons of Korah (12), Asaph (12), Solomon (2), Moses (1), Ethan the Ezrahite(1), Heman the Ezrahite (1), Anonymous (48)
2. Songs of Israel from the time of Exodus to the return from captivity

## Summary

1. Book 1 (1-41)
2. Book 2 (42-72)
3. Book 3 (73-89)
4. Book 4 (90-106)
5. Book 5 (107-150)
6. Types of Psalms
  - a. Hymns (Ps 98)
  - b. Thanksgiving (Ps 30)
  - c. Confidence (Ps 23)
  - d. Wisdom (Ps 1)
  - e. Royal (Ps 45)
7. Hebrew Parallelism—“thought rhyme”
  - a. Synonymous Parallelism (Ps 2:1)
  - b. Antithetical Parallelism (Ps 1:6)
  - c. Synthetic Parallelism (Ps 1:1)

## Key Verses

1. Psalms 2—The Lord’s Anointed
2. Psalm 16—The Resurrection
3. Psalm 22—The Crucifixion
4. Psalm 69—Jesus’ Rejection
5. Psalm 110—Exaltation of Jesus
6. Psalm 118—The Cornerstone
7. Other Notable Psalms
  - a. Psalm 23—The Lord is my Shepherd
  - b. Psalm 51—David’s Repentance
  - c. Psalm 119—Praise of God’s Law

# PROVERBS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Solomon (1:1; 10:1; 25:1)
  - a. Sayings of the wise (24:23)
  - b. Agur the son of Jakeh (30:1)
  - c. King Lemuel and his mother (31:1)
2. Poetic statements of practical wisdom—primarily from the time of Solomon

## Summary

1. A Father's Instructions to His Son (1-9)
2. Collected Proverbs of Solomon (10-24)
3. Hezekiah's Collection of Solomon's Proverbs (25-29)
4. Agur: The Model Reader of Proverbs (30)
5. A Mother's Instructions to Her Son (31)

## Key Verses

1. Proverbs 1:7
  - a. The fear of the Lord in wisdom literature
    - i. Proverbs 1:7—The beginning of wisdom
    - ii. Ecclesiastes 12:13—The end of the matter
    - iii. Job 28:28—The only place wisdom is found
2. Proverbs 3:5-8
3. Themes
  - a. Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly

# ECCLESIASTES

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. The Preacher / Solomon (1:1; 12:9)
2. Solomon's latter years

## Summary

1. Introduction: All is Vanity (1:1-11)
2. The Vain Pursuit of Purpose (1:12-2:23)
3. The Vain Pursuit of "Better" Things (2:24-12:8)
4. Conclusion: Man's All is Found in God, Not Life Under the Sun (12:9-14)

## Key Verses

1. Ecclesiastes 1:2; 12:8
  - a. Vanity / Meaningless / Futility—This Hebrew word occurs 38 times in the book
2. Ecclesiastes 12:9-14
3. Theme
  - a. The futility and meaninglessness of life should drive us to find purpose and meaning in God and be grateful for His gifts

# SONG OF SOLOMON

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Solomon
  - a. “The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s” (1:1)
  - b. “He also spoke 3,000 proverbs and his songs were 1,005” (1 Kings 4:32)
2. A love song written by Solomon

## Summary

1. Possible Interpretations
  - a. Allegorical (Isaiah 5; Psalm 45; etc.)
  - b. Solomon and His Bride (1 Kings 11:1-4?)
  - c. 3-Character Drama (Beloved, King, Shulamite)
  - d. A Love Song
    - i. “The best interpretation of Song of Songs is that it is what it appears to be: a love song... The text is not a record of historical events in Solomon’s life. In love every groom is King Solomon, a shepherd, and even a gazelle; and every bride is a princess and a country maiden” (Garrett)
2. “Every section begins with the lovers apart and concludes with them finding one another and coming together” (Hess)
3. Insecurity and Reassurance (1:1-2:7)
  - a. She is dark from working in the sun and has not been able to attend to her own “vineyard.” She searches for him among the sheep folds. He brings her to the banqueting house and embraces her.
4. Eagerness and Reservation (2:8-3:5)
  - a. He comes leaping over the hills like a gazelle, but she is shy and reserved like a dove in the cleft of the rock. She awakes in the night and goes searching for her beloved till she finds him and embraces him, taking him to her mother’s house.
5. The Wedding Procession (3:6-5:1)
  - a. The beloved comes as King Solomon from the wilderness to meet his bride. He tells her how beautiful she is. She welcomes him into the well-preserved garden of her love where they feast together.
6. Miscommunication and Resolution (5:2-6:3)
  - a. The beloved comes to her at night, but she is hesitant to open to him. By the time she has arisen, he is gone. She is distraught and searches for him in the streets. She tells her companions how wonderful he is and finally finds him in the garden once again.
7. Reaffirmation (6:4-8:4)
  - a. The beloved praises her beauty getting increasingly more intimate in his description. In response, she offers to go into the vineyard with him and they embrace in her mother’s house.
8. Review, Conclusion, and Continuation (8:5-14)
  - a. They reminisce about the preparations for and awakening of their love, lauding its power. She concludes by rejecting the business approach to love taken by Solomon and going “off into the sunset” with her beloved.

## Key Verses

1. Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5 (8:4)
2. Song of Solomon 4:12-5:1
3. Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (see also 8:11-12)

# ISAIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Isaiah
  - a. Matt 3:3 – Isa 40:3
  - b. Matt 4:15-16 – Isa 9:1-2
  - c. Matt 8:17 – Isa 53:4
  - d. Matt 12:17-21 – Isa 42:1-3
  - e. Matt 13:14-15 – Isa 6:9-10
  - f. Matt 15:7-9 – Isa 29:13
2. “In the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah” (1:1)

## Summary

1. Present Judgment
  - a. A Preface of Judgment for Judah and Jerusalem (1-5)
  - b. Isaiah’s Call (6)
  - c. Ahaz and Assyria / The Remnant and Immanuel Their King (7-12)
  - d. Judgment on the Nations (13-23)
  - e. Judgment on the Whole World (24-27)
  - f. 5 Woes on Jerusalem and 1 on Their Enemies (28-35)
  - g. Hezekiah and Assyria / Babylon (36-39)
2. Future Hope (40-66)
  - a. God Shows His Superiority to the Idols (40-48)
  - b. The Redemptive Work of God’s Servant (49-55)
  - c. Hope in Genuine Repentance (56-59)
  - d. The Glorious Restoration of Zion Beyond God’s Judgment (60-66)

## Key Verses

1. Isaiah 9:6-7
2. Isaiah 40:3
3. Isaiah 52:7
4. Isaiah 53
5. Isaiah 61:1
6. Themes
  - a. Faith/Fear in God, not the Nations
  - b. Immanuel the Child who will Rule
  - c. The Suffering Servant

# JEREMIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jeremiah (1:1) / Baruch (36:32)
  - a. Matthew 2:17-18—Jeremiah 31:15
2. In the days of Josiah, Jehoiakin, and Zedekiah, even up to the captivity of Jerusalem (1:2-3)

## Summary

1. Spiritual Harlotry of God's People (1-10)
2. Jeremiah Persecuted for Words of Judgment (11-20)
3. God's Plan for Exile (21-29)
4. Future Hope of Restoration (30-33)
5. Continual Rejection of God's Word Leads to Destruction and Deportation (34-45)
  - a. 36 – Burning of Jeremiah's Scroll
  - b. 38 – Jeremiah Cast into Cistern
  - c. 39 – Fall of Jerusalem
  - d. 43 – Jeremiah taken to Egypt
6. Judgment on the Nations (46-51)
7. Retelling of the Fall of Jerusalem and God's Blessing to the Captives (52)

## Key Verses

1. Jeremiah 9:23-24
2. Jeremiah 29:10-13
3. Jeremiah 31:31-34
4. Themes
  - a. The primary problem of God's people in their refusal to listen and repent.
  - b. Submitting to God's discipline is the only path to restoration.

# LAMENTATION

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jeremiah?
  - a. The LXX adds this statement to the beginning of the book: “And it came to pass after Israel had gone into captivity, and Jerusalem was laid waste, that Jeremiah sat weeping and composed this lament over Jerusalem and said...”
2. A series of acrostic poems lamenting Jerusalem’s destruction.

## Summary

1. Lady Zion’s Grief and Shame (1)
2. God’s Judicial Wrath on Zion (2)
3. The Poet’s Affliction... and Hope! (3)
4. The Complete Upheaval of Zion (4)
5. A Communal Prayer for God’s Mercy (5)

## Key Verses

1. Lamentations 3:22-24
2. Theme
  - a. Salvation doesn’t come from convincing God of our worthiness, but humbly recognizing the depth of our unworthiness and helplessness, and crying out for His mercy.



# EZEKIEL

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Ezekiel, the priest in exile (1:3)
2. “In the thirtieth year” (1:1)?
  - a. Most likely 30th year of Ezekiel’s life
    - i. Genesis 8:13—similar language with Noah
    - ii. Numbers 4:3—year a priest began service
3. “It was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin” (1:2)
  - a. 8:1 – 6th year
  - b. 20:1 – 7th year
  - c. 24:1 – 9th year
  - d. 26:1 – 11th year
  - e. 29:1 – 10th year
  - f. 29:17 – 27th year
  - g. 30:20 – 11th year
  - h. 31:1 – 11th year
  - i. 32:1 – 12th year
  - j. 32:17 – 12th year
  - k. 33:21 – 12th year
  - l. 40:1 – 25th year

## Summary

1. Ezekiel’s Call (1-3)
  - a. God on His glorious throne (1)
  - b. Ezekiel’s role as a prophet (2-3)
2. Jerusalem Will Be Destroyed (4-24)
  - a. Ezekiel acts out Israel’s judgment (4-5,12)
  - b. God’s glory departing the temple and city (8-11)
  - c. Jerusalem the faithless bride (16)
  - d. Each will bear his own sins (18)
  - e. Israel and Judah, the harlot sisters (23)
  - f. Ezekiel’s wife dies symbolizing the destruction of Jerusalem (24)
3. Judgment on the Nations (25-32)
  - a. The nations will be judged for their sins against God’s people
4. God’s Promise of Restoration (33-48)
  - a. The fall of Jerusalem confirmed (33)
  - b. Condemnation of Israel’s shepherds (34)
  - c. Heart of stone removed and given a heart of flesh (36)
  - d. The valley of dry bones (37)
  - e. Vision of a new temple (40-48)

## Key Verses

1. Ezekiel 18:20
2. Ezekiel 33:7-9
3. Ezekiel 36:26-27
4. Also Remember:
  - a. Ezekiel 16 – The faithless bride
  - b. Ezekiel 37 – The valley of dry bones

# DANIEL

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Daniel? / Anonymous Scribe?
  - a. Daniel is spoken of in the 3rd person up until 7:2.
  - b. The remainder is written in the 1st person (8:1; 9:2; 10:2; 12:5; etc.)
  - c. Ezekiel speaks of Daniel as a well-known individual in his day (Ezek 14:14; 28:3)
  - d. Jesus refers to the words of Daniel the prophet (Matt 24:15; Dan 11:31; 12:11)
2. The 3rd year of Jehoiakim (1:1) to the 1st year of King Cyrus (1:21) and beyond (10:1)
  - a. 2:1 – 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar
  - b. 7:1 – 1st year of Belshazzar
  - c. 8:1 – 3rd year of Belshazzar
  - d. 9:1 – 1st year of Darius the Mede
  - e. 10:1 – 3rd year of Cyrus
  - f. 11:1 – 1st year of Darius the Mede
3. Darius the Mede? (5:30-31; 9:1)

## Summary

1. Stories of Daniel and His Friends (1-6)
  - a. Daniel won't defile himself with the king's food (1)
  - b. Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2)
  - c. The golden image and fiery furnace (3)
  - d. Nebuchadnezzar is humbled (4)
  - e. The handwriting on the wall and Babylon's downfall (5)
  - f. Daniel and the lion's den (6)
2. Daniel's Visions (7-12)
  - a. Vision of the 4 beasts and the Son of Man (7)
  - b. Vision of the ram and the goat (8)
  - c. Daniel's prayer of confession and the vision of 70 weeks (9)
  - d. Prophecy of the kings of Persia and Greece and the kings of the South and North (10-12)

## Key Verses

1. Daniel 2:44
2. Daniel 4:17, 25, 32
3. Daniel 7:13-14

# HOSEA

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Hosea (1:1)
2. "...in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel" (Hos 1:1)
  - a. Primarily addressing the northern kingdom of Israel
    - i. Israel (43), Ephraim (37), Samaria (6)
    - ii. Judah (15), Jerusalem/Zion (0)

## Summary

1. Hosea's Broken Marriage (1-3)
2. Israel Rebuked for Their Faithlessness and Willful Ignorance of God (4-7)
3. Israel Shall Return to Captivity (8-10)
4. The Father's Compassion and Hope of Future Restoration (11)
5. Israel Repeats the Sins of Their Past (12-13)
6. A Call to Return to the Lord and Blossom Once Again in His Service (14)

## Key Verses

1. Hosea 2:19-20
2. Hosea 6:1-3
3. Hosea 6:6
4. Hosea 13:14

# JOEL

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Joe (1:1) - No mention elsewhere
2. ? Historical Context is Not Clear
  - a. Addressed to Zion / Judah (2:1,15,23,32; 3:1,6,16-17,20-21)
  - b. Addressed to priests, elders, and people / no mention of kings (1:2,13-14; 2:16-17)
  - c. Mentions God's people scattered among the nations and sold to the Greeks (3:2-6)
  - d. Enemy nations are Philistines, Phoenicians, Egyptians, and Edomites / no mention of Assyria or Babylon (3:4-6,19)
  - e. Close literary ties with Amos
    - i. Joel 3:16 – Amos 1:2
    - ii. Joel 3:18 – Amos 9:13
    - iii. Note rebuke of Philistines, Phoenicians, and Edomites in Amos 1:6-12

## Summary

1. Mourning Over The Locust Plague (1)
2. Warning of the Day of the Lord: The Locust are His Army (2:1-11)
3. Call to Genuine Repentance (2:12-17)
4. Promise of the Day of the Lord: Restoration and the Pouring Forth of God's Spirit (2:18-32)
5. Vindication of the Day of the Lord: Nations Gathered to be Judged for Their Sins Against God's People (3)

## Key Verses

1. Joel 2:12-13
2. Joel 2:28-32

# AMOS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Amos (1:1; 7:14-15)
2. Prophesied against Israel in Bethel (1:1; 7:12-13)
3. “In the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake” (1:1; Zech 14:5)

## Summary

1. God’s Judgment on the Nations... Including Israel! (1-2)
2. The Roar of God’s Judgment (3:1-4:5)
3. Israel didn’t Return at God’s Warnings, so He is coming in Judgement (4:6-13)
4. Woe and Lamentation for those who’ve Abandon God’s Righteousness (5-6)
5. Vision of the Plumb Line – Amos Opposed for his Words Against Jeroboam (7)
6. Vision of Summer Fruit – A Coming Famine of God’s Word (8)
7. Vision of Utter Destruction and the Hope of Rebuilt Ruins (9)

## Key Verses

1. Amos 5:14-15, 24
  - a. Injustice to the poor is one of the primary rebukes of the book—2:7; 4:1; 5:11; 8:4
2. Amos 8:11-12
  - a. (compare Amos 3:3-7)
3. Amos 9:11-15

# OBADIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Obadiah (1:1) – No mention elsewhere
2. “concerning Edom”
3. ? Historical Context is Not Clear
  - a. Close literary ties with Jeremiah
    - i. Obad 1:1-4 – Jer 49:14-16
    - ii. Obad 1:5 – Jer 49:9
    - iii. Obad 1:15-16 – Jer 49:12
  - b. Possible reference to the destruction of Jerusalem (Obad 1:11)

## Summary

1. Edom will be destroyed because of their sins against Israel, but God’s kingdom will be restored in Mount Zion

## Key Verses

1. Obadiah 1:21

# JONAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Jonah the son of Amittai (1:1)
2. Prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25)
3. "Arise, go to Nineveh..."
  - a. Not a book of prophecy, but rather a book about a prophet

## Summary

1. Jonah flees from God and is swallowed by a great fish (1)
2. Jonah prays to God from the belly of the fish (2)
3. Jonah preaches to Nineveh and they repent (3)
4. Jonah is angered by God's pardon, so God teaches him a lesson in mercy (4)

## Key Verses

2. Jonah 4:2-3
3. The Sign of Jonah (Matt 12:39-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32)
  - a. 3 days and nights in the belly of the fish / 3 days and nights in the heart of the earth
  - b. Reluctant to reach out to the repentant / Eager to reach out to the unrepentant
  - c. Willing to die to withhold mercy / Willing to die to withhold judgment

# MICAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Micah of Moresheth (1:1)
2. “In the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem” (1:1)
  - a. Words heeded by King Hezekiah (Jer 26:17-19)

## Summary

1. Lamentation and Woe as God Comes in Judgment Against Samaria and Jerusalem (1-2)
2. Judgment Against the Corrupt Rulers and Prophets (3)
3. Future Restoration of the Lord’s Mountain (4:1-8)
4. Present Birth Pangs of Judgment Until the Coming of the Shepherd King (4:9-5:15)
5. God’s Indictment Against His People (6)
6. There is Hope Beyond Present Corruption Because of God’s Mercy (7)

## Key Verses

1. Micah 4:1-2
2. Micah 5:2
3. Micah 6:7-8
4. Micah 7:18-20



# NAHUM

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Nahum of Elkosh (1:1)
2. “An oracle concerning Nineveh” (1:1)
3. Sometime after the fall of Thebes in 661 BC (3:8), but before the fall of Nineveh in 612 BC.

## Summary

1. God’s Destruction of His Adversaries – Good News for the Afflicted (1)
2. The Siege and Destruction of Nineveh (2)
3. Nineveh is Disgraced for Her Sins Against the Nations – They Rejoice at Her Downfall (3)

## Key Verses

1. Nahum 1:2-3
2. Nahum 1:15

# HABAKKUK

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Habakkuk the prophet (1:1)
2. Habakkuk doesn't primarily speak to the people on God's behalf, but to God on the people's behalf.
3. Some time after the apostasy of Jehoahaz and Jehoakim (609 BC), but before the first wave of Babylonian Captivity (605 BC).

## Summary

1. First Complaint: Violence and Injustice in Israel (1:1-4)
2. First Answer: God is Raising Up The Chaldeans (1:5-11)
3. Second Complaint: The Chaldeans Are More Wicked Than Israel (1:12-2:1)
4. Second Answer: Faith vs. Pride / 5 Woes Upon Babylon (2:2-20)
5. Habakkuk's Prayer of Faith (3)

## Key Verses

1. Habakkuk 2:4
2. Habakkuk 3:17-19

# ZEPHANIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Zephaniah the son of Cushi... son of Hezekiah..." (1:1)
2. "...in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah" (1:1)

## Summary

1. The Day of the Lord Against Jerusalem and All the Earth (1)
2. A Call to Humility and Repentance to Avoid God's Judgment (2:1-3)
3. God's Judgment Against the Proud Nations (2:4-15)
4. God's People will be Judged Alongside the Nations (3:1-8)
5. The Hope of a Remnant Purified by Judgment (3:9-20)

## Key Verses

1. Zephaniah 2:3
2. Zephaniah 3:11-12
3. Zephaniah 3:16-17

# HAGGAI

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest” (1:1; see also Ezra 5:1-2)
  - a. **Year 2—6th month 1st day (Hag 1:1)**
  - b. **Year 2—6th month 24th day (Hag 1:15) - Work on the Temple resumes**
  - c. **Year 2—7th month 21st day (Hag 2:1)**
  - d. Year 2—8th month (Zech 1:1)
  - e. **Year 2—9th month 24th day (Hag 2:10)**
  - f. Year 2—11th month 24th day (Zech 1:7)
  - g. Year 4—9th month 4th day (Zech 7:1)
  - h. Year 6—12th month 3rd day (Ezra 6:15) - Temple completed

## Summary

1. Consider Your Ways: Should You Build Your Houses While God’s House is in Ruins? (1:1-11)
2. Zerubbabel and Joshua Resume the Building of the Temple (1:12-15)
3. Don’t Grow Discouraged, God Will Fill His House with Glory (2:1-9)
4. Parable of Uncleanness (2:10-19)
5. Future Hope of God’s Kingdom (2:20-23)

## Key Verses

1. Haggai 1:4-5
2. Haggai 2:6-9

# ZECHARIAH

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo” (1:1)
  - a. Iddo is among the priests that returned with Zerubbabel (Neh 12:4, 16)
2. “In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius...” (1:1)
  - a. Year 2—6th month 1st day (Hag 1:1)
  - b. Year 2—6th month 24th day (Hag 1:15) - Work on the Temple resumes
  - c. Year 2—7th month 21st day (Hag 2:1)
  - d. Year 2—8th month (Zech 1:1)**
  - e. Year 2—9th month 24th day (Hag 2:10)
  - f. Year 2—11th month 24th day (Zech 1:7)**
  - g. Year 4—9th month 4th day (Zech 7:1)**
  - h. Year 6—12th month 3rd day (Ezra 6:15) - Temple completed

## Summary

1. Return to Me (1:1-6)
2. Zechariah’s 8 Visions (1:7-6:8)
  - a. 4 Horsemen Patrol the Earth / God’s Return to Jerusalem (1:7-17)
  - b. 4 Horns Cast Down by 4 Craftsmen (1:18-21)
  - c. Measuring of Jerusalem (2:1-13)
  - d. Joshua Given New Garments (3:1-10)
  - e. The Lampstand and 2 Olive Trees (4:1-14)
  - f. The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
  - g. The Woman in the Basket (5:5-11)
  - h. 4 Chariots Sent to Patrol the Earth Again (6:1-8)
3. Crowning of Joshua the High Priest (6:9-15)
4. True Repentance Will Turn Their Fasts to Feasting (7-8)
5. God Judges Israel’s Oppressors and Restores Zion’s King (9-10)
6. Zechariah Shepherds the Flock Doomed to Slaughter (11)
7. One Day God Will Refine and Exalt Jerusalem Among the Nations (12-14)

## Key Verses

1. Zechariah 2:10-11
2. Zechariah 9:9
3. Zechariah 11:12-13

# MALACHI

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Malachi—no mention elsewhere
2. During the days of Nehemiah ?
  - a. “governor” (1:8) is a Persian word used both of Zerubbabel (Hag 1:1) and Nehemiah (Neh 5:14)
  - b. Similar problems to those seen in Nehemiah
    - i. Foreign marriages (2:11 / Neh 13:23-27)
    - ii. Corruption of the priesthood (1:6-2:9 / Neh 13:4-9)
    - iii. Financial abuses (3:5-10 / Neh 13:10-13)

## Summary

1. I Have Loved You (1:1-5)
2. Rebuke of the Priests: Where is My Honor? (1:6-2:9)
3. Judah’s Faithlessness: Divorce and Foreign Marriages (2:10-16)
4. The God of Justice Will Come to Purify His People (2:17-3:6)
5. Return to Me and I Will Return to You (3:7-12)
6. The Day of the Lord Will Distinguish Between the Righteous and Wicked (3:13-4:6)

## Key Verses

1. Malachi 3:1-3
2. Malachi 4:5-6

# MATTHEW

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Matthew published his own Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel in Rome and founding the church there. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter’s preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the Gospel preached by his teacher. Then, John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned on his breast, himself produced his Gospel while he was living at Ephesus in Asia” (Irenaeus c. 180 AD).
2. Matthew (Levi) the Apostle, a Tax Collector (Matt 9:9-11; Luke 5:27-30)

## Summary

1. Jesus’ Birth to Baptism (1-3)
2. Jesus Tested in the Wilderness / Begins Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom (4-7)
3. Jesus Proves His Authority / Limited Commission (8-10)
4. Jesus Questioned and Rejected / Parables of the Kingdom (11-13)
5. Who Is The Son of Man? (14-16:20)
6. Who Is The Christ? – Transfiguration and Foretelling of Jesus’ Death (16:21-20:34)
7. The King Arrives in Jerusalem – Rebuke and Warning for the Jewish Leaders (21-25)
8. Betrayal, Crucifixion, and Resurrection / The Great Commission (26-28)

## Key Verses

1. Matthew 11:28-30
2. Matthew 16:15-18
3. Matthew 28:18-20
4. Matthew 5-7—Sermon on the Mount
5. Matthew 23—7 Woes Against the Scribes and Pharisees
6. Themes
  - a. Fulfilled Prophecy (36 Quotations from the Old Testament)
  - b. The Kingdom of Heaven

# MARK

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Matthew published his own Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel in Rome and founding the church there. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter’s preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the Gospel preached by his teacher. Then, John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned on his breast, himself produced his Gospel while he was living at Ephesus in Asia” (Iraeneus c. 180 AD).
2. John Mark, cousin of Barnabas, “son” of Peter (Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13; 15:36-39; Col 4:10; 1 Pet 4:13)

## Summary

1. Galilee: Who is Jesus? (1-8a)
  - a. Jesus is introduced (1:1-15)
  - b. 1st collection of miracles (1:16-45)
  - c. Differing responses to Jesus (2:1-4:34)
  - d. 2nd collection of miracles (4:35-6:6)
  - e. Death of John the Baptist (6:7-29)
  - f. 3rd collection of miracles (6:30-65)
  - g. Traditions of the Pharisees (7:1-23)
  - h. 4th collection of miracles (7:24-8:26)
2. On the Way: Who is the Christ? (8b-10)
  - a. Caesarea Philippi: Death foretold, transfiguration, and disciples’ failure (8:27-9:29)
  - b. Capernaum: Death foretold, disciples’ failures (9:30-50)
  - c. Judea and beyond the Jordan: Pharisees and rich reject Jesus, while children come to Him (10:1-31)
  - d. Road to Jerusalem: Death foretold, disciples’ failure (10:32-52)
3. Jerusalem: Jesus Fulfills His Role as the Christ (11-16)
  - a. The triumphal entry (11:1-11)
  - b. Teachings against Jewish leaders (11:12-13:37)
  - c. Preparation for Jesus’ death (14:1-42)
  - d. Jesus’ betrayal and trial (14:43-15:20)
  - e. Jesus’ crucifixion and burial (15:21-47)
  - f. Jesus’ resurrection and the great commission (15:42-16:20)

## Key Verses

1. 97% of Mark is found in some form in Matthew or Luke
2. Mark 16:15-16
3. Theme
  - a. “Immediately” (17 times) - the most concise and action-packed of the gospels



# LUKE

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Matthew published his own Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel in Rome and founding the church there. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter’s preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the Gospel preached by his teacher. Then, John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned on his breast, himself produced his Gospel while he was living at Ephesus in Asia” (Irenaeus c. 180 AD).
2. Luke the Physician, accompanied Paul on some of his journeys (Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11; Acts 16:10-15; 20-21; 27-28)

## Summary

1. Intro: Birth of John and Jesus (1-2)
2. Jesus’ Mission (3-9a)
  - a. Baptism, Genealogy, Temptation (3:1-4:13)
  - b. Jesus Proclaims Good News and Makes Disciples (4:14-6:16)
  - c. The Sermon on the Plain (6:17-6:49)
  - d. Differing Responses to Jesus (7:1-9:20)
  - e. Death foretold / Transfiguration / Disciples’ failure (9:21-50)
3. Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem (9b-19a)
  - a. Challenge to Jesus’ followers (9:51-62)
  - b. Jesus sends out 72 before Him (10:1-20)
  - c. Differing responses to Jesus (10:21-11:28)
  - d. Rebuke of this evil generation / growing opposition of the Jewish leaders (11:29-14:35)
  - e. Parables to challenge the hearts of the people (15:1-19:27)
4. Jesus’ Final Week (19b-24)
  - a. The triumphal entry, weeping over Jerusalem, cleansing the temple (19:28-48)
  - b. Rebuke of Jerusalem’s leaders (20-21)
  - c. The last supper and mount of olives (22:1-46)
  - d. Jesus’ betrayal and trial (22:47-23:25)
  - e. Jesus’ crucifixion and burial (23:26-56)
  - f. Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (24)

## Key Verses

1. Luke 1-2 – Most detailed birth narrative
2. Luke 7 – Parable of the 2 Debtors
3. Luke 10 – The Good Samaritan / Mary & Martha
4. Luke 14 – Counting the Cost
5. Luke 15 – Parables of the Lost and Found
6. Luke 16 – Unjust Steward / Rich Man & Lazarus
7. Luke 18 – Unjust Judge / Pharisee & Tax Collector
8. Luke 19 – Zaccheus
9. Luke 23 – “Father, forgive..” / thief on the cross / “Father, into your hands...”
10. Theme
  - a. An orderly account” (1:3); The Kingdom of God (33 times); Poor vs. Rich

# JOHN

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. John the Apostle, the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 21:20-25)

## Summary

1. Jesus Introduced: Testimony of John (1)
2. Signs and Controversy (2-10)
  - a. Water to Wine (2:1-12)
  - b. Cleansing the Temple (2:13-25)
  - c. Nicodemus (3)
  - d. The Woman at the Well / Official's Son (4)
  - e. Healing of the Lame Man (5)
  - f. Feeding the 5,000 (6)
  - g. Teaching at the Feast of Booths (7-8)
  - h. Healing of the Blind Man (9)
  - i. The Good Shepherd (10)
3. The Culmination of Controversy (11-12)
  - a. Jesus Raises Lazarus (11)
  - b. The Triumphal Entry and Coming of Jesus' Hour (12)
4. Jesus Prepares His Disciples (13-17)
  - a. Washing the Disciples Feet
  - b. Prophecies of the Holy Spirit
  - c. I am the Way—Truth—Life
  - d. I am the True Vine
  - e. Prayer for Unity
5. Jesus' Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial (18)
6. The Crucifixion (19)
7. The Resurrection and Conclusion (20-21)

## Key Verses

1. John 1:1, 14
2. John 3:16
3. John 8:31-32
4. John 13:34-35
5. John 14:15
6. John 20:30-31
7. 7 Signs
  - a. Water to Wine (2), Healing of Official's Son (4), Healing of Lame Man (5), Feeding of 5,000 (6), Healing of Blind Man (9), Raising of Lazarus (11), RESURRECTION (20)
8. 7 "I AM" Statements
  - a. The Bread of Life (6), The Light of the World (8), The Door (10), The Good Shepherd (10), The Resurrection and the Life (11), The Way, Truth, and Life (14), The True Vine (15)
9. Other Features
  - a. Focus on the Holy Spirit; "Woman, behold thy son" / "I thirst" / "It is finished"

# ACTS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. Luke (compare Acts 1:1-2 and Luke 1:1-4)
2. The spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome (1:8)

## Summary

1. Intro: Ascension and Promise of the Spirit (1)
2. Jerusalem (2-7)
  - a. Gospel Preached on Pentecost (2)
  - b. Healing of the Lame Man / Opposition (3-4)
  - c. Ananias and Sapphira / More Opposition (5)
  - d. Deacons selected for Needy Widows (6)
  - e. Stoning of Stephen (7)
3. Judea and Samaria (8-12)
  - a. Preaching of Philip: Simon & the Ethiopian Eunuch (8)
  - b. Conversion of Saul (9)
  - c. Conversion of Cornelius' Household and Spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles (10-11)
  - d. Deliverance of Peter (12)
4. Paul's Missionary Journeys (13-20)
  - a. First Journey – Paul and Barnabas in Asia Minor (13-14)
  - b. The Jerusalem Council (15)
  - c. Second Journey – Paul and Silas in Macedonia / Greece (16-18)
  - d. Third Journey – Paul in Ephesus (19-20)
5. Paul's Journey to Rome (21-28)
  - a. Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (21-22)
  - b. Paul and the Sanhedrin (23)
  - c. Paul and Felix (24)
  - d. Paul and Festus (25)
  - e. Paul and Agrippa (26)
  - f. Paul's Voyage to Rome (27-28)

## Key Verses

1. Acts 2:36-38
2. Acts 4:19-20
3. Acts 17:11

# ROMANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle..." (1:1)
2. "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints" (1:7)
3. From Corinth near the end of Paul's third missionary journey (Rom 15:22-28; Acts 20:1-3)

## Summary

1. The Gospel: The Revelation of God's Righteousness (1:1-17)
2. God's Righteous Wrath Against Sin (1:18-3:20)
3. The Saving Righteousness of God (3:21-4:25)
4. Hope as a Result of Righteousness by Faith (5:1-8:39)
5. God's Righteousness to Israel and the Gentiles (9:1-11:36)
6. God's Righteousness in Everyday Life (12:1-15:13)
7. The Extension of God's Righteousness Through Paul's Mission (15:14-16:27)

## Key Verses

1. Romans 1:16-17
2. Romans 3:23-24
3. Romans 5:6-8
4. Romans 6:3-4
5. Romans 6:23
6. Romans 8:38-39
7. Romans 12:1

# 1 CORINTHIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes...” (1:1)
2. “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...” (1:2)
3. During Paul’s stay in Ephesus on his third preaching journey (16:5-9)
4. Part of a longer written correspondence
  - a. “I wrote to you in my letter...” (5:9)
  - b. “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote...” (7:1)

## Summary

1. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1-9)
2. Addressing What Has Been Reported (1:10-6:20)
  - a. The Problem of Division (1:10-4:21)
  - b. The Problem of Sexual immorality (5:1-6:20)
3. Addressing What Has Been Written (7:1-16:12)
  - a. Concerning Celibacy and Marriage (7:1-40)
  - b. Concerning Idolatry (8:1-11:1)
  - c. Concerning Past Instructions (11:2-34)
  - d. Concerning Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40)
  - e. Concerning the Gospel—the Resurrection (15:1-58)
  - f. Concerning the Collection and Travel Plans (16:1-12)
4. Closing Admonitions and Greetings (16:13-24)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10
2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
3. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
4. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
5. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
6. 1 Corinthians 13
7. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

# 2 CORINTHIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother...” (1:1)
2. “To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia...” (1:1)
3. Written from Macedonia as Paul prepares to visit Corinth for the third time (2:12-13; 7:5-7; 12:14; 13:1)

## Summary

1. Introduction and Explanation of Paul’s Conduct (1:1-2:17)
2. A Commendation of Paul’s Ministry (3:1-7:16)
  - a. Commended by the Spirit, not the letter, under the New Covenant (3:1-18)
  - b. Focus on the inner man, not the earthen vessel (4:1-5:17)
  - c. Ambassadors of reconciliation – an appeal for holiness and full repentance (5:18-7:16)
3. The Grace of Christian Giving (8:1-9:15)
4. Paul’s Defense of His Ministry (10:1-13:14)
  - a. Paul boasts in the Lord (10:1-18)
  - b. Paul boasts as a fool of his weakness (11:1-12:13)
  - c. Paul prepares them for his coming (12:14-13:14)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 4:5-7
2. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
3. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
4. 2 Corinthians 7:10
5. 2 Corinthians 9:7
6. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

# GALATIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, an apostle – not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the father, who raised him from the dead – and all the brothers who are with me...” (1:1-2)
2. “...to the churches of Galatia” (1:2)
3. Paul mentions only 2 visits to Jerusalem which would match up with Acts 9:26-30 and 11:29-30.
  - a. 1:15-20 – Acts 9:26-28
  - b. 1:21-24 – Acts 9:29-30; 11:25-26
  - c. 2:1-2, 9-10 – Acts 11:27-30
4. This would place the writing of Galatians shortly before the Jerusalem council, which would explain why Paul does not reference the conclusions reached there in his epistle.

## Summary

1. No Other Gospel (1:1-9)
2. Paul’s Gospel is From God, not Man (1:10-2:14)
3. Justification by Faith in Christ, not Works of the Law (2:15-21)
4. The Promises of the Gospel Have Always Been Based on Faith (3:1-18)
5. The Law was a Guardian Awaiting our Adoption as Sons (3:19-4:7)
6. Don’t Become Enslaved Once Again (4:8-5:12)
7. Walk in the Spirit – Freedom from the Flesh, not For the Flesh (5:13-6:10)
8. Boast Only in the Cross, not the Flesh (6:11-18)

## Key Verses

1. Galatians 2:19-21
2. Galatians 5:22-24
3. Galatians 6:7-9
4. Galatians 6:14-15

# EPHESIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...” (1:1)
2. “To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus” (1:1)
  - a. Some early and important manuscripts simply say “To the saints who are also faithful in Christ Jesus”
  - b. It also seems odd that there are no personal references to a church that Paul spent the most time with on any of his missionary journeys
  - c. Marcion calls this the letter to the Laodiceans
  - d. It is possible that this was a circular letter sent to many churches throughout Asia and the copy to Ephesus was the basis for the majority of manuscripts copied thereafter
3. Written from prison in Rome (3:1; 4:1; 6:20)

## Summary

1. The Blessings of the Gospel (1-3)
  - a. All the Spiritual Blessings in Christ (1:1-23)
  - b. From Death to Life by God’s Grace (2:1-10)
  - c. From Alienated to United in One Body (2:11-22)
  - d. Paul: A Steward of God’s Grace to the Gentiles (3:1-21)
2. Walking Worthy of Our Calling (4-6)
  - a. Walk in Unity (4:1-16)
  - b. Walk in Newness of Life (4:17-32)
  - c. Walk in Love and Light (5:1-21)
  - d. Walking Worthy in Relationships (5:22-6:9)
  - e. The Armor of God / Closing (6:10-24)

## Key Verses

1. Ephesians 2:8-10
2. Ephesians 3:20-21
3. Ephesians 4:4-6
4. Ephesians 4:15-16
5. Ephesians 5:22-33—Christ and His Bride
6. Ephesians 6:10-17—The Armor of God



# PHILIPPIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus..."
2. "To all the saint in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons..."
3. Written from Prison in Rome (1:12-14)
  - a. Received support from Philippi through Epaphroditus (4:18).
  - b. Sending Epaphroditus back and hoping to soon send Timothy (2:25,19).

## Summary

1. Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:1-11)
2. Paul's Imprisonment and the Cause of Christ (1:12-30)
3. Follow Christ's Example (2:1-18)
4. Timothy and Epaphroditus' Examples of Genuine Care and Sacrificial Living (2:19-30)
5. Paul's Example of Putting Off Confidence in the Flesh and Pressing Forward in the Spirit (3:1-21)
6. Closing Exhortations (4:1-9)
7. Thanksgiving for Their Fellowship (4:10-23)

## Key Verses

1. Philippians 1:21
2. Philippians 2:5-8
3. Philippians 3:13-14
4. Philippians 4:6-7
5. Philippians 4:8
6. Philippians 4:11-13

# COLOSSIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother..." (1:1)
2. "To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae" (1:2)
3. Written from prison (4:2,18)
4. Paul has not met many of these brethren in person (2:1) but has heard about them through Epaphras who helped establish the church in Colossae (1:7-8; 4:12-13).

## Summary

1. Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:1-12)
2. The Preeminence of Christ (1:13-23)
3. Paul's Work in Proclaiming the Mystery of Christ (1:24-2:5)
4. Warning Against False Teachers (2:6-23)
5. A New Life in Christ (3:1-4:5)
6. Final Greetings (4:6-18)

## Key Verses

1. Colossians 1:15-18
2. Colossians 2:13-17
3. Colossians 3:1-4

# 1 THESSALONIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy..." (1:1)
2. "To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1)
3. Paul had been driven away by persecution shortly after establishing the church (2:17; Acts 17:1-10) but he sent Timothy back to establish and exhort the brethren (3:1-2). He is now writing from Corinth after receiving good news from Timothy (3:6-7; Acts 18:5).

## Summary

1. Narrative (1:1-3:13)
  - a. Thanksgiving for their conversion and example of faith (1:1-10)
  - b. Paul's ministry among them (2:1-16)
  - c. Paul's attitude towards them since separated (2:17-3:13)
2. Exhortation (4:1-5:28)
  - a. Exhortation to sexual purity (4:1-8)
  - b. Exhortation to brotherly love (4:9-12)
  - c. Exhortation to hope and preparedness for the coming day of the Lord (4:13-5:11)
  - d. Final exhortations for the church (5:12-26)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

# 2 THESSALONIANS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy..." (1:1)
2. "To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1)
3. Written shortly after 1 Thessalonians upon Paul receiving an updated report of the increased persecution and false teaching the brethren were facing (2:1-2; 3:17).

## Summary

1. Their persecution in the light of Christ's coming (1)
2. Correction of false teaching about the coming of Christ (2)
3. Warning against idleness (3)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8
2. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

# 1 TIMOTHY

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope...” (1:1)
2. “To Timothy, my true child in the faith” (1:2)
3. “As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus...” (1:3)
  - a. 1-2 Timothy and Titus all appear to be written sometime after Paul’s 2-year imprisonment in Rome recorded at the end of Acts.

## Summary

1. Timothy’s Charge to Guard the Gospel Against False Teachers Who Misused the Law (1)
2. Instructions Regarding Prayer and the Roles of Men and Women (2)
3. Qualifications for Elders and Deacons (3:1-15)
4. Exhortation to Promote Godliness in the Face of False Teaching (3:16-4:16)
5. How to Instruct Different Members of God’s Household (5:1-6:2)
6. Exhortation to Maintain Godliness in Contrast to Those Preaching for Their Own Gain (6:3-21)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Timothy 1:5
2. 1 Timothy 3:14-15
3. 1 Timothy 4:7-8
4. 1 Timothy 6:10-11

# 2 TIMOTHY

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is Christ Jesus..." (1:1)
2. "To Timothy, my beloved child..." (1:2)
3. Paul is imprisoned in Rome (1:8, 16-17; 2:9), left nearly alone (4:9-11, 16-17), and fully expects to die (4:6-8).
  - a. Contrast his confidence of release in the other prison epistles (Php 1:24-25; Phlm 1:22)

## Summary

1. An Appeal to Stay Faithful and Share in Suffering for the Gospel (1:1-2:13)
2. An Appeal to Rightly Handle the Word of Truth and Fulfill His Ministry in the Face of False Teaching (2:14-4:5)
3. Paul's Personal Example of Suffering for the Gospel and Faith in the Face of Death (4:6-22)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Timothy 1:7-8
2. 2 Timothy 2:15
3. 2 Timothy 2:24-25
4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
5. 2 Timothy 4:1-5
6. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

# TITUS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ...”(1:1)
2. “To Titus, my true child in a common faith...” (1:4)
  - a. Titus is not mentioned in Acts, but several times by Paul in his epistles:
    - i. Gal 2:3 – Uncircumcised Greek
    - ii. 2 Cor 8:6,16-17,23 – Active in collection at Corinth for needy saints
    - iii. 2 Cor 12:18 – Perhaps the messenger of 1 Corinthians
    - iv. 2 Tim 4:10 – Later leaves Paul in Rome to work in Dalmatia
3. “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order...” (1:5)
4. “When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there” (3:12)

## Summary

1. Appoint qualified men as elders (1:1-9)
2. Rebuke the corrupt and deceitful (1:10-16)
3. Sound doctrine for all members of God’s household (2:1-10)
4. God’s saving grace should produce godliness and good works within us (2:11-3:15)

## Key Verses

1. Titus 2:11-14
2. Titus 3:4-7

# PHILEMON

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother...” (1:1)
2. “To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house...” (1:1-2)
3. Sending back Onesimus (1:12), Philemon’s runaway slave (1:15-16), and appealing for reconciliation (1:17-18).
  - a. Onesimus (and Philemon) are from Colossae (Col 4:9)

## Summary

1. Prayer of Thanksgiving for Philemon (vv. 1-7)
2. Appeal for Onesimus (vv. 8-20)
3. Confidence in Philemon and Final Greetings (vv. 21-25)

## Key Verses

1. Philemon 1:15-16



# HEBREWS

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. No author is identified
  - a. The earliest statements of authorship come from Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-215 AD) who identifies Paul as the author and Tertullian (c. 197-230 AD) who identifies Barnabas as the author. Yet, both seem to be speculation.
  - b. Origen (c. 182-251 AD) states, "Men of old time have handed it down as Paul's but who wrote the Epistle God only knows certainly"
  - c. Yet, the author must have been known to the original audience (13:18-19, 23-24)
2. "To Hebrews" is found at the head of the earliest manuscripts
  - a. Yet, this letter must have originally been written to a specific group, not Jewish Christians in general (13:18-19, 23-24)
  - b. They are not new converts (5:11-12), have ministered to the saints (6:9-10), and have faced persecution past and present (10:32-36; 12:3-4).
  - c. Christians somewhere in Judea seem the most likely audience.
3. It seems the Jewish sacrificial system and temple service were still in place, dating the book sometime prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD (8:13; 10:1,11). Yet, the readers seem to be second generation disciples (2:3), and not new converts (5:12; 10:32-33). This would likely place the writing of Hebrews in the mid to late 60s.
4. Hebrews is quoted by Clement of Rome (c. 95 AD), Polycarp (c. 125 AD), Justin Martyr (c. 155 AD), Irenaeus (c. 180 AD) Clement of Alexandria (c. 200 AD), Hippolytus (c. 210 AD), Origen (c. 230 AD), and many others in the early church. While its anonymous authorship made some in the early church question its canonicity, by the third Synod of Carthage in 397 AD it was universally recognized as Scripture.

## Summary

1. Jesus is a Better Messenger Than The Angels (1:1-2:18)
2. Jesus is a Better Rest-Giver Than Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
3. Jesus is a Better High Priest Than Aaron (4:14-7:28)
  - a. Admonition to Press on to Spiritual Maturity (5:11-6:12)
4. Jesus is the Mediator of a Better Covenant with a Better Sanctuary and Sacrifice (8:1-10:18)
5. An Exhortation to Faith and Perseverance (10:19-12:29)
6. Concluding Exhortations and Prayer (13:1-25)

## Key Verses

1. Hebrews 4:14-16
2. Hebrews 9:13-14
3. Hebrews 10:19-25
4. Hebrews 11:1,6
5. Hebrews 12:1-2

# JAMES

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...” (1:1)
  - a. James the brother of Jesus, and elder in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13-21; 21:18; Gal 1:19; 2:9)
2. “...To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion” (1:1)
3. Written sometime after the scattering of the Jerusalem church in 36 AD and the death of James in 62 AD.
  - a. Perhaps no reference to Jew / Gentile controversies would put this prior to the events of Acts 15 (c. 50 AD).

## Summary

1. The Testing of Our Faith (1:1-18)
2. Being Doers of the Word (1:19-27)
3. Showing Love Without Partiality (2:1-13)
4. Faith Without Works is Dead (2:14-26)
5. The Danger of the Tongue (3:1-12)
6. Wisdom From Above (3:13-18)
7. Conflict and Worldliness (4:1-12)
8. The Folly of Worldly Plans and Riches (4:13-5:6)
9. Patience in Suffering (5:7-11)
10. The Prayer of Faith (5:12-20)

## Key Verses

1. Too many to choose from...? (James is a book full of short pithy “sound bites” similar to Proverbs)

# 1 PETER

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...” (1:1)
2. “To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...” (1:1)
  - a. Dispersion—Christians scattered by persecution (Acts 18:1-2)
3. “She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son” (5:13).
  - a. “She who is at Babylon” is very likely a reference to the church in Rome, the new oppressor of the Christian dispersion.
4. Most likely written sometime after Paul’s release from Roman imprisonment in 62 AD and before Peter’s martyrdom in 65-67 AD as Roman persecution is beginning to increase.

## Summary

1. Our Identity in Christ (1:1-2:10)
  - a. Born again to a living hope (1:1-12)
  - b. Holy and obedient children (1:13-2:3)
  - c. Living stones and a holy priesthood (2:4-10)
2. Living Holy in a Hostile World (2:11-4:11)
  - a. Be Good Citizens (2:11-17)
  - b. Be Good Servants (2:18-25)
  - c. Be Good Spouses (3:1-7)
  - d. Be Good Brethren - Suffer for Righteousness as a Witness to Your Hope in Christ (3:8-4:11)
3. Faithfulness in Suffering (4:12-5:11)
  - a. Trusting and Glorifying God Through Suffering (4:12-19)
  - b. Shepherding the Suffering Flock (5:1-11)
4. Conclusion (5:12-14)

## Key Verses

1. 1 Peter 5:12—Theme Verse
2. 1 Peter 1:3-4
3. 1 Peter 2:9-12
4. 1 Peter 2:21-23
5. 1 Peter 3:14-15
6. 1 Peter 5:8-9

# 2 PETER

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ..." (1:1)
2. "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (1:1)
  - a. 3:1 indicates this is likely the same audience as 1 Peter – Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor
  - b. 1:13-15 indicates this is near the time of Peter's death in 65-67 AD

## Summary

1. Be Fruitful in the Knowledge of Jesus (1:1-21)
  - a. Be diligent to add to your faith Christian character (1:1-11)
  - b. I'm writing to stir you up by reminder (1:12-15)
  - c. We were eyewitnesses of His glory and are spokesman of the Spirit (1:16-21)
2. Warning Against False Teachers (2:1-22)
  - a. 3 examples of God's judgment on the unrighteous and deliverance of the godly (2:1-9)
  - b. Description of the false teachers' pride, fleshly indulgence, greed, and folly (2:10-22)
3. The Coming Day of the Lord (3:1-18)
  - a. The scoffing of the false teachers (3:1-7)
  - b. The real reason for God's delay (3:8-10)
  - c. How we should respond to this promise of coming judgment (3:11-18)

## Key Verses

1. 2 Peter 3:17-18—Theme Verse
2. 2 Peter 1:5-7
3. 2 Peter 1:20-21
4. 2 Peter 2:21-22
5. 2 Peter 3:9

# 1 JOHN

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. No author identified
2. “The writing is so closely connected with the Fourth Gospel in vocabulary, style, thought, scope, that these two books cannot but be regarded as works of the same author” (Westcott).
3. Evidence for John’s authorship of the first epistle is strong among the writings of the early church. Some of these writings also mention other epistles written by John, but rarely quoted from them.
4. External evidence points towards the epistle being written from Ephesus in John’s later years (90s AD). Perhaps even after his exile to Patmos (Eusebius).
5. “Jerome tells a famous story of ‘blessed John the evangelist’ in extreme old age at Ephesus. He used to be carried into the congregation in the arms of his disciples and was unable to say anything except ‘little children, love one another.’ At last, wearied that he always spoke the same words, they asked: ‘Master, why do you always say this?’ ‘Because,’ he replied, ‘it is the Lord’s command, and if this only is done, it is enough’” (Stott).

## Summary

1. Fellowship with God = Walking in the Light (1:1-10)
2. Fellowship with God = Obeying His Commands [Love] (2:1-11)
3. Fellowship with God = Holding Fast to What Was Taught From the Beginning (2:12-27)
4. Fellowship with God = Righteousness (2:28-3:10), Love (3:11-18), Faith (3:19-4:6)
5. Fellowship with God = Abiding in Love (4:7-21)
6. It All Ties Back to Faith in Jesus (5:1-21)

## Key Verses

1. 1 John 5:13—Them Verse (also 2:24-26)
2. 1 John 1:6-7
3. 1 John 2:15-16
4. 1 John 4:7-8, 19
5. 1 John 5:3

# 2-3 JOHN

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. "The elder"
  - a. Both literary similarities and external evidence point towards these letters being written by John the apostle.
2. 2 John— "To the elect lady and her children whom I love in truth"
3. 3 John— "To the beloved Gaius whom I love in truth"

## Summary

1. 2 John – Do Not Receive False Teachers
2. 3 John – Welcome and Support Faithful Brethren
3. \*Read both letters

# JUDE

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. “Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James” (1:1)
  - a. “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?” (Matt 13:55)
2. “To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ” (1:1)
3. Close literary ties to 2 Peter (65-67 AD) indicate that Jude is addressing a very similar false teaching. Peter seems to speak of these false teachers as an up-and-coming threat (2 Pet 2:1-3), whereas Jude speaks of them as already present (Jude 4). This may indicate that Jude borrowed and adapted some familiar language from Peter to address a more immediate threat (late 60s / early 70s AD?)

## Summary

1. Jude’s writing is motivated by the immanent threat of false teachers (vv. 1-4)
2. Examples of divine judgment on the unfaithful and ungodly (vv. 5-7)
3. Woe to the false teachers who blaspheme, reject authority, and practice ungodliness (vv. 8-16)
4. An exhortation to holiness and faithfulness (vv. 17-23)
5. Concluding praise (vv. 24-25)

## Key Verses

1. Jude 3-4
2. Jude 20-23

# REVELATION

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## Authorship / Historical Context

1. John the apostle from exile in Patmos to the 7 churches of Asia (1:9-11)
2. Both external and internal evidence point towards John being exiled during the later part of Domitian's reign (95-96 AD).
  - a. "We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For that was seen no very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian's reign" (Irenaeus, 180 AD).
  - b. "For when, on the tyrant's death, he returned to Ephesus from the isle of Patmos, he went away, being invited, to the contiguous territories of the nations, here to appoint bishops, there to set in order whole Churches, there to ordain such as were marked out by the Spirit" (Clement of Alexandria, 193 AD).
  - c. "When John said these things he was in the island of Patmos, condemned to the labour of the mines by Caesar Domitian. There, therefore, he saw the Apocalypse; and when grown old, he thought that he should at length receive his quittance by suffering. Domitian being killed, all his judgments were discharged. And John being dismissed from the mines, thus subsequently delivered the same Apocalypse which he had received from God" (Victorinus ~300 AD).
  - d. "Tertullian (197 AD) also has mentioned Domitian thus: 'Domitian had reigned fifteen years, and Nerva succeeded to the government, the Roman senate decreed, that the honours of Domitian should be revoked, and that those who had been unjustly expelled, should return to their homes, and have their goods restored.' This is the statement of the historians of the day. It was then also, that the apostle John returned from his banishment in Patmos, and took up his abode in Ephesus" (Eusebius, 325 AD).

## Summary

1. Jesus' message to the 7 churches (1-3)
2. He who sits on the throne and the Lamb (4-5)
3. The 7 seals (6:1-8:5)
4. The 7 trumpets (8:6-11:19)
5. The woman, the dragon, the beast and false prophet (12-14)
6. The 7 bowls of wrath (15-16)
7. Judgment of Babylon – the great harlot (17:1-19:10)
8. Judgment of the beast, false prophet, and dragon (19:11-20:15)
9. The new heavens and new earth (21-22)

## Key Verses

1. Revelation 1:1-3
2. Revelation 12:9-12
3. Revelation 14:12-13
4. Revelation 21:1-7