

II - THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament (OT) is comprised of 39 separate books written by approximately 22 different authors over a period of at least 1500 years. Everything in the OT points to the fact that mankind is sinful and incapable of doing what God requires to get to heaven so a “perfect sacrifice” (Jesus Christ) would be required. Both the historical accounts and the recorded prophets in the OT make dozens of allusions to the coming and works of Jesus Christ. The OT is split into 5 major sections based on the general type of writing contained within particular books.

1. **The Law (5 books)** - Also referred to as “The Pentateuch” or “The Torah” were written by Moses.
 - a. **The Creation** – God created the physical universe and everything in it.
 - b. **The Fall of Mankind** – Satan tempted Eve and she sinned, Adam also sinned and mankind fell.
 - c. **Fallen Angels** – The “sons of God” left heaven and came to earth to procreate with human women. This unnatural procreation resulted in giants (Nephilim = “fallen one”) and “men of renown”.
 - d. **The Flood** – God used the flood to kill the giants (Nephilim) and all living creatures. I believe that when these “Nephilim” died, their corrupted souls became the demons and unclean spirits.
 - e. **Noah’s Covenant** – God promised never to flood the earth again and gave the rainbow as a sign.
 - f. **The Tower of Babel** - Resulted in the Division of the Earth (continents) and Nations (people).
 - g. **Abraham’s Covenant** – God promised Abraham numerous descendants, land, and blessings.
 - h. **Isaac, Jacob, 12 Tribes** – The descendants of Abraham created the Jewish (Israelite) nation.
 - i. **Mosaic Covenant** – God gave the “Law” to the Israelites and promised blessings if they obeyed it.
 - j. **Palestinian Covenant** – God prophesied that Israel would scatter and then be re-gathered.
2. **Historical/Narrative (12 books)** - Document major Israelite events, judges, and kings.
 - a. **Judges** – A period of approximately 450 years during which 15 judges led Israel.
 - b. **Kings** – Saul, David, and Solomon ruled the kingdom of the Israelites as a united monarchy.
 - c. **Temple Built** – David stocked materials for the temple and Solomon built the temple around 917 BC.
 - d. **Davidic Covenant** – God promised David he would be part of an eternal dynasty (Israelites).
 - e. **Kingdoms Divided** – Due to pride and greed, Israel was split into 2 kingdoms around 880 BC.
 - f. **Northern Kingdom** – Also referred to as “Israel” or “Samaria”, fell to Babylon around 611 BC.
 - g. **Southern Kingdom** – Also referred to as “Judah”, fell to Babylon around 496 BC.
 - h. **Temple Destroyed** – 3rd siege by Nebuchadnezzar, Jerusalem is taken and temple is burned, 477 BC.
 - i. **Temple Rebuilt** – King Cyrus allowed Israelites to rebuild temple, completed around 405 BC.
3. **Poetry/Wisdom (5 books)** - Three of these were written by King Solomon, the wisest man to ever live. These books are filled with extremely important information that can help us with spousal relationships, children, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, personal problems, uncomfortable situations, and much more.
4. **The Major Prophets (5 books)** - These give prophecies for Israel, Christians, and the world. The main goal of these prophets was to convict the Israelites of their sin; however, there are also many allusions to the coming of Jesus Christ as well as the tribulation period and the millennial kingdom.
5. **The Minor Prophets (12 books)** - These books not only give unique prophecies directed at the nation of Israel but also support the prophecies of the Major Prophets.

The timeline laid out in the OT section defines the history of mankind from the creation of Adam (4004 B.C.) to the death of Jesus Christ (29 A.D.). It is based on the work of E.W. Bullinger and his “Companion Bible” published in 1922 which in turn was based on the chronology compiled by the Archbishop James Ussher published in 1654. In general, the genealogy information given in the Bible is very clear and easy to follow; however, there are several periods within the timeline that require an understanding of the rules surrounding kingship and inheritance as well as Hebrew traditions and calendar definitions based on lunar cycles. This makes it difficult to be 100% confident about certain dates and periods. In my opinion, there is an overall possibility of dating errors that is less than 100 years out of 4000 which is about a 2.5% error. For all intents and purposes, Adam was created by God approximately 6,000 years ago and Jesus Christ died approximately 2,000 years ago.