

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

One-Page Reference Sheets for  
the 66 Books of the Bible.







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# OLD TESTAMENT

# GENESIS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #1



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1430 BC

**Covering the time period of 4004 BC to 1805 BC**

1

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

### CLAIMS TO FAME:

It is the first book in the Bible and covers the longest span of time: Over 2,000 years!

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Creation story
- Noah's Ark
- Tower of Babel
- Father Abraham's journey
- Isaac is almost sacrificed
- Jacob sees the Ladder
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel
- Joseph is kidnapped to Egypt

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1**

So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27**

## Genesis can be broken down into two parts:

1. Prehistory contains everything from Genesis 1 to 12, or everything until the birth of Father Abraham. The first part includes creation, the Great Flood and the Tower of Babel.
2. From Genesis 12 to 50 is the story of the Patriarchs. They include Abraham, his son Isaac, and Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob was also the father of Joseph, who is not considered a patriarch but is very important.

These men make up the start of the nation of Israel.



# EXODUS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #2



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1400 BC

**Covering the time period of 1525 BC through 1400 BC**

2

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the stories from the birth of Moses through the 40 years of the Exodus.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Moses at the Burning Bush
- The Ten Plagues of Egypt
- Moses parts the Red Sea
- The Ten Commandments

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"You shall have no other gods before me."  
**Exodus 20:3**

"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"  
**Exodus 3:14**

## Important Points about the Book:

- So many exciting Bible stories are found in Exodus! Exodus starts 280 years after the death of Joseph in Egypt with the birth of Moses. Moses was born in 1426 BC. Chapters 1-2 cover events before Moses was called to lead Israel out of Egypt.
- Chapter 3 covers the story of the Burning Bush and Moses' call
- Chapters 7-12 cover the Ten Plagues of Egypt, including the Passover, established with the 10th plague that called for the death of the oldest child of both man and beast.
- Chapters 13 begins the Exodus
- Chapter 20 contains the 10 Commandments.
- The stories are basically over for the remaining 20 chapters, except that chapter 32 contains the story of the Golden Calf. The other chapters contain laws and instructions for the constructing of the first tabernacle. A tabernacle was like a temple, only portable in the desert.

# LEVITICUS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T.BOOK #3



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1445 BC

**Covering the time period 1445 BC- 70 AD. The laws applied until shortly after the death of Christ, when the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.**

3

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

### CLAIMS TO FAME:

**Contains many laws for the Hebrew people. It is not often studied by Christians because Jesus freed us from the letter of the law.**

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. **Leviticus 17:11**

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD. **Leviticus 19:18**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Leviticus is mostly laws that kept the Hebrew people safe, healthy, and peaceful.
- It is decreed in this book that priests shall be members of the tribe of Levi and descendants of Moses' brother Aaron.
- Moses describes things that are considered "unclean," such as various animals and insects. God's purpose was to protect people from germs and unhealthy living.
- Moses teaches the Day of Atonement. It is a ceremony that takes place only once a year. The High Priest enters into the Holy of Holies (the most special part of the tabernacle) and offers a sacrifice to God for sins of the entire nation. No one else could go in there.



# NUMBERS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T BOOK #4



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1400 BC

Covering the time period of 1450 – 1400 BC

4

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The famous “40 years” of desert wandering is established in Numbers for the Hebrew people. Israel could have been a nation after two or three years, but Numbers shows them being terrible fighters with little to no faith, so God sends them to wander and build maturity and strength.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Spies saw giants in the land Moses wanted to invade, and grieved the Lord with their lack of faith;
- An enemy, Balak, easily taught the people of Israel to worship Baal, a false god, and they upset God so badly that 24,000 of them died.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

God is not a human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? **Numbers 23:19**

But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. **Numbers 14:32-33**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Numbers takes the reader on the long journey through a desert that lasted 40 years because the people failed tests of endurance, ethics, good judgment, and faith.
- There are some long lists in this book, including two censuses.
- Numbers shows how God wanted to make the Hebrew people strong, but they were very resistant complainers. Hence, in Numbers 14 is where God gave the sentence that they would wander for 40 years.

# DEUTERONOMY

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #5



AUTHOR: MOSES  
and at least one other person



WRITTEN: 1400 BC

Covering the time period of 1450 to 1400 BC and the Mosaic laws, which applied until shortly after the death of Christ, when the temple was destroyed in 70 AD

5

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Deuteronomy contains the death of Moses as well as a repeat of the Ten Commandments first found in Exodus 20.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- The death of Moses

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft. **Deuteronomy 18:10**

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. **Deuteronomy 34:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The Book of Deuteronomy contains a repeat of all the Mosaic laws, plus the death of Moses. It is the only book in the first five to record Moses' death.
- The children who had left Egypt were adults when Deuteronomy was written. They were quite ready to battle for the Promised Land. Deuteronomy repeats the laws in other books, specifically directing it to this new generation.
- The last few chapters describe Moses' final blessing on the children of Israel as well as his death (which must have been written by another person).



# JOSHUA

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #6



AUTHOR: JOSHUA  
and/or one of his scribes



WRITTEN: 1375 BC

**Covering the time period of 1400 BC to 1375 BC**

6

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** This book begins the story of Israel as a nation and contains the first events to take place after the Exodus.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Joshua and the troops surrounded Jericho, blew trumpets, and shouted, which made the walls fall down. (Joshua 6)
- Rahab the harlot protected the spies of Israel, so she and her family were saved, and she married into one of the families in Israel. (Joshua 6)
- The sun stood still in the sky so Joshua and his men could see to fight. (Joshua 10:12-14)

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9**

But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" **Joshua 6:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The first eight chapters of Joshua cover the first battle for Israel, which was Jericho. They also cover the battle to win Ai, which gave the nation two pieces of land.
- In Joshua 9 through 12, the army continues fighting with Joshua as their leader. They conquer and obtain more of the Promised Land, with one great miracle being the sun stopping in the sky.
- In the rest of the chapters, 13 to 24, Joshua and his team divide the lands they conquered among the tribes. In chapters 23 and 24, Joshua gives a farewell address and dies at age 110.

# JUDGES

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #7



AUTHOR: PROPHET SAMUEL  
(most likely)



WRITTEN: AROUND 1050 BC

**Covering the time period of 1350 – 1050 BC**

7

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains stories of a famous female judge and a female assassin.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Judge Deborah and Barak defeat their enemies at Canaan. (Judges 4)
- Gideon defeats the Midianites with only 300 men. (Judges 6)
- Delilah deceives Samson and steals his strength. (Judges 16)

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."  
**Judges 16:17**

## Important Points about the Book:

- There was a time when God wanted to be head of Israel and for the people to trust in him instead of in a king. The Book of Judges covers that time period.
- During those 300 years, Israel was served by a series of 15 judges. Some were very good, like Deborah and Samuel. Some were very evil like Abimelech who had 70 of his half-brothers killed in a conspiracy to become king.
- The judges often made poor, unethical choices because they didn't seek God for their decisions but did things on their own. However, they had God as their king, which kept them out of deep trouble.



# RUTH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #8



AUTHOR: PROPHET SAMUEL  
(most likely)



WRITTEN: 1050-1000 BC

**Covering the time period of 1150 - 1100 BC**

8

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David after a good deed of refusing to desert her mother-in-law, who was from Israel. Her story takes places mostly in Bethlehem, the future birthplace of Jesus.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Ruth goes to sleep on the threshing floor to earn the trust of Boaz, a man she wanted to marry and who had been kind to her.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." **Ruth 1:17**

The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. **Ruth 4:17**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Ruth is only four chapters long and is a story. Ruth was from Moab, but after her husband died and her mother-in-law's husband died, she agreed to return with her widowed mother-in-law to Israel. This was a remarkable leap of faith for a young girl, who would have had many chances to remarry in the familiarity of her own people.
- Her mother-in-law was Naomi. With Naomi's wisdom and God's grace, they moved from a situation of beggars in Bethlehem to Ruth finding a kind and generous husband who took Naomi in as a mother also. Ruth and the man, Boaz, had a baby boy whom they named Obed. He was the father of Jesse, who became the father of King David.

# I SAMUEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #9



AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, GAD,  
and an unknown scribe who served as compiler



WRITTEN: AROUND  
900 BC

**Covering the time period of 1150 BC – 1000 BC**

9

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the famous story of David killing Goliath

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Samuel's mother gives him to the priests to raise.
- Samuel hears God's voice as a boy.
- Samuel anoints David as future king.
- David kills Goliath.
- Saul calls on a witch to bring the prophet Samuel back to life and speak to him.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things human beings look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." **1 Samuel 16:7**

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." **1 Samuel 15:22**

## Important Points about the Book:

- 1 Samuel contains the stories of Samuel the prophet, King Saul, and King David's trials before he was king.
- Prior to Samuel, the people of Israel had been in tribes, held loosely together. But God transformed them into a unified nation under one form of government in this part of their history. First Samuel focuses on the establishment of Israel as a nation.
- The people demanded a king because all the surrounding nations had one, and they were giving in to peer pressure.
- The first king was Saul, and the second king was David. This book covers mostly the prophet Samuel growing up, King Saul's good and bad adventures, and his chasing down David to try to kill him. The book ends with the death of Saul.



# II SAMUEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



**O.T. BOOK #10** **AUTHOR: PROPHETS NATHAN AND GAD** **WRITTEN: AROUND 900 BC**  
 were main contributors. Samuel also is thought to have contributed records and such, even though he died during the reign of King Saul.

**Covering the time period of 1000-975 BC**

10

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Covers the reign of King David

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and embarrasses his wife while dancing joyfully. (2 Samuel 8)
- David takes Bathsheba, another man's wife. (2 Samuel 11)
- The attempted coup and death of David's son Absalom (2 Samuel 18)

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

His attendants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.'" **2 Samuel 12:21-22**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Second Samuel covers the reign of King David. He became known as the first good king of Israel. There were only a few good kings!
- Chapters 1 through 10 show David as an excellent warrior and leader who also is compassionate to the sick and poor and always tries to do what would make God happy.
- In Chapters 11 through 24, we see David facing trials and tribulations. There are many upsets in his family, including his bad choice to commit adultery, the death of an infant son, and a coup attempt by his oldest son, who ended up being killed by David's own warriors.

# I KINGS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #11



**AUTHOR: UNKNOWN**  
however, the stories were written or put together in Babylon, during the Great Exile



**WRITTEN: 550 BC**

**Covering the time period of 975-850 BC**

11

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the stories of the prophet Elijah, one of the most important prophets, who appeared at the Transfiguration with Jesus and Moses in Matthew 17.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Solomon decides which woman is the real mother of the baby.
- Solomon builds the Temple.
- Elijah confounds the prophets of the false god Baal and gets hundreds of them killed.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

And observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go. **1 Kings 2:3**

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." **1 Kings 17:1**

## Important Points about the Book:

- 1 Kings continues the stories that began in 1 Samuel and continued in 2 Samuel. 1 Kings covers the reign of David's son, King Solomon, known as the wisest and wealthiest man alive.
- The death of King Solomon occurs in Chapter 11.
- In Chapter 12, Solomon's son Rehoboam causes an uproar when he increases taxes instead of decreasing them, according to the request of the people via the elders. The kingdom splits into two and remains two kingdoms until the Babylonian invasion and exile, beginning in 586 BC
- The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is in 1 Kings 18. However most of 1 Kings after the split in the kingdom are snippets of each of the kings. They include the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. Each snippet says whether that king did good or evil in the eyes of the Lord. Most did evil!



# III KINGS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #12



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN

however, the stories were written or put together in Babylon, during the Great Exile



WRITTEN: 550 BC

**Covering the time period of 850-575 BC**

12

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the story of Elijah being taken alive up to heaven.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Elijah is swept up to heaven.
- Elisha raises a boy from the dead.
- Naaman is cured of leprosy by washing in dirty water.
- Jerusalem is plundered by the Babylonians, and the Great Exile begins.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied... **2 Kings 2:3**

Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men. **2 Kings 1:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- 2 Kings begins where 1 Kings leaves off.
- Chapters 2 through 7 cover the ministry of the prophet Elisha after Elijah is taken up to heaven. Chapter 13 covers the death of Elisha.
- The book covers the reigns of many kings of Israel and Judah, telling short stories about some of the most notable, good and evil. It ends with Chapter 25 and the Babylonian invasion of Judah, when Solomon's temple was destroyed.

# I CHRONICLES

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #13



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN  
though it may have been Ezra,  
a scribe and scholar.



WRITTEN: 450 BC

Covering the time period of 4000 BC to 975 BC

13

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Covers the first half of the entire history of Israel.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- God tells David not to build a temple for him because he had shed blood as a warrior.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha. When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. **1 Chronicles 20:5-7**

David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God. But this word of the Lord came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. **1 Chronicles 22:7-8**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Originally, the Chronicles were one combined book, not 1 and 2 Chronicles. The purpose of it was to present an entire history of Israel. 1 Chronicles gives the history from Adam through King David.
- The book repeats some famous Bible stories from other books. It gives a different perspective at times, the same as the gospels give different looks at the same stories. It also adds some detail not found in other books, including more deaths of giants related to Goliath.
- There are many lists in Chronicles, including genealogies and laws.
- It ends with Chapter 28, David having given the job of building the temple from plans he created to his son Solomon, soon to be king.



# II CHRONICLES

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #14



**AUTHOR: UNKNOWN**  
though the scribe Ezra has been cited as a possible candidate.



**WRITTEN: AROUND 340 BC**

**Covering the time period of 975 BC through 525 BC**

14

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the history of King Solomon finishing the temple.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Solomon prays to God for wisdom instead of long life, power, or money, so he is given all.
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.
- King Cyrus of Persia rebuilds the temple after releasing Israel from the Great Exile to Babylon.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, I therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." **2 Chronicles 1:11-12**

## Important Points about the Book:

- 2 Chronicles starts with the famous story of Solomon asking for wisdom. It continues with information and stories about Solomon building the Temple through Chapter 8.
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon in Chapter 9.
- 2 Chronicles covers the reigns of all the kings of Israel and Judah after the split of the united kingdom of Kings Saul, David, and Solomon.
- Like the Kings, this book gives little snippets about each king and notes whether they grieved or pleased the Lord. (Only a handful, all from Judah, pleased the Lord.)
- The closing chapter, 36, summarizes the 70 years of captivity in the Great Exile and also summarizes Cyrus, King of Persia, releasing the Jews to go home and his funding of the rebuilding of the Temple.

# EZRA

## AT-A-GLANCE



**Covering the time period of 550-510 BC**

15

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the famed story of hundreds of men sending away foreign wives, whom they had married against God's wishes. The story covers the period following the Great Exile and the rebuilding of the Temple.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- King Cyrus decrees the work of the Temple may begin.
- Men with foreign wives sent them all away.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. **Ezra 1:5**

Therefore, do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them at any time, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it to your children as an everlasting inheritance. **Ezra 9:12**

## Important Points about the Book:

- This book details the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple after the Great Exile.
- In the book of Ezra, the rebuilding of the new temple is the center of all. It shows the unity among the returning tribes as they came home from the Babylonian Exile. Later, the first returnees stopped work on the city walls. Workers felt burned out and became spiritually lazy.
- Ezra arrived with another 2,000 people. His enthusiasm and power from the Lord sparked a spiritual revival.
- One problem before the exile was that men had married foreigners, who chronically drove them away from God and into idolatry. Ezra was dumbfounded to find that people were already doing this again—before the Temple was even built! When the men repented and offered to send these foreign wives away, Ezra did not object.
- By the end of Ezra, Israel had renewed its relationship with God and were being very obedient.



# NEHEMIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #16



AUTHOR: NEHEMIAH



WRITTEN: 425-400 BC

**Covering the time period of 450 - 430 BC**

16

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

### CLAIMS TO FAME:

**One of the few books in the Bible written in first person. It covers the last piece of history recorded in our Old Testament.**

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Nehemiah gets Israel's leaders to stop charging tax to the returnees of the Great Exile.
- Nehemiah gets tough with the men who had married foreign wives, especially the priests.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."  
***Nehemiah 1:3***

## Important Points about the Book:

- Many scholars feel this book is a sequel to Ezra.
- Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra, and he wasn't a prophet either. He served the king of Persia and then led a group of Jews to Jerusalem with the task in his heart to rebuild and fortify the city walls.
- He helped Israel keep its foot out of several traps, including getting back into the habit of marrying foreigners who worshipped other Gods.
- He helped them rebuild the wall in spite of great adversity. Men were working in so much rubble that it caused confusion, injuries, and exhaustion. Foreign kings and their people mocked them, saying they were feeble and couldn't finish. But they did. The wall was said to have been completed in Chapter 6.
- Nehemiah continued to help until people were resettling in Jerusalem. In the last chapter, 13, he oversees the laws being reestablished and a very organized temple.

# ESTHER

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #17



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN

someone in the Persian Court into which  
Esther was married



WRITTEN: 450 BC

**Covering the time period of 480-475 BC**

17

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Only book in the Bible not to mention the name of God.  
(Yet the story of Esther is quite godly!)

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Esther is one story about a woman of Israel who became queen in a foreign land and stopped a genocide meant to kill all Jews in the land.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question." **Esther 5:8**

In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them. **Esther 8:17**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The book takes place in Susa, east of the Tigris River, which is now part of Iraq. It is the only Bible story to take place east of what is thought to be the Garden of Eden.
- In Chapters 1 and 2, Esther becomes queen of Susa. A man named Mordecai had adopted Esther after she was orphaned and before she became queen. Chapter 4 features Mordecai discovering a plot to have all the Jewish people in the kingdom executed. The evil plot was started by Haman.
- Esther was able to talk her husband, a very strong king, out of the genocide through a combination of wits and humility and support from Mordecai.
- The evil Haman ended up being killed on the very devices he had designed to kill the Jewish people in Chapter 7.
- King Xerxes, Esther's husband, cancelled the plot and, in the closing chapter, 10, Mordecai was promoted to second in command.



# JOB

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #18



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN



WRITTEN: UNKNOWN  
but thought to be around the time of  
Abraham, 1900 BC

**Covering the time period between 2100 and 1900 BC**

18

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** May be the only Bible book written before Genesis

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- The Book of Job is one story about a man who goes through extreme testing with the loss of his children, businesses, and eventually his own health.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"  
**Job 2:9-10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Job's blessings are described in Chapter 1. Then his losses in the trial from Satan are described, ending in Chapter 2.
- In Chapters 3 through 37, Job converses with three friends who showed up. They want to make him feel better, but they confound their own efforts by accusing him of "earning" his trial by having sinned. Job has not sinned, and he refuses to say a bad word about God.
- In Chapters 37 through 40, God confronts them all, especially Job, with a strong speech on why they are not big enough or smart enough to question his acts.
- In the closing chapter, 41, God restores all of Job's losses, giving him twice as much as before and 10 more children.

# PSALMS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #19



AUTHOR: MANY:

King David was the strongest contributor.



WRITTEN: 1400-450 BC

**Psalms is written for all eras to enjoy and was meant to be timeless.**

19

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Of the 150 Psalms, over half were written by King David

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. ***Psalms 23:4***

Take delight in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***Psalms 37:4***

## Important Points about the Book:

- Psalms are poetry, generally meant to be put to music, though the translations out of their original and beautiful language often makes that hard today.
- Individual psalms were written as early as Moses' time, around 1450 BC. More were added through the time of David and Solomon around 1000 BC. Additions continued after the Babylonian captivity around 500 BC. That means the writing spanned nearly 1,000 years.
- The Psalms have always been quite popular because they apply to every time and every person. Psalms of sorrow, psalms of praise, prophetic psalms, and words of encouragement still make this one of the most popular books in the Bible.



# PROVERBS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #20



AUTHOR: SOLOMON

is the primary author with others contributing



WRITTEN: 970-675 BC

**Like Psalms, Proverbs was written for all eras to enjoy and was meant to be timeless.**

20

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Is called “the wisdom book,” and is searched as much today as ever for wisdom and guidance in all sorts of dealings.

## MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. **Proverbs 3:5**

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. **Proverbs 31:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Proverbs is known for its short instructions for living an effective life on earth. It contains no stories or theology, as many other Old Testament books do. It simply states wisdom for all to enjoy and use.
- Two strong principles emphasized in Proverbs include listening to those who have gone before us, such as parents, teachers, and older people in general. The other principle is having humility. We are encouraged not to speak rashly or without seeing the consequences of our acting arrogant.

# ECCLESIASTES

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #21

AUTHOR: SOLOMON

WRITTEN: 940-931 BC

**The book contains timeless wisdom meant for all generations to enjoy.**

21

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The book is the thoughts of King Solomon and shows his great wisdom in essay format, as opposed to short rhyming verses like the Proverbs.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ***Ecclesiastes 3:1***

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of every human being. ***Ecclesiastes 12:13***

## Important Points about the Book:

- Solomon was wealthy, wise, and successful in all of his dealings, including building the first temple for God. However, he shared an emptiness in Ecclesiastes that comes from not conversing with God enough to have a strong relationship with him. Solomon had already tried many things to ease his sense of feeling lost in the world—pleasure, work, and intelligence.
- The book is 12 chapters long and reads like essays or even journals, where Solomon was simply thinking aloud. However, it is organized, without the “little of this/little of that” feeling that comes with the Proverbs and even the Psalms.
- This book is a favorite of several types of people. Those suffering from depression can relate to Solomon. Those with great intellect enjoy his wisdom, even if this book isn’t greatly hopeful in its tone. People looking to fill a void that pleasure hasn’t filled will find it very relatable.



# SONG OF SOLOMON

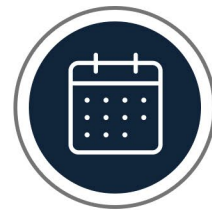
## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #22



AUTHOR: SOLOMON



WRITTEN: 940-931 BC

**The book is meant to be enjoyed by romantic lovers of any era.**

22

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** **Song of Solomon is considered the romantic book of the Bible for people in love. It was written as one continuing poem.**

## MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. ***Song of Solomon 2:5***

Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. ***Song of Solomon 1:5***

## Important Points about the Book:

- We live in a world where sexual relations have often been spoken of as dangerous and sinful. Much of the Bible speaks of the dangers of falling in love with the wrong person or becoming sexually engaged with the wrong person. Stories from Samson and Delilah to the adulterous woman charged in front of Jesus can be jarring in their warnings.
- Therefore, Solomon's poetry helps to balance out with reminders that romantic passion is a great thing. Solomon began the book with the two lovers in courtship. They express how much they long for affection and how they love each other. Eventually, they come together in marriage, the groom extolling his bride's beauty. Finally, she struggles with the idea of desertion, while the man promises always to be faithful. All of this expresses the goodness of love and marriage.
- Some say the book also reflects the feelings of Christ and his love for his bride, which is the church.

# ISAIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #23



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET ISAIAH



WRITTEN: 700-680 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 700 BC – 25 AD**

23

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** This prophet is said to have written the most prophecies about the coming of Jesus.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

Isaiah contains no stories. However, it is loaded with prophecy that closely matches the life of Jesus, and it has been used as a source of proof. Here are some prophecies it contains:

- The announcement of Christ's coming (Isaiah 40:3-5)
- The virgin birth (7:14)
- Christ proclaiming the good news (61:1)
- Christ's death as a sin sacrifice (52:13-53:12)
- The second coming of Christ (60:2-3)

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **Isaiah 7:14**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Isaiah prophesied under the reign of four Judean kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He most likely met his death under a fifth, the evil King Manasseh. Many scholars believe the prophet referred to in Hebrews 11:37 is Isaiah. It says that one of the prophets was slain in two.
- Early chapters give detailed judgments against the people who have turned their backs on the Lord. Later chapters show God's faithfulness, even though mankind is stubborn and sinful.
- Unlike some of the other prophets, Isaiah does not prophesy about our times or the end times. He focuses much on the people of his day (who were about to be exiled if they didn't straighten out, and on the times of Christ).



# JEREMIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #24



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET JEREMIAH



WRITTEN: 585-570 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 575 BC - 25 AD**

Old Testament: 39 Books

24

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Jeremiah was known as the lamenting prophet, because God was so mad at the time he prophesied, and true prophetic news from God was rarely good. However, the Prophet also offers some of the most beautiful words of hope in the Bible.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories in Jeremiah—only prophecies

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11**

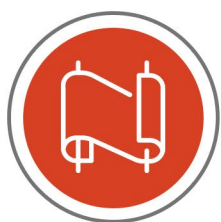
"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." **Jeremiah 33:3**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Jeremiah was nearly 20 years old when he began to prophesy. He prophesied for the rest of his adult life of 40 years or more.
- Jeremiah was prophesying to a nation behaving terribly, and judgment from God was on its way. The Kingdom of Judah had watched as the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians. They feared the Babylonians who would eventually overpower them and take them away in exile. But rather than ask God for help and repenting, they continued to hurt others and themselves.
- Jeremiah also makes great references to the new covenant God intended to have once Christ came to earth. This new covenant would be the means with which he would restore his relationship with mankind. Jeremiah wrote that God would write his law in our hearts and we would worship God directly and not through priests.

# LAMENTATIONS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #25



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET JEREMIAH



WRITTEN: 585 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 586-585 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

25

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Only book of prophecy that looks more backwards than forward

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- While not considered a story, the book is a very visual and spiritual look by the author at the horror that had become of Judah just after the Babylonian invasion and exile.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish. **Lamentations 1:4**

Those who once ate delicacies are destitute in the streets. Those nurtured in purple now lie on ash heaps. **Lamentations 4:5**

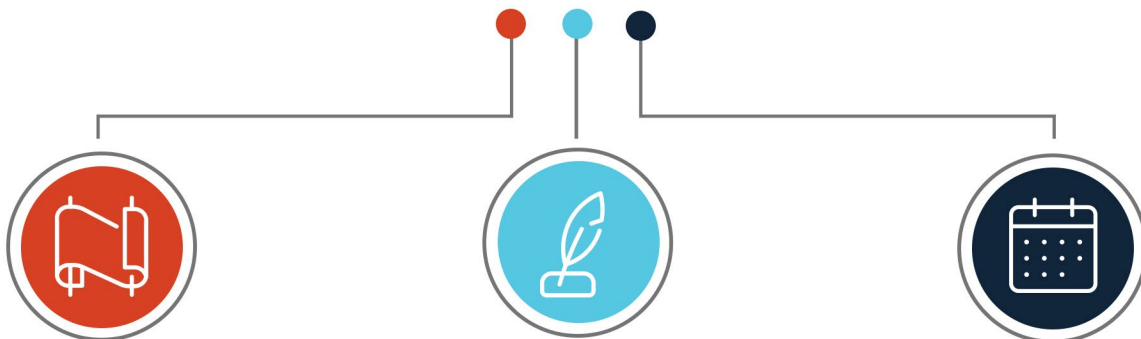
## Important Points about the Book:

- The Babylonian invasion of the Southern Kingdom (Kingdom of Judah) had just taken place in 586 BC. Jeremiah expressed raw emotion, as if he had just walked through the streets and alleys of Jerusalem and saw nothing but destruction and suffering and heartbreak.
- Lamentations is not so much prophecy as it is a lament over what had become of Jerusalem after the invasion and how it all could have been avoided.
- The book is basically one description after another of the awful conditions and suffering as the exile began. However, there are notes of hope and God's love interspersed throughout.



# EZEKIEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #26

AUTHOR: THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

WRITTEN: 590-570 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 585 BC to the future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

26

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The story of Ezekiel's wheel is in Chapter 1; Ezekiel has some visions that concern our times (modern times).

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Ezekiel sees the Wheel of Time in the air
- Valley of the Dry Bones, signifying the rebirth of Israel in modern times

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, house of Israel?' **Ezekiel 33:11**

This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel... **Ezekiel 1:16**

Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.' **Ezekiel 37:4-5**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The Book of Ezekiel begins before the Babylonian invasion and exile. Ezekiel prophesies about it in the early chapters of the book. His warnings become so extreme: he even predicts that people will resort to cannibalism of loved ones in order to find food if people didn't turn away from their horrific actions. But the people refused to listen.
- Ezekiel then lived among the Jewish exiles in Babylon. He lived in a riverside community south of Babylon called Tel Aviv where over 10,000 exiled Jews had been taken. He prophesied there for around 22 years.
- Ezekiel gave his people hope. But he also prophesied about the end of times, and those prophesies included Israel becoming a nation again after years of wandering the earth. That came true in 1948. It was prophesied by Ezekiel after God gave him a vision of mountains of dry bones coming back together and gathering flesh on their bones. Because that took place in Ezekiel 37, many Bible scholars are carefully watching Ezekiel's final chapters, 38-40 to see what details emerge in our world that will fit those prophesies.

# DANIEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #27



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET DANIEL



WRITTEN: 536-530 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 536 BC- the future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

27

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the great stories of Daniel in the lions' den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. It is also famous for its end-times prophecies that closely match the Book of Revelation.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- King Belshazzar sees an invisible hand writing on the wall.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace
- Daniel in the lions' den

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered. **Daniel 12:1**

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. **Daniel 12:2**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Daniel was still a teenager when he was deported to Babylon with many others in the Great Exile. Babylon was extremely polytheistic, worshipping many gods, but Daniel only wanted to worship the God of Israel.
- His faithfulness, wisdom, and education enabled King Nebuchadnezzar to say that the God of Israel is God.
- The chapters in Daniel are thick and focused, giving many details about one subject rather than a few details about many subjects. The first six chapters are history and include all the stories listed above. In Chapter 7, the book makes a turn and becomes prophecy about the future. Daniel hears from the angel Gabriel who announced that the exile will last 70 years. Daniel goes on to prophesy about our future, and things that have not taken place yet.

# HOSEA

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #28



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET HOSEA



WRITTEN: 750-710 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 750 BC- 6 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

28

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** God told Hosea to marry a woman who would never be faithful, because the marriage is like God and Israel.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Hosea is told to marry a woman who would not be faithful to represent Israel and its behavior toward God.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." **Hosea 11:1**

My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children." **Hosea 4:6**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Hosea directed his early prophecies to Jeroboam II, the 13th king of the Northern Kingdom around 750 BC. Israel was full of idolatry. God planned to allow Assyria to invade if people didn't repent. They didn't.
- He prophesied at the same time as Isaiah and about 10 years after Jonah was swallowed by the great fish and told to prophesy to Nineveh.
- Hosea obeyed God and married a woman who would not be faithful to him. He thus was able to prophesy with great passion about how God felt about all Israel's unfaithfulness.
- The book contains warnings of the coming Assyrian invasion on the Northern Kingdom and the Babylonian invasion of the Southern Kingdom. The northern invasion was right around the corner, occurring in 722 BC. The invasion of the Southern Kingdom by the Babylonians, would happen 150 years later. Nobody listened to Hosea.
- This book contains the famous prophecy about Jesus living for a while in Egypt as a child (see Hosea 11:1 above). His parents took him there when Joseph was told in a dream that King Herod was trying to kill the young Messiah. They returned from Egypt upon Herod's death, as noted in Matthew 2:15.



# JOEL

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #29



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET JOEL



WRITTEN: UNCERTAIN

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: Possibly 725 BC - Future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

29

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The first prophet to prophesy about “the day of the Lord;” quoted by Apostle Peter during his speech to thousands on the Day of Pentecost.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories in this prophetic book; only great images

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy hill.  
Let all who live in the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming.  
It is close at hand **Joel 2:1**

And afterward,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.  
**Joel 2:28**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The problem dating the Book of Joel comes through the fact that the prophet has very little to say about himself. Many of the prophets name the kings under which they were serving, but Joel does not.
- Joel prophesied about destruction that could apply to the Babylonian invasion or the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, or other traumatic times for Israel. He also prophesied about the Day of the Lord (another name for the Second Coming of Christ), and therefore some of his prophecies remain futuristic.
- Joel is most famous for being quoted by Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost (see Joel 2:28 above)

# AMOS

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #30



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET AMOS



WRITTEN: 750 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 722 BC -516 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

30

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Amos was a shepherd and not from a family of trained priests or prophets.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- No stories are included in Amos, only firm judgments.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.  
**Amos 3:7**

"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; I cannot stand your assemblies." **Amos 5:21**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Amos was a shepherd. He lived with a group of shepherds in Tekoa, a small town 10 miles south of Jerusalem.
- Amos prophesied about 760 BC. Uzziah was king of Judah, and Jeroboam II was King of Israel. He was born in Judah but prophesied in Israel. He predicted the overthrow of the Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians, which happened in 722 BC.
- He also predicted the doom of Judah and the doom of many surrounding nations. He had a short ministry, though his book contains nine chapters.

# OBADIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #31



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET OBADIAH



WRITTEN: UNCERTAIN

(as there were 12 Obadiah's mentioned in the Old Testament)

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: Uncertain; any time between 700 BC and 575 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

31

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The shortest book in the Old Testament; exclusively a prophecy toward another nation—Edom.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- No stories are included in this short book of prophecy.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, "Who can bring me down to the ground?" **Obadiah 1:3**

Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD." **Obadiah 1:4**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Most of Obadiah's prophecy is judgment on the foreign nation of Edom. Therefore, Obadiah is one of only three prophets who pronounced judgment primarily on other nations. The others are the prophets Nahum and Habakkuk.



# JONAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #32



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET JONAH



WRITTEN: 780 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 775 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

32

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** **Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish after refusing to prophesy to the kingdom of Nineveh.**

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- **Jonah is swallowed by the giant fish.**
- **Jonah prophesies to Nineveh and the nation repents.**

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. **Jonah 2:10**

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?" **Jonah 4:11**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Jonah is only four chapters long. However, it is quite famous. Jonah being swallowed by the great fish is a favorite youth ministry story.
- Jesus mentioned Jonah. He said Jonah's three days in the belly of the fish were like the three days he would be in the grave before the resurrection.
- Jonah rejects God's command for him to preach to Nineveh. Jonah, like many people of Israel, thought Nineveh was filthy and beneath him. When he tried to escape to Tarshish on ship, it met up with a great storm. Reluctantly, the men on the ship threw Jonah overboard after he confessed that God's wrath was after him.
- The big fish swallowed him and threw him up on the shores of the Great Sea, probably somewhere west of Jerusalem.
- Jonah then traveled to Nineveh and delivered God's warning and judgment. He was surprised when the king repented and the nation followed along. God reasoned with him, saying that he cared about the people of Nineveh and even their livestock.
- The book contains not only one of the most famous Bible miracles but it also a great study on what can happen when we behave like snobs.

# MICAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #33



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET MICAH



WRITTEN: 735-710 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 722 BC - Future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

33

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the famous scripture about the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- No stories are included in this book of prophecy

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."  
**Micah 5:2**

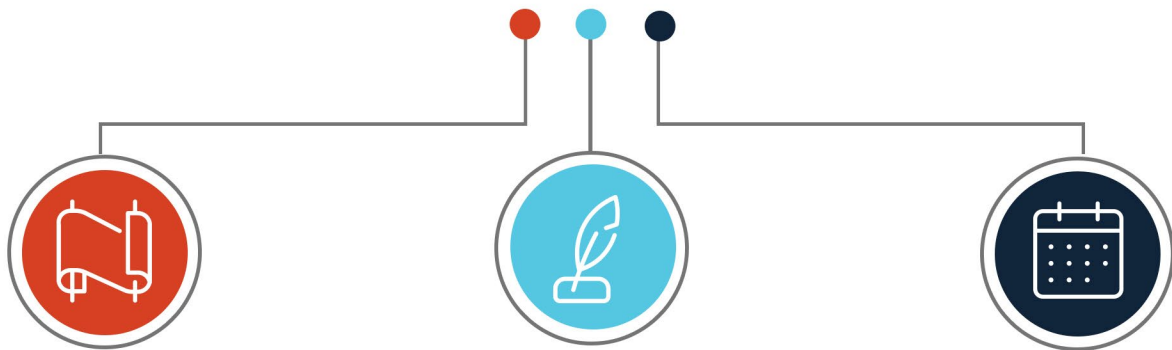
He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Micah prophesied at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. He prophesied during the tragic and historic years surrounding the Assyrian invasion of the Northern Kingdom. Micah predicted the event in Micah 1:6, and it came to pass between 10 and 15 years later, in 722 BC.
- Micah's earlier prophecies concern judgment on the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for idolatry. His later prophecies concern the future kingdom that Jesus spoke of.

# NAHUM

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #34

AUTHOR: THE PROPHET NAHUM

WRITTEN: 650 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 658-615 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

34

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Focused most on the coming judgment of Nineveh

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- None; this book is a prophecy almost solely against Nineveh in Assyria.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. **Nahum 1:7**

But with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness. **Nahum 1:8**

## Important Points about the Book:

- The book is only three chapters long and almost exclusively focuses on God's pending judgment against Nineveh. Nineveh was the capitol of Assyria, the nation that had invaded and destroyed the Northern Kingdom (Kingdom of Israel) nearly a hundred years earlier.
- The name Nineveh may be familiar. It is the city Jonah preached to around 780 BC after he had been swallowed by the great fish. Nineveh did repent at that time. But this is more than 200 years later, and they are up to their bad tricks of idolatry, violence, invading the Northern Kingdom, and tormenting the Southern Kingdom (Kingdom of Judah).
- Many of God's prophecies have come at what seem like strange times. Assyria was very strong at the time of Nahum's prophesy. And 40 some years after Nahum prophesied the complete destruction of the city of Nineveh, its Assyrian army took Jews from the Northern Kingdom into exile. It looked like a very victorious time for the Assyrians. The 10 tribes of Israel that made up the Northern Kingdom completely disappeared into these and other foreign peoples.
- However, God was good to his word brought through Nahum. The Medean army took Nineveh in 612 BC and destroyed it forever. It was finally excavated, dug out of the sand, in the 1800s AD.



# HABAKKUK

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #35



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET HABAKKUK



WRITTEN: 615-605 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 608-598 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

35

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** The prophecy is in response to heartfelt prayer and has been an encouragement for people to cry out in times of trouble.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories, just prophecy.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”  
**Habakkuk 2:2-3**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Habakkuk cried out to God during a very dark time in Israel. Habakkuk likely prophesied in the first five years of King Jehoiakim's reign. This king led the people into evil. The Assyrians had control of the Northern Kingdom (Kingdom of Israel) after a brutal invasion more than 100 years earlier. Habakkuk preached from the Southern Kingdom (Kingdom of Judah), which was still intact but less than 50 years away from its own invasion by Babylon that destroyed the Temple. The pressure was on.

The book begins with a heartfelt prayer to God, full of anguish about the evil Habakkuk was seeing around him. God responded with a prophecy that was general. Unlike other minor prophets, Habakkuk was not given the names of specific places that would fall. It was a general, but beautiful, promise that God was in charge, and no matter what happened, justice would occur in the end.

# ZEPHANIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #36



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH



WRITTEN: 635-625 BC

**Prophecies Come True in this Time Period: 605 BC to the future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

36

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Zephaniah mentions the “day of the Lord” more than any other Old Testament prophet.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories in this book of prophecy, almost exclusively covering the end of time, known as “the day of the Lord”

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD. **Zephaniah 1:2**

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger. **Zephaniah 2:3**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah from 640 to 609 BC. Josiah was one of the few good kings.
- This book only has three chapters. It mentions things that will happen on “the day of the Lord.” Often, the term is used by the prophets to mean the coming of the end of time. However, it is also used to mean any time in history where God personally intervenes to protect his people and forward his will.

# HAGGAI

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #37



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET HAGGAI



WRITTEN: 526 BC

**Covering this time period: 526 BC**

Old Testament: 39 Books

37

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Haggai is known as one of the few prophets to whom the people of Israel actually listened.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- No stories are included in this book of prophecy, though the rebuilding of the Temple is what it's about. That story is found in the Book of Ezra.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." **Haggai 1:5-6**

## Important Points about the Book:

- Haggai wrote from Jerusalem when many people had returned from the Babylonian exile. Those who had returned in hope 15 years earlier were now facing dire struggles. They lacked clothing and food and had been mocked by other nations brutally about rebuilding their temple. The mocking had drained them of faith so that they had quit.
- Haggai's messages are simple and straightforward. God tells the people through Haggai to rebuild the temple first. It would keep them from falling back into errors that had caused the Great Exile.
- The book is only two chapters and focuses specifically on getting the returnees to build the temple as top priority. Such would bring unity, faith, and strength back to them.



# ZECHARIAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #38



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET  
ZECHARIAH



WRITTEN: 520 BC- 484 BC  
520 BC (his earlier prophecies) - 484 BC  
(about the Coming of Christ and the Second Coming)

**Covering this time period: 520 BC – Future**

Old Testament: 39 Books

38

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** This book contains the most references to the coming Messiah of any minor prophets.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories included, but many prophecies about Jesus

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **Zechariah 9:9**

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." **Zechariah 12:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- We often look for a chronological order when reading Bible prophecy, and that's one of the things that can make it confusing. Zechariah does things like refer to Jesus' first coming in Zechariah 9:9 (see above), which references Palm Sunday. Then in the very next verses, he refers to the Second Coming.
- Zechariah is quick to show us that God clearly sees a big picture. He sees what is coming as clearly as what is past. He is likely to cause prophecy that will mention the details of that big picture together, even though they may happen thousands of years apart.
- Zechariah's first eight chapters are directed to the builders of the Second Temple and the returnees from the Babylonian exile. He prophesies at the same time as Haggai, but while Haggai's messages were full of caution, Zechariah's are full of hope and encouragement.
- Chapters 9-14 are thought to have been given much later in his life. They refer mostly to the coming of the Messiah, both his life and death and his future return.

# MALACHI

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #39



AUTHOR: MALACHI



WRITTEN: 433-424 BC

**Covering this time period: 424 BC – 24 AD**

Old Testament: 39 Books

39

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: **Last book of the Old Testament**

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- There are no stories in this final book of Old Testament prophecy.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. **Malachi 4:5**

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." **Malachi 3:10**

## Important Points about the Book:

- By the time of Malachi, the people of Judah had been back in Judah after the Babylonian exile for more than 100 years. They were looking for blessings. The temple had been rebuilt. However, there was corruption in the priesthood and the people had become spiritually disinterested.
- God showed the people through Malachi where they were falling short and in danger of hurting themselves and others again.
- The book closes with the famous passage above, Malachi 4:5. It refers to John the Baptist and is a verse most religious leaders knew about when Christ was alive. Jesus confirms the spirit of Elijah was in John the Baptist. But because people were looking for the physical appearance of Elijah, they missed the fact that John was God's messenger to announce the Messiah was here.