

# 245: Old Testament Outline

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH RELIGION 8

## An Outline of The Old Testament Story In approximate order of main events

APPROX DATES OF MAIN EVENTS (BC) to which books refer (not the date of composition)	BIBLE BOOK	MAIN CHARACTERS	MAIN EVENTS/SUBJECTS	MAIN TEACHING/RELEVANCE
	GENESIS 1-11	Adam, Noah	Creation of world; people disobey God; the flood; confusion of languages	God is a creator; human sin separates man from God
2000	12-25	Abraham	Abraham travels from Babylon to Palestine	God can be trusted
1900-1700	26-36	Isaac, Jacob	Travels and feuds of the 'patriarchs'	Human stories about men of God
1750-1650	36-50	Joseph	Joseph rejected by his brothers, rises to power in Egypt; famine in many countries	God's purposes in adverse circumstances
1280	EXODUS 1-15 16-40	Pharaoh Ramesses II, Moses, Aaron Moses, Aaron	The plagues in Egypt; the Hebrews escape from slavery Journey from Red Sea to Mt Sinai; Ten Commandments given; tabernacle built	An example of God's power God's law for all mankind; examples of human disobedience
	LEVITICUS		Religious, dietary and social laws for the Jews; religious festivals outlined	Pictures of how sin can be dealt with; religion to be both serious and joyful
1280-1240	NUMBERS	Moses	Journey from Sinai to Canaan; Korah's revolt	How God leads his people; man's rebellion and God's judgement
	DEUTERONOMY		Boundaries of the promised land; more laws relating to life in Canaan	Challenge to wholehearted faith
1240	JOSHUA	Joshua, Rahab, Achan	Entry into Canaan, capture of key cities; division of the land	Stories of courage - and selfishness
1220-1075	JUDGES	Eli, Samson, Deborah, Gideon	Recurring cycle of disobedience, then attack by enemies, then repentance, as Israel settles into the land	God's righteousness and judgement; examples of dedicated lives
1100-1000	RUTH	Naomi, Ruth, Boaz	Illustration of life in time of the judges	Example of love and devotion to God's people; non-Jews have a place in God's purposes
1075-1038	1 SAMUEL 1-10	Samuel	Israel at war with Philistines; birth of Samuel; demand for a king	Israel succumbs to the desire to be like all the other nations
1050-1010	11-31	Saul and David	Feud between Saul and David; battles with Philistines	God's dealings with an arrogant king and a humble shepherd boy
1010-970	2 SAMUEL	David, Joab, Absalom	Reign of King David; Philistines defeated; Absalom's rebellion	Candid account of the successes and mistakes of a man who tried to follow God
1010-970	1 CHRONICLES	David	David's wars; preparation for the temple; lists of Israelite families	Example of leadership and faith; unfolding of God's purpose for Israel
970-930	1 KINGS 2 CHRONICLES 1-9	Solomon	Solomon's reign, wisdom; building and dedication of temple	Example of a godly leader, and how his folly led to natural disaster

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TEACHING, RELEVANCE	APPROX DATES OF MAIN EVENTS (BC) to which books refer (not the date of composition)	BIBLE BOOK	MAIN CHARACTERS	MAIN EVENTS/SUBJECTS	MAIN TEACHING, RELEVANCE
	520	HAGGAI ZECHARIAH		Encouragement to the returned exiles to complete the temple	Lack of spiritual life hinders national growth; visions of God's glory
	465	ESTHER	Esther, King Ahasuerus, Mordecai	Life during the Persian Empire	Human story showing how God is in control of events
Commands of obedience; crisis of faith and royal leadership	460	MALACHI		Morale in Jerusalem at low ebb; summons people to faith and looks forward to Day of the Lord	A challenge to faith and commitment
Necessity for social justice; Israel's covenant		JOEL		Plague of locusts symbolises God's judgement	Looks forward to the end of time
		PROVERBS		Wisdom relating to everyday life	Practical insight for godly living
Urgency to obedience; God's sovereignty and human dignity; God's concern for the poor		ECCLESIASTES		A humanist view of life	Futility of life without God
		SONG OF SOLOMON		A love poem	The beauty of human love
Power of God's power, and love; the need to pray; prophecies of the future		PSALMS		God's past actions; his character; human aspirations	Helps for prayer and worship
Job: dramatic reminder of God's love		JOB		A loyal Jew refuses to be shackled by popular theology	A suffering man who retains his faith while asking searching questions
Warning to turn away from idolatry					
Presence of God alongside human weakness and love					
Call to live morally					
Warning of ruthless power					
Warning for continuing faith to God even when it seems worthwhile					
Warning: faith despite persecution; God is in control					
Warning: God is powerful					
Warning: people working against God's will					



The Old Testament describes an ancient way of life but its message of God's care is timeless.

## An Outline of The Old Testament Story (continued)

In approximate order of main events

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930-609	2 KINGS 2 CHRONICLES 10-36	Elijah, Elisha, and a succession of kings and prophets	Israel divided into two kingdoms - north (Israel) and south (Judah); evil kings lead nation to defeat; some good ones bring reforms	God's demands of obedience; examples of faith and prophetic leadership
760	AMOS	Amos; (Jeroboam II of Israel)	Message of judgement against Israel for disobedience, and other nations for cruelty	The necessity for social justice based on Israel's covenant with God
760	JONAH	(Jeroboam II of Israel)	Message of judgement on Nineveh and Jonah's reluctance to deliver it	A challenge to obedience; God's sovereignty and human responsibility; God's concern for non-Jews
740-700	ISAIAH	(Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah)	Prophecies concerning Judah besieged by the Assyrians; a call to faith and trust in an almighty God	Lofty view of God's power, holiness and love; the need to trust God; prophecies of the exile
750-720	HOSEA	(prophecy to Israel)	Picture of a decadent society and of God's love for them still, shown through Hosea's marriage	Vivid and dramatic reminder of God's love
720	MICAH	(Mainly in reign of Hezekiah, of Judah)	Prophecy of exile as punishment for disobeying God	The need to turn away from wrongdoing
626-587	JEREMIAH	Jeremiah; kings Josiah, Jehoakim and Zedekiah of Judah	Babylonian invasion and exile of Judah; futile attempt at a treaty with Egypt	The holiness of God alongside his tenderness and love
620	ZEPHANIAH	(involved in Josiah's reforms in Judah)	Blessing after repentance is promised	The need to live morally upright lives
620	NAHUM		Message against Nineveh, which fell to the Assyrians in 612	Denunciation of ruthless military power
605	HABAKKUK		Debates justice of God in allowing the ungodly to defeat God's people	The need for continuing faithfulness to God even when it does not seem worthwhile
Begins 605	DANIEL	Daniel, his friends; Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar	Life in exile in Babylon; a series of prophecies about future nations	Steadfast faith despite persecution; God is in control of history
593-575	EZEKIEL		Another exile, speaking from Babylon. Visions of Judah's state; ideal worship foreseen in a new temple	God is all-powerful
580	OBADIAH		God's judgement on Edom	
538-430	EZRA  NEHEMIAH	Ezra, Nehemiah	Groups of exiles return to Judah from Babylon; rebuilding of Jerusalem and its temple	God's people working against great odds

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