

BIBLE INTRODUCTION #1

OLD TESTAMENT: LAW AND HISTORY

II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT⁴

LAW ¹	GENESIS-DEUTERONOMY
HISTORY ¹	JOSHUA-ESTHER
POETRY ²	JOB-SONG OF SOLOMON
MAJOR PROPHETS ²	ISAIAH-DANIEL
MINOR PROPHETS ³	HOSEA-MALACHI

¹This chart ²Chart 2 ³Chart 3 ⁴New Testament charts 4-6

BOOKS OF THE LAW, ALSO CALLED THE BOOKS OF MOSES, THE PENTATEUCH, OR THE TORAH

GENESIS (HEB. “IN THE BEGINNING”)

- Author: Moses (Nehemiah 8:1; Deuteronomy 31:9)
- From: The wilderness
- Date: Late 1400s B.C.
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose:
 - To show the history of the Jews from Creation to the death of Joseph
 - To introduce the scheme of redemption (3:15)
 - To show that God had a chosen family—Abraham’s
- Keys:
 - Word: Beginning
 - Verse: 3:15 (First Messianic prophecy)
 - Chapter: 1 (Creation)
- Lessons:
 - God is Creator of all (1)
 - Marriage was instituted by God (2:18-25; cf. Matthew 19:4-6)
 - Sin has deadly effects (3:1-23; cf. Romans 6:23)
- Miscellaneous:
 - Genesis covers a greater period of time than any other book—the least amount of time that it could cover would be about 2500 years
 - It is notable that the existence of God is taken to be understood—Moses saw no reason for argumentation to support His existence

EXODUS (HEB. “AND THESE ARE THE NAMES”; GR. “A WAY OUT”)

- Author: Moses (Nehemiah 8:1; Deuteronomy 31:9)
- From: The wilderness
- Date: Late 1400s B.C.
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose:
 - To show the history of the Jews from the entry into Egypt through the giving of the Law
 - To show the chosen family become the chosen people—Israel
- Keys:
 - Words: Blood, Delivered
 - Phrase: “Let my people go”

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF THE LAW (continued)

- Verse: 3:8 (The Promised Land)
- Chapter: 20 (The Ten Commandments)
- Lessons:
 - God hears the cries of His people (2:23)
 - God does not accept excuses (3-4)
 - God is greater than man’s gods (12:12)
 - Godly leaders should be supported (17:10-13)
 - God is not worshipped with men’s hands (32:1-10; cf. Acts 17:24-25, 29; Romans 1:20-23)
 - All of God’s commands are important—even the intricate ones (35-40)

LEVITICUS (HEB. “AND HE CALLED”)

- Author: Moses (Nehemiah 8:1; Deuteronomy 31:9)
- From: The wilderness
- Date: Late 1400s B.C.
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To detail the offering of sacrifices and consecration of priests
- Keys:
 - Words: Holy, Offer, Blood
 - Phrase: “Sweet savour”
 - Verse: 7:37 (List of offerings)
- Lessons:
 - God’s commands are serious (10:1-2)
 - God delights in “sweet savour[s]” which man may view as repulsive (cf. Isaiah 55:8)
 - Life is in the blood (17:11)
 - God is holy and expects holiness (19:2; cf. I Peter 1:15-16)
- Miscellaneous: The Levites took the role of the firstborn in being dedicated to God (Numbers 3:12-13; Exodus 13:2)

NUMBERS (HEB. “IN THE WILDERNESS”)

- Author: Moses (Nehemiah 8:1; Deuteronomy 31:9)
- From: The wilderness
- Date: Late 1400s B.C.
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history of the wilderness wandering
- Keys:
 - Words: Work, Serve, War
 - Verse: 14:33 (Duration of wandering)
 - Passage: 6:22-27 (The blessing of the Children of Israel)
 - Chapter: 35 (The cities of refuge)
- Lessons:
 - Faithlessness breeds fearfulness (13-14)
 - God will be glorified (14:21)
 - Rebellion shall not be tolerated (16-17)
 - For salvation, one must look to safety (21:6-9)

DEUTERONOMY (HEB. “REPETITION OF THE LAW” OR “THESE BE THE WORDS”; GR. “SECOND LAW”)

- Author: Moses (31:9; Nehemiah 8:1) and, perhaps, Joshua
- From: Moab (1:5)

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: LAW AND HISTORY

BOOKS OF THE LAW (DEUTERONOMY continued)

- Date: Around 1400 B.C., after Moses' death (34:10-12)
- Audience: The Israelites who were about to enter the Promised Land
- Purpose: To prepare the Israelites for their entry into Canaan
- Keys:
 - Words: Remember, Love
 - Phrase: "Love the Lord thy God"
 - Verses: 17:18 (A copy of the law for the king)
 - Chapters: 27-28 (Curses and blessings)
- Lessons:
 - The lasting reward is for those with pure hearts and just actions (5:29)
 - The Lord requires things of man (10:12-13)
 - The secrets of God are not man's concern (29:29)
 - Man chooses his fate (30:19-20)
- Miscellaneous: When tempted, Jesus quoted 8:3; 6:16,13 (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

BOOKS OF HISTORY

JOSHUA (HEB. "THE BOOK OF JOSHUA" OR "THE FIRST BOOK OF THE PROPHETS")

- Author: Joshua (24:26)
- From: Probably Shechem (24:1,25,32) in Canaan
- Date: Early 1300s B.C., after the entry into Canaan
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history of the entry into Canaan
- Keys:
 - Words: Courage, Promise, Rest, Fear
 - Phrase: "Be strong and of a good courage"
 - Verse: 21:43 (The Lord gave the land)
 - Chapters: 23-24 (Joshua's charge)
- Lessons:
 - God keeps His promises (1:1-3; 21:45; 23:5)
 - God will neither fail nor forsake His faithful (1:5)
 - Sin affects others (7)
 - The Lord fights for His faithful (8:1; 10:25; 23:10)
 - All of God's commands are important (23:6)
 - Man must choose to serve God (24:14-15)

JUDGES

- Author: Probably Samuel
- From: Possibly important Shiloh (I Samuel 4:3) in Canaan
- Date: Early to mid 1000s, in the time of Samuel but before monarchy
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history of the period of the judges
- Keys:
 - Words: Judged, Delivered, Oppressed
 - Phrase: "Right in his own eyes"
 - Verse: 21:25 (Man his own authority)
 - Passage: 2:16-19 (The cycle introduced)
 - Chapter: 2 (Reason for the Lord's anger)
- Lessons:
 - Man must keep his side of covenants (2:20-22)
 - Compromise is dangerous (3:5-8)
 - God does not want the fearful in His army (7:3; cf. Revelation 21:8)
 - God does not rely upon great numbers (7:7; cf. I Samuel 14:6)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF HISTORY (continued)

- Man must not be his own authority (21:25; cf. Jeremiah 10:23)
- Miscellaneous: While the exact number of years is debated, Judges covers around three centuries in which there were thirteen judges and seven cycles of sin/oppression/repentance/deliverance/peace

RUTH

- Author: Possibly Samuel
- From: Possibly from Shiloh or Bethlehem in Canaan
- Date: Late 1000s to early 900s, for David is noteworthy (4:17,22)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To memorialize a good event from a bad time
- Keys:
 - Word: Kinsman
 - Verse: 4:10 (Boaz' purchase of Ruth)
 - Passage: 1:16-17 (Ruth's commitment to Naomi)
 - Chapter: 4 (Redemption)
- Lessons:
 - Rewards of God outweigh costs of obedience (2:11-12)
 - The Lord blesses the virtuous (3:11-12)
 - God's Will often involves faithful women (4:17; cf. Matthew 1:5)
- Miscellaneous: Among the Jews, Ruth was read at Pentecost

I SAMUEL (HEB. "SAMUEL" OR "I KINGS"; GR. "I KINGDOMS"; LAT. "I KINGS")

- Author: Perhaps Nathan or Gad (I Chronicles 29:29), conceivably Jeremiah or Ezra; many attribute to Samuel in spite of 27:6
- From: Possibly Shiloh or Jerusalem in Canaan
- Date: Late 900s or after, for the kingdom division of 931 B.C. evidently had occurred (27:6)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide an account of the history leading to and into the kingdom period
- Keys:
 - Words: King, Kingdom
 - Verse: 8:7 (God was rejected)
 - Chapters: 3 (Call of Samuel), 8 (A king for Israel), 15 (Rejection of Saul)
- Lessons:
 - God answers the prayer of the righteous (1:27; cf. James 5:16)
 - One is responsible for the spiritual rearing of his children (2:29; 3:13)
 - God rewards humility (15:17; cf. James 4:10)
 - To obey is better than sacrifice (15:22)
 - What impresses God may not impress man (16:7)
 - Even the young can serve God effectively (17)
 - There is great value in friendship (18:1-4)
 - Even bad leaders are to receive respect (24:6; Romans 13:1-4; I Timothy 2:1-2)

II SAMUEL (HEB. "SAMUEL" OR "I KINGS"; GR. "II KINGDOMS"; LAT. "II KINGS")

- Author: Perhaps Nathan or Gad (I Chronicles 29:29), conceivably Jeremiah or Ezra; many attribute to Samuel in spite of I Samuel 27:6
- From: Possibly Shiloh or Jerusalem in Canaan

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: LAW AND HISTORY

BOOKS OF HISTORY (II Samuel continued)

- Date: Late 900s or after, for the kingdom division of 931 B.C. evidently had occurred (I Samuel 27:6)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history of the heart of David's reign
- Keys:
 - Word: King
 - Verse: 24:24 (David's heart)
 - Passage: 7:12-13 (David's kingdom established)
 - Chapters: 11 (David's sins), (Sin, punishment, and sacrifice)
- Lessons:
 - The righteous mourn even the loss of their enemies (1:17)
 - A just end does not justify an unjust means (6:6-7)
 - Even the righteous can falter (11)
 - There is a future life (12:23)
 - The Lord's Will be done (15:24-26)
 - The Lord rewards righteousness (22:21-25)
- Miscellaneous: The threshingfloor of Araunah, Ornan in I Chronicles 21:15-28, became the location of the temple and altar (I Chronicles 22:1)

I KINGS (HEB. "KINGS" OR "II KINGS"; GR. "III KINGDOMS"; LAT. "III KINGS")

- Author: Probably Jeremiah (compare II Kings 24-25 with Jeremiah 39-42,52), possibly Ezra
- From: Probably Canaan, perhaps Egypt (Jeremiah 43)
- Date: Early to mid 500s, after the destruction of Jerusalem (II Kings 25)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history from the end of David's reign into the reigns of Jehoram of Judah and Ahaziah of Israel
- Keys:
 - Word: Prophet
 - Phrases: "Did evil in the sight of the Lord," "In the way/sins of Jeroboam"
 - Verses: 11:11 (The kingdom to be rent), 17:24 (The purpose of miracles), 18:21 (How long?)
 - Passages: 3:5-15 (Solomon's vision), 9:4-5 (How to keep the kingdom)
 - Chapters: 12 (Division and Jeroboam's Innovations); 18 (Confrontation on Mount Carmel)
- Lessons:
 - God grants wisdom (3:12; cf. James 1:5)
 - There is wise counsel in age (12:6-7,13)
 - God is no god; He is *the* God (18:37-39)
 - The righteous are not alone (19:18)
- Miscellaneous: 1-11 concern the united kingdom of Israel, while 12-22 concern the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel

II KINGS (HEB. "KINGS" OR "II KINGS"; GR. "IV KINGDOMS"; LAT. "IV KINGS")

- Author: Probably Jeremiah (compare 24-25 with Jeremiah 39-42,52), possibly Ezra
- From: Probably Canaan, perhaps Egypt (Jeremiah 43)
- Date: Early to mid 500s, after the destruction of Jerusalem (25)
- Audience: The Israelites

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF HISTORY (continued)

- Purpose: To continue history from the reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah through the falls of Israel and Judah
- Keys:
 - Words: Anger, Destroy
 - Phrase: "Evil in the sight of the Lord"
 - Verse: 23:25 (Tribute to Josiah)
 - Passages: 10:18-28 (Destruction of Baal worship), 17:24-41 (Origin of the Samaritans)
 - Chapter: 19 (Jerusalem's salvation)
- Lessons:
 - Disrespect deserves punishment (2:23-24)
 - Faith is rewarded after obedience (5:1-14)
 - There is no fruit without root (19:30)
 - One can ask for trouble (20:15-18)
 - One cannot argue with righteous judgment (20:19)
 - God hears the humble (22:9)
- Miscellaneous: Studying through the books of I and II Kings will reveal nine dynasties in Israel, but only one in Judah as was necessary for the Lord to come of and be a king of that lineage (I Kings 2:33; I Kings 9:5; Isaiah 9:7; Matthew 1:6-16; Luke 1:32)

I CHRONICLES (HEB. "WORDS" OR "ACTS OF THE DAYS"; GR. "THE THINGS UNTOLD" OR "OMITTED")

- Author: Probably Ezra
- From: Probably Jerusalem in Canaan
- Date: Middle to late 400s, apparently six generations after Zerubbabel (3:19-24)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To give a supplementary history from Creation into Solomon's reign
- Keys:
 - Words: Covenant, Seek, Son
 - Verses: 3:4; 29:27 (David's reign), 17:14 (David's kingdom and throne established forever); 29:30 (David's influence)
 - Passage: 10:12-14 (Why Saul died)
 - Chapter: 17 (God and David)
- Lessons:
 - Glory is due God (16:7-36)
 - Parents should prepare for their children's success (22:2-5)
 - All belongs to God (29:11-12,16)
 - God tries the heart (29:17)
- Miscellaneous: Originally, I and II Chronicles were one book

II CHRONICLES (HEB. "WORDS" OR "ACTS OF THE DAYS"; GR. "THE THINGS UNTOLD" OR "OMITTED")

- Author: Probably Ezra
- From: Probably Jerusalem in Canaan
- Date: Middle to late 400s, apparently six generations after Zerubbabel (I Chronicles 3:19-24)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To give a supplementary history, especially of Judah, from Solomon's reign to Cyrus' edict
- Keys:
 - Words: Covenant, Seek, Transgressed, Destroyed
 - Verses: 15:3 (Israel without), 36:16 (No remedy)

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: LAW AND HISTORY

BOOKS OF HISTORY (II Chronicles continued)

- Chapter: 36 (Judah and Jerusalem's fall and Cyrus' edict)
- Lessons:
 - God's blessings are conditional (7:14,17-18)
 - Do not fight against God (13:12)
 - God is with those who are with Him (15:2)
 - God sees all (16:9)
 - The heart must be prepared to seek God (30:19)
- Miscellaneous: Divided Israel had no good kings, while Judah had a mixture of some bad, several good, and one—Josiah—great!

EZRA

- Author: Ezra
- From: Almost certainly Jerusalem in Canaan
- Date: Middle to late 400s B.C., perhaps around the time Nehemiah was writing (Nehemiah 8:9; 12:26)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To give a history of the first (Zerubbabel's beginning in 536 B.C.) and second (Ezra's beginning in 457 B.C.) returns from captivity
- Keys:
 - Words: Law, Decree
 - Verses: 7:9 (Ezra's return), 7:10 (Ezra's preparation)
 - Passage: Cyrus' edict (1:1-4)
 - Chapter: 1 (Cyrus' edict and gift)
- Lessons:
 - God's prophecies come to pass (1:1-4; cf. Jeremiah 29:14; Isaiah 44:28)
 - The ten tribes were never "lost" (2:70; 7:7; 8:29,35)
 - That which rightly belongs to one should be no other's (1:7-11)
 - God works providentially (7:9)
 - Obedience begins in the heart (7:10)
- Miscellaneous: At times, Ezra and Nehemiah have been considered one book, even paired with Chronicles

NEHEMIAH

- Author: Nehemiah (1:1)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF HISTORY (continued)

- From: Probably Jerusalem in Canaan, perhaps Susa (Shushan) in Persia
- Date: Late 400s B.C., at least twelve years after Nehemiah's first return in 444 B.C. (compare 1:1,13:6)
- Audience: The Israelites
- Purpose: To provide a history from Nehemiah's return to the end of the period of Old Testament inspiration
- Keys:
 - Words: Build, Repaired, Work
 - Verses: 4:6 (A mind to work), 13:24 (Language of Ashdod); 13:31 (Nehemiah's conclusion)
 - Chapter: 1 (Nehemiah's prayer)
- Lessons:
 - God expects man to do what he can (2:17-18)
 - Defend where you are attacked (4:20; cf. Acts 2:38)
 - God fights for His people (4:20)
 - Do not compromise (6:3)
 - What a preacher should do (8:8)
 - Even God's beloved can sin (13:26)

ESTHER

- Author: Possibly Ezra, Nehemiah, or Mordecai
- From: Probably Susa (Shushan) in Persia
- Date: Mid 400s B.C., after Ahasuerus' reign which ended in 465 B.C.
- Audience: The Israelites (Esther 9:29-32)
- Purpose: To show God's providential care of His people
- Keys:
 - Word: Decree, Request
 - Verses: 4:11 (Extending the scepter), 4:16 (Esther's courage)
 - Passage: 8:15-17 (Great rejoicing)
 - Chapter: 8 (The Jews' defense)
- Lessons:
 - God works providentially (4:14)
 - Must be willing to sacrifice self to serve God (4:16; cf. Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14)
 - The wicked will ultimately fail (7:10; 8:7)
- Miscellaneous: It is interesting that Esther is known by her Persian name, not by her Hebrew name Hadassah

HEBREWS 4:12

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

HEBREWS 1:1

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ..."

II PETER 1:20-21

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

CATES PUBLICATIONS

- Look for "Bible Introduction" #s 2 and 3 "The Old Testament," and #s 4 through 6 "The New Testament"
- Available or coming: Charts on Christian Evidences, Bible history, New Testament Greek, and English Grammar
- All charts are comprised of sound, Bible-based material which is perfect for serious and casual Bible students alike; these charts make great gifts and incentives
- Visit on-line to order books, tracts, and the mentioned and other charts (shop.catespublications.com)

BIBLE INTRODUCTION #2

OLD TESTAMENT: POETRY AND MAJOR PROPHETS

II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT⁴

LAW ¹	GENESIS-DEUTERONOMY
HISTORY ¹	JOSHUA-ESTHER
POETRY ²	JOB-SONG OF SOLOMON
MAJOR PROPHETS ²	ISAIAH-DANIEL
MINOR PROPHETS ³	HOSEA-MALACHI

¹Chart 1 ²This chart ³Chart 3 ⁴New Testament charts 4-6

JOHN 5:39

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

BOOKS OF POETRY

JOB

- Author: Probably Job, conceivably Moses
- From: Probably from Uz
- Date: This could be the earliest book of the Bible, it seems to have been written in the Patriarchal Age (1:5; 42:8; 1:20; cf. Deuteronomy 14:1) perhaps around the time of Abraham, for there is no mention of Hebrew rites, towns, or heroes; however, the flood (22:15-16), perhaps in relatively recent memory, was used as an illustration and extinct animals were still alive (40:15-24; 41)
- Audience: God's people in any age
- Purpose: To show that God never gives up on those who are His children; though at times they, mourning, troubled, and persecuted, may be on the verge of giving up on Him
- Keys:
 - Words: Trust, Just, Innocent, See
 - Phrases: “Perfect and upright,” “I only am escaped alone to tell thee”
 - Verses: 13:15 (Job's determination); 19:25 (My redeemer liveth); 23:10 (Tried ... as gold); 26:14 (Just a part of His ways); 28:28 (Wisdom and understanding); 37:23 (The Primacy of God)
 - Chapters: 1-2 (Satan versus God); 31 (If ...); 42 (Vindication)
- Lessons:
 - God is more powerful than Satan (1:6,12; 2:6)
 - Even the good suffer; people do not *necessarily* suffer due to sin (1-2,31; cf. John 9:2-3; Luke 13:1-2,4)
 - Do not quickly judge others (11:1-6; 42:7-8)
- Miscellaneous: While some critics doubt the historicity of Job as a person, inspired Bible writers did not (Ezekiel 14:14,20; James 5:11!)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF POETRY (continued)

PSALMS

- Author: David, the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (II Samuel 23:1), is accredited with 73 Psalms; Asaph (II Chronicles 29:30) and his sons (II Chronicles 35:15) with 12; Korah's sons 10; Solomon 2; Haggai 1; Zechariah 1; and Ezra 1 (who may have been the one who ultimately compiled them); the rest are unidentified
- From: Jerusalem in Canaan to Babylon
- Date: From the late 1000s B.C. to the middle to late 500s B.C.
- Audience: God, Israel, even Jerusalem
- Purpose: To express heartfelt emotion generally, and particularly to praise God
- Keys:
 - Words: Praise, Blessed, Love, Remember, Know
 - Phrase: “I will praise”
 - Verses: 14:1 (The fool rejects God in his heart; cf. Romans 1:28); 119:105 (The Word is a lamp and light)
 - Psalms: 1 (Contrast between the righteous and the ungodly); 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd); 119 (All but 4 verses specifically mention God's Word in some form); 137 (The Lord's song in a strange land)
- Lessons:
 - The heart pours out feelings that demand to be expressed (9:1; 19:14)
 - The Lord knows man (26:2; 53:2; 94:9; 139:23) and can help him (25:17-18)
 - God is above all (135:5)
 - Man is special to God even in the womb (139:13-16)
 - God is worthy to be praised, honored, and implored (139:14; cf. Revelation 4:11)
- Miscellaneous: There are many types of Psalms including Messianic (Luke 24:44), historical (e.g., 135,136), didactic (teaching), and imprecatory (pleading with righteous indignation)

PROVERBS

- Author: Solomon (1-29) who wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs (I Kings 4:32), Agur (30), and Lemuel (31); the latter two perhaps being symbolic names for Solomon
- From: Jerusalem, Solomon's capital
- Date: Likely this was written in the middle of Solomon's life, early to mid 900s B.C., before he began smarting too much for his imprudence
- Audience: Solomon's “son” (1:8,10); any who would heed Wisdom's plea (1:20-33)
- Purpose: To instruct the simple in the way of wisdom (1:1-4)
- Keys:
 - Words: Wisdom, Fool, Simple, Counsel, Tongue
 - Phrases: “Fear of the Lord,” “Of life,” “Strange woman”

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: POETRY AND MAJOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF POETRY (PROVERBS continued)

- Verse: 1:5 (What the wise will do)
- Passage: 31:10-31 (The worthy woman)
- Chapter: 1 (Wisdom and her call)
- Lessons:
 - The wicked will ultimately receive according to their deeds (1:10-19)
 - Counsel is to be sought and when wise is to be treasured (12:15; 19:20; 11:14; 15:22; 24:6)
 - Not only men, but nations also should be righteous (14:34)
 - Words can help (15:4; 25:11) or harm (6:17,24; 17:20; 18:21)
 - Wine is a vice (20:1; 23:29-32)
- Miscellaneous: The Proverbs effectively show the distinction between knowledge, wisdom which is knowledge applied, and prudence which is wisdom applied to action

ECCLESIASTES (HEB. “PREACHER”)

- Author: Solomon (1:1,12,16; 12:9)
- From: Jerusalem, Solomon’s capital
- Date: Likely this was written in Solomon’s later years, in the 930s B.C., after he had smarted due to his imprudence (1:16-17)
- Audience: The young (11:9; 12:1), Solomon’s “son” (12:12)
- Purpose: To show the importance of serving God rather than self (12:13)
- Keys:
 - Words: Vanity, Wisdom, Fool, I/me
 - Phrases: “Vanity and vexation,” “Under the sun”
 - Verses: 7:29 (God has made man upright); 12:8 (All is vanity)
 - Passage: 3:1-8 (A time for everything); 12:13-14 (The whole of man)
 - Chapters: 2 (Solomon’s experiment); 12 (Solomon’s application)
- Lessons:
 - There is nothing new under the sun (1:9)
 - Even the wise struggle when they leave God out of the equation (1:18)
 - One must not experiment with sin (2:1-12)
 - God blesses man with good things ... or bad (2:24-26)
 - One must pay his vows, especially to the Lord (5:4-5)
 - One’s name is valuable (7:1)
 - One should be slow to anger (7:9)
 - Postponement of justice encourages sinfulness (8:11)
 - Sinners are punished; the righteous are rewarded (8:12-13)
 - All die (9:3; cf. Hebrews 9:27)
 - Sin’s effects are pervasive (9:18)
Youth is the time to prepare for a righteous life (11:9-12:1)
 - Fearing and obeying God is the whole of man (12:13)
 - The apparent and secret will be judged of God (12:14)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF POETRY (continued)

- Miscellaneous: Ecclesiastes comes across as a confession

SONG OF SOLOMON (HEB. “SONG OF SONGS WHICH IS SOLOMON’S”)

- Author: Solomon (1:1,5; 3:7,9,11; 8:11-12) and his Shulamite bride (6:13)
- From: Jerusalem, Solomon’s capital
- Date: Judging by its innocence and the speakers’ apparent youth, likely this was written early in Solomon’s reign—he was already king (1:4; 3:9,11)—around the late 970s B.C. to early 960s B.C.
- Audience: The daughters of Jerusalem (1:5; 2:7; 3:5,10; 5:8,16; 8:4)
- Purpose: To show the love of Christ and His church typified (cf. Ephesians 5:22-23) in the love of Solomon and the Shulamite
- Keys:
 - Words: Beloved, Love
 - Phrase: “Daughters of Jerusalem”
 - Verse: 2:4 (Solomon’s banner)
 - Passage: 8:6-7 (The strength of love)
- Lessons:
 - The Lord’s banner is love (2:4)
 - Sincere love grows into selflessness (2:16; 6:3; 7:10)
- Miscellaneous: Jews would read this book yearly at the Passover

Acts 10:43

“To him give all the prophets witness, ...”

BOOKS OF PROPHECY—THE MAJOR PROPHETS

ISAIAH

- Author: Isaiah (1:1)
- From: Jerusalem
- Date: No earlier than 702 B.C., for 6:1 mentions the death of Uzziah which took place in 740 B.C. as coinciding with the beginning of his prophetic work, so the book necessarily followed that date as it likewise follows the last historical reference which was just into the extended reign of Hezekiah who ruled until 687 B.C. (meaning 38:5 took place in 702 B.C.) and at the very close of the reign of Merodachbaladan, Babylonian king from 721-709 B.C. and 702 B.C.
- Audience: Judah, especially, but also Israel before her fall
- Purpose: To show that destruction was at hand for Judah and her neighbors; however, for Judah there was also ultimate salvation
- Keys:
 - Word: Burden, Salvation, Servant
 - Phrase: “Holy One of Israel”

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: POETRY AND MAJOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (ISAIAH continued)

- Verses: 7:14 (The virgin birth); 11:11 (Recovering the remnant)
- Passage: 2:2-4 (Establishment of the church); 9:6-7 (Unto us a Child is born)
- Chapter: 53 (The righteous justifying Servant)
- Lessons:
 - God's Word is reasonable (1:18)
 - At times God uses those who are not righteous for His purposes (7:17-20; 9:11-12; 19:2; 19:25; 48:20)
 - All nations are amenable to God (10:12; 11:14; 13:19; 19:22; 20:4; 23:1)
 - True prophecy is not only particular (44:28; 45:1), it is accurate (Ezra 1:1-4)
 - God can save—if men will let Him (59:1-2)
- Miscellaneous: The only complete Dead Sea Scroll manuscript of a complete Biblical book is that of Isaiah which critics have attacked as not being one prophecy

JEREMIAH

- Author: Jeremiah (1:1-2)
- From: Probably Tahpanhes in Egypt (43:7-8), where tradition says Jeremiah was stoned to death by Jews
- Date: No earlier than 586 B.C., for Jeremiah was commissioned in the thirteenth year of Josiah (1:2), 627 B.C., and prophesied through the eleventh year of Zedekiah when Jerusalem was taken captive (1:3), 586 B.C.
- Audience: The nations (1:5), particularly Israel apparently as a united people (2:4) and Israel as divided (3:12) and Judah as left after the Assyrian captivity (4:3)
- Purpose: To show what contributed to and happened with regard to Judah's fall and what would happen with regard to the restoration of all Israel and the punishment of all nations
- Keys:
 - Words: Captive, Destroy, Return
 - Phrase: "Saith the Lord"
 - Verses: 3:24 (Confession); 5:31 (The extent of apostasy); 6:15 (Shamelessness); 7:28 (Truth is perished); 31:3 (God's everlasting love)
 - Passage: 23:1-8 (A better day was coming)
 - Chapter: 25 (Judgment against the nations)
- Lessons:
 - Inspiration is God putting His Words in men's mouths (1:9)
 - Backsliding is dangerous (3:11; 7:23-24)
 - God is merciful (3:12)
 - Salvation is in the Lord (3:23)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

- Lying prophets offer false hope and no help (5:31; 6:13-14; 7:8)
- The "old paths" are not always bad (6:16; cf. II Thessalonians 3:6)
- Glory in the Lord (9:23-24)
- Man ought not presume to direct his own steps (10:23)
- Some cannot but speak of God (20:9)
- Premillennialism requires failed prophecy (22:30)
- God has dominion over all nations (25:12-32)
- Through repentance, man may avert God's wrath (26:13)
- The new kingdom was coming (31:31-34)

LAMENTATIONS (HEB. "HOW")

- Author: Probably Jeremiah (perhaps referred to in II Chronicles 35:25, though doubtfully so for Josiah had died over two decades earlier in 609 B.C.; however, this verse does show that Jeremiah was one who could write such a lamentation)
- From: Most likely Tahpanhes in Egypt (Jeremiah 43:7-8)
- Date: After 586 B.C., for Jerusalem is deserted and ruined with no allies willing or able to help her (1:1-4), and the heathen has entered the sanctuary (1:10)—which could not have taken place until she was destroyed
- Audience: God is generally addressed in the book (e.g., 1:9; 3:59; 5:1), the "daughter of Edom" in one (4:21,22) though that could be written as encouragement to those who were destroyed (the "daughter of Zion" who is also addressed in 4:22) while Edom watched, cheered, and joined in (Psalm 137:7; Obadiah 10-14)
- Purpose: To acknowledge in prophesied mourning (Jeremiah 6:26; Zechariah 12:11) that Jerusalem and Judah fell due to their own sin (1:8; 5:16)
- Keys:
 - Words: Sinned, Enemy, How
 - Verses: 1:12 (The Lord afflicted—through Babylon); 5:21 (Plea with realization)
 - Passage: 3:59-66 (Jeremiah's imprecatory prayer)
 - Chapter: 1 (Destruction of Jerusalem prompts lamentation)
- Lessons:
 - The Lord is as an enemy to those who reject Him (2:4-5) but good to those who seek Him (3:25)
 - The Lord despises even that which has been dedicated to Him when those who dedicated it are unfaithful (2:6-7)

(continued next page)

PSALM 119:116-117

"Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually."

- Visit on-line to order books, tracts, and the mentioned and other charts (shop.catespublications.com)

OLD TESTAMENT: POETRY AND MAJOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (LAMENTATIONS continued)

- God's people can expect ridicule when they are down (2:15-16)
- The Lord keeps His word (2:17)
- The Lord is compassionate, not enjoying inflicting suffering (3:32-33)
- God is a God of justice (3:34-36; cf. Proverbs 17:5)
- Good and evil come from God (3:38; cf. Isaiah 45:7; Romans 11:22)
- The means of repentance (3:40-41)
- God transcends time (5:19)

EZEKIEL

- Author: Ezekiel (1:3)
- From: Beside the Chaldean river Chebar (1:1,3)
- Date: After 570 B.C., for the events of the book took place over a period of twenty-two years (1:1-2; 29:17), from 592 B.C. (the fifth year of Jehoaichin's captivity and thirtieth year after the finding and restoration of the law in Josiah's day—probably the thirty years alluded to in 1:1; cf. II Kings 22:3,8) to 570 B.C.
- Audience: Captives in Babylon (2:3; 3:4-7; 20:39,41)
- Purpose: To show Babylonian captives, who *still* lacked respect for God, signs by which they would recognize God as God (24:24)
- Keys:
 - Words: Watchman, Shepherd, Glory
 - Phrase: "Son of Man"
 - Verse: 24:24 (Ezekiel, a sign)
 - Passage: 33:31-32 (Ezekiel was heard, but the people did not *listen* to obey)
 - Chapters: 34 (Israel's bad shepherds), 36,37 (The land of Israel renewed)
- Lessons:
 - Whether people listen or not, a faithful preacher of Truth has an effect (2:5; 33:33)
 - Usually the very ones who need to hear will not listen, though others would (3:4-7)
 - The soul that sins is the one that dies (18:4,20)
 - All nations are amenable to God (25-32)
 - The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (33:11)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

- Good leadership is essential (34)
- Bad shepherds are tantamount to no shepherds (34:8)
- God's plan was for one nation to be under one King, one Shepherd, one God (37:22-24)

DANIEL

- Author: Daniel (7:15,28; 8:15,27; 9:2; 10:2,7; 12:5)
- From: Babylon
- Date: The book dates to 536 B.C. which was the first year of Cyrus (1:21), but the last year of Daniel's prophetic work which had begun in 603 B.C., the second year of Nebuchadnezzar (2:1)
- Audience: The captive Jews in general, Babylonian rulers in parts, and future Jews and the church in prospect
- Purpose: To show the place of contemporary and future nations in God's plan to establish His kingdom
- Keys:
 - Words: Kingdom, Dominion, Power, Horn
 - Phrase: "The most High"
 - Verse: 2:47 (God of gods, Lord of kings)
 - Passage: 2:44,45 (The days of these [Roman] kings)
 - Chapters: 2 (Nebuchadnezzar's dream); 3 (The fiery furnace); 6 (The lion's den); 7 (The four beasts)
- Lessons:
 - God's ways are better than man's (1:5-20)
 - The young should purpose not to defile themselves (1:8)
 - God removes and sets up kings (2:21; cf. Romans 13:1-4; John 19:11)
 - God's kingdom would be that set up in the days of the Roman kings—His church (2:44-45; cf. Isaiah 2:2-3; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2; Colossians 1:13)
 - God cares for His persecuted faithful (3,6)
 - God rules in the kingdoms of men (4:25,32)
 - God humbles the proud (4:37)
- Miscellaneous: One studying Daniel should be aware that the book is not laid out in chronological order

I THESSALONIANS 2:13

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

ROMANS 15:4

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

CATES PUBLICATIONS

- Look for "Bible Introduction" #s 1 and 3 "The Old Testament," and #s 4 through 6 "The New Testament"
- Available or coming: Charts on Christian Evidences, Bible history, New Testament Greek, and English Grammar
- All charts are comprised of sound, Bible-based material which is perfect for serious and casual Bible students alike; these charts make great gifts and incentives
- Visit on-line to order books, tracts, and the mentioned and other charts (shop.catespublications.com)

BIBLE INTRODUCTION #3

OLD TESTAMENT: MINOR PROPHETS

II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT⁴

LAW ¹	GENESIS-DEUTERONOMY
HISTORY ¹	JOSHUA-ESTHER
POETRY ²	JOB-SONG OF SOLOMON
MAJOR PROPHETS ²	ISAIAH-DANIEL
MINOR PROPHETS ³	HOSEA-MALACHI

¹Chart 1 ²Chart 2 ³This chart ⁴New Testament charts 4-6

BOOKS OF PROPHECY—THE MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA

- Author: Hosea (1:1-2)
- From: Ultimately the book was produced in Judah (for Israel had been destroyed); however, some was probably written in the Northern Kingdom given repeated references to Israel, Ephraim, and Samaria (87 times between them, while Judah is only mentioned 15 times)
- Date: Late 700s B.C., since Hosea prophesied through the reigns of Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.) in Israel and Uzziah (767-740 B.C.), Jotham (740-736 B.C.), Ahaz (736-716 B.C.), and Hezekiah (716-687) in Judah; accordingly, the book would have been finished sometime after 716 B.C.
- Audience: Israel, who was symbolized in Hosea's wife Gomer (3:3-4)
- Purpose: To show, through the symbol of Hosea's marriage to unfaithful Gomer, the spiritual adultery committed by Israel and God's continuing love in spite of that rejection
- Keys:
 - Words: Love, Whoredom, Return, Know, Knowledge, Pride
 - Verse: 4:1 (No truth, mercy, or knowledge)
 - Chapter: 1 (A wife and children for Hosea)
- Lessons:
 - Marriage is sacred (cf. Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:28-31)
 - An unfaithful wife is tantamount to no wife (2:1)
 - Ignorance destroys (4:6)
 - God's love must not be allowed to go unrequited (11:3)
 - Though man may leave God; nonetheless, God's longsuffering, mercy, and love are none-the-less (11:4,7-9; 14:1,4)

JOEL

- Author: Joel (1:1)
- From: Jerusalem (2:1)
- Date: Mid to late 800s B.C., for future captivators of Israel and Judah, namely Assyria and Babylon respectively, are not mentioned; furthermore, many

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

- enemies mentioned were enemies before and into the division of the kingdom (3:4,19)
- Audience: Judah (2:1,15,23)
 - Purpose: To urge Judah to repent (1:8,13-14; 2:12-14) in the face of coming enemies, while pointing to a future hope (2:28-32)
 - Keys:
 - Words: Cry, Weep, Lament, Howl
 - Phrase: “The day of the Lord”
 - Verse: 2:13 (Condition of God's repentance)
 - Passage: 2:28-32 (Deliverance in Zion)
 - Lessons:
 - Destruction for sin may be progressive, but it will be complete (1:4)
 - Compliance begins with leaders (1:14)
 - God wants preachers to do their jobs (2:17)
 - Decision precedes judgment (3:14)
 - God's enemies will fall; His people will be blessed (3:19-20)

AMOS

- Author: Amos (1:1; 7:8; 8:2)
- From: Probably Tekoah (1:1); possibly Jerusalem (1:2) or Bethel (7:13)
- Date: Mid 700s B.C., for he prophesied in the days of Judah's Uzziah (767-740 B.C.) and Israel's Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.)—the earthquake mentioned in 1:1 may refer to one mentioned by Zechariah (14:4-5) and Josephus (*Antiquities of the Jews*, IX.x.4)
- Audience: Israel (1:1; 7:9-13,16-17)
- Purpose: To show Israel that judgment was imminent (2:6-16), but a better future awaited (9:11-15)
- Keys:
 - Words: Captivity, Evil, Seek
 - Phrase: “For three transgressions ... and for four”
 - Verse: 3:3 (Two agreed can walk together)
 - Passage: 5:14-15 (Choose good over evil)
 - Chapters: 1-2 (Judgment against the nations)
- Lessons:
 - All nations are amenable to God (1-2)
 - Mothers and their unborn are separate beings (1:13)
 - Those whom God has blessed should not take His blessings for granted (3:1-2)
 - One wishing to walk with God must agree with Him (3:3)
 - One must be prepared for judgment (4:12; cf. Matthew 24:44,46)
 - One cannot escape from judgment (5:19)
 - Without the proper attitude; service, sacrifice, and giving are unacceptable and unaccepted (5:21-24)
 - Complacency and misplaced trust are dooming (6:1)
 - None are greater than God (6:8; Hebrews 6:13)
 - There is a standard of uprightness (7:7-8)

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: MINOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (Amos continued)

- o The righteous will face opposition (7:13) and false accusations (7:12)
- o The defense of the righteous is God (7:15)
- o There will come a time when it is too late to obey (8:11-12)
- o One cannot hide from God (9:1-4)
- o People of God can so sin as to fall (9:10)

OBADIAH

- Author: Obadiah (1)
- From: Perhaps Judah
- Date: Probably after 586 B.C., due to the conditions of Jerusalem and Judah (11-12,20)
- Audience: Edom (1-2)
- Purpose: To show the punishment due haughty Edom (cf. Psalm 137:7; Isaiah 34:6-9; Numbers 20:18-21; II Chronicles 20:22)
- Keys:
 - o Words: Pride, Shouldest
 - o Phrases: "In the day of their calamity," "Cut off"
 - o Verse: 15 (Judgment is near)
 - o Passage: 3-4 (Pride and a promise)
- Lessons:
 - o Pride is destructive (3-4; cf. Proverbs 29:23; 16:18)
 - o Not to be allied with God is to be His enemy (11)
 - o One reaps what he has sown (15; cf. Galatians 6:7)
- Miscellaneous: The Edomites were descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:8) and predecessors of Herod the Great

JONAH

- Author: Jonah (1:1)
- From: Likely Gathhepher (II Kings 14:25) which was in Zebulun in Israel, possibly but doubtfully Nineveh
- Date: Early to mid 700s, for Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.)
- Audience: The Ninevites were the subject of the prophecy; however, the book was likely intended for Israel in general
- Purpose: To show Jonah's attempt to escape his responsibility and his unwelcomed success
- Keys:
 - o Word: Turn
 - o Verse: 2:7 (Jonah remembered the Lord)
 - o Passage: 3:9-10 (Hope and realization)
 - o Chapter: 3 (Nineveh's repentance)
- Lessons:
 - o God can dictate to kingdoms (1:2)
 - o One's sins can cause others to suffer (1:12)
 - o Salvation is of the Lord (2:9)
 - o God can change His mind (3:10)
 - o Some regret even the goodness of God (4:2)

MICAH

- Author: Micah (1:1)
- From: Perhaps from Moresheth, also called Moreshethgath, in western Judah (1:1,14)
- Date: At least the late 700s and perhaps into the early 600s, for Micah prophesied during the reigns of Judah's Jotham (740-736 B.C.), Ahaz (736-716 B.C.), and Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.); it should be noted that the prophecies concerning Israel were written by 721 B.C. (cf. Jeremiah 26:18)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

- Audience: Both Israel and Judah, represented by their capitals Samaria and Jerusalem (1:1)
- Purpose:
 - o To address the capitals of God's divided kingdoms regarding their positions as sinful before righteous God
 - o To show the future kingdom (4:1-7) and coming Christ (5:2-4)
- Keys:
 - o Words: Hear, Judge
 - o Verses: 6:8 (What God requires); 7:18 (None other like God)
- Lessons:
 - o The Lord Himself witnesses against the wicked (1:2)
 - o God's people can become His enemies (2:8)
 - o Some will listen only to the one who is obviously wrong (2:11)
 - o All nations are amenable to God (5:15)
 - o One cannot charge God with wrong (6:1-3)
 - o God does not desire even the best sacrifices if they are not accompanied by sincere obedience (6:6-8)
 - o One should trust in the Lord, not in man (7:5-7)
 - o God wants to restore the penitent (7:18-19)
- Miscellaneous: Micah's work extended beyond this book, for Hezekiah repented at Micah's preaching (Jeremiah 26:18-19)

NAHUM

- Author: Nahum (1:1)
- From: Likely from Nahum's home Elkosh (1:1) which was likely in Galilee
- Date: Mid to late 600s, not before 663 B.C. for the fall of Thebes, "populous No," which took place then at the hands of Assurbanipal is spoken of as if already having taken place (3:8) and not after 612 B.C. for Nineveh's fall was prophesied (1:1; 2:8; 3:7)
- Audience: Nineveh (1:1) primarily, but both Nineveh (3:8) and Judah (1:15) are addressed in the second person
- Purpose: To warn Nineveh, who had left the penitent state shown at the preaching of Jonah, concerning impending Divine justice which would be complete and final
- Keys:
 - o Words: Wicked, Revengeth, Fire, Devour
 - o Verses: 1:7 (The Lord is good), 1:8 (The Lord pursues His enemies)
 - o Chapter: 2 (The hunter becomes the hunted)
- Lessons:
 - o God avenges His mistreated people (1:2)
 - o The wicked will not be saved in their wickedness (1:3)
 - o No thing and no one can withstand God's fury (1:4-6)
 - o "I am against thee" is not something one wants to hear from God (2:13)
 - o When God is against one, defeat is imminent (3:5)
 - o God's enemy has neither hope nor defense (3:19)
- Miscellaneous: While Nahum wrote to Nineveh, his message would have been comforting to Judah (1:15)—hence his name is generally defined as carrying an aspect of comfort or consolation

HABAKKUK

- Author: Habakkuk (1:1; 3:1)
- From: Judah

(continued next page)

OLD TESTAMENT: MINOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (HABAKKUK continued)

- Date: Late 600s B.C. though prior to 606 B.C., for this was not long (1:5)—perhaps decades—before the Chaldeans, the neo-Babylonian dynasty of which Nebuchadnezzar was a part, were raised up (1:6) against Judah
- Audience: Primarily Judah, for the Chaldeans were her conquerors (1:6); however, Habakkuk addressed God (3:2) in a prayer (3:1) and elsewhere (1:2,12)
- Purpose: To declare imminent (1:5), and ruthless (1:7) judgment upon Judah while recognizing the need for God's mercy (3:2)
- Keys:
 - Words: Woe, Salvation
 - Phrase: "How long"
 - Verse: 2:4 (Just live by faith)
 - Passage: 1:2-3 (Habakkuk's mourning)
 - Chapter: 3 (Habakkuk's prayer)
- Lessons:
 - Lack of judgment can appear to be allowance of sin or disinterest of God (1:4,13; cf. Ecclesiastes 8:11; Job 21:11-15)
 - God will punish the wicked—even those who have been His own people (1:6)
 - To trust in idols is foolish (2:18-19)
 - The Lord is the strength of His people (3:19)

ZEPHANIAH

- Author: Zephaniah (1:1)
- From: Judah
- Date: Late 600s B.C., for Zephaniah prophesied in the days of Josiah (1:1) who reigned 640-609 B.C.; furthermore, the book probably preceded the revival of Josiah's day which took place in 622 B.C. (II Kings 23:23)
- Audience: Judah
- Purpose: To warn that Judah (1:4) and other nations (2:4-15; 3:6) were due for utter desolation because of worship of other gods (1:2-6) and pride, respectively
- Keys:
 - Words: Woe, Judgment, Jealousy
 - Phrase: "The day of the Lord"
 - Verse: 2:3 (Hope in the face of destruction)
 - Passage: 3:9-20 (Restoration)
 - Chapter: 1 (Judah's judgment)
- Lessons:
 - Indifference is dangerous (1:12)
 - The mighty cry at the day of the Lord—a day of judgment (1:14)
 - Money cannot buy deliverance from divine wrath (1:18)
 - God will forgive one who repents before destruction (2:1-3)
 - All nations are amenable to God (3:8)
 - God desires unity (3:9)
- Miscellaneous: It is conceivable, perhaps even likely, that Zephaniah's prophecy helped to spur Josiah's reform

HAGGAI

- Author: Haggai (1:1,3)

(continued next column)

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

- From: Jerusalem
- Date: Late 500s B.C., specifically 519 B.C. for the events of the book date from "the second year of Darius [Hystaspes-DFC]" (1:1) who reigned in Persia 521-486 B.C.
- Audience: Jews lately returned from captivity to rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:1; 6:14)
- Purpose: To motivate the Jews to elevate God and His house (1:8)
- Keys:
 - Words: House, Work
 - Phrases: "Consider your ways," "I will shake"
 - Verses: 1:8 (Build the house); 2:9 (A better house)
 - Chapter: 1 (The commission)
- Lessons:
 - Man must not elevate himself above God (1:4,6)
 - Sometimes men must take a serious look at themselves (1:7)
 - The Lord stirs up spirits through preaching (1:13-14)
 - God's punishment is designed to lead to penitence (2:17)
 - God's servants are chosen (2:23; cf. I Peter 2:9)

ZECHARIAH

- Author: Zechariah (1:1,7; 7:1,8)
- From: Jerusalem
- Date: Late 500s B.C., specifically 517 B.C. for these events date from the second year (1:1)—two months after Haggai opened—to the fourth year (7:1) of the Persian Darius Hystaspes who reigned 521-486 B.C.
- Audience: Judah
- Purpose: To motivate temple work and point to greater future hope
- Keys:
 - Words: House, Build, Turn
 - Phrases: "The Lord of hosts," "It shall come to pass," "The house of the Lord"
 - Verses: 1:14 (The jealous Lord); 4:10 (The value of small things); 9:9 (The coming King)
 - Passage: 6:12-13 (The Branch shall build)
 - Chapter: 8 (The Lord speaks)
- Lessons:
 - God will turn to those who turn to Him (1:3)
 - God uses standards (1:16; 2:1-2; 4:10)
 - God's people are the apple of His eye (2:8)
 - God's Word comes by His Spirit (4:6; cf. I Corinthians 2:9-13)
 - True strength is in the Lord (10:12)
- Miscellaneous: Generally the Minor Prophets are shorter in length—though of equal importance—than the Major Prophets; Zechariah was an exception at fourteen chapters

(continued next page)

HEBREWS 1:1-2

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son,"

OLD TESTAMENT: MINOR PROPHETS

BOOKS OF PROPHECY (continued)

MALACHI

- Author: Malachi (1:1)
- From: Possibly Jerusalem
- Date: Mid to late 400s B.C., likely in the 430s to 420s for the temple has been rebuilt (3:10) which was accomplished in 515 B.C. (Ezra 6:15); there was a priesthood intact (1:6-7) which had been restored in Darius' time (Ezra 6:18) also 515 B.C. but which had time to become corrupt (2:7-8); the law was in a restored state (2:7) which took place in Ezra's time (Ezra 7:6-10) 457 B.C.; and there was a governor (1:8) but not Zerubbabel whose work culminated in the building of the temple or Nehemiah who would not accept offerings of the people (5:15, 18). It is likely that Malachi prophesied prior to Nehemiah's governorship in 444 B.C. or during roughly an eight year period during which Nehemiah returned to Persia—between 432 and around 424 B.C. (Nehemiah 13:6)
- Audience: Restored Jews
- Purpose: To exhort God's people to have right attitudes and perform right actions
- Keys:
 - Word: Messenger
 - Verses: 1:2 (Unappreciated love); 3:1 (The coming messenger); 4:5 (A second Elias; cf. Matthew 17:10-13)
- Lessons:
 - God does not accept worship man views as weariness (1:13; cf. Micah 6:3)
 - Men can weary the Lord (2:17)
 - The Lord is constant (3:6; cf. James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8)
 - One can rob God (3:8)
 - God hears those who fear Him (3:16)

NEHEMIAH 8:8

“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.”

LUKE 24:44

“And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.”

A NOTE ON THE APOCRYPHA

- What is the Apocrypha?
 - Fourteen books which some attempt to fit into the Bible story as if they were penned while the Bible was being penned, but which were actually written years after their supposed times of composition
 - Books often ascribed to well-known Bible personalities in a desire to give them instant credibility as authoritative
- Is the Apocrypha Scripture—or even inspired?
 - The answer is a resounding “No” to both, for the Apocrypha contains doctrines which not only are foreign to Scripture, but which contradict Scripture
 - Whereas Scripture contains no error, the Apocrypha is permeated by geographical, historical, and scientific inaccuracies
 - The Apocrypha is confusing and often self-contradictory; it does not have the simple, concise, harmonious, and authentic ring of Scripture
 - The Apocrypha is often base, lacking the dignity found in the Word of God
 - It should also be noted that the Apocrypha does claim to have been inspired unlike Scripture which contains constant references to its being the product of God
 - Even those who accept some of the Apocrypha rarely are fully accepting of apocryphal works
- There are apocryphal books relating to both the Old and New Testaments; here is an introduction to the Old Testament Apocrypha:
 - I ESDRAS is the story of how Zerubbabel won the right to return from Babylon to Palestine
 - II ESDRAS is composed of seven visions concerning the futures of nations
 - TOBIT recounts events in the life of the title character and his son Tobias from the division of the kingdom to the fall of Samaria
 - JUDITH recounts the story of the title character's killing the leader of the Assyrian army
 - THE REST OF ESTHER (ADDITIONS TO ESTHER) contains prayers attributed to Esther and Mordecai as well as letters from Artaxerxes
 - THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON and ECCLESIASTICUS (THE WISDOM OF JESUS THE SON OF SIRACH) are books modeled after Proverbs
 - BARUCH WITH THE EPISTLE OF JEREMIAH is a work urging the Jews not to revolt against Babylon and to warn against idolatry
 - THE SONG OF THE THREE HOLY CHILDREN (THE PRAYER OF AZARIAH), THE HISTORY OF SUSANNA, and BEL AND THE DRAGON are all fanciful additions to the book of Daniel
 - THE PRAYER OF MANASSAS is supposed to be the prayer of II Chronicles 33:13
 - I MACCABEES is a valuable history book for the time of the Jews' revolt against Syria's despotic Antiochus Epiphanes IV, but it is not Scripture
 - II MACCABEES is not as valuable but is similar to I MACCABEES

CATES PUBLICATIONS

- Look for “Bible Introduction” #s 1 and 2 “The Old Testament,” and #s 4 through 6 “The New Testament”
- Available or coming: Charts on Christian Evidences, Bible history, New Testament Greek, and English Grammar
- All charts are comprised of sound, Bible-based material which is perfect for serious and casual Bible students alike; these charts make great gifts and incentives
- Visit on-line to order books, tracts, and the mentioned and other charts (shop.catespublications.com)