

Getting the Big Picture: Session 9

The Exile & Return

Structure of the Bible

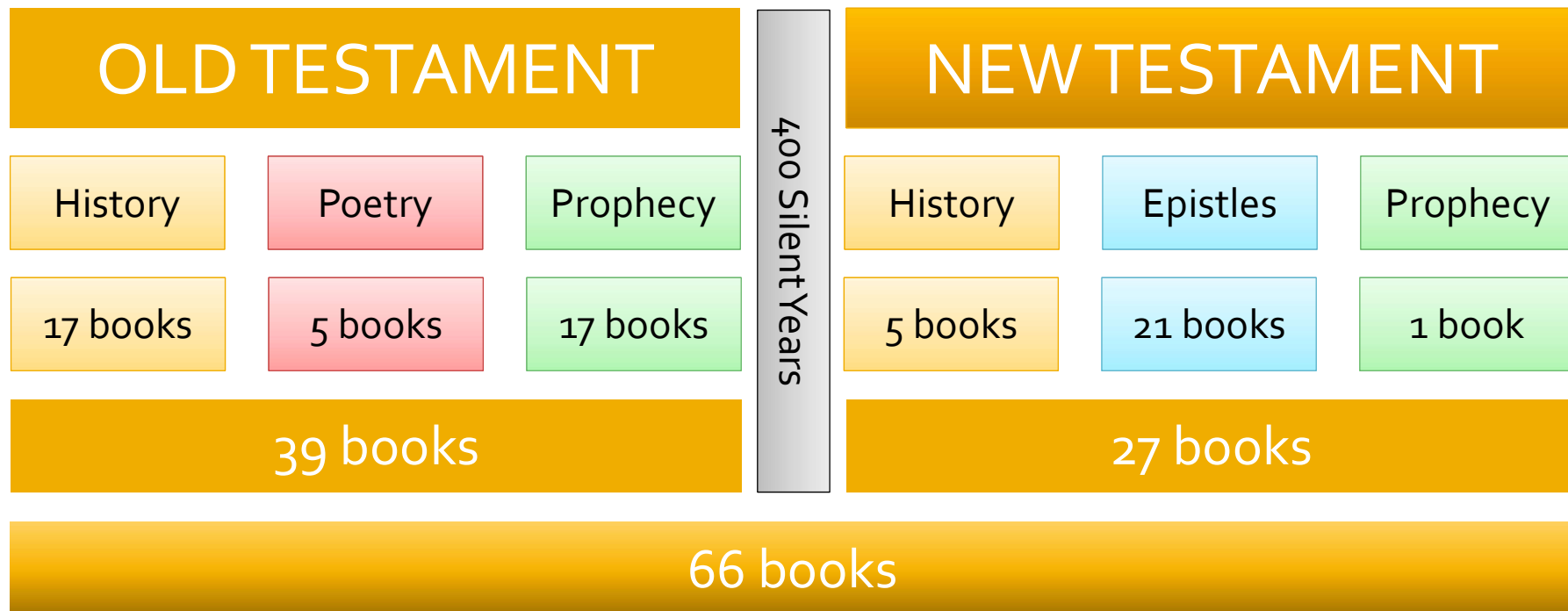
OLD TESTAMENT

- History of God's dealings with Israel
- Written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- Covers 4000 plus years

NEW TESTAMENT

- History of Christ and His Church
- Written in Greek
- Covers about 100 years

Structure of the Bible



8 Periods of Old Testament History

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CREATION	PATRIARCH	EXODUS	CONQUEST	JUDGES	KINGDOM	EXILE	RETURN

Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deut	Joshua	Judges Ruth	Samuel Kings Chronicles	2 Kings 24-25 (Daniel 1-6)	Ezra Nehemiah Esther
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4000+ BC	2090 BC	1446 BC	1400 BC	1350 BC	1050 BC	605 BC	538 BC
Creation	Abrahamic Covenant	Exodus from Egypt	Crossing the Jordan	Another generation arose (Judg. 2:10)	Saul anointed as king	Babylonian captivity	Cyrus decrees return

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7-Exile

History

(Daniel 1-6)

Poetry

Psalms

Prophecy

Lamentations
Daniel 7-12
Ezekiel

The Fall of the Kingdom

- Northern kingdom, 931-722 BC
 - 2 Kings 17
 - Assyria as God's instrument of judgement, vv. 1-6
 - Sin and idolatry as the reason for judgement, vv. 7-23
 - The Assyrian resettlement of Israel, vv. 24-41
- Southern kingdom, 931-586 BC
 - 2 Kings 24
 - Babylon as God's instrument of judgement, vv. 1-19
 - Sin and idolatry as the reason for judgement, v. 20
 - The Babylonian captivity of Judah, 25:8-12

The Babylonian Captivity

- Predicted by Jeremiah
 - Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of the last 5 kings of Judah, a ministry of 42 years
 - Captivity to last 70 years, Jer 25:11; 29:4-14
- Begun by Nebuchadnezzar (605 BC)
 - 2 Chron 36:17-21
- Ended by Cyrus (536 BC)
 - 2 Chron 36:22-23

Chronology of the Captivity

605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem; Daniel taken to Babylon; Start of 70 year captivity
597 BC	Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem again
586 BC	Final fall of Jerusalem; temple destroyed
539 BC	Fall of Babylon; death of Belshazzar; Darius the Mede rules over Babylon, Syria and Palestine
538 BC	Cyrus the Persian proclaims return for Jews
536 BC	Foundation of temple laid; End of 70 year captivity

Daniel in Babylon

- Daniel's victories
 - Under Nebuchadnezzar, 1-4
 - Under Belshazzar, 5
 - Under Darius, 6

Daniel in Babylon

- Daniel's visions
 - The Great Image of world empires, Dan 2
 - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome
 - Stone cut without hands destroys the great image
 - 4 Great Beasts representing world empires, Dan 7
 - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome
 - The Son of Man receives everlasting kingdom from the Ancient of Days
 - The 70 weeks, Dan 9
 - Jerusalem to be rebuilt
 - Messiah will be cut off, but not for Himself
 - Signifies a break in God's dealings with Israel

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8-Return

History

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry

Psalms

Prophecy

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

History of the return

- First return under Zerubbabel, Ezra 1-4
 - Return decreed and described, 1-2
 - Restoration of Temple and worship begun, 3
 - Resistance encountered, 4
- The ministries of Haggai and Zechariah
 - The call to complete the Temple
- The Temple completed, Ezra 5-6
 - Restoration resumed, 5
 - Restoration completed, 6

History of the return

- The Jews in Persia, Esther 1-10
 - The king's decrees, 1-2
 - Haman's hatred of the Jews, 3-7
 - Esther's protection of the Jews, 8-10
- The second return under Ezra, Ezra 7-10
 - Return decreed and described, 7-8
 - Repentance of the remnant, 9-10

History of the return

- Third return under Nehemiah, Nehemiah 1-13
 - Rebuilding the walls, 1-7
 - Return of Nehemiah, 1-2
 - Rebuilding the walls, 3
 - Resistance to the work, 4-6
 - Rebuilding completed, 6-7
 - Rebuilding the people, 8-13
 - Reading the Law, 8
 - Repentance, 9-10
 - Records of the people, 11-12
 - Reforms under Nehemiah, 13

Chronology of the Captivity

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Chronology of the Return

538 BC: Decree of Cyrus

536 BC: First return under Zerubbabel

536 BC: Rebuilding of temple begun

520 BC: Ministry of Haggai & Zechariah

516 BC: Temple completed

483-465 BC: Esther

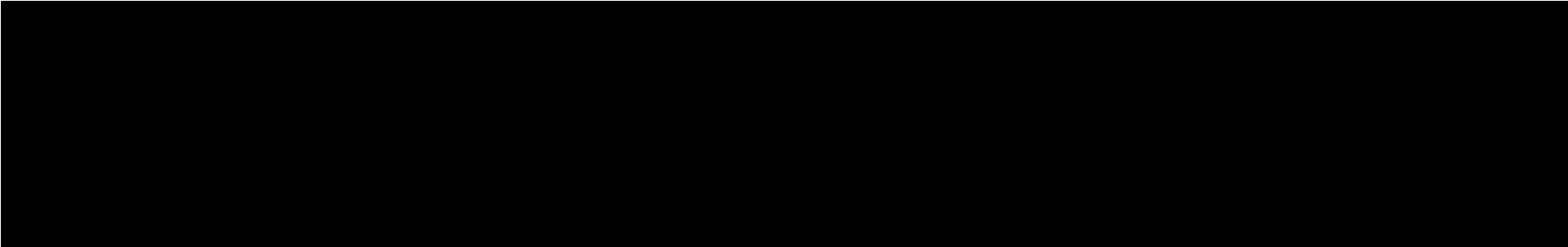
458 BC: Second return under Ezra

445 BC: Third return under Nehemiah; walls rebuilt in 52 days

435-430 BC: Ministry of Malachi

Significance of these eras

- As far back as the days of Moses, God had warned His chosen people that if they were obedient, they would be blessed; but if they were disobedient, He would take them from the land He had promised and scatter them among the nations, and their land would become desolate (Lev. 26:31-35).

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- But He also promised that if they would confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, He would remember His covenant and also remember the land (Lev. 26:40-42).
 - Much later, the prophet Jeremiah prophesied that they would be carried from their land and the period of their captivity would last 70 years (Jer. 25:8-11), so that the land could enjoy its Sabbath rest (2 Chr. 36:20-21).

- In answer to Daniel's prayer of national repentance, God gave Daniel a vision of 70 "weeks" to outline His plans for the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem (Daniel 9).
- He indicated that from the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince would be a period of 69 "weeks" (=483 years).

- Then the Messiah would be cut off, and the city would again be destroyed.
- But He also promised that a final week (7 years) would begin with a prince signing a covenant with Israel for one week.
- But half way through that week, the prince will bring an end to sacrifice and offering and “set up an abomination that causes desolation,” (Dan 9:27, NIV; cp. Mt. 24:15-16).

What about the kingdom?

- Have God's promises failed? No!
 - The second temple was rebuilt
 - The walls were rebuilt
 - The people were restored
 - But while God's hand of preservation is clearly seen, no Jewish king sits on the throne of David
 - However, Daniel's prophecies indicate that the Messiah and the Kingdom will yet come