

Getting the Big Picture: Session 3

# Overview of the Bible

# Structure of the Bible

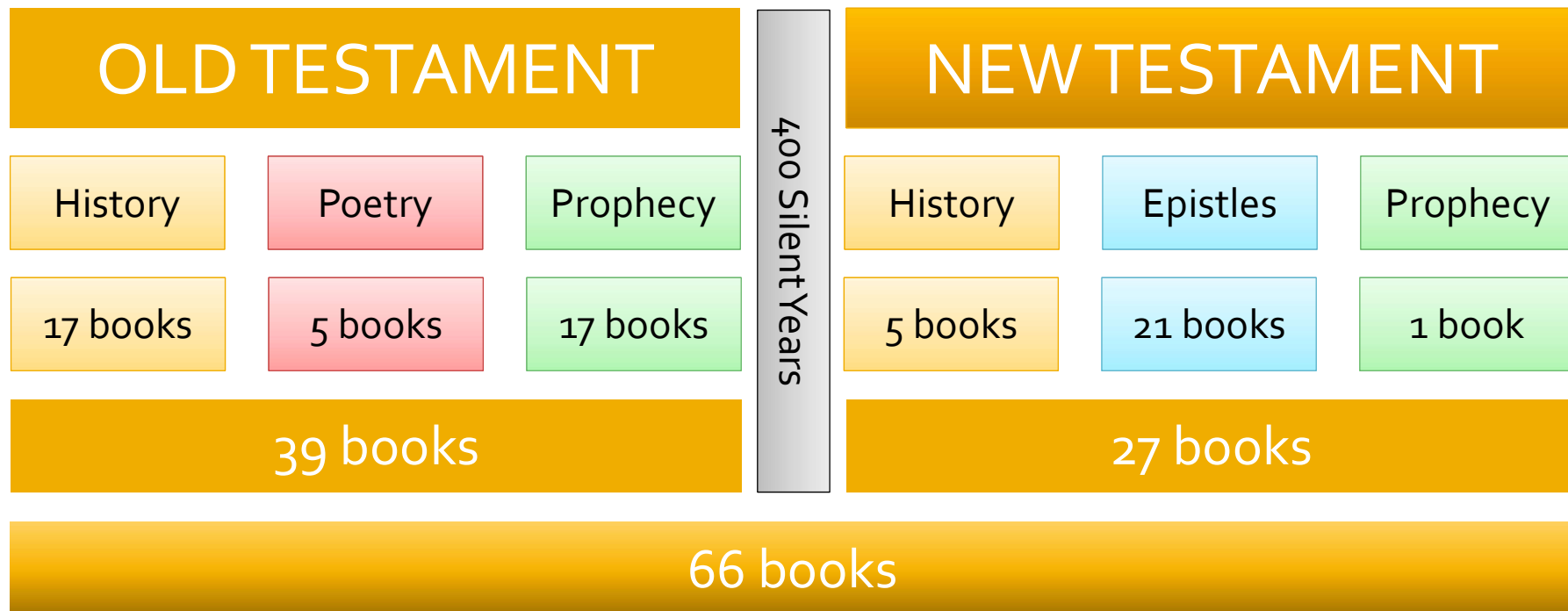
## OLD TESTAMENT

- 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							

# 1-Creation

History

Genesis 1-11

Poetry

Prophecy

# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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	Abrahamic Covenant						

# 2-Patriarchs

History

Genesis 12-50

Poetry

Job

Prophecy



# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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Exodus  
from Egypt

# 3-Exodus

History

Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

Poetry

Prophecy

# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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			Crossing the Jordan				

# 4-Conquest

History

Joshua

Poetry

Prophecy

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				Another generation arose (Josh. 2:10)			

# 5-Judges

History

Judges  
Ruth

Poetry

Prophecy

# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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					Saul anointed as king		

# 6-Kingdom

## History

1 & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings  
1 & 2 Chronicles

## Poetry

Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## Prophecy

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah



# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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						Babylonian captivity	

# 7-Exile

History

(Daniel 1-6)

Poetry

Psalms

Prophecy

Lamentations  
Daniel 7-12  
Ezekiel

# 8 Periods of Old Testament History

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							Cyrus decrees return

# 8-Return

History

Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

Poetry

Psalms

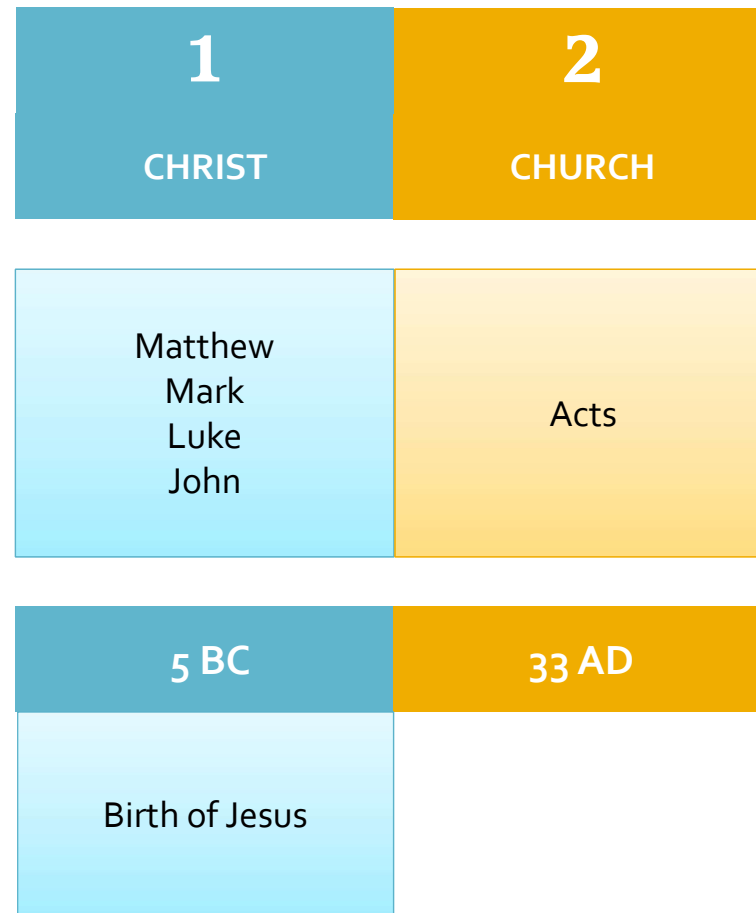
Prophecy

Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

# Between the Testaments

- There is a period of about 400 years between the end of the Old Testament and the start of the New Testament.
- These years are often referred to as “the 400 silent years,” as there was no fresh revelation from God during those years.
- The Jewish people, however, continued to record their history, much of which can be found in the so-called Apocryphal books.

# 2 Periods of New Testament History



# 1-Life of Christ

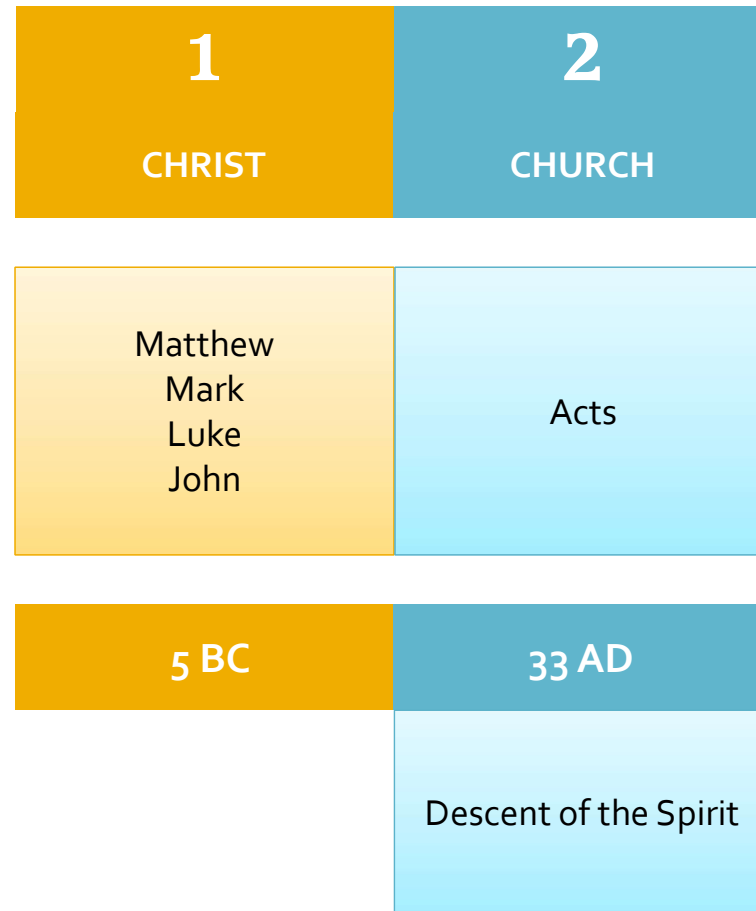
History

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

Epistles

Prophecy

# 2 Periods of New Testament History





# 2-Church of Christ

History

Acts

Epistles

Romans  
1 & 2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
3 Prison Epistles  
1 & 2 Thessalonians  
3 Pastoral Epistles  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1 & 2 Peter  
1, 2 & 3 John  
Jude

Prophecy

Revelation

# The Unity of Scripture

- The Bible was written by nearly 40 authors, in three different languages, on three different continents, over a period of more than 1,500 years.
- Yet it manifests an amazing unity because of the single mind that inspired its writing, the Holy Spirit.

# The Unity of Scripture

- That unity can be demonstrated by studying the themes that are progressively revealed:
  - God
  - Christ/Messiah
  - The biblical covenants
  - The kingdom
  - Redemption

# The Value of God's Word

- *"There are three psalms that focus directly on the Scriptures as the means of living a righteous life before God: Pss 1; 19; and 119. Each of them is followed within the book by a unit that focuses on the coming Messiah: Pss 2; 20; 120-134 (the Psalms of Ascents). It is as if the composer of the book of Psalms were telling the readers that if they search the Scriptures, they will find the Christ."*
  - John Sailhamer, *NIV Compact Bible Commentary*

# Heeding God's Word, Psalm 119

## A. THE BLESSING OF FOCUS, vv. 9-12

- Heeding God's Word results in cleansing, v. 9
- Failure to heed God's Word results in wandering, v. 10
- Memorising God's Word provides protection, v. 11
- Praying to God brings understanding, v. 12

## B. THE BLESSING OF EXPRESSION, vv. 13-14

- Speaking God's Word, v. 13
- Rejoicing in God's Word, v. 14

## C. THE BLESSING OF DETERMINATION, vv. 15-16

- I will meditate on Your Word, v. 15a
- I will contemplate Your ways, v. 15b
- I will delight in Your statutes, v. 16a
- I will not forget Your word, v. 16b

End