

Getting the Big Picture: Session 4

Creation Era

Structure of the Bible

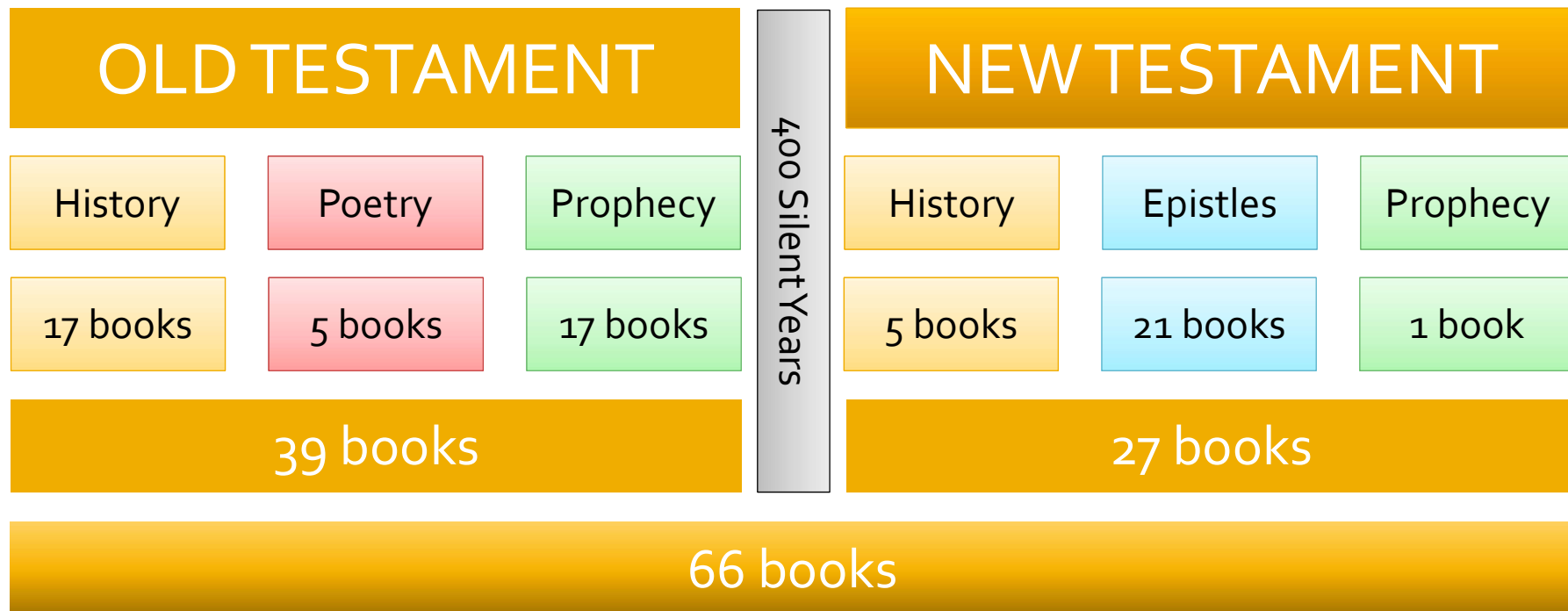
OLD TESTAMENT

- 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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1-Creation

History

Genesis 1-11

Poetry

Prophecy

4 Major events

- Creation, Genesis 1-2
- Fall, Genesis 3-5
- Flood, Genesis 6-9
- Tower of Babel, Genesis 10-11

Creation, Gen. 1-2

- In the beginning, God
 - His eternal nature and power
- And God said
 - His authoritative Word
- And God saw that it was good
 - His goodness and generosity
- And God created... every living thing
 - His life-giving power
- Let us make man in our image and likeness
 - His desire for loving fellowship.

Creation, Gen. 1-2

- Other important themes:
 1. Separation
 - The principles of separation and discernment are demonstrated by God dividing one thing from another.
 2. Blessing
 - God blessed man and beast and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply; and God blessed the 7th day
 3. Dominion
 - God set the two great lights to rule day and night; and God set man to rule over all living creatures

Creation, Gen. 1-2

4. Testing

- God placed man in the garden and commanded that he not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, lest he die

5. Marriage

- God said it was not good for man to be alone and provided him a helper who came from his side, to be at his side in his dominion over the earth

6. Innocence

- They were naked and not ashamed.

The Fall, Gen. 3-5

1. Doubt: "Did God really say..."
2. Denial: "You will not surely die..."
3. Disobedience: She took...she ate...she gave...
4. Disaster: Cursed...

The Fall, Gen. 3-5

5. Death: Separated from God, driven from the garden and access to His presence barred
 - Cain kills Abel
 - Lamech kills a man
 - Genealogy (Gen. 5) rings out the repetition, “and he died...” (8 times; Enoch was not, for God took him)

The Fall, Gen. 3-5

6. Grace

- God could have righteously executed His judgment in physical death that very day
- “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved” them (Ephesians 2:4), provided a substitute to die in their place, an animal sacrificed to cover their shame
- Spiritually, they died immediately. Physically, Adam lived 930 years and then died (Gen. 5:5)

The Fall, Gen. 3-5

7. But with the curse came hope—the promise that the Seed of the woman, a male child, would crush the serpent’s head (3:15)
 - Ever since the Fall, all men have given evidence of either being “seed of the Serpent” or “seed of the woman”
 - Eve hoped at the birth of Cain that he would be the promised Seed; but he proved to be a seed of the Serpent (cp. John 8:44)

The Fall, Gen. 3-5

- At the birth of Seth, hope was renewed, for God had given her another seed
- But the prophecy finds its ultimate fulfilment in the Lord Jesus, whose descent can be traced back through David, through Abraham, through Seth, to Eve
- At the cross, a fatal blow was struck to Satan. His final defeat is sure but still future and will take place at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:7-10).

The Flood, Gen. 6-9

- The cause: corruption, Gen.6:5-7
- The provision: salvation by grace through faith, Gen.6:14-16; cp. Heb. 11:7
- The consequences: global judgment, Gen.7:17-24
- The promise: never again, Gen.8:20-22

Perception

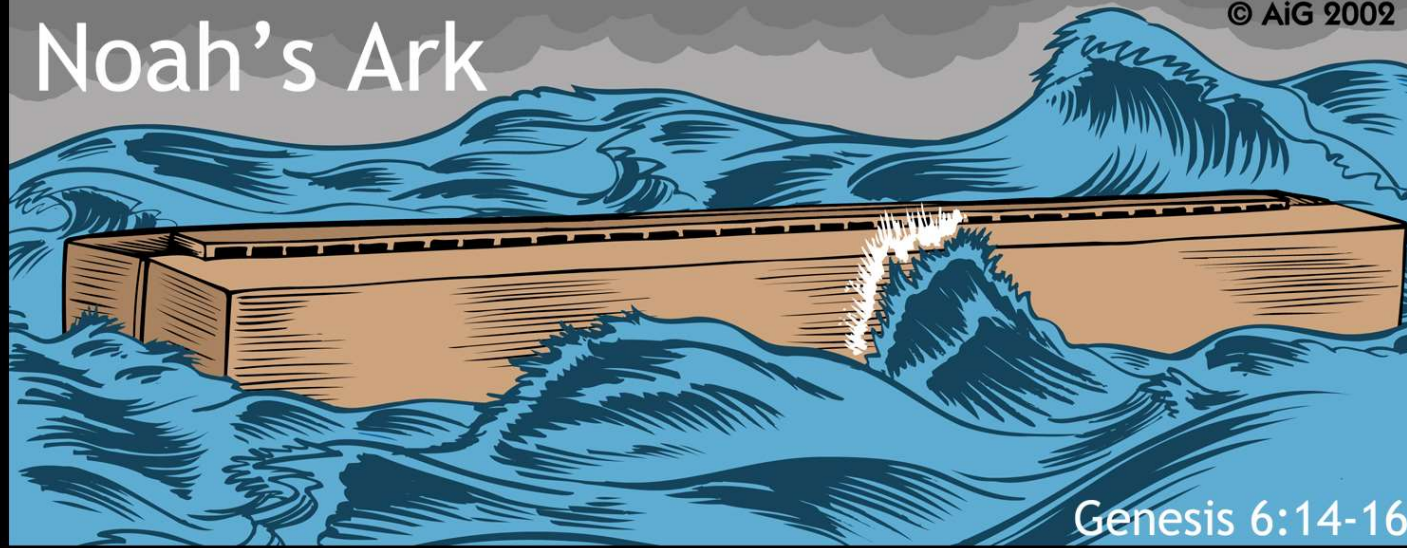


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Reality

Noah's Ark

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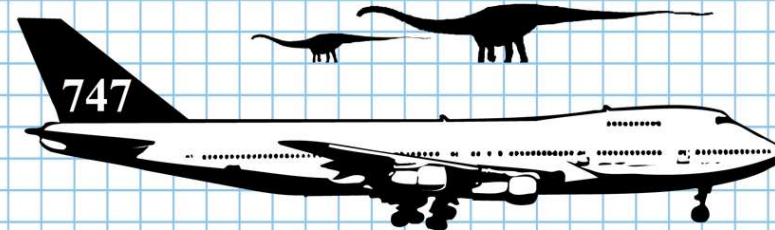
Genesis 6:14-16



73 ft wide (22 m)



44 ft (13 m)
high



The Flood, Gen. 6-9

- God's covenant with Noah
 - God blessed Noah and his sons, 9:1a
 - God set forth His requirements for men in this new world, 9:1b-7
 - God promised to never again destroy the earth with a flood, 9:8-11
 - God gave the rainbow as the sign of His covenant, 9:12-17
- God's curse on Noah's grandson, 9:18-28
 - This is the origin of the Canaanites

The Tower of Babel, Gen. 10-11

- The cause: pride and independence, Gen.11:4
 - The tower was a man-made temple, an attempt to reach heaven apart from the One true God
- The consequence: judgment, Gen. 11:9a
- The result: division of nations, Gen.11:9b
 - (Chapter 10 fits chronologically before chapter 11)

Conclusion

- Remember that Genesis was written by Moses and his first readers would have been the Israelites as they left Egypt and headed for the Promised Land
- These first eleven chapters give a divine perspective on God, sin, judgment, and salvation
- Beginning in chapter 12, we will learn about the promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants forever.