

The Pentateuch (The Law)

1. Genesis: God creates the world and chooses the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) to begin the nation of Israel.
2. Exodus: God delivers the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and gives them the Law at Mount Sinai.
3. Leviticus: God provides instructions on sacrifices, priesthood, and holy living so sinful people can dwell near Him.
4. Numbers: The Israelites wander in the wilderness for forty years due to their disobedience and lack of faith.
5. Deuteronomy: Moses gives a final farewell speech to the new generation, reviewing the Law before they enter the Promised Land.

The Historical Books

6. Joshua: Joshua leads the Israelites in the conquest and division of the land of Canaan.
7. Judges: Israel enters a violent cycle of turning from God, falling into oppression, and being rescued by local leaders called judges.
8. Ruth: A faithful Moabite widow finds redemption through a Jewish kinsman, becoming an ancestor of King David.
9. 1 Samuel: Israel rejects God's leadership and demands a king, transitioning from the time of judges to the reigns of Saul and David.
10. 2 Samuel: King David unites the nation and establishes Jerusalem as the capital, though his reign is marred by personal family tragedy.
11. 1 Kings: Solomon builds the Temple, but after his death, the kingdom splits into a Northern and Southern nation.
12. 2 Kings: Both the Northern and Southern kingdoms spiral into idolatry and are eventually conquered and exiled by foreign empires.
13. 1 Chronicles: A retelling of Israel's history focusing on the spiritual significance of the Davidic line and the Temple worship.
14. 2 Chronicles: This continuation focuses on the kings of Judah and their faithfulness (or lack thereof) leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem.
15. Ezra: The Jewish exiles return to Jerusalem to rebuild the destroyed Temple and restore their spiritual community.
16. Nehemiah: Nehemiah leads the returned exiles in rebuilding the broken walls of Jerusalem despite heavy opposition.
17. Esther: A Jewish queen risks her life to save her people from a genocidal plot in the Persian empire.

Wisdom and Poetry

18. Job: A righteous man suffers intense tragedy and wrestles with the difficult question of why God allows suffering.
19. Psalms: A collection of 150 songs and prayers expressing the full range of human emotion, from deep despair to joyful praise.
20. Proverbs: A collection of short, practical sayings that teach how to live a life of godly wisdom.
21. Ecclesiastes: A philosophical exploration of the meaning of life, concluding that life without God is empty and vain.
22. Song of Solomon: A poetic celebration of love, intimacy, and marriage between a bride and groom.

The Major Prophets

23. Isaiah: The prophet warns of judgment for sin but prophesies extensively about the coming Messiah who will save His people.
24. Jeremiah: Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah warns Judah of the coming Babylonian exile and promises a New Covenant.
25. Lamentations: A collection of five poems mourning the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.
26. Ezekiel: A prophet among the exiles uses strange visions and dramatic acts to preach about God's judgment and future restoration.
27. Daniel: While serving in the courts of Babylon, Daniel remains faithful to God and receives apocalyptic visions of future empires.

The Minor Prophets

28. Hosea: God commands Hosea to marry an unfaithful woman to illustrate God's faithful love for unfaithful Israel.
29. Joel: A locust plague is used as a metaphor to warn of the coming "Day of the Lord" and the need for repentance.
30. Amos: A shepherd preaches against the social injustice and religious hypocrisy of the Northern Kingdom.
31. Obadiah: A short prophecy pronouncing judgment on the nation of Edom for rejoicing in Israel's suffering.
32. Jonah: A reluctant prophet runs from God but eventually preaches repentance to the wicked city of Nineveh.
33. Micah: This book exposes corruption in Judah and predicts that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.
34. Nahum: A prophecy declaring the final, permanent destruction of the wicked city of Nineveh.
35. Habakkuk: The prophet questions God's justice in using the wicked Babylonians to punish Israel, ultimately learning to trust God's sovereignty.
36. Zephaniah: A warning that the "Day of the Lord" will bring judgment on Judah and surrounding nations, followed by restoration.
37. Haggai: The prophet urges the returned exiles to stop delaying and finish rebuilding God's Temple.
38. Zechariah: Through a series of visions, Zechariah encourages the people to complete the Temple and looks forward to the Messiah.
39. Malachi: The final prophet confronts the people's spiritual apathy and predicts the coming of Elijah to prepare the way for the Lord.