

# Diocese of Boise Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUPPORTS THE MISSION OF THE DIOCESE OF BOISE BY ASSISTING THE BISHOP IN CARRYING OUT HIS ROLE AS THE CHIEF CATECHIST OF THE DIOCESE.



## Advanced Catechist Certification Survey of Old Testament

Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

# OUTCOMES FOR SURVEY OF OLD TESTAMENT

- Familiarize oneself with the Old Testament in order to cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Scriptures and biblical study.
- Understand the impact of geography and history on the forming of the Israelite community and its history.
- Understand the construction of the Pentateuch.
- Explain how the Old Testament is not a history book but a profound story of God's relationship with God's Chosen People.
- Identify and understand the meaning and role of select "major" and "minor" prophets.
- Understand the factors that caused the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile.



# OPENING PRAYER

Lord, inspire us to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night.

We beg you to give us real understanding of what we need, that we in turn may put its precepts into practice.

Yet, we know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love.

So we ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into our hearts.

Amen.



INTRODUCING THE OLD TESTAMENT

# CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

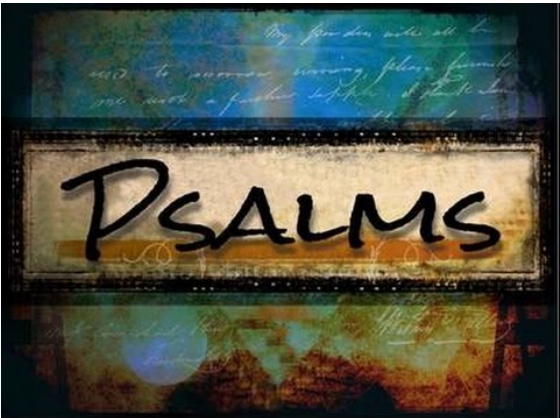
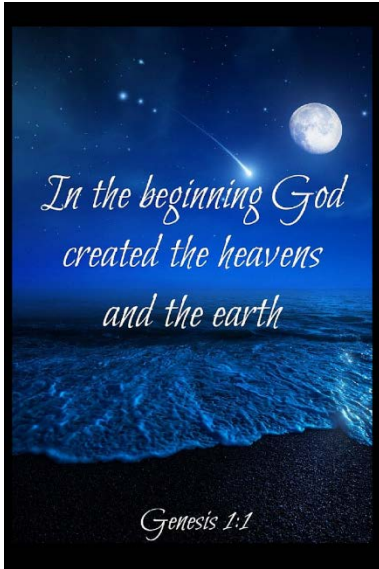
*“The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked.”*

*“Indeed, the economy of the Old Testament was deliberately so oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, redeemer of all men. Even though they contain matters imperfect and provisional, the books of the Old Testament bear witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God’s saving love: these writings are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way.”*

*“Christians venerate the Old Testament as true Word of God. The Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void.”*

*(CCC 121-123 from Dei Verbum)*

# THE GREAT THEMES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



6:3 - "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

41:4 - I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.

40:5 - Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

35:6 - The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. And then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the mute shall shout for joy. They shall see the LORD's great glory.

43:7 - Everyone who is thirsty shall come to the waters, and he who wills, let him take the water of life freely.

1:18 - Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow.

53:5 - He was crushed for our iniquities; he was wounded for our transgressions; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

9:6 - For a child will be born to us.

1:11 - I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats; I am pleased in righteous men. Offer the sacrifice of praise; that is the best. Give heed, O LORD, to the voice of my prayer. Do not be deaf to my cry for help, for my voice is heard in heaven, and my prayer is before you. Do not let your eyes be closed against my tears, for they are poured out before you, and you have said, 'I have heard.' Do not let your ears be deaf to my voice, for I have called, and you have answered, 'I have heard.' Do not let your heart be like ivory, and do not let your ears be like brass, for you have heard my voice. Do not let your eyes be closed against my tears, for they are poured out before you, and you have said, 'I have heard.' Do not let your ears be deaf to my voice, for I have called, and you have answered, 'I have heard.' Do not let your heart be like ivory, and do not let your ears be like brass, for you have heard my voice.

1:1 - The sword of the LORD is sheathed, the sign of Amnion concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

1:1 - Then a savior will spring from the stem of Jesse.

45:22 - Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

40:28 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

66:1 - Thus says the LORD, 'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.'

40:18 - To whom then will you liken God?

37:16 - O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim: You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

57:15 - the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy.

2:22 - Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; For why should he be exalted, since he has no understanding? For why should he be exalted, since he does not know? For why should he be exalted, since he does not see? For why should he be exalted, since he does not understand? For why should he be exalted, since he does not hear? For why should he be exalted, since he does not smell? For why should he be exalted, since he does not touch? For why should he be exalted, since he does not feel? For why should he be exalted, since he does not see? For why should he be exalted, since he does not hear? For why should he be exalted, since he does not smell? For why should he be exalted, since he does not touch? For why should he be exalted, since he does not feel?

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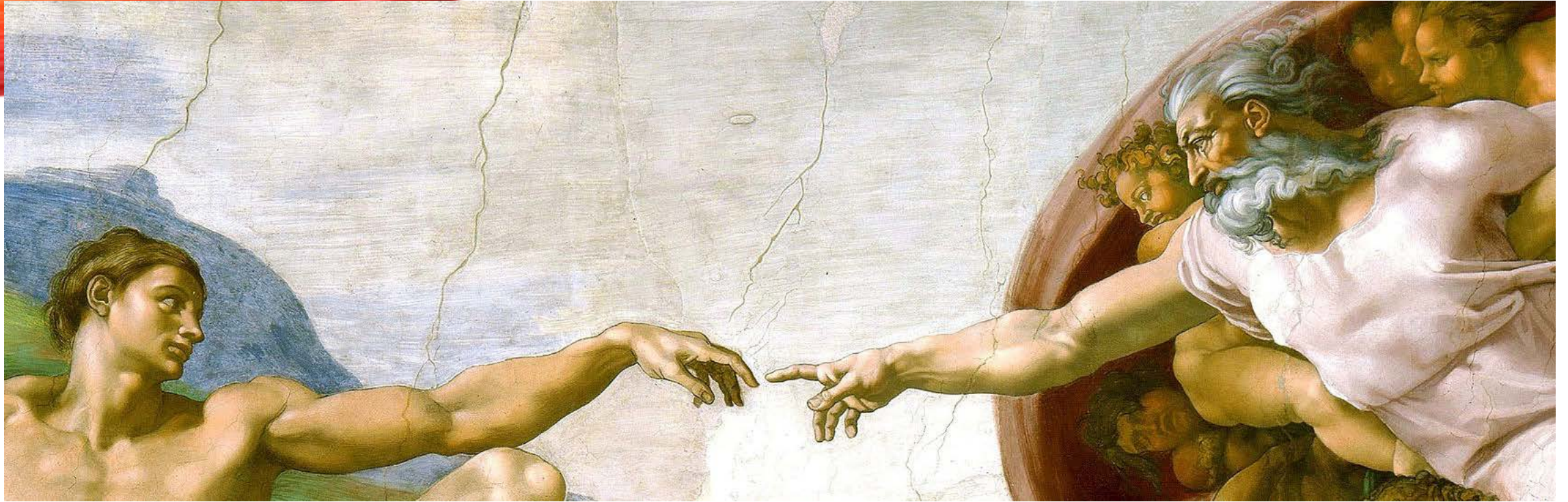
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THE PERSON OF GOD

# GOD IS ONE

- The most important theme.
- A world of many competing gods.
- A single, loving, divine being.
- God's role in human history.
- The Transcendence of God.

"Here. O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5





# GOD ACTIVE IN HISTORY

- God as an actor in history.
- History is not neutral.
- History is ever new.
- Salvation History.
- God as Liberator and Savior.
- The New Testament proclamation of Jesus.







PRAAYER



# COVENANT "BERIT"

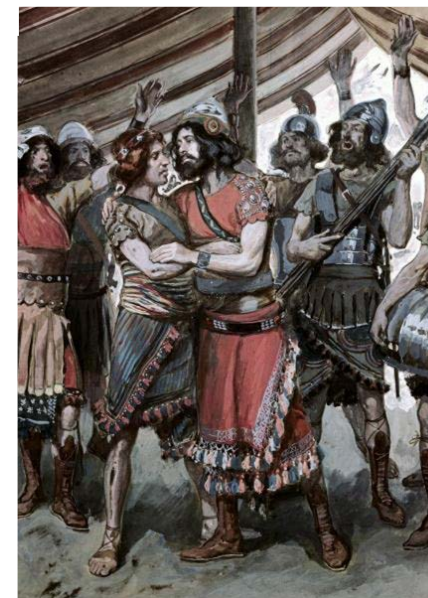
*"Come, now, let us make a covenant, you and I; and it will be a treaty between you and me." Genesis 31:44*

*"Jonathan and David made a covenant, because Johnathan loved him as his very self." 1 Samuel 18:3*

*"Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your own people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:18*

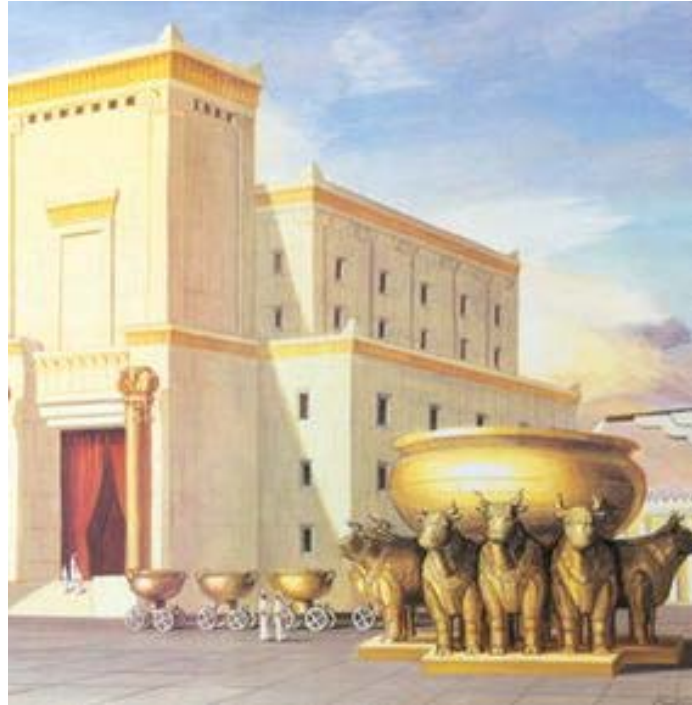
- An unbreakable covenant-union with their God.
- God's love and mercy for them.
- Commandments to guide their daily life.
- Worship, fidelity, and obedience is owed to God.
- Marked by the sign of that covenant bond.

*"So the Lord passed before him and proclaimed: The Lord, the Lord, a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity, continuing his love for a thousand generations." Exodus 34:6-7*



# TRADITION

- Ancient traditions.
- Biblical revelation within and beyond the structures of society.
- Survival in the face of trial.
- The Torah.



# MERCY AND JUSTICE

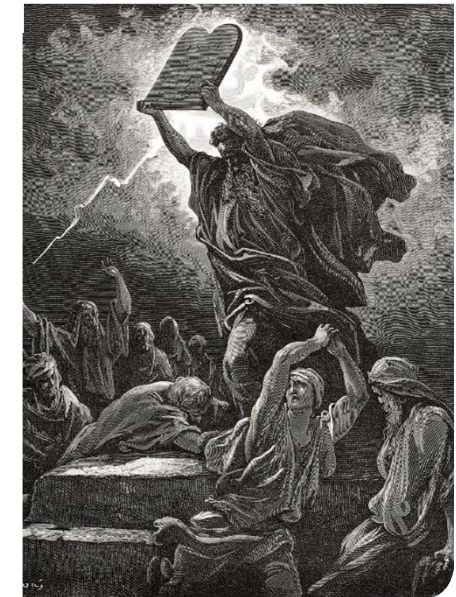
*"Slow to anger, rich in kindness."*

*"Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness."*

*"Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."*

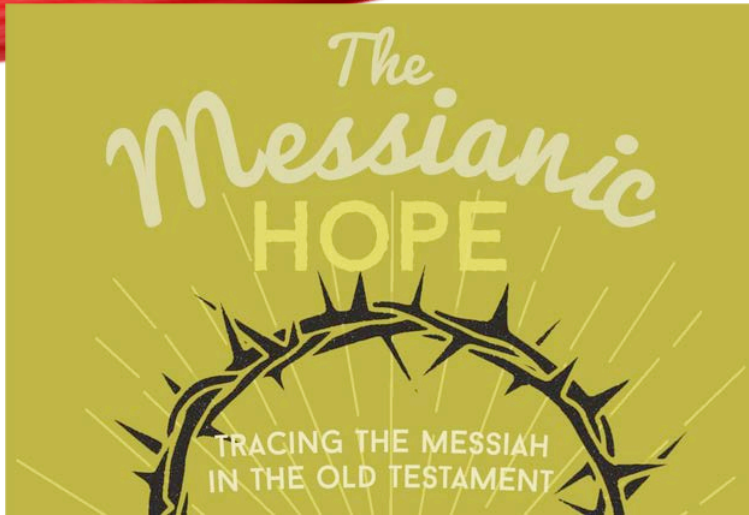


The prophets as the ethical watchdogs.





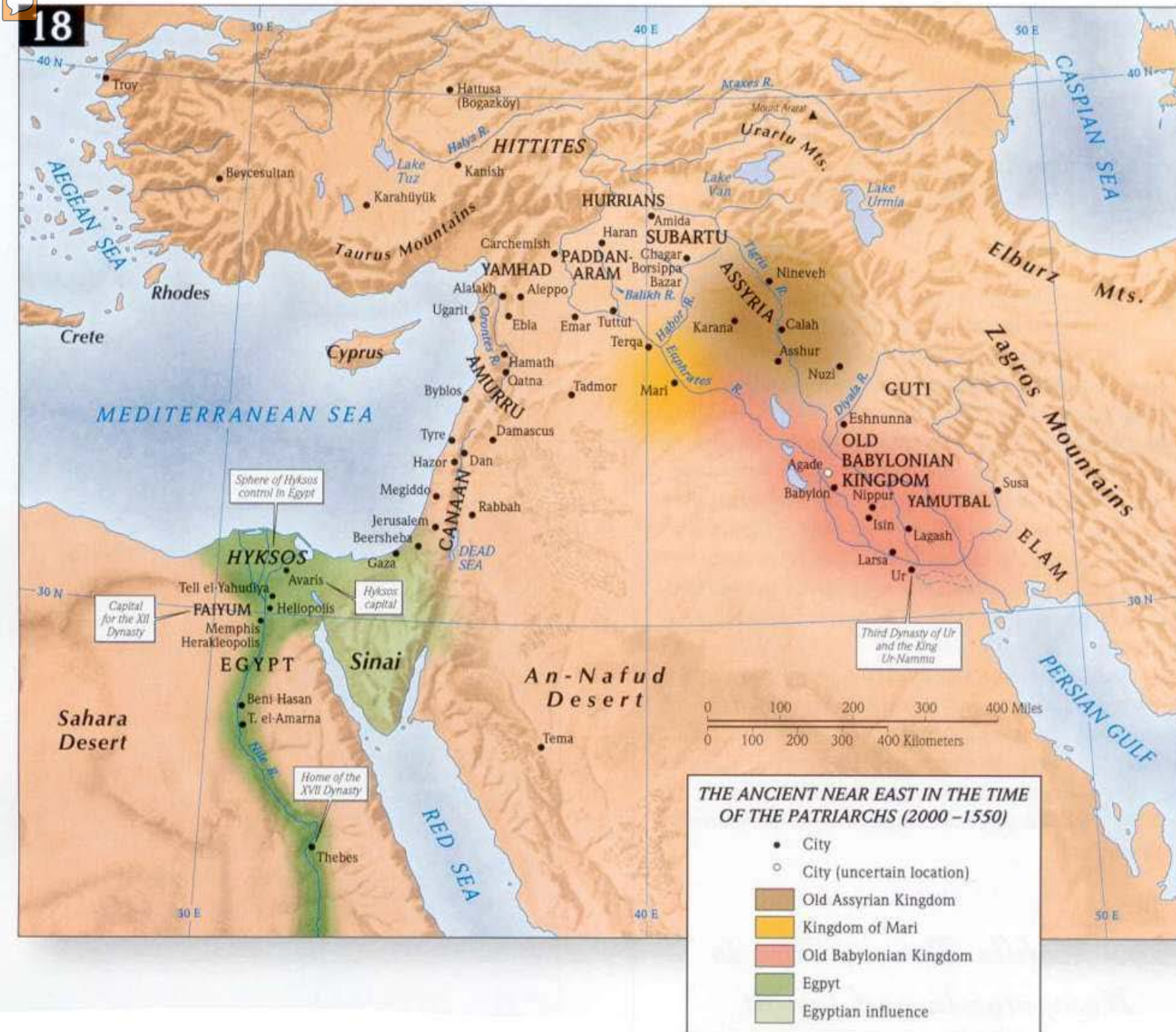
# HOPE AND GOODNESS OF CREATION



- Hope in the future.
- Hope in the midst of crisis.
- Hope of a Messiah.
- Hope in the knowledge of a good God.

*"God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good."*

**Hope in an Afterlife**



# HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE ISRAELITE PEOPLE

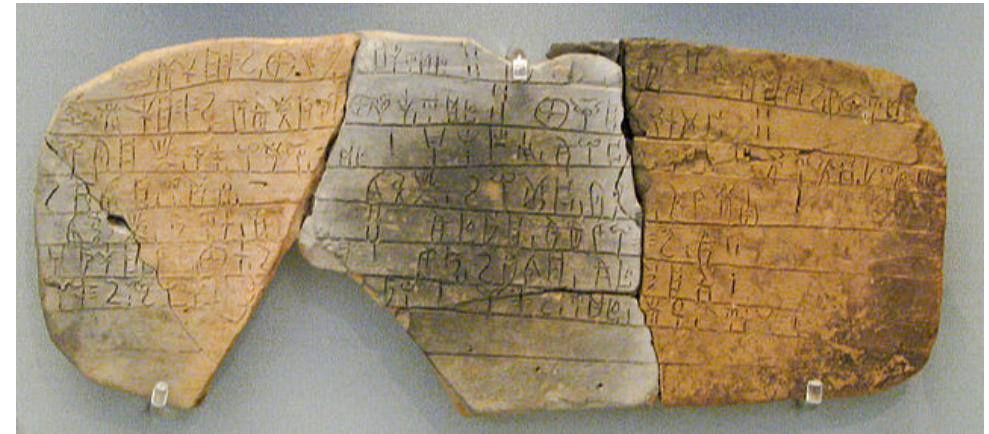


# DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

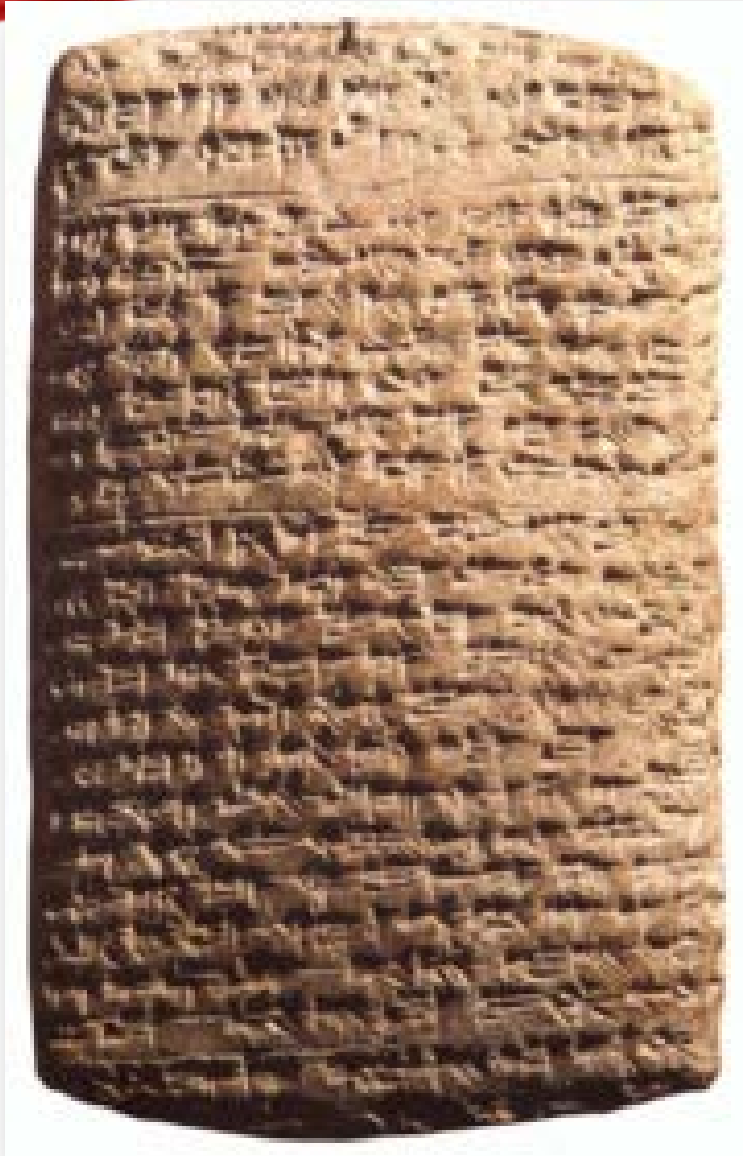


# MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TIME PERIODS

25,000 to 3400	B.C.	Stone Age
3400 to 1200	B.C.	Bronze Age
1200 to 539	B.C.	Iron Age
539 to 323	B.C.	Persian Period
323 to 63	B.C.	Hellenistic Period
63 to 324	A.D.	Roman Period
324 to 630	A.D.	Byzantine Period



# LANGUAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



# THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST



# SUMERIANS

- First Major Civilization
- Large irrigation projects
- Walled cities
- Rich literature
- Tools of Civilization
  - Large work forces
  - More Social organization
  - Invented writing and mathematics
  - Developed the cartwheel and potter's wheel
  - Formal schools
  - Governing systems
  - Quality art and metalwork



# AKKADIAN-SPEAKING CULTURES

- End of the Sumerian Power
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Syria
- The Philistines
- The Hittites
- Persians



# LITERARY TOOLS FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

- Textual Criticism
  - “...the text be restored as perfectly as possible, be purified from the corruptions due to the carelessness of the copyists and be freed, as far as may be done, from glosses and omissions.” Pope Pius XII
- Modern translations are generally quite accurate.
- Annotated and Study Bibles.
- Biblical Commentaries.



# THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE AND STORY



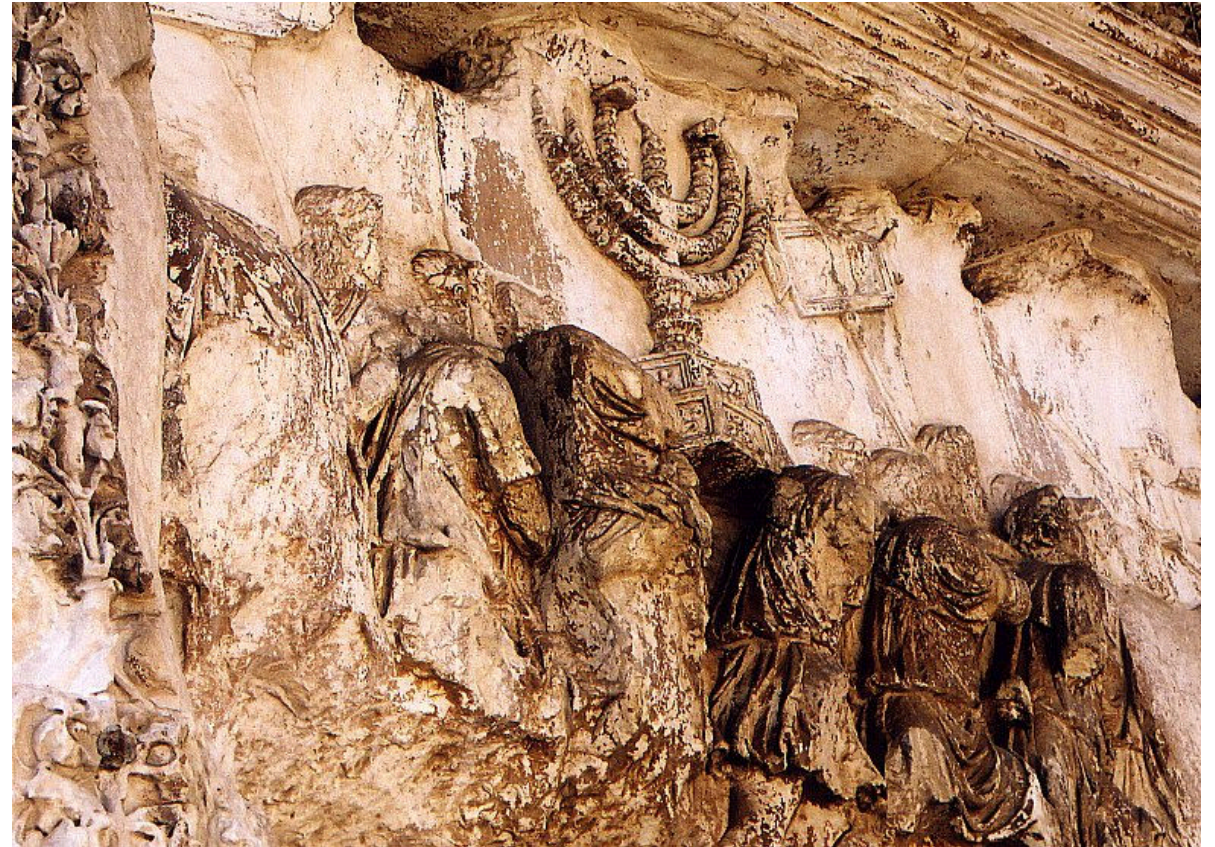
Oral  
Tradition



# BIBLICAL CRITICISM

*“God, in many and various ways, has spoken to our ancestors by the prophets, but now, in this final time, has spoken to us through his Son.”*

*Letter to the Hebrews*



# SOURCE CRITICISM

- Literary Criticism
- Looks at repetitions and inconsistencies
- Earlier documents
  - Other writers?
  - Other editors?



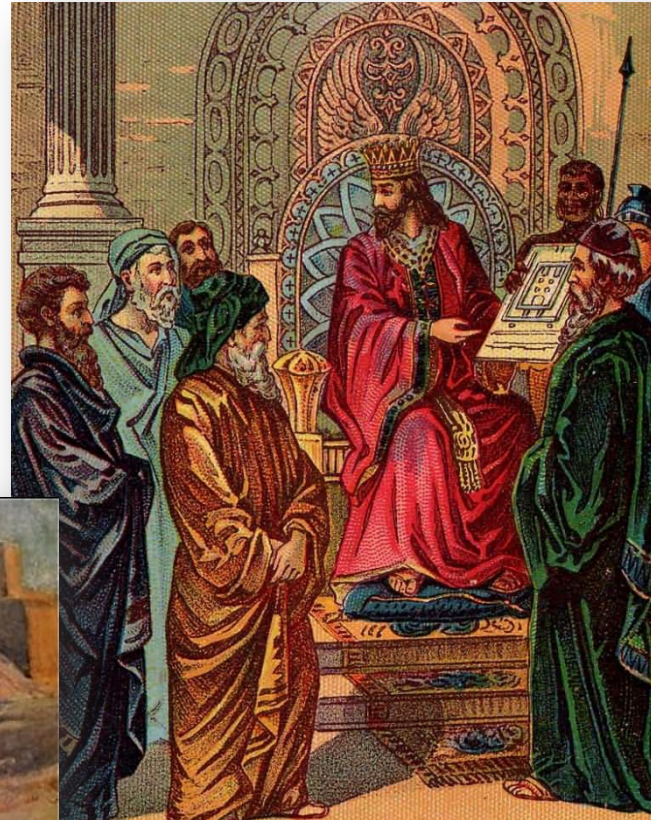
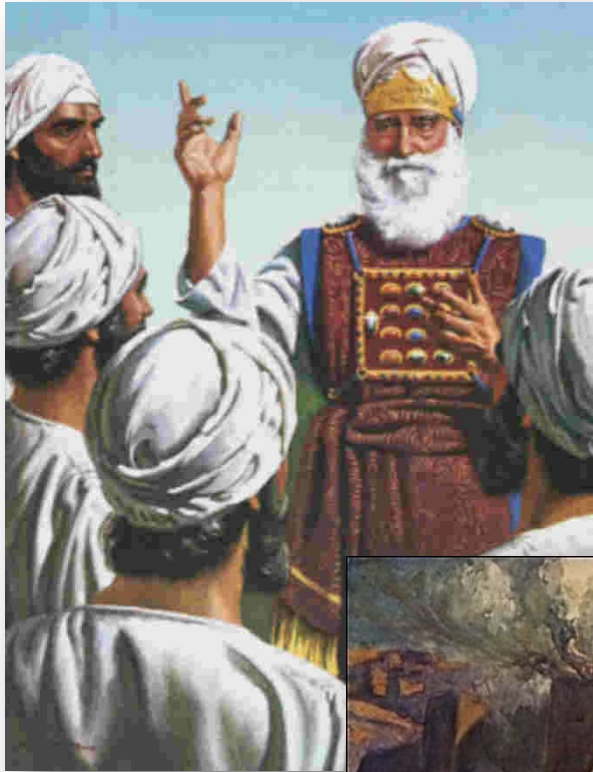


# FORM CRITICISM



- Who is speaking?
- Who is the audience?
- What is being said?
- Where is it said?
- What is the purpose?
  - Defining the unit.
  - Naming the form used.
  - Describing its setting in life.
  - Identifying its purpose.

# TRADITION HISTORY CRITICISM



# THE CANON OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- 46 Books in the Old Testament
- The Law or *Torah*
- The Prophets or *Nevi'im*
- The Writings or *Ketuvim*
- *TaNak*
- As early as 130 BC
- Historical Books
- The Septuagint

The Old Testament

The Pentateuch

The Historical Books

The Wisdom Books

The Prophetic Books



THE HISTORY OF  
OLD TESTAMENT

*Israel*

# 3000 BC–2000 BC GROWTH OF SEMITIC CIVILIZATION



# 1900 BC–1300 BC THE PATRIARCHAL PERIOD





1300 BC–1250 BC  
THE EXODUS AND THE MARCH TO  
CANAAN



1250 BC–1020 BC  
THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES



1020 BC– 930 BC  
THE UNITED MONARCHY OF DAVID  
AND SOLOMON



930 BC–722 BC  
THE EMPIRE OF DAVID AND SOLOMON  
SPLITS



722 BC–586 BC  
JUDAH ALONE



585 BC–539 BC  
BABYLONIAN EXILE



# 539 BC–332 BC THE POST-EXILE PERIOD



332 BC–175 BC  
GREEK RULE

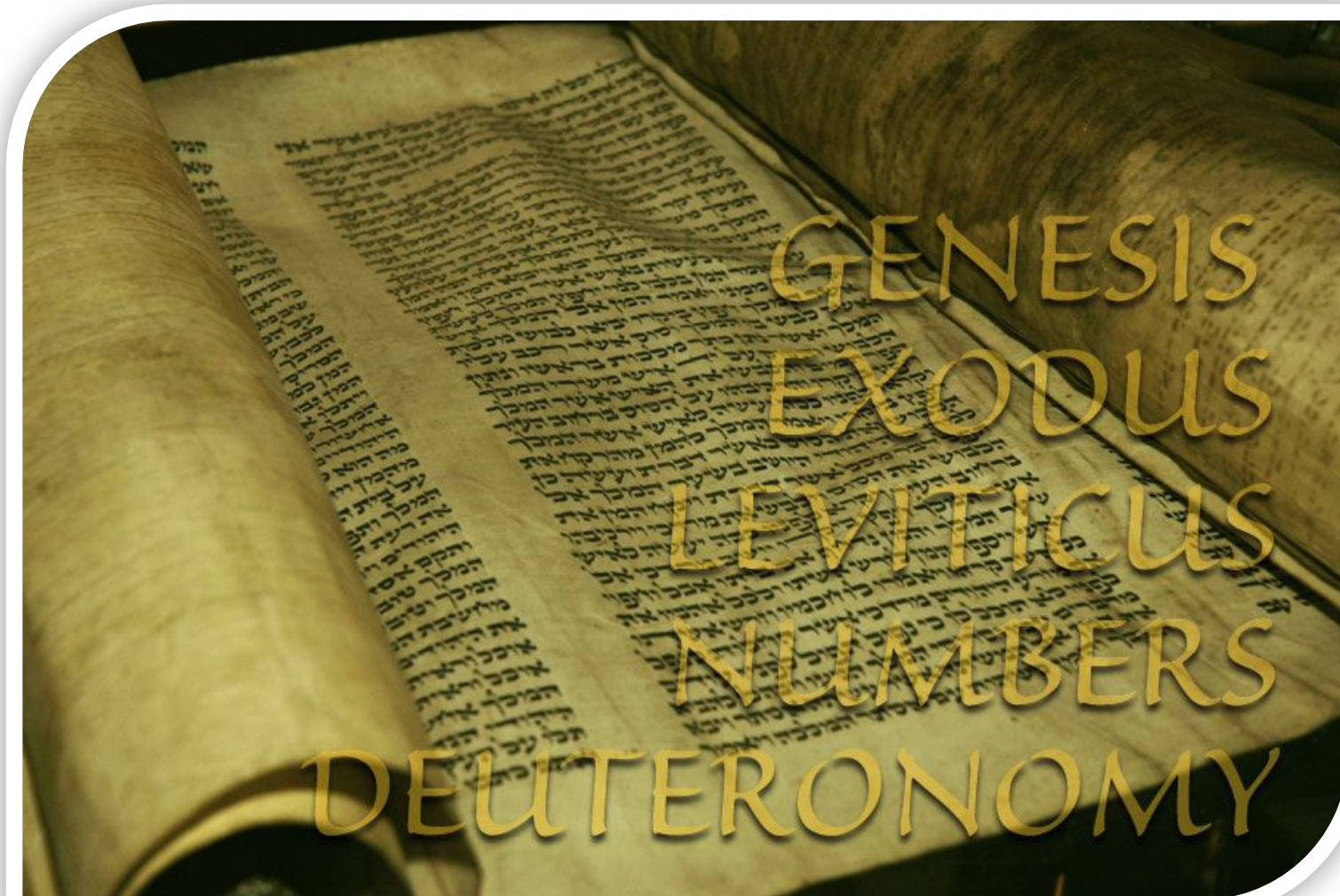




175 BC–1 BC  
THE MACCABEES



# THE PENTATEUCH



# THE STRUCTURE OF THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis  
1 – 11  
Human  
Origins

Genesis  
12 – 50  
The  
Remote  
Patriarchs

Exodus  
1 – 18  
God Saves  
His People

Exodus 19 - 24  
Leviticus 1 - 27 &  
Numbers 1 – 10  
The Covenant & Law  
for God's People

Numbers  
11 – 36  
Journey to  
the Land

Deuteronomy  
1 – 34  
Final warnings  
of Moses

*Divine  
Blessing,  
Sin,  
Punishment  
& Mercy.*

*Divine  
Election,  
Promise of a  
Son, Land &  
Greatness.*

*God saves  
Israel and  
begins  
fulfillment of  
the promise of  
land.*

*The Covenant  
binds God and  
people forever &  
establishes Israel's  
way of life.*

*God leads  
the people to  
the land but  
punishes any  
rebellion.*

*Moses' final  
warnings to  
obey the  
covenant or  
lose the land.*

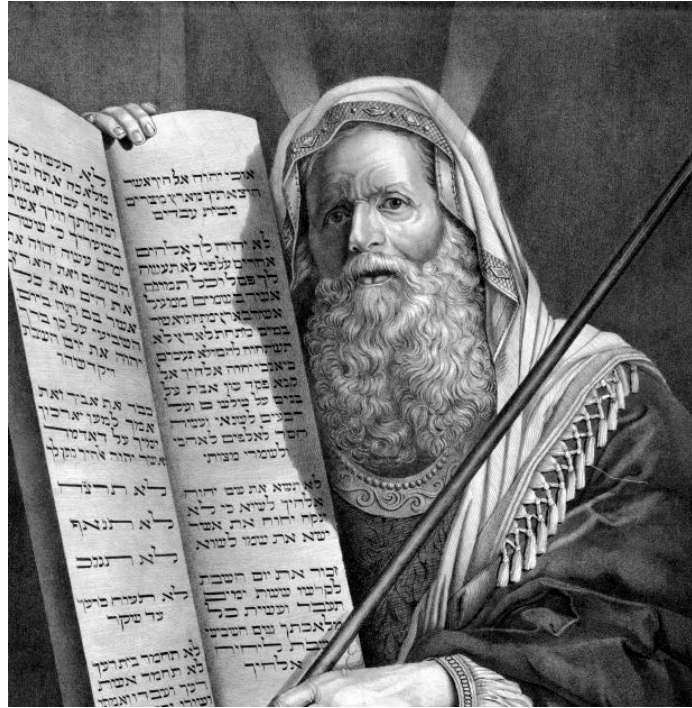
# MOSES AS THE AUTHOR

- *"...words of Moses spoken beyond the Jordan." Deut. 1:1*
- *"...book of Moses." 2 Chr. 25:4*
- *"For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"*
  - *Jn 46-47*



# JEPD THEORY

- Redaction – an edited version
- Documentary Hypothesis
  - ▶ The Yahwist (abbreviated J from the German word Jahwist for Yahwist)
  - ▶ The Elohist (abbreviated E)
  - ▶ The Deuteronomist (abbreviated D)
  - ▶ The Priestly (abbreviated P)





# THE YAHWIST (J)



- God is referred to as Yahweh. (translated as Lord in English)
- The holy mountain is called Sinai.
- God humanized – given human characteristics and feelings (He walks in the garden and talks to Adam).
- The natives of Palestine are called Canaanites.
- Examples: the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis and the Ten Plagues in Exodus.

## THE ELOHIST (E)

- Emphasis on prophecy.
- God is referred to Elohim (“Lord God” in English).
- The holy mountain is Horeb.
- The natives of Palestine are called Amorites.
- God speaks in dreams.
- Examples: the sacrifice of Isaac in Genesis and the Ten Commandments in Exodus.



*Elohim*

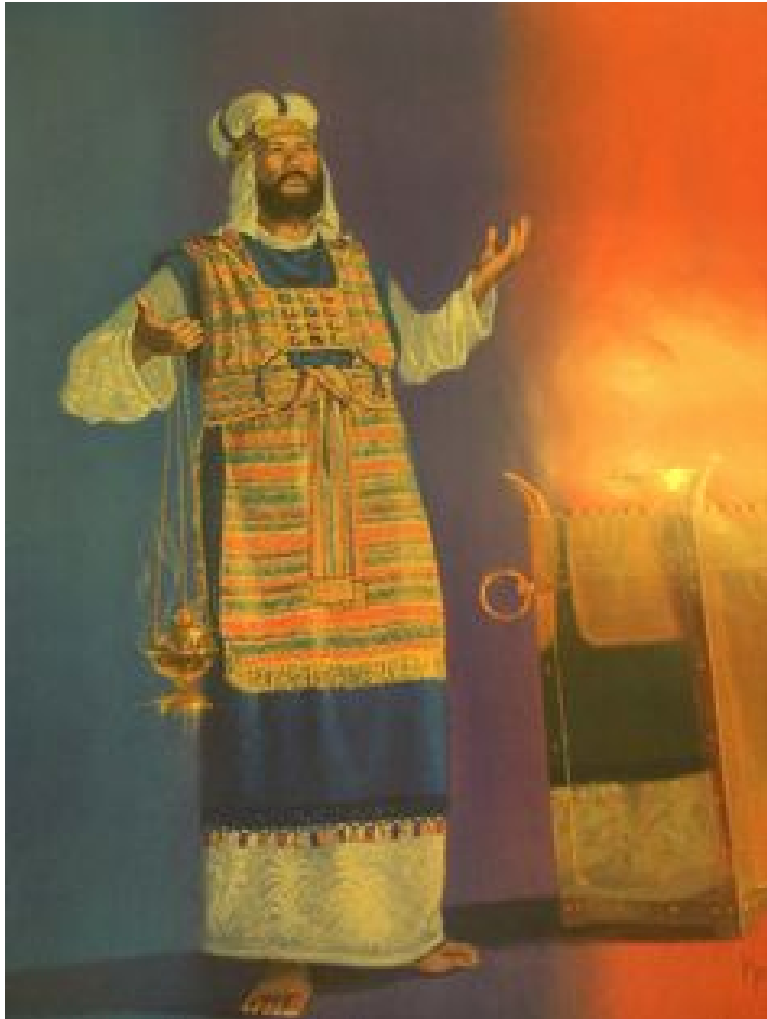
# THE DEUTERONOMIST (D)

- A retelling of the stories of Exodus through Numbers.
- Deuteronomy interprets Israel's history as a cycle of God's forgiveness and renewal of the Covenant, followed by failure to live the Covenant, followed by God's punishment.
- Emphasizes the Israelites' covenant obligation.
- The holy mountain is Horeb.
- Emphasis on law and morals (Deuteronomy means "Second Law").
- Example: the Book of Deuteronomy.



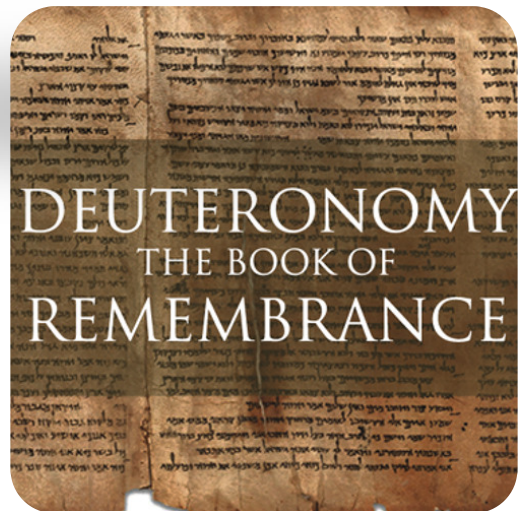


# THE PRIESTLY (P)

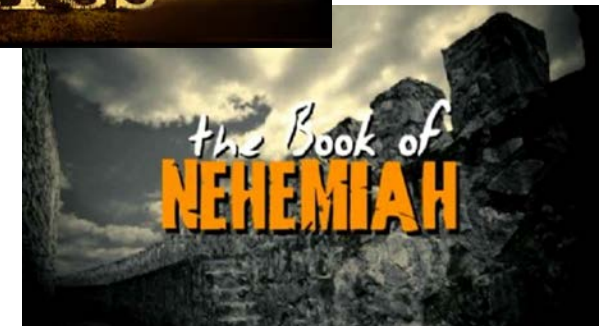
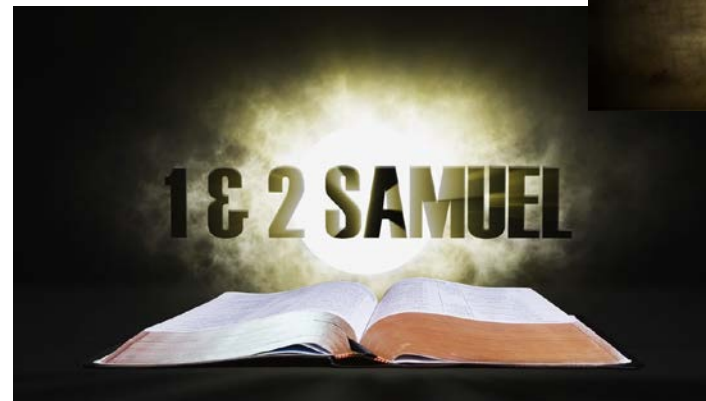
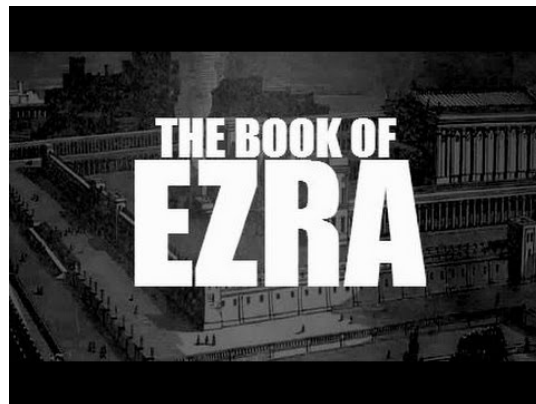
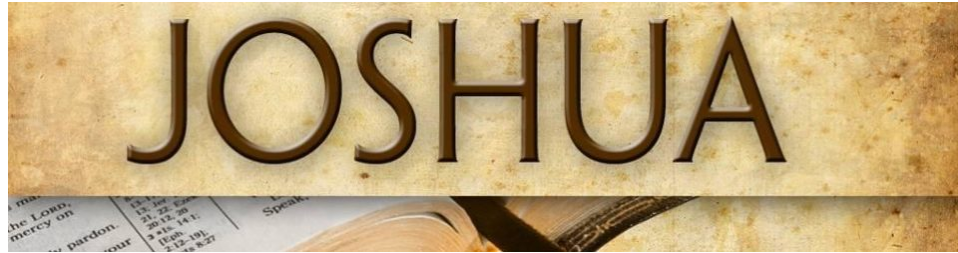


- Emphasis on Temple cult and worship.
- Emphasis on the Southern Kingdom of Judah (the location of Jerusalem and the Temple).
- Emphasis on the role of the Levites, the priestly class or tribe.
- Emphasis on genealogies and tribal lists, which established the different groups in Israelite society, including the priestly class.
- Emphasis on order and the majesty of God and creation.
- Example: the first Creation story in Genesis and the Book of Leviticus.

# THE FOUR SOURCES COMBINED



# THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

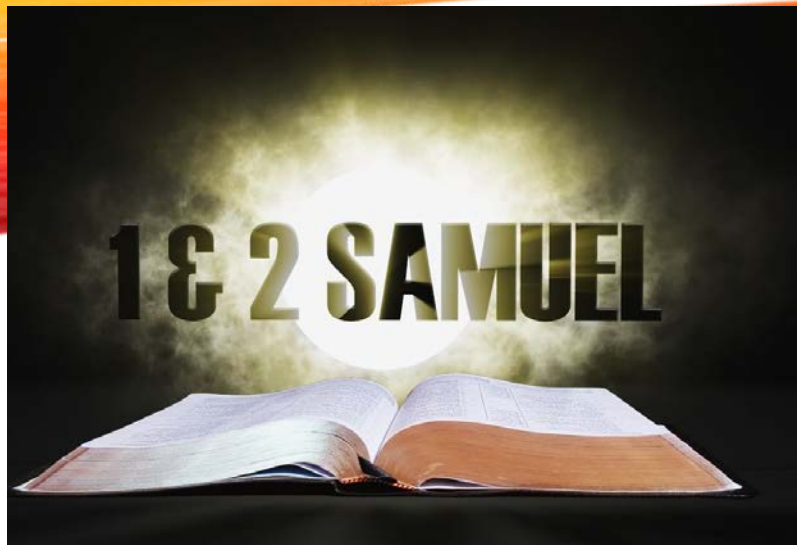


# JOSHUA



# Judges





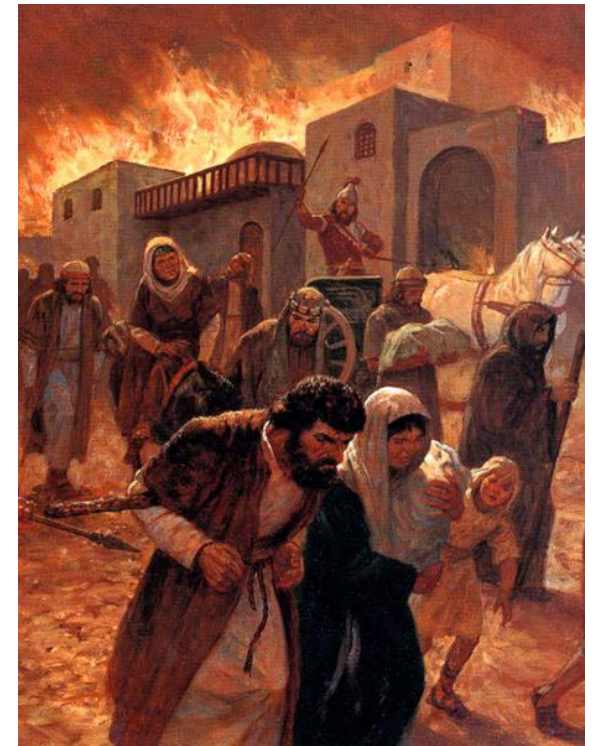
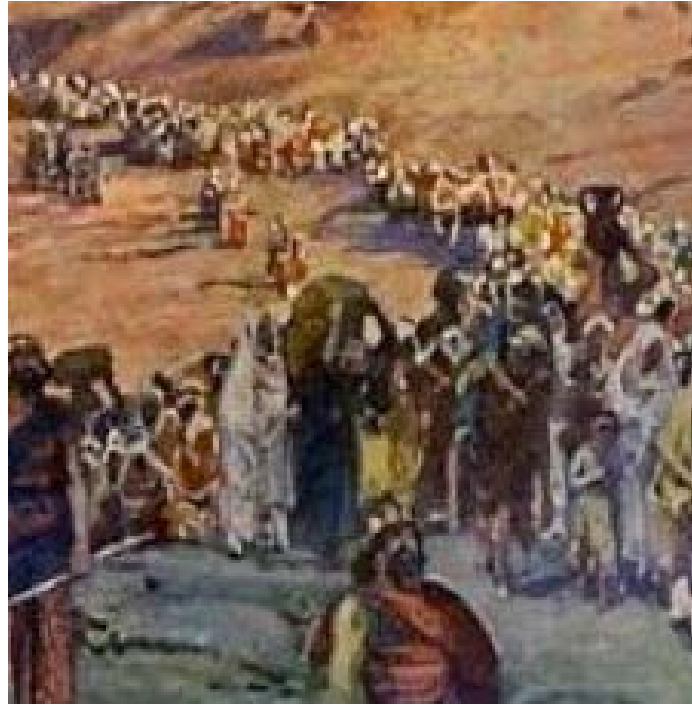
*"At this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin whom you are to anoint as ruler of my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines I have looked upon my people; their cry has come to me." 1 Samuel 9:16*



# A DIVIDED KINGDOM AND EXILE

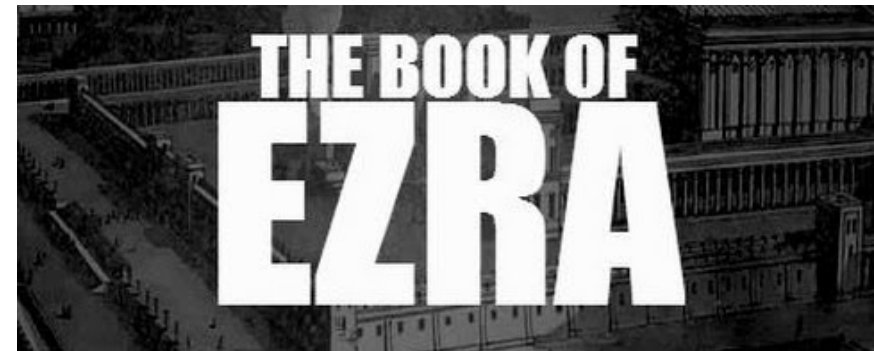
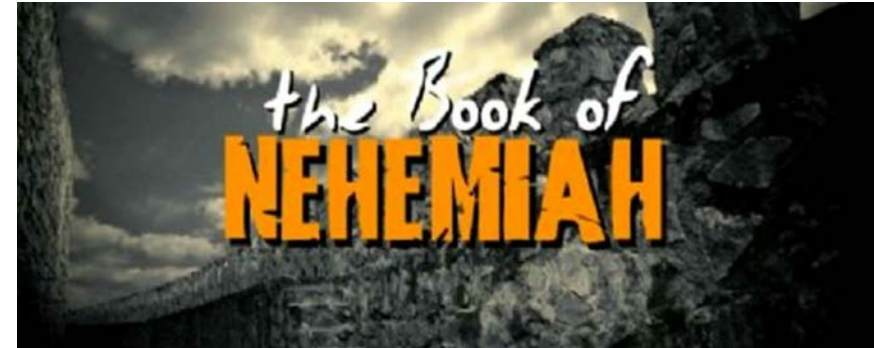
- Rehoboam in the South & Jeroboam in the North
- A divided kingdom and a period of rivalry.
- Unfaithfulness of the Kings.
- Assyrian defeat of the Northern Kingdom, Israel (722 BC)
- Babylonian defeat of the Southern Kingdom, Judah (597-582 BC)

*"If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I am giving you today, loving the Lord your God, and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and ordinances, you will live and grow numerous, and the Lord, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. If however, your heart turns away and you do not obey, but are led astray and bow down to other gods and serve them, I tell you today that you will certainly perish, you will not have a long life on the land which you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess." Deut 30:16-18*



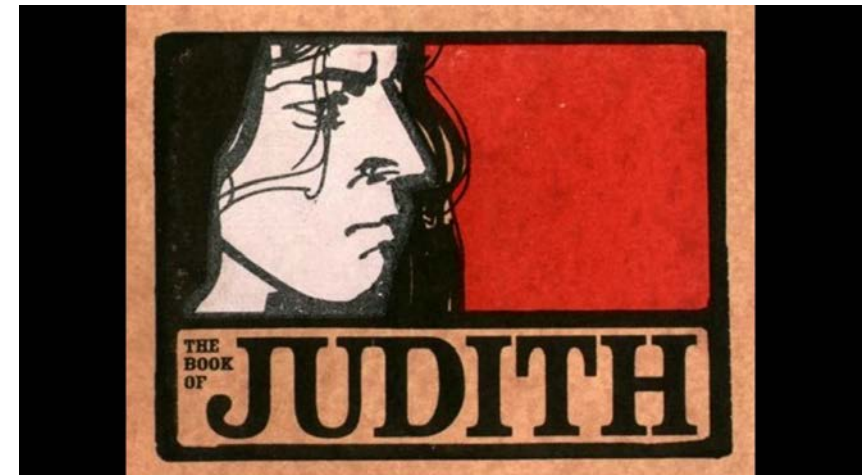
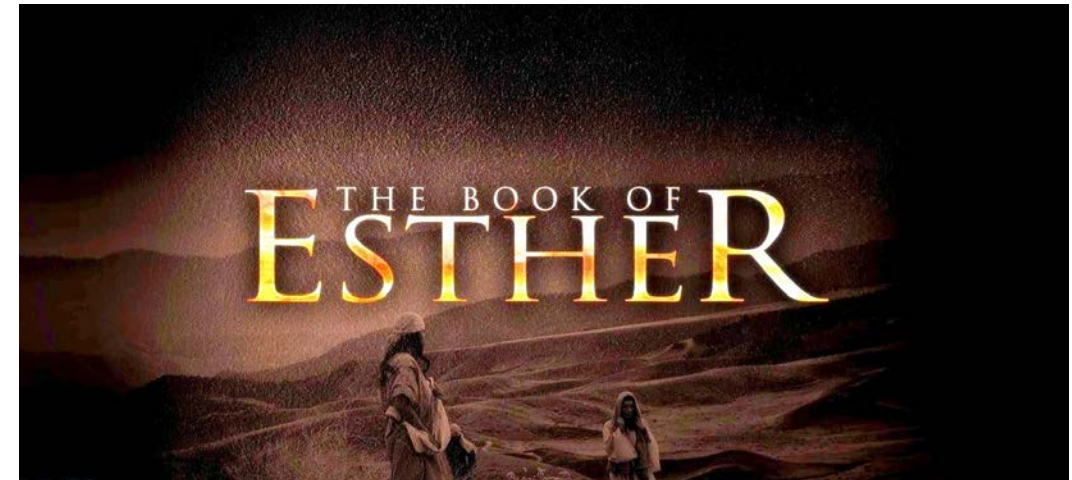
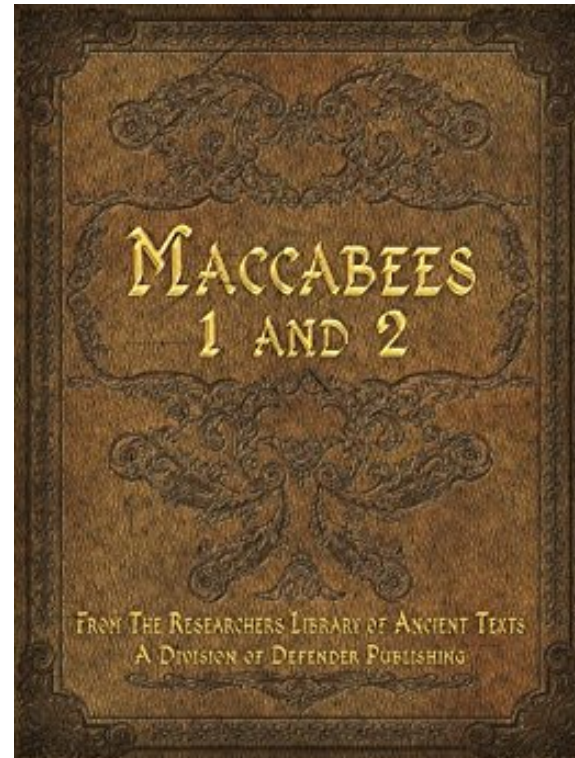
# 1 and 2 Chronicles

- Post Exile Life of Israel
- Beginnings of modern Judaism
- Prayer, worship and ritual purity
- Separateness of the Holy
- Walled city of Jerusalem
- Canon of the Old Testament



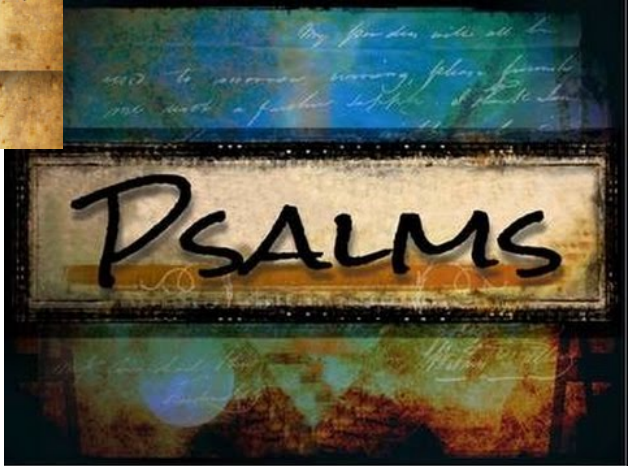
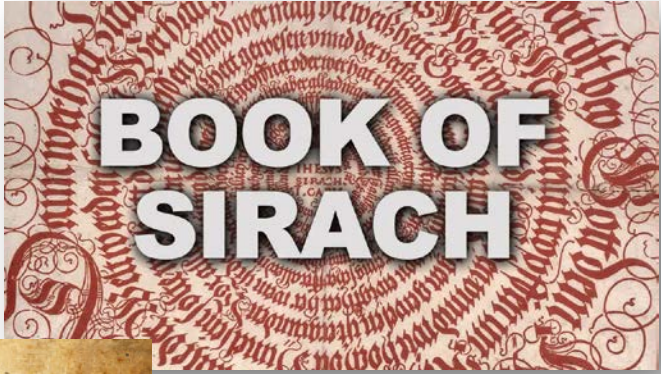
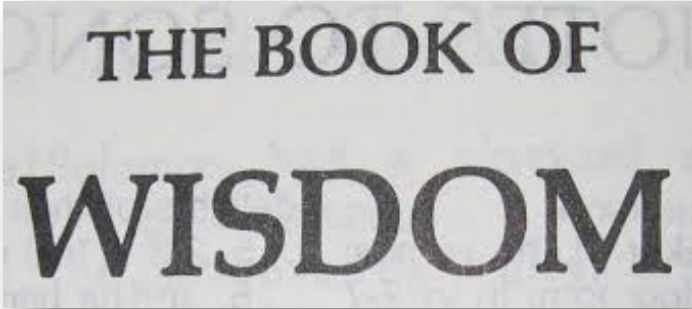
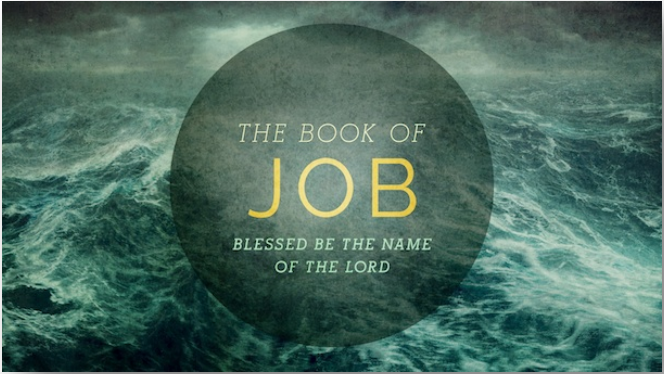
# BIBLICAL NOVELLAS

Book Of Tobit





# THE WISDOM BOOKS





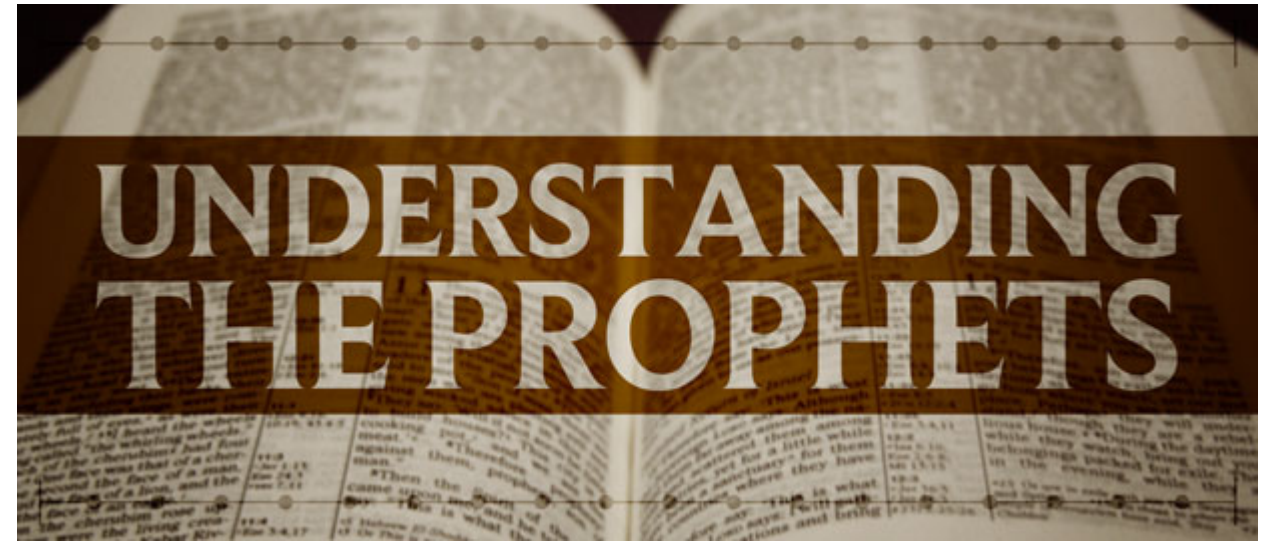
# THE PROPHETIC BOOKS

## • Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah (Lamentations & Barauch)
- Ezekiel
- Book of Daniel

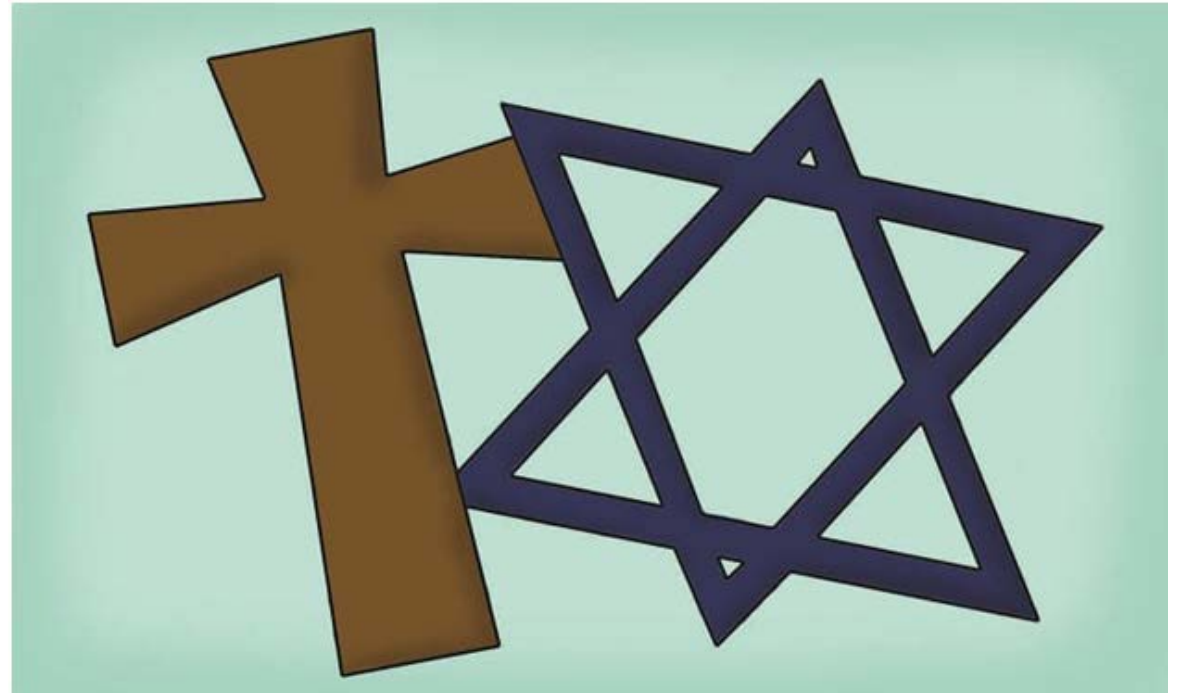
## • Minor Prophets (The "Twelve")

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi



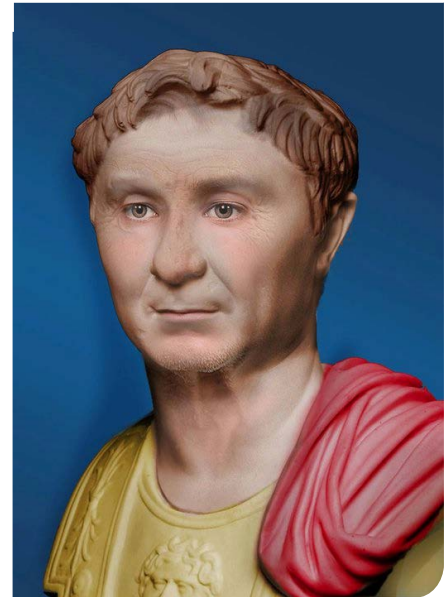
# JUDAISM AT THE DAWN OF CHRISTIANITY

- The flourishing of Judaism
- The Post Exile Period
- A time of great challenges
  - Limited citizenship
  - Restricted living conditions
  - Judaism in the midst of Paganism
- Seedbed of Christian community growth



# THE END OF JEWISH INDEPENDENCE

- Subjects of Roman Rule
- Julius Caesar and Marc Antony
- Augustus Caesar
- Herod the Great
- A new power dynasty



# RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS OF 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BC

- Pharisees

- Not priests, but lay teachers and experts in the law
- Demanded strict obedience to all the laws of the Pentateuch
- Accepted the Torah but also an "oral law"
- Belief in doctrines not in the Pentateuch
- Emphasis on human freedom and ability to do good works
- Hoped for a "Messiah"
- A zealotry in keeping the law
- Responsible for a system of synagogues and Old Testament Canon



## • Sadducees

- Priestly personnel and wealthy families of Judah
- Claimed to preserve the Old Traditions
- Supported deviations from older Jewish tradition
- Protected the central role of the temple, its sacrifices and cult
- Accepted Roman Rule
- Focus on the Pentateuch
- Important group in the Sanhedrin
- Disappear after the Fall of Jerusalem



## • Essenes

- "Pious ones"
- Lived near the Dead Sea
- Community life with shared possessions
- Loyalty to the "Righteous Teacher"
- Use of water in Rituals
- Lived celibate lives
- Believed in the coming of two messiahs: "Messiahs of Aaron and Israel"
- Broke from the Sadducees and Pharisees
- Practices resembled early Jewish Christian Communities



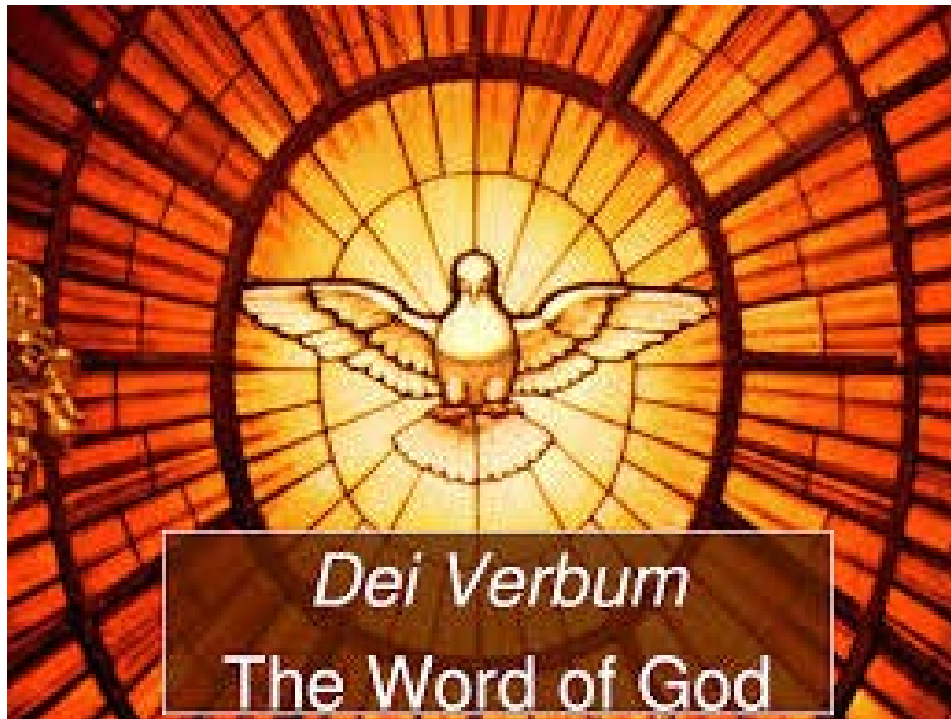
# DEAD SEA SCROLLS

- Fragments of all the books of the Old Testament except Esther
- Commentaries
- Portion of Book of Tobit in Hebrew and Aramaic and non-biblical books
- Other documents of the Essene Life





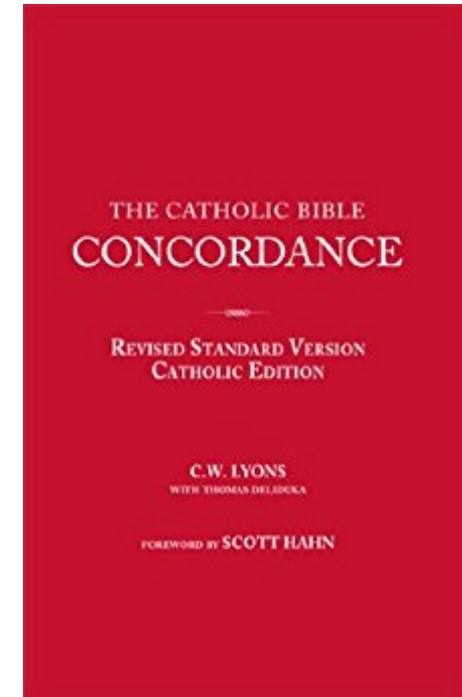
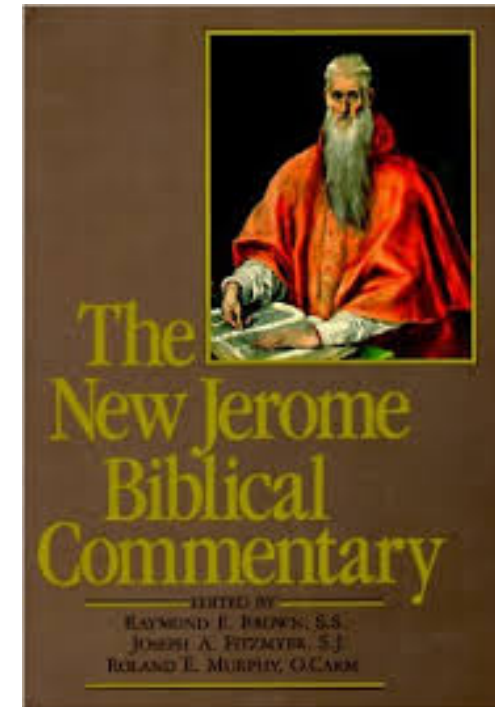
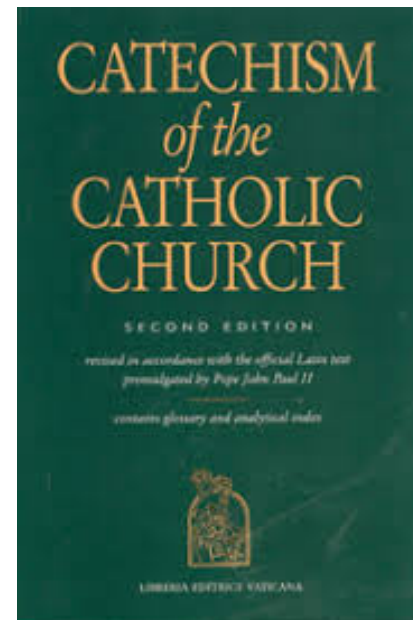
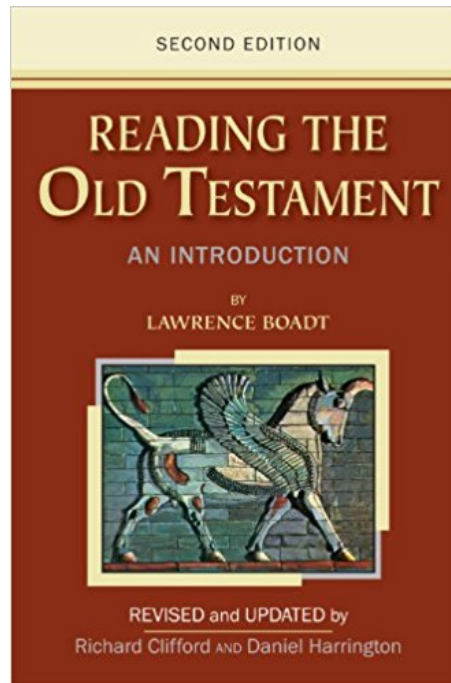
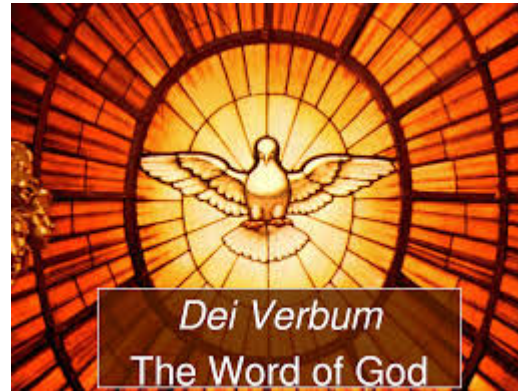
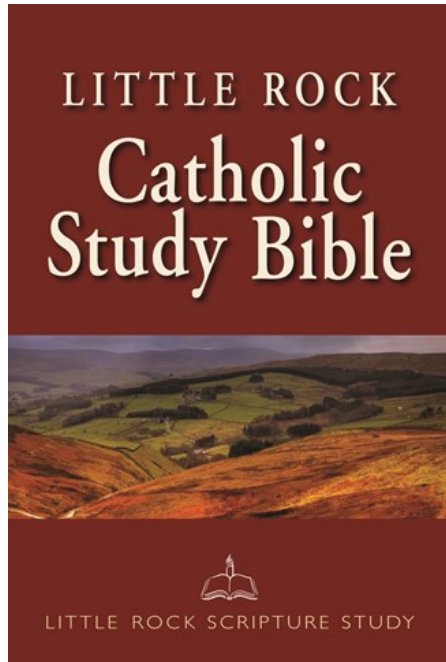
# VALUE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR CHRISTIANS



*"The principal purpose to which the plan of the old covenant was directed was to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Redeemer of all and of the messianic kingdom, to announce this coming by prophecy, and to indicate its meaning through various types. For though Christ established the new covenant in his blood, still the books of the Old Testament with all their parts, caught up into the proclamation of the Gospel, acquire and show forth their full meaning in the New Testament and in turn shed light on it and explain it."*

*(n. 15-16)*

# RESOURCES FOR SURVEY OF OLD TESTAMENT



DIOCESE OF BOISE  
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND  
CATECHETICAL LEADERSHIP



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# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why does the Catholic Bible have 46 Books compared to 39 in the Protestant Bible?
- What is the most important theme of the Old Testament? How does this differ from the other religions of their time?
- Which archaeological time periods did the Old Testament take place?
- What are the three literary tools for Biblical Criticism? What does each tool look for in Biblical study?
- Briefly describe each of the five books of the Pentateuch.
- Briefly describe some of the major characteristics of J, E, P and D.
- What key factors led to the Babylonian exile?
- What are the Biblical Novellas and what sets them apart from the other books in the Old Testament?
- Briefly describe Judaism at the time immediately prior to the dawn of Christianity.
- What are the three Religious Movements in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC? Briefly describe the characteristics of each one.
- What was found at Qumran?

# CLOSING PRAYER

“My Lord, our King, You alone are our God.  
Please help me, for I am alone and I have no one else  
but You to turn to; my life is in danger.  
As a child I was always told by the people of the land  
of my forefathers that You, O Lord, chose Israel  
from among all peoples and designated our fathers  
from among all their ancestors as a perpetual heritage,  
and that all of Your promises to them were fulfilled.  
Now, however, we have sinned in Your sight  
by worshiping the gods of our enemies,  
and You have delivered us into their hands  
because You are just, O Lord ...  
Do not forget us, O Lord.  
Be present to us in the time of our distress and grant me courage,  
O King of gods and Ruler of every earthly power ...  
Save us by Your power, and come to my aid,  
for I am alone and have no one but You on whom to depend, O Lord.”  
Amen.