

## Overview of OT History and the Biblical Narrative

OT Portion	Historical Scope & Events/ Primary Characters	chapters	Summary & Notes	Other OT Books which belong in this period
Genesis 1 – 11	Creation ⇒ Adam and Eve		Universal Dealings [Creation – 2166 BC]	
	Fall of mankind			
	Earth overspread with evil; Flood ⇒ Noah and his family; after flood, families of Noah (Ham/Shem/Japheth) told to scatter over earth			
	Men refuse to scatter; confusion of tongues at Tower of Babel			
Genesis 12 – 50	Call of Abraham ⇒ Abraham/Sarah wait for promised son; Lot/Melchizedek; covenant reconfirmed; Hagar/Ishmael; Isaac born, offered; Abraham buys burial plot at Machpelah; Sarah dies; Abraham marries Keturah; Abraham dies		Patriarchal Period [2166 – 1876 BC]	Job
	Isaac/Rebekah bear twin sons, Esau (elder) and Jacob (“heel-grabber”)			
	Jacob/Esau ▯ struggle; Jacob flees, marries Leah then Rachel; bears 12 sons by 2 wives/2 maids; returns, wrestles with Angel, name is changed to Israel			
	Joseph ▯ hated/sold to Egypt by his brothers; promoted then jailed; interprets dreams, promoted; honored in Egypt, reunited with brothers, joined by family			
Exodus	Moses born ⇒ 40 years in Pharaohs’ palace (Hatshepsut)		Life of Moses- Part 1 [1526 – ca 1426 BC]	
	Moses flees ⇒ 40 years in Midian (Jethro, wife & sons)			
	Moses returns ⇒ 40 years as leader of Israel			
	Returns; meets Aaron; Confrontation w/ Pharaoh; 10 plagues			
	Passover/Exodus; Glory Cloud ppears, leads nation to Red Sea, then participates in deliverance through the Red Sea			
	To Mt Sinai; along the way, the people complain			
	Mosaic Covenant Ratified; Moses up to the mount for 40 days (Joshua)			
	Golden Calf incident; Moses descends, cleanses people, returns to mount for 2 <sup>nd</sup> 40 days, given instructons how to build tabernacle			
Tabernacle built; King YHWH ascends His throne				

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Leviticus	YHWH speaks legislation from His throne			
	Five sacrifices (cover every possible religious impulse/need)			
	Consecration of the priesthood (Aaron/Nadab/Abihu)			
	Laws concerning uncleanness			
	The Day of Atonement ( <i>Yom Kippur</i> )			
	Various laws (sacrifices/purity/priestly purity)			
	The feasts of the Lord (3 Pilgrimage feasts: Passover/spring; Pentecost/summer; Tabernacles/fall)			
Numbers	More legislation/instructions for the journey /the numbering (military census) of the nation		Life of Moses [ca 1446 = 1406 BC]	
	Departure from Mt Sinai as the cloud goes up and the journey begins			
	Israel complains/resists (Miriam, Aaron)			
	Failure at Kadesh-Barnea/the trip will take 40 years (thus the "wilderness wanderings"); during this, old generation (20 yrs + at Red Sea) will die			
	12 spies in the land for 40 days (Joshua/Caleb)			
	38+ years of wandering as unbelieving generation dies (Korah)			
	The march to Canaan, detour around Edom (Arad, Sihon, snakes)			
Deuteronomy	Moses calls the nation to formally and dramatically renew the covenant with YHWH			Psalm 90
	Historical Prologue: Moses looks back			
	Covenant stipulations: Legislation for conquering, settling the land			
	Blessing & Cursings; provision made for perpetuating the covenant			
	Moses song & blessing			
	Moses dies, YHWH buries him, the nation mourns			

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Joshua	Joshua succeeds Moses/ leads Israel into the Promised Land		The Ministry of Joshua, the successor of Moses (1406 – ca. 1370 BC) The Land is invaded, conquered, and distributed among the 12 tribes		
	Jericho spied out (Rahab)/Jordan River crossed/generation is circumcised (Gilgal)/1 <sup>st</sup> Passover in land/manna ceases				
	7-year conquest of the Canaanites by Joshua & armies of Israel				
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	Central Campaign (Jericho-Achan, Ai, Shechem renewal)				
	Southern Campaign (Gibeonites, sun stands still)				
	Northern Campaign (Hazor)				
	Conquest completed/Anakim destroyed/Canaanites crippled militarily				
	The land is divided among the tribes				
	Trans-Jordanian tribes (Reuben, Gad, ½ Manasseh)				
	Tribe of Judah (Caleb)				
	Joseph tribes (Ephraim, balance of Manasseh)				
	7 remaining tribes				
	Cities of Refuge/Levitical cities/eastern tribes go home				
Joshua bids farewell, renews the covenant/dies					
Judges/Ruth	An overview of the period – the cycle of sin, suffering, supplication and salvation		The Period of the Judges [ca 1370 – 1051 BC]		
	Episodic demonstration of the analysis				
	Othniel delivers Judah from Cushan-Rishathaim				
	Ehud delivers central Ephraim from Eglon the Moabite				
	Deborah delivers northern tribes from Jabin, king of Canaan in Hazor				
	Gideon delivers central Danaan from the Midianites				
	Abimelech, Gideon's son, asserts himself as king				
	Jephthan delivers northern tribes from the Ammonites				
	Samson troubles the Philistines				
	The Bethlehem Trilogy				
	A Levite becomes priest for the idolatry of the tribe of Dan (who had fled to the north)				
	A priest avenges the death of his concubine; Benjamin reduced to 600 men				
	A believing Moabitess becomes part of Israel, then of the lineage of Messiah				

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1 Samuel	Samuel, the final judge, turns Israel around; Israel demands a king			
	Saul made the first king, begins well			
	The first of Saul's two high-handed sins; God (through Samuel) tells him that his line would be set aside, that He has chosen another to be king			
	The second of the destructive sins of Saul recorded in Scripture; God tells him that he has been rejected as king; the enabling ministry of the Holy Spirit ("theocratic anointing") departs Saul, comes upon David; Saul struggles with a crippling evil spirit			
	David is privately anointed as king by Samuel, awaits God's time; meanwhile he is recruited to help Saul when that monarch is troubled by the evil spirit from Yahweh; soon David rises to position of power in Saul's court (captain of the host)			
	Saul realizes David is the "neighbor of yours, a man who is better than you" whom God has chosen to replace him and his line; the divinely deposed king grows more and more angry, makes attempts on David's life			
	David flees, becomes a fugitive from Saul; he gathers mighty men, unofficially but effectively guards borders of Israel's land; Saul ever more in the grip of his hatred of David, finally dies in battle with Philistia on Mt Gilboa			
2 Samuel	David king only over Judah (other tribes follow Saul's son, Ish-bosheth); makes temporary capital at Hebron		The United Monarchy [1051 – 931 BC]	David's Psalms
	David becomes king over all 12 tribes; conquers Jebus (Jerusalem); moves ark into city; establishes the kingdom of Israel			Song of Solomon Proverbs
	David determines to build a permanent house for Yahweh (a temple); God forbids him to do so because his mandate is to secure the kingdom (i.e., David is a "man of war"), his son will reign in an era of peace (shalom), will build the temple; David is allowed to prepare the plans and gather the materiel; David given a covenant which secures his "house" forever			Ecclesiastes
	David sins with Bathsheba & against Uriah; he is confronted by the prophet Nathan, confesses his sin; he will not die, but the sword will not depart from his house throughout his life			
	David loses four sons over balance of his life (cf the punishment he had pronounced on the imaginary thief who, in Nathan's story, had stolen his neighbor's lamb): the unnamed son, Amnon (slain by Absalom), Absalom (slain by Jehu against David's order), and Adonijah (tried to usurp throne as David lay dying)			

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1 Kings 1-12	King David dies after 40 years of rule			The United Monarchy [1051 – 931 BC]	
	Solomon rules over a vast, wealthy, powerful kingdom;				
	Solomon sins against God, marries foreign wives; kingdom begins to crumble; Solomon dies				
	Solomon's son, Rehoboam does foolishly, the kingdom is divided (10 tribes North, 2[?] South)				
1 Kings 13 – 2 Kings 17	<u>Kings of Judah</u> 1 dynasty – David's 19 kings & 1 Queen Capital at Jerusalem Maintained worship of YHWH at temple	<u>Kings of Israel</u> 9 dynasties 19 kings – none good 10 tribes, capital (finally) at Samaria 2 apostate worship centers (Dan & Bethel)		The Divided Monarchy [931 – 722 BC]  Ministries of Elijah & Elisha [to rescue worship of Yahweh from extinction because of threat posed by Ahab/Jezebel/Athaliah]	
	<b>Rehoboam</b> (931-13) E  <b>Abijah</b> (913-11) E  <b>Asa</b> (911-873/70) G          <b>Jehosophat</b> (873-53/48) G  <b>Jehoram</b> (848-41) E <sup>1</sup>  <b>Ahaziah</b> (841) E <b>Queen Athaliah</b> (841-35) E  <b>Joash</b> (835-796) G <sup>2</sup>  <b>Amaziah</b> (796-90/67) E  <b>Azariah</b> (790-50/39) G    <b>Jotham</b> (750-35/32) E <sup>3</sup>    <b>Ahaz</b> (732-729/15) E	<b>Jeroboam 1</b> (931-10)  <b>Nadab</b> (910-09)  <b>Baasha</b> (909-886)  <b>Elah</b> (886-85) <b>Zimri</b> (7 days in 885)  <b>Tibni</b> (885-80)  <b>Omri</b> (885-74) <sup>4</sup>  <b>Ahab</b> (874-53)  <b>Ahaz</b> (853-52) <b>Jehoram</b> (852-41)  <b>Jehu</b> (841-14) <sup>5</sup>    <b>Jehoahaz</b> (814-798)  <b>Jehoash</b> (798-93/82)  <b>Jeroboam II</b> (793-53) <sup>6</sup>    <b>Zechariah</b> (753-52)  <b>Shallum</b> (752)  <b>Menahem</b> (752-42)   <b>Pekahiah</b> (742-40)  <b>Pekah</b> (740-32)  <b>Hoshea</b> (732-22)			<sup>1</sup> <b>Obadiah</b> the prophet <sup>2</sup> <b>Joel</b> the prophet <sup>3</sup> <b>Isaiah &amp; Micah</b> , from Jotham to Hezekiah/Manasseh <sup>4</sup> <b>Elijah</b> the prophet, through the reign of Jehoram (no book bearing his name) <sup>5</sup> <b>Elisha</b> the prophet, through the reign of Joash (no book bearing his name) <sup>6</sup> <b>Jonah</b> (to Nineveh) and <b>Amos</b> (to Israel) during Jeroboam II <sup>6</sup> <b>Hosea</b> (to Israel) begins during Jeroboam II, continues to fall of the Northern Kingdom

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2 Kings 18 - 24	<p><b>Hezekiah</b> (729/15-697/86) Good</p> <p><b>Manasseh</b> (697-42) Evil<sup>7</sup></p> <p><b>Amon</b> (642-40) Evil</p> <p><b>Josiah</b> (640-09) Good<sup>8</sup></p> <p><b>Jehoahaz</b> (609) Evil</p> <p><b>Jehoiakim</b> (609-598) Evil<sup>9</sup></p> <p><b>Jehoiachin</b> (598-97) Evil</p> <p><b>Zedekiah</b> (597-86) Evil</p> <p>Fall of Judah/Israel to Babylon – 3 stages</p>		The Surviving Monarchy 9722 – 586 BC	<p><sup>7</sup><b>Nahum</b> the prophet (against Edom)</p> <p><sup>8</sup><b>Zephaniah</b> the prophet</p> <p><sup>9</sup><b>Habakkuk</b> the prophet</p>
	<p>Stage #1 (586) – Nebuchadnezzar lays siege, carries off certain princes as hostages/ advisors (including Daniel &amp; 3 friends)</p>			
	<p>Stage #2 (597) – Judah withholds tribute, Nebuchadnezzar carries off 10,000 captives; rather than scattering them, carries them to city of Babylon (including Ezekiel)</p>			
	<p>Stage #3 (586) – Again, Judah rebels, Nebuchadnezzar destroys city and temple, carries off all but infirm (Jeremiah left behind)</p>			
		<p><b>70 years of Exile in Babylon</b> (606 – 536 BC) [Not recorded in Scripture, but reflected in two prophets who ministered during this time, as well as in some exilic psalms]</p>		
	The (provisionally orchestrated) Restoration of Israel to her land			
Ezra	The 1 <sup>st</sup> stage of the Restoration to Israel – 50,000 return under Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem		The Period of the Restoration (538 – 440 BC)	<p><b>Haggai</b> and <b>Zechariah</b> called by God to rebuke the restoration remnant for carelessness in rebuilding the temple; they begin prophesying in 520 BC, and the work is completed in 516 BC.</p>
Esther	Meanwhile, back in Persia Yahweh intervenes <i>providentially</i> to rescue the Jewish people from destruction (demonstrating the means by which He would continue to protect His people, even having abandoned the theocratic relationship)			
Ezra	The 2nd stage of the Restoration to Israel – the scribe Ezra returns to rebuke and redress offenses against the Law and the Temple			
Nehemiah	The 3rd stage of the Restoration to Israel – Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem and to repopulate the newly-protected city			<p><b>Malachi</b> ministers alongside of Nehemiah</p>