

A Summary of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is arranged by four types of writing

Law	History	Poetry	Prophecy
<p>Creedal in nature. Describes guidelines for godly living among cultures that do not obey God.</p>	<p>Narrative in nature. Describes the early existence of the Hebrew people.</p>	<p>Emotional in nature. Describes people's relationship with one another and God.</p>	<p>Corrective in nature. Declares God's just and gracious nature and predicts the outcome based on man's conduct.</p>
<p>Genesis. The account of creation, the fall of man, the promise of a Savior for all humanity and preservation of the promise through the Hebrews.</p> <p>Exodus. The deliverance of the Hebrews from enslavement in Egypt.</p> <p>Leviticus. The establishment of a sacrificial system as a means of fellowship with a holy, righteous God.</p> <p>Numbers. The account of the Hebrews wandering for forty years due to sin.</p> <p>Deuteronomy. The second giving of the Law to prepare the Hebrew people to enter the promised land.</p>	<p>Joshua. Entering and conquering the promised land.</p> <p>Judges. Sin in the promised land.</p> <p>Ruth. Providential love and loyalty.</p> <p>1, 2 Samuel, 1, 2 Chronicles, 1, 2 Kings. Historical narratives of Israel under different leaders.</p> <p>Ezra and Nehemiah. The restoration of Israel after exiles.</p> <p>Esther. The story of personal courage and divine providence.</p>	<p>Job. The story of human suffering and God's sovereignty.</p> <p>Psalms. Stories of God's unchanging character against man's ever-changing emotions and circumstances.</p> <p>Proverbs. Wise sayings about man's relationship to man.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes. Wisdom about what is most important in life.</p> <p>Song of Songs. Passionate words about love.</p> <p><i>"Job teaches you how to suffer, Psalms teaches you how to pray, Proverbs teaches you how to live, Ecclesiastes teaches you how to enjoy, Song of Songs teaches you how to love." J. Oswald Sanders</i></p>	<p>Prophecy can have both near and far application. Some has been historically fulfilled, some is still future in fulfillment. Some is both.</p> <p>Prophecy speaks about God's punishment (and eventual restoration) of Israel. It also predicts much about the Messiah. Read Isaiah 53.</p> <p>There are two types of prophecy books; The longer ones, called Major Prophets, and the shorter ones, called Minor Prophets.</p> <p>Major Prophets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations • Ezekiel • Daniel <p>Minor Prophets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obadiah • Jonah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi