The Old Testament on One Page

How we arrange the books of the Old Testament, and what they cover.

1. Genesis
   - The Promise to Abraham (Gen 12), sealed with a covenant (Gen 15) and passed on to Isaac, then Jacob (also named Israel). It closes with Joseph in Egypt.
   - The historical books.

2. Exodus
   - The Hebrews have become a multitude. They are led out of Egypt by Moses.
   - The 'writing' prophets.

3. Leviticus
   - Regulations regarding sacrifice, priesthood and purity.
   - Numbers – the wilderness wanderings to the Promised Land.

4. Numbers
   - The major prophets address the situation before and during the Exile, and indicate what will follow. Isaiah prophesies a New Creation, Jeremiah a New Covenant, Ezekiel a New Temple.

5. Deuteronomy
   - The historical books.

6. Joshua
   - The entry into the land. The judges are raised up by God to save and govern. By the end of Judges the nation is near spiritual anarchy.

7. Judges
   - The 'writing' prophets.

8. Ruth
   - The major prophets address the situation before and during the Exile, and indicate what will follow. Isaiah prophesies a New Creation, Jeremiah a New Covenant, Ezekiel a New Temple.

9. 1 Samuel
   - Kings – under Solomon, the nation achieves peace and prosperity. The Temple is built but spiritual unfaithfulness leads to downfall and the Exile. The Temple is destroyed. Chronicles tells the story from another perspective.

10. 2 Samuel
   - Ezra and Nehemiah – the return from Exile and building of the Second (smaller) Temple.

11. 1 Kings
   - The Jews are saved from a ‘pogrom’ during the Persian empire.

12. 2 Kings
   - The historical books.

13. 1 Chronicles
   - The ‘Messianic’ hope connected with the promise to Abraham and the covenant with David. Luke 1:67-79, the song of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, shows how strong this hope still was in Jesus’ day.

14. 2 Chronicles
   - Former Prophets
   - The historical books.

15. Ezra
   - Traditionally attributed to Jeremiah, it laments the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians.

16. Nehemiah
   - The historical books.

17. Esther
   - The experiences of a Jewish exile and his companions in Babylonia. Daniel’s visions of the end include a figure “like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven” who will receive from God a kingdom “that will never be destroyed” (Dan 7:9-14).

18. Job
   - The historical books.

19. Psalms
   - Love and sex searching for Wisdom.

20. Proverbs
   - Daily life searching for Wisdom.

21. Ecclesiastes
   - Songs, prayers, reflections and meditations.

22. Song of Songs
   - Disillusionment searching for Wisdom.

23. Isaiah
   - The od origins of an early ancestor of David.

24. Jeremiah
   - The fortun es of Israel and the distribution of Old Testament books

25. Lamentations
   - Injustice searching for Wisdom.

26. Ezekiel
   - Daily life searching for Wisdom.

27. Daniel
   - Disillusionment searching for Wisdom.

28. Hosea
   - The odd origin es of an early ancestor of David.

29. Joel
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

30. Amos
   - The historical books.

31. Obadiah
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

32. Jonah
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

33. Micah
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

34. Nahum
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

35. Habakkuk
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

36. Zephaniah
   - The ‘writing’ prophets.

37. Haggai
   - The larger works

38. Zechariah
   - The larger works

39. Malachi
   - The larger works

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