

**66 books** by  
**40 authors**  
[shepherds, kings,  
scholars, prophets,  
fishermen,  
a priest, a soldier,  
and a cupbearer]

from  
**3 continents**  
writing in  
**3 languages**  
over nearly  
**2,000 years.**

## The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a  
single, unified  
message  
of  
God's  
nature,  
His love,  
and His plan  
of salvation  
for fallen  
humanity.



## The **Old Testament** is the story of a **Nation**

- 1 The Hebrews went to Egypt as a Family.
- 2 They were later enslaved.
- 3 Moses led them out as a Nation...
- 4 ... that conquered Canaan.



The **New Testament** is the story of a **Man**  
 ...told by people (**eyewitnesses**) who knew Him.

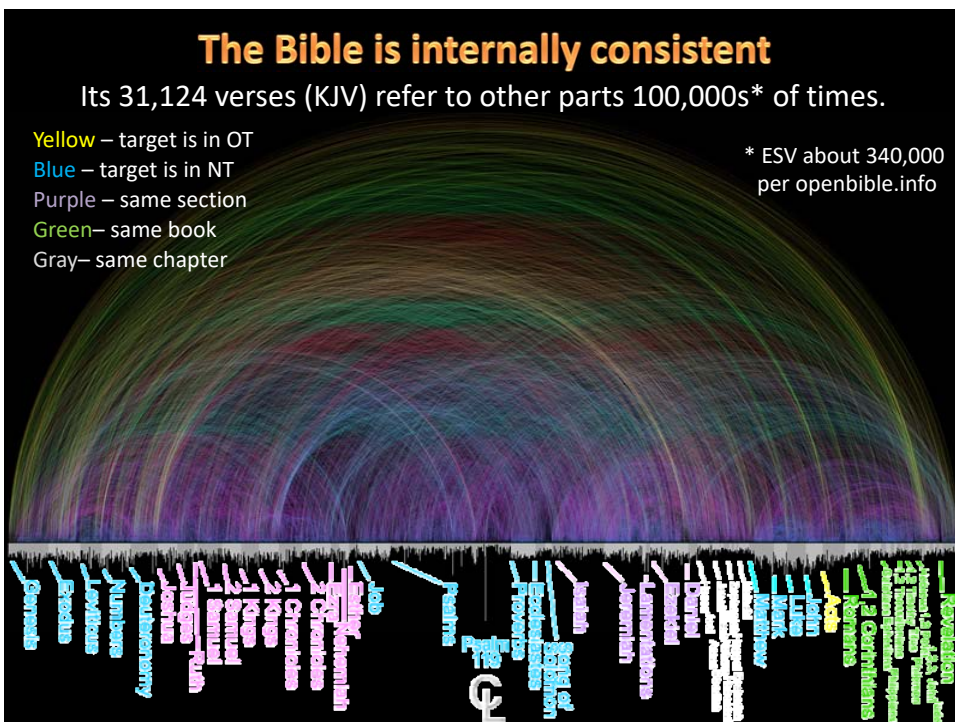


### The Bible is internally consistent

Its 31,124 verses (KJV) refer to other parts 100,000s\* of times.

- Yellow – target is in OT
- Blue – target is in NT
- Purple – same section
- Green – same book
- Gray – same chapter

\* ESV about 340,000 per openbible.info





### Predictive/prophetic

- “Predictive” means that whatever is predicted is yet to come but will happen sometime in the future.
- We also call them “prophecies.” Dictionaries today may have trouble defining “prophecy” and try to add: claimed, as if divinely inspired, uttered, etc.
- By whatever name:
  - 1,239 predictions comprise 28.5% of the OT and
  - 578 predictions comprise 21.5% of the NT.
- Furthermore, almost 81% have already come true (including every one other than in the “End Times”).

Why and how does the Bible claim to use prophecy?

### Position description - Prophet

- The primary role of an OT prophet was not to predict. Successful prediction and miracles validated their status.
- A prophet served as God’s representative to communicate God’s word to his people.
- They made known God’s holiness of God and the people’s covenant obligations; denounced injustice, idolatry, and empty ritualism (religion); and called God’s covenant people, Israel, to repentance and faithfulness.
  - Before exile to Babylon, prophets often denounced rampant social injustice and oppression of the poor.
  - After the exile, their messages turned more specifically to the promise of national renewal and the spiritual blessings that come with trusting God and obeying His will.

### The Fine Print

- Those claiming to speak for God were held to strict standards. Even if predictions came true, they had to be 100% accurate.
  - If he/she says “Let us follow other gods . . . and let us worship them” (Deut. 13:2), reject him/her (Deut. 13:3).
  - If spoken word “does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken” (Deut. 18:22; etc.).
- The punishment for speaking falsely in God’s name was death (Deut. 18:20).
- Being a legitimate mouthpiece for the word of the Lord was often dangerous. People frequently mocked, rejected, persecuted, and even killed God’s prophets (2 Chron. 36:16; Jer. 11:21; 18:18; 20:2, 7–10).

### Stephen, the first martyr of the new covenant

- Stephen pointedly asked, “Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute?” (Acts 7:52).



## The Biblical case for prophecy (and prophets)

1. "Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'" (Isaiah 46:10)
2. "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7)
3. "As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old..." (Luke 1:70)
4. "... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation." (1 Corinthians 14:3)
5. "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

## Selah

- God, as far as we know, is the only one who can "see the end from the beginning." Both Testaments are full of prophecy.
- Almost 81% of Biblical prophecies have come true so far, including every single one that could have.
- Almost every book in the Bible (OT and NT) includes predictions (prophecies).
- Fulfilled prophecy is used to validate Scripture and prophets.
- Pretending to be a prophet was a really bad idea.
- Being picked by God to serve as His prophet usually meant that bad things would happen to you while on earth.
- Prophecies could take different forms (of, wait, that's NEW).



## Hermeneutics

- Interpretation of Scripture is called “hermeneutics”.
- Our hermeneutics will be affected by our world view, our culture, and any presuppositions that we hold.
- Eastern (Jewish) and western (Gentile) mindset (aka philosophy) developed separately along different lines.
  - The western mind views prophecy merely as prediction and fulfillment.
  - In addition to prediction/fulfillment, the Jewish mind saw prophecy as a recurring pattern.
  - As the Gospel spread in the Greco-Roman world, the Church lost sight of its Jewish roots. Reliant on the philosophies of Aristotle and Plato, it forgot that the Bible had Jewish roots.

## 4 Basic Questions the Worldviews help Answer

1. Who am I?
2. Where did I come from?
3. Where am I going?
4. To whom (if anyone) am I accountable?

### Only 2 World Views

- Everything is the deliberate result of a Creator



**OR**

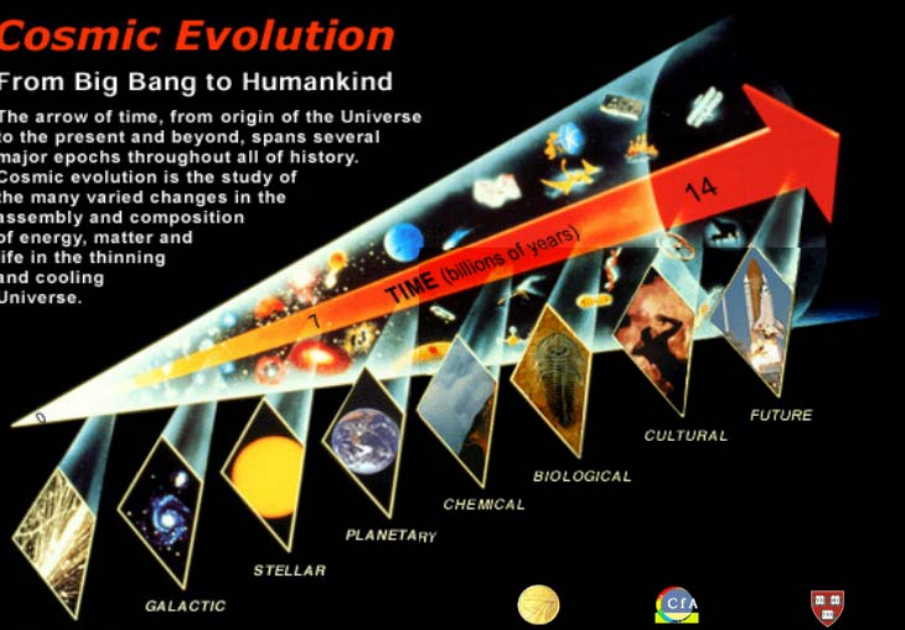
- Everything is the result of a cosmic accident



## Cosmic Evolution

### From Big Bang to Humankind

The arrow of time, from origin of the Universe to the present and beyond, spans several major epochs throughout all of history. Cosmic evolution is the study of the many varied changes in the assembly and composition of energy, matter and life in the thinning and cooling Universe.



Web awards  
 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics  
 Harvard University course syllabus

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## Forms of biblical prophecy

The Bible uses **almost every available literary form** to convey its prophetic messages, including but not limited to:

- **Prediction/fulfilment** (our Western model)

79%

- 65% • **Oracles** - a prophecy thought to have come directly from a divine source.

- 9% • **Figurative** – a prophecy w/non-literal meaning (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, allusion, paradox, idiom, etc.).

- 5% • **Symbolic** - a prophecy shaped in images or words that represents some final fulfilment.

- **Typological** – prophecy in the form of a person, event, or thing in history that prefigures a corresponding reality. In other words, a recurring pattern.

21%

## Language reflects Western vs Eastern thought

Ελληνική γλώσσα      עברית

<b>A</b> Alpha (al-fah)	<b>B</b> Beta (bay-tah)	<b>Γ</b> Gamma (gam-ah)	<b>Δ</b> Delta (dei-ta)	<b>E</b> Epsilon (ep-si-ion)	<b>Z</b> Zeta (zey-tah)
<b>H</b> Eta (ay-tah)	<b>Θ</b> Theta (thay-tah)	<b>I</b> Iota (eye-o-tah)	<b>K</b> Kappa (cap-pah)	<b>Λ</b> Lambda (lam-bah)	<b>M</b> Mu (mew)
<b>N</b> Nu (new)	<b>Ξ</b> Xi (zee)	<b>Ο</b> Omicron (om-i-cron)	<b>Π</b> Pi (pee)	<b>Ρ</b> Rho (roe)	<b>Σ</b> Sigma (sig-mah)
<b>T</b> Tau (tav)	<b>Υ</b> Upsilon (up-si-ion)	<b>Φ</b> Phi (fee)	<b>Χ</b> Chi (kie)	<b>Ψ</b> Psi (sigh)	<b>Ω</b> Omega (oh-may-gah)

During antiquity, Greek was a widely spoken lingua franca in the Mediterranean world.

<b>ו</b> Vav	<b>ה</b> Hay	<b>ד</b> Daled	<b>ג</b> Gimmel	<b>ב</b> Vet	<b>א</b> Bet	<b>כ</b> Aleph
<b>ך</b> Final Chaf	<b>ח</b> Chaf	<b>כ</b> Kaf	<b>י</b> Yud	<b>ט</b> Tet	<b>צ</b> Chet	<b>ז</b> Zayin
<b>ע</b> Ayin	<b>ס</b> Samech	<b>נ</b> Final Nun	<b>נ</b> Nun	<b>מ</b> Final Mem	<b>מ</b> Mem	<b>ל</b> Lamed
<b>ר</b> Resh	<b>ק</b> Kuf	<b>ץ</b> Final Tsadee	<b>צ</b> Tsadee	<b>ף</b> Final Fay	<b>פ</b> Fay	<b>פ</b> Poy
<b>ת</b> Taf	<b>ת</b> Taf	<b>ש</b> Sin	<b>ש</b> Shin			

Lost during the Diaspora, spoken Hebrew was revived by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858-1822).

## Greek Language

- Classic (*Attic*) Greek:
  - Subtle in syntax and
  - Expressive use of participles (often untranslatable) characterized the culture at its zenith.
- Common (*Koine*) Greek:
  - As the conquests of Alexander the Great encouraged the spread of the Greek culture and language, regional dialects were replaced by the Hellenistic or common Greek.
  - Simpler, less elegant, nevertheless retaining much the strength, beauty, clarity and logical rhetorical power of *Attic* Greek.

## Greek Verbs

- Five aspects
    - tense, mood, voice, person, and number
  - Will convey far more than a lexicographical definition:
    - who is performing the action;
    - whether just one or more than one is doing it;
    - when it is done;
    - whether it is a single event or process;
    - whether it is an actual happening, a command, or something wished for;
    - whether the subject of the verb is an active or passive participant (or both!).
- A single Greek word may thus require a phrase or even a sentence or more in another language.

## Hebrew Language

- Alphabet is phonetic, semantic, and numeric
- Things may be in plain sight that we don't see
  - Vividness, conciseness, and simplicity also make it difficult to translate fully.
  - It takes typically twice as many English words to translate Hebrew.
- Verbs are formed from 3-letter roots, with forms developed by change of vowels or by adding suffixes or prefixes.
 

- The root consonants give Hebrew a semantic backbone and stability not characteristic of Western languages.
  - Verb usage is not characterized by precise definition of tenses; **very context dependent**. This lends itself to puns and word play.

## Hebrew example

א א Aleph (a)

"First"; "Strength"; or "Leader"

ב ב Bet (b)

"House"; "Family" ( Beth Lehem; Beth-El; etc.)

Aleph-Beth (A+b) אב (write backwards, ba)

"Leader of the House" = "Father"

ה ה Heh (h)

Hands lifted up; open window) = "Behold"; "Revealed"  
Also, "Breeze"; "wind;" "Spirit"

Ahab (a+h+b) אהב (write backwards, bha)

Revealing the *heart* or *essence* of the Father... "Love"

## Overview of Hermeneutics



### Greek (West) Model

- Prophecy = Prediction → Fulfillment



### Hebrew (East) Model

- As above, plus:
- Prophecy = Pattern (Types, et al)

## Types

- The sacrifice of Isaac
- Ark of the Covenant
- The Tabernacle
- The Sacrifice on the brazen altar
- The Mercy Seat in the sanctuary
- The Water from the Rock
- The Manna from the sky
- The Brazen Serpent lifted up
- The Passover Lamb
- The Scapegoat
- Metaphors

## Hebrew versus Greek Mindset

### Western Perspective

- Form (concrete thinking)
- Men create gods
- Make God understandable
- Separate Secular / Religious
- Separate Heaven and Earth
- Passive descriptions
- Flexible beliefs
- Impersonal relationships
- Creed (state your beliefs)
- Linear logic

### Eastern Perspective

- Function (abstract thinking)
- God creates man
- Elevate God in awe
- Parts of a unified whole
- Coexistent
- Active descriptions
- Fixed (strict) beliefs
- Personal relationships
- Deed (live your beliefs)
- Block logic

## Hebrew versus Greek Mindset

### Western Perspective

- Escape this sinful world and go to dwell with God.
- Right thinking leads to right conduct.
- The kingdom of heaven is in heaven, not on earth.
- Jesus is coming to take us away from this world.
- I have faith; I'm saved.
- Message: get your ticket or you might miss the train.

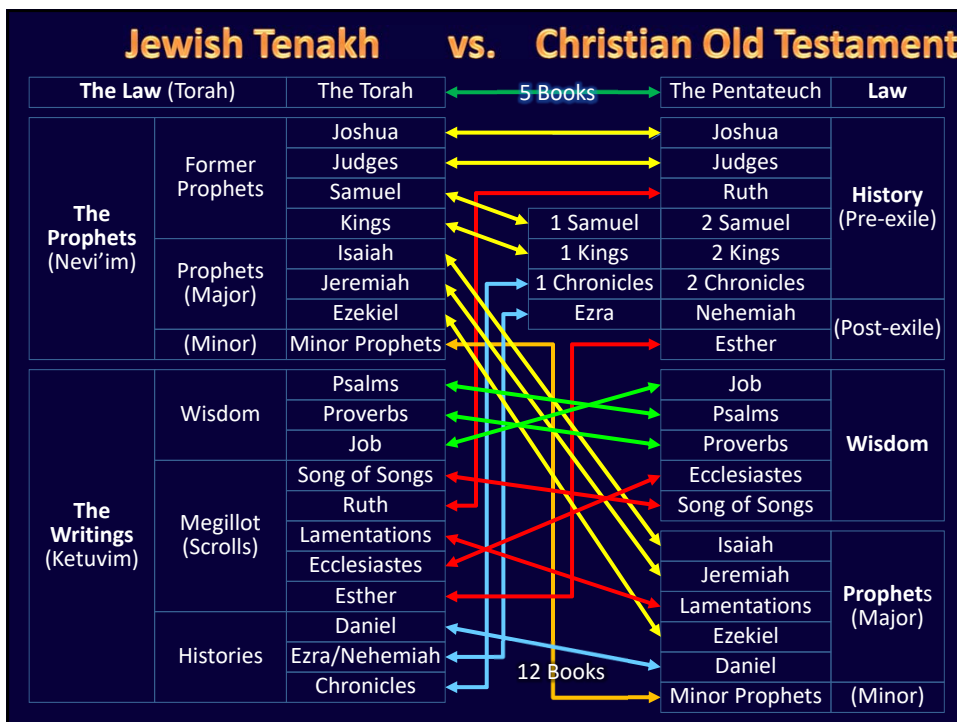
### Hebrew Perspective

- Prepare a fit place for God's dwelling on earth.
- Right conduct leads to right thinking.
- The kingdom of heaven will be on earth.
- Jesus is coming to reign over this world.
- Faith without works is dead.
- Message: the Kingdom is coming; get ready to serve.

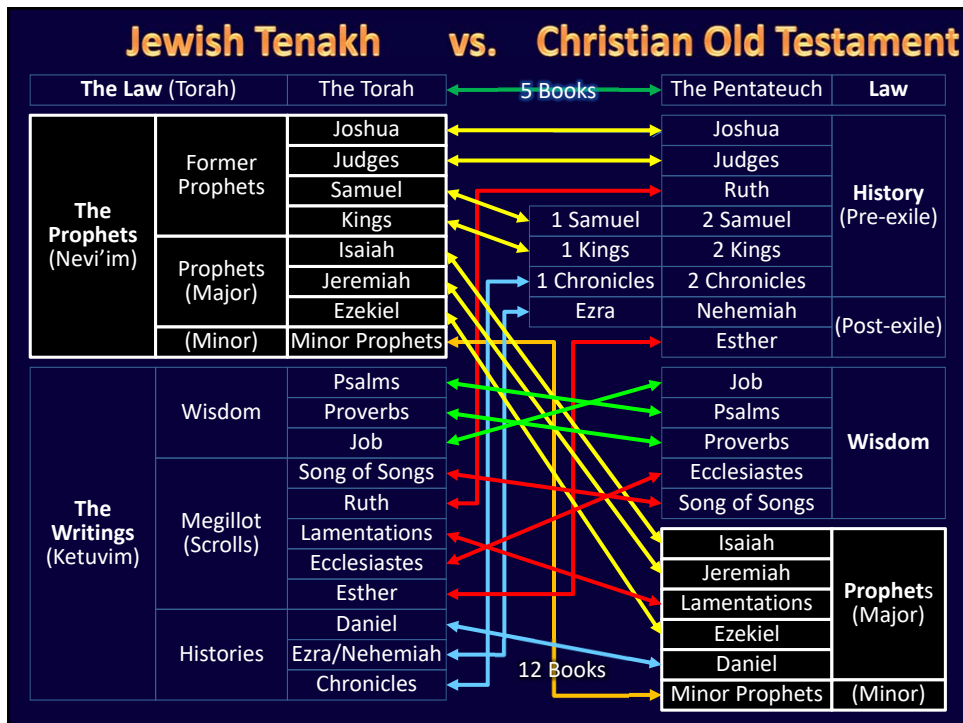
### Prophets in the Bible

- There are 42 prophets (*navi*) in the Old Testament, including five women (*neviah*)<sup>1</sup>.
- Sixteen prophets are accorded large sections (books):
  - Four have longer books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel). They are called “major prophets”.
  - Twelve have smaller books. The Hebrew Bible treats these as a single book called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.
- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old era. Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

1. Isaiah’s wife; Huldah; Miriam; Deborah; Noadiah

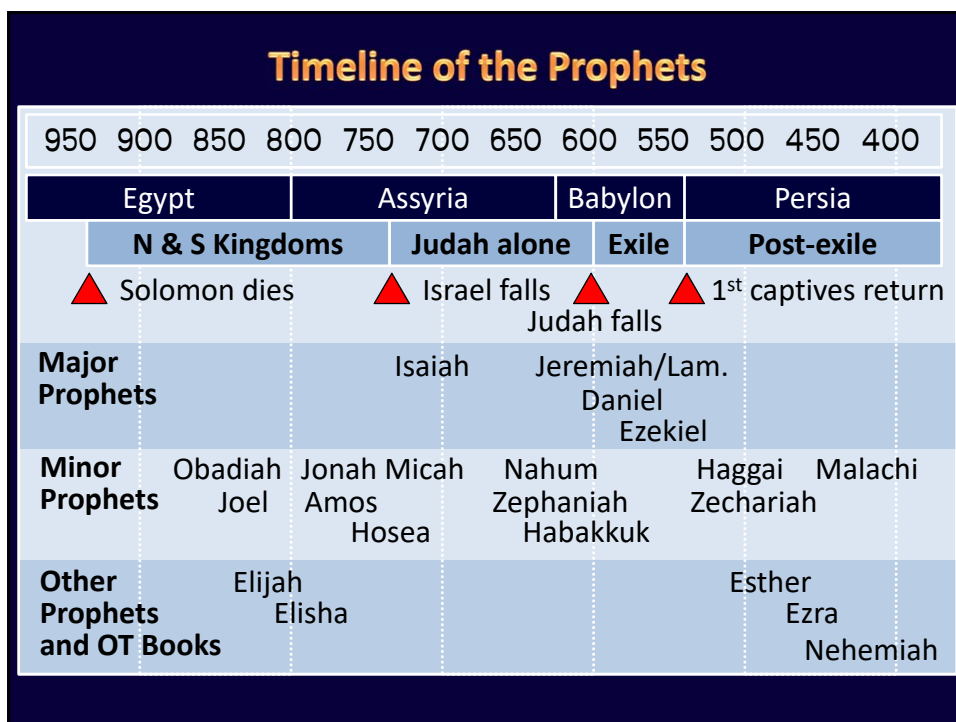






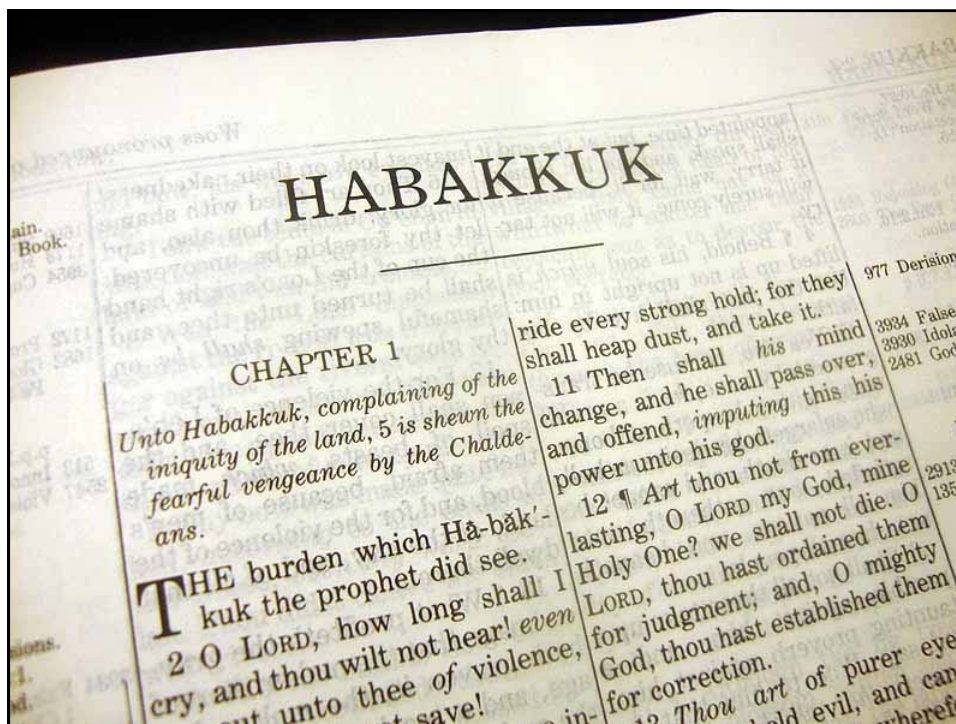
### Chronological Order of the Prophets

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Before the Exile – (before 606 BC)</b></li> </ul>		<u>Prophesied</u>
• Obadiah	to Edom	887 B.C.
• Jonah	to Nineveh	862 B.C.
• Joel	to Judah	800 B.C. (835-756?)
• Amos	to Northern Kingdom	787 B.C.
• Hosea	to Northern Kingdom	785 - 725 B.C.
• Isaiah	to Judah	760 - 698 B.C.
• Micah	to Judah	750 – 710 B.C.
• Nahum	to Nineveh	713 B.C.
• Zephaniah	to Judah	630 B.C.
• Habakkuk	to Judah	626 B.C.
• Jeremiah	to Judah	629 – 588 B.C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>During the Exile (606 – 538 BC)</b></li> </ul>		
• Jeremiah		629 – 588 B.C.
• Ezekiel		595 – 574 B.C.
• Daniel		607 – 534 B.C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>After the Exile (after 538 BC)</b></li> </ul>		
• Haggai		520 B.C.
• Zechariah		520 – 518 B.C.
• Malachi		397 B.C.
(All dates approximate)		



## The Minor Prophets

- These books are called "The Minor Prophets" solely because of size, not relevance to our lives.
- Don't be tricked into missing these overwhelmingly rich studies



## Habakkuk, the “modern” prophet

- “Where are you, God?”
- Why do bad things happen to good people? This is one of Habakkuk's main themes.
- This involves what is called "theodicy": a defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in a world of evil.



## Habakkuk

- Habakkuk was probably a priest like Jeremiah before he was called as a prophet. Also a contemporary of Daniel, he wrote in the declining days just before the Babylonian captivity.
- Habakkuk 2:4 is one of his most pivotal passages: “*The Just shall live by faith.*” This verse deeply affected Martin Luther and led to the Protestant Reformation of 1517-present?
- Some 1,400 years before that, Habakkuk so affected Paul that verse 2:4 is a unifying quotation in three epistles:
  - Who are "the Just"? Paul answers that in Romans.
  - How shall they "live"? Paul answers this in Galatians.
  - "By faith!" Paul focuses on this in Hebrews.
- Habakkuk initiates a snarky dialogue with God, wrestles with Him, and ends up worshiping Him. The Hebrew root of his name (חִבְּק) means “to embrace” or “wrestle”.

### When was Habakkuk written?

- Habakkuk Verse 6 describes the “Chaldeans as marching through breadth of the earth” which was only true after their victory at Carchemish in early summer of 605 BC.



- Verse 13 indicates that they were threatening to assume control over Judah, which occurred by August of 605 BC.
- This would place Habakkuk in the reign of Jehoiakim (609-598 BC), a monarch whose depravity stood out even in Judah, in contrast to his father Josiah (Jeremiah 22:15-19).

### Outline of Habakkuk – “Worry to Worship”

- Habakkuk’s burden (*massah*, a heavy load) (5 whys)
- Habakkuk’s vision
- Five oracles about the Chaldeans (probably friendly).
  1. Proud Ambition (vv. 2:5-8)
  2. Covetousness (vv. 2:9-11)
  3. Ruthlessness and Cruelty (vv. 2:12-14)
  4. Debauchery (vv. 2:15-17)
  5. Idolatry (vv. 2:18-19)
- Habakkuk’s prayer: a closing song of praise to God.

## Outline of Habakkuk

Chapter 1 (1-2.6a) : A= toils; B= to see

P (1:1)			1:1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet received in vision.
	A (1:2-4)		1:3 Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery?
		B (1:5-11)	1:6 For see, I am raising up Chaldea
	A (1:12-17)		1:13 Too pure are your eyes to look upon evil, and the sight of misery you cannot endure
		B(2:1-6a)	2:1 And keep watch to see what he will say to me

Chapter 2 (2:6b-20) All A's = the 5 woes

A(2:6b-8)	2:6 Woe to him who stores up what is not his
A(2:9-11)	2:9 Woe to him who pursues evil gain for his household
A(2:12-14)	2:12 Woe to him who builds a city by bloodshed
A(2:15-18)	2:15 Woe to you who give your neighbors
A(2:19-20)	2:19 Woe to him who says to wood, "Awake!" to dumb stone

Chapter 3 (3:1-19)

A: Salvation. B: Sufferings of enemies. C: Arrows. D: Salvation.

A	3:1-2		3:2 In the course of the years revive it, in the course of the years make it known
	B	3:3-7	3:7 the tents of Cushan (Ethiopian) collapse
		C	3:8-9 3:9 Bared and ready is your bow, filled with arrows is your quiver
		D	3:10-13 3:13 You come forth to save your people
		C	3:14-15 3:14 You pierce with your shafts the heads of their princes
	B	3:16-17	3:16 the day of distress that will come upon the people who attack us
A	3:18-19		3:19 he makes my feet swift as those of hinds and enables me to go upon the heights

# **Habakkuk 3**

Lyrics by David Pawson

to be sung to

**Beethoven's Ode To Joy (An Die Freude)  
From Symphony No. 9 In D Minor, Opus 125**

Lord, Your Name has gone before You from the time  
Your arm first bared,

Tales of deeds so overwhelming, even hearing makes  
me scared.

Now today, O Lord, repeat them, revealing You are  
still the same -

But in wrath remember mercy for the honour of Your  
Name.

Look, this Holy God descending spreads the sky with  
glorious rays,

Trailing from his hand of power, earth is filled with  
sounds of praise

But the guilty nations tremble, plague and pestilence  
their fears:

Even ancient mountains crumble when the Infinite  
appears.

Are You angry with the rivers? Is Your wrath upon  
the streams?

Do You rage against the ocean with Your horse and  
chariot teams?

Writhing hills and flooded valleys, sun and moon  
stand still in fear

At the glint of flying arrows, lightning of Your flashing  
spear.

Striding through the earth in vengeance, threshing  
nations till it's done,

All to save Your chosen people, rescue Your anointed  
one.

You have crushed their wicked leader, laid bare his  
neck and struck his head;

So his stalking, gloating warriors scattered to the  
wind instead.

Having heard the final outcome, knowing all and not  
just part,

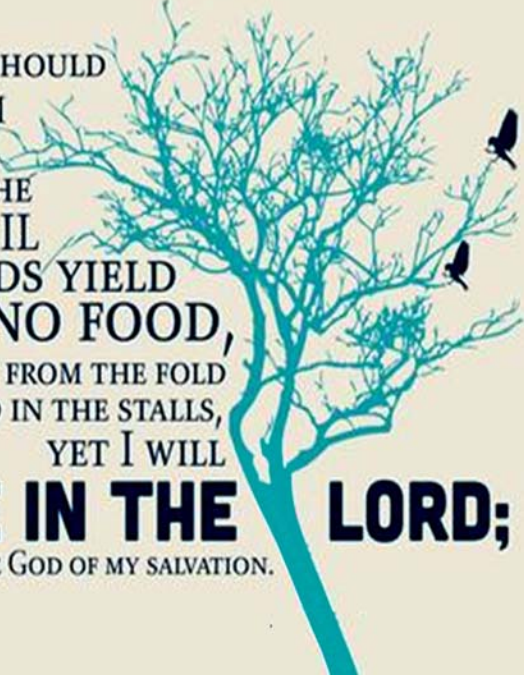
Great emotion grips my body, quivering lips and  
pounding heart.



Trembling legs give way beneath me, yet with  
patience will I wait,  
When the foe invades my country, certain of his  
dreadful fate.  
Though the fig tree shall not blossom, nor shall fruit  
be on the vines,  
Though the olive trees are barren and the fields  
produce no crops,  
Though no lambs are in the sheepfold and no cattle  
in the stalls-  
Yet will I exult my Saviour, glad that God is all in all.

Joyfully I face the future with my failing strength  
restored  
And my angry questions answered by this marvellous  
sovereign Lord.  
See my heart and feet are leaping like a deer upon  
the heights-  
Set my words to holy music, voices and stringed  
instruments.  
Lord, Your Name has gone before You from the time  
Your arm was bared,  
Tales of deeds so overwhelming, even singing makes  
me scared.

THOUGH THE FIG TREE SHOULD  
NOT BLOSSOM  
NOR FRUIT BE ON THE VINES,  
THE PRODUCE OF THE  
OLIVE FAIL  
AND THE FIELDS YIELD  
NO FOOD,  
THE FLOCK BE CUT OFF FROM THE FOLD  
AND THERE BE NO HERD IN THE STALLS,  
YET I WILL  
**REJOICE IN THE LORD;**  
I WILL TAKE JOY IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION.



**The End**