

# Studying Scripture

Alexander Thomas



**Catching up from  
last week!**

**STILL ONE BOOK!**

**How was it  
written?**

Documentary  
Hypothesis

Supplementary  
Hypothesis

Dual Origins



# Jewish Bible (Tanakh)

## Torah

GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY

## Nevi'im

JOSHUA JUDGES SAMUEL KINGS

ISAIAH JEREMIAH EZEKIEL THE TWELVE

## Ketuvim

PSALMS PROVERBS JOB SONG OF SONGS

RUTH LAMENTATIONS ECCLESIASTES ESTHER

DANIEL EZRA- NEHEMIAH CHRONICLES

# Christian Old Testament

## Pentateuch

GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY

## History

JOSHUA JUDGES RUTH 1 SAMUEL 2 SAMUEL 1 KINGS

2 KINGS 1 CHRONICLES 2 CHRONICLES EZRA NEHEMIAH

TOBIT JUDITH ESTHER 1 MACCABEES 2 MACCABEES

## Poetry

JOB PSALMS PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES SONG OF SONGS

WISDOM OF SOLOMON SIRACH

## Prophecy

ISAIAH JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS BARUCH EZEKIEL DANIEL

HOSEA JOEL AMOS OBADIAH JONAH MICAH NAHUM

HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH HAGGAI ZECHARIAH MALACHI



# Catching up from last week!

- Linguistic
- Terminology
- Consistent Content
- Continuity
- Intrabiblical Connects
- Extrabiblical Connections
- Convergence (doublets)

How was it written?

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(use chart)



Catching up from

**Friedman, Richard Elliott.** it  
?

**The Bible with Sources** elementary  
thesis

**Revealed. HarperOne** elementary  
thesis

- Extrabiblical Connections
- Dual Origins
- Convergence (doublets) (use chart)



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# Linguistic

- "Classical Biblical Hebrew"
- JE earliest Hebrew
- P middle Hebrew (around Babylonian exile but earlier than Ezekial)
- D later Hebrew
- All main before "Late Biblical Hebrew" postexilic (Persians)

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# Terminology

- Mount Sanai (JP over 20) or Horeb/Mountain of God (ED 14)
- Source-specific phrases
  - Congregation only P
  - Cubit 56/59 P
  - Sheol only J
  - J uses different euphemisms for sex
  - Iterations of YWHW

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# Consistent Content

- Revelations of God's Name (Gen 4.26 vs Gen 17.1/Ex 6:2-3) and usage
- Sacred Objects: Tabernacle, Ark, Cherbus, Urim/Tummin, Moses/Aaron staff
- Priestly Leadership (Levite vs Zadokite vs Priest)
- Numbers (P)

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# Intrabiblical Connections

- Jeremiah and D
- Ezekial and P
- Hosea and EJ
- J and "Court History" of David
- Chart in a few slides has this as a visual

How was it written?

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# Extrabiblical Connections

- **Connection to History**

**Too much to get into...  
and I am not a historian**

**There is a lot....**

**How was it  
written?**

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Hypothesis

Supplementary

Hypothesis

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(use chart)



# Convergence or Doublets

- 1. Creation. Gen 1:1–2:3 (P) and Gen 2:4b–25 (J).
- 2. Genealogy from Adam. Gen 4:17–26 (J) and 5:1–28,30–32 (Book of Records).
- 3. The flood. Gen 6:5–8; 7:1–5,7,10,12,16b–20,22–23; 8:2b–3a,6,8–12,13b,20–22 (J) and 6:9–22; 7:8–9,11,13–16a,21,24; 8:1–2a,3b–5,7,13a,14–19; 9:1–17 (P).
- 4. Genealogy from Shem. Gen 10:21–31 (J and P) and 11:10–26 (Book of Records).
- 5. Abraham's migration. Gen 12:1–4a (J) and 12:4b–5 (P).
- 6. Wife/sister. Gen 12:10–20 (J) and 20:1–18 (E) and 26:6–14 (J). (Triplet)
- 7. Abraham and Lot separate. Gen 13:5,7–11a, 12b–14 (J) and 13:6,11b–12a (P).
- 8. The Abrahamic covenant. Genesis 15 (J, E, and R) and 17 (P).

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# Convergence or Doublets

- 9. Hagar and Ishmael. Gen 16:1-2,4-14 (J) and 16:3,15-16 (P) and 21:8-19 (E). (Triplet)
- 10. Prophecy of Isaac's birth. Gen 17:16-19 (P) and 18:10-14 (J).
- 11. Naming of Beer-sheba. Gen 21:22-31 (E) and 26:15-33 (J).
- 12. Jacob, Esau, and the departure to the east. Gen 26:34-35; 27:46; 28:1-9 (P) and 27:1-45; 28:10 (J).
- 13. Jacob at Beth-El. Gen 28:10,11a,13-16,19 (J) and 28:11b-12, 17-18,20-22 (E) and 35:9-15 (P). (Triplet)
- 14. Jacob's twelve sons. Gen 29:32-35; 30:1-24; 35:16-20 (JE) and Gen 35:23-26 (P).
- 15. Jacob's name changed to Israel. Gen 32:25-33 (E) and 35:9-10 (P).
- 16. Joseph sold into Egypt. Gen 37:2b,3b,5-11,19-20,23,25b-27, 28b,31-35; 39:1 (J) and 37:3a,4,12-18,21-22,24,25a,28a,29-30 (E).
- Continues into Exodus like this

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# "Scholar Hats"

Words or Ideas to Know

- Geography
- EJPD
- Origin Stories
- Priestly Vs NonP
- Creation Myths
- Meta-Narrative
- Doublets
- Chiasm
  - Chiastic Structure



## Version 1

## Version 2

Creation Story

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Genesis 2:4-25

Abraham's Lie

**30 "DOUBLETS"**  
Genesis 12:10-20

Genesis 20:1-18

Name Change

Genesis 32:25-33

Genesis 35:9-10



## Version 1

## Version 2

**Creation Story**

**Genesis 1:1-2:3**

**Genesis 2:4-25**

**Abraham's Lie**

**Genesis 12:10-20**

**Genesis 20:1-18**

**Name Change**

**Genesis 32:25-33**

**Genesis 35:9-10**



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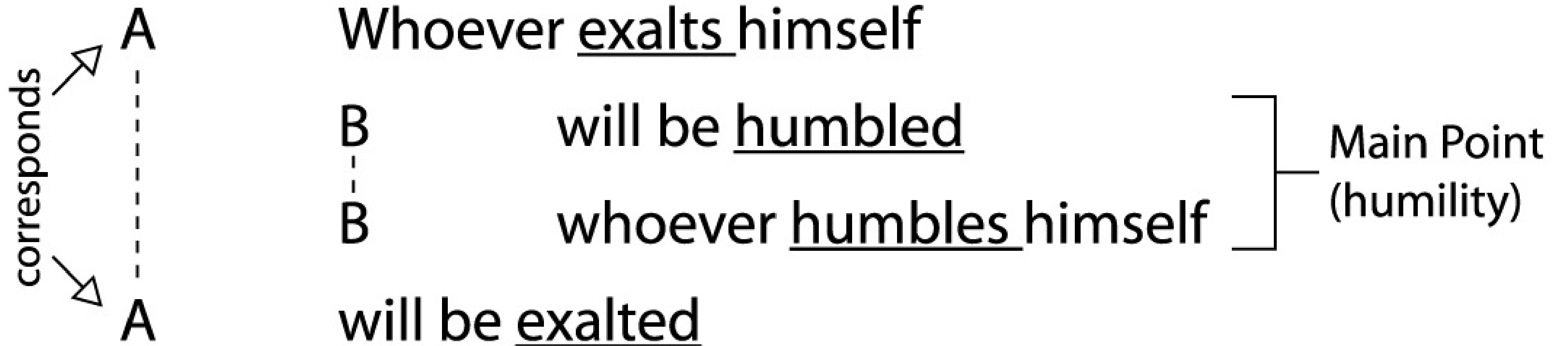
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# Chiastic Structure

## Matthew 23:12





A – YHWH establishes the King (v.1)

B – He is sent to conquer (v.2)

C – The day of power(v.3)

D – YHWH makes an unbreakable oath (v.4)

C' – The day of wrath (v.5)

B' – He goes out to conquer (v.6)

A' – YHWH establishes the King (v.7)

**Ps  
110**



A	Noah (vi 10a)
B	Shem, Ham and Japheth (10b)
C	Ark to be built (14-16)
D	Flood announced (17)
E	Covenant with Noah (18-20)
F	Food in the ark (21)
G	Command to enter ark (vii 1-3)
H	7 days waiting for flood (4-5)
I	7 days waiting for flood (7-10)
J	Entry to ark (11-15)
K	Yahweh shuts Noah in (16)
L	40 days flood (17a)
M	Waters increase (17b-18)
N	Mountains covered (19-20)
O	150 days waters prevail ((21)-24)
P	GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (viii 1)
Q	150 days waters abate (3)
N'	Mountain tops visible (4-5)
M'	Waters abate (5)
L'	40 days (end of) (6a)
K'	Noah opens window of ark (6b)
J'	Raven and dove leave ark (7-9)
I'	7 days waiting for waters to subside (10-11)
H'	7 days waiting for waters to subside (12-13)
G'	Command to leave ark (15-17(22))
F'	Food outside ark (ix 1-4)
E'	Covenant with all flesh (8-10)
D'	No flood in future (11-17)
C'	Ark (18a)
B'	Shem, Ham and Japheth (18b)
A'	Noah (19)

# Genesis 6-9

Noah, sons, ark,  
flood, covenant,  
food, command, 7,  
7, enter/exit,  
open/close, 40,  
150  
GOD REMEMBERS  
NOAH



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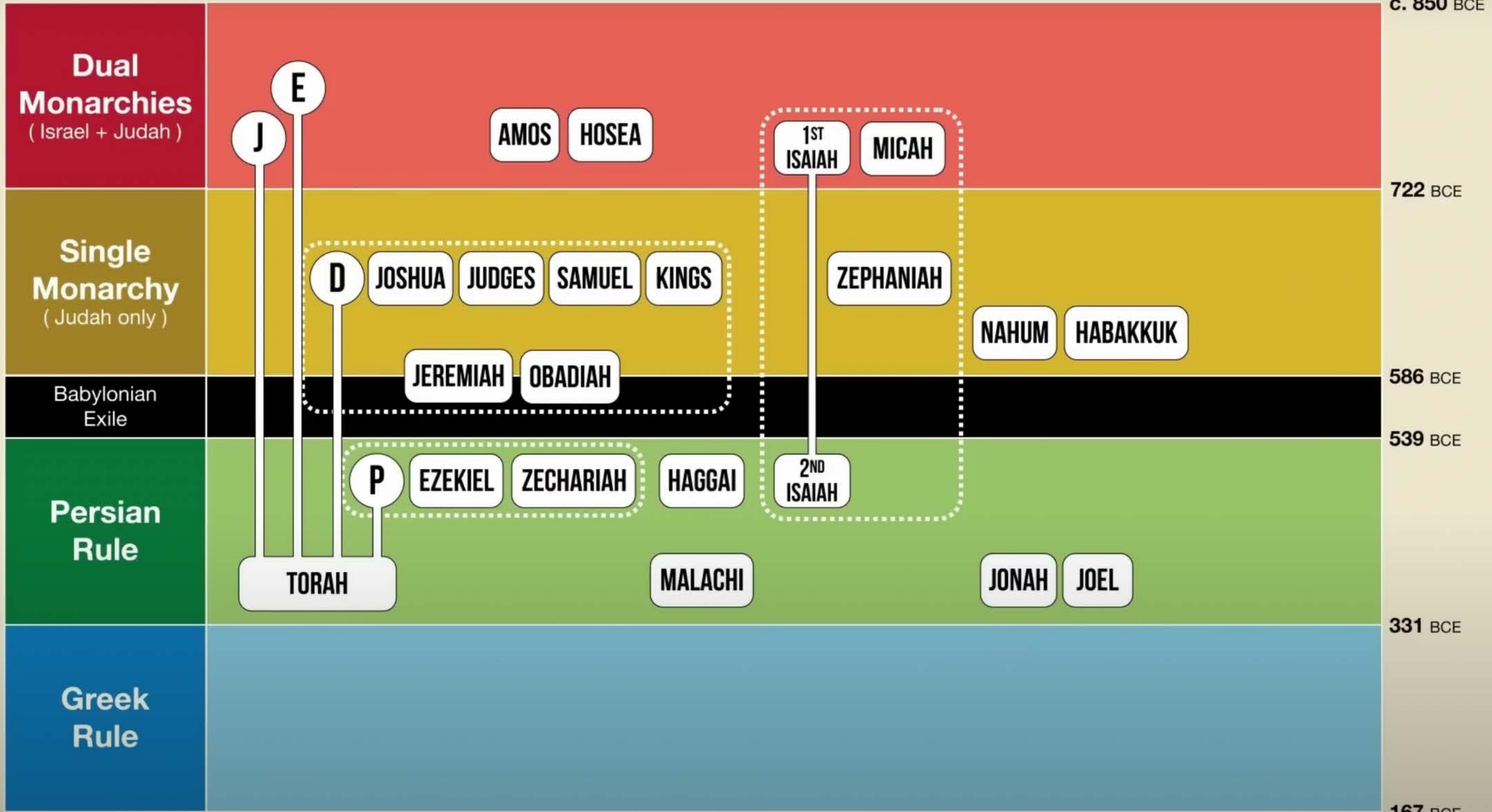
## Questions To Ask

- Which Source Did this Text Originate?
- What is this author trying to say?
- Primeval or Ancestral History
- Mythic VS Legendary Vs Historial



First Temple Period

Second Temple Period



c. 850 BCE  
722 BCE  
586 BCE  
539 BCE  
331 BCE  
167 BCE





Jahwist  
**J**

Elohist  
**E**


Priestly  
**P**

Deuteronomist  
**D**

Genesis



Exodus



Covenant Code

Leviticus




Holiness Code

Numbers



Deuteronomy



Deuter. Code

Joshua



Judges



Song of Deborah

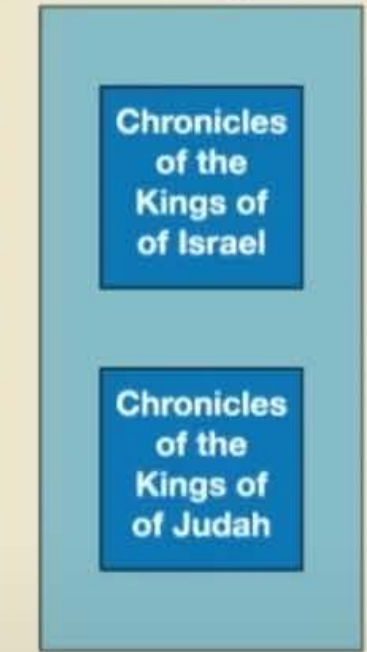
Samuel



Accession History of David

Court History of David

Kings



Chronicles of the Kings of Israel

Chronicles of the Kings of Judah

Torah / Pentateuch

Former Prophets



# Out Line (Large Segments)

I. The primeval history	1.1–11.26
A. Creation and violence before the flood	1.1–6.4
B. Re-creation through flood and multiplication of humanity	6.5–11.9
II. Transitional genealogy bridging from Shem (the Primeval History) to Abraham (Ancestral History)	11.10–26
III. The ancestral history	11.27–50.26
A. Gift of the divine promise to Abraham and his descendants	11.27–25.11
B. The divergent destinies of the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac (Jacob/Esau)	25.12–35.29
C. The divergent destinies of the descendants of Esau and Jacob/Israel	36.1–50.26

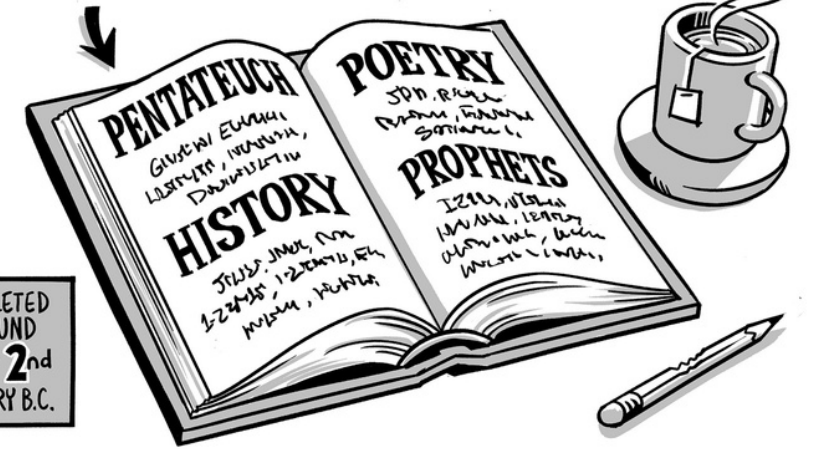


**ANCIENT JEWISH TRADITION:**



# TANAK - the Old Testament

**LATER CHRISTIAN TRADITION**



A PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY THAT REVEALS GOD'S PURPOSE TO RESCUE THE WORLD

**REFERRED TO IN:**  
 • DEAD SEA SCROLLS (4QMMT)  
 • WISDOM OF SIRACH (PROLOGUE, 38:34-31:3)  
 • JESUS OF NAZARETH (LUKE 24:44)

**WHO DID ALL THIS?**



Guided BY **GOD'S SPIRIT**  
 (PSALMS 119, 119; ISAIAH 54:21, DANIEL 9)

THROUGH HUMAN WORDS **GOD SPEAKS** TO HIS PEOPLE

COMPLETED AROUND 3rd or 2nd CENTURY B.C.

## TORAH

**GENESIS 1-11**

**GOD'S IMAGE = HUMAN (ADAM)**

**WISDOM TO DISCERN GOD & EVIL**

**EXILED TO WILDERNESS**

**OPPRESSION**

**ABRAHAM & SARAH**

**3 ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB**

**12 SONS**

**ABRAHAM BETRAYS SARAH**

**JACOB TRICKS ISAAC**

**BLESSING!**

**COVENANT PROMISE (GENESIS 15)**

**ABRAHAM TRUSTS GOD**

**EXILE IN EGYPT**

**JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS**

**THE PLOT:**

- GOD WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD THROUGH HUMANS
- HUMANS ARE THE PROBLEM!
- SOLUTION: WE NEED A NEW KIND OF HUMAN

**GENESIS 12-50**

## EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY

**MOSES**

- PROPHET (DEUTERONOMY 18:15)
- PRIEST (EXODUS 25-40)
- KING (DEUTERONOMY 33:5)

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL**

**613 LAWS TO BECOME NEW HUMANS**

**ISRAELITES**

**DEUTERONOMY 27-32**

**MOSES PREDICTS ISRAEL'S FAILURE & EXILE**

**HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISE TO RESCUE ISRAEL**

**THE DAY OF THE LORD! = EXILE IN BABYLON**

**NEW ISRAEL**

**NEW COVENANT**

**NEW KING - MOSES - DAVID**

**HE READERS! A NEW MOSES-ELIJAH IS COMING!** (MALACHI 4:4-6)

## NEVI'IM

**FORMER PROPHETS**

**JOSHUA, JUDGES, 1&2 SAMUEL, 1&2 KINGS**

**ISRAEL'S STORY TOLD FROM THE LATER PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROPHETS**

**JOSHUA SUCCEEDS BECAUSE: HE'S LIKE MOSES**

**HE MEDITATES ON THE TORAH ...UNTIL CHAPTER 9...**

**KINGS**

**PRIESTS**

**EXILE IN BABYLON**

**JEROBAM**

**DAVID & SOLOMON**

**POINTERS TO A FUTURE KING**

**SOME LEADERS TRUST GOD:**

**YOUR PROMISES ARE TRUE, O GOD!**

**GIVE ME YOUR WISDOM TO DISCERN GOOD & EVIL!**

## LATTER PROPHETS

**THE PROPHET'S JOB**

- TO BE LIKE MOSES
- ACCUSATION & WARNING
- PROMISE OF FUTURE HOPE

**ISAIAH, JEREMIAH & EZEKIEL**

**HOSEA-MALACHI**

**NEW ISRAEL**

**NEW COVENANT**

**NEW KING - MOSES - DAVID**

**HE READERS! A NEW MOSES-ELIJAH IS COMING!** (MALACHI 4:4-6)

## KETUVIM

**including:**

**PSALM 1 THE RIGHTEOUS ONE**

**PSALM 2 THE PROMISED KING**

**SONS OF GOD (2 SAMUEL 7)**

**PSALMS**

**DANIEL**

**ISRAEL'S FAILURE -and- SUFFERING**

**A NEW FUTURE FOR THE WORLD**

**PROVERBS**

**ECCLESIASTES**

**JOB**

**CHRONICLES**

**THE WHOLE TANAK, JUST SHORTER**

**2 CHRONICLES 36:20-23**

**WHO IS THERE AMONG YOU, OF ALL GODS PEOPLE, THAT THE LORD GOD IS WITH HIM, SO HE MAY GO UP...?** (JEREMIAH 25, LEVITICUS 25:26, DANIEL 9, ...AND MORE!)



THE POINT



# GENESIS



## 1-11 GOD & THE WORLD

GOD'S PLAN TO RESCUE AND BLESS HIS REBELLIOUS WORLD through Abraham's family  
EXODUS 19:4-6 ISAAH 11 PSALM 72  
ISRAEL = "KINGDOM OF PRIESTS" TO SHOW OTHER NATIONS WHAT GOD IS LIKE. | FULFILLED IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM.

## 12-50 GOD & ABRAHAM'S FAMILY

1-2 DARKNESS

3 CREATOR IN REBELLION AGAINST GOD

4 ABEL, CAIN, & LAMECH

5a HUMAN'S GOD'S IMAGE (HEBREW = ADAM) - REFLECTION OF GOD'S CHARACTER, REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD'S RULE, HARNESS CREATION'S POTENTIAL AND CREATE BEAUTY AND ORDER

5b TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL - CHOICE: TRUST GOD'S DEFINITION OF GOOD & EVIL... OR SEIZE AUTONOMY AND DEFINE GOOD AND EVIL FOR THEMSELVES...?

6-9 THE FLOOD

10 BABYLON - LET'S MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES!

11 SCATTERED

12-25a ABRAHAM

12 ABRAHAM BETRAYS HIS WIFE

16 ABRAHAM SLEEPS WITH HAGAR

15.17 GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

COVENANT PROMISE

ABRAHAM WILL BE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS AND A BLESSING TO THE WORLD... (SIGN OF THE COVENANT = CIRCUMCISION)

ABRAHAM TRUSTS GOD. (GENESIS 15:6)

12-25b ISAAC AND JACOB

25b-36 ISAAC AND JACOB

27 JACOB STEALS ESAU'S BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

29-31 JACOB DECEIVED BY LABAN

32 JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

37-50 JACOB'S SONS

37 JOSEPH HATED BY HIS BROTHERS

39-40 JOSEPH ENSLAVED & IMPRISONED

41-46 ELEVATED, JOSEPH SAVES EGYPT & HIS FAMILY

49 JACOB'S FINAL BLESSING

... AND RESTORE GOD'S BLESSING TO THE WORLD.

"IN YOU, ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED."

LAND NATION NAME BLESS

ABRAM 12:1-3

TERAH NAHOR SERAH REU PELEG

YOUR NAME WILL NOW BE ISRAEL.

YOU PLANNED THIS FOR EVIL, BUT GOD PLANNED IT FOR GOOD... TO SAVE MANY LIVES. (50:20)

ABRAHAM & SONS' REPEATED FAILURE

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO RESCUE & BLESS





Wastin' Away

in

Margaritaville!





# Recommended Sources

## Translations

NRSVUE

Robert Altar

## Study Bibles

Oxford Annotated  
Study Bible

NET Bible (notes)

## Books and More

The Bible with  
Sources Revealed  
Book

by Richard Elliott Friedman

The Bible Project



**All We Have Time For Today**