

THE MESSAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
A BIBLE STUDY SERIES FOR CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH, SUMMERVILLE SC

Week 1: The Big Picture of the Old Testament and How it Fits with the New Testament

OUR SERIES SCHEDULE

1. **The Big Picture of the Old Testament & How it Fits with the New Testament**
2. The Big Picture of the Torah, Part 1: Adam and the Fathers
3. The Big Picture of the Torah, Part 2: Israel
4. The Big Picture of the Torah, Part 3: Deuteronomy
5. The Big Picture of the Prophets, Part 1: The Former Prophets
6. The Big Picture of the Prophets, Part 2: The Latter Prophets
7. The Big Picture of the Writings, Part 1: Wisdom
8. The Big Picture of the Writings, Part 2: Narratives of Exile & Return

MY PRESUPPOSITIONS ...

- The Spirit of God moved the man of God to write the Word of God to the people of God.
- The inspired biblical text is inerrant, infallible, authoritative and sufficient.
- We can trust, therefore, the author's perspective on his work, his book.
- The author and his book have a lesson for his readers because he knew that all men share a common problem (and hope).
- He anticipated writing not only to his day but to all days, even later generations.
- *Moses and the Prophets wrote to us, and they wrote to us about Jesus.*

WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

- The Old Testament
- The Hebrew Bible
- The Bible Jesus Read
- The First Testament

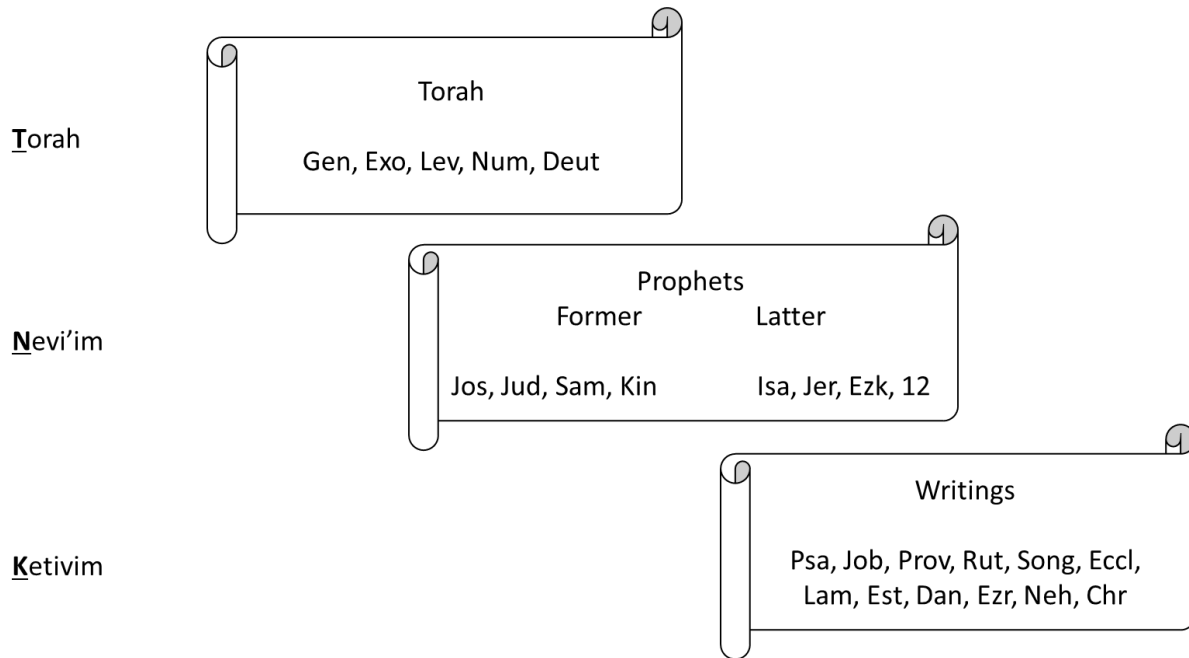
OLD TESTAMENT: 4 PART ORDER VS 3 PART ORDER

- Compare: Luke 24:27, 44
- The "English" 4 Part Order (governed by genre)
 - Law
 - History
 - Wisdom
 - Prophecy
- The Hebrew 3 Part Order(s) (governed by theology(ies))
 - Torah (Law)
 - Prophets
 - Writings

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THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE HEBREW ORDER, THE TANAK



WHY IS THE 3 PART ORDER REALLY ORDERS?

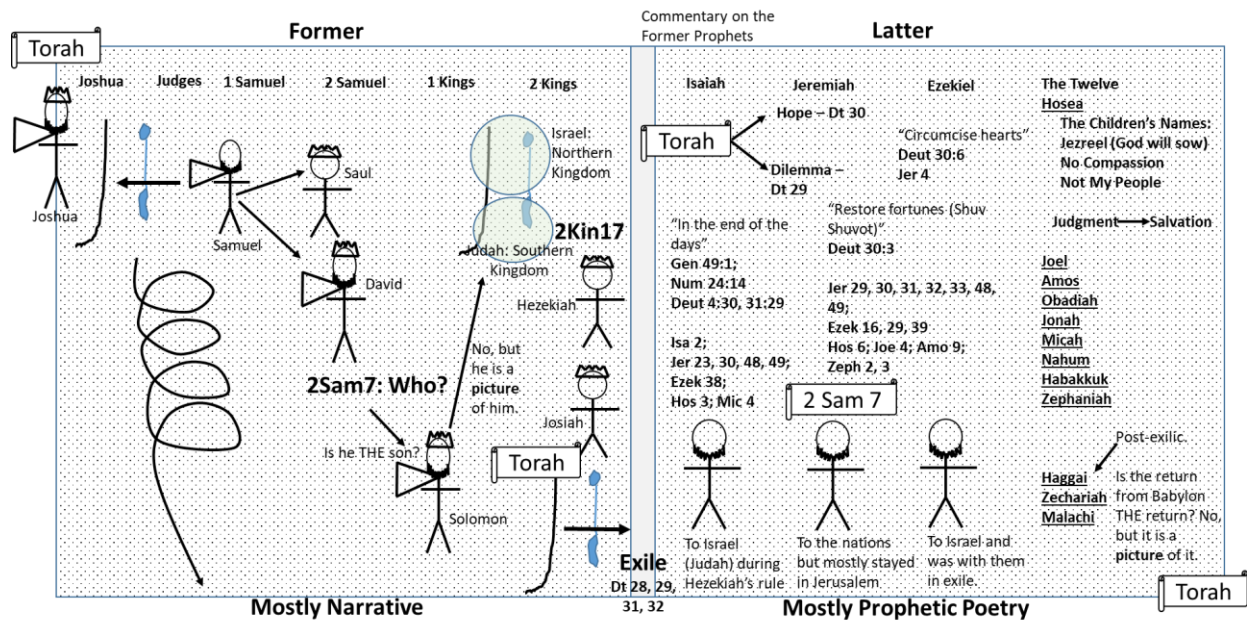
- The Torah
 - Always set the same: Gen, Exo, Lev, Num, Deut
- The Prophets
 - Order 1 – Jos, Jud, Sam, Kin + **Isa**, Jer, Ezk, 12
 - Order 2 – Jos, Jud, Sam, Kin + Jer, Ezk, **Isa**, 12
- The Writings
 - Order 1 – *Psa, Job, Prov, Ruth, Song, Eccl, Lam*, Est, Dan, Ezr, Neh, **Chron**
 - Order 2 – *Ruth, Psa, Job, Prov, Eccl, Song, Lam*, Dan, Est, Ezr, Neh, **Chron**
 - Order 3 – *Psa, Prov, Job, Song, Rut, Lam, Eccl*, Est, Dan, Ezr, Neh, **Chron**
 - Order 4 – **Chron**, *Psa, Job, Prov, Rut, Song, Eccl, Lam*, Est, Dan, Ezr, Neh
- Different Orders Reflect Different Ways of Reading
- Different Ways of Reading Come From Different Theologies
- Key Questions
 - Which order came first and is more likely to be intended by an “author” of the OT canon?
 - Which explains most of the connections between books?
 - Will we stay humble while we think about this?
 - Do I have to come to an answer? No.

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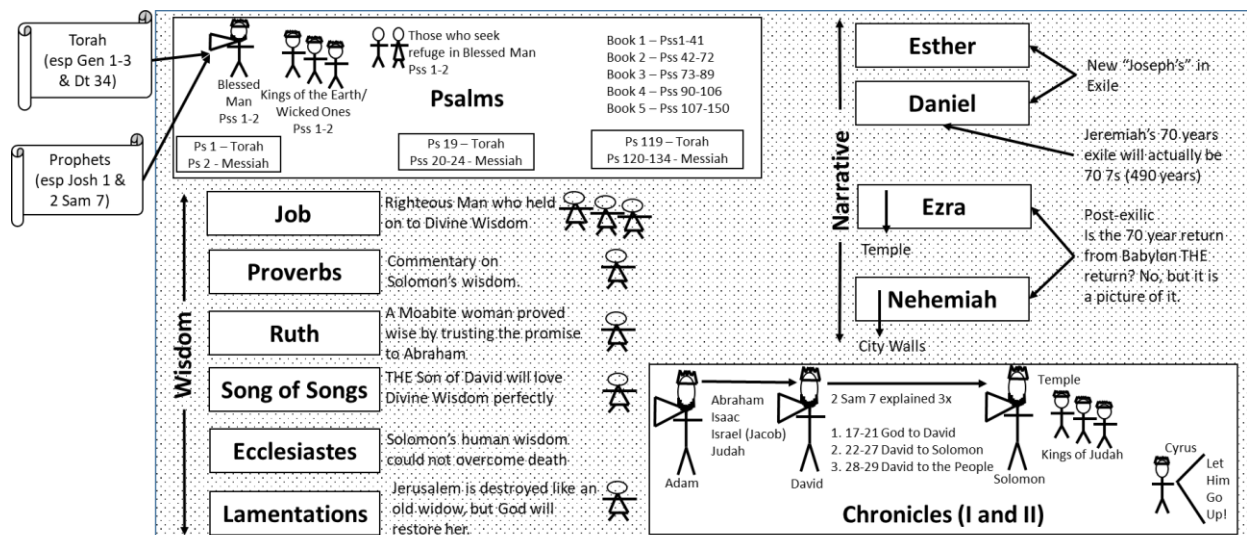
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THE PROPHETS



THE WRITINGS

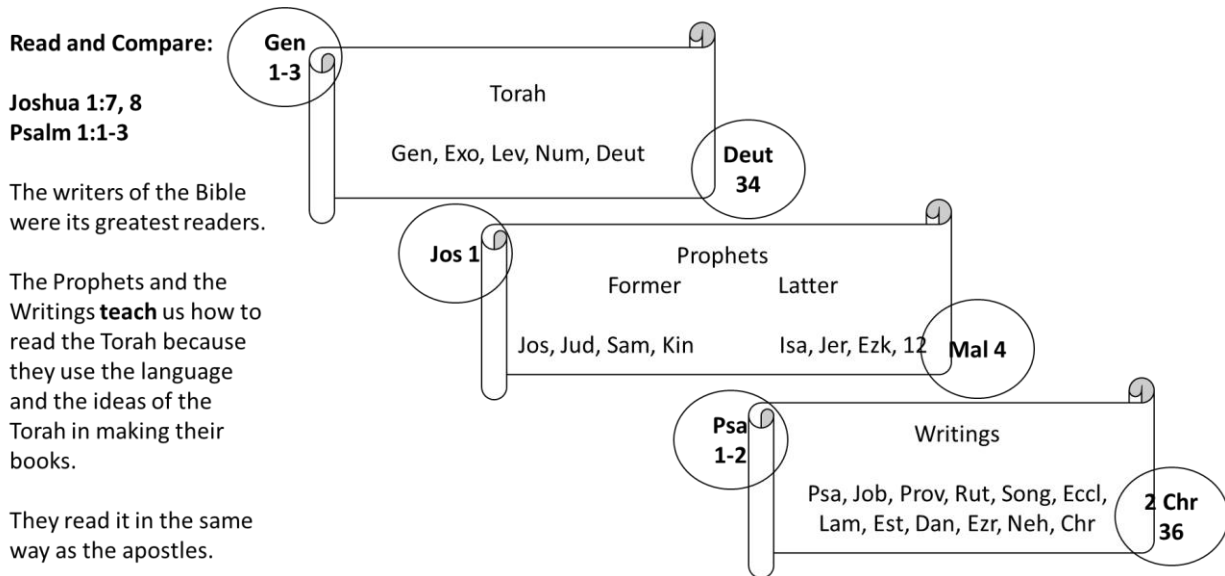


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SHOULD WE THINK OF THE OT AS 1 BOOK, 3 BOOKS, OR 39 BOOKS?



THE TORAH (ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS & WRITINGS)

- 2 Main Comparisons
 - Adam and Israel – common problem: man’s death in God’s presence
 - Adam’s story prepares us to read Israel’s story
 - Israel’s story is the tutor for what it means to live life close to God
 - Abraham and Moses – two models on approaching and being near God
 - Abraham – **before the law** by faith in the seed who will bring man to the land where God dwells (return)
 - Moses – **under the law** (exile)
- 2 Main Patterns
 - Narrative-Poetry-Epilogue – eschatology
 - Covenant-Stipulation-Failure – ethics

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THE TORAH: EXILE AND RETURN

PROBLEM/ DILEMMA / BIG QUESTION

The heart of man is so filled with sin that it leaves man in exile from God both physically and spiritually: man's death in God's presence.

SOLUTION/ HOPE/ MESSAGE

In the end of days,

the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
the seed promised to Adam and Eve,
and the King from the tribe of Judah who will serve as the Prophet like Moses and the
Word of God Israel asked for at Sinai,

will come to circumcise the hearts of man in the sending of His Spirit and the overcoming of man's death so that Israel and the nations may return to God and live with Him forever, eating from the tree of life in a garden and a promised land that covers the whole creation with the glory and face of God.

THE OT AND THE NT: ONE BOOK OR TWO?

- In what way should we consider the Bible to be one book and/or two books?
- Do the NT and OT offer the same message?
- What is the NT's understanding of the OT?
- Do the writers of the NT "reinterpret" the OT with a new meaning as apostles?
- Do the writers of the NT "exegete" the OT according to the OT authors' intentions?

WHAT HOLDS THE OT AND NT TOGETHER?

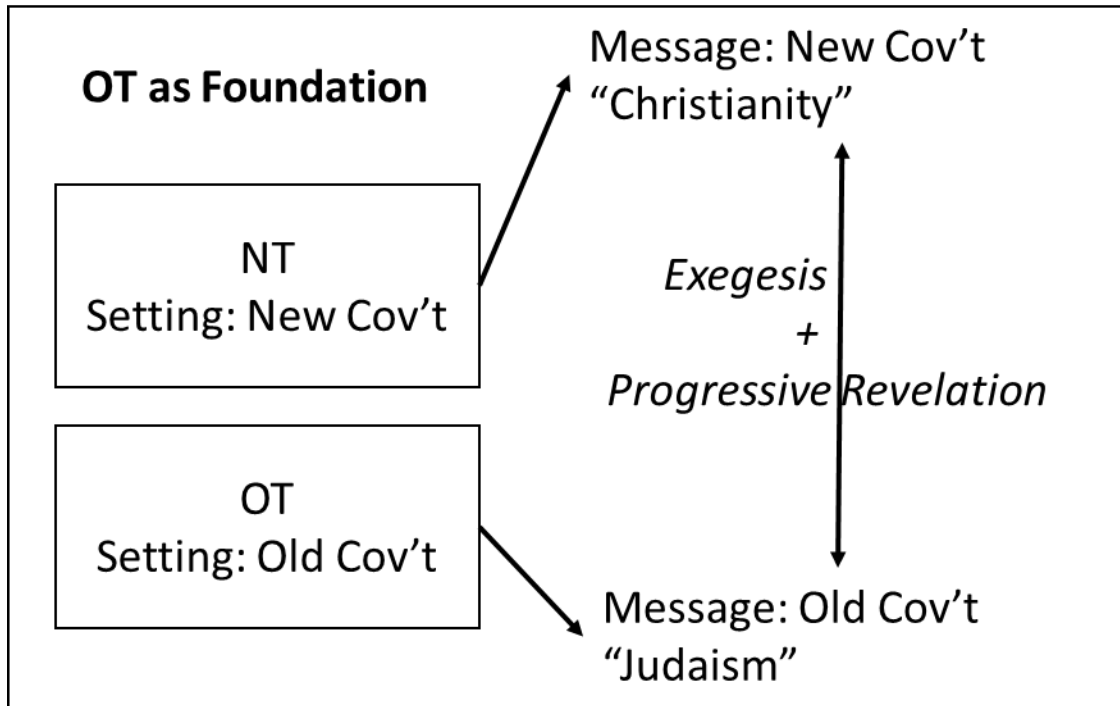
- Allegory / Typology / Figuration
 - Patterns ... from the author or reader?
- Thematic Unity
 - Common themes ... common messages?
- Promise and Fulfillment
 - OT asks the question; NT gives the answer
- Canonical
 - Unity through how the text has been read by the church
- Progressive Revelation/ Salvation History
 - Either new information or new events draw out new meanings in the old text ... relationship to the OT author?
- Exegetical
 - The NT rightly interprets the OT according to the intentions of the OT author
 - NT as "sermon(s)" on the OT

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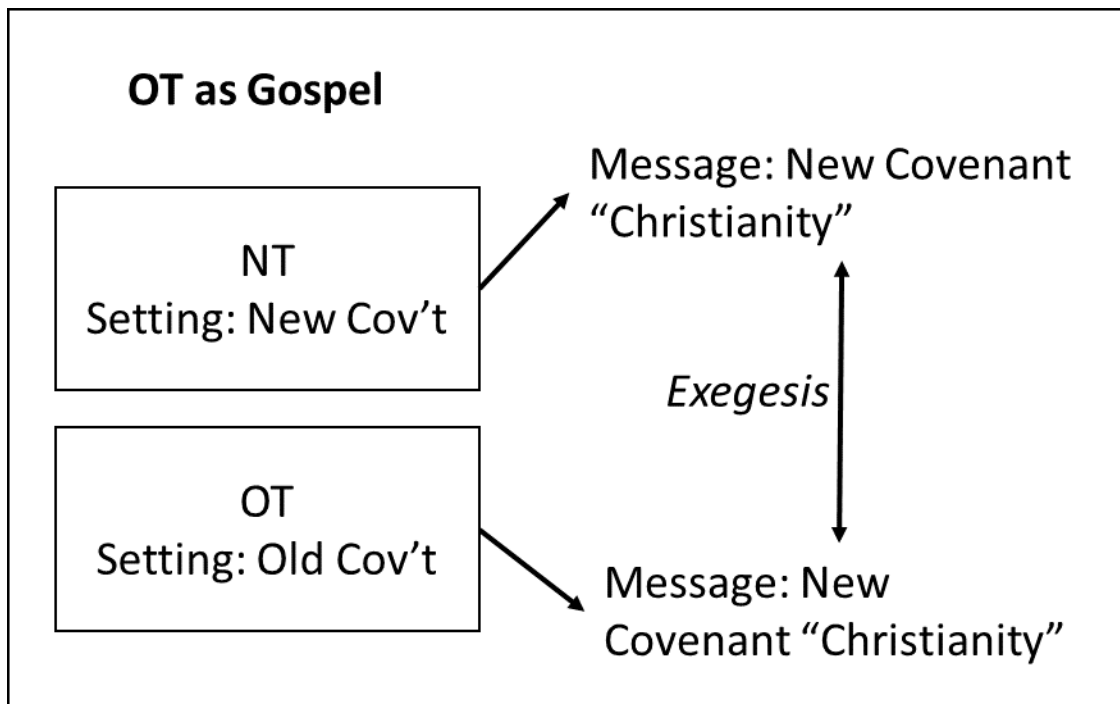
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MODELS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

OT AS FOUNDATION



OT AS GOSPEL



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SETTING AND MESSAGE

- Setting of a book
 - Where
 - When
 - Who
 - What happened ...
- Message of a book
 - Problem/ Dilemma/ Question
 - Solution/ Hope/ Answer
 - What lesson must be brought from the past to the present?
- Setting of OT and NT
 - OT = Old Covenant (Sinai)
 - NT = New Covenant
- Message of OT and NT
 - OT = New Covenant
 - NT = New Covenant
- The Rabbis believed they held a book about them
- The Apostles believed they held a book about Jesus
- John 5 ...

THE TORAH'S MESSAGE: EXILE AND RETURN

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