

# LEARNING THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Over the next several weeks, you will memorize the 39 books of the Old Testament, which are introduced by section and genre below. The books of the Old Testament are listed on the next page. Fill in the blanks on the final page to help you memorize.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Most of the Old Testament was originally written in ancient Hebrew, which didn't have any vowels! Because Hebrew gradually fell into disuse among Jews in the Roman Empire, rabbis of the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. added a system of vowels to help preserve proper pronunciation when the Scriptures were read in the synagogue.
- The Old Testament was written over a period of approximately 1,000 years by a variety of men, including kings, prophets, judges, priests, and even farmers.
- Ancient scribes who copied the Old Testament by hand paid such meticulous attention to their work that very few variants were ever introduced. For example, comparison of a medieval copy of Isaiah with a copy dating to the 1st or 2nd century B.C. found among the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 shows that the two copies are almost identical, even though the Dead Sea Scroll copy was made over 1,000 years earlier.

## ▶ PENTATEUCH 5 books

### Genesis – Deuteronomy

Written by Moses, these books chronicle the period from the Creation through the Exodus from Egypt, and include the various laws given to Israel.

## ▶ HISTORY 12 books

### Joshua – Esther

These books continue Israel's history from the conquest of Canaan by Joshua and the administration of the Judges and Samuel, through the rise of David's kingdom, the division of the kingdom, and the ultimate exile of the northern kingdom in Assyria, and the southern kingdom in Babylon.

## ▶ POETRY 5 books

### Job – Song of Solomon

These books contain various kinds of songs, prayers, proverbs, and poetic stories.

## ▶ THE PROPHETS

The prophets were God's spokesmen who addressed the spiritual problems of their generation as well as foretold future events. The prophetic books are divided into two categories based on the length of the books:

### MAJOR PROPHETS 5 books

Isaiah – Daniel

### MINOR PROPHETS 12 books

Hosea – Malachi

# THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**THE PENTATEUCH** 5 books of Moses  
Genesis – Deuteronomy

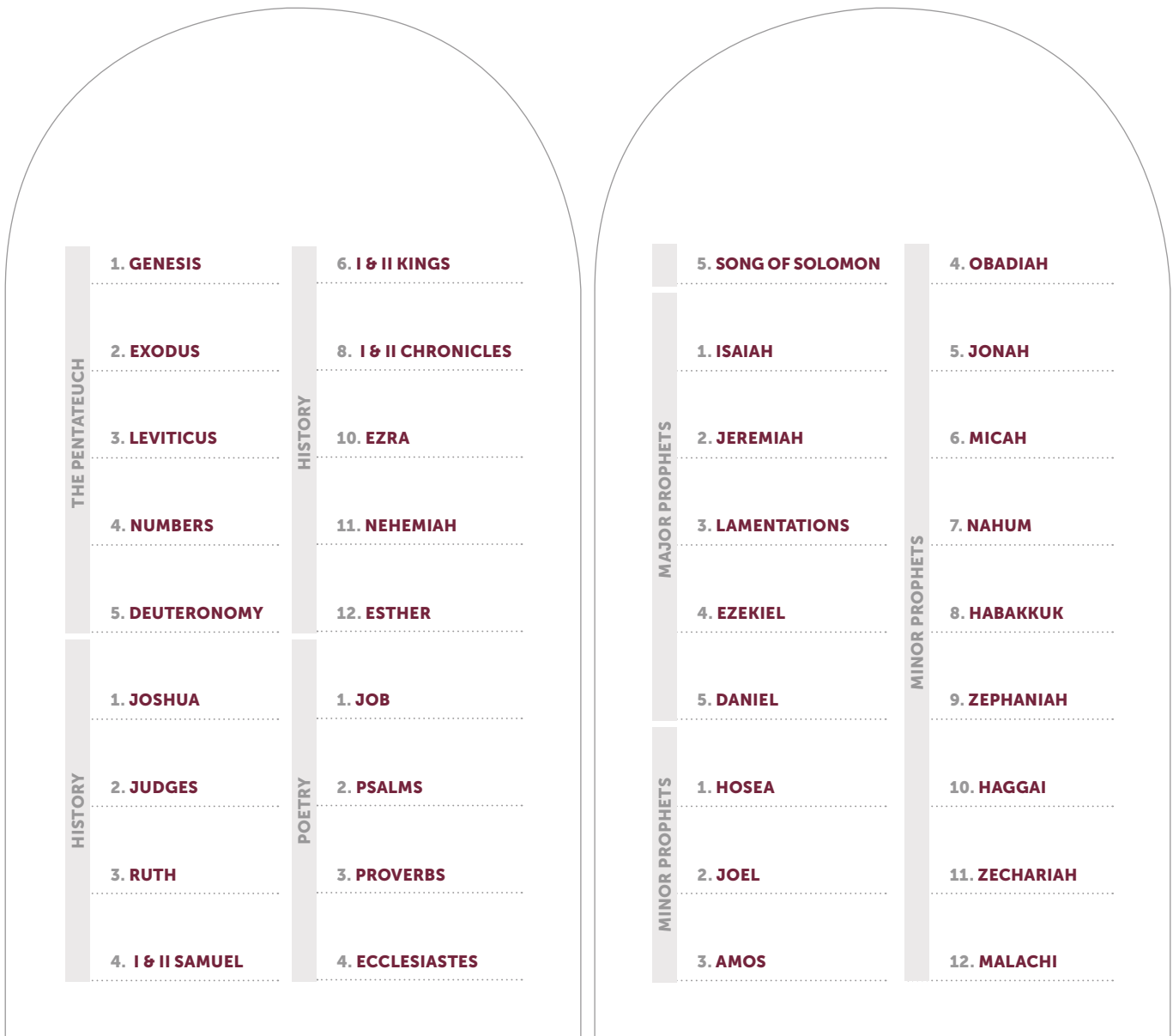
**HISTORY** 12 books  
Joshua – Esther

**POETRY** 5 books  
Job – Song of Solomon

**MAJOR PROPHETS** 5 books  
Isaiah – Daniel

**MINOR PROPHETS** 12 books  
Hosea – Malachi

**TOTAL** 39 total books  
Total Old Testament books



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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<b>1. G</b>	<b>6. I &amp; II K</b>
<b>2. E</b>	<b>8. I &amp; II C</b>
<b>3. L</b>	<b>10. E</b>
<b>4. N</b>	<b>11. N</b>
<b>5. D</b>	<b>12. E</b>
<b>1. J</b>	<b>1. J</b>
<b>2. J</b>	<b>2. P</b>
<b>3. R</b>	<b>3. P</b>
<b>4. I &amp; II S</b>	<b>4. E</b>

<b>5. S</b>	<b>4. O</b>
<b>1. I</b>	<b>5. J</b>
<b>2. J</b>	<b>6. M</b>
<b>3. L</b>	<b>7. N</b>
<b>4. E</b>	<b>8. H</b>
<b>5. D</b>	<b>9. Z</b>
<b>1. H</b>	<b>10. H</b>
<b>2. J</b>	<b>11. Z</b>
<b>3. A</b>	<b>12. M</b>