

# *Old Testament Condensed Outline*

## **I. PENTATEUCH. FIVE BOOKS**

- A. Genesis: Book of origins. Universe, human race, etc.
- B. Exodus: Bondage, deliverance, beginnings of Israel's history, Moses Canaan.
- C. Leviticus: Book of laws concerning morals, cleanliness food, and access to God by sacrifices.
- D. Numbers: Pilgrimages of Israel. Forty years in the wilderness.
- E. Deuteronomy: Repetition of laws given shortly before Israel entered Canaan.

## **II. HISTORICAL BOOKS. TWELVE BOOKS**

- A. Joshua: A record of the conquest of Canaan under leadership of Joshua, and division of the land among the 12 tribes.
- B. Judges: History of 6 servitudes of Israel, and deliverance of land by 15 Judges.
- C. Ruth: A beautiful pastoral story in which Ruth appears as ancestress of David and of Jesus Christ.
- D. 1st, 2nd Samuel: History of Samuel, with beginnings of Monarchical period in Israel under the reigns of Saul and David.
- E. 1st, 2nd Kings: Early history of the kingdom of Israel, and later, the divided kingdom.
- F. 1st, 2nd Chronicles: Largely a record of the reigns of David, Solomon, and Kings of Judah up to the time of captivity.
- G. Ezra: Record of the return of the Jews from captivity, and rebuilding of the Temple.
- H. Nehemiah: Account of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, and the reestablishment of the sacred ordinances.
- I. Esther: The story of Queen Esther's deliverance of the Jews from the plot of Haman, and the establishment of the Feast of Purim.

## **III. POETICAL, FIVE BOOKS.**

- A. Job: Problems of affliction, showing the malice of Satan, the patience of Job, the vanity of human philosophy, the divine wisdom, and deliverance of the Job.
- B. Psalms; Collection of one hundred and fifty spiritual songs, poems and prayers used through the centuries by the church in its devotions, many written by David.
- C. Proverbs: Collection of moral maxims, and discourses on wisdom, temperance, and justice.
- D. Ecclesiastes: Reflections on the vanity of life, and man's duties and obligations to God.

E. Song of Solomon: Religious poem symbolizing the mutual love of Christ and the Church.

#### IV. PROPHETICAL BOOKS. SEVENTEEN BOOKS.

##### MAJOR PROPHETS (FIVE)

- A. Isaiah: The great prophet of redemption, Messianic Prophecies, and woes pronounced upon sinful nations.
- B. Jeremiah: Weeping prophet. Lived from time of Josiah to the Captivity.
- C. Lamentations: Series of dirges by Jeremiah, bewailing afflictions of Israel.
- C. Ezekiel: Mystery book. Full of striking metaphors vividly portraying the sad condition of God's people, and the pathway to future exaltation and glory.
- E. Daniel: Personal biography and apocalyptic visions about events in both secular and sacred future.

##### V. MINOR PROPHETS (TWELVE)

- A. Hosea: Contemporary with Isaiah and Micah. Metaphors of sins of the people. Central: Apostasy of Israel characterized By spiritual adultery.
- B. Joel: Prophet of Judah. Central: Nat'l repentance/blessings. "The day of the Lord," a time of divine judgments, may be transformed into a season of blessing.
- C. Amos: Herdsman prophet. Courageous reformer, denouncing selfishness/sin.
- D. Obadiah. Central: Doom of Edom and final deliverance of Israel.
- E. Jonah: Reluctant Missionary. Bitter experience taught lesson of obedience. Mercy.
- F. Micah: Dark picture of moral condition of Israel /Judah, foretells the establishment of a Messianic kingdom where righteousness prevails.
- G. Nahum: Central: Destruction of Nineveh. Judah's promise of deliverance from Syria.
- H. Habakkuk. Chaldean period. Central: Mysteries of providence. How can a just God allow wicked nation's to oppress Israel?
- I. Zephaniah: Somber in tone, filled with threatenings, but ends in a vision of Israel's future glory.
- J. Haggai: Colleague of Zechariah. He reproves the people for slack in building the second Temple. Promises God's glory upon completion.
- K. Zechariah: Contemporary with Haggai. Helped arouse Jews to rebuild Temple. Had eight visions, and saw ultimate triumph of God's kingdom.
- L. Malachi: Gives a graphic picture of the closing period of Old Testament History. He shows the need of reforms before the coming of the Messiah, with promises.

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Psalm 119:105