

THE BIBLE

Priceless thy treasure, Word of grace and truth!
The comfort of old age, the friend of youth;
Within thy sacred pages we may find
Wisdom and knowledge to enrich the mind,
Guidance assured to direct our way,
Warning of danger lest we go astray .
Happy the child who learns thy precepts well,
Happy the land where rings their gospel bell,
Thrice happy those who all thy words obey,
Which shall abide when earth has passed away.
Sixty-six books the Way of Life unfold.
Priest, poet, peasant have the story told,
While kings and prophets of the Hebrew race,
With pen inspired, man's history retrace.

Some forty-four writers have left us this matchless legacy. Each book is complete in itself, yet each forms part of the one perfect whole. Though sometimes centuries intervene between the writers, the beautiful harmony of doctrine they reveal, attests their Divine inspiration. The master key which unlocks this incomparable treasure-house of truth is Christ. He is Alpha and Omega of all revelation. "In the volume of the book it is written of Him (Heb. 10:7) "To Him give all the prophets witness" (Acts 10:43) He is the reality of their types, the substance of their teaching and the object of their vision.

THE OLD TESTAMENT consists of thirty nine books. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, these five books generally called the Pentateuch, are attributed to Moses.

Books of history and organization: - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1 & 2 kings, 1&2 chronicles: Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester

Poetry:- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, lamentations .

Prophets:- Four major :- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Twelve minor :- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

THE NEW TESTAMENT consists of twenty-seven books, viz. :

The Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

The Acts of the Apostles.

Thirteen Pauline Epistles – Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

Epistle to the Hebrews.

Seven General Epistles: - 1, 2 & 3 John, 1 & 2 Peter, James and Jude.

The Revelation.

GENESIS

(beginnings) (B.C.4004 to B. C.1689)

50 Chapters

*The book of Genesis, seed plot of all,
Relates creation's story and the fall,
The flood, the call of Abram, and his seed,
Their sojourn down in Egypt and their need.*

Chs. 1-2 record the beginning of the heavens and the earth, also plant, animal and human life.	Chs. 3-6 tell of the first man Adam's fall, and it's consequences to all creation	Chs. 7-10 describe the flood and Jehovah's covenant with Noah and his seed
Ch. 11 Babel and his dispersion of man over the earth	Chs. 12-21 The Call of Abram, the covenant and the promise of God to Abraham	Ch. 22 Abraham's offering and receiving back of Isaac.
Ch. 23 Death and burial of Sarah	Ch. 24 The wooing of Rebecca.	Chs. 25-36 The story of Esau and Jacob.
Chs. 37-50 The story of Israel; Joseph and his brethren.		

Selection. "And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."

(Ch.1:3-5)

Note four great events in Genesis:-

The *Fall*, Ch. 3. The *Flood*. Ch.7. The *Fire*. Ch. 19. The *Famine*. Ch.41

EXODUS (going out). (B.C.1706 to b.c.1490) 40 chapters.

*The book of Exodus we next review,
Redemption is its theme, old ever new,
In Israel's bondage we may see our own,
In their deliverance ours too is foreshown.*

Chs.	1-12	contain an account of Israel's sojourn and suffering in Egypt, and the call of Moses to be their leader.
Chs.	13-14	Their deliverance from Pharaoh's bondage, and their crossing of the Red Sea.
Chs.	15-19	Their journey through the wilderness.
Chs.	20-24	The Decalogue and the judgements of Israel's conduct.
Chs.	25-27	Description of the Tabernacle.
Chs.	28-40	The Aaronic priesthood and service.

Selection.” And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial: and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations ; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”(Ch.12:13-14).

LEVITICUS. (B.C.1490 to B.C.1491). 27 Chapters.

*Leviticus, the third book, and it implies
We worship Him, whose throne is in the skies,
Yet condescends with man on earth to dwell,
Jehovah, is His name, Immanuel*

Chs. 1-7 describe the offerings God required from Israel, and the law concerning their presentation.	Chs. 8-9 Consecration of the priests and their ministry.	Ch. 10 The strange fire of Nadab and Abihu.
Ch. 11 The dietary regulations of Israel.	Ch 12 The law concerning motherhood.	Chs. 13-15 the law concerning leprosy and defilement.
Chs. 16-20 Atonement, and the conduct required by Jehovah of His chosen people.	Chs. 21-22 The relationships and conduct of the priests.	Chs. 23-24 The feasts of Jehovah.
Chs. 25-27 The law concerning the land.		

Selection. “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them , Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.” (CH. 19 :1-3).

NUMBERS. (B.C.1490 to B.C.1451). 36 Chapters.

*Numbers, the story of the wilderness,
Israels' wanderings, sin and bitterness,
The brazen serpent and the smitten rock'
Provision of the Shepherd for His flock.*

Chs. 1-10 Shew God's order and arrangement for the twelve tribes of Israel when marching or encamped.	Chs. 11-12 Journey from Sinai to Kadesh Barnea Israel's murmuring, the manna, Miriam's punishment.	Chs. 13-20 Israel's wandering in the wilderness.
Ch. 21 Journey resumed the brazen serpent and the victory over the Ammonites.	Chs. 22-25 Balaam; his prophecy and his doctrine.	Ch. 26 Numbering of Israel's new generation.
Chs. 27-36 The law concerning inheritance and vows, with a asummary of the journey from Egypt to Jordan.		

Selection. And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising. From thence they removed, and pitched the valley of Zared. From thence they removed and pitched on the other side of Arnon. (Ch. 21:11-13)

DEUTERONOMY. (B.C.1451). 34 Chapters.

*Deuteronomy brings Canaan in sight,
As we with Moses scale Mount Nebo's height;
Beyond the Jordan all its glory lies,
Most favored country underneath the skies.*

Chs. 1-3 Summary of Israel's wanderings and conflicts in the wilderness.	Chs. 4-28 Counsel and warning for the new generation concerning the law, with the conditions of blessings when they enter the promised land.	Chs. 29-30 The Palestinian covenant.
Chs. 31-32 Last words and counsel of Moses to Israel.	Ch. 33 His blessings of the twelve tribes of Israel.	Ch. 34 The vision of Moses and his death.

Selection "There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his Excellency on the sky. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the foundation of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine: also the heavens shall drop down dew." (Ch. 33:26-28).

JOSHUA. (Jehovah the Saviour). (B.C.1451 to 1427). 24 Chapters.

*Joshua, the book of victory and advance,
The foe is smitten by Jehovah's glance.
Jericho's walls fall down at His command,
And Israel possess the promised land.*

Ch. 1 The commission of Joshua.	Ch. 2 The story of Rahab.	Chs. 3-4 The historic crossing of Jordan described.
Chs. 5-6 Gilgal and the conquest of Jericho.	Ch. 7 The sin of Achan.	Chs. 8-12 The conquest of Canaan.
Chs.13-22 The division of the land among the twelve tribes.	Chs. 23-24 Last counsel and charge of Joshua to Israel.	

Selection “ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”
(Ch. 1 :8-9).

JUDGES. (B.C. 1425 to B.C.1406). 21 Chapters.

*Judges, a book of failure; all around
Idolatry and wickedness abound;
God's judgements and His mercy too are shown;
Midian's might by Gideon overthrown.*

Chs 1-2 Record the incomplete victory of Judah, Benjamin, and Manasseh; and the institution of the judges	Ch. 3 The story of Othniel, Israel's first judge; Ehud the second; and Shamgar the third judge.	Chs. 4-5 Deboprah and Barak ; Their song.
Chs. 6-8 Story of Gideon , Israel's fifth judge	Ch. 9 Story of Abimekech.	Ch 10 Tola the sixth,and Jair the seventh Judge.

Selection. "In those days there was no king in Israel' every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Ch. 21:25).

RUTH. (Satisfied) (B. C. 1312) 4 Chapters.

*Ruth, precious book of God's redeeming grace,
Bringing the stranger of an alien race
To share His people's blessings and to find,
In Boaz strong a husband rich and kind.*

The book of Ruth is a *remarkable record of redeeming grace.*

Ch. 1:6 Rule of the judges, and retrogression of Elimelech.	Ch. 1:6 Return of Naomi with Ruth and Orpah.	Ch. 1:16 <i>Ruth's request and resolve her renunciation of her religion and relations.</i>
Ch. 1:22 Return of Naomi to Bethlehem with Ruth at a time of reaping and rejoicing. God had remembered his people.	Ch. 2 Ruth among the reapers received, refreshed, recognized and recompensed.	Ch. 3 Ruth redeemed.
Ch. 4:10 Ruth redeemed, and related to Boaz.	Ch. 4:13-14 Reproducing, respected, and rewarded.	Ch. 4:17-22 Ruth a woman of renown in the royal line of David, and David's greater Son and Lord, (cp. Matthew 1, 5).

Selection. "And Ruth said, intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee : for whither thou goest I will go ; and where thou lodgest I will lodge : thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ch. 1:16).

I SAMUEL. (Heard of God) (B. C. 1171 to B. C. 1056) 31 Chapters.

*First book of Samuel reveals the King,
"Saul is anointed," hear the people sing,
Alas! It ends with night on Mount Gilbo',
The death of Saul, and Israels grief and woe.*

Chs. 1-8 record the birth and call of Samuel as Jehovah's prophet-priest.	Chs. 9-15 The people's choice of Saul as King of Israel, his rule and rejection by God.	Ch. 16 God's choice of David to be King.
Ch. 17 David's victory over Goliath.	Chs. 18-20 Story of David and Jonathan.	Chs. 21-30 David's adventures in the wilderness and Philistia.
Ch. 31 The death of Saul.		

Selection. "The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich : he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory : for the pillars of the earth are the Lords and He hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of His saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness ; for by strength shall no man prevail." (Ch. 2:7-9).

II SAMUEL. (B. C. 1056-to B.C. 1017) 24 Chapters.

*The second book of Samuel reviews
How David all his enemies subdues
Unites all Israel, reigns in Zion fair,
And for God's house gathers materials rare.*

Chs. 1-5 David anointed King over Judah, and then over all Israel.	Ch. 6 David brings the ark of God to Jerusalem.	Ch. 7 Jehovah's covenant with David.
Ch. 8 Establishment of David's Kingdom.	Ch. 9 David and Mephibosheth.	Ch. 10 The Amonite – Syrian war.
Chs. 11-12 Davids great sin, and his repentance.	Ch. 13 Ammon's crime and Absalom's vengeance.	Chs. 14-19 Absalom's conspiracy, rebellion and overthrow.
Chs. 20-21 Sheba's revolt, and the three years famine.	Ch. 22 David;s song of deliverance.	Ch. 23 Last words oof David, and record of his mighty men.
Ch. 24 David's sin in numbering the people.		

Selection. "God is my strength and power : and he maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hind's feet : and setteth me upon my high places. He teacheth my hands to war ; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms." (Ch. 22 : 33-35)

I KINGS. (B. C. 1015 TO b.c. 897) 22 Chapters.

*First book of Kings,- here Solomon behold,
Building the temple overlaid with gold ;
Full forty years he reigns, the King of peace,
Succeeding kings mark Israel's decrease.*

Chs. 1-2 Solomon anointed King. David's charge to Solomon.	Chs. 3-4 Solomon's prayer and wisdom..	Chs. 5-7 Solomon's preparation and building of the Temple
Ch. 8 Solomon's prayer of dedication, and blessing.	Ch. 9 Jehovah's charge to Solomon.	Ch. 10 Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.
Ch. 11 Declension of Solomon and his death.	Ch. 12 Accession and folly of Rehoboam.	Chs. 13-14 Jeroboam.
Ch. 15 Accession of Abijam and reign of Asa.	Ch. 16 Reigns of Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Libni and Omri, Kings of Israel.	Chs. 17-22 Story of Elijah and Ahab.

Selection. "And the King made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance." (Ch. 10 :27).

II KINGS. (B. C. 896 to B. C. 588) 25 Chapters.

*The second book of Kings shews Israel's state,
Jerusalem taken, broken down the gate,
Carried off captive to a foreign land,
Through disobedience to their God's command.*

Ch. 1 Elijah's message to Ahaziah, King of Israel.	Ch. 2 Translation of Elijah and call of Elisha to be his successor.	Ch. 3 Accession of Jehoram, King of Israel.
Chs. 4-5 Miracles of Elisha and cleansing of Naaman the leper.	Chs. 6-8 Miracles and prophecies of Elisha.	Chs. 9-10 Story of Jehu King of Israel.
Chs. 11-13 Reign of Joash and death of Elisha.	Chs. 14-16 From the reign of Ahaziah to Ahaz, King of Judah.	Ch. 17 Ten tribes carried captive to Assyria.
Chs. 18-24 From Hezekiah to Jehoiakim, Kings of Judah.	Ch. 25 Destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.	

Selection. "And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of Mount Zion : the zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall do this." (Ch. 19 : 30-32).

I CHRONICLES. (B. C. 4004 to B.C. 1015) 29 Chapters.

*First Chronicles records King David's might,
His warriors bold who conquered in the fight,
Their noble deeds have given them a name
Eternal as the stars' undying flame.*

Chs. 1-9 Record the genealogy of the children of Israel from Adam to David.	Ch. 10 Saul's overthrow and death.	Chs. 11-12 David's mighty men and their deeds.
Chs. 13-20 David's prosperity and victories.	Ch. 21 David's sin and punishment.	Ch. 22 His preparation of materials for the Temple.
Chs. 23-27 The number and distribution of the Levites for the Temple service.	Chs. 28-29 David's counsel to Israel and Solomon.	

Selection. "Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse : peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers : for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band." (Ch. 12 :18).

II CHRONICLES. (B. C. 1015 to B. C. 610) 36 Chapters.

*Chronicles second book describes the kings
Who reigned in Judah ; many other kings
Are all recorded that we too may learn
To love the Lord, and never from him turn.*

Ch. 1 Solomon's vision and prayer for wisdom.	Chs. 2-5 His preparation and building of the temple.	Chs. 6-7 Dedication and acceptance of the temple.
Chs. 8-9 Fame of Solomon and visit of the Queen of Sheba.	Chs. 10-36 The kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon to the captivity ; Their reigns and failure.	

Selection. "And the spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandment of the Lord, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the Lord, He hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the Lord." (Ch.24,20-21).

EZRA. (Helper) (B. C. 536 to B. C. 457) 10 Chapters.

*Ezra tells how a brave and noble band,
From Babylon returned to the land ;
And built anew the temple of the Lord,
According to the promise of His word.*

Ch. 1 The decree of Cyrus king of Persia to the children of the captivity.	Ch. 2 The names and number of those who went up to Jerusalem.	Chs. 3-6 The restoration work of the temple.
Ch. 7 Decree of Artaxerxes on Ezra's behalf.	Ch. 8 Ezra's companions.	Chs. 9-10 The moral condition of the returned remnant. Their failure and restoration.

Selection. "But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice ; and many shouted aloud for joy : so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout for joy from the noise of their weeping of the weeping of the people : for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off." (Ch. 3, 12-13.)

NEHEMIAH. (Consolation of Jehovah) (B. C. 446 to B. C. 434) 13 Chapters.

*Brave Nehemiah gives a record true,
About a faithful company, though few,
Who built again Jerusalem's broken walls,
Its gates and towers ; an epic that enthalls.*

Note *Chronological* order of the events recorded. Ezra's restoration of the temple implies *condition* Godward Nehemiah's restoration of the city walls, *condition* manward.

Ch. 1 The <i>concern</i> of Nehemiah for the city and children of God. His <i>confession</i> and <i>call</i> upon the <i>covenant</i> – keeping God of Israel.	Ch. 2 His <i>courage</i> , his <i>calling</i> and his <i>commission</i> .	Ch. 3 <i>Compare</i> the <i>conduct</i> of the nobles with the <i>conduct</i> of Shallum and Baruch.
Ch. 4 <i>Contempt</i> and <i>conspiracy</i> of Sanballat and Tobiah.	Chs. 5-6 <i>Complaint</i> of the people, and craft of Sanballat to <i>compromise</i> Nehemiah, cannot keep the work from being <i>continued</i> to <i>completion</i> .	Ch. 7 <i>Census</i> of the <i>children</i> of the <i>captivity</i> who returned, and their <i>contribution</i> to the work.
Ch. 8 <i>Convocation</i> of the people, and <i>command</i> to observe the feast.	Chs. 9-13 <i>Confession</i> , <i>covenant</i> , <i>consecration</i> , <i>cleansing</i> .	

Selection. “So we labored in the work : and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.” (Ch. 4 : 21).

ESTHER. (Secret or hidden) (B. C. 521 to B. C. 509.) 10 Chapters.

*The book of Esther never mentions God,
Yet is His love and mercy shed abroad,
Delivering His people from their foe ;
While Haman dies the death of felon low.*

Ch. 1 Record the story of Vashti Queen of Persia.	Ch. 2 Esther the Jewess made Queen.	Ch. 3 Conspiracy of Haman.
Ch. 4 Mordecai and Esther.	Ch. 5 The courage of Esther.	Ch. 6 Mordecai honoured.
Ch. 7 Esther's banquet, and death of Haman.	Ch. 8 Rejoicing of the Jews.	Ch. 9 Vengeance of the Jews, the feast of Purim, instituted.
Ch. 10 Exaltation of Mordecai		

Selection. "Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof ; it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces Unto every province according to the writing, and according to their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their writing, and according to their language." (Ch.8 :9). The longest verse in the Bible.

JOB (He that cries) (B. C. 1520.) 42 Chapters.

*The book of Job is written that we might see
The patriarch enduring patiently,
The many trials which perplexed him sore;
Blessed at his end far better than before.*

Probably the oldest book in the Bible. Throws light upon the problem-“Why do the godly suffer?”

Ch. 1 Job's prosperity, piety and proving.	Ch. 2 Job and his wife.	Ch. 3 Job's complaint.
Chs. 4-7 Discourse of Eliphaz the Temanite, and Job's answer.	Chs. 8-10 Discourse of Bildad the Shuhite and Job's answer.	Chs. 11-14 Discourse of Zophar the Naamathite and Job's answer.
Chs. 15-31 Further discussions between Job and his friends.	Chs. 32-37 Elihu's discourse.	Chs. 38-41 Jehovah speaks to Job.
Ch. 42 Job's self-judgement and God's blessing of Job.		

Selection. “But he knoweth the way that I take : when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not decline. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips ; nI have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” (Ch. 23 : 10-12.)

THE BOOK OF PSALMS. Divided into 5 books.

*These precious Psalms, (one- fifty is the sum)
Praise him who was, who is, and is to come,
Jehovah great I am- for ever blessed
In heaven above, in earth below confessed.*

Ps.	1-41	The first book, corresponds to Genesis. (Cf. Ps. 8) <i>Beginning.</i>
Ps.	42-72	The second book, corresponds to Exodus (Cf. Ps. 51) <i>Redemption.</i>
Ps.	73-89	The third book, corresponds to Leviticus (Cf. Ps. 84) <i>Sanctuary.</i>
Ps.	90-106	The fourth book, corresponds to Numbers. (Cf. Ps. 90) <i>Sojourn.</i>
Ps.	107-150	The fifth book, corresponds to Deuteronomy. (Cf. Ps. 119) <i>Obedience</i>

The Psalms begin with God blessing man, and end with man blessing God. The middle and shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. The middle verse of the Bible is the eighth verse of Psalm 118. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119.

Selection.

A PSALM OF DAVID.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures :
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul :
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil :
For Thou art with me ;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me
Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies :
Thou anointest my head with oil :
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life :
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23.)

Beneath me- Green Pastures.

Beside me- Still waters.

Before me- a table spread.

Beyond me- I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PROVERBS. (B.C. 1000 to B. C. 1015.) 31 Chapters.

*Proverbs, wise sayings of the Hebrew King,
Instruct the simple, and to honour bring
Those who give heed, and practice what they teach;
May we thus learn, and wisdom's kingdom reach.*

Chs. 1-7 Wise counsel to sons.	Chs. 8-9 The voice of wisdom.	Chs. 10-19 The folly of sin.
Chs, 20-29 Wisdom's warnings and instructions.	Ch. 30 The words of Agur.	Ch. 31 the words of Lemuel.

Selection. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies : and all things thou canst desire are not to be compared to her. Length of days is in her right hand : and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her : and happy is everyone that retaineth her." (Ch. 3 : 13-18.)

ECCLESIASTES. (B. C. 977) 12 Chapters.

*Ecclesiastes, things beneath the sun,
Their vanity described, the race we run,
Transient and changing with the passing years,
Our tale is told ; this is a vale of tears.*

Here we learn how poor a rich man can be.

Ch.	1	Emptiness of all things under the sun.
Ch.	2	Consideration of riches and wisdom.
Ch.	3	Concerning this life.
Ch.	4	Labour for riches- vanity.
Ch.	5	Evil of riches without wisdom.
Ch.	6	Soul of man not satisfied with earthly things
Ch.	7	Instruction in wisdom
Ch.	8	Application of heart to learn wisdom
Ch.	9	Salvation of the City through wisdom
Ch.	10	Teaching of wisdom continued
Ch.	11	Exhortation of diligence
Ch.	12	Sorrowful end of all things under the sun

Key phrase- "Under the sun" occurs 29 times.

Selection. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter : Fear God and keep his commandments : For this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ch. 12 :13-14.)

THE SONG OF SONGS. (B. C. 1014.) 8 Chapters.

*The Song of Songs delights in deathless love,
When earth is joined again to Heaven above
The bride, a people of the Lord,
The bridegroom, Christ- eternally adored.*

Here everlasting spring abides, and never withering flowers. Here is perennial youth, eternal beauty. Here no war's alarm intrude, and no serpent beguiles. In this wonderful garden of delight two persons are conspicuous, "the bridegroom and his bride": all else is accessory and contributory. There may be differences of opinion as to who *she* is, but there can be none regarding who *He* is. Only of our glorious Lord Jesus could it be truly said "My beloved is white" (Ch. 5: 10). Only of Him could such words be spoken as are spoken in Ch. 2 verses 10- 16. "Head of fine gold, feet set in sockets of gold" a perfect Figure of Glory- from head to foot- no deterioration.

To the carnal mind the Song of Songs must ever remain "a garden enclosed, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." But to the spiritual mind it is a fountain of gardens; springs of living water; and streams from Lebanon. Here we have left the wilderness behind us, and enter into that good land of rest to enjoy the delightful intimacy of our new relationship.

ISAIAH.

(Salvation of Jehovah) (B. C. 760 to B. C. 698.)

66 Chapters.

*Majestic and sublime, Isaiah's strain,
Of Israel's Kingdom when He comes to reign:
The Prince of Peace, The Saviour of Mankind:
His passion too, within the book we find.*

Isaiah towers high above all other books which form the great chain of prophetic vision. From its lofty height, we not only see Israel in exile, and the coming of the Messiah in humiliation, (Ch. 53) but we also obtain a clear view of the blessing of the Gentiles: (Chs. 54- 55) the manifestation of Messiah in Judgment: (Ch. 61) the reign of David's Righteous Branch: (Ch. 11) and the New Heavens and the New Earth (Ch.66).

Chs.	1- 5	Jehovah's indictment of the nation.
Chs.	6- 12	Messiah's Glory, Incarnation and future Power introduced.
Chs.	13- 24	The Judgment of the Gentiles.
Chs.	25-35	Description of the Day of the Lord.
Chs.	36- 39	A history of part of Hezekiah's reign.
Chs.	40- 66	The Consolation of Israel.

Selection. "Behold a King shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest: as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken." (Ch. 32: 1- 4).

JEREMIAH. (Exaltation of Jehovah) (B. C. 629 to B. C. 588). 52 Chapters.

*The weeping prophet, Jeremiah, shews,
Why God delivered Judah to his foes:
How patiently He bore their perverse way,
Loving them still though they had gone astray.*

He predicts the Babylonian captivity, the return after seventy years, the world wide dispersion, the final regathering of Israel, the kingdom age, and the day of judgement on the gentile powers. Sometimes the mind of god was represented to him by figurative emblems such as an almond branch, and a boiling pot with a face to the north (Ch. 1), a marred girdle (Ch. 13) and a potter making his vessels (Ch. 18). Jeremiah prophesying before and during the exile of Judah connects the pre-exile prophets with Ezekiel and Daniel, prophets of the exile.

Chs. 1-24 Jehovah's moving appeals to the people.	Ch. 25 Prophecy of Judgement through Nebuchednezzar.	Chs. 26-28 Reaction to the prophets message.
Chs. 29-33 Precious promises of future blessings.	Chs. 34-37 Solemn warnings of future judgements.	Ch. 38 The prophet in prison.
Chs. 39-51 The taking of Jerusalem, and description of the judgment of Egypt and Babylon.	Ch. 52 Historical appendix.	

Selection. "Turn O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family and I will bring you to Zion
: and I will give you pastors according to my heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding (Ch. 3:14-15)

LAMENTATIONS. (B.C. 588) 5 Chapters.

*The book of Lamentations as its name,
Laments the fall of Zion, and its shame;
The princes of proud Judah all laid low,
With none to help in their dark hour of woe.*

Each chapter is a lamentation revealing the love and sorrow of Jehovah for his people whom he is chastening.

Chs. 1-2 The prophet bewails the miseries of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.	Ch. 3 His own particular afflictions.	Ch. 4 He bewails the ruin of the temple, and city and the miseries of all rankings, princes, Nazarites, etc., and denounces ruin on the Edomites.
Ch. 5 He further deplores the misery of his nation, and prays for his deliverance		

Every letter seems written with a tear, every word the sound of a breaking heart, and the writer a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

Selection. "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger." (1:12)

EZEKIEL. (Strength of Jehovah.) (B. C. 595 to B. C. 574). 48 Chapters

*Ezekiel's vision of God's judgement sure,
Reveals what Israel must yet endure;
Ere the regathering of every tribe,
Within the land in safety to abide.*

Ezekiel contains 48 Chapters. The expression “The hand of the Lord was upon me,” indicates the seven prophecies of the book, *i.e.*, 1:3. 3:14, 22. 8:1. 33:22, 37:1. 40:1.

The title “Son of man” is used by Jehovah 91 times when addressing Ezekiel. Symbol and vision characterize this wonderful prophecy, the object of which was to bring before the generation born in exile, the national sins which had brought about Israel’s downfall; to sustain the faith of the exiles by predictions of restoration and glory under David’s greater Son.

Chs. 1-3 Instruction of the prophet.	Chs. 4-9 Dramatic testimonies against Israel and Jerusalem.	Chs. 10-11 Instruction of the prophet continued.
Chs. 12-23 Further testimonies against Israel.	Chs. 24-32 Testimonies against the surrounding nations.	Chs. 33-35 Israel’s watchmen and shepherds.
Chs. 36-39 Promise of Israel’s deliverance and restoration	Chs. 40-48 Description of the temple and the dividing of the land.	

Selection. “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand.’ (Ch.3:17-18)

DANIEL. (God is my Judge.) (B. C. 607 to B. C. 534).

12 Chapters

*Daniel the prophet not afraid to stand
Faithful for God, though in a heathen land.
Predicts the fall of Gentile nations might,
The triumphs of Christ's kingdom and the right.*

Ch. 1:3 <i>Daniel a descendent of the royal house of David.</i>	Ch. 1:8 His <i>determination</i> not to <i>defile</i> himself.	Ch. 1:11-21 <i>His discretion</i> and <i>distinction.</i>
Ch. 2:1-45 He <i>declares</i> Nebuchadnezzar's <i>dream</i> and the <i>interpretation</i> thereof.	Ch. 2:48-49 <i>Dignity</i> and <i>dominion</i> given to <i>Daniel.</i>	Ch. 3:1-7 <i>Dedication</i> of golden image on the plain of <i>Dura.</i>
Ch. 3:8-25 <i>Devotedness</i> and <i>deliverance</i> of Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego.	Ch. 4 <i>Downfall</i> and <i>dishonor</i> of Nebuchadnezzar.	Ch. 5 <i>Desecration</i> of the holy vessels by Belshazzar. The <i>divine displeasure</i> , <i>kingdom divided</i> , Belshazzar's <i>death.</i>
Ch. 6 Reign of <i>Darius</i> ; <i>Daniel's daring</i> and <i>deliverance.</i>	Ch. 7-8 <i>Details</i> and <i>declaration</i> of the vision of the <i>beasts.</i>	Ch. 9 <i>Desolation</i> of Jerusalem; time <i>determined</i> revealed to <i>Daniel.</i>
Ch. 10 <i>Description</i> of the vision of the glory of God.	Ch. 11 <i>Description</i> of the rise and <i>decline</i> of the Gentile world kingdoms.	Ch.12 <i>Days</i> of the end <i>depicted.</i>

Selection. "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (Ch. 3 :17-18)

HOSEA. (Savior) (B.C. 785 to B.C. 725) 14 Chapters

*Book of Hosea, Ephraim is the theme,
Jehovah's goodness treated as a dream;
"A cake unturned," describes th' apostate race,
Who leave the Lord, dumb idols to embrace.*

The prophet's unfaithful wife is the symbol through which God speaks to his backsliding people (Chs. 1-3). The word Ephraim occurs over 35 times in the book. Note his *preferment* (Gen 48:26) *Possessions* (Joshua 16:9) *Prostitution* (Hosea 4:17) *Profligacy* (5:11) *Perfidy* (6:7) *Poverty and presumption* (7:8-11) *Profanity* (8:11) *Punishment* (9:6, 10:13-15) *Privileges* (Ch 11) *Pride* (Ch. 12) *Preservation* (Ch. 13) *Penitence, Pardon, Prospect and prosperity* (14: 4-8). Note the *promise to the Prudent* (14:9)

Chs.	1-3	The parable of the prodigal wife
Chs.	4-10	The moral and political decay of Israel
Ch	11	The father-love of God
Chs.	12-14	Judgment and mercy interwoven: Love in all

Selection: "Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us; in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. The shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord." (Ch. 6:1-3)

AMOS. (weighty). (B.C. 787 to B.C. 797). 9 Chapters.

*Amos a herdsman is the chosen seer,
To warn all Israel judgment draweth near;
And though dispersed among the nations, yet
The Lord His people never shall forget.*

Ch.	1-2:3	Predict the judgment of God on the Syrians, Edomites, Ammonites and Moabites
Ch.	2:4-16	Judgments on Judah and Israel
Ch.	3-9:10	Jehovah's controversy with the whole family of Jacob
Ch.	9:11-15	Prophecy of full Kingdom blessing of restored Israel in their own land.

The language of this despised gatherer of sycamore fruit, in his description of God, has seldom been equaled. Note, e.g.,

Selection. "For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, The God of hosts, is his name." (Amos 4:13)

JOEL. (Jehovah is God). (B.C. 800). 3 Chapters

*Joel foretell the judgment of the Lord,
Upon the nations who reject His word
The Kingdom blessings Israel will know,
When from Mount Zion wine and milk shall flow.*

Ch.	1	Describes a fearful famine in the land of Israel, occasioned by excessive drought and destructive vermin. This local circumstance is used by the prophet in a spiritual way to foretell the day of the Lord. (Verses 13-14)
Ch.	2	The day of the Lord and the invasion of Palestine. Jehovah's promise of deliverance, and of the effusion of the Spirit (Cf. Acts 2:17)
Ch.	3	The Restoration of Israel, and full Kingdom blessings

Selection. "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind him: even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?" (Ch. 2: 12-14).

OBADIAH. (Servant of Jehovah). (B.C. 887 to B.C. 885). 1 Chapter

*The doom of Edom, Obadiah tells,
Though like the eagle he exalted dwells;
God's mighty hand will surely spoil his nest;
He robbed his brother Jacob when distressed.*

Obadiah, a godly man, was one of the governors in the family of wicked Ahab. When Jezreel sought to destroy the Lord's prophets Obadiah hid one hundred of them, by fifty in a cave, and despite the dearth, fed them with bread and water. (Cf. 1 Kings 18: 3-4).

Verses 1-9	Edom's humiliation.
Verses 10-14	Edom's great sin. (Cf. Numbers 20:14-21).
Verses 15-16	Edom's punishment in the Day of the Lord.
Verses 17-20	Edom included in Israel's future kingdom.

Selection. "This shouldst not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldst not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity; neither shouldst thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldst thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress." (Verses 13-14).

JONAH. (a dove). (B.C. 862). 4 Chapters.

*Jonah, the prophet, little understood;
Reveals how God is merciful and good;
Ehen Nineveh repented He forgave,
Sparing the city with the King and slave.*

The authority of this remarkable book has been established by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matth. 12:39). Jonah not only typifies Jesus Christ, but also the nation of Israel in their present condition of disobedience. There will be no peace for Gentile nations until Israel (now cast out of the land) is restored again. (Cf. Romans 15: 1-36)

Ch.	1	Describes Jonah's perversion and punishment
Ch.	2	Jonah's penitence and preservation
Ch.	3	His preaching in the power of resurrection.
Ch.	4	The pride and petulance of Jonah, and God's patience with his prophet in the practical lesson he taught him of his purpose of grace to all who repent and turn to him for pardon.

Selection. "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." (Ch. 1:17).

MICAH. (Who is like Jehovah?). (B.C. 750 to B.C. 700). 7 Chapters.

*Micah foretells the town of Jesus birth –
Bethlehem Ephratah, joy of all the earth;
Judah's declension; Christ's millennial reign;
The gathering home of Israel again.*

Ch.	1-3	The prophet exclaims against the wickedness of the ten tribes, but chiefly of the rulers, priests, and false prophets of Judah; foretells the Assyrian invasion, and the destruction of the city and temple of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans and Romans.
Ch.	4-5	Deliverance from Assyrian and Chaldean captivity foretold. Birth of Messiah predicted.
Ch.	6-7:6	Israel reprov'd for her ingratitude, oppression, deceit and want of natural affection.
CH.	7:7-20	The voice of the remnant in the last days.

Selection. "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? The Lord's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod and who hath appointed it." (Ch. 6:8-9).

NAHUM. (Comforter). (B.C. 713). 3 Chapters.

*Omniscient God in Nahum now behold,
In days of trouble His people's stronghold;
Though Nineveh has fallen in the dust'
He knoweth them who in His great name trust.*

Nahum vindicates the holy character of Jehovah in his judgment of Ninevah. Under the preaching of Jonah, the city and its King had turned to God, but in time of Nahum, over one hundred years later, because the city had apostatized from God, its utter destruction is foretold by the prophet.

In Nahum we see a picture of the religious Gentile world system in the last days, and its fearful end. A remarkable description of present day high powered cars and tanks is found in Ch. 2:4-5.

Ch.	1	The vengeance of the Lord.
Ch.	2-3	The siege and fall of Ninevah.

Selection. "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings. He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defense shall be prepared." (Ch. 2:4-5).

HABAKKUK. (He that embraces) (B. C. 626.)

3 Chapters.

*In Habakkuk Chaldea's doom we read,
Jehovah's care for all the chosen seed;
Though fig trees perish, and the olives fail,
The just shall live by faith and thus prevail.*

Ch. 1. FAITH TRIED. Habakkuk's perplexity and prayer because the wicked prosper and are not punished.

Ch. 2. FAITH THRIVE. Habakkuk's resolve and God's revelation.

Ch. 3. FAITH TRIUMPHANT. Rejoicing in the Lord because resting in the Lord.

Selection. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds feet, and he will make me walk upon high places. To the chief singer upon my stringed instruments." (Ch. 3:17-19).

*Behold in Zephaniah the great day,
When God's fierce judgment sweeps His foes away;
Israel too must feel His chastening hand,
Ere they return to occupy the land*

Ch. 1. Predicts the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar, a figure of the future day of the Lord.
Ch. 2 A call to the righteous remnant of Judah; prophecy concerning the judgement of certain other nations.
Ch. 3 The moral state of Jerusalem described: the judgment of the nations; and the Kingdom blessings of Israel

Selection. "In that day shall it be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thy hands be slack. The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy' he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing...At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord." (Ch.3:16, 17, 20.)

HAGGAI. (Solemnity) (B.C.520.)

2 Chapters.

*Haggai, faithful prophet of the Lord,
To Judah's careless remnant speaks the word,
"Up build my house and I will give you peace,
And all your labours bless with rich increase.*

The *condition* of the restored remnant in Haggai's day, affords a most striking comparison with the spiritual state of the Church in the last days.

Haggai was contemporary with Zechariah and Malachi. The *Circumstances* are detailed in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Ch. 1. <i>Cause</i> for the prophecy-careless conduct of the people.
Ch. 1:5-7 <i>Counsel</i> of Jehovah "Consider your ways"
Ch. 1:8 <i>Command</i> of Jehovah- "Go,bring,build"
Ch. 1:12 <i>Contrition</i> and obedience of the people.
Ch. 1:8 <i>Comfort</i> of God to his people- "I am with you"
Ch. 1:14 <i>Construction</i> of the temple <i>commenced</i> .
Ch. 2:3 <i>Comparison</i> of restored temple with former temple.
Ch. 2:4-6 <i>Consolation</i> and encouragement to <i>continue</i> .
Ch. 2:10-17 <i>Chastening</i> and <i>cleaning</i> of the priests and people.
Ch. 2:18-22 <i>Counsel</i> and promise of blessing.
Ch. 2:23 <i>Choice</i> of God, and reward for obedience and faithfulness.

Selection. "Is it time for you ye to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore, thus saith the Lord of Hosts; consider your ways.' (Ch.1:4-5)

ZECHARIAH. (Memory of Jehovah) (B.C. 520 to B.C. 487) 14 Chapters.

*In Zechariah we may visions see,
Of Israel's joy and glory yet to be.
Upon the Mount of Olives He shall stand,
Messiah, King o'er all the pleasant land.*

Chs.	1-6	Record the following nine visions (1) The rider on the red horse 1:8 (2) The four horns 1:8 (3) The four carpenters 1:20 (4) The man with the measuring line 2:1 (5) Joshua the High Priest 3:1 (6) The golden candlestick 4:2 (7) The flying roll 5:1 (8) The Ephah 5:5 (9) The four chariots 6:1 These visions primarily concern Israel's present and future state.
Chs	7-8	The Jewish mission from Babylon, and Jehovah's reply.
Chs.	9-14	Messiah's first advent and rejection predicted; and the glory of his second advent and kingdom described.

Selection: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; in those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, even, We will go with you: for we have heard God is with you. (Ch. 8:23).

MALACHI. (My Messenger) (B.C. 397). 4 Chapters

*The prophet Malachi completes the book
Of the Old Testament, with him we look,
And hail His coming, Sun of Righteousness,
With healing in His wings the earth to bless.*

Ch.	1	The prophet reminds Israel of Jehovah's love for them, above what had been shewn to Esau, and reproves them for their ingratitude and insincerity.
Ch.	2	He reprehends the priests for their neglect and corruption.
Ch.	3	The mission of John the Baptist and the Coming of Messiah foretold.
Ch.	4	The Day of the Lord described.

Selection. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." (Ch. 3: 16-17).