

**#15 – OT Prophets – Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah – “One who speaks for God”**

Dear Families:

This is the transition lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures, often called the Old Testament to the Second Testament, often called the New Testament. The terms old and new might make people think that the “new” replaces the “old.” Matthew 5:17 relates that Jesus specifically said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.” Some places in the Hebrew Scriptures point toward a coming messiah, which literally means, “the one anointed with oil,” who is a leader, savior and deliverer. The prophets are most easily understood as “those who speak for God.” I pray your holidays are joyful and peaceful and for those who have difficult memories with which to deal during holiday times, that they will find some peace and comfort. God Bless!

**Bible Texts:** Elijah-I Kings 16:30, 31 & 33; 17:1-6; 18:17-39 Elisha-II Kings 6:8-23 Isaiah-7:14; 9:6-7 (Summarized and abridged)

(Previous to this story of the prophet Elijah)-A new king over the Israelites, Ahab, “did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him. . .He served Baal (a false god) and worshiped him. . .Ahab did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than had all the kings of Israel who were before him, , (Elijah told Ahab there would be a drought lasting 3 years and then God told Elijah to go hide in a valley with a little seasonal stream. God had ravens bring him food.). . . (Elijah returns in the third year of the drought and sees Ahab) When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” (Elijah) answered. I have not troubled Israel; but you have. . .because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, (and all your 450 prophets of Baal). . .(So Ahab assembled the Israelites and the 450 prophets of Baal) Elijah then came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” The people did not answer him a word. . .(Elijah, the only prophet to represent the true God told the other prophets to set up a sacrifice, but not to put fire on it and he did the same.) “Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed (the One True) God. . .(The prophets of Baal built their sacrifice and called out to Baal from morning until noon, but there was no answer. Elijah told them to cry louder because maybe their god was asleep. They cried out louder but there was still no response from Baal.) Elijah said to all the people, “Come closer to me”. . .First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. He took 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel. . .and built an altar (adding wood) in the name of the Lord. Then he made a (large) trench around the altar. . .“Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood. (Elijah told them to pour water two more times over the sacrifice until the water flowed over and filled up the trench around it.) “The prophet Elijah came near and said, ‘O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your bidding. Answer me O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back.’ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up water that was in the trench. . .When all the people saw it they fell on their faces and said, ‘The Lord indeed is God!; the Lord indeed is God!’”

(Previous to this story about Elisha-A king of Aram, who was at war with Israel, thought that he had spies among his soldiers because the Israelites always seemed to know what he was doing. One of his

officers told him about Elisha, God's prophet, being able to tell the King of Israel all that the king of Aram was saying, even in his bed chamber. He wanted to know where this prophet was and his officer told him.) So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city. When an attendant of the man of God rose early in morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, "Alas, master! What shall we do?" Elisha replied, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see. So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around. . .When the soldiers began to move, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people, please, with blindness." So He struck them with blindness as Elijah had asked. Elisha said, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." (Elisha led them to Samaria and God opened their eyes. Elisha asked God if he should kill them. God told him no, then said), "Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master." So he prepared for them a great feast; after they ate and drank he sent them on their way. . .and they no longer came raiding into the land of Israel.

(Isaiah's book is full of poetic writing that takes a lot of study to understand. I am only going to quote a few verses from Isaiah that refer directly to Christ and to which Matthew, a disciple of Christ, referred as he told the story of Jesus in the first book of the Second Testament.) Isaiah 7:14 – "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Matthew 1:22-23 – "All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Isaiah 9:6-7 – "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."

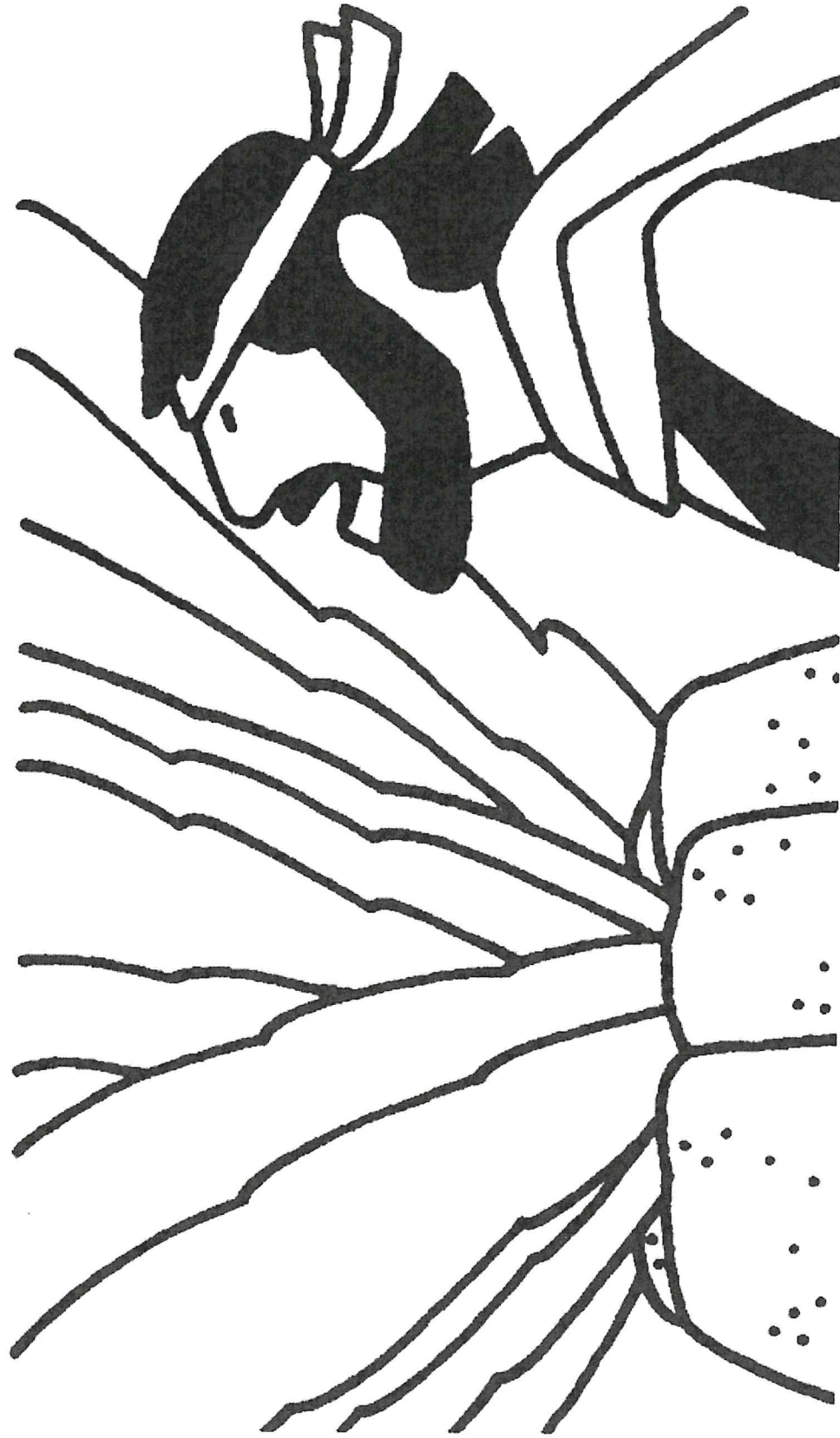
**Bible Verse:** (See next page please.) For younger children – "For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given." Isaiah 9:6a. Older children can memorize the entire verse. The words in the shape of a tree are both the verse and the picture.

**Materials:** \*1 page for the verse \*2 coloring pages, 1 for Elijah, 1 for Elisha \*1 music page  
 \*Hebrew Scriptures BINGO game \*2 pages for adults or older children that give an overview of the Hebrew Scriptures uses the terms Old and New Testament

**Game:** Who am I? Write a name of a First Testament character on a sticky note. Stick it on a child's forehead. Have child ask questions or you give hints for them to figure out the name on their forehead.

**Stories in print or online:** \*\*My books that I read for these lessons were published a long time ago. As I look online I see a lot of videos and books that your child/ren could access to learn more about a story, or learn it better. Arch Religious Books for Children has many titles of stories that we have covered that are not too expensive. Arch Books has one called *God's Fire for Elijah* which is the new edition of the one I am reading. Just look up Elisha and Isaiah for children for those two prophets. Or, order a Bible story book with pictures that has multiple stories in the one book. Our next lesson we will be in the New Testament. Reading a book or watching the story online after I present it will help retention. Or, provide art supplies and let them illustrate the story themselves. This is a good activity to check for understanding.

For  
Unto  
us a  
CHILD  
is born  
Unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6



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## Music Page - Body Percussion to Instruments

Shaker-Clap

Drum-Pat

1 2 3 4

4-beats in a measure  
4- $\frac{1}{4}$  note gets one beat

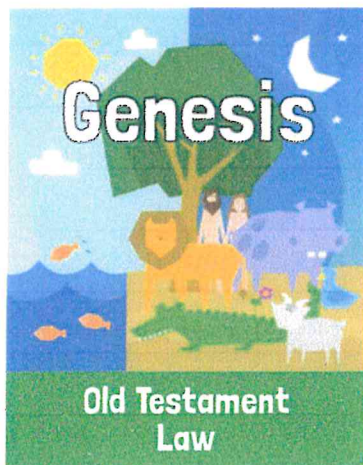
> - accent mark-with more force

:||-repeat-sign  
repeat from the beginning

The above is one measure of notes in 4/4 time with a repeat sign at the end. This means to go back and repeat the measure. The accent marks mean to hit or shake a little harder than the other notes. The bottom line is just for patting and the top line is for clapping. Have your child start with the body percussion first, which is just patting and clapping. Be sure to accent the clapping notes. I am showing the body percussion on the recording, but I am sure they will need more practice. This is also a great brain activity. This is probably obvious to most, but please notice that the patting and clapping are always separate and never together. When your child becomes proficient at the body percussion, have them try it on the instruments that we made in the beginning of the recordings. Also, after they are proficient one my pattern, let them make their own patterns. Try to get them to do 2 measures of 4 beats each with their own patterns. If they can't quite do that, just let them do whatever. As long as each child is creating, that is good even if they cannot stay in my perimeters. The older they are, the more they should be able to stick within the 8-beat pattern.



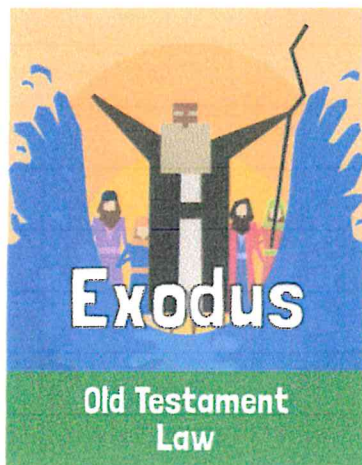
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Old Testament  
Law

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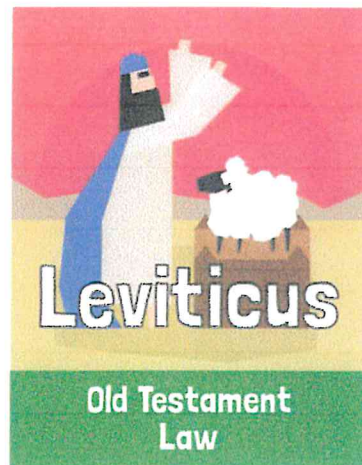
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Law

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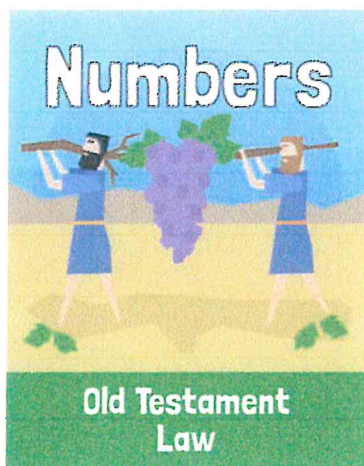
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Law

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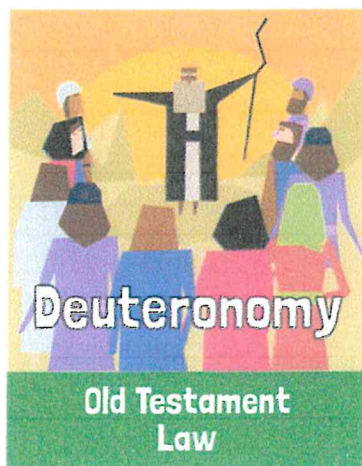
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Law

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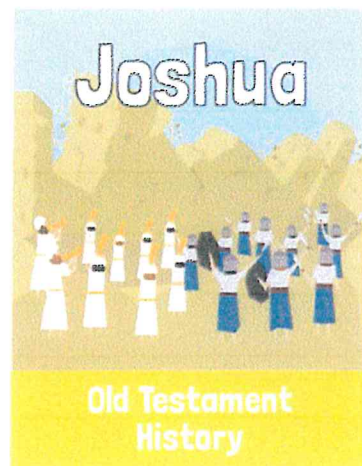
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Old Testament  
Law

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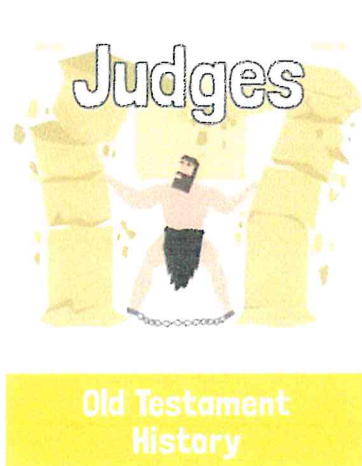
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History

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History

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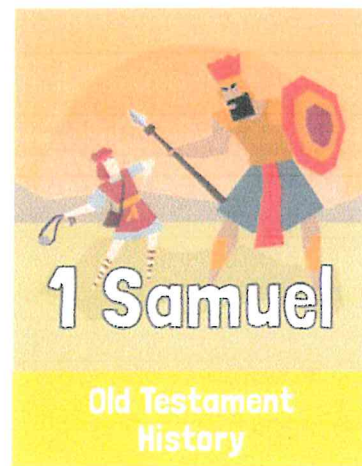
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History

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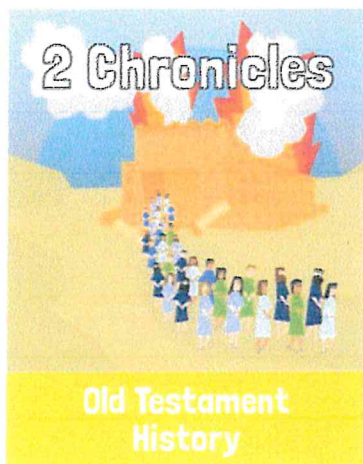
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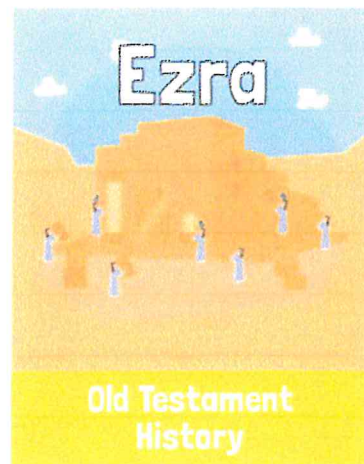
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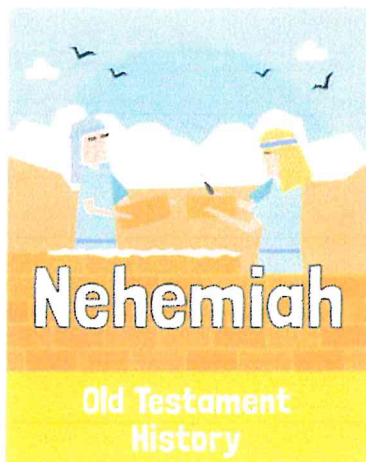
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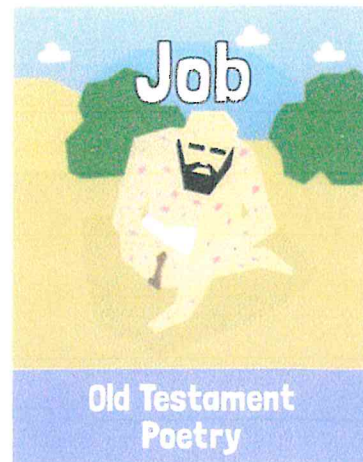
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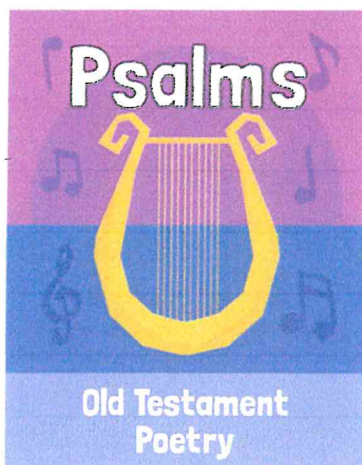


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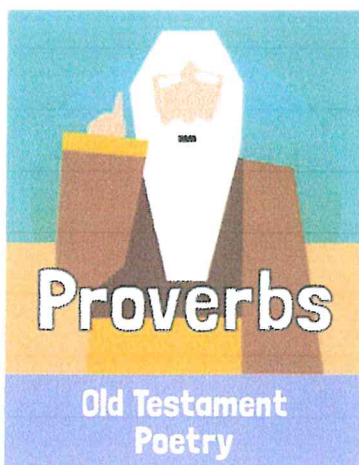


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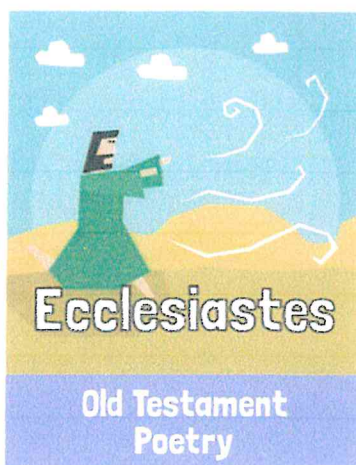
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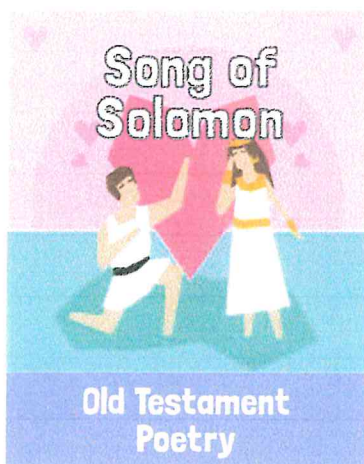
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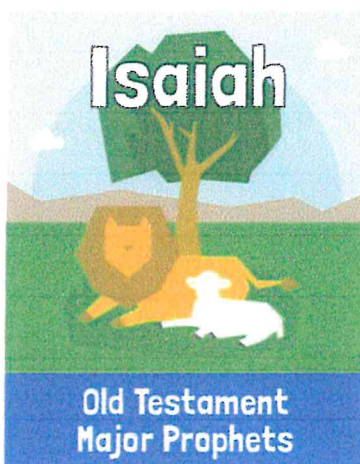
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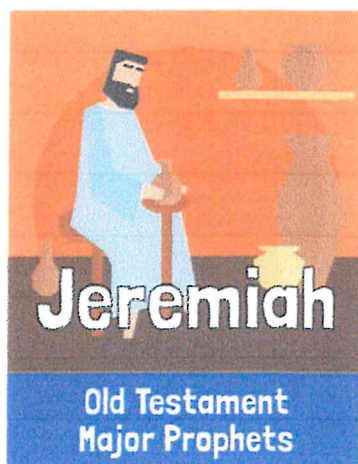
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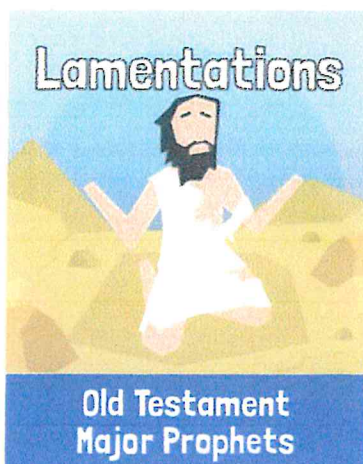
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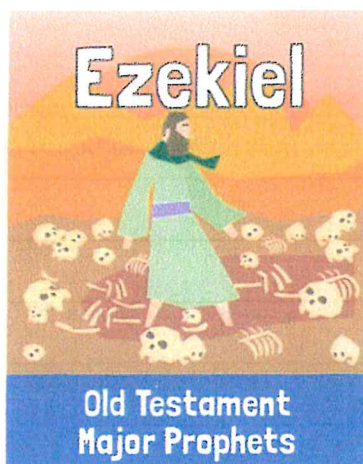
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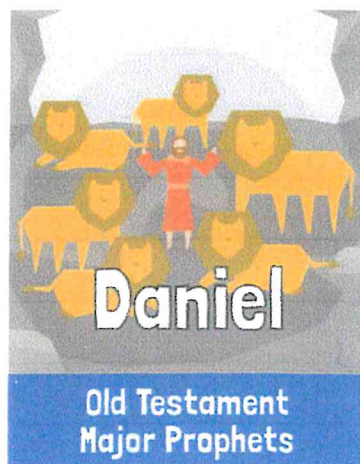
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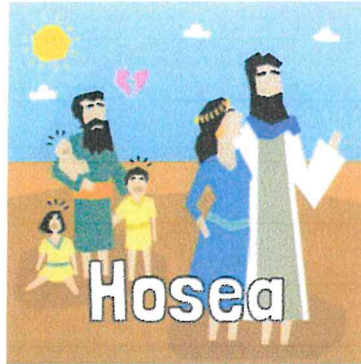
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Bible Bingo



Hosea

Old Testament  
Minor Prophets

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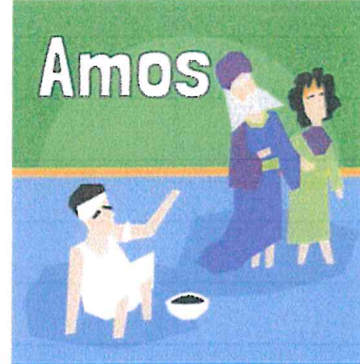


Joel

Old Testament  
Minor Prophets

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Amos

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Minor Prophets

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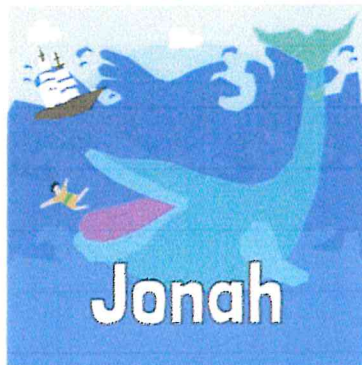


Obadiah

Old Testament  
Minor Prophets

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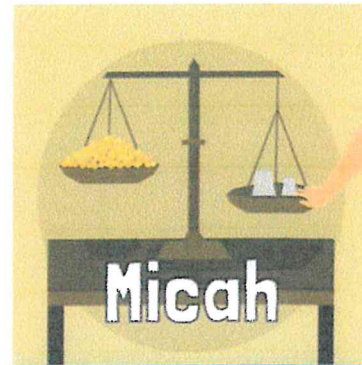


Jonah

Old Testament  
Minor Prophets

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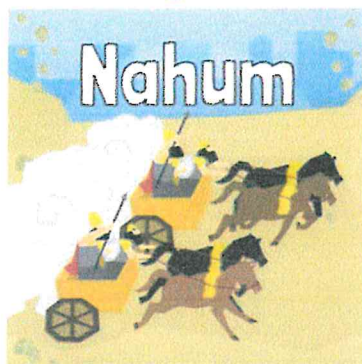


Micah

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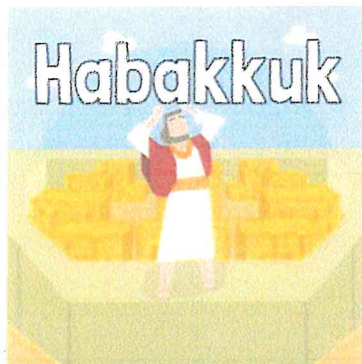


Nahum

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Habakkuk

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Zephaniah

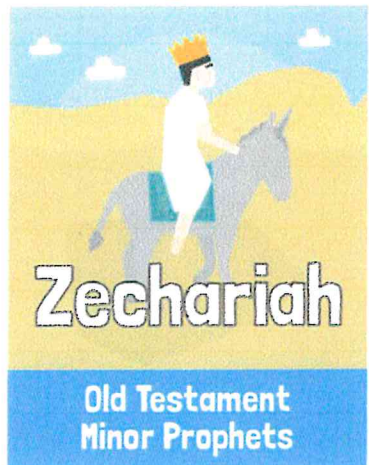
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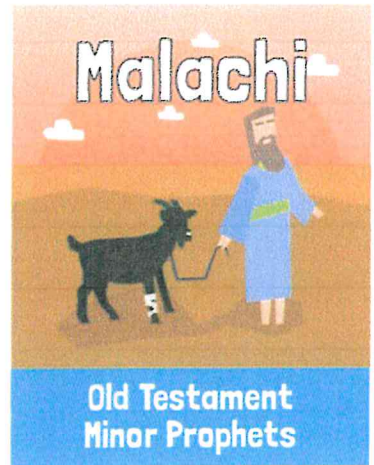




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# Hebrew Scriptures

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## **Sections of the Bible**

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### **Old Testament - OT**

- 1. Law**
- 2. History**
- 3. Poetry**
- 4. Major Prophets**
- 5. Minor Prophets**

### **New Testament - NT**

- 6. Gospels**
- 7. History**
- 8. Letters from Paul**
- 9. General Letters**
- 10. Prophecy**

## **Introduction**

The Bible, also referred to as Scripture, is God's Word to us. God's Spirit worked in more than 40 human authors to inspire them to write the Bible. The Bible is not one single book, but rather a collection of 66 books that tell one unified story about God, His relentless love for us, and how we can have a relationship with Him.

The 66 books of the Bible are organized into main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament comprises 39 books written before the coming of Jesus Christ. These books were written over a period of about 1000 years and are organized into 5 sections: Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.

The New Testament comprises 27 books, written after the coming of Jesus Christ. These books were written over a much shorter period of time, less than 100 years. The New Testament books are also organized into 5 sections. Gospels, History, Letters from Paul, General Letters, and Prophecy.

## **Sections of the Old Testament**

**1.** This first section of the OT, **Law**, is made up of 5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It is also known as the Pentateuch, which simply means "5 books." Jewish people call it the Torah. The 5 books were written by Moses, where God provided teaching and guidance for humanity. Christians also accept the OT as divinely written. These books contain the laws and instructions given by God, through Moses, to the people of Israel.

Despite human's continual rebellion, God set in motion His plan to redeem us and restore our relationship with Him. God chose Father Abraham and Mother Sarah and promised not only to make him into a great nation, but also to bless all nations through him.

This section includes many well-known stories, such as Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood, The Call of Abraham, Joseph, Birth of Moses, Burning Bush, Ten Plagues, Crossing the Red Sea, and The Ten Commandments.

**2.** The second section, **History**, includes 12 books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. This section begins with Israel's conquest of Canaan, the land that God had promised to the Israelites through Abraham. Because God was with the Israelites, they enjoyed great victories over their enemies. They settled in the Promised Land, but did not follow all of God's instructions to conquer all of the land. They began to fall away from God and follow evil ways and worshiped idols. This led to their downfall and exile from the land God had given them. Still, God remained faithful in His steadfast love for His people. He still does today for us. King Solomon built a temple to God and rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem.

Included in this section are stories of many good and bad leaders of Israel. Joshua led the Israelites in the first battle to win the Promised Land at Jericho. God raised up leaders called Judges, such as Deborah, Gideon, and Samson to help in times of crises. Israel rejected God's kingship and God still helped them and gave them human kings: Saul, David, Solomon. After Solomon died civil war broke out and divided the people into the kingdom of Israel in the north and the kingdom of Judah in the south. Some kings were good and some bad, but God never quit loving & watching over His people.

3. The third section, **Poetry**, includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. It is sometimes referred to as the Books of Wisdom. They are mostly written in the form of Hebrew poetry.

The first two sections deal mostly with God's relationship with the nation of Israel. This section deals more with God's personal relationships with people. The books speak of issues with the heart.

The book of Psalms, which makes up more than half this section, are 150 ancient Hebrew worship songs. We think King David wrote about 73 of these. They deal with a wide spectrum of emotions: joy, praise, thanksgiving, sorrow, fear and anger.

The other four books deal with why good people sometimes suffer (Job), practical guidelines for daily living (Proverbs-written by King Solomon), the meaning of life (Ecclesiastes), the joy of romantic love (Song of Solomon).

4. The fourth section includes the Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentation, Ezekiel, and Daniel. They are called the Major Prophets because they are longer than the other prophets' books.

These books speak about the time after King Solomon had died and Israel is divided. The people persisted in their rebellion against God. God raised up prophets to deliver His divine messages. He warned that He would send judgment if they continued in their wickedness, which they did. So, He allowed both kingdoms to fall to foreign nations. God continued to speak to His people, but brought a new message about a coming Savior.

5. The final section of the OT, **Minor Prophets**, contains 12 books. This section has shorter books, which is the reason they are called Minor. Each prophet had a different background and style, but each spoke a specific message sent by God to His people.

These books were written during the time between the divided kingdoms, through the Babylonian exile, and the return to Jerusalem. They share similar themes of calling out the sins of the people, calling them to repentance and faithfulness. They warn of God's judgement and the promise of God's deliverance and restoration if they obey God's commandments.

Similar to the Major Prophets, these prophecies found some fulfillment in the near future, but they also point to a much greater future fulfillment through Jesus Christ. The last book of the OT, Malachi, closes with a command to remember the Law of Moses, and a promise that God's day of judgement is coming.