

An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible Week 5

ONLINE STUDY GROUP

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPRING 2023



Prayer

Holy God of Abundance,

as we sow and reap and gather into barns; as we work and earn and calculate our net worth, let us consider the birds of the air.

Let us consider the lilies of the field.

Let us notice and look and give thanks for the food that feeds us and the food that feeds the birds; for the clothes that cover and warm us and the colors and textures that clothe the flowers and fields.

May we live in gratitude—

not gratitude as a denial of today's problems, a refusal to admit that tomorrow will bring troubles of its own,

but a gratitude that is deep trust, a choice to embrace the grace.

Holy God of abundance, ease us away from worry and point us on the path toward your Kingdom.

Amen.

Israel's Beginnings

THE INTERTRIBAL PERIOD



A Coalition of Tribes

A social and religious revolution

- Against states with kings that exacted tribute

From the indigenous underclasses of Canaan

- 80% Peasants

Free uphill farming

- Grains, wine, oil, fruits, vegetables
- Small herds
- Metal farming tools
- Waterproof cisterns
- Small-scale irrigation
- Rock terracing

Equal access to resources

Organized into extended families, federated tribes

Mutual aid

- Defense
- Religion

Covenant

- Religion + politics
- “Make no treaties” with Canaanite ruling classes and their religious practices

Israel's Monarchy

Timeline of Early Israel and the Monarchy

Period	Estimated Dates	Approximate Length	
Intertribal Period	1200—1020	200 years	Exodus through the period of the Judges
United Monarchy	1020—934	100 years	Saul, David, Solomon
Divided Monarchy	(Schism 931)		
Judah (South)	931—722	200 years	Conquered by Assyria
Israel (North)	931—586	350 years	Conquered by Neo-Babylon

The Bible and the Period of the Monarchy

Deuteronomistic History (DH)

WORKS INCLUDED

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Kings

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

Entry into the promised land

Tribal confederation

Rise of the monarchy under Saul

United monarchy under David and Solomon

Divided kingdoms:

- North (Israel)
- South (Judah)

Sources

WORKS FROM THE AGE OF THE MONARCHY

Deuteronomistic History

Jahwist (J)

Elohist (E)

Amos

Hosea

Micah

Isaiah

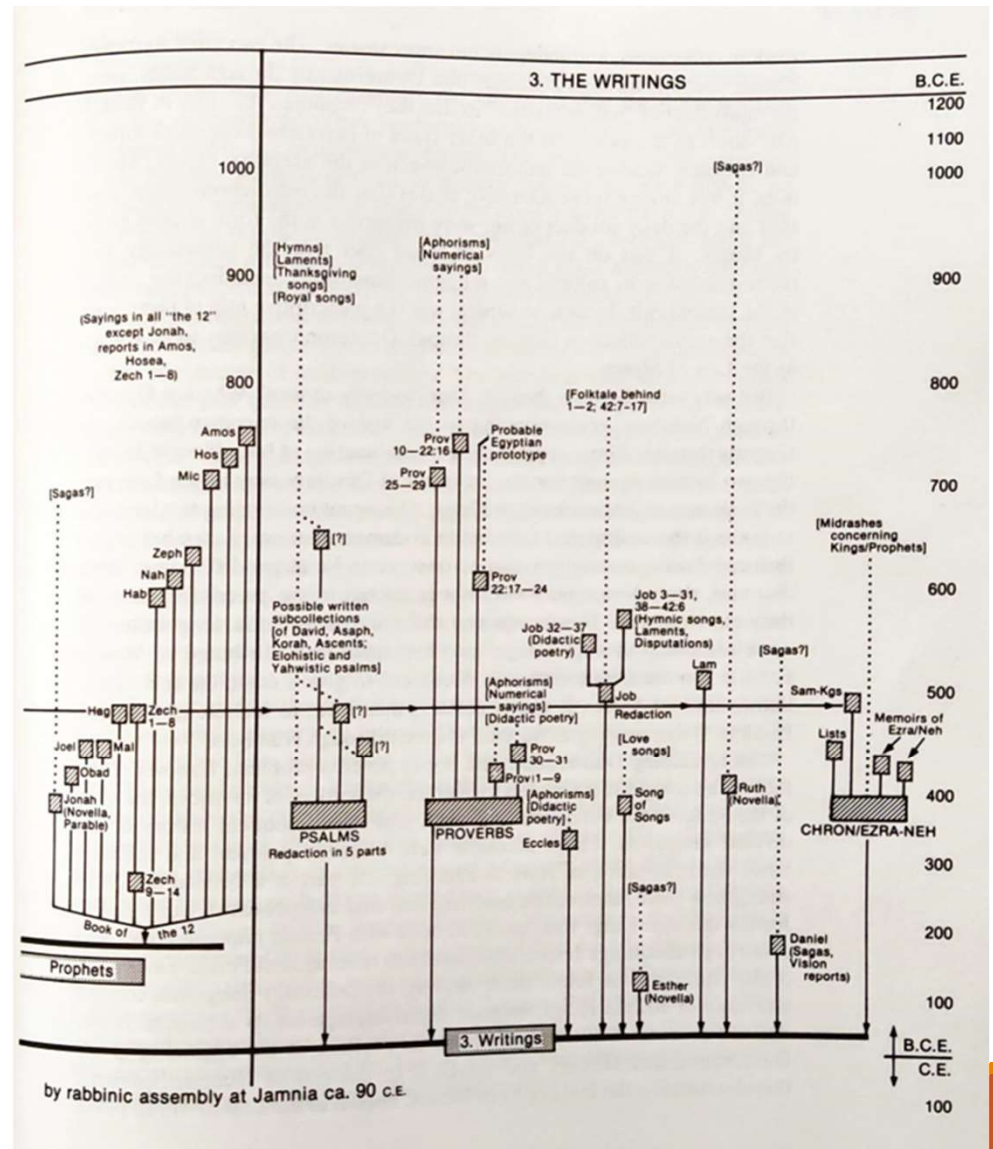
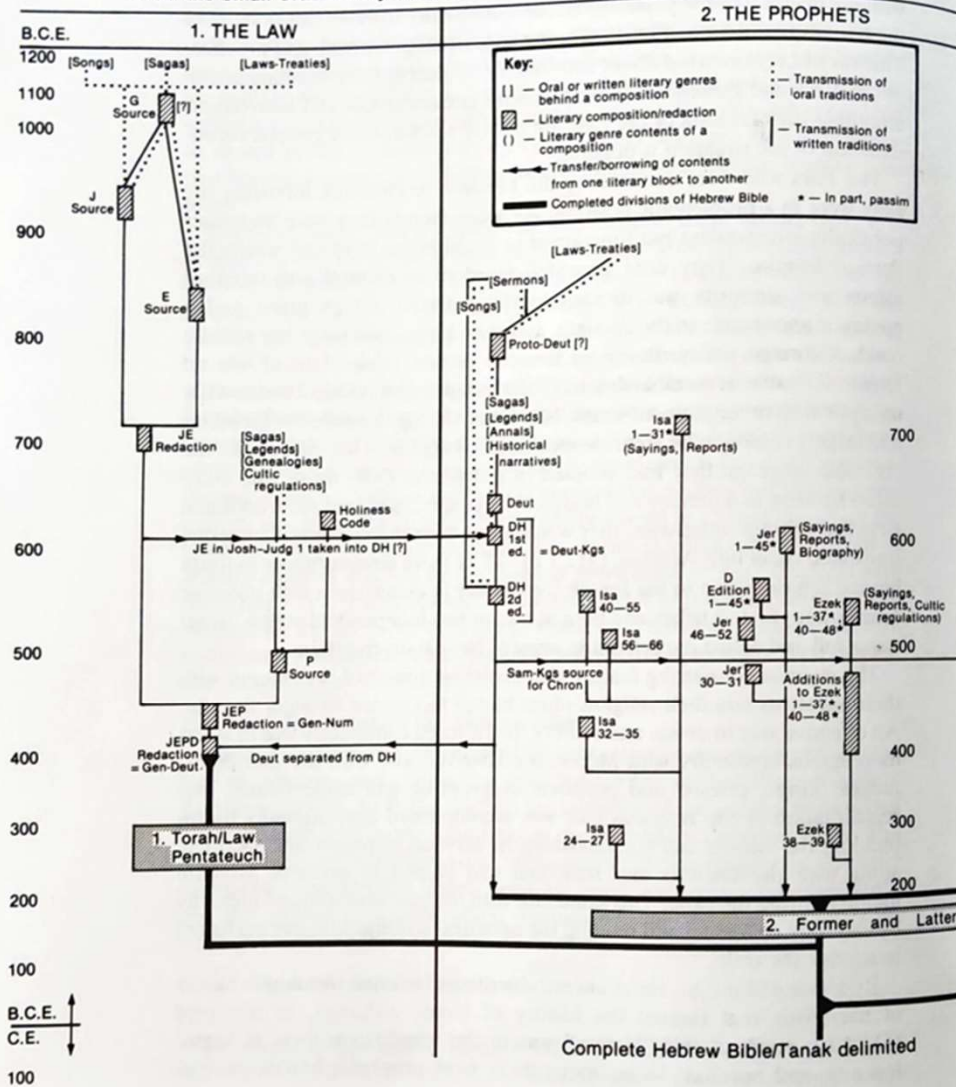
Jeremiah

Some Psalms, Proverbs

LATER SOURCES

I and II Chronicles (written 525—375)

CHART 3
From the Small Oral/Literary Units to the Large Compositions and Collections



Solomon's Building Projects

JERUSALEM TEMPLE

7 years construction

- Forced labour
- Materials (20 cities in payment)

Description

Dedication

- Ritual transfer of the ark of the Covenant
- Solomon prayer
- Sacrifices and peace offerings
- Feast

OTHER

Palace and other royal buildings


- 13 years construction

Fortresses





Some Questions about How the Bible Views the Monarchy

1. Why did Israel adopt a monarchy?
 2. How does the monarchy contrast with the intertribal period?
 3. How does the Temple figure in the history of the Monarchy?
 4. What is the attitude of the biblical writers to the monarchy?
 5. What is the legacy of the Israelite Empire?
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Next Week

Isaiah 1–6

Isaiah 9–11

Isaiah 40

Isaiah 42

Isaiah 55

Isaiah 60–61

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.