

Historical Books - These are the books containing a detailed History of Israel and they are the next twelve Old Testament books, namely:

6. Joshua

Joshua & possibly Phinehas

1405-1383 B.C.

Narrative

A book of conquest, Joshua details the Israelites' invasion and eventual occupation of the Promised Land through faith and action.

7. Judges

Probably Samuel

1086-1004 B.C.

Narrative

Israel enters a cycle of sin, suffering defeat and oppression, only to cry out to God for deliverance, who sends leaders (called "judges") to help them.

8. Ruth

Unknown

1375-1050 B.C.

Narrative

Occurring during some of the darkest days in Israel's history, Ruth follows the journey of two widows who lose everything, but find hope through God.

9. 1 Samuel

Samuel, Nathan & Gad

930 B.C.

Narrative

Israel rejects God's chosen leader, Samuel (a judge), and demands a king despite God's warnings.

10. 2 Samuel

Unknown

930 B.C.

Narrative

The life and career of King David, who subdues Israel's enemies and doubles the size of the kingdom, but is not without failings.

11. 1 Kings

Unknown

560-538 B.C.

Narrative

Israel enjoys a period of peace and prosperity under King Solomon, but later splits in two after Rehoboam (his son) takes the throne.

12. 2 Kings

Unknown

560-538 B.C.

Narrative

The kings of Israel and Judah ignore God and His prophets, eventually falling captive to invading nations and are exiled to foreign lands.

13. 1 Chronicles

Ezra

430 B.C.

Narrative

Written to encourage the people returning from Babylonian exile, 1 Chronicles recaps the history and genealogy of Israel, emphasising the spiritual significance of David and future Messianic King.

14. 2 Chronicles

Ezra

430 B.C.

Narrative

A continuation of the previous book, 2 Chronicles focuses on the kings of Israel, from King Solomon and the building of the temple, to subsequent division, exile and return from captivity.

15. Ezra

Ezra

450 B.C.

Narrative

Fulfilling the promises of God, the Israelites return from exile after seventy years and rebuild the temple.

16. Nehemiah

Nehemiah

445-432 B.C.

Narrative

Despite local opposition, Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem from exile, rallying the people to rebuild the city walls and gates in just fifty-two days.

17. Esther

Unknown

483-471 B.C.

Narrative

Occurring during the exile of Israel, Esther is a Jewish queen to a Persian king, who intercedes on behalf of her people to save them from a genocidal plot.

References

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