

CHAPTER 12

The Poetic Books

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Songs of Solomon, Lamentations

OVERVIEW SUMMARY: *The Poetical Books fall into three major types of poetry within which the poets used a number of different literary techniques to communicate God's message.*

1. Lyric Poetry (Psalms)
2. Instructional Poetry (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)
3. Dramatic Poetry – Storytelling (Job, Lamentations)

SUMMARY OF EACH BOOK (see corresponding pages in chapter 11)

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Songs of Solomon

CHAPTER 13 - PROPHETS

TIMELINE is most helpful:

From Professor Craig Bloomberg:

United Kingdom				
Years (BC)	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture
1050 - 1010	Saul	Good / Evil	Samuel	1 Sa 8-31 1 Ch 9-10
1010 - 970	David (Captain)	Good / Good	Samuel	1 Sa 16-31 2 Sa 1-24 1 Ki 1-2 1 Ch 11-29
			Nathan	
970 - 930	Solomon (Son)	Good / Evil	Nathan	1 Ki 1-11 2 Ch 1-9

Divided Kingdom

Judah					Israel				
Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture	Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture
931 - 913	Rehoboam (Son)	Evil / Evil	Shemaiah	1 Ki 12, 14 2 Ch 10-12	931 - 910	Jeroboam I (servant)	Evil / Evil	Abijah	1 Ki 12-14 2 Ch 10
913 - 911	Abijah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 15 2 Ch 13					
911 - 870	Asa (Son)	Good/Good		Hanani					
			909 - 886		Baasha	Evil / Evil	Jehu	1 Ki 16	
			886 - 885		Eiah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 16	
			885		Zimri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Micaiah	1 Ki 16	
			885 - 874		Omri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Elijah 1 Ki 17-19 1 Ki 21	1 Ki 16	
			874 - 853		Ahab (Son)	Evil / Evil	2 Ki 1-2	1 Ki 17 2 Ch 18	
870 - 848	Jehoshaphat (Son)	Good/Good		1 Ki 22 2 Ch 17-20	853 - 852	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 22 2 Ki 1
848 - 841	Jehoram (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 8 2 Ch 21	852 - 841	Joram (Son of Ahab)	Evil / Evil	Elisha 1 Ki 19 2 Ki 2-9 2 Ki 13	2 Ki 3
841	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 8-9 2 Ch 22	841 - 814	Jehu (Captain)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 9-10
841 - 835	Athaliah (mother)	Evil / Evil	2 Ki 11 2 Ch 22-23						
835 - 796	Joash (son of Ahaziah)	Good / Evil	Joel	2 Ki 11-12 2 Ch 23-24					
796 - 767	Amaziah (son)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 14 2 Ch 25	798 - 782	Jehoash (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13-14
767 - 740	Uzziah aka Azariah (Son)	Good/Evil	Isaiah Micah	2 Ki 15 2 Ch 26	782 - 753	Jeroboam II (Son)	Evil / Evil	Amos Hosea Jonah (in Nineveh)	2 Ki 14
					753 - 752	Zechariah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752	Shallum	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752 - 742	Menahem	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					742 - 740	Pekahiah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
748 - 732	Jotham (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 15 2 Ch 27	732 - 722 (rival) 733 - 722 (sole)	Pekah (Captain)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
732 - 716	Ahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 16 2 Ch 28	732 - 722	Hoshea	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 17
716 - 687	Hezekiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 18-20 2 Ch 29-32 Is 36-39	Israel into Assyrian captivity - 722 BC				
687 - 642	Manasseh (Son)	Evil / Good		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33				Nahum	
642 - 640	Amon (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33					
640 - 608	Josiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 22-23 2 Ch 34-35					
608	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 23 2 Ch 36					
608 - 597	Jehoiakim (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Ki 23-24 2 Ch 36				Daniel	
597	Jehoiachin (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36					
597 - 586	Zedekiah (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36				Obadiah	
Judah into Babylonian captivity - 586 BC									

MOST IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND CONCERNING PROPHETIC BOOKS:

- First few verses of the Old Testament prophetic books often tell you when and who they were written:

Isaiah 1:1 – “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”

- Therefore, to understand some of the things Isaiah had to address in his long book, it could be helpful to open up 2 Kings and to read about the reigns of each of these kings (all kings of Judah, see chart above to see which books these would be)

UNDATED PROPHETIC BOOKS: (all during the Divided Kingdom period, probably)
Joel, Jonah, Habakkuk

PROPHETIC BOOKS WRITTEN TO OTHER NATIONS:

Obadiah to Edom (Edom means ‘red’ = Edomites are descendants from Esau)

Nahum to Ninevah (100 years after Jonah’s prophetic missionary trip; Ninevah was the capital of Assyria)

PROPHETIC BOOKS WRITTEN BEFORE THE EXILE

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Zephaniah

PROPHETIC BOOKS WRITTEN DURING THE EXILE

Ezekiel, Daniel

PROPHETIC BOOKS WRITTEN AFTER THE EXILE

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

PROPHETIC DOUBLE (and sometimes triple) MEANING:

First Layer: The original, often immediate fulfillment

Second Layer: The Jesus (church) Fulfillment

Third Layer: Eschatological (end of the world) Fulfillment

Example: Isaiah 7:10-17

First Layer: See Isaiah chapter 8:3-4 for the children that the virgin/young maiden conceived

Second Layer: See Isaiah 9:1-8

Third Layer (hint): Isaiah 9:7 (peace there will be no end)