

# BOOKS of the OLD TESTAMENT

## LAW

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

*These books contain many of God's laws about how to live and are sometimes called the Law of Moses.*

## HISTORY

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

*These books cover the following historical events:*

- *occupation of the Promised Land*
- *the period of the Judges*
- *the history of Israel's kings*
- *the fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)*
- *the fall of the Southern Kingdom (Judah)*
- *a return to Jerusalem*

## POETRY

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

*These books ask profound and searching questions about life.*

## PROPHECY

### MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

### MINOR PROPHETS

*Shorter, not less important.*

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

The Old Testament (also known as the Jewish Tanakh) is the first 39 books in most Christian Bibles. The name stands for the original promise with God (to the descendants of Abraham in particular) prior to the coming of Jesus Christ in the New Testament (or the new promise). The Old Testament contains the creation of the universe, the history of the patriarchs, the exodus from Egypt, the formation of Israel as a nation, the subsequent decline and fall of the nation, the Prophets (who spoke for God), and the Wisdom Books. Genesis. Genesis speaks of beginnings and is foundational to the understanding of the Bible. Order. Book Title(s).  
Old Testament Narrative. 6. The Book of Joshua. 24. 658. 7. The Book of Judges. 21. 618. 8. The Book of Ruth. 4. 85. 9. The First Book of Samuel. 31. 810. 10. The Second Book of Samuel. 24. 695. The Old Testament (often abbreviated OT) is the first part of the Christian biblical canon, which is based primarily upon the twenty-four books of the Hebrew Bible (or Tanakh), a collection of ancient religious Hebrew writings by the Israelites believed by most Christians and religious Jews to be the sacred Word of God. The second part of Christian Bibles is the New Testament, written in the Koine Greek language.