

KNOW THE BIBLE



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Books of Prophecy #2

Exile Period

Again the last grouping in the Old Testament is the Books of Prophecy. There are 3 sections that make up the Books of Prophecy. The 2nd of the three sections of the Books of Prophecy is the Exile Period. This is the smallest group of prophets including only two of the Major Prophets;

Ezekiel

Daniel

Ezekiel and Daniel are in exile in a foreign land, Babylonia, around 600-500 B.C. historically speaking, these prophetic books are about the time period between 2 Chronicles and Ezra.

God's sovereignty is at the heart of these prophetic books!

These books are apocalyptic writings, primarily a literature of encouragement to the people of God. Its center is the unfolding of God's saving purposes and His redemptive plan being played out through the history of man. God's instrument of time is just a tool by which he plays out His purpose.

Remember too that these are listed as Major Prophets mainly because of the size of their writings, so chronologically speaking in the order of books listed in the Holy Bible, they come just after the other two Major Prophets from the previous time period namely Isaiah and Jeremiah with Lamentations being Jeremiah's second book.

How to remember this section:

Section #2 of Books of Prophecy take place during the exile period and it has only 2 prophets. They are Major Prophets led by the older **Ezekiel** and the younger prophet, **Daniel**. *Section 2 has 2 prophets!* The chronology of the Holy Bible has these two Major Prophets following the two Major Prophets of the Pre-Babylonian Exile (section #1 of Prophecy) prophets Isaiah & Jeremiah, then comes the Minor Prophets of Section #1.

- **Ezekiel** – *takes place from 597-574 B.C. From the nation of Judah, Ezekiel was exiled to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar after Daniel in 597 B.C. during the siege of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was later destroyed in 586 B.C. He was an older priest-prophet, yet a contemporary of a young Daniel. It is in Babylon where Ezekiel received his calling to become a prophet. The book of Ezekiel contains more dates than any other prophetic book which allows for considerable precision in dating events. His calling as a priestly prophet was for only 22 years from 593 B.C. to 571 B.C.*

The Book of Ezekiel has two distinct parts:

1. **Oracles of Judgment** against Israel & other nations **Ezekiel 1-32.**
2. **Oracles of Consolation** for Israel **Ezekiel 32-48.**

With great symmetry, the book of Ezekiel balances the divine judgment of God with His redemption in the new age to come.

- **Daniel** – takes place from 607-534 B.C. It is set during the Babylonian captivity, a period when Jews were deported and exiled to Babylon. A young Daniel was deported around 607 B.C. **The book revolves around the prophet, Daniel, an Israelite who becomes an adviser to Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon.**

The book has two distinct parts:

1. A series of **six narratives** from **Daniel 1-6.**
2. And **four apocalyptic visions** from **Daniel 7-12.**

*The dating and authorship of Daniel has become a matter of debate. The traditionalist view holds that the work was written by a prophet named Daniel who lived during the sixth century B.C. His incredible accuracy in prophetic statements brings about doubters of his authorship. However, no sufficient reasoning exists for this denial other than the questioning of God's Word as truth and Jesus Christ as the Messiah for He, Jesus Christ, concurred with Daniel's authorship in the book of Matthew from the New Testament (**Matthew 24:15**).*

The quiet time of the prophets around 400 B.C. up to the birth of Christ is given account in the Book of Daniel. Incredible detail into the history of man during this timeframe trips up many non-believers to this day. The Greek Empire is spoken of almost 200 years BEFORE its rise to power, and the subsequent, Roman Empire which takes over is brought up as well

The Book of Daniel is the trumpeting of the sovereignty of God throughout the history of man.

This is the smallest group of the OT sections in the Holy Bible. It contains only 2 books in all written by 2 of the Major Prophets. This time period is during the time of exile in Babylonia whereby the endeavor to assimilate the Israelites into the culture of Babylon was attempted.

***(Remember:** In the chronological order of books in the Holy Bible, these two books are after Lamentations which is the 2nd book of Jeremiah. But, for the memory of the flow of sections in the Holy Scriptures, they are kept in the flow of sections. Thus, they are put after the Minor Prophets of the Pre-Babylonian Exile Period.)*

(Write the books in the spaces below; for permanent memory)

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Now you know the first 36 books of the Holy Bible, how they are broken down, and what they are about. There are only 3 remaining books in the Old Testament!

Below are 4 Bible verses from the Exiled Period of the Books of Prophecy. Match the correct Bible verse to the corresponding Book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

1. *"This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: 'I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will know that I am the Lord.'"*

Daniel 9:24

2. *"but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:"*

Ezekiel 37:5

3. *"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy. ...there will be seven 'sevens', and sixty-two 'sevens'... After the sixty-two 'sevens', the Anointed One will be cut off..."*

Ezekiel 38:18

4. *"This is what will happen in that day: 'When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign Lord. In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.'"*

Daniel 2:28

Below are 4 Bible verses from the Exiled Period of the Books of Prophecy. Correctly identify the Bible verse with the corresponding book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

"The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE."

1. Which book of the Exile Period? _____

"This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

2. Which book of the Exile Period? _____

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;"

3. Which book of the Exile Period? _____

"The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power."

4. Which book of the Exile Period? _____

Ezekiel 48:35

Ezekiel 36:24

Daniel 2:45

Daniel 8:20

After identifying the previous Bible verses, take the time to find a Bible verse on your own that really identifies with that particular section of each book. Just the act of searching and writing it down gives you a better sense and greater familiarity with the Word of God. You are actively participating in studying the Holy Bible.

Ezekiel

Ezekiel

Daniel

Daniel

Notes

Describe a topic in this section to remember.

(Example: *The Prophet, Daniel, describes to King Belshazzar of Babylon the dream of Four Beasts representing the four kingdoms that will reign on the earth.*

Daniel 7-8)
