

How do does the Old Testament fit into the New Testament?


Get ready...

Remember : Two Problems

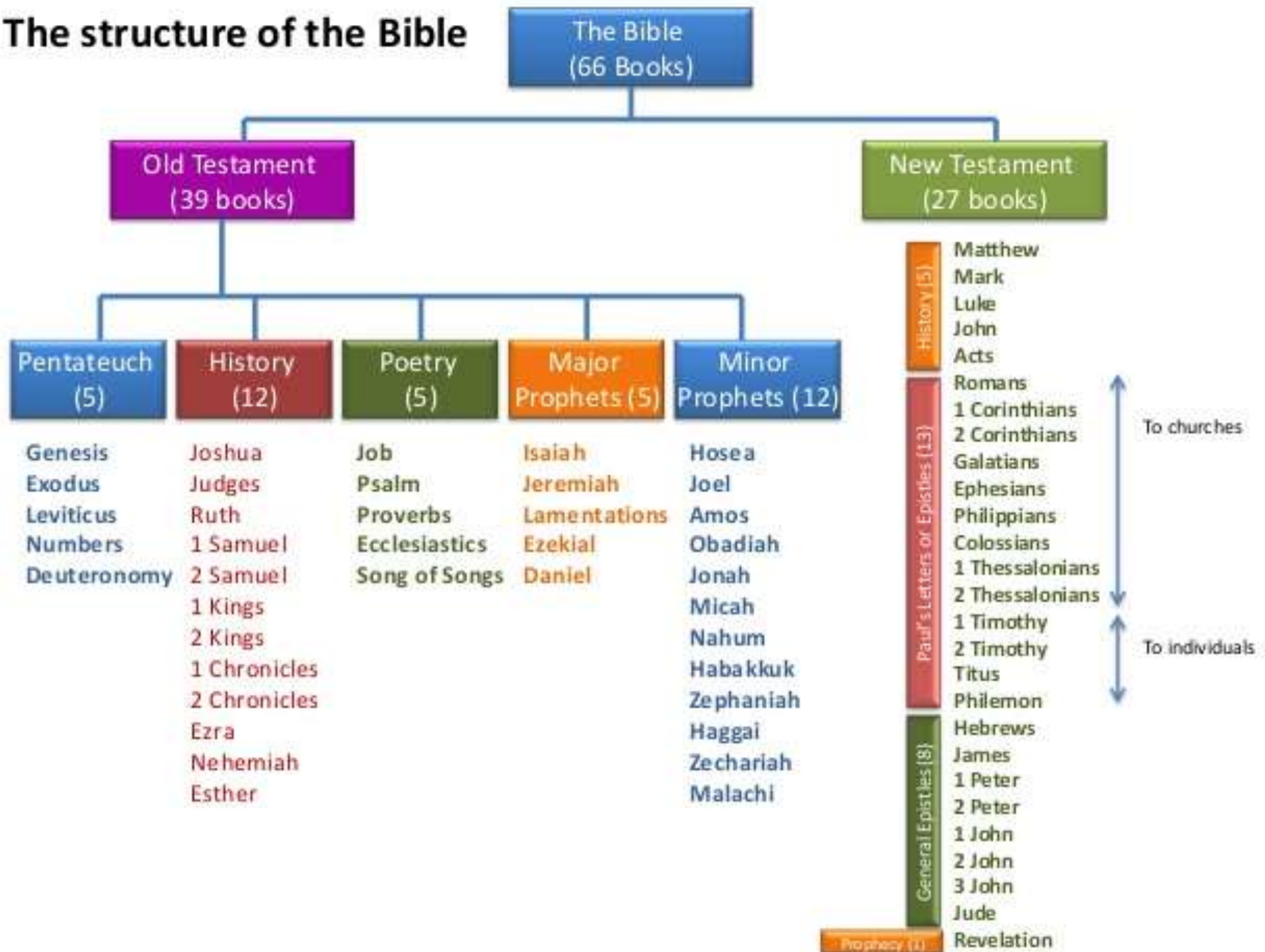
1. Sin leads to death

- Separation from life (our body)
- Separation from the source of life (God)
- **Romans 5:12** We all have sin – we all will die
- It's not just what we do, it's who we are.

2. Breaking the law leads to punishment

- We are **all guilty** of breaking all of God's laws
- Even if we don't **feel guilty**, we are **legally guilty**
- *We cannot **balance** sin with good works* 
- God is very holy (**Isaiah 6:1-5**) and we are very guilty (**Romans 3:10-12**)

The structure of the Bible



Three Important Prophecies

From the prophet Isaiah, written about 600BC

- **Isaiah 7:14** – *a sign: the virgin will have a baby and call Him Immanuel (“God with us”)*
- **Isaiah 9:2,6** – *the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a child is born, a son is given ... and His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*
- **Isaiah 40:3-5** – *a voice of one calling: “In the desert, prepare the way for the LORD”*

Two More Important Prophecies

From the prophet Micah, written about 720BC

- **Micah 5:2** - *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

From the prophet Malachi, written around 400BC

- **Malachi 3:1** - *“I send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple,”*

One More Interesting Prophecy

From the prophet Daniel, written about 535BC

- **Daniel 9:25,26** – *“Know and understand this: from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One...”*
- $(62+7)*7 = 483$ lunar years. *“the One will be cut off...”*
- The decree was issued by Artaxerxes in 445BC (Nehemiah 2:1-8). Jesus entered Jerusalem 33AD and was crucified.

First Prophecy Fulfilled

- **Luke 1:5,11-13,17.** After 400 years of silence, the angel Gabriel brings good news – a priest named Zechariah and his elderly wife would have a son – the prophet who would “prepare the way.”
- ***Luke 1:76-79*** - *"And you, child, will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,"*
- After the sin of Adam and Eve, man had been in darkness (the darkness of sin). Finally, the Light was coming!

Second Prophecy Fulfilled

- **Luke 1:26-28** – Six months later, the angel Gabriel visits a young virgin named Mary living in a small town (Nazareth).
- **Luke 1:29-33** – Mary will have a baby: the Son of God.
- **Christmas** – The Almighty God, Creator of everything, accepted the humble limitations of a human body and lived on this tiny speck of a planet. An amazing step and a glorious plan!
- **Luke 1:34-35** – a good question and a good answer.
- **Luke 2:1-4** – Caesar Augustus ordered a census; everyone returned to their hometown (戶口 hùkǒu).
- **Luke 2:5-7** – Mary and her new husband Joseph went to register in Bethlehem (not Nazareth), the city of David.

John's Message : Matthew 3

- **Verses 1-2:** What was the message that John was preaching?
 - Repent = change your mind and direction
 - Turn away from sin & self AND turn toward God
- **Verses 4-6:** What were the people doing?
 - Confessing sins = to speak the truth about their sin
 - Baptism = showing agreement that our sin deserves death (going under the water was a picture of burial).
 - Baptism didn't save anyone – it showed that people agree with God about sin, death, and the need for a Savior (Mark 1:8).



John's Strong Words : Matthew 3:7-9

- ✓ False religious teachers are like poisonous snakes
- ✓ Your family history cannot save you
- ✓ Your religion or your position cannot save you
- ✓ If God can save a rock, He can save anyone
- ✓ True repentance bears good fruit

Who Came to Listen?

- **Jewish men and women** – knew that they had broken God's law and were separated from God. (v.5,6)
- **Roman soldiers** – experienced death & suffering and were seeking answers to life's deepest questions. (Luke 3:14)
- **Pharisees** – religious leaders, outwardly good, following the traditions of their historical culture. (v.7)
- **Sadducees** – religious people with good relationships to keep their high positions of leadership. (v.7)
- **Scribes** – intellectual men who hand-copied the Scripture. Proud of their knowledge (“lawyers” and “teachers”).

People are still the same...

- The same kind of people today:
 - Repentant people who **recognize their sin**
 - Curious people **seeking the meaning** of life
 - Religious people **trying to obey the rules** and maintain **traditions of culture**
 - Business people **trusting in connections, relationships,** or **job** for success
 - Intellectuals, putting **hope in education and knowledge**
- Which one are you?

First Steps

- Like those who came to John, everyone must:
 - Admit that we are guilty of breaking God's law.
 - Turn from sin and self and turn toward God.
 - Prepare to receive the good news of Jesus.