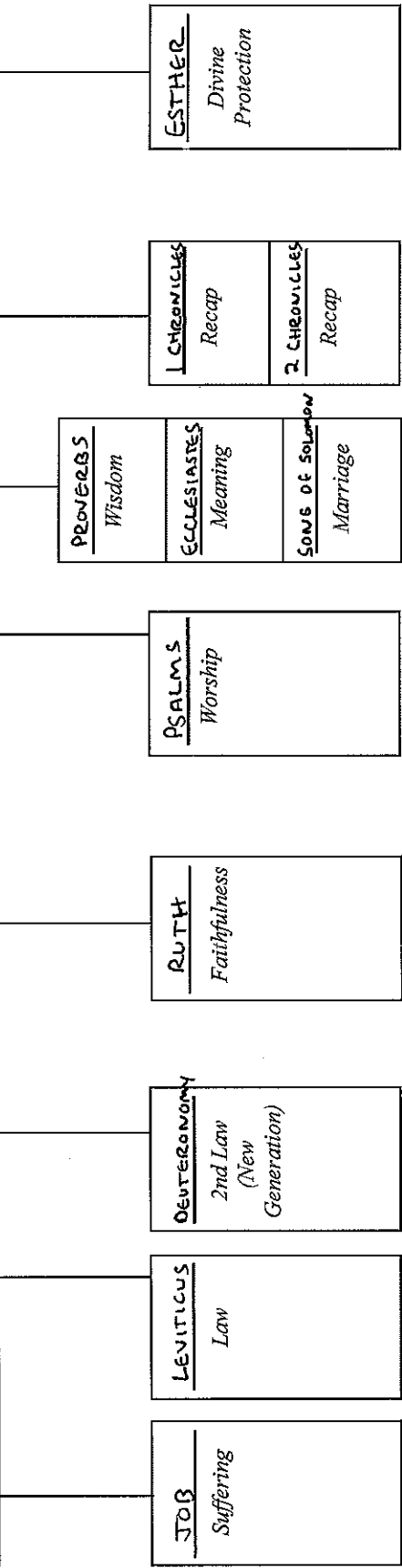


# Old Testament

<u>GENESIS</u> <i>Beginnings</i>	<u>EXODUS</u> <i>Redemption</i> (~1500 BC)	<u>NUMBERS</u> <i>Wandering</i>	<u>JOSHUA</u> <i>Victory</i>	<u>JUDGES</u> <i>Defeat</i>	<u>1 SAMUEL</u> <u>SAUL</u> (1051 BC)	<u>2 SAMUEL</u> <u>DAVID</u> (1011 BC)	<u>1 KINGS</u> <u>SOLOMON</u> (971 BC)	<u>2 KINGS</u> <i>Kings &amp; Captivity</i>
4 Events: <u>CREATION</u> <u>FALL</u> <u>FLOOD</u> <u>BABEL</u>	Egypt Moses Plagues Red Sea Mt. Sinai	Mt. Sinai Kadesh- Barnea Wandering Moab	Jordan River Jericho Canaan	Cycles: Sin Servitude Supplication Salvation			Split (931 BC) North: <u>ISRAEL</u> (10 Tribes) South: <u>JUDAH</u> (2 Tribes)	722 BC: <u>ASSYRIA</u> conquers Israel 586 BC: <u>BABYLON</u> conquers Judah
4 People: <u>ABRAHAM</u> <u>ISAAC</u> <u>JACOB</u> <u>JOSEPH</u>								

BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (70 YEARS)



PROPHETS ↔

THE PROPHETS (17 BOOKS)

Before Exile (10)	During Exile (4)	After Exile (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Hosea</li> <li>• Joel</li> <li>• Amos</li> <li>• Obadiah</li> <li>• Jonah</li> <li>• Micah</li> <li>• Nahum</li> <li>• Habakkuk</li> <li>• Zephaniah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> <li>• Daniel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haggai</li> <li>• Zechariah</li> <li>• Malachi</li> </ul>

**Main Points of the Prophets:**

1. You (Israel/Judah) have broken the covenant (Deuteronomy). Repent!
2. No repentance? Then judgment is coming!
3. BUT there is a future time of restoration coming through a righteous King, the Messiah.
4. God is sovereign over all nations and history.

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Three divisions:
  - ▶ The **story** about God's people.
    - ✦ First 17 books.
    - ✦ Genesis – Esther (fairly chronological)
  - ▶ The **writings** of God's people.
    - ✦ Next 5 books.
    - ✦ Job – Song of Solomon
  - ▶ The **prophets** from among God's people.
    - ✦ Final 17 books.
    - ✦ Isaiah – Malachi (major and minor)
- Methodology:
  - ▶ Overview each section.
  - ▶ Overview each book.
    - ✦ Primary information for starters...
    - ✦ Practical advice for study...
- **THE STORY ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE...**
  - ▶ Divided into two major categories:
    - ✦ The **Law**/The Pentateuch—Genesis through Deuteronomy.
    - ✦ The **History**—Joshua through Esther
  - ▶ The essential character of these books is narrative, telling us the story of God's people—**Israel**.

### ■ **GENESIS**

*Primary information for Starters...*

- ▶ **Moses** is the author of the five books of Law.
- ▶ Genesis literally means "**beginning**."
- ▶ Before the fall - The beginning of creation.
- ▶ After the fall - The beginning of God's plan to **redeem** His creation.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ The first **11** chapters are foundational to the rest of the Bible.
- ▶ Catch hold of the major themes...
  - ✦ The **sovereignty** of God.
  - ✦ The sinfulness of man
  - ✦ The promise of redemption
- ▶ Catch hold of the major plot—God's gracious **election** of Abraham's family.
  - ✦ Abraham (12:1-25:18)
  - ✦ Isaac (25:19-26:35)
  - ✦ Jacob (27:1-36:43)
  - ✦ Joseph (37:1-50:26)
- ▶ Minor subplots...
  - ✦ Already looking to Christ (3:15; 22:7-14; 35:11-13; 49:8-12).

- ✦ **Covenants** with Adam, Noah, and Abraham.
- ✦ Major **flaws** in main characters.
- ▶ Don't forget—Genesis wasn't written to answer **every** question we may have about these events.

## ■ EXODUS

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Literally means "**departure**."
- ▶ God is all-powerful and mighty to **save** (1-19).
- ▶ God is faithful to His covenant (20-40).

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Notice three defining moments in Israel's history...
  - ✦ The deliverance from slavery.
  - ✦ The significance of God's **presence**.
  - ✦ The terms of the covenant.
- ▶ Key Chapters
  - ✦ Exodus 12 – The sacrifice of the **Lamb**.
  - ✦ Exodus 20 – The giving of the **Law**.
- ▶ Key Places
  - ✦ Egypt
  - ✦ The Red Sea
  - ✦ Mount Sinai
- ▶ Recognize both the sovereignty of God and the **responsibility** of man.
  - ✦ Pharaoh hardens his heart (7:13, 14, 22; 8:11, 15, 28; 9:7, 34, 35; 13:5).
  - ✦ God hardens Pharaoh's heart (4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17).
- ▶ If we don't understand Exodus, we won't understand the **New Testament!**

## ■ LEVITICUS

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Takes place at Mount Sinai.
- ▶ Referred to as "The Law of the **Priests**."
- ▶ A book about **holiness** (mentioned over 90 times!).
- ▶ A book about **sacrifice**.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Two main sections...
  - ✦ Fellowship with God through **ritual** offerings (1-17).
  - ✦ Fellowship with God through **righteous** living (18-27).
- ▶ One main chapter...
  - ✦ Leviticus 16 – The Day of **Atonement**.
  - ✦ "Atonement" = "to cover" (used 45 times in the book!).
  - ✦ Necessary elements...
    - A **bold** priest.
    - A **blood** sacrifice.

- ▶ Don't miss the practical application...
  - ✦ God is **holy**.
  - ✦ Sin is **serious**.
  - ✦ God is **gracious**.

## ■ NUMBERS

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Named for **census** accounts in 1-4 and 26-27.
- ▶ God honors faith and punishes unbelief.
- ▶ The root of sin is **unbelief**—a lack of trust in God's Word.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Look for six definite failures of God's people between the census records.
  - ✦ Complaining (10:11-12:16)
  - ✦ **Rebelling** at Kadesh-Barnea (13:1-14:45)
  - ✦ Rebelling (15:1-19:22)
  - ✦ **Disobeying** (20:1-29)
  - ✦ Complaining (21:1-35)
  - ✦ Adultery and Immorality (25:1-18)
- ▶ See the price of unbelief in the geography and time frames of Numbers.
  - ✦ Geography
    - Sinai (1:1-10:10)
    - Journey to Kadesh (10:11-13:25)
    - Encamped at Kadesh (13:26-20:21)
    - Journey to Moab (20:22-21:35)
    - Encamped at Moab (22:1-36:13)
  - ✦ Time Frames
    - 1-10 – 20 days.
    - 11-14 – 70 days.
    - 15-20 – **38** years.
    - 21-36 – 5 months
- ▶ See the God who is faithful despite His people's failures.

## ■ DEUTERONOMY

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ "**Second Law**"—restating the Law to the new generation.
- ▶ A **rehearsal** of the covenant as they prepare for the Promised Land.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ See how the Law applies to **all** of God's people.
- ▶ **Memorize** the Shema (6:4-5)
  - ✦ One God.
  - ✦ One Word.
  - ✦ One **Love** (repeated at least 20 times).
- ▶ Look for their...
  - ✦ Anticipation of the land.
  - ✦ Commitment to the **covenant**.

- A new generation.
  - A new challenge.
  - A new **leader**.
  - New temptations.
- ▶ Read it closely... it's the most **quoted** book in the Bible (356 times—190 in the New Testament!).

## ■ THE NEXT 12 BOOKS IN THE STORY...

- ▶ Pre-monarchy – 3.
  - Continuing the story—Joshua and Judges
  - **Ruth** (spotlight possibly around Judges 10)
- ▶ Monarchy – 6 (3 double books).
  - Continuing the story—Samuel and Kings
  - **Chronicles** (spotlight around the Davidic kingdom)
- ▶ Post-monarchy – 3.
  - Continuing the story—Ezra and Nehemiah
  - **Esther** (spotlight during the time of Ezra)

## ■ JOSHUA

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Joshua's name literally means "The Lord will **save**."
- ▶ In Greek, the name is equivalent to "**Jesus**."
- ▶ The people of God claim the inheritance God had promised them.
- ▶ God will keep His **Word** (21:43-45).

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ See the journey into the Promised Land...
  - May even be good to read with a map nearby.
  - **Cross** (1:1-5:12)
  - Take (5:13-12:24)
  - Divide (13-21)
  - **Serve** (22-24)
- ▶ See the judgment of God, both on Israel and other nations.
- ▶ Joshua is the **application** of Deuteronomy 30.

## ■ JUDGES

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Key Characters: God used judges (**military** leaders) to deliver His people out from under their sin.
- ▶ Key Theme: Disobedience results in judgment.
- ▶ Key Verse: "Every man did that which was **right** in his own eyes" (17:6).
- ▶ Key Chapter: 2—a miniature version of the whole book (summary in 2:10-19).

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Observe the structure of oppression and deliverance.
  - Failure to conquer the land (1:1-2:9)

- ✦ Failure to keep the law (2:9-3:6)
- ✦ **Oppression** and **salvation** (repeated 8 times from 3-16)
- ✦ Failure to conquer the land (17-18)
- ✦ Failure to keep the law (19-21)
- ▶ Observe the cycle of disobedience and victory (3-16).
  - ✦ **Relapse.**
  - ✦ Ruin.
  - ✦ Repentance.
  - ✦ **Restoration.**
  - ✦ Rest.
- ▶ Observe the gradual deterioration of Israel.

## ■ RUTH

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Ruth means “friendship.”
- ▶ Overall purpose is to **trace** the royal lineage of King David (and Jesus).
- ▶ Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer, pays the price to bring Ruth, a Moabite, into the people of God.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Pay attention closely to the transition in Naomi’s life...
  - ✦ From emptiness to fullness (1).
  - ✦ From despair to **hope** (2-3).
  - ✦ From barrenness to inheritance (4).
- ▶ Even in the darkness of God’s people, He shines the **light** of His covenant.
- ▶ Don’t miss the point...
  - ✦ Connect 4:13 with Genesis 12:1-3.
  - ✦ Connect 4:14 with Matthew 1:1-7 (especially 1:5).

## ■ 1 AND 2 SAMUEL

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Time frame: From Samuel’s birth (1100) to the end of David’s kingship (970).
- ▶ Overall theme: **Kingship.**
  - ✦ 1 Samuel depicts transition from theocracy to monarchy.
  - ✦ 2 Samuel depicts David’s dynasty as king.
- ▶ Three key characters:
  - ✦ Samuel (1 Samuel 1-7) – the last judge; anoints first two kings over Israel.
  - ✦ Saul (1 Samuel 8-15) – Israel’s first king.
  - ✦ **David** (1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 24) – Israel’s second and most important king.
- ▶ Key verse: 1 Samuel 15:22 – “To obey is better than sacrifice.”

### *Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Look for how the King of Israel was expected to be **loyal** to the covenant.
  - ✦ Saul's disobedience to the covenant – 1 Samuel 15.
  - ✦ David's obedience to the covenant - 2 Samuel 7.
- ▶ Pay attention to the **transitions** in 1 and 2 Samuel:
  - ✦ From the rule of periodic judges to a more permanent monarchy;
  - ✦ From a typical worldly expectation of a king to a king that is loyal to the Lord;
  - ✦ From no central place of where God's name dwells to a new center in Jerusalem.
- ▶ Even as a king after God's heart, David's life demonstrates the need for another King who will come in purity and absolute loyalty to the Lord.
  - ✦ His kingly **success** is described in one chapter (8).
  - ✦ His kingly **sin** and its effects are described over eleven chapters (10-20).

## ■ **I AND 2 KINGS**

### *Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Contains over **400** hundred years of Israelite history (970-560).
- ▶ This chronology grouped into four segments, each ending with a major **catastrophe**.
  - ✦ 970-931 – Division of the twelve tribes.
  - ✦ 931-841 – Jehu's slaughter of all but one of the crown-prince heirs of the throne of David.
  - ✦ 841-722 – Fall of Samaria to Assyria
  - ✦ 722-586 – Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
- ▶ Two major themes:
  - ✦ The **rejection** of Israel as God's people.
  - ✦ The **rise** of prophets who proclaim God's Word.

### *Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ The overall structure...
  - ✦ The united kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)
  - ✦ The divided kingdom (1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17)
  - ✦ The captive kingdom (2 Kings 18-25)
- ▶ Covers 39 kings from the united and divided monarchy.
- ▶ Covenant loyalty is the measure of success or downfall for a king.
  - ✦ **0** of the 19 Northern kings followed the Lord.
  - ✦ **8** of the 20 Southern kings followed the Lord.
    - Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah
- ▶ As kings are disloyal, God raises up **prophets** like Elijah and Elisha to accomplish His purpose.



## ■ I AND 2 CHRONICLES

### *Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Final book in the Hebrew Bible.
- ▶ Possibly written by Ezra.
- ▶ Written more from a spiritual kingdom perspective.
  - + Focuses exclusively on the positive facets of David and Solomon.
  - + Demonstrates the blessing of God on obedient kings in Judah.
  - + Pictures a more idealized representation of the kingdom of God.
- ▶ Central focus on the temple and Israel's wholehearted worship.

### *Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Understand the perspective of the author – trying to restore the kingdom.
- ▶ The story told in the chronicles has three parts:
  - + Genealogies (1 Chronicles 1-9) – Don't get bogged down!
  - + United Monarchy (1 Chronicles 10 - 2 Chronicles 9)
  - + Divided Monarchy in Judah (2 Chronicles 10-36)
- ▶ See the emphasis on God's goodness when the

### Presence of God is renewed in Israel...

- + When the ark is brought to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:34).
- + When the ark is brought into the temple (2 Chronicles 5:13).
- + When the temple is consecrated (2 Chronicles 7:3)

## ■ EZRA - NEHEMIAH

### *Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ One book in the Hebrew Bible as they tell one story.
  - + The return of the remnant to Jerusalem.
  - + The rebuilding of the temple.
  - + The rebuilding of the city walls.
- ▶ The author is likely Ezra or Nehemiah.
- ▶ "Ezra" = "helper;" "Nehemiah" = "God is comfort."
- ▶ God sovereignly works to preserve His people for His glory.

### *Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Overall structure...
  - + National Restoration (Ezra 1-6)
  - + Spiritual Reformation (Ezra 7-10)
  - + Physical Repair (Nehemiah 1-6)
  - + Spiritual Revival (Nehemiah 7-13)
- ▶ See both the physical and spiritual reform.
  - + Rebuilding the temple and walls.
  - + Repenting of sin.
  - + Renewing the covenant (Ezra 10; Nehemiah 9-10).
- ▶ Nehemiah 8-10 is the high point of the story with a covenant-renewal ceremony.

- ▶ **Purity** and obedience to the Word are at the heart of the covenant.

## ■ ESTHER

### *Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Events take place before or during time of Ezra.
- ▶ God's providence is evident, though His name is **never** mentioned.
- ▶ Four main characters...
  - Persian King Xerxes (mentioned by name 29 times)
  - Haman (mentioned by name 48 times)
  - Mordecai (mentioned by name 54 times)
  - Esther (mentioned by name 48 times)
- ▶ The people of Israel are saved by God's providence from **extinction**.

### *Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Though God's name is not mentioned, look for evidence of His **providence**.
  - Esther being chosen...
  - Mordecai discovering the plot to kill the king...
  - Casting lots to destroy the Jews...
  - The king's welcome to Esther after ignoring her for a month...
  - The king's deep concern for Esther's welfare...
- ▶ Compare Esther and Proverbs
  - Esther 3:7 with Proverbs 16:33
  - Esther 5:9-14 with Proverbs 16:18
  - Esther 7:10 with Proverbs 11:8
  - Esther 5:1-4 with Proverbs 21:2
- ▶ Recognize the **influence** of the godly on the lost.
- ▶ What does this mean for the way we use our influence?

## ■ THE WRITINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE...

- ▶ Also known as **poetic** and wisdom literature.
- ▶ Stand in the final position of the Hebrew Bible.
- ▶ Include man's **responses** to the words and deeds of God found throughout the Law and the Prophets.
- ▶ Divine speech is **rare**.
- ▶ Primary theme: The **fear** of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7).

## ■ JOB

### *Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ A lot of questions...
  - Written anonymously.
  - Written most likely during the patriarchal period.
- ▶ Job was a real man in real history (Ezekiel 14:14-20; James 5:11).

- ▶ The Question: How and why do the **righteous** suffer?
- ▶ God is completely sovereign in His dealings with His people and will never allow anything to come to them which is not for their **good** and His **glory**.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Remember...
  - ✦ This is an Oriental book.
  - ✦ This is a poetical book.
  - ✦ This is a **difficult** book.
- ▶ Don't be too intimidated by the structure...
  - ✦ Prologue (1:1-2:13)
  - ✦ Poetry (2:14-42:6)
    - The dialogues (4-27)
    - "Where does Wisdom come from?" (28)
    - The monologues (29-41)
  - ✦ Epilogue (42:7-17)
- ▶ Don't look for an easy answer. ▶

*Practically...*

- ✦ God **alone** is Sovereign.
- ✦ Suffering is a **privilege** God extends to His children.
- ✦ God is glorified when suffering saints **worship** Him.

## ■ PSALMS

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Psalm = "a poem sung to musical accompaniment."
- ▶ The **hymnal** of the Jewish nation.
- ▶ Written by many authors from the early monarchy until after the exile.
  - ✦ David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, others
- ▶ Express trust in and praise to the Lord for His greatness and goodness.
- ▶ The Lord is the sovereign **King** of the universe and the nations.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Five divisions, each concluding with a doxology, which reflect Israel's **history**:
  - ✦ Book 1 (1-41)
  - ✦ Book 2 (42-72)
  - ✦ Book 3 (73-89)
  - ✦ Book 4 (90-106)
  - ✦ Book 5 (107-150)
- ▶ Types of Psalms...
  - ✦ Personal **praise**
  - ✦ Personal **lament**
  - ✦ Corporate praise
  - ✦ Corporate lament
- ▶ Also includes wisdom psalms and royal psalms.

- ✦ Psalm 22 – The crucified Savior.
- ✦ Psalm 23 – The **shepherd**.
- ✦ Psalm 40:68 – The sacrifice.
- ✦ Psalm 118:2-3 – The stone.

## ■ PROVERBS

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ “Proverb” = “**comparison**”
- ▶ Solomon wrote most of Proverbs.
- ▶ Foundational Passage: Proverbs 1:1-7.
- ▶ Major themes:
  - ✦ Attain wisdom and reject **folly**.
  - ✦ Walk in righteousness and avoid **evil**.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Read a **chapter** of Proverbs a day.
- ▶ Overall structure...
  - ✦ Preface (1:1-7)
  - ✦ Introduction (1:8-9:18)
  - ✦ Proverbs of Solomon I (10:1-22:16)
  - ✦ Sayings of the Wise I (22:17-24:22)
  - ✦ Sayings of the Wise II (24:23-34)
  - ✦ Proverbs of Solomon II (25:1-29:27)
  - ✦ Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
  - ✦ Sayings of Lemuel (31:1-31)
- ▶ Reminders about proverbs...
  - ✦ **Figurative**.
  - ✦ Practical.
  - ✦ **Memorable**.
  - ✦ Variety of **literary** techniques.
  - ✦ Not guarantees, but guidelines.
  - ✦ **Good** advice, but not exhaustive.
- ▶ The goal of wisdom literature is to **apply** the Word to practical living.
- ▶ **Jesus** is the wisdom of God (see 8:22-31).

## ■ ECCLESIASTES

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Written by “the **teacher**” – likely Solomon (1:1-2, 12).
- ▶ Key question: Is **life** really worth living?
- ▶ Key words: man, labor, under the sun, **meaningless**, wisdom, evil.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ One of the most difficult books in the Old Testament.
- ▶ Look for major ideas:
  - ✦ God is the **ultimate** Reality, the Creator of all.
  - ✦ God’s ways are not always understandable.

- ✦ Life does not always progress as expected.
- ✦ **Death** is the ultimate equalizer.
- ▶ Don't forget – Ecclesiastes is a book without an **ending**.
- ▶ Practical application...
  - ✦ Enjoy the blessings of God **today**.
  - ✦ Fear God.
  - ✦ **Obey** God's Word.

## ■ **SONG OF SONGS**

*Primary Information for Starters...*

- ▶ Song of Songs = The **finest** of all songs!
- ▶ Like Esther, Song of Songs never mentions the name of God.
- ▶ Theme: Celebrating the sexual love between a man and woman.

*Practical Advice for Study...*

- ▶ Three main characters...
  - ✦ The woman (leading role) – “Beloved”
  - ✦ The man – “**lover**”
  - ✦ The woman's companion's (“the daughters of Jerusalem”) – “Friends”
- ▶ Three possibilities for interpretation...
  - ✦ **Literal** – A man and a woman.
  - ✦ **Historical** – God and His people, Israel.
  - ✦ **Typical** – Christ and His church.
- ▶ See the **delight** and unquenchable nature of true love.