

931 BC: Division of Kingdoms: North- Israel, capital Samaria/ South- Judah, capital Jerusalem

586/87 BC: Babylonian Captivity of Judah

538: Cyrus of Persia: Restoration from Exile

A Diversity of Genres in the OT:

1. **What is genre?** A genre is a group of texts that bear one or more traits in common with each other (Longman). This helps with a “Reading Strategy” or how to read this book, or think about this piece of literature, etc. For example, “Once upon a time,” tells you to read the text as fairy tale; “In the year of King Uzziah’s death...” tells you to read as historical narrative.

2. **Basically 2 Genres:** (1) **Prose: Stories** and (2) **Poems: Songs**. God is pleased to reveal Himself primarily through **story and song**, but more specifically through:

- Law (“Instruction”)- Stories
- Prophecy/Oracles- Poetry
- History (Historical Narrative)- Stories

Characteristics:

- * Plot
- * Character
- *Setting
- * Point of View

- Poetry- Songs

Characteristics:

- * Terseness
- * Parallelism
- * Imagery

Law: Genesis – Deuteronomy:

- **Primary Storyline of Torah/Former Prophets:** Creation to Exile (Story-Historical Narrative)

Prophecy: *Former Prophets:* Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings / *Latter Prophets:* Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Book of the Twelve

- **Primary Storyline of Latter Prophets/Part 1 of Writings/Isaiah thru Ecclesiastes:** Poetic Commentary on Genesis thru Kings (Songs-Poetry): A) What happened? B) How can we bring the past failures into our present as we understand more deeply the grace and faithfulness of God?

Writings: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Lamentations, Chronicles

- **Primary Storyline of Part 2 of Writings/Esther-Chronicles:** Historical narrative storyline continues and the future is opened (eschatology)

Three Categories:

1. Torah/Law = Covenant Law
2. Prophets = Covenant History
3. Writings = Covenant Life

Genesis and Revelation serve God's purposes as covenant prologue and covenant epilogue respectively ('*A Biblical Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*', Miles V. Van Pelt).

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