

# Contents

PREFACE      xiii

INTRODUCTION—THE OLD TESTAMENT      1

    ORIGIN AND CONTENTS      1

    TRANSMISSION OF THE HEBREW TEXT      2

    THE VERSIONS      3

    MEANING      5

I. THE PERIOD OF BEGINNINGS      11

    THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION      13

    THE FALL OF MAN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES      14

    THE FLOOD: GOD'S JUDGMENT ON MAN      16

    MAN'S NEW BEGINNING      16

II. THE PATRIARCHAL AGE      19

    THE WORLD OF THE PATRIARCHS      19

*Mesopotamia • Egypt • Canaan*

    GEOGRAPHY      27

    THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT      29

*Abraham • Isaac and Jacob • Joseph*

III. EMANCIPATION OF ISRAEL      43

    CONTEMPORARY EVENTS      43

*The Hyksos Invasion • The New Kingdom*

    RELIGION IN EGYPT      46

    THE DATE OF THE EXODUS      47

    THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT      49

*Oppression under Pharaoh • Preparation of a Leader • The  
        Contest with Pharaoh • The Passover • The Route to Mount  
        Sinai*

IV. THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL      57

    THE COVENANT      58

*The Decalogue*

## CONTENTS

LAWS FOR HOLY LIVING	59
THE SANCTUARY	60
THE PRIESTHOOD	62
THE OFFERINGS	65
<i>Burnt Offering • Peace Offering • Sin Offering • Trespass Offering • Grain Offering</i>	
APPOINTED FEASTS AND SEASONS	68
<i>Sabbath • New Moon and Feast of Trumpets • Sabbatical Year • Year of Jubilee • Annual Feasts: Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread; Feast of Weeks; Feast of Tabernacles; Day of Atonement</i>	
V. PREPARATION FOR NATIONHOOD	75
ORGANIZATION OF ISRAEL	75
WILDERNESS WANDERINGS	79
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING CANAAN	82
RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT	85
VI. OCCUPATION OF CANAAN	89
MEMOIRS OF CANAAN	89
ERA OF CONQUEST	93
<i>Entrance into Canaan • The Conquest • Allotment of Canaan</i>	
WHEN JUDGES RULED	103
<i>Judges and Oppressing Nations • Religious, Political, and Social Conditions</i>	
VII. TIMES OF TRANSITION	115
NEIGHBORING NATIONS	115
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ELI AND SAMUEL	119
ISRAEL'S FIRST KING	122
VIII. UNION OF ISRAEL UNDER DAVID AND SOLOMON	127
DAVIDIC UNION AND EXPANSION	127
<i>The King of Judah • Jerusalem—the National Capital • Prosperity and Supremacy • Sin in the Royal Family • Retrospect and Prospect</i>	
THE GOLDEN ERA OF SOLOMON	141
<i>Establishment of the Throne • Organization of the Kingdom • Construction of the Temple • Dedication of the Temple • Extensive Building Projects • Trade, Commerce, and Revenue • Apostasy and Its Consequences</i>	

IX. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM	155
CHRONOLOGY	156
IMPORTANT DATES	158
BIBLICAL ACCOUNT	159
CONCURRENT EVENTS	162
<i>The Kingdom of Syria • The Great Assyrian Empire</i>	
X. THE NORTHERN SECESSION	169
THE ROYAL FAMILY OF JEROBOAM	169
BAASHA'S DYNASTY	172
THE OMRIDE RULERS	173
XI. THE SOUTHERN LOYALISTS	183
REHOBAM'S KINGDOM	183
ABIJAM CONTINUES IDOLATRY	185
ASA INITIATES REFORM	185
JEHOSHAPHAT—A PIOUS ADMINISTRATOR	187
JEHORAM REVERTS TO IDOLATRY	189
AHAZIAH PROMOTES BAALISM	190
XII. REVOLUTION, RECOVERY, AND RUIN	193
THE DYNASTY OF JEHU	193
<i>Jehoahaz • Jehoash • Jeroboam II • Zechariah</i>	
THE LAST KINGS	196
<i>Shallum • Menahem • Pekahiah • Pekah • Hoshea</i>	
XIII. JUDAH SURVIVES ASSYRIAN IMPERIALISM	201
ATHALIAH—A REIGN OF TERROR	201
JOASH—REFORM AND RELAPSE	202
AMAZIAH—VICTORY AND DEFEAT	203
UZZIAH OR AZARIAH—PROSPERITY	205
JOTHAM—ANTI-ASSYRIAN POLICY	207
AHAZ—PRO-ASSYRIAN ADMINISTRATION	208
HEZEKIAH—A RIGHTEOUS RULER	209
MANASSEH—IDOLATRY AND REFORM	215
AMON—APOSTASY	216
XIV. FADING HOPES OF DAVIDIC KINGS	219
JOSIAN ERA OF OPTIMISM	219
BABYLONIAN SUPREMACY	224
<i>Jehoahaz • Jehoiakim • Jehoiachin • Zedekiah</i>	

XV. THE JEWS AMONG THE NATIONS	229
BABYLONIA—626-539 B.C.	231
<i>Nabopolassar • Nebuchadnezzar • Awel-Marduk</i>	
<i>Neriglissar • Nabonidus</i>	
PERSIA—539-400 B.C.	240
<i>Cyrus the Great • Cambyses • Darius I • Xerxes I • Artaxerxes I</i>	
EXILIC CONDITIONS AND PROPHETIC HOPES	248
XVI. THE GOOD HAND OF GOD	255
JERUSALEM RE-ESTABLISHED	255
<i>Return from Babylon • Settlement at Jerusalem • The New Temple</i>	
THE STORY OF ESTHER	261
<i>Jews in the Persian Court • Threat to the Jewish People • Triumph of the Jews</i>	
EZRA THE REFORMER	265
<i>Return of Ezra • Reformation in Jerusalem</i>	
NEHEMIAH THE GOVERNOR	268
<i>Commissioned by Artaxerxes • The Jerusalem Mission • Reformation under Ezra • Nehemiah's Program and Policies</i>	
XVII. INTERPRETATION OF LIFE	279
JOB—THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING	279
PSALMS—HYMNOLOGY OF ISRAEL	285
PROVERBS—AN ANTHOLOGY OF ISRAEL	288
ECCLESIASTES—INVESTIGATION OF LIFE	292
THE SONG OF SONGS	294
XVIII. ISAIAH AND HIS MESSAGE	299
WITH THE PROPHET IN JERUSALEM	299
THE WRITINGS OF ISAIAH	302
ANALYSIS OF HIS BOOK	303
XIX. JEREMIAH—A MAN OF FORTITUDE	323
A FORTY-YEAR MINISTRY	323
THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH	328
LAMENTATIONS	341
XX. EZEKIEL—THE WATCHMAN OF ISRAEL	345
A PROPHET AMONG THE EXILES	345
THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL	348

XXI. DANIEL—STATESMAN AND PROPHET	365
DURING THE REIGN OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR	367
THE NABONIDUS-BELSHAZZAR ERA	370
IN MEDO-PERSIAN TIMES	372
XXII. IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY	377
JONAH—THE NINEVEH MISSION	379
AMOS—A HERDSMAN AND PROPHET	381
HOSEA—THE MESSENGER OF GOD'S LOVE	385
XXIII. WARNINGS TO JUDAH	393
JOEL—THE CRUCIAL DAY OF THE LORD	393
MICAH—A REFORMER IN TURBULENT TIMES	395
ZEPHANIAH—THE DAY OF WRATH AND BLESSING	399
XXIV. FOREIGN NATIONS IN PROPHECY	403
OBADIAH—THE PRIDE OF EDMOM	403
NAHUM—THE FATE OF NINEVEH	404
HABAKKUK—GOD'S USE OF THE CHALDEANS	406
XXV. BEYOND THE EXILE	411
THE TIMES OF REBUILDING JERUSALEM	411
HAGGAI—PROMOTER OF THE BUILDING PROGRAM	412
ZECHARIAH—ISRAEL IN A WORLD SETTING	414
MALACHI—THE FINAL PROPHETIC WARNING	419
INDEX OF BIBLE PASSAGES	423
INDEX TO MAPS	427
INDEX OF NAMES AND SUBJECTS	429