

PROPHETIC HOPE

Session 4

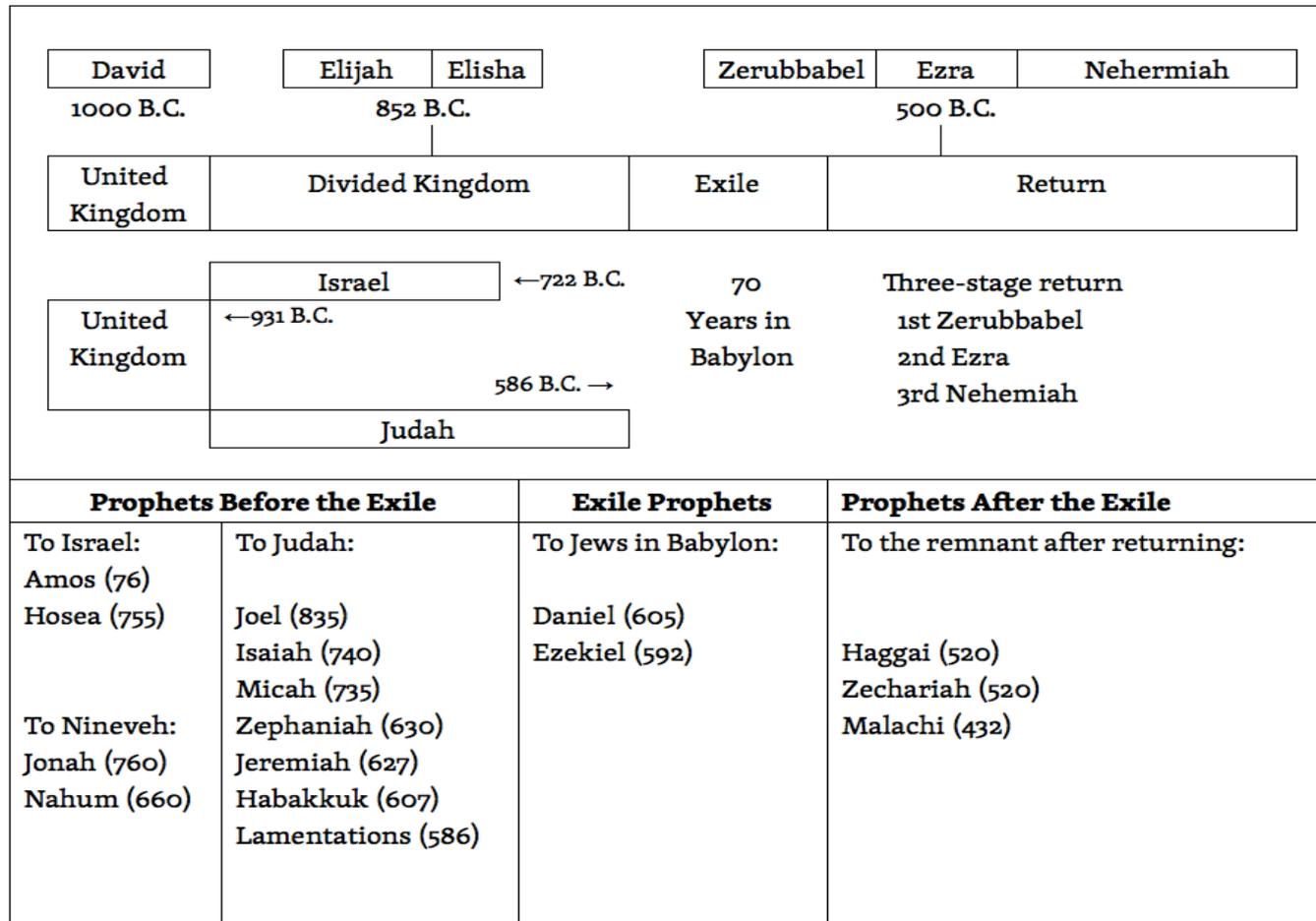
Message of the prophets

Pre-exilic - WARNING, hope

Exilic – CONSOLATION; HOPE

Post-exilic – ENCOURAGEMENT; HOPE

Timeline of prophets



From Nelson's book of charts and maps

Earlier writing prophets

Prophets Preceding the Fall of Samaria					
Date	Prophet	Prophesied to:	Israel	Contemporary Rulers in: Judah	Assyria
845	Obadiah	Edom	Joram	Ahaziah	Shalmanezzer III
835	Joel	Judah	Jehu	Athaliah	Shalmanezzer III
782	Jonah	Nineveh	Jeroboam II	Amaziah	Shalmanezzer IV
760-720	Hosea	Israel	Jeroboam II to Hoshea	Uzziah to Hezekiah	Tiglath-pileser III & Ashur-dan
760	Amos	Israel	Jeroboam II	Uzziah	Ashur-dan III
739-685	Isaiah	Judah	Pekah to Hoshea	Uzziah to Manasseh	Tiglath-pileser III, Shalmanezzer V, Sargon, Sen- nacherib
737-690	Micah	Judah	Pekah to Hoshea	Jotham to Hezekiah	Same as Isaiah

Later writing prophets

Date <i>(pre-exilic)</i>	Prophet	Propheied to	Historical Setting
650 B.C.	Nahum	Nineveh	Manasseh in Judah; Ashur-banipal in Assyria
640	Zephaniah	Judah	Josiah in Judah
627-580	Jeremiah	Judah	Josiah to Zedekiah, kings; and Gedaliah, governor in Judah Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon
609	Habakkuk	Judah	Josiah and Jehoahaz, Judah Necho (Egypt) defeated by Assyria
<i>(exilic)</i>			
605-536	Daniel	Babylonian kings	Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus the Persian
597-570	Ezekiel	Jews in exile	Jehoiachin and Zedekiah in Judah Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon
<i>(post-exilic)</i>			
520	Haggai	Returned exiles	Zerubbabel, governor of Judah Darius I of Persia
520	Zechariah	'' ''	Same as above
432-400	Malachi	'' ''	Probably Nehemiah, governor of Judah, and Darius II of Persia

Ezekiel

- 2nd deportation, 597 BC; about 25 years old
- Began ministry 5 years later; about 6 years before fall of Jerusalem
- Vision of the Sovereignty of God – 1-3
- Message: God is in control; the key message is that they may know that I am LORD (70 times)
- Who is the “they”? Both Israel and the Gentile nations (the world)

How are they to know?

- Judgments on Israel – Eze 4-24
- Judgments on the Gentile nations – Eze 25-39
- Preservation and restoration of Israel – Eze 40-48

Messages of the 3 visions

- Vision 1 – (1-3) God's transcendent glory; God overrules in sovereign government
- Vision 2 – (8-11) God intervenes in judgment; glory departs
- Vision 3 – (40-48) God restores in grace; glory returns

“That they may know I am LORD”

God is more powerful than the most powerful nations of the world

God is faithful and will restore Israel

Powers of the world:

Egypt (2500-858 BC)

Assyria (858-612 BC)

Babylon (612-536 BC)

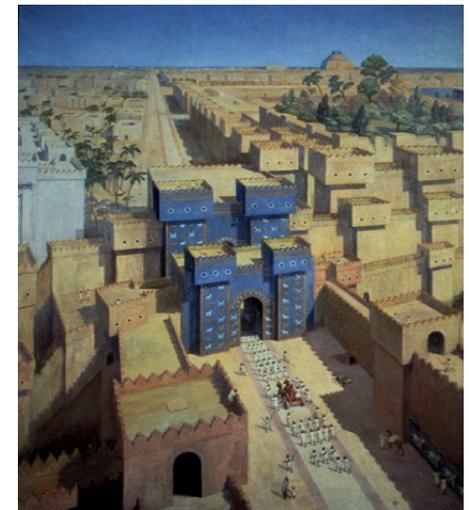
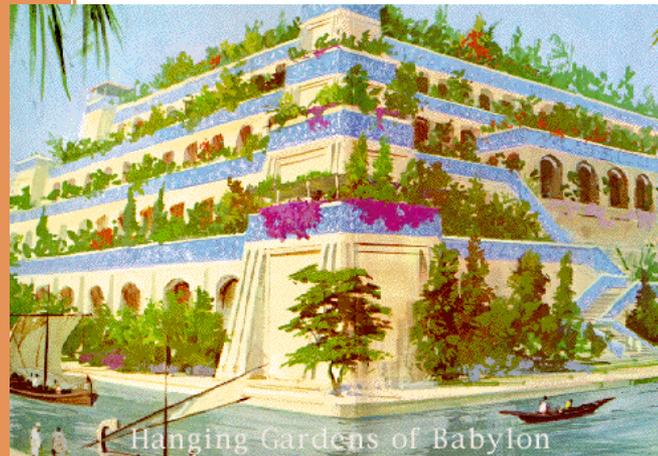
Medes/Persia (536-333 BC)

Greece (333-323 BC)

“That they may know I am LORD”

God broke the power of Babylon and restored Israel as prophesized

“God gives the kingdom of men to whom He wishes”



God is King over Babylon

God
brought
them back

- 70 years of servitude (*Jer 29:10-14*)
- 70 years of “desolations” in Jerusalem (*Jer 25:1; 2 Chr 36:2; Dan 9:1-2; Zech 1:12*)



Cyrus cylinder

From the first exile (605 BC) to proclamation of Cyrus (536 BC)

From Nebuchadnezzar setting himself up against Jerusalem (589 BC; *Eze 24:1-2; 2 Kings 25:1; Jer 52:4*) to 24th Chisleh [9th month], 520 BC; (*Hag 2:18*)

God is sovereign over nations (Dan 2, 7)

Daniel 2



so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.” Dan 4:17

Message sent to “peoples, and men of every language, who live in all the world” Dan 4:1

Rock will smash at the feet of iron and clay. *Dan 2:34*

Daniel 7



Son of Man given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. *Dan 7:14*

History of Israel pre-written in Dan 11

Daniel 11:2-35 covers “history” concerning Israel, Syria and Egypt from Alexander (333 BC) to the desecration of the temple (168 BC)

- 11:6 – Some years later, an alliance will be formed between the king of the north and the king of the south. The daughter (Berenice) of the king of the south (Ptolemy Philadelphus) will be given in marriage to the king of the north (Antiochus Theos) to secure the alliance,
- 11:21 - The next to come to power will be a despicable man (Antiochus Epiphanes, 175 BC) who is not directly in line for royal succession. But he will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue.
- 11:29f – Then at the appointed time he will once again invade the south (Egypt), but this time the result will be different. For warships from western coastlands (Rome) will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. But he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant. His army will take over the Temple fortress, polluting the sanctuary, putting a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration....

God is faithful

A remnant will
return and be
restored

The Messiah will
come and lead
the nation

Salvation will be
extended to the
Gentiles

In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. **Is 10:20-21**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Is 53:5**

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **Jer 33:15**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. **Is 9:6-7**

Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' ”
Is 49:6

Chronicler's history

Second history – Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah

Post-exilic

What Chronicler's history addresses

The post-exilic crisis of faith

The temple that they built was nothing like Solomon's temple – disappointment in view of Deut 30

There was no abundance and no prosperity
Israel was not a worldwide kingdom

Return from exile



Cyrus cylinder

536 BC

80 year gap

456 BC

445 BC

400 BC

Return under
Zerubbabel
(decree of Cyrus)

Esther

Return under Ezra
(decree of
Artaxerxes)

Nehemiah
rebuilds
Jerusalem

Malachi

Ezra 1-6

Ezra 7-10

Nehemiah

60 year gap

20 years

Haggai (520 BC)

Zechariah

How the writings fit into the story



Gathered after the exile into final literary form

Reached final form later than Torah and the Prophets

Writings functioned as resources for a community living through difficult times during post-exilic days

Writings – how to remain faithful

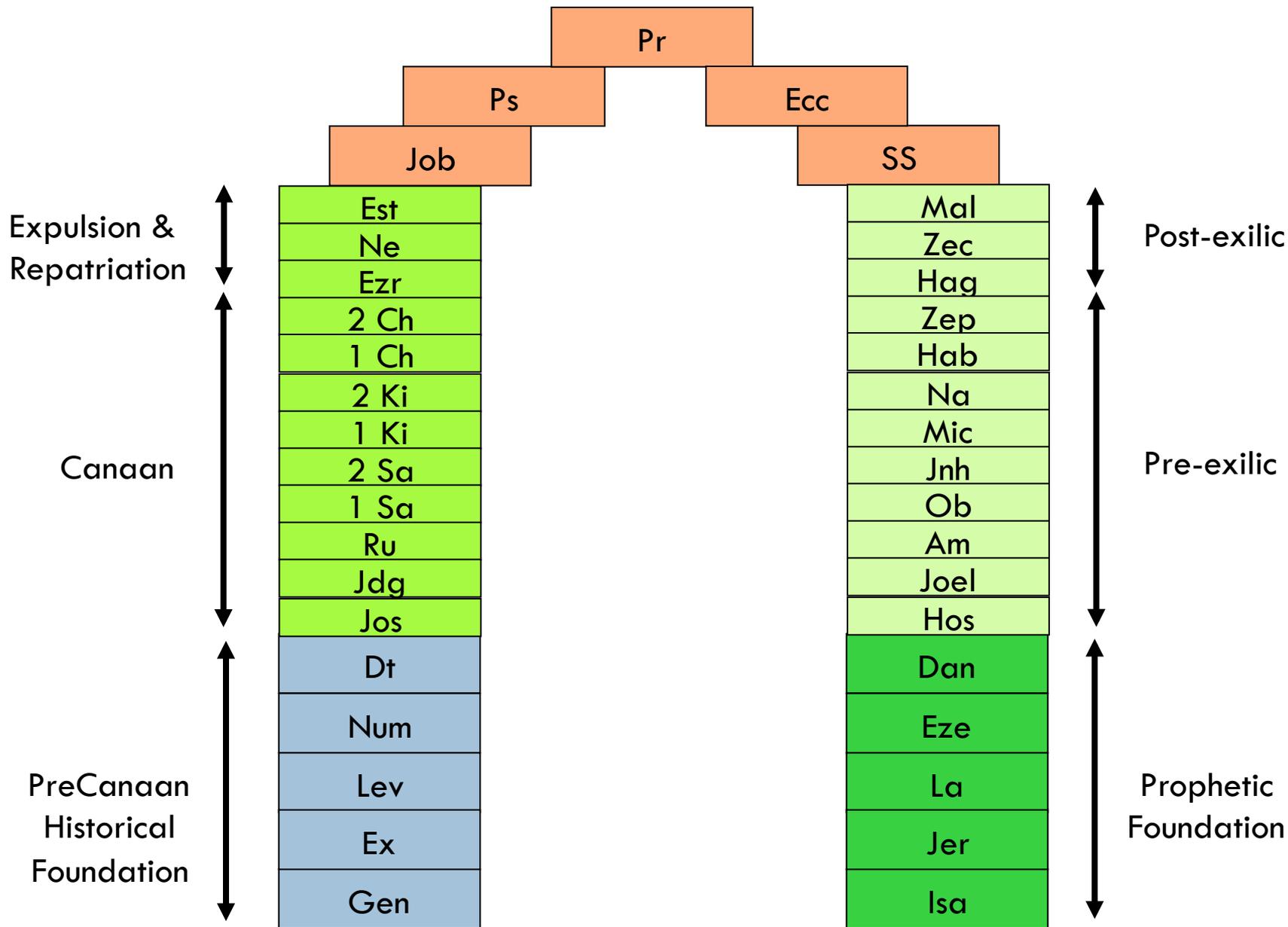
- **Psalms** – expressions of covenant commitment and guides worship
- **Proverbs** – how live according to God's order
- **Ecclesiastes and Job** – how to navigate through maze of life, meaning of life, suffering and remain faithful
- **Esther and Ruth** – seeing God's sovereign providence through the eyes of faith (even when they didn't know it; even when they were under foreign powers)

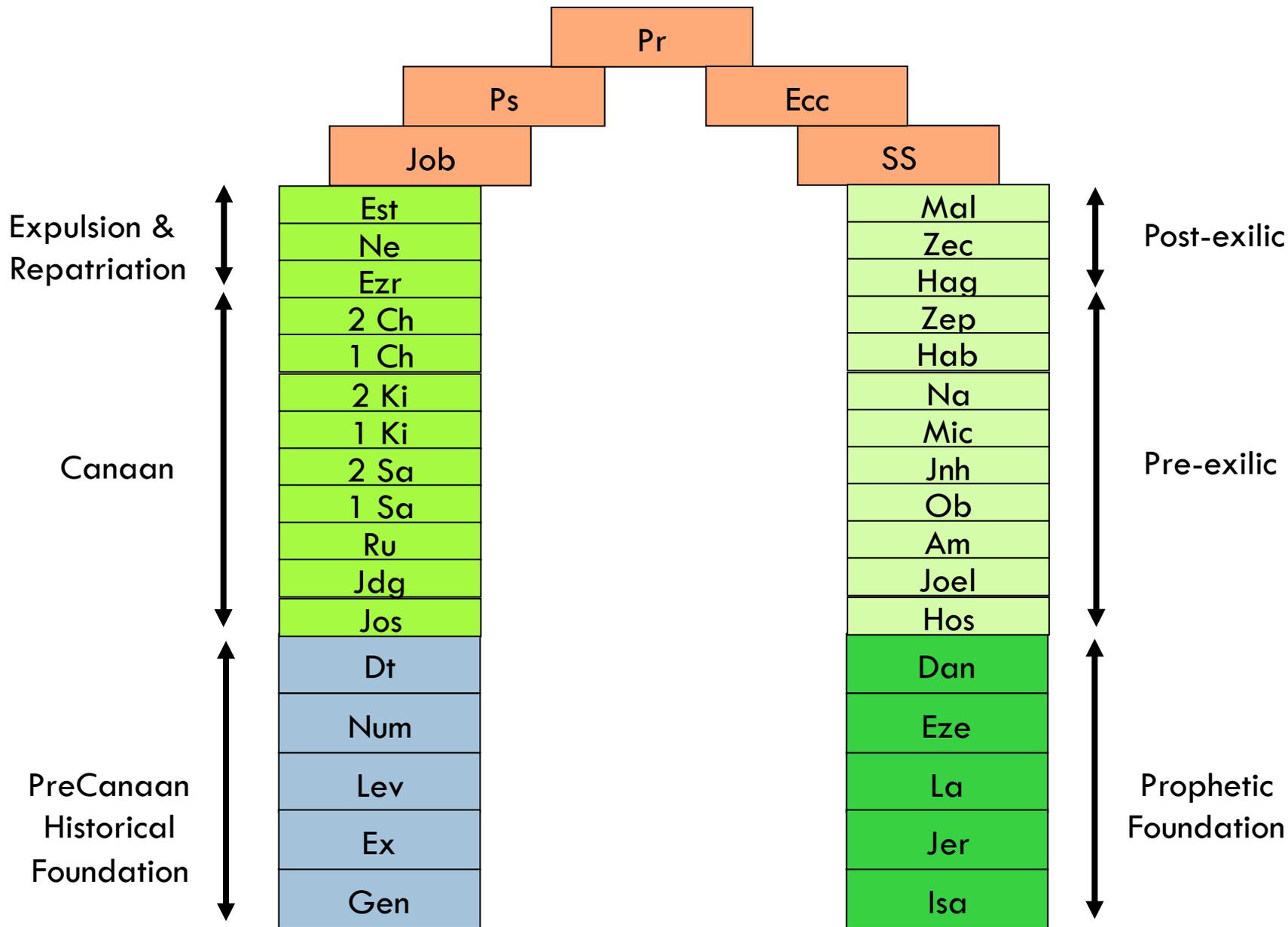
Malachi

- Idolatry cured
- Presumptuous
- Righteousness and justice not established
- Book of remembrance of a “remnant”

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Malachi 4:5-6
(end of OT)





Question

1. God never leaves His people without hope. God is faithful. God is always ready to restore, whenever we are ready to return. What are you hoping that God will restore for you? Pray for one another.
2. **“There is a cross in the way to every crown that is worth wearing.” *Baxter*** What challenges are you experiencing in serving God? Pray for strength and grace for the task.
3. The people in Malachi’s days were “careless in their living” and “callous in their relationship” with God. What does that look like today for Christians? How can we guard against this?