

Kings and Prophets

2 Cycles

The Bible-Wheel, shown opposite, displays a symmetrical arrangement of the books of the Bible, dividing into three cycles, each of 22 books.

The first cycle of the Bible Wheel focuses on the political leaders of Israel – beginning with Moses, Joshua, the Judges, then the kings of Israel until the exile. The Kingdom of Israel reached its apex with King David and King Solomon who wrote the 5 books of Wisdom.

The second cycle of the Bible Wheel focuses on the prophets of Israel. The prophets were spokesmen for God, and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

The prophetic cycle begins with the 5 major prophets, then the 12 minor prophets, and culminating with the messiah – Jesus.

Curiously, the gospel of Christ is found at the beginning of the prophetic cycle - in the “suffering servant” of Isaiah, and at the end of the prophetic cycle - in the suffering of Jesus on the cross portrayed in the New Testament gospels.

Symmetry and Balance

There is a symmetry and balance between the first and second cycles – between the earthly endeavors of kings, and the spiritual endeavors of prophets.

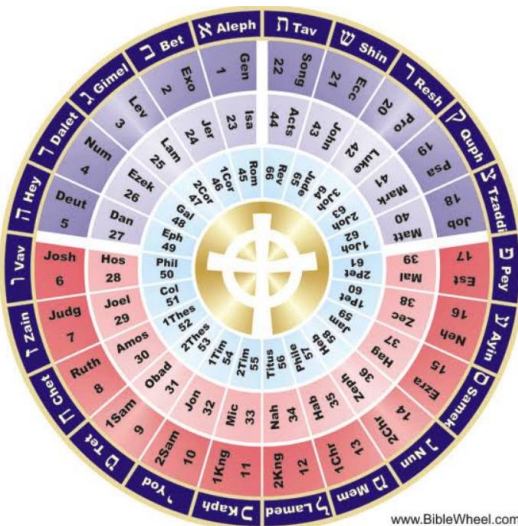
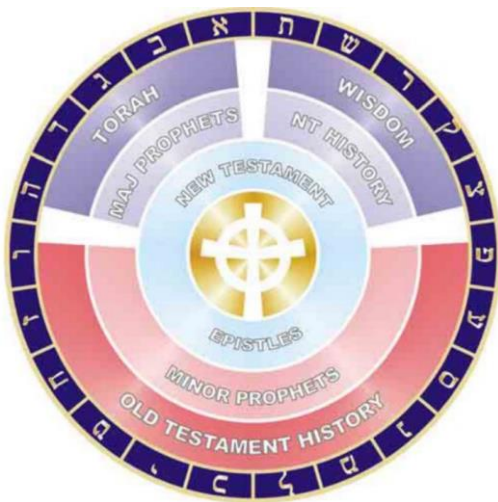
The Messiah came as a suffering servant rather than as a conquering king, suggesting that the kingdom of God begins with mastering self rather than mastering others, an inner liberation, a spiritual endeavor rather than an outward, earthly one.

It also suggests that a king or leader must also be a public servant – since they must combine power over others with responsibility for their welfare, and be submitted to God’s law, rather than simply asserting ego.

Primacy of Mind

In nature, mind has primacy over matter, since life arose by creation from a Mind. In the same way, Jesus taught that our liberation begins with an inner liberation, and then manifests as outward abundance – a message echoed in the Sermon on the Mount -

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you”



Treasures in Heaven

This concept of a balance to life – material riches and spiritual riches – may have a practical value.

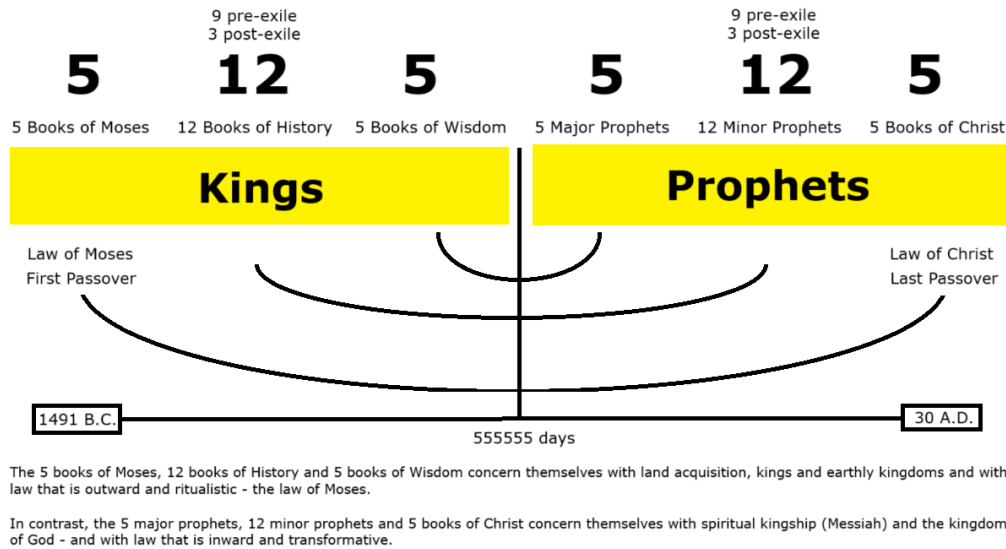
When the material world is full of uncertainty and woes, it may help to have a spiritual side.

If our treasures are in heaven, we may feel less effected by earthly concerns.

Root Cause of Suffering

If mind is primary, then it is possible that much suffering arises because the kingdom of God is not sought first – so the primary condition for abundance is absent.

Kings and Prophets



12 books of history parallel the 12 books of the minor prophets

9 books are about history before the exile .
3 books are about history after the exile

9 books are about prophets before the exile.
3 books are about prophets after the exile

Parallels between Moses and Christ

Birth :
Slaughter of the innocents

Passover :
The First Passover

Pentecost :
Law of Moses

Judgement :
The beginning of the nation - 40 years later they entered the promised land.

Birth :
Slaughter of the innocents

Passover :
The Last Supper

Pentecost :
Law of the Spirit

Judgement :
The end of the nation - 40 years later they departed the promised land

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Messiah was the expected king of the Davidic line who would deliver Israel from foreign bondage and bring about God's Kingdom on earth.

However, according to the prophetic cycle, Christ came as a "suffering servant" and rather than overcoming a foreign enemy – he offered freedom from the enemy within – our bondage to sin. So the kingdom of God manifests in each person who overcomes sin. Moses delivered the Israelites from an external enemy. Christ delivered the Jews from an internal one. Inner change is all that is necessary to bring about the kingdom of God.

So Jesus regarded inner transformation as the first step in bringing about social change. A society is only as good as its members – an orchestra is only as good as its musicians. Our primary responsibility is to fix ourselves rather than others, and in doing so we enter the Kingdom of God even despite our social environment.