

Practical Theology – Lesson 5 – “Biblical Period Theology”

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Biblical Period of Kings and Prophets

Prophets:

- Isaiah, Jerimiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Saul, David, Solomon – Many (50+) more

Rabbinic Literature

The **TWO** Torahs:

- Word Torah = “instruction/teaching/revelation”
- Written Torah – Old Testament
 - Commentaries called “Midrash” – “to validate and substantiate Mishna – close the gap between Written and oral Torah”
- **Psalm 119:11** - Oral/Memorized Torah – Because prophets were contemporary with original authorship
 - Written in 200 AD as the “Mishna”
 - Tosefta (300 AD) >> Talmud (400-600 AD) commentary on the Mishna

The Impact of Captivity & Restoration

- 722 BC – Northern tribes (all but Judah and Benjamin) conquered by Assyria and Never restored
- 586 BC – Southern tribes conquered by Babylon, restored around 445 BC
- (70 AD – Rome destroys the temple, scatters Jews, reestablished after WWII 1948)
- Language changed from Hebrew to Aramaic
- Loss of genealogies
- Ban on use of the Name of God; (6,823 uses) YHWH becomes LORD.
- **Ezra 7:10** Ezra writes Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles (translation), institutes weekly synagogue services

The time of Christ

- **Matthew 22:15-22** Pharisees tests Jesus – paying taxes
- **Matthew 22:23-33** Sadducees tests Jesus – resurrection
- **Matthew 22:35-40** – Lawyer (Scribe) tests Jesus – greatest commandment

The Groups

- **Pharisees** – Traditional, conservative (cast-out hereditary High Priest) – but meticulous in demands of the law, extreme regard for Oral tradition (Torah)
- **Sadducees** – Political power (Rome-appointed High Priest), aristocratic, denied supernatural
- **Priests and Levites** – hereditary by family (but lost genealogies) and by secular appointments - composed of aristocracy and commoners
- **Scribes** – Separate group – interaction with Pharisees and Sadducees – Advisors with varying positions / authority
- **Essenes** – Communal separatists, ascetics, studied and preserved scriptures – Dead Sea Scrolls
- **Zealots** – against Rome