

Major Genres within the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament):

Foundational Myths & Legends - stories about the origins of the world, the first generations of humans, or the early years of a nation, intended to provide a foundational world-view upon which people base their communal and individual lives (**Genesis, parts of Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**)

Legal Codes - collections of laws and instructions by which the people are to live (**Leviticus, parts of Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**)

Genealogies - lists of inter-relationships between peoples, either of successive generations or of different nations (**parts of Genesis, much of Numbers**)

Annals/Histories - semi-historical narrative accounts of select events in a nation's life, focusing especially upon political and military exploits of its leaders, since usually written under royal sponsorship (**Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Sameul, 1 & 2 Kings, etc.**)

Prophetic Books - collections of the oracles or words of God spoken to the people through human intermediaries (prophets) and the symbolic actions they perform at God's direction for the people's benefit (**Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.**)

Poetry/Psalms - poetic lyrics of songs/hymns intended for communal worship and/or individual prayer (**Psalms**)

Prayers/Laments - words addressed by people to God, esp. reflecting situations of crisis or lament (**Lamentations/Psalms**)

Proverbs - generalized sayings and aphorisms containing advice on how to live well: "do good and avoid evil" (**Proverbs**)

Wisdom Literature - various types of inspirational stories that encourage people to live wisely (**Job, Proverbs, Wisdom, etc.**)

Apocalypses - symbolic narratives that interpret historical crises through God's eyes to provide hope for a better future (**Daniel**)

