



WINTER SESSIONS

25

26

EMERGENCE CHURCH

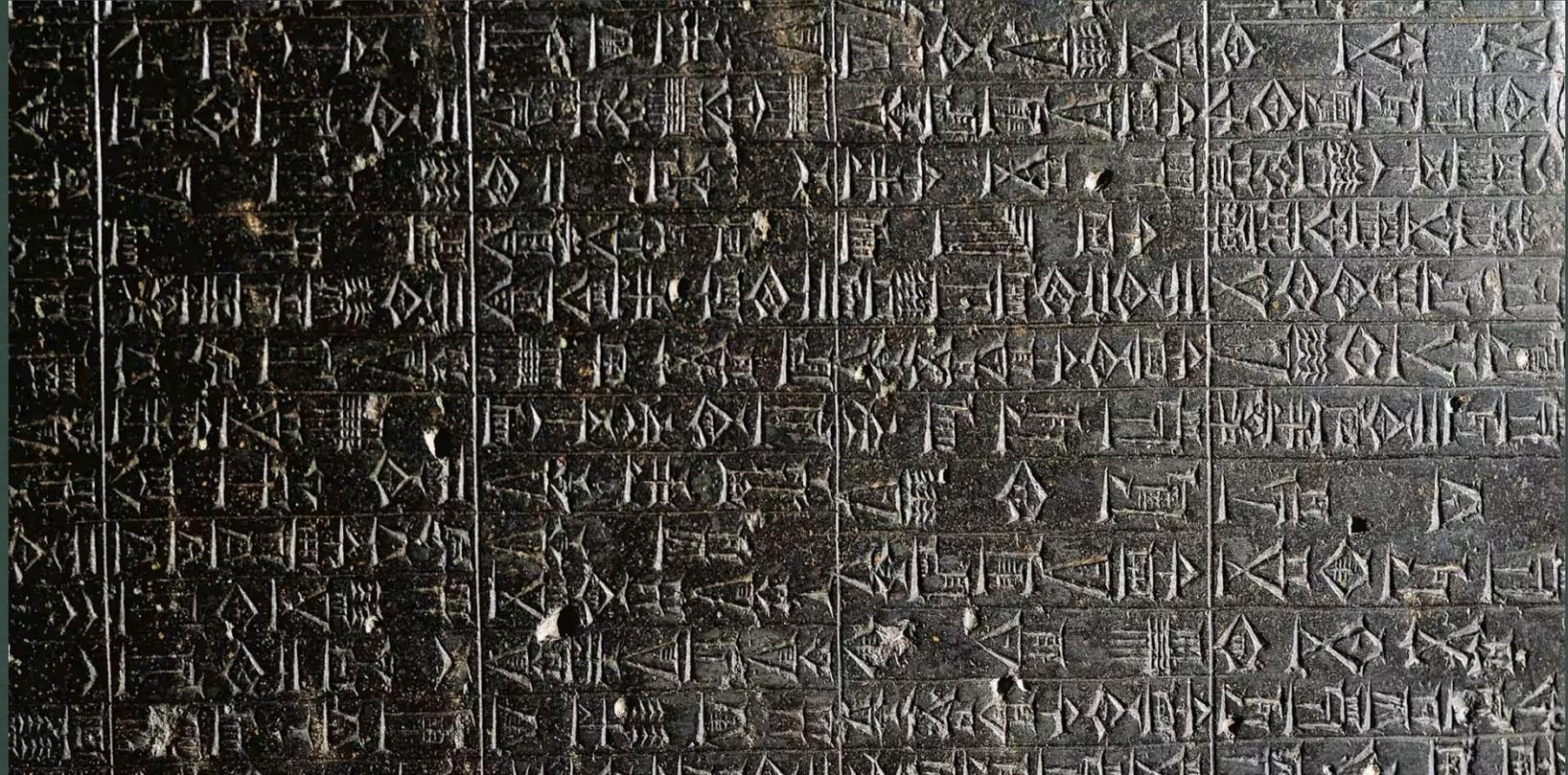
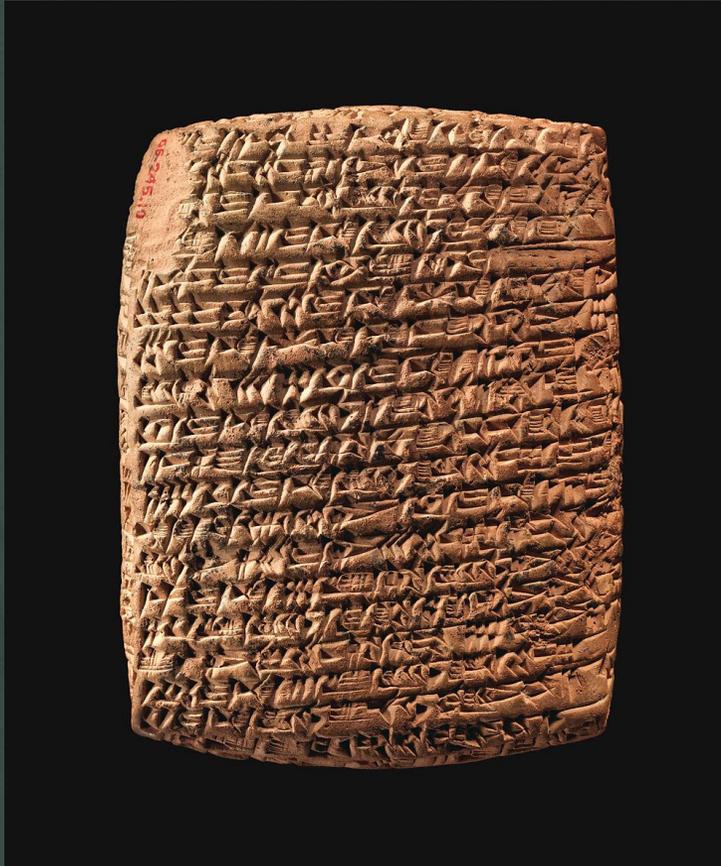


The Composition of the Old Testament

How We Got the Bible

Winter Sessions 2025–26

Cuneiform Writing



Alphabetic Writing

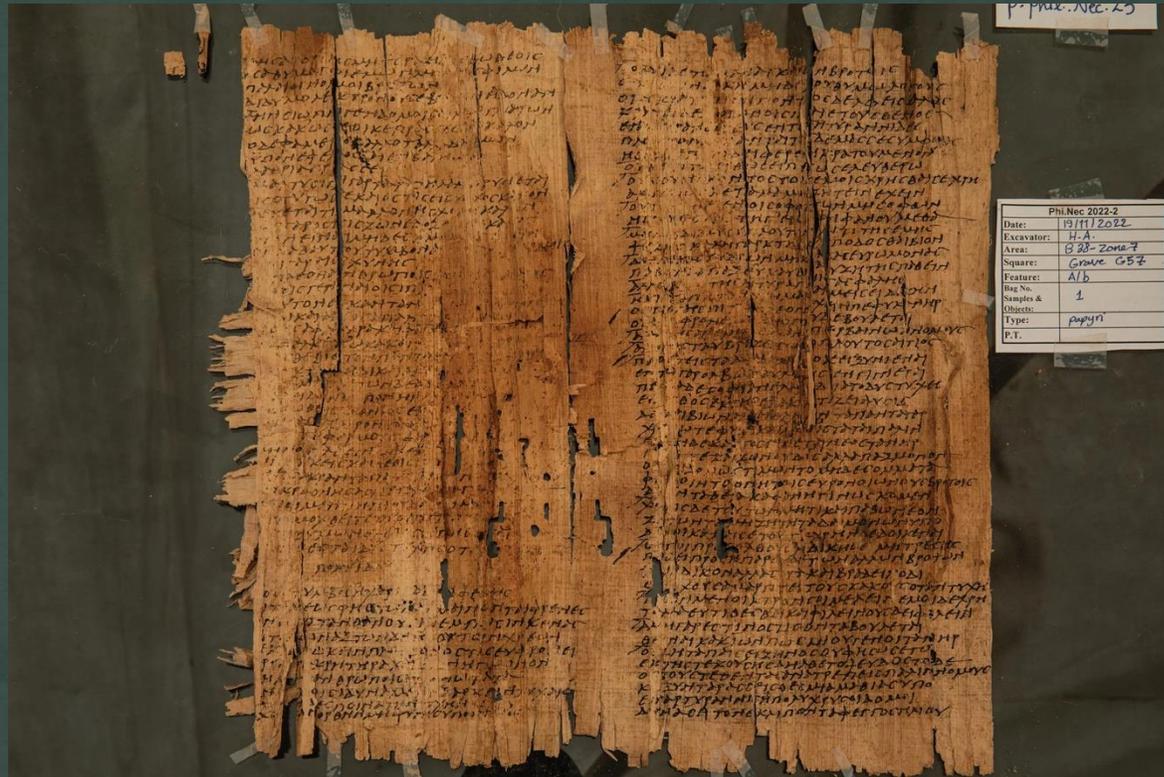


Kuntillet Ajrud Pithos B



Papyrus

Parchment



Samaria Ostraca





Sources Mention in the Historical Books

- The Book of the Wars of Yahweh (Num 21:14)
- The Book of Jashar (Josh 10:13; 2 Sam 1:18)
- Anonymous book describing territory (Josh 18:9)
- The Book of the Acts of Solomon (1 Kgs 11:41)
- The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel
- The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah



“Caches of bullae excavated in Jerusalem confirm that archives were collected in various places in Jerusalem dating back at least to the ninth century BCE. This all accords well with Near Eastern parallels, so we have good reason to believe that the palace complex in Jerusalem would have included annals, records, and other literary texts.”

William M. Schniedewind, *Who Really Wrote the Bible: The Story of the Scribes* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2024), 45.



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Solomon's Twelve Officers

ben-Hur, in the hill country of Ephraim

ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, (etc.)

ben-Hesed, in Arubboth

ben-Abinadab, in all Zaphath-dor

Baana ben-Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean (etc.)

ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead

Ahinadab ben-Iddo, in Mahanaim

Ahimaaz, in Naphtali

Baana ben-Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth

Jehoshaphat ben-Paruah, in Issachar

Shimei ben-Ela, in Benjamin

Geber ben-Uri, in the land of Gilead



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Scribes Mentioned in the Bible

- Seraiah
- Sheva
- Elihoreph and Ahijah, sons of Shisha
- Shebna
- Shaphan

”Belonging to Gemariah, [so]n of Shaphan”



”Belonging to Isaiah the prophet”





“The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from the outside. And they are there to this day.”

1 Kings 8:8



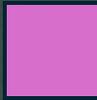
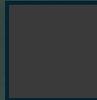
The Books of Psalms

- Book I: Psalms 1–41
- Book II: Psalms 42–72
- Book III: Psalms 73–89
- Book IV: Psalms 90–106
- Book V: Psalms 107–150



Categorization of the Psalms

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135
136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150

	Anonymous		Sons of Korah		Solomon		Ethan the Ezrahite
	David		Asaph		Heman the Ezrahite		Moses



Psalm Superscriptions

- “Of David” (73)
- “Of Solomon” (2)
- “Of Moses” (1)
- “Of the Sons of Korah” (11)
incl. Heman the Ezrahite (1)
- “Of Asaph” (12)
- “Of Ethan the Ezrahite” (1)





¹ And David and the army officers set apart the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun for service, those prophesying to the accompaniment of lyres, harps, and cymbals. Their census by their headcount of working men, according to their service, was: ² belonging to the sons of Asaph: Zakkur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah—the sons of Asaph under the command of Asaph, who prophesied under the command of the king; ³ belonging to Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun—Gedaliah, Izri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, Mattithiah—six, under the command of their father Jeduthun, who, to the accompaniment of the lyre, prophesied in thanksgiving and praise to Yahweh.

1 Chronicles 25:1–3

Translation by Gary N. Knoppers, *1 Chronicles 10–29*, Anchor Yale Bible 12A (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), 843.



“And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.”

2 Samuel 22:1; cf. Psalm 18



“These are the words of David. The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high.”

2 Samuel 23:1



⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

⁴⁵ “If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

Matthew 22:41–45



Suggested Division of Isaiah

- First Isaiah: chapters 1–39
- Second Isaiah: chapters 40–55
- Third Isaiah: chapters 56–66



“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

Isaiah 58:12

“Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age.”

Isaiah 60:15

“They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.”

Isaiah 61:4



Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, and Yahweh removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled.

The holy seed is its stump.

Isaiah 6:11–13



To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

Isaiah 8:20–22



²¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

² “I will go before you and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,

⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness;
I make well-being and create calamity;
I am the LORD, who does all these things.



⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,

⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me,

¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,

saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country.

I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

Isaiah 46:8–11



Questions