

Names and Themes of Old Testament Books

Book	Name	Theme
Genesis	In the beginning (Genesis-LXX, 2:4a)	Divine Sovereignty over creation and providence
Exodus	And these (are) the names (Exodus-LXX)	Redemption and Responsibility
Leviticus	And he called (Levitikon [LXX], “that which pertains to Levites”)	Holiness essential to fellowship
Numbers	And he said <u>or</u> In the wilderness (Arithmoi-LXX; Liber Numeri-Vulgate)	Divine discipline, direction, and provision
Deuteronomy	These (are) the words	Total Devotion
Joshua	Jehovah saves <u>or</u> Jehovah is salvation	Conquest and Inheritance
Judges	Judges	Repeated failures through disobedience
Ruth	Friendship <u>or</u> friend (?)	Loyalty
Samuel	His name is God (?) (1 and 2 Kingdoms-LXX)	Transition to the Monarchy (1 Sam.-God humiliates and exalts leaders according to their heart: Samuel, Saul, David; 2 Sam.-Leaders are responsible to God: David)
Kings	Kings (3 and 4 Kingdoms-LXX)	Division and Dispersion of the Kingdom
Obadiah	Servant of Jehovah	Poetic justice: doom of Edom
Joel	Jehovah is God	Day of the Lord: Destruction and Restoration
Jonah	Dove	God’s grace to Nineveh
Amos	Burden <u>or</u> Burden-bearer	Judgment for Israel’s social and religious sins
Hosea	Salvation	God’s love spurned, but constant
Micah	Who is like Jehovah?	Judgment for Judah’s sins
Isaiah	Jehovah is salvation	Salvation and Judgment
Nahum	Consolation <u>or</u> Consoler	God’s justice and judgment (Nineveh)

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Zephaniah	Jehovah has hidden <u>or</u> Jehovah protects	Day of the Lord: God's glory and might in judgment and restoration
Habakkuk	Ardent embrace	Lessons for faith
Jeremiah	Jehovah establishes (?)	Judgment for Breach of Covenant
Lamentations	How? (Threnoi [LXX], Threni [Vulgate]-tears)	Mourning for Jerusalem
Ezekiel	God strengthens <u>or</u> God is strong	Destruction and Restoration
Daniel	God is Judge	God's sovereignty over Kingdoms and History
Chronicles	The words of the days (Paraleipomena [LXX]-things omitted Chronicles [Vulgate])	Continuity of Judah's covenant history
Ezra	Help	Restoration of Temple and Separation of people
Nehemiah	The comfort of Jehovah	Resettlement and Covenant Law
Esther	Star	Providential protection
Haggai	Festal	Rebuilding the Temple
Zechariah	Jehovah remembers	Messiah as the foundation of Hope
Malachi	My messenger	Against formalism
Psalms	Praises (Psalmi [LXX]-songs of the accompaniment of a stringed instrument)	Patterns for worship
Job	He who turns (?)	Problem of suffering
Proverbs	Proverbs of Solomon	Practical wisdom
Ecclesiastes	Qoheleth (one who addresses an assembly)	Vanity of life without God
Song of Solomon	Song of Songs (Canticles [Vulgate]-songs Song of Solomon [AV])	The beauty of love