

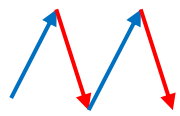
# Old Testament History as Drama

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<b>Yahweh's Gracious Deeds</b>  <b>Setting, Key Characters</b>  <b>Human Failure → Judgment</b>  <b>Date B.C.)</b>  <b>Bible Books</b>	<b>Act 1: Creation</b> <i>Yahweh creates the universe and commissions humanity to rule the earth for His glory.</i> Eden Scene 1: Adam/Eve Scene 2: Noah <b>Fall</b> <i>The serpent seduces Adam and Eve to disobey God → creation is cursed, humanity is exiled from God's presence.</i> -----2000----- Gen. 1-11	<b>Act 2: Patriarchs</b> <i>Yahweh chooses Abraham and promises to bless him so that all nations will be blessed.</i> Promised Land Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, 12 Sons (Tribes of Israel) <b>Egypt</b> <i>Abraham's family gradually becomes like the Canaanites around them → 400 years in Egypt.</i> -----1450?-----	<b>Act 3: Exodus</b> <i>Yahweh delivers His people from slavery in Egypt and gives them His Law.</i> Mt. Sinai, Tabernacle Moses <b>Golden Calf</b> <i>Israel breaks the Law and worships the golden calf → an entire generation dies in the desert.</i> -----1400?----- Exod., Lev., Num.  -----Deut.-----	<b>Act 4: Conquest</b> <i>Yahweh drives out the Canaanites and fulfills His promise to give Israel the land (Joshua).</i> Promised Land Joshua <b>Judges</b> <i>Israel fails to fully drive out the Canaanites, worships idols → chaos (Judges).</i> -----1000----- Joshua  -----Judges-----	<b>Act 5: Kingdom</b> <i>Yahweh establishes David as king and promises that a future king in his line will rule Israel and all nations.</i> Promised Land, 1 <sup>st</sup> Temple David, Solomon Prophets <b>Exile</b> <i>Kings and Israel fail → divided kingdom; Israel is exiled to Assyria (722 B.C.), Judah is exiled to Babylon (587 B.C.).</i> -----587----- Ruth, 1-2 Sam.  --1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chron.--	<b>Act 6: Return</b> <i>Yahweh brings His people back from exile in Babylon and resettles them in the Promised Land.</i> Promised Land, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Temple Ezra, Nehemiah <b>Disappointment</b> <i>The people continue to sin like their ancestors → the nations rule over them; the coming of the kingdom is delayed.</i> -----430----- Esther, Ezra, Neh.  -----Prophetic Books-----
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**Summary:** The Old Testament is about God's *plan*...to bless all *peoples*...by bringing them back into His *presence*...for His *praise*... through His *Promised One*...starting with His chosen *people*, Israel.

**Plot:** Cyclical (Pss. 78; 106; Neh. 9)  **A. Yahweh's Grace**  
**B. Human Failure → Yahweh's Judgment**

**Theater:** Creation/Nations

**Center Stage:** Israel

**Main Character/Hero:** Yahweh, God of grace, justice (Exod. 34:6-7)