SPIRITUAL SENSE OUTLINE OF THE WORD HEBREW SCRIPTURES

GENESIS – beginning of creation to time of Joseph

Spiritual beginnings, formation of the soul (spiritual body), "remains": impressions of spiritual value.

Creation

Adam Noah Babel Prenatal and early infancy

Innocence of ignorance, assertion of inherited tendencies, instinct v. intellect, heart and mind separate, heavenly environment.

Abraham

Isaac Jacob Egypt Joseph Later infancy and childhood

Idea of God, obedience, leading parental influence, development of sense of right and wrong, self-assertion and conflicts, "dreams," idealism, mind's hunger, memory knowledge, first joy of learning, discovering life.

EXODUS – Israel led out of Egypt,

Commandments, Tabernacle

Moses

LEVITICUS – ceremonial law

NUMBERS – census, wilderness wandering **DEUTERONOMY** – law retold, death of Moses Childhood instruction

Habits form, deeper learning, self-discipline, meaning of freedom, natural knowledge and training, wilderness, law and order, Decalogue, percepts, repetition, assimilation, heart-mind advance, God and neighbor.

JOSHUA - conquest of Canaan

Adolescence

Truth used in struggle to gain ideal spiritual life, gradual conquest of self; hereditary tendencies.

JUDGES – temporary local leaders, from death of Joshua through Samson.

Chaos of youth

Unsettled period, alternating submission to ways of the world and sudden better impulses that deliver; search for ruling love, defeats and victories.

I & II SAMUEL – transition to kingdom period

Ideal of youth

Harking back to childhood, emerging to new but insufficient power, awkward age, problems of self-guidance, desire for integration.

I & II KINGS – end of united kingdom, divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah

Solomon Elijah Elisha

Kings

Early maturity

Demand for controlling ideas, governing principle, first ideal enthroned based on own ideas about spiritual life, then more "after God's heart," whole nature brought together out of desire to worship the Lord in life, early success in trial to make ideal real, followed by division of will and understanding. The Word (prophets) shows power but also reveals great weakness in spiritual purpose when the issue is God or self. Finally, life goes captive to worldly engrossment; first mind, then heart. Knowing truth but not doing it, "breakdowns," inner maladjustments, temptations and victories, insight into consequences of evil, disillusionment about self, hope, development of conscience, no help in self, see need for deliverance, look to divine redemption.

PSALMS PROPHETS

5 major 12 minor

SPIRITUAL SENSE OUTLINE OF THE WORD

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES

MARK – healing and teaching

LUKE – ministry

JOHN – emphasizes Son of God

REVELATION – prophecies, Holy City

Maturity

Savior comes, his birth in us is second birth, his ministry in all parts of our being, revealing self, claiming our undivided allegiance, teaching, healing, law of love, first phase of new life; reformation (outward shunning of evil.)

Maturity to Old Age

"Regeneration" proper (conscious), more subtle trials of inner life, motives, plane of causes, realization one is a spiritual being, heaven within, glorified Christ in control of life, descent of New Jerusalem, regenerate nature.

Swedenborg's overview of the Word, as summarized by Rev. Robert Kirven of the Swedenborg School of Religion, Newton, MA. (now Center for Swedenborgian Studies, Berkeley, CA.)