

Basics of the Faith

Lesson 2: Survey of the Old Testament

General

Two Testimonies, written over a span of about one thousand and five hundred years by over forty men in different countries using different languages...

To give us one message!

That message is what we call the Gospel!

It is God's letter to us, explaining why we can't have a loving relationship with Him and what He has done to correct that situation for those whom He loves.

The first Testimony, the Old Testament:

Explains the problem and tells how God provided a way for His people to see how that problem was keeping them from that relationship and it records promises that God will provide the way of reconciliation.

The second Testimony, the New Testament:

Records how God fulfilled those promises through Jesus.

Establishment of the Church

New Covenant living instruction

One story from start to finish!

Progressive revelation after Genesis 3

Purpose:

Provide:

Overview of the contents of the Testament

Orientation to the direction of Scripture

Overview:

It starts with God's creation of the whole universe out of nothing.

Genesis 1:1 ESV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

No description or explanation of God, just assumption of knowledge of Him

Already well known to the reader

Then He set about organizing His creation:

Genesis 1:2 ESV

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

On the sixth day of His work, He made mankind to rule over this beautiful world that He made specifically for us.

The rest of the first part of Genesis gives an overview of how God carried out that organization of the "formless and void" world so it would be fit for humans to live in and the creation of mankind.

Chapter two of Genesis details the creation of man and summarizes the rest of the creation.

Then we come to chapter three, where sin enters the world through Adam's failure to keep the one commandment that God has recorded that he was given.

This rebellion is followed by the necessary judgment and condemnation of Adam, his wife Eve and all of creation because of that failure.

However, God, in His mercy, provided immediate promise of redemption from that condemnation.

The rest of Genesis recounts the slide of mankind into utter depravity, God's renewal of the race through Noah and his family as the rest of humanity is destroyed in the flood and God's calling of a people to be His chosen nation.

That nation, Israel, was given the task of taking the Word of God, revealed to them through Moses, to the whole world.

Most of the rest of the Old Testament is the story of how Israel failed to carry out that task; just as Adam had failed to keep the one command he was given.

Instead of occupying the "promised land" and becoming a "city on a hill" that would shine God's light on a dark world, Israel, despite God's patient longsuffering of their disobedience, continued to slide further and further into sin.

The rest of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy detail the first part of that story.

They tell of the establishment and escape of Israel from slavery in Egypt and how, because they failed to obey God's instruction to go up into the land of Canaan, He caused them to wander in the wilderness until virtually all of the people who were adults at the time they left Egypt had died.

They also describe the commands He gave them about how they were to live and worship Him.

Those commands, summed up in what we call the Ten Commandments, are actually the foundation for all the good laws we have today.

Collectively, these five books are called "The Law".

Joshua, Judges, First and Second Samuel as well as First and Second Kings, known to the Jews as "The Former Prophets" are actually historical accounts of Israel's occupation of the Promised Land and their slide into idolatry.

Much of what we find in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings is repeated in 1 and 2 Chronicles.

While there are some high points, such as the establishment of Temple Worship in the reign of Solomon, for the most part, it is a story of failure to keep God's commands, especially that of being a "light to the world" and a "city on a hill".

This part of the story ends with the nation of Israel divided in to two parts and, finally, conquered by the kingdoms of Assyria and Babylon, with the majority of the people going into exile in those kingdoms.

There is another group of books called “The Writings” and included in them are some books that are historical in nature as well.

The books included here are Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah and the two books of Chronicles.

These books detail what happened during and after the exile.

“The Writings” also include a group of books known as the “Poetical” books.

This group is made up of the Psalms, Proverbs and Job.

Job, by the way is believed to be the first book of the Holy Bible written and may relate events that happened around the time of Abraham, over four hundred years before the Exodus, when Genesis through Deuteronomy were written.

The rest of the Old Testament is made up of more prophetic books, the “Latter Prophets”, that we actually refer to as the “Major” and “Minor” Prophets, and the remaining five books: Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon), Ruth, Lamentations, Esther and Ecclesiastes.

Well, as you can see, there is a lot more to this book than meets the eye and we haven’t even begun to scratch the surface of the Old Testament, let alone look at the New Testament.

39 Books in our versions

Organized by subject

24 Books in the Jewish Bible – Originally individual scrolls with no specific order, just groupings.

Grouped by type, not subject

“The Law and the Prophets”

Most common variant:

Chumash / **Torah** / Five Books of Moses (**Pentateuch**) (*About 1500 B. C.*)

Bereshit / **Genesis**; (*About 1500 B. C.*)

Creation of the world

Fall of man

Flood

Establishment of the Passover

Establishment of the nation of Israel

Includes physical manifestations of YHWH/Christ

Shemot / Exodus; (About 1500 B. C.)

Delivery of Israel out of bondage in Egypt

Burning bush/naming of YHWH

Plagues

Red Sea

Destruction of Egyptian army

Provision of the Covenant of Sinai (The Law) – Ten Sayings/Commandments

Creation of the Tabernacle and priesthood

VaYikra / Leviticus; (About 1500 B. C.)

Establishment of the system of sacrifices and offerings

Consecration of the Priests

Just like Genesis, it doesn't take long for things to go wrong!

Nadab and Abihu

Laws of cleanliness, relationship, etc. given

Feasts established

BaMidbar / Numbers; (About 1500 B. C.)

40 years in the wilderness

Census

Organization of the camp

God's provision/Israel's murmuring

1st look at the Promised Land & murmuring

Additional rules

Additional sins committed

Moses' sin (striking rock)

Bronze serpent

Destruction of Kings east of the Jordan

Numbering of the new generation

Devarim / Deuteronomy; (About 1500 B. C.)

Preparation for entry into the Promised Land

Review of failures

Review of the Law

Laws, blessings and cursings for life in the Promised Land

Death of Moses

Neviim / The Former Prophets (About 1425 B.C. to 560 B.C.)

Yehoshua / Joshua; (About 1425 B. C.)

Taking of the Promised Land begins

Pre-incarnate appearance of Christ

Fall of Jericho

Crossing over Jordan

The land is divided among the tribes

Deaths of Joshua and Eleazar (High Priest)

Shoftim / Judges; (About 1410 B. C.)

Incomplete obedience and conquest

Cycle of apostasies and deliverances

Servitude to enemies

The 1st civil war in Israel (Benjamin almost destroyed)

Shmuel A and B / 1—2 Samuel; (About 1155 B. C.)

Begins in low period of Israel's fortunes

Arc of the Covenant taken by Philistines; Becomes a curse to them

Establishment of the monarchy (Rejection of YHWH for Saul)

Saul's initial success

Saul's disobedience and rejection as king

Choosing of David to replace Saul

David and Goliath

Saul's jealousy and hatred of David

David's 1st exile

David spares Saul's life twice

Saul and Jonathon killed

David made king of Judah

2nd civil war in Israel

David becomes king over all Israel

Absalom's crime

3rd Israelite civil war

Death of David

2 Samuel ~1 Chronicles

Many Psalms written

*Yishiyah / **Isaiah**; (766 to 679 B. C.) – “Major” Prophet*

Blessings and curses

Prophecies of destruction/exile/restoration

Transforming vision: chapter 6

Prophecies of Messiah

Promise of the Holy Spirit

Burdens and woes on surrounding nations

Descriptions of the Kingdom age

Admonitions and instructions

Often quoted or referred to in the NT

*Yermiyah / **Jeremiah**; (About 600 to 580 B. C.) - “Major” Prophet*

Prophet to Judah

“Weeping” Prophet; Wrote Lamentations

Mostly warnings and charges against Judah;

Prophecy of captivities

Taken to Egypt

Prophecies against surrounding nations

Yechezchial / Ezekiel; (About 590–570 B. C.)

Visions of God's glory and Judah's destruction

Prophecy of impending full captivity

Contrasted faithless shepherds of Israel with the Great Shepherd

End times prophecies

Melachim A and B / 1–2 Kings; (About 560 B. C.)

Reign of Solomon

Psalms and Proverbs of Solomon written

Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon written

Building of the Temple

Split of Kingdom: Israel: 10 tribes; Judah/Benjamin

Elijah and Elisha

Wars with Syria, etc.

Temple repaired

War between Israel and Judah

Assyrians rule Israel; Exile of Israel

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Siege and capture of Jerusalem; 1st Exile of Judah: 70 years!

1 Kings ~2 Chronicles

Treisar / the Latter Prophets

*Hoshea / **Hosea**; 790–725 B. C.*

*Yoel / **Joel**; (Either 860–850 B. C. or 400–380 B. C.)*

*Amos / **Amos**; (870–783 B. C.)*

*Ovadiyah / **Obadiah**; (900–880 B. C.)*

*Yonah / **Jonah**; (825–790 B. C.)*

*Michah / **Micah**; (758–710 B. C.)*

*Nachum / **Nahum**; (About 660 B. C.)*

*Habakuk / **Habakkuk**; (608–590 B. C.)*

*Tzefaniyah / **Zephaniah**; (639–609 B. C.)*

*Haggi / **Haggai**; (About 520 B. C.)*

*Zechariyah / **Zechariah**; (520 B. C.)*

*Malachi / **Malachi**; (440–410 B. C.)*

Ketuvim / The Writings

*Tehilim / **Psalms**; (1500 to 1000 B. C.)*

*Mishlei / **Proverbs**; (995 to 990) B. C.*

*Eyov / **Job** (During times of Abraham
Oldest Book in Bible)*

Megilot/**Scrolls** - which includes:

May be mentioned by Paul?

2 Timothy 4:13: Parchments?

*Shir HaShirim / **Song of Songs**; (980–985 B. C.)*

*Ruth / **Ruth**; (About 1300 B. C.)*

*Eichah / **Lamentations**; (About 588 B. C.)*

Written by Prophet Jeremiah

*Keholet / **Ecclesiastes**; (980 to 985 B. C.)*

*Esther / **Esther**; (464–434 B. C.)*

*Daniyel / **Daniel**; (About 534 B. C.)*

Not numbered among the writings of the Prophets!

Many prophetic visions

Mostly imminent events

*Ezra / **Ezra**; (About 536 B.C.)*

*Nechemiyah / **Nehemiah**; (About 445 to 448 B.C.)*

Divrei Yamim A and B / 1—2 Chronicles (About 1000 B. C. to 530 B. C.)

Genealogies

Covers much of 2 Samuel and 1 Kings

1 Chronicles:

Death of Saul

Reign of David

Solomon made king

Organization of Priests, Levites and others for Temple service

2 Chronicles:

Temple built

Solomon dies

Kingdom is split

Wars and rumors of wars/apostasy

Hezekiah's revival/Temple restored/Passover re-instated

More apostasy

Final deportation to Babylon

The most important things to remember about Holy Scripture are that it is the very Word of God in written form

The whole of Holy Scripture tells one story:

the story of how a Holy God, rejected time and again by the very beings He created to display His Glory, remained faithful to His promises to redeem a people from among that fallen race

Coming into the world in the form of those people and taking the wrath they deserved on Himself.

In general we may say that the Old Testament presented the preparation of which the New Testament was the fulfillment; it was the seed and plant of which the New Testament was the glorious fruit. Precisely because Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled what the Old Testament predicted, His life and deeds possessed absolute finality, rather than His being a mere religious sage like many others. For this reason also, the Gospel of Christ possesses divine validity which sets it apart from all man-made religions. The Old Testament demonstrates that Jesus and His Church were providential, the embodiment of the purpose of God; the New Testament proves that the Hebrew Scriptures constituted a coherent and integrated organism, focused upon a single great theme and exhibiting a single program of redemption.

Archer, Gleason, Jr. (1994). A survey of Old Testament introduction (3rd. ed., p. 19). Chicago: Moody Press.

Next week:

New Testament

Seen how Adam and Israel failed to keep the commissions given to them

Trust and obey!

Adam didn't: result: Fall

Israel didn't: results Exile and apostasy

See how Christ fulfilled those commissions

See new (great) commission