

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY
CLASS 2
September 10, 2008

I. Why Study the Old Testament?

A. The Old Testament is Foundational.

Want to know where it all started? What is our Purpose? You have to go to the Old Testament. Doctrines such as sin and salvation, man and his mandates, Jewish nation of Israel and their significance, blood sacrifices and their purpose, the kingdom and the Christ all find their foundational teachings in the Old Testament.

The New Testament is built on the foundation of events, characters, laws, covenants and promises of Old Testament.

The writers of the New Testament constantly assumed that their readers were familiar with the Old Testament. The answers to questions of New Testament are found in the Old.

If we only had the New Testament (NT), we would come to the gospels and not know *why the Jews were looking for a Messiah (a Savior King)*.

Without the OT, we would not understand why this Messiah was coming (see Isaiah 53);

We would not have been able to identify Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah through the many detailed prophecies that were given concerning Him (e.g., His birth place (Micah 5:2);

His manner of death (Psalm 22, especially vv. 1,7-8, 14-18; Psalm 69:21, etc.),

His resurrection (Psalm 16:10), and many more details of His ministry (Isaiah 52:13.; 9:2, etc.).

It sheds so much light on **who God is** and the wonders He has made and the salvation He has wrought. It shares so much comfort to those in persecution or trouble (see Psalms especially).

It reveals through repeatedly fulfilled prophecy why the Bible is unique among holy books—it alone is able to demonstrate that it is what it claims to be: the inspired Word of God.

Without the Old Testament we would miss out on numerous **detailed prophecies** that could only have come true if the Bible is God's word, not man's

(see the major and minor prophets) (e.g., Daniel 7 and following chapters). These prophecies give specific details about the rise and fall of nations, how they will fall, if they will rise again, which powers would be next to emerge, who the major players would be (Cyrus, Alexander the Great, etc.), and what would happen to their kingdoms when those players died. These detailed prophecies are so accurate that skeptics charge they had to have been written after the fact.

B. Jesus is the theme of both the Old and the New Testament.
It is a progressive revelation of the character, purposes, of Jesus:

Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the **law, or the prophets**: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law of Moses**, and in **the prophets, and in the psalms**, concerning me.

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they, which testify of me.

Hebrews 10:7

Then said I, Lo, I come (**in the volume of the book** it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Jesus actually confirmed many things of Old Testament:

Matthew 19:4 That male and female (Adam and Eve) were created by God.

1 John 3:12 & Matthew 23:35 Cain killed his brother Abel

Luke 17:27 Noah and the flood

Luke 20:37 God spoke to Moses in a burning bush

Luke 4:25 Elijah performed miracles

Matthew 12:40 Jonah was in the whale

Matthew 24:15 Daniel made true predictions

C. Without the OT, we would not understand the promises God will yet fulfill to the Jewish nation. As a result, we would not properly see that the Tribulation period is a seven-year period in which He will specifically be working with the Jewish nation who rejected His first coming but who will receive Him at His second coming. We would not understand how Christ's future 1,000-year reign fits in with His promises to the Jews, nor how the Gentiles will fit in. Nor would we see how the end of the Bible ties up the loose ends that were unraveled in the beginning of the Bible, how God will restore the paradise He originally created this world to be, and how we will enjoy close companionship with Him on a personal basis as in the Garden of Eden.

D. **2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

All Scripture. This properly refers to the **Old Testament**, and should not be applied to any part of the New Testament, unless it can be shown that that part was then written, and was included under the general name of the Scriptures.

And is profitable. It is useful, it is adapted to give instruction, to administer reproof, etc. If "all" Scripture is thus valuable, then we are to esteem no part of the Old Testament as worthless. There is no portion of it, even now, which may not be fitted, in certain circumstances, to furnish us valuable lessons and to show us further revelation of Jesus.

For doctrine. For teaching or communicating instruction

For reproof - convincing, proof , evidence

For correction. The word here used -occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It means properly, *a setting to rights, reparation, restoration*, , to right up again, to restore; and here means, the leading to a correction or amendment of life-*a reformation*. No reformation can be permanent which is not based on the principles of the word of God.

For instruction in righteousness. Instruction in regard to the principles of justice, or what is right. Man needs not only to be made acquainted with truth, to be convinced of his error, and to be reformed; but he needs to be taught what is right, or what is required of him, in order that he may lead a holy life.

E. **Romans 15:4** Whatsoever things **were written aforetime** were written for **our learning** that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Were written aforetime—That is, in ancient times; in the **Old Testament**.

Learning = instruction (the function or the information) doctrine, learning, teaching

Patience = cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy* :- enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

Comfort = encouragement, comfort, exhortation

1 Cor 10:6-11 (Verses 1-5 are referring to Israel in the Wilderness)

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

F. The Old Testament is Practical...why? There are three unchanging factors:

1. God has not changed. He is still the same God yesterday and today and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**)

2. People have not changed. We go through the same sorts of struggles, temptations, doubts and fears that they faced in the Old Testament, and unfortunately, many experience the same rebellion, and disobedience.

3. Truth has not changed and never will. Therefore, the spiritual principals that applied in that day still apply today

Without the OT, we would not have a basis for standing against the error of the politically correct perversions of our society in which evolution is seen to be the creator of all of the species over millions of years (instead of them being the result of special creation by God in a literal six days). We would buy the lie that marriages and the family unit are an evolving structure that should continue to change as society changes, instead of being seen as a design by God for the purpose of raising up godly children

Practical because:

The OT testament also contains vast quantities of wisdom that the New Testament does not share. Many of these are contained in the Psalms and Proverbs. These bits of wisdom reveal how I can be wiser than my teachers, what various sins will lead to (it helps us to see the hook that the bait is hiding), and what accomplishments in this world hold for us (nothing!). How can I recognize whether I am a fool (moral fool, that is)? How can I inadvertently turn people off without trying? How can I open doors to lasting success? How can I find meaning in life? Again, there is so much there that is just waiting to be found by one who truly wants to learn.

****See handout #1 and #2 to see the significance of the Old Testament in relation to the New Testament**

II. Facts of the Old Testament

A. There are 39 books in the Old Testament

B. First referred to as two divisions:

The Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy) and

The Prophets (Joshua – Malachi)

(Referred to in Matthew 5:17; 7:12; 22:40 Acts 13:15)

C. Also later referred to as three: Law, Prophets and Psalms (Luke 24:44)

D. The Hebrews numbered these as only 22 books -- they counted all of the Minor Prophets as a single book and, where we have 1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel and others like this, they counted each of these as a single book. These 22 books were divided in the Hebrew Bible into three groups: *Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.*

E. When Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek around 280 B.C. Books arranged into four divisions:

1. The Pentateuch (same as the Hebrew Torah).
2. The Historical Books: Joshua - Esther.
3. The Poetical Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.
4. The Prophetic Book (Major and Minor Prophets).

III. FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

A. In Hebrew, Each title derives its name from the first words or sayings of each book:

Genesis = Bereshith = "IN THE BEGINNING...."

Exodus = Shemoth = Names" "Now these are the names of the children"

Leviticus = Wayyigra = "and He called"

Numbers = Bemidbar = "in the wilderness"

Deuteronomy = Devarim = "Words"

B. The English names are taken from the Greek Old Testament:

Genesis = origin or beginning
Exodus = going out or departure (from Egypt)
Leviticus = book of the Levites
Numbers = numbering or counting (of the Israelites)
Deuteronomy = second law or second giving of the law by Moses