

THE SUMMIT CHURCH BIBLE INSTITUTE

THE OLD TESTAMENT: GOD'S UNFOLDING STORY

A Ten-Week College-Level Survey of the Old Testament

Teacher:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This ten-week course offers a comprehensive, survey of the entire Old Testament canon. Students will move through the Old Testament section by section—Torah, Historical Books, Wisdom Literature, and the Prophets—developing both a panoramic understanding of the Old Testament's sweep and a nuanced grasp of its theological depth. Central to this course is the discipline of Biblical Theology: the art of reading each book, covenant, and king within the larger narrative arc of Scripture. We will ask, at every turn, how each text anticipates, prepares for, and finds its ultimate meaning in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Like Vaughan Roberts' *God's Big Picture*, we believe the Old Testament is not a collection of isolated stories but a single, seamless tapestry woven by a sovereign God with the thread of redemption—the unfolding of his kingdom—running through every passage.

This course is designed for Bible students, lay leaders, and anyone who wants to move beyond surface-level Bible knowledge into a rich, Christ-centered understanding of God's Word. No prior training is assumed; a hunger for God's Word and a willingness to do the work and show up are the only prerequisites.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the major divisions of the Old Testament and the content of each section
- Identify the major covenants of the Old Testament and explain their theological significance
- Trace the major Biblical-Theological themes (creation, fall, redemption, new creation) through the Old Testament
- Read any Old Testament passage in light of its place in the larger story of Scripture
- Understand the role of Israel's kings and prophets in God's redemptive plan
- Connect Old Testament texts to their fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ
- Engage the Old Testament devotionally, worshipfully, and with scholarly integrity

REQUIRED TEXTS

Text	Author / Details	Role
The Holy Bible (ESV)	English Standard Version — any edition	Primary Text
God's Big Picture	Vaughan Roberts (InterVarsity Press)	Required
Student Guide	Provided by Instructor	Required
Reference Guides	Provided by Instructor: Covenants, Kings, Themes, Prophets	Provided

COURSE STRUCTURE AND WEEKLY FORMAT

Each session is designed for 90 minutes and follows a consistent rhythm:

- Opening Worship & Prayer (5 min)
- Review of Previous Week (10 min)
- Lecture (50 min)
- Group Discussion or Q & A (15 min)
- Closing Thoughts & Prayer (10 min)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Each week lists the assigned Scripture reading for the topic, the three vital Old Testament chapters students should read before class, and the corresponding reading from Vaughan Roberts' God's Big Picture. Not every week includes a new God's Big Picture reading — assignments are placed only where they align closely with that week's topic.

Week	Topic	Scripture	Vital OT Chapters (read before class)	Reading: God's Big Picture
Week 1	In the Beginning: Creation, Fall, and the Proto-Gospel	Genesis 1–11	Genesis 1 Genesis 3 Genesis 9	Introduction: "The Bible Is One Book" Introduction: "The Kingdom of God" Ch. 1 — The Pattern of the Kingdom Ch. 2 — The Perished Kingdom
Week 2	The God Who Calls: Abraham and the Patriarchs	Genesis 12–50	Genesis 12 Genesis 17 Genesis 22	Ch. 3 — The Promised Kingdom
Week 3	Redemption's Blueprint: The Exodus and the Law	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	Exodus 3 Exodus 12 Exodus 20	Ch. 4 (part 1) — The Partial Kingdom: "God's People" & "God's Rule and Blessing"
Week 4	Promised Land, Faithful God: Joshua and Judges	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	Joshua 1 Judges 2 Ruth 4	Ch. 4 (part 2) — The Partial Kingdom: "God's Place"
Week 5	The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom: Samuel and Kings	1–2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1–11	1 Samuel 8 2 Samuel 7 1 Kings 8	Ch. 4 (part 3) — The Partial Kingdom: "God's King"
Week 6	A Kingdom Divided and Destroyed: Kings and Chronicles	1 Kings 12–22; 2 Kings; 1–2 Chronicles	1 Kings 12 2 Kings 17	Ch. 5 — The Prophesied Kingdom

Week	Topic	Scripture	Vital OT Chapters (read before class)	Reading: God's Big Picture
			2 Kings 25	
Week 7	Songs of the Soul: Wisdom and Poetry	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs	Job 19 Psalm 22 Proverbs 8	No new God's Big Picture reading this week — continue reflecting on Ch. 5
Week 8	The Prophets Speak: Isaiah and the Major Prophets	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel	Isaiah 53 Jeremiah 31 Ezekiel 37	Review Ch. 5 — The Prophesied Kingdom
Week 9	The Minor Prophets and the Silence of God	Hosea–Malachi	Hosea 3 Amos 5 Malachi 4	Review Ch. 5 — The Prophesied Kingdom
Week 10	All Things New: The Old Testament's New Testament Hope	Review + Synthesis	Isaiah 9 Daniel 7 Psalm 110	No new God's Big Picture reading — review Ch. 1–5 in light of the whole course

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Because this course is built on cumulative Biblical-Theological development, attendance at every session is strongly encouraged.

Reading

Come to class having completed the three vital Old Testament chapters, the broader assigned Scripture reading, and the corresponding chapter(s) in God's Big Picture. The lecture will presuppose familiarity with the text. You are not expected to understand everything before class; you are expected to have read.

A Note on Approach

This course operates from a high view of Scripture: the Old Testament is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. We will read it with both intellectual rigor and worshipful reverence. We will ask hard questions—and we will find that the text can bear the weight of them.

A Word About the Class

The Old Testament is not background noise for the New Testament. It is the necessary first act of the greatest drama ever written. Every law, every king, every sacrifice, every prophet, and every exile is moving toward a single

moment: the moment when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

My prayer for this course is simple: that you would fall in love with the whole Bible. That you would read Exodus and see the cross. That you would read the Psalms and hear Jesus praying. That you would read the prophets and feel the urgency of a God who does not stay silent.

This is the story you were made to live inside of. Let's begin.

— *Jeff*