

Old Testament Survey Objectives:

1. To gain a general knowledge of the Old Testament.
2. To see how the Old Testament affects our lives today.
3. To gain knowledge of all the books of the Old Testament.
Including Author, time written, to who the book was written, and theme.
4. To gain knowledge of important people of the Old Testament.
5. To gain a knowledge of the history of Israel.
6. To gain knowledge of the books of Poetry.
7. To contrast the law with grace.
8. To see how each book fits into God's plan for man, and how it was God Breathed.

Old Testament Survey

Introduction

Some people today look on the Old Testament as a Jewish book not necessary for New Testament Christians. Yet, when Jesus wanted to teach the principle of spiritual religion, He told men to read the Old Testament (John 5:39). When Paul wanted to explain and illustrate the faith Christians need and the grace available to them, he did not speak of Peter and John but of Abraham and David (Romans 4:3, 6). Actually, the Old Testament is not complete in itself. It constantly looks to the future for its fulfillment, and we need the revelation of the New Testament to see the Old in its proper perspective. But we need the Old Testament also in order to understand the New. Thus, Old Testament is a Christian book, necessary for Christians (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Old Testament is also a Pentecostal book, inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). On the Day of Pentecost Peter used the Old Testament prophecy of Joel as his text and also referred to several passages in the Psalms. The only Bible used in all the Pentecostal

preaching of the Book of Acts was the Old Testament. Wave after wave of revival and evangelism flowed out of the Holy Spirit's use of the Old Testament.

One of the greatest needs in the world today is for men and women to come back to the Scriptures as the basis of authority, to study the Bible prayerfully in dependence on the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament are to be found answers to some of life's greatest questions: Where did man come from? Why is he here? For what purpose does he exist?

The Old Testament begins with history and ends with prophecy. Following the earlier historical books of Ezra and Nehemiah are the poetry books, including the books from Job through Song of Solomon, and then concluding with the Minor Prophets Joel, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea, and one of the Major Prophets, Isaiah. These men give the exciting prophecies concerning the end times.

The Old Testament is made up of 39 books. There are 5 books of the Law, 12 books of the History, 5 books of Poetry, 5 Major Prophets,

and 12 Minor Prophets. The Bible tells of salvation, the Old Testament tells of preparation.

God is the author of the Bible. The Old Testament is written in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek. God is the theme of the Old Testament, and redemption. God is always in the midst of the people. The Old Testament is a book of promise-Jesus the Savior.

This course is merely a survey course. This means the content will be an overview of the content. You will study each book in the Old Testament more in depth throughout your schooling.

Old Testament Survey

Four Divisions of the Old Testament

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Law | (Genesis-Deuteronomy) |
| 2. History | (Joshua-Esther) |
| 3. Poetry | (Job-Song of Solomon) |
| 4. Prophecy | (Isaiah-Malachi) |
-

Four Great Events

Genesis 1-11

1. Creation
 2. Fall
 3. Flood
 4. Nations
-

Four Great People

Genesis 12-50

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob

4. Joseph

Creation

Genesis 1-2

Day 1 Light

Day 2 Atmosphere

Day 3 Dry Land

Day 4 Light-Holders

Day 5 Birds and Fish

Day 6 Animals and Man

Fall/ Temptation

Genesis 3

1. Lust of Flesh

2. Lust of Eyes

3. Pride of Life

First Prophecy

Genesis 3:15

Seed of Serpent vs. Seed of Woman

2 Lines

Genesis 4-5

1. Ungodly Line of Cain

2. Godly Line of Seth

Flood

Genesis 6-9

Noah's Sons

1. Shem

2. Ham

3. Japheth

Beginning of Hebrew Race

Genesis 12-50

1. Abram = Abraham

2. Isaac = "Laughter"

3. Jacob = Israel

4. Joseph = Sent to Egypt

-
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Genesis | (Election of Israel) |
| 2. Exodus | (Redemption of Israel) |
| 3. Leviticus | (Sanctification of Israel) |
| 4. Numbers | (Direction of Israel) |

Keys to Old Testament

- People
- Place
- Principles

Moses

- Prince - 40 years
- Shepherd - 40 years
- Savior - 40 years

Book of Exodus

1. Exodus from Egypt
2. 10 Commandments
3. Day of Atonement
4. Tabernacle

Book of Leviticus

1. Sacrifices
2. Sanctification

Book of Numbers

1. 12 spies
 2. Wilderness wandering
 3. 40 years
-

Book of Deuteronomy

1. Review of Israel's Laws
 2. Covenant Reconfirmed
-

Historical Books

- Conquest - Captivity
 - 1400 B.C. - 400 B.C.
 - 1000 Years
-

Joshua

Theme: Total Victory

1. Central Campaign
 2. Southern Campaign
 3. Northern Campaign
-

Moses and Joshua

1. Miracle crossings: Red Sea and Jordan River

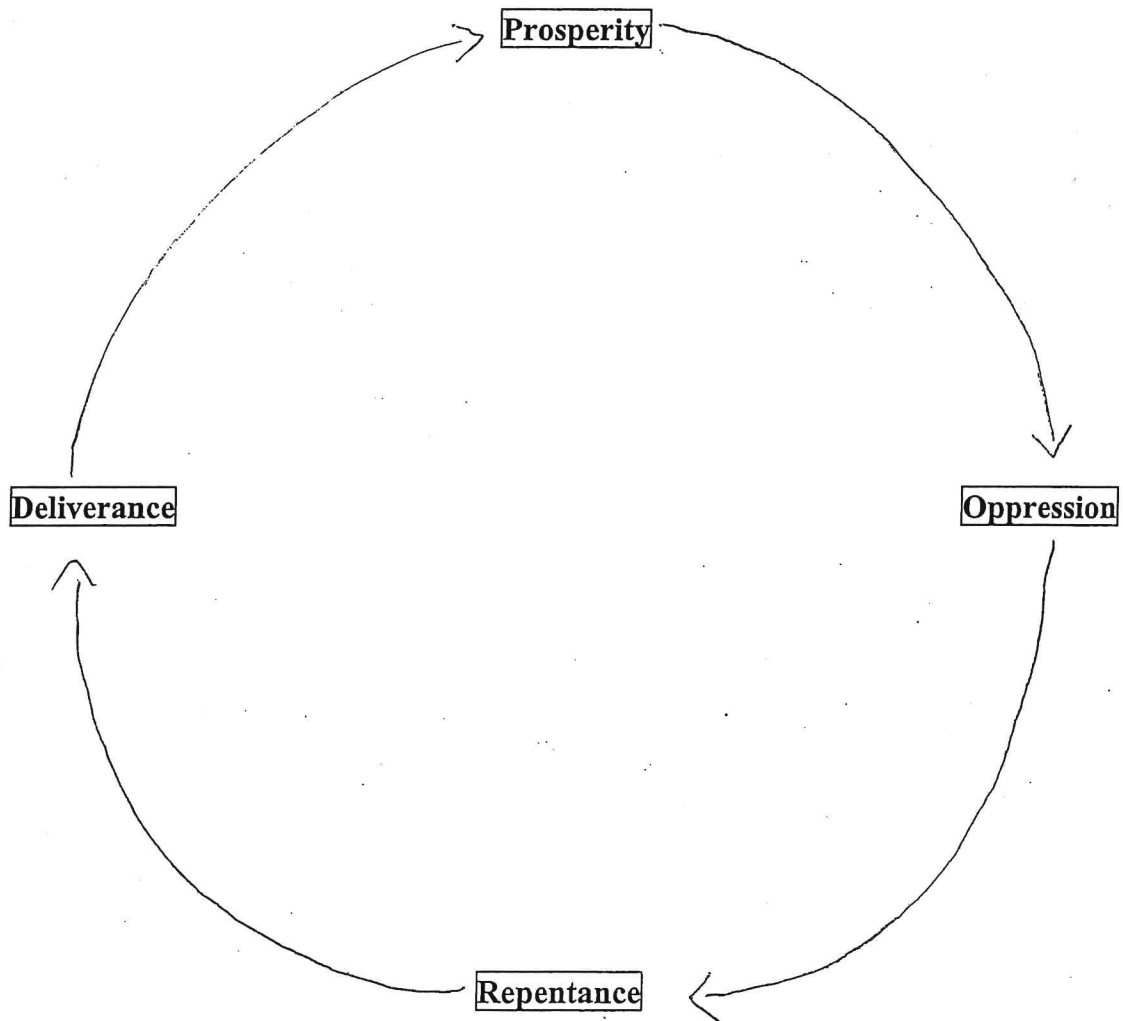
2. Face to face meeting with God
3. Stood on holy ground
4. Took their shoes off

Judges

Theme: Spiritual Confusion

- 6 Cycles
- 300 Years

Cycles



6 Cycles
Judges- Chapter 3:5-11

1. Othniel vs. Cushan- Rishathaim
2. Ehud vs. Eglon
3. Deborah and Barak vs. Jabin and Sisera
4. Gideon vs. Midianites
5. Jephthah vs. Ammonites
6. Samson vs. Philistines

Transition From
Judges to Kings

- Samson
- Samuel
- Saul
- David

Book of Ruth
Theme: Redemption

Slave ----->Freedom

Orphan -----> Adoption

Widow -----> Marriage

1-2 Samuel

Theme: Life and Times of King David

1. Death of Eli

2. Rise of Samuel

3. Failure of Saul

4. Kingship of David

1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles

1. Reign of Solomon

2. Division of Kingdom

North: Israel or Ephraim
Capital- Samaria

South: Judah
Capital- Jerusalem

Post- Exilic Books

1. Ezra

2. Nehemiah

3. Esther

Books of Poetry

- Job

Problem of suffering

- Psalms Hymns of worship
- Proverbs Wise sayings
- Ecclesiastes Philosophy of life
- Song of Solomon Beauty of love

Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezkeiel
- Daniel

12 Minor Prophets

Hosea

Nahum

Joel

Habakkuk

Amos

Zephaniah

Obadiah

Haggai

Jonah

Zechariah

Micah

Malachi

Prophecies of Messiah

First Coming: Suffering and Rejection

Second Coming: Glory and Reign

Post- Exilic Prophets

- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

Inter- Testamental Period

1. 400 silent years
2. No new inspired books of Hebrew scripture

Gentile Empires

1. Babylon
2. Persia
3. Greece
4. Rome

Old Testament Ends

- Waiting for glory to return
- Waiting for Messiah to come
- Waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled

See the Scriptures Old Testament Syllabus

The Author: Moses

Where Written: The general belief is that this revelation came to Moses while on Mt. Sinai.

When: c. 1450-1410 B.C.

To Whom: A general record to reveal God's promises to the Patriarchs which were now being fulfilled in the Exile of Egypt and God's bringing them to the Promised Land.

Theme: The Beginnings

Genesis gives us God's revelation of the beginning of our planet and race. Every major doctrine of both the Old and New Testaments is found in some form in the first 12 chapters of Genesis. Genesis exposes Satan as the enemy of God, the deceiver of the human race. Genesis portrays prophetically Satan's destruction and doom (Genesis 3).

Four of the eight great covenants are found in Genesis: the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, and Abrahamic Covenants. Genesis is quoted over 60 times in 17 books of the New Testament. Such a structure brings the Bible full circle into a complete God-breathed revelation.

The Author: Moses

Where Written: In the Wilderness

When: c. 1450-1410 B.C.

To Whom: To the Israelites

Theme: Deliverance from Egypt

The book gives us the story of Moses who spent 40 years thinking he was somebody, 40 years learning he was nobody, 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody (Hebrews 11:23-29). As the book opens, about 65 years have passed since the death of Joseph in Genesis.

Exodus covers the time span of Moses' life, 120 years and may be divided into three principal parts: (1) The Redemption of the Israelites from Egypt (2) The Education of the Redeemed in the Wilderness and (3) The Consecration of the Redeemed at Sinai. Only 70 persons had gone down to Egypt. Before they left Egypt, however, the people had grown into a nation of some 3 million.

The Author: Moses

Where Written: Mt. Sinai region

When Written: c. 1450-1410 B.C.

To Whom: To the Israelites

Theme: Holiness and Dedication

Leviticus was so named in the Latin Vulgate for the priestly tribe. Levi- the Levites, hence Levit-icus or "that which pertains to the Levites." It is often termed the Book of Atonement. It is also called the Book of Laws because the subject matter in this book relates to the service and laws of the Levites and the priests. In Exodus the people of Israel were told how to build the Tabernacle. In Leviticus we are witnessing Israel at worship, thus emphasizing God's holiness. This holiness is not only directed to spiritual holiness, it is also extended to keeping the body holy as well, by following specific health guidelines- guidelines which are worthy of following even today. The book reveals the blessings that come when one makes a willing offering unto the Lord.

The Author: Moses
Where Written: Mt. Sinai region
When Written: 1450-1410 B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: Walk, Worship, Service

Numbers covers a time span of some 39 years. Moses wrote Numbers towards the end of his life. Numbers gets its name from the numberings or censuses of two different generations of the people of Israel. The first census was taken of the generation, which left Sinai (ch.1). The second census was taken of those who renewed the journey to Canaan (ch.26). The book of Numbers has also been called, "In the Wilderness," from its opening words it does relate the wilderness journey of the people of Israel. Numbers is also called, "The Book of the March," for in these 40 years of wanderings, they were almost constantly on the go paying the penalty for disobeying God. On them fell the divine judgment for sin.

The Author: Moses
Where Written: On the banks of the Jordan
When Written: c. 1450-1410 B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: God is One

Deuteronomy was written some 1400 years before Christ. While it restates the Law it also looks into the future of Israel and reflects that One who is Anointed, the Messiah, is to come to complete the revelation to God's ancient people. Its theme could well be that God is One (Deuteronomy 6:4) and that man in sin must come to terms with God. The books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy are somewhat similar. However, the people of Israel were anticipating their life of wandering in preparations for their settled life in the land of Canaan. Leviticus gave instruction for the priest; Deuteronomy gives instruction for the individual. Deuteronomy is, in one sense, a review of the Law, but also it is a challenge for occupation of God's promised land.

The Author: Joshua
Where Written: Canaan
When Written: c. 1350 B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: Conquering the Land

Moses, as the servant of Jehovah, and the Mediator of the First Covenant, could not bring Israel into the resurrection life beyond Jordan. Yet, as a type of Christ, both he and Christ had power to control the sea (Exodus 14:21; Matthew 8:26). Both fed a multitude (Exodus 16:26; Matthew 14:20,21). Both were discredited at home (Numbers 12:1; John 7:5). Both reappeared after death (Matthew 17:3; Acts 1:3). At 120, Moses climbed Mt. Pisgah, saw the Promised Land, and died, buried by God, on the east side of the Jordan. God had been preparing Joshua for year... ever since his enslavement in Egypt. Forty years before this opening scene in Joshua, he was almost stoned to death by his own people (Numbers 14:6-10). But now he would lead them in conquest of the Promised Land, and its ultimate occupation. Joshua, meaning, "Jehovah saves" was to become God's next prime minister. What was anticipation by Moses would become realization under Joshua.

The Author: Samuel (possibly)
Where Written: Canaan
When Written: c. 1300-1050 B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: Compromise and Confusion

Joshua was a book of victory. Judges is a book of defeat. Defeat resulted from unbelief and disobedience. Instead of looking to God, they looked to charlotts of iron (1:19). Their chief mistake was their permitting the inhabitants who worshiped false gods to remain in their land. The Book of Judges reveals the first period of the life of the people of Israel as a settled nation under the Law. The Promised Land where Joshua had led them is regarded in Hebrews 4:1-9 as foreshadowing the "rest" which Christ gives to those who believe the Gospel. The warfare of the people of Israel against the idolatrous Canaanites in the Old Testament is the counterpart of the warfare believers today have against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the world. The phrase that occurs 7 times throughout the Book of Judges is that "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (17:6). They forgot that God had chosen them for a purpose. That purpose was to show and to witness to the world the truth that there is only one God!

The Author: Samuel, by tradition
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: c. 10th Century B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: Kinsman- Redeemer

Two books in the Bible are named after women- Ruth and Esther. In the one, a Gentile woman marries a Hebrew, and in the other, a Hebrew woman marries a Gentile. Both marriages predict, as foretold in Genesis 12:3, 18:18, Psalm 72:17 and Acts 3:25, that the Gentiles are to be brought into the Kingdom of God in connection with Israel. Ruth was the great- grandmother of David. In this book-of Ruth we see the lineage of David established, the ancestor of Christ. It reveals the beginning of the Messianic family. A 1000 years later the Messiah would be born. Ruth was a Moabitess; descendant from Lot. The Moabites were heathen. God, in His wisdom, chose a heathen girl, led her to Bethlehem, and made her the bride of Boaz. This is representative of God's grace as He adopts the Gentiles into Christ's family. Ruth, although born in heathen, learned of the true God whom she served.

The Author: Samuel and others
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: c. 11th Century B.C.
To Whom: To the Israelites
Theme: Saul and David

The great subject of both 1st and 2nd Samuel is the institution of the monarchy, and its establishment in the family of David. The Divine plan of redemption is thus presented in a new aspect, exhibiting the delegation of royal authority by the Invisible King to the hands of a human representative. The events recorded in this book cover a time span of about 100 years. Samuel is spoken of, in Acts 3:24, as the first in a succession of prophets, whose chief object was to fore-show the redemption of Christ, to prepare the way for His coming, and to give religious instruction to the people. Samuel was the last of the judges. Saul was the first of the kings. The book may be divided under the names of three of its chief characters: Samuel (1-7), Saul (8-15), and David (16-31). The main purpose of 1 Samuel is to set forth a correct record of the historical events of that time and also to show God's dealings with His people.

The Author: Unknown prophets
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: c. 10th Century B.C.
To Whom: To the leaders of Israel
Theme: David's Reign

Saul had a brilliant start. However, with success came self-will and pride. Thirty-five years of his reign were spent in insecurity and in failure. Saul reigned 40 years having become king at about age 20. It is interesting to note that both Saul and David each reigned 40 years. There are other striking comparisons as well... comparisons that occurred at the same time in the lives of Saul and David. Saul, an unrepentant sinner, went down to death, dragging his family and his country with him. David, a repentant sinner, is given a glorious victory over the enemy and many are saved with him. David the Shepard boy, the court musician, the soldier; and finally, the outcast- becomes King. The first part of this book records the victories, which accompanied his life of faith and conflict; the second part relates the defeats he suffered when prosperity had seduced him from the path of faith.

The Author: Jeremiah, by Jewish tradition
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: Probably over a period of time ending by the 6th Century B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: A Kingdom United Then Divided

The Book of the Kings gives the outward history of the kingdom of Israel, its rise, its fall, and of God's testimony in the midst of apostasy. Irving L. Jensen observes: 1 Kings begins with a kingdom established, in glory; 2 Kings ends with a kingdom dissolve in shame. 1 Kings begins with bright prospects for obedience; 2 Kings end with tragic judgments for disobedience. 1 Kings begins with the dazzling splendor of the Temple; 2 Kings ends with the smoke and flames of the Temple in ruins. The four books of Kings and Chronicles trace the course of Israel's history during the "Crown" period and reveals the hand of God in the affairs of men...from the monarchy under Solomon to the nation's dissolution under Zedekiah. The chronicles are largely records of the kings of Judah and Israel. 1 Kings roughly covers about 120 years from the close of David's reign to the death of King Jehoshaphat of Judah.

The Author: Jeremiah, by Jewish tradition
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: Completed by 6th Century B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: Exploits of the kings of Judah and Israel

The First Book of Kings ends with Ahab's son on the throne of Israel, continuing in the sins and apostasy of his father. The Second Book of Kings takes up the story and carries it down to the overthrow of the two kingdoms and the captivity of the entire nation. The Northern Kingdom (Israel) had 19 kings in many dynasties (royal families), while the Southern Kingdom (Judah) had 20 kings all in one continuous Davidic dynasty. These two books of Kings are considered among the most important books of world history. The time period covered in 2 Kings is about 430 years. The Northern Kingdom of Israel lasted from the split of the kingdom (931 B.C.) to its captivity in Assyria in 721 B.C. Israel's leadership was both idolatrous and wicked. The Southern Kingdom of Judah lasted from 931-586 B.C. when the final exiles were carried away into Babylon. Of the 20 kings that reigned over this kingdom, seven could be considered good; thirteen were bad.

The Author: Ezra, by Jewish tradition
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: 5th Century B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: Genealogy and History of Israel

Up to this point, the books of the Old Testament have followed one another in chronological order. They give a continuous history from Adam to the Babylonian captivity. Now, the Books of Chronicles begins the record over again and they are complete in themselves. They start with Adam and carry the record down to the end of the Babylonian captivity with Cyrus decree of 538 B.C. Chronicles shows that although the nation of Israel had failed, God's purposes had not failed. Although the monarchy had been destroyed, the Covenant promises of God remained. God's redeeming purpose was still being carried on to its fulfillment. The 1st book of Chronicles is divided into two parts. Part 1 contains the Genealogies, showing the descent of the people of Israel from Adam to the time of Ezra. Part 2 covers the Reign of David. In the first 3 chapters the line of the promised Redeemer is traced from Adam through Noah and the patriarchs, and on through the tribe of Judah down to David, then to the return from exile and for several generations beyond.

The Author: Ezra, by Jewish tradition
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: 5th Century B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: The Greatness of Judah

The book of 2 Chronicles occupies largely the reign of Solomon and the history of the kingdom of Judah. No mention is made of the Northern Kingdom of 10 Tribes of Israel. By this time the Northern Kingdom had been extinct as a nation some 200 years. It is believed that 2 Chronicles was written for the Southern Kingdom captives returning from Babylon. Some of the Jewish Assyrian captives also returned to the Promised Land. Many of the weaker and poorer had been left...not being taken captive by either Assyria or Babylon, so that the whole 12 tribes could be reconstructed again as part of the nation which grew up after the Babylonian captivity. The Jewish nation had no kings after the Babylonian captivity. Thus 2 Chronicles served as a unifying force in the re-establishment of the Jewish nation. 2 Chronicles is a book of revivals. Great revivals took place under (1) Asa (ch.15); (2) Jehoshaphat (ch.20); (3) Joash (ch.23,24); (4) Hezekiah (ch.29-31); and (5) Josiah (ch.35).

Start
Here

The Author: Ezra
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: c. 450 B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: The Return and Rebuilding

As the book of Ezra opens (1-6), we find that of significant importance. This proclamation permits the Jews who were captive in his kingdom to return to Jerusalem. This is often termed the "restoration." In the restoration God's people were permitted to return to Canaan from captivity. The captivity took place in two stages (The Assyrian Captivity and the Babylonian Captivity). The Northern Kingdom (10 tribes) were taken in captivity by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. (They are sometimes referred to as the "Lost Tribes." This is misleading. Some were absorbed into Assyrian culture but many others retained their religion and tradition and some returned with the exiles of Judah of Jerusalem).

The Author: Nehemiah
Where Written: Possibly Jerusalem
When Written: c. 420 B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: Rebuilding Jerusalem's Walls

There is a period of 12 years after the book of Ezra closes (457 B.C.) before the book of Nehemiah begins its story. Nehemiah records the events of the next 20 years (445-425 B.C.). Ezra's work occupied but 8 months, though it is probable that he spent most of the remainder of his life at Jerusalem. The chief reform of Ezra was the abolishment of mixed marriages with the surrounding heathen. At this time in contemporary history, Pericles, the greatest Athenian statesman, was King of Athens (469-429 B.C.). He was erecting the Parthenon. Herodotus, "the father of history," was living. Socrates was beginning to teach in the streets of Athens (470-399 B.C.), followed by his pupil, Plato (427-347 B.C.). Malachi the prophet was living in this day. And the book of Nehemiah opens at the Palace at Shushan (Susa); the chief of 3 capitals of the Persian Empire, 250 miles east of Babylon. From here was a journey of 1000 miles to Jerusalem. It was at Shushan that Queen Esther lived and here Daniel spent part of his time (Daniel 8:2).

The Author: Unknown Jewish prophet
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: 5th Century B.C.
To Whom: People of Israel
Theme: Divine Providence of God

The events in the book of Esther cover a period of 10 years (483-473 B.C.). All the occurrences in the book take place within the same time frame of Chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra. Esther opens with a feast (Purim). The first feast was to honor the king and his great empire, the final feast was to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from annihilation. To keep Esther in perspective, time-wise, these events occurred between the first return of exiles to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel (536 B.C.) and the second return under Ezra (458 B.C.). Esther was a Jewish orphan maiden. She lived in Persia's principal capital city of Shushan. She was brought up by a cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai was an official in the king's palace (2:15). Esther is a Persian word for "star." In Hebrew, Esther's name was Hadassah (2:7), which means "myrtle." Only one other book in the Bible is named after a woman. Ruth was a Gentile woman who married a Jew. Esther was a Jewish woman who married a Gentile.

The Author: Unknown; probably Job
Where Written: Unknown
When Written: Uncertain
To Whom: No specific people
Theme: Suffering and Service

Job is the first of five poetical books of the Bible. The others are Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. These are sometimes called the wisdom books of the Bible. The setting of the book of Job is the land of Uz. The precise location of Uz is uncertain. Some believe it may be the region east of southern Lebanon. The book answers the question of why the righteous suffer. Some may ask why a God of love allows suffering in this world. But trials and sufferings are not always for our punishment; but rather for our edification and training. We are introduced to Job's comforters, who we discover soon in the book of Job...are really no comfort whatsoever. These four friends are Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu. Job, the oldest book in the Bible, deals with the oldest problems faced by man. Job was a true historical character. The prophet Ezekiel associates him with Noah and Daniel (Ezekiel 14:14,20).

The Author: Primarily David
Where Written: Numerous Areas
When Written: Over Hundreds Of Years
To Whom: The Jewish People
Theme: Praise and Trust

The book of Psalms was the Hebrew hymnbook. There are five books of psalms. Each one ends with a doxology. It is interesting to note that there are also five books of Moses. John Phillips observes: Psalm 1-41, the first book, reflect the book of Genesis, the key thought being man and God's counsels concerning him. Psalms 42-72 comprise the second book, the key cry for deliverance and ending with Israel's king reigning over the redeemed nation. Psalm 73-89, the third book, have the sanctuary for their dominant note and therefore parallel Leviticus. Psalms 90-106 clearly correspond to Numbers, the fourth book of Moses. Psalms 107-150, the fifth book, are linked with Deuteronomy, the prevailing thought being God's Word.

The Author: Primarily Solomon
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: 10th Century B.C.
To Whom: Primarily Young People
Theme: Wisdom

Solomon wrote some 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs. Solomon reigned as King of Israel from about 970 B.C. to 930 B.C. Possibly the largest share of the work of Proverbs was done at this time. The book of Proverbs deals with people and their relationship to each other and to God. Proverbs means "to be like" and this book uses comparisons to teach their truth. The word "proverb" first appears in Numbers 21:27. The first proverb given is in 1 Samuel 10:12. Proverbs can be divided into 3 units: Counsel for Young Men (Proverbs 1-10); Counsel for All Men (Proverbs 11-20) and Counsel for Kings and Rulers (Proverbs 21-31). Chapter 31 has been referred to as a chapter on women's rights. Wisdom is the keynote of Proverbs. The wisdom of Proverbs is the Incarnate Word of the New Testament... Jesus Christ (Luke 24:27). The first duty for each of us as outlined in Proverbs is the fear of God (Proverbs 1:7). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10).

The Author: Solomon
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: 10th Century B.C.
To Whom: Primarily Young People
Theme: Earthly Goals Lead to Emptiness

Ecclesiastes can be considered a dramatic autobiography of Solomon's experiences through life. All the problems he faced 3000 years ago, we face today. All the solutions he sought for fulfillment in life 3000 years ago, we seek today. The book opens with Solomon trying to find happiness and satisfaction apart from God (1:1-3). First, he sought satisfaction in science (1:4-11). Science could not give him the answer. Second, he sought satisfaction in philosophy (1:12-18). It was in vain. Then he tried pleasure, mirth, drinking, building, possession, wealth and music (2:1-11). All these he found empty. He tried materialism (2:12-26). He tried fatalism and deism (3:1-4:16). He tried natural religion (5:1-8). He sought after wealth (5:9-6:12) and then morality (7:1-12:12). All these proved empty and not satisfying. Solomon reaches his conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13.

The Author: Jeremiah
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: c. 586 B.C.
To Whom: Exiles in Babylon
Theme: Mourning for Jerusalem

Lamentations is composed of five poems. The book of Lamentations mourns the capture, the destruction and the devastation of Jerusalem by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, in 587 B.C. It is the death wail of Jerusalem. Just as Jeremiah had an intense burden of sympathy for the people of Jerusalem, the Lord had both love and sorrow for the very people He was chastening. This burden can be compared to that which the Lord Jesus Christ expressed in His lament over Jerusalem. See Matthew 23:37-39. Lamentations reveals the great truth, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). It also reveals that there does come a time when prayers are **not** answered...this despite the earnestness and faith accompanying them. Indeed, Jeremiah's prayers for the sparing of Israel from captivity were not answered. But Jeremiah, realizing God's will, was willing to take **no** for an answer!

The Author: Ezekiel
Where Written: Babylon
When Written: 6th century B.C.
To Whom: Primarily Exiles in Babylon
Theme: Judgment and Glory

Ezekiel was taken to Babylon in 597 B.C. and began his ministry in the fifth year of Jehoiachin's exile (593 B.C.). His last dated writing occurred in April 571 B.C. Ezekiel ("God strengthens") was the son of a Zedokite priest. He was deported to Babylon in 597 B.C. along with King Jehoiachin. Ezekiel's wife died the day the siege of Jerusalem began in 588 B.C. While in Babylon, Ezekiel lived at Tel-Abib, a town on the Chebar. The Chebar was a canal known from Babylonian sources and originated from the Euphrates River. While Jeremiah was in Judah prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel was in Babylon prophesying the same fate. However, Ezekiel included a message of hope. Ezekiel is for the Jew even today. For this book reveals to God's chosen people that God will fulfill His sure promises.

The Author: Daniel
Where Written: Babylon
When Written: 6th Century B.C.
To Whom: Exiles in Babylon
Theme: Rise and Fall of Kingdoms

Every leader should read the Book of Daniel. In understanding Daniel and the folly of sovereignty without the Savior, they would become more responsible leaders. Daniel, like Ezekiel, looks into the future. To understand the Book of Revelation and its great signs, it is necessary first to understand Daniel. The book of Daniel is the most quoted book in Revelation. Daniel was a prophet to both Gentile and Jew. Daniel was among the Jewish captives of the first deportation by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. He lived in Babylon throughout the entire 70 year captivity period. Daniel lived under three rulers:

1. Nebuchadnezzar (Neo-Babylonian)
2. Darius the Mede (Median)
3. Cyrus (Persian)

Daniel came from a Judean family of nobility and was in his late teens when he and three other young men were deported to Babylon.

The Author: Hosea

Where Written: Northern Kingdom of Israel

When Written: c. 760 B.C.

To Whom: Northern 10 Tribes

Theme: Redeeming Love

This section begins what is called The Minor Prophets; “minor” in that their books were not long. There are 12 minor prophets. Chronologically, the minor prophets begin with Jonah (790-749 B.C.) and Amos (760 B.C.) and they close with Malachi, who lived around 430 B.C. Hosea comes on the scene when Jeroboam II is the king in Samaria. Hosea is a prophet to the Northern Kingdom. Meanwhile, Uzziah is king in Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom. Amos had come to Jeroboam with a message of doom...the fall of the Kingdom of Assyria. Hosea followed with prophecies that sin would bring judgment. He faced a hopeless task. The people were in deep sin; immoral behavior, broken homes, corrupt courts, extravagance, alcoholism, shallow religious observances. (Sounds like today, doesn't it?) Kings, priests and princes were all against Hosea! During Hosea's ministry, seven kings reigned over Israel. Hosea has been called “the prophet with the broken heart.”

The Author: Joel

Where Written: Southern Kingdom of Israel

When Written: c. 800 B.C.

To Whom: Southern 2 tribes

Theme: Day of the Lord

Joel lived in Judah during the reign of King Joash. The prophet Obadiah preceded Joel as prophet to Judah. A severe plague of locusts hits Judah that destroys everything in its path and reduced the people to poverty (1:1-2:11). Unless one has been in an area being devastated by locusts, one cannot fully appreciate the awesome judgment inflicted by such a plague. Joel speaks of the vast army of cutter-locusts that eat the crops; the swarmer-locusts that take what is left and the hopper-locusts and stripper-locusts that finish the devastation (1:4). The scourge of locusts was used by Joel to point out God's chastisement of Israel for their sins. Even today God uses trials, testings, illness, sorrow to draw us closer to Him. From chapter 2, verse 28 and following, Joel looks far into the future at coming judgments and coming joys. Joel relates: (1) Present chastisement in Joel's day (1:1-2:27), (2) The Promise of the Spirit (2:28-29), (3) Future Deliverance in coming Day of the Lord (2:30-3:21).

The Author: Amos

Where Written: Near Jerusalem

When Written: About 760 B.C.

To Whom: Primarily Israel

Theme: Judgment on Sin

Amos was a shepherd and fruit picker. His name means, “burden bearer.” Although Amos lived in Judah (the Southern Kingdom), God called him mainly to preach to Israel (the Northern Kingdom). Amos was active during the reign of Jeroboam II (Israel) during Uzziah (Judah). Amos made his prophetic pronouncements of judgment in a time period of about 40 years prior to Israel going into Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. It was at a time when Israel was at its zenith. There was no threat of war. Business was excellent. The rich were getting richer. There was moral corruption and social injustices. To put it mildly, Amos was not a popular prophet in Israel. Assyria had not yet risen as a conquering world power. Is it any wonder that the idea of an approaching doom to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah seemed ridiculous to the people? Neither Hosea nor Amos could awake their people from their slumber!

The Author: Obadiah
Where Written: Judah
When Written: 6th Century B.C.
To Whom: Edomites
Theme: The Doom of Edom

Obadiah is the smallest book in the Old Testament. Obadiah means "servant of the Lord." His prophecy deals solely with the condemnation of Edom for its treachery toward Judah. The prophecy indicates complete destruction of Edom and Judah's final salvation. The descendants Esau were called Edomites.

The Author: Jonah
Where Written: Israel
When Written: 8th Century B.C.
To Whom: Israel
Theme: The Mercy of God

Jonah lived during the reign of Jeroboam II (790-749 B.C.). See 2 Kings 14:25. The book of Jonah is almost wholly biographical. Jesus mentions Jonah in Matthew 12:39-42; 16:4 and Luke 11:29-32. There are two events of great importance found in the Book of Jonah. First, there is the event of the great fish swallowing Jonah. Second, there is the event of the large heathen city of Nineveh being converted by an obscure foreign missionary in just a few days (Matthew 12:41). Jonah prefigures Christ as the Sent One, suffering death, being buried, and after being raised, ministering salvation to the Gentiles (Matthew 12:39-41; Luke 11:29-32).

The Author: Micah
Where Written: Judah
When Written: 8th Century B.C.
To Whom: Judah and Israel
Theme: Judgment and Pardon

Micah lived in the days of Isaiah and Hosea about 20 miles south of Jerusalem on the Philistine border. Micah was a prophet of the common people. He lived at a time of great oppression. The kings Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah reigned during Micah's day. In Jotham's reign a military coalition of Syria and Israel against Judah was forming (2 Kings 15:37). When Ahaz became King of Judah, instead of dealing with the national sins, he formed an alliance with Assyria. This alliance would cause many problems for Ahaz's son, Hezekiah. Ahaz also introduced idolatry. Against this background, Micah presents his prophecies that God will send judgment for Judah's sin, but pardon is still offered. Micah alone proclaims the actual place of the Savior's birth (5:2). Even the Jewish people before Christ's coming recognized Bethlehem as the birthplace of the coming Messiah (Matthew 2:1-6). Micah's main activity took place from 738 to 698 B.C.

The Author: Nahum
Where Written: Probably Judah
When Written: c. 630 B.C.
To Whom: Nineveh
Theme: Nineveh's Doom

Assyria, whose capital was Nineveh, had dominated the destinies of Judah. Battles between Assyria and Egypt engulfed Judah. When Nahum was born the Assyrian armies had already invaded Palestine twice: 722 B.C.- conquest of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) by Sargon 2 (2 Kings 17:6); 701 B.C.- invasions against Judah by Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:13-18). Nineveh, capital of Assyria was founded around 2000 B.C. At the time Nahum prophesied Nineveh's judgment it was at a peak of wealth, power and fame (3:16,17). The walls were considered impregnable but fell in judgment (2:5,6). The Medes and Babylonians destroyed Nineveh in 612 B.C. Assyria's king Ashurbanipal was very cruel. He skinned captives alive, forcing a prince to wear around his neck the bloody head of his king. He feasted with the head of a Chaldean monarch hanging above him. Nineveh today is a desolate heap of ruins. This prophecy of Nahum's message of doom was made some 150 years after God sent Jonah with a message of mercy. It reveals God's way of dealing with mankind.

The Author: Habakkuk
Where Written: Judah
When Written: c. 625 B.C.
To Whom: Judah
Theme: Righteous Live By Faith

Habakkuk means, "one who embraces." Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel. When he ministered in Judah this nation was embraced in dark apostasy (1:2-4). Wherever he looked in Judah he witnessed men who loved to argue and fight. There was oppression and bribery. The wicked far outnumbered the righteous. Sounds like today, doesn't it! Josiah's program of reform was not successful. In 10 years after his reform program there was national corruption. Habakkuk lived in the same era as the fall of Nineveh and during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim. Habakkuk was not only a prophet. He was one of the Levitical choristers in the Temple (3:19). God showed Habakkuk His ultimate plan. Judah needed punishment. Babylon would be used of God to correct Judah but then, Babylon would be utterly blotted out. For God's people, however, there was to be a glorious future!

The Author: Zephaniah
Where Written: Judah
When Written: c. 630 B.C.
To Whom: Judah
Theme: Day of the Lord

Zephaniah was born during the ruthless rule of Manasseh (690-638 B.C.). Zephaniah means, "whom Jehovah hides, or shelters." Zephaniah had a two-fold audience: the Jews of his day and all the nations, which will come into God's judgment for their disobedience. Zephaniah seeks to warn and awaken Israel. His message to the Gentile world is that God will "assemble all nations to judgment" (3:8). Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah. His ministry was during the reign of Josiah (640-608 B.C.). At this point, Assyria and Nineveh had not yet fallen. Zephaniah looks forward to the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom and reveals that one day the remnant of Israel will enjoy comfort (3:18-20), healing (3:19), joy (3:14-17), a pure language (3:9), and the Lord will be in their midst (3:17).

The Author: Haggai
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: 520 B.C.
To Whom: Restored Israel
Theme: Rebuilding the Temple

Haggai was most likely born in Babylon during the captivity years. He was among the first to return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel in 536 B.C. (Ezra 2:2). Haggai and Zechariah were co-workers in the prophetic ministry. It was Cyrus' decree (538 B.C.) that permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple (Ezra 1:1-4). The remnant laid the foundation but from c. 535 B.C. to 520 B.C. They failed to complete the structure. Haggai and Zechariah in their combined ministry (520 B.C.) urged completion. Completion was 515 B.C. Haggai rebukes the people for their misplaced priorities. They dwell in their paneled houses while the Temple of God lies desolate.

The Author: Zechariah
Where Written: Jerusalem
When Written: c. 520 B.C.
To Whom: Restored Israel
Theme: Coming of Messiah

Zechariah means "The Lord remembers." Zechariah's father was the priest Berechiah. His family was among the Jewish exiles who returned from Babylon in 536 B.C. under Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:4, 16). Like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was both a prophet and a priest. Zechariah sought through his message to: (1) Encourage a spiritual revival (1:2,3); (2) Inspire the people to complete the Temple (1:16; 4:9); (3) Comfort the people who at the time were going through severe trials (2:13); and (4) Reveal to them the coming Messiah. With the exception of Isaiah, there are more prophecies of Christ in Zechariah than in any other prophetic book. Chapters 9-14 contain one of the most remarkable Messianic passages of the Old Testament. The book is divided into two distinct sections: (1) Call to repentance and 8 visions to comfort Jerusalem (1-8); (2) The future of Israel and of God's people (9-14).

The Author: Malachi
Where Written: Judah
When Written: c, 433-420 B.C.
To Whom: Israel
Theme: Rebuke

In the Book of Malachi we read the Lord's last recorded words of Old Testament times. Since Israel's birth 1500 years earlier (Genesis 12), she had made little progress spiritually. By the time Malachi wrote this book, some 100 years had passed since the Jews returned to Jerusalem after the captivity in Babylon. There was a brief period of revival (Nehemiah 10:28-39) but now the people had become lax spiritually. There was corruption (1:6-2:9), mixed marriages (2:10-16) and neglect of tithes (3:7-12). Nehemiah and Malachi were contemporaries; that is, both lived during the same time period. Malachi concludes the story of Israel from 2000-400 B.C. There is a silence of 400 years between the message of Malachi and the New Testament books. Messianic passages in Malachi occur in 3:1-6 and 4:2.

Books of the Old Testament

The Bible tells of Salvation.

The Old Testament of Preparation.

5 Law of Types- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and

Deuteronomy

12 History of Organization- Josh, Judges, and Ruth; I-II Samuel,

I-II Kings, and I-II Corinthians;

Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

5 Poetry of Experience- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Eccles, and Song

of Solomon

5 Major Prophets of Anticipation- Isaiah, Jeremiah,

Lamentations, Ezekiel, and

Daniel

12 Minor Prophets of Anticipation- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,

Jonah, Micah, Nahum,

Habakkuk, Zephaniah,

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

.....

39 total books

Old Testament Exit Outcomes

1. Write a paper listing the books of Law, Poetry, History, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.
2. Write a paper on your favorite book of the Old Testament, and tell why. How does it affect you today?
3. Write a paper listing three of your favorite Old Testament characters. Write why they are your favorite and whether or not it affects us today.
4. Write a one page paper on why the book of Isaiah so important, and what was its main theme.

Old Testament Survey Test

1. Who wrote the book of Genesis?
2. The book of Psalms is a book of History in the Old Testament.
True or False?
3. There are 39 books in the Old Testament. True or False?
4. There are 12 books of History in the Old Testament. True or False?
5. There are 7 books of the Law in the Old Testament. True or False?
6. The book of Exodus is a book of deliverance from Babylon. True or False?
7. Moses led the children of Israel into the Promise Land. True or False?
8. What Old Testament Prophet wrote more of the coming of Jesus than any other Prophet?
9. What Old Testament Prophet wrote of the Times of the Gentiles?
10. The book of Proverbs is a book that we can live by today.
True or False?

11. The book of Ecclesiastes was written by David. True or False?

12. The book of Psalms is the Hebrew hymnbook. True or False?