

BREAKING



BREAD

Lesson 05:

Old Testament Overview

“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

- King David (Psalm 119:160)

Old Testament Facts

1. 39 Books: Genesis through Malachi
2. 32 authors (approx.): All Jewish Men
3. Written in the Hebrew Language
 - *Called “Classical” or “Biblical” Hebrew*
 - *Some portions of Daniel & Ezra in Aramaic*
4. Written over a period of 1400 years
 - *From approx. 1800 BC to 400 BC*
5. Covers 3600 years of human history
 - *From approx. 4000 BC to 400 BC*

Old Testament Structure

1. A History book

- *Mostly focuses on the history of the nation of Israel*

2. An Instructional book

- *Mostly under the "Old Covenant" or the "Law of Moses"*

3. A Prophetic book

- *Of many things...*

The History of the OT

1. Begins with God creating heaven & earth

- *Mostly focuses on the earthly realm & God's dealings with man.*

2. Man choosing to sin against God's command

- *Bringing death into the world.*

3. Follows the line of the righteous

- *Key men like: Noah (father of the new world) & Abraham (father of the Jews)*
- *This would ultimately lead to the Messiah!*

4. Focuses on the nation of Israel

- *Their deliverance, establishment, and God's covenant relationship with them.*
- *Growth into a kingdom; punishment and captivity; regathering of remnant*

5. David: the father of the kings

- *Promised the throne; Jerusalem becomes capital; Solomon builds the temple.*

The Instruction of the OT

1. Law & order for natural man on earth

- *Keep things in their proper place so that God is glorified and man is loved and kept in line for the good of justice.*
- *Fear of the Lord, knowledge, wisdom, understanding, discretion, judgment, etc*
- *Marriage, family, society, government*
- *Provision for poor, and success for the talented*
- *Reality of sinful nature and teaches proper judgment for justice and safety.*

2. How sinful man should approach the Holy God

- *Place of worship & Entrance into Covenant: Word; Altar; Tabernacle; Temple*
- *Priesthood: offerings, sacrifices, instruction, & worship*
- *Most of this instruction found in: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy*

3. Israel to be an Example to ALL Nations

4. Countless Life Lessons from all of the OT

The Prophecy of the OT

1. Proof to be the word of God!

- *Thousands of specific prophecies of future events, places, times, and people.*
- *Approximately 2,000 are already fulfilled!*

2. Topics of Prophecies

- *Rise &/or fall of individuals, kings, rulers, nations, kingdoms, & empires.*
- *Most focus around the nation of Israel, the first coming of Christ, and the second coming of Christ.*

3. The 3 Types of Prophecies

1. *Plain Prophecy:* Says exactly what is meant
2. *Metaphoric/Vision:* Shows some symbolic picture of what is to come
3. *Prophetic Picture:* Contained in stories, instructions, articles, etc

4. Most prophecies of Dual Nature

- *Near term fulfillment; Long Term fulfillment (often around Christ's comings)*

Breakdown of the OT

I. 5 Books of Law: History & Instruction

- *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
- *Israel BEFORE they enter the promised land.*

II. 12 Books of History of Israel: History

- a) *BEFORE the kingdom: Joshua, Judges, Ruth*
- b) *The Kingdom: 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles*
- c) *After the Kingdom: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*

III. 5 Books of Wisdom: Instruction & Prophecy

- *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*

IV. 17 Books of Prophets: Prophecy & History

- a) *5 Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel*
- b) *12 Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*