

Session #2 – How the Old Testament Fits Together

Reading the Old Testament reveals God's purposes over centuries of human history and explains his desire to establish a people for himself in the midst of the world he created. Story after story tells of God's active grace within our world impacted by sin, the flesh and the devil. Pictures of redemption are found in individuals who walked by faith and trusted in God's word. Though the nation of Israel was flawed and undeserving (Deuteronomy 7:6-8), the LORD communicated his powerful love and purpose through them. Ultimately, these individual and corporate stories were presented through various types of literature and together they point toward the incarnation of Jesus Christ who was born at just the right time in human history (Galatians 4:4). Together, the Old and New Testaments reveal the heart of God in his gracious actions and truthful revelation.

Let's Consider 10 Major Old Testament Events – What do you know about them?

1. Creation
2. The Sin of Adam And Eve
3. The Flood: Noah
4. The Covenant of Faith: Abraham
5. The Exodus and The Law: Moses
6. The Conquest of Canaan: Joshua
7. Establishing the Monarchy: Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon
8. Dividing the Kingdom: North = Israel and South = Judah
9. The Babylonian Captivity
10. The Return from Captivity

Other events and individuals fill in the story to illustrate the benefits of faith in the Lord, as well as the consequences of not trusting in him. Reading the Old Testament requires one to remember these three levels for proper interpretation of Old Testament passages.

TOP LEVEL: The whole universal plan and purposes of God worked out through his creation.

MIDDLE LEVEL: God reveals his heart for the world through the nation of Israel.

LOWER LEVEL: Individual Narratives that make up the other two levels.

As already highlighted in Session 1, the importance of these levels is to remember that the real hero of the stories is GOD! (Top Level) - His purposes were fulfilled through the people of Israel and the church in covenant relationship with the Lord (Middle Level) - The individual stories tell of faith and non-faith; trust and arrogance. (Lower Level) reveal the need for One to come who alone can fulfill all the ceremonial and legislative structure of Israel. Jesus speaks into all levels and his action on the cross fulfilled the law and provided redemption according to God's eternal plan.

Take a look at <https://bibleproject.com/all-videos/read-scripture-old-testament/> and write your thoughts about this overview of Old Testament. What did you learn? What challenged you for your reading of the Old Testament?

How the Old Testament Message Fits Together

Historical	Prophetical	Poetical
1. Genesis		Job
2. Exodus (Leviticus)		
3. Numbers (Deuteronomy)		
4. Joshua		
5. Judges (Ruth)		
6. I Samuel		
7. II Samuel (I Chronicles)		Psalms
8. I Kings (II Chronicles)	<u>To Israel</u> Amos	Proverbs
9. II Kings (II Chronicles)	Hosea	Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon
	<u>To Judah</u> Joel ISAIAH Micah Zephaniah JEREMIAH Habakkuk LAMENTATIONS	
	<u>To Assyria</u> Jonah Nahum	
	<u>To Edom</u> Obadiah	
Exile period	EZEKIEL DANIEL	
10. Ezra (Esther)	Haggai Zechariah	
11. Nehemiah	Malachi	
12. 400 Years of Silence until the coming of Christ and the writing of the Gospels		

Let's Practice What we've learned. –In the teaching video <https://youtu.be/fDt36Hf2dfQ> - Session 2 - *How The Old Testament Fits Together*, names of Old Testament books were put on a white board for a timeline of the Old Testament. The names of each Old Testament books will be put on a piece of paper and provided to students. **As a group activity, place the books under the following categories and give a brief description of the book's themes:**

Beginnings

Exodus and the Law

Conquest of Canaan

United Kingdom

Divided Kingdom – (North is Israel and South is Judah)

Exile Period

Return from Captivity

400 Years of Silence

What lessons did you learn from this activity?

How does the Old Testament capture the importance of living by faith and the consequences of disregarding God's purposes for His people?

In what ways does the Old Testament prepare you for reading the New Testament?