

# Old Testament Survey

Purpose  
&  
Schedule

# Purpose

- To conduct a five-six (5-6) month survey of the Old Testament in chronological order.
- To provide a synopsis of each Old Testament book to include author, date, and notable details.
- To provide an understanding of the progressive revelation of God from creation (e.g., Genesis) to approximately 450 years before the birth of Christ (e.g., Malachi).

# Schedule

- Will take approximately 20 weeks
- Will primarily focus on each book
- Will secondarily focus on the history of the Jews
- Will tertiarily focus on God's revelation of Christ
- Will tentatively take one hour per session
- Will answer questions at the end of each session

# Weekly Schedule

- 1: Introduction & The Old Testament in the Bible
- 2: Genesis 1-3
- 3: Genesis 4-11 & Job
- 4: Genesis 12-26
- 5: Genesis 27-50
- 6: Exodus
- 7: Leviticus/Numbers
- 8: Deuteronomy
- 9: Joshua
- 10: Judges/Ruth

## Weekly Schedule (cont.)

- 11: I Samuel
- 12: II Samuel & I Chronicles
- 13: Psalms, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, Eccl
- 14: I Kings & II Chronicles
- 15: II Kings, Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Hosea
- 16: Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah
- 17: Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamem, Ezekiel
- 18: Daniel, Ezra, Haggai
- 19: Esther & Zechariah
- 20: Nehemiah & Malachi

# **Old Testament Survey**

## **Session One**

### **The Old Testament in the Bible**

# The Bible

- Consists of 66 books
  - Consists of 1189 chapters
  - Consists of 31,174 verses
  - Consists of @ 3 million words
  - Consists of 3 languages
  - Composed by @ 40 authors
  - Shortest chapter is Psalm 117 (2 verses)
  - Longest chapter is Psalm 119 (176 verses)
  - Median chapter is Psalm 118:8-9
- “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.”

# Divisions of the Bible

- Old Testament (39 books)
- New Testament (27 books)

## The Old Testament

The Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)

History (Joshua – Esther)

Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)

Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi)

## The New Testament

Gospels (Matthew – John)

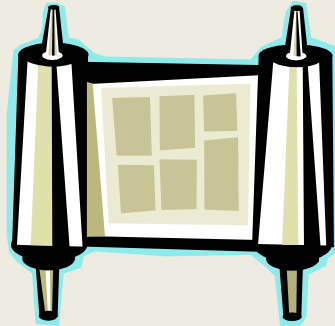
History (Acts)

Epistles (Romans – Jude)

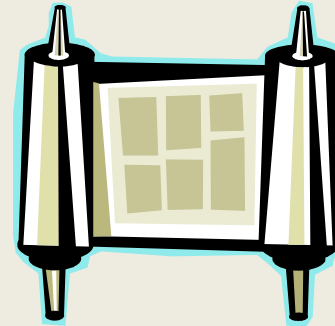
Prophecy (Revelation)

# How We Often Read the Bible

Old Testament



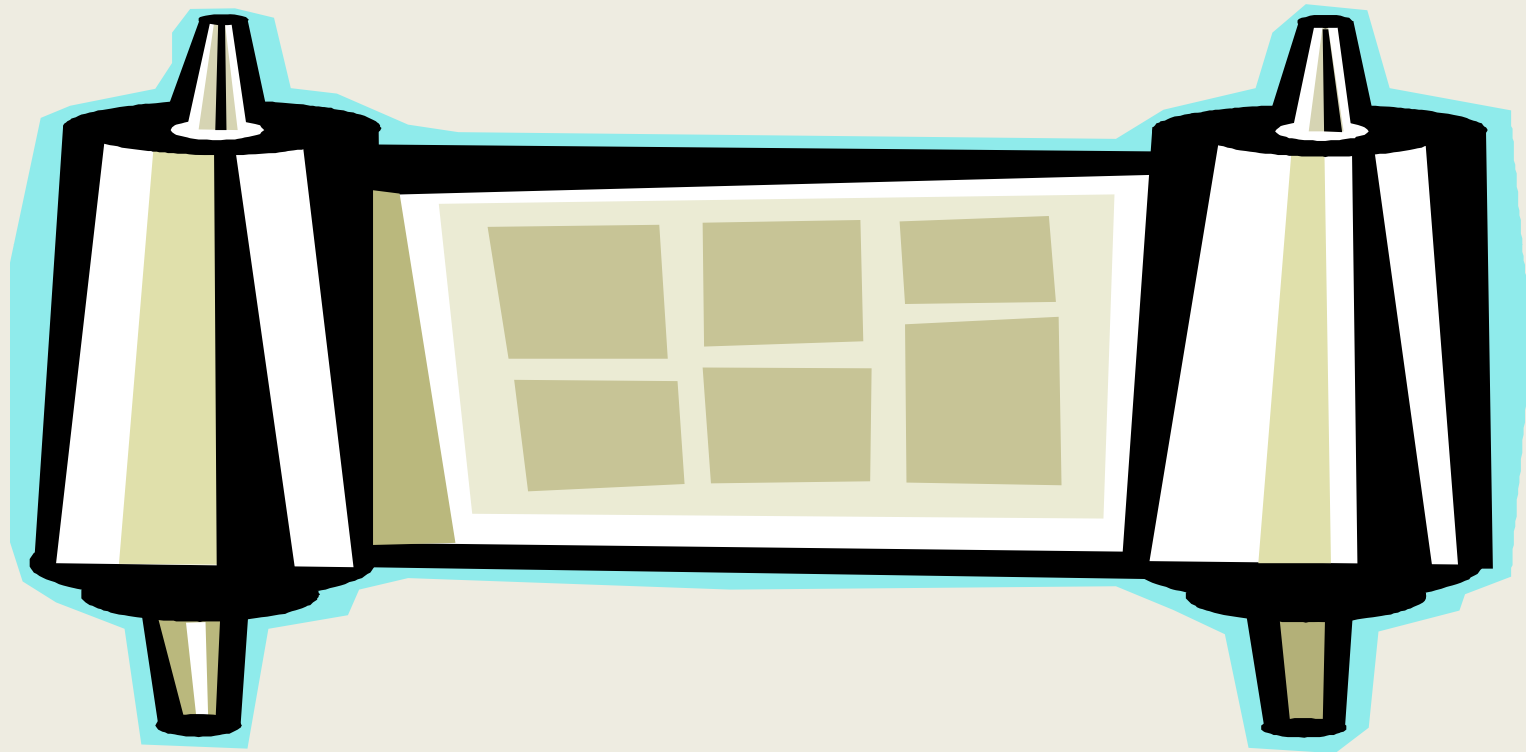
New Testament



Start 

Finish 

# How We Ought to Read the Bible



Start



Finish

# Why Study the Old Testament?

- Because 2/3 of our Bible is in the OT.
- Because the NT can only be fully understood against the background of the OT.
- Because the Bible of the New Testament writers was the Old Testament. These writers often quote from the Old Testament, and they assume that you are familiar with its characters and content.
- Because the same God is the author of both Testaments. You cannot know well the character of God unless you study the OT.
- Because many Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the New Testament (and many are not!)

# Why do Christians Today Need to Study the Old Testament

- Because when you read the Gospels you are reading about events that took place under an Old Testament economy.
- Because many of the Old Testament's teachings are timeless principles.
- Because not everything is restated and reapplied in the New Testament.
- Because two basic yet essential themes of the Bible begin in the Old Testament:
  - Covenant
  - Kingdom

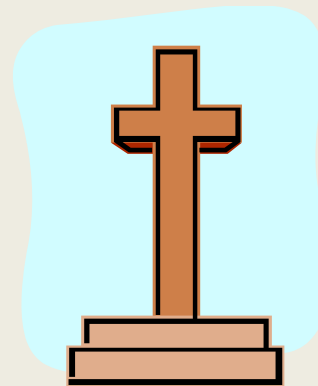
# The Old Testament & The New Testament

- The NT is in the OT concealed
- The OT is in the NT revealed
- The OT contains Christ implicitly
- The NT contains Christ explicitly
- The moral precepts in the OT are brought to perfection by Christ in the NT
- The ritualistic precepts in the OT are brought to completion by Christ in the NT

# Story Line of the Bible

REDEMPTION

Gen 12



Coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2)

Gen 1 - 2  
Paradise  
... Lost!

Israel

Church

Rev 21 & 22  
Paradise  
restored in  
the new  
heavens &  
new earth

# Early Divisions of the Old Testament

- Twofold Division (pre-fifth century BC)
  - The Law & The Prophets (Mt 5:17; 7:12; Lk 24:27)
- Threefold Division (fifth century BC) TaNaK
  - Law of Moses (Torah)
    - Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, Deut
  - Prophets (Nebhiim)
    - Former: Josh, Judg, Samuel, Kings
    - Latter: Is, Jer, Ezek, The Twelve
  - Writings (Kethubhim)
    - Poetical: Ps, Pr, Job
    - Five Rolls (Megilloth): SoS, Ruth, Lam, Esth, Ecc
    - Historical: Dan, Ezra-Neh, Chr

# Early Divisions of the Old Testament (cont.)

- Fourfold Division(@280-150 BC)
  - Law (Torah)
    - Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, Deut
  - History
    - Josh, Judg, Ruth, 1-2 Sam, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chr, Ezra, Neh, Esth
  - Poetry
    - Job, Ps, Pr, Ecc, SoS
  - Prophets (Nebhiim)
    - Major: Is, Jer, Lam, Dan, Ezek
    - Minor: Hos, Joel, Amos, Ob, Jonah, Mic, Nah, Hab, Zeph, Hag, Zech, Mal

**Always consisted of the current 39 books**

# The Fourfold OT Division

Provided for the Jews the:

- Law – their *moral* life
- History – their *national* life
- Poetry – their *spiritual* life
- Prophecy – their *messianic* (and future) life

# The Bookshelf of the Old Testament



## The Historical Line of Old Testament Books



# The English Names of Books of the Law (Torah)

- Genesis: origin or beginning
  - of the world and the Jewish people
- Exodus: going out or departure
  - from Egypt
- Leviticus: book of the Levites
  - who helped the priests
- Numbers: numbering or counting
  - of the Israelites
- Deuteronomy: second law or second giving of the law
  - by Moses to Israel

# The Hebrew Names of the Books of the Law

- *Bereshith*: in the beginning (Genesis)  
– בראשית
- *Shemoth*: names (Exodus)  
– שמות
- *Wayyigra*: the called (Leviticus)  
– ויקרא
- *Bemidbar*: in the wilderness (Numbers)  
– במדבר
- *Devarim*: words (Deuteronomy)  
– דברים

# Time Period Covered in the Books of the Law

- Genesis – from creation of the world to the bondage of Israel in Egypt (3975 – 1860 BC)
- Exodus – from the sojourn of Israel in Egypt to Mt. Sinai (1860 – 1447 BC)
- Leviticus – one month between Exodus and Numbers (1447 BC)
- Numbers – from Mt. Sinai to the end of the forty-years “Wandering” (1447 – 1407 BC)
- Deuteronomy – from the end of the wandering to after Moses’ funeral (about two months-1407 BC)

# The Themes of the Books of the Law

- Genesis: the *election* of the nation
- Exodus: the *redemption* of the nation
- Leviticus: the *sanctification* of the nation
- Numbers: the *direction* of the nation
- Deuteronomy: the *instruction* of the nation

# The Bloodline of the Coming Messiah

- The seed of the woman – Gen 3:15
- The line of Seth – Gen 4:25
- The offspring of Shem – Gen 9:26
- The family of Abraham – Gen 12:2-3
- The seed of Isaac – Gen 26:3-4
- The sons of Jacob – Gen 46:3
- The tribe of Judah – Gen 49:10

# The Book of Genesis – General

- The Book of Beginnings (בראשית) *Bereshith*
- Author: Moses
  - Moses was the only literate at the time (Acts 7:22)
  - Talmud attributes Genesis to Moses
  - OT attributes Genesis to Moses (1K 2:3; 2Ch 23:18)
  - NT (Jesus) attributes Genesis to Moses (Mt 19:8; Lk 16:29)
- Date:
  - Moses in Egypt (1527 – 1487 BC)\*
  - Moses in Midian (1487 – 1447)
  - Moses in the wilderness (1447 – 1407)
- Covers: Creation (3975) – 1860 BC

# Major Themes

- Origins – of the universe and of the nation of Israel. Includes origin of:
  - Marriage
  - Languages and nations
  - Sin
  - Worship and faith
- The Sinfulness of Man
  - Adam and Eve
  - Cain
  - Generation of the Flood
  - Men at Babel and Sodom and Gomorrah
- Character of God
  - His power in and over creation
  - His judgment against sin (flood, Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah)
  - His grace and compassion in being willing to save
  - His sovereignty in directing events

# Structure

- 1-11: Four key events:
  - Creation – 1:26-28
  - Fall – 3:14-19
  - Flood – 6:5-8
  - Babel – 11:1-9
- 12-50: Four key people:
  - Abraham
  - Isaac
  - Jacob
  - Joseph

# Interpretive Issues

- Creation theories
  - Gap theory
  - Day-age theory
  - 6 day literal creation
    - 3 days of creating and separating:
      - Light from darkness
      - Waters above from waters below
      - Dry land from sea, vegetation
    - 3 days of forming and filling:
      - Lights in the expanse
      - Water creatures and birds
      - land animals and man
- The Extent of the Flood
  - Local, known world
  - Worldwide
- “Sons of God” in Gen 6
  - Kings
  - Godly line of Seth
  - Angels

# The Book of Genesis – Outline

## The Origin of the Nations (1-11)

- The creation of man (1-2)
- The corruption of man (3-5)
- The destruction of man (6-9)
- The dispersion of man (10-11)

Session 2: Chapters 1-3

Session 3: Chapters 4-11

Session 4: Chapters 12-26

Session 5: Chapters 27-50

## The Election of the Chosen Nation (12-50)

# The Eastern Thought vs. The Western Thought

- We live in time
    - We're always at rest
  - We're passive
    - We like to contemplate
  - We accept the world as it is
  - We live in peace with nature
- You live in space
    - You're always on the move
  - You're aggressive
    - You like to act
  - You try to change it according to your blueprint
  - You try to impose your will on her

# The Eastern Thought vs. The Western Thought (cont.)

- Religion is our first love
    - We delight to think about the meaning of life
  - We believe in freedom silence
    - We lapse into meditation
  - We marry first; then love
    - Our marriage is the begging of a love affair
  - It is an indissoluble bond
- Science is your passion
    - You delight in physics
  - You believe in freedom of speech
    - You strive for articulation
  - You love first; then marry
    - Your marriage is the happy end of a romance
  - It is the contract

# The Eastern Thought vs. The Western Thought (cont.)

- Our love is mute
  - We try to conceal it from the world
- Self-abnegation is the secret of our survival
- We're taught from the cradle to want less and less
- The love of life is our ideal
- We glorify austerity and renunciation
- Your love is vocal
  - You delight in showing it to others
- Self-assertiveness is the key of your success
- You are urged every day to want more and more
- Conquest is your goal
- You emphasize living and enjoyment

# The Eastern Thought vs. The Western Thought (cont.)

- Poverty is as a badge of spiritual elevation
- It is to you a sign of degradation
- In the sunset years of life, we renounce the world and prepare ourselves for the hereafter
- You retire to enjoy the fruits of your labor

# Old Testament Survey

End Session One