

Old Testament Overview

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Aims:

At the end of this course, the student should

- (a) Have a clear overview of Old Testament history.
- (b) Be able to understand Old Testament passages in their historical setting.
- (c) Understand God's dealings with individuals and nations.
- (d) Know how the Covenants and Types of the Old Testament relate to the New Testament.
- (e) Be able to preach more effectively from the Old Testament.

There are 10 Main Sections:

1) Creation to Abraham

A) God the Creator

B) Man the Image of God

- Vocation in Eden
- Institution of Marriage

C) The Existence of the Devil

D) The Fall and its Consequences

- Temptation
- Adam and Eve - Sin and Rebellion
- Separation
- Curses

E) Adam's Offspring

- Abel the first Man of Faith
- The Way of Cain
- Seth and the Righteous Line

F) The Flood

- Sinful Mankind
- God's Judgement
- God's Covenant with Noah

G) Origin of Nations

- Shem and Canaan
- Distribution of People

H) Babel

- The City
- The Tower
- The Judgement

2) Abraham to Joseph - The Covenant of Promise

A) Abraham

- Origin
- Call, Promise and Covenant
- Melchizedek
- Ishmael
- Circumcision
- Faith and testing
- Later years
- New Testament references
- Abraham's posterity

B) Lot

- Sodom and Gomorrah

C) Isaac

- God provides a wife
- The well digger
- God's Covenant with Isaac

D) Jacob = Israel

- Jacob the Cheat
- Jacob meets with God
- Jacob in Paddan-Aram
- Jacob wrestles with God
- Jacob's later life

E) Esau and Edom

F) Joseph - Dreamer, Prophet and Ruler

3) Moses - The Covenant of Law

A) The Call of Moses

B) The Escape from Egypt

- The Plagues
- The Passover
- Crossing the Red Sea

C) The Law

- God's appearance
- Moral Laws
- Social Laws for Community
- The Tabernacle
- Sacrifices
- Offerings
- Ceremonial and Medical Laws
- Feasts and Special Days
- The Land and Place of Worship
- The Covenant of Law

D) Events in the Desert

- God's Provision
- God's Guidance
- The Golden Calf
- The Spies in Canaan
- Rebellion

4) Joshua and Judges - The Conquest of the Land

A) Joshua's Call

B) Spies and Rahab

C) Jordan and Gilgal

D) Taking the Land

- Jericho
- Ai and Achan
- Ebal and Gerazim
- Gibeonites
- Campaigns in South and North

E) Occupation of the Land

- Division of the Land
- Tribes Across Jordan
- Cities of Refuge and Levites
- Worship

F) Judges

- The leadership of the Judges
- The Enemies of Israel
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Jephthah
- Samson

G) Idolatry and Immorality

H) Ruth

I) Eli

5) Saul, David and Solomon - The Covenant of Kingdom

A) Samuel

B) Saul - The King who lost his Crown

- Saul's promising start
- Saul's rebellion and sin
- Saul's afflicted by evil spirits

C) David

- Early Life
- Friend of Saul
- The Fugitive
- King in Hebron
- King in Jerusalem
- God's Covenant with David
- David's sin and later life

D) Solomon

- Early Reign
- Wisdom
- The Kingdom
- The Temple and covenant
- Splendour
- His downfall

6) Old Testament Poetry

A) Job

- Authorship
- Job's suffering
- Three comforters
- Elihu
- God's words
- Job's Restoration
- Lessons from Job

B) Psalms

- Authorship
- Books of Psalms
- Types of Psalms
- Praise and Worship
- Poetry in the Psalms

C) Song of Songs

D) Proverbs

- Pursuit of wisdom
- Proverbs
- Instructions
- Proverbs of Solomon/Men of Hezekiah
- Words of Augur
- The good wife

E) Ecclesiastes

7) The Divided Kingdom

A) The Kingdom Divides

- Kings and Chronicles

B) History of Northern Kingdom (Israel)

- Jeroboam and line of evil Kings
- Ahab
- Elijah and Elisha
- Prophetic Warnings
- Israel taken by Assyrians

C) History of Southern Kingdom (Judah)

- Rehoboam - Zeal before Wisdom
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat - Victory by faith
- Josiah - Repairing the Temple
- Hezekiah - King who prayed
- Josiah - The book of the law
- Jeremiah
- Judah taken by Babylon

8) Old Testament Prophets

A) Prophets in the Bible

- Various Prophets
- Prophets who wrote
- New Testament Prophets

B) The Task of a Prophet

- Exposing Sin
- Warning of Judgement
- Call to Repentance and Righteous living
- Promise of Restoration
- Revelation of the mind of God (Forthtelling)
- Describing the future (Fortelling)
- Encouragement and hope for the future
- Advising those in Government
- Leading God's People
- Interpreting Dreams
- Confronting others fearlessly
- Interceding for people and individuals
- Working Miracles

C) The Character of the Prophet

- Call
- Prayer
- Lifestyle
- Conviction
- Godliness

D) The Methods of O.T. Prophets

- Listening to God
- Transmitting the Message
- The Personality and experience of the Prophet
- The Holy Spirit

E) Scope of the Old Testament Prophets

- Law of Prophetic Perspective
- Law of Double Reference
- Major subjects

F) False Prophets

- Warnings about
- Examples
- Tests

G) Prophecies Relating to Jesus

9) Exile and Restoration

A) Babylonian Empire

- Emergence of Babylon
- Exiles and Ezekiel
- Daniel

B) Mede and Persian Empire

- Cyrus - an instrument of the Lord

C) Rebuilding the Temple

- Zerubbabel
- Haggai & Zechariah

D) Return of the Law

- Ezra

E) Rebuilding the City

- Nehemiah

F) Esther

10) Exile to John the Baptist - Making Way for the Messiah

A) Four World Empires

- Babylon
- Mede and Persian
- Greek
- Roman

B) Political History of the Jews

- Persian Rule
- Macedonian Rule
- Egyptian Rule
- Syrian rule
- Antiochus Epiphanes
- Maccabean Rising
- Hasmoneans
- Roman Rule
- Herods

C) Religious History of the Jews

- The Temple
- The Synagogues
- The Pharisees
- The Sadducees
- The Scribes
- The Resurrection
- The Messianic Hope
- Essenes and Dead Sea Scrolls

D) John the Baptist