

Old Testament Survey 1

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Old Testament and Genesis 1-2

I. Introduction

II. What Is the Old Testament?

The first of 2 major sections in the Bible, composed of 39 books.

As Part of the Bible, the Old Testament has...

- A. Authority- all the words in Old Testament are God's words in such a way, that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.
- B. Inerrancy- the Old Testament, in the original manuscripts, does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.
- C. Clarity- the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all 1) who will read it 2) seeking God's help and 3) being willing to obey whatever He commands in it.
- D. Necessity- We need the Old Testament for rightly understanding the gospel and for spiritual growth, spiritual maintenance, spiritual multiplication.
- E. Sufficiency- The Bible has and continues to contain all the words of God that He intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive history.

III. Why Study the Old Testament?

- A. It is the word of God just as much as the NT is.
- B. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection don't make much sense without the teachings of the OT.

***John 7:37-39**, "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*

C. The NT heavily references the OT.

- Quotations of the OT = 295
- Allusions to the OT = 600
- Over 10% of the NT is either a direct OT quote or allusion.

D. Jesus Himself says that the OT teaches about Him.

Luke 24:25-27, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Luke 24:44, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

- And the rest of the NT authors agree as well.

Acts 3:18, "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"

2 Timothy 3:15, "the Holy Scriptures...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"

IV. Thoughts About the Bible Timeline:



A. Three questions to ask ourselves when looking at a text:

1. Where is this passage/book on the Bible timeline?
2. Where am I on the Bible timeline?
3. How do I read this in the light of things that have happened in between?

B. OT in a Nutshell

4 Events 4 Groups 2 Dates 2 Seasons			
Creation	Patriarchs	722 BC	Return
Fall	Judges	586 BC	Silence
Flood	Kings		
Tower	Prophets		

C. Key Dates in the Old Testament

PERSON or EVENT	DATE	PERSON or EVENT	DATE		
Adam	~ 4000 BC	Judges	1380-1050 BC		
Enoch	~ 3400 BC	Samuel	1100 BC		
Noah's Flood	~ 2400 BC	Saul begins Reign	1051 BC		
Tower of Babel	~ 2300 BC	David begins Reign	1011 BC		
Abraham	2000 BC	Solomon begins Reign	971 BC		
Jacob	1900 BC	Fall of Israel (Assyria)	722 BC		
Joseph	1800 BC	Fall of Judah (Babylon)	586 BC		
Moses and the Exodus	1446 BC	Return	538 BC		
Israel Crosses Jordan	1406 BC	Temple Rebuilt	516 BC		

D. An Overview of Genesis

Genesis								
Focus	1:1 - 11:9				11:10 - 50:26			
Divisions	Creation	Fall	Flood	Tower	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
	1:1 - 2:25	3:1 - 5:32	6:1 - 9:29	10:1 - 11:9	11:10 - 25:8	25:19 - 26:35	27:1 - 36:43	37:1 - 50:26
Topics	Beginning of the Human Race				Beginning of the Hebrew Race			
	Historical				Biographical			
Places	Fertile Crescent (Eden-Haran)				Canaan (Haran-Canaan)		Egypt (Canaan-Egypt)	
Times	2000+ years (~4004-2090 B.C.)				193 years (2090-1897 B.C.)		93 years (1897-1804 B.C.)	

E. Genesis is a "*Book of Beginnings*:"

- Universe
- Man & Woman
- Family
- Sin
- Evil
- Creation
- Prophecy
- Gospel
- Civilization
- Judgement
- Nations & Races
- Jewish State

V. Genesis I-2

A. Context:

Written by Moses.¹

¹ Dillard and Longman's *An Introduction to the Old Testament* is especially recommended reading on the subject.

B. Theme:

God is an eternal and self-sufficient God, who by sheer verbal fiat has sovereignly created the universe and all that is in it, in order to display His glory. The crown of His created order is mankind, the only creature created in God's image. Human beings are created in order to specifically display God's glory as they obediently govern the earth while enjoying loving fellowship with God and each other.

C. Outline w/ Pivotal Texts

1. Genesis 1:1-2:3 — The telling of the seven days of Creation: Emphasis on God's word, sovereignty, lordship, and the order and goodness of the created order
2. Genesis 2:4-25 — A retelling of the creation story: This time with emphasis on mankind's special relationship with God, the created order, and each other.

D. Theme texts:

1. 1:1-25

Read **Genesis 1:1-5**. The creation account is primarily about God.

What does this passage teach us about God?

a.) **God is eternal (v1).**

Psalm 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

b.) **God is self-sufficient.**

**ex-nihilo:* "out of nothing."²

c.) **God created by the power of His Word.**

Read **verse 3**.

Read **verse 6**.

Read **verse 9**.

² Psalm 33:6,9, Romans 4:17, and Hebrews 11:3 also confirm a creation *ex nihilo*.

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

d.) **God is sovereign**: God has complete control of His universe.

Psalm 135:5-6, "For I know that the Lord is great, And our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the Lord pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places."

e.) **God is Good** (vv 4, 10, 12, 18 ,21, 25, and 31).

Days of Creation

Forming	Filling
Day 1: Light	Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars
Day 2: Sky and Water	Day 5: Birds and Fish
Day 3: Land	Day 6: Animals and Man

2. 1:26-28, 31:

Read **Genesis 1:26-28**.

a.) A Distinct Relationship: created in the image of God (v26).

b.) A Distinct Role: created to image God.

c.) A Distinct Motive:

- God created the universe to display His glory and excellencies.

Revelation 4:11, "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

- Created in God's image, we can and are called to spread the glory of God in a very specific way that the rest of creation can not.

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

- We do that by exercising God's **lordship and care** (v26, 28).

- Man acts as a king over, and a priest for creation.

**Why is Genesis 2 from a different perspective from Genesis 1, but overlaps in some of the content?

- Genesis 1 is the historical account of creation.
- Genesis 2 is a biographical account of the creation of mankind and his relationship with his Creator.

E. 2:1-3

The world God created was a place of rest and peace.

F. 2:18-25

Rest and peace on every level:

- between God and man,
- between man and earth, and
- between man and woman (2:18-25).

G. 2:15-17

This kingdom needs to be restored. In fact, that's what the rest of the Bible is all about.

VI. Application (James 1:22)

A. So, what are some ramifications of Genesis 1 and 2 non our lives, individually and as a corporate church body?

1. Briefly in your own words,

a) What does Genesis 1-2 teach us about God?

b) What does Genesis 1-2 teach us about man?

2. What are the implications of your answers above in your daily life?

3. What are some practical ways that can you weave these truths into your daily conversations?