

The Old Testament Lesson One

1. Introduction

- 1) Recommended resource: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*, ed. Roy Zuck (about \$27)

2. Goals for This Study

- 1) God will be glorified and pleased by your study of His Word
- 2) Equipped to “accurately handle the word of truth,” (2 Tim 2:15)
- 3) Learn the basic theme and content of each OT book
- 4) Learn the flow of history in the OT and how each book “fits in” to that history
- 5) Learn key, important issues—correct interpretation necessary for correct application
- 6) See the big picture

3. How We’ll Do This

- 1) Survey each book
 - Message
 - Purpose
 - Structure
 - Summary of content
 - List key, important/essential things of each book
- 2) As needed we’ll stop and consider an important aspect necessary to correctly understand the OT, such as
 - What is “Israel”
 - Salvation in the OT
 - Worship in Israel
 - OT Prophetism
 - The Kingdom in the OT (theocratic vis-à-vis universal)
- 3) “Homework” geared toward the next week’s lesson to help you prepare for it

4. Why Study the OT

- 1) It is God’s Word! 2/3 of the Bible is the OT, 2 Tim 3:16-17

- All of Scripture is God’s Word
- All the Bible necessary for teaching, rebuke, correction, disciplined for righteousness, to be fully equipped to serve the Lord

2) Correct interpretation is necessary for correct application

- Your personal devotions
- Your ministry of the Word

3) Ignorance of the OT (except for some portions) often results in

- Unwillingness to even read and study it (ignorance breeds more ignorance)
- Terrible error

4) Right understanding of the NT

- Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel, his atonement, resurrection
- The kingdom
- Book of Hebrews
- OT quotations and allusions
- OT people and events referred to

5) Christians who know their Bible...

- Grow in Christ
- Fight sin
- Protected from error, not tossed here and there by FT
- Have a burning longing to serve God and please him
- Have a right view of life and the world

6) A great encouragement and help

- Know God better—our God is the God of the OT—greater trust, reverence
- Know God's plan better (must know OT to know NT)
- Perseverance, encouragement, and admonition (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11)

5. Summary of the OT

The OT is about Israel, detailing its origin, laws, life & worship, history, wisdom, and future.

6. Bird's Eye View of the Entire OT

1) **The Law** (also called the *Pentateuch*)—Israel's Origin and Formation

Genesis—Deuteronomy

2) **Historical Books**—Israel's History

Joshua—Esther

3) **Poetry**—Israel’s Wisdom and Worship

Job—Song of Solomon, Lamentations

4) **Prophecy**—Israel’s Failings and Future Hope

- “Major” Prophets

Isaiah—Daniel

- “Minor” Prophets

Hosea—Malachi

Next Sunday—

- Survey of Israel’s history
- The books of the OT
- Basic geography of the OT

“Homework” for Next Sunday

- Memorize the order and sections of the OT books