

A BIRDSEYE VIEW
of the
Old Testament

**A survey of
history, structure,
and themes**

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A BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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Lesson 1

WHAT'S IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

I. GENERAL CATEGORIES

NOTES:

A. HISTORY

Books of Moses
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Writings of Samuel
Judges
Ruth
1&2 Samuel
1&2 Kings
Writings of Ezra
1&2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

B. WISDOM AND POETRY

Job
Psalms
Writings of Solomon (?)
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

C. PROPHECY

Major Prophets
Isaiah
Jeremiah (Lamentations)
Ezekiel
Daniel
Minor Prophets
Hosea
Joel

Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

II. GENERAL CONTENTS

A. REVELATION

Through the inspired Scripture, God reveals His person and character to us. Apart from this revelation, we would know nothing of God with the exception of His existence and His power (cf. Rom. 1:20). The Scripture is not a record of man discovering God, but of God showing Himself to man.

B. SACRED HISTORY

We serve a God who is active in the affairs of mankind. It is God, not man, who determines the course of history (Ps. 47:7-8 Ps. 22:27-28). Sacred history, then, is the account of God's interaction with men in the field of ordinary life.

Lesson 2

THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY

I. CREATION

NOTES:

A. HOW WAS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

B. CONTROVERSIES OVER "yom" (day)

- "Yom" as a literal 24-hour period
- "Yom" as a revelational day
- "Yom" as an epoch or geological age

C. WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION

- Creation vs. making
- The significance of "kinds"

II. MAN'S FALL INTO SIN

A. WHAT HAPPENED?

B. WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

- How does Adam's sin effect you?

C. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

- How does Christ's righteousness effect you?

III. NOAH AND THE FLOOD

A. WHY DID GOD DESTROY MANKIND?

- Mixing of godly and ungodly
- The evil intent of the heart

B. WHY DID GOD PRESERVE NOAH AND HIS FAMILY?

- Gen. 6:8-9

C. HOW DID GOD PRESERVE NOAH AND HIS FAMILY?

- Gen. 6:13-14, 21-7:1

IV. THE GREAT TOWER

A. WHY DID THE PEOPLE BUILD THE TOWER OF BABEL

- Is the "babel" attitude still around? Where?

B. HOW DID GOD RESPOND?

Lesson 3

THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS

NOTES:

I. ABRAHAM

A. GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

- Make him a great nation / father of many nations
- To give him innumerable descendants
- Bless him and make him a blessing
- To make Abraham's name great
- To give his descendants the land of promise

B. ABRAHAM'S BROTHER

- Dividing the land
- The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah

C. GOD'S GIFT OF A SON

- Isaac's miraculous birth
- God's test and provision

II. ISAAC

A. ISAAC AND REBEKAH

B. ISAAC'S SONS, THE BIRTHRIGHT AND BLESSING

III. JACOB

A. JACOB'S DREAM

- God's promise
- Jacob's vow

B. LEAH AND RACHEL

C. JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL

IV. JOSEPH

A. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

- His dream
- Sold into Slavery

B. JOSEPH IN EGYPT

- Joseph, Potiphar, and Potiphar's wife
- Pharaoh's dreams
- Famine
- Joseph's faith

Lesson 4

FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

I. THE NATION OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT

NOTES:

A. FAVOR ENDS

- The death of Joseph
- Oppression and bondage

B. A LEADER FOR ISRAEL

- Mose's birth
- God calls Moses

C. GOD'S DELIVERANCE

- The plagues / God's judgment of the gods of Egypt
- The Passover
- The Red Sea

II. A GENERATION-LONG JOURNEY

A. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- God's provision
- God's law
- The commandments of God (the moral law)
- The laws for Israel (social and ceremonial law)
- The Tabernacle
- The objects
- The priesthood
- The offerings

B. THE PEOPLE'S FEAR

- Spying out the land
- A negative report
- Blessings and curses
- The benefits of obedience
- The results of disobedience
- An offer of life or death

Lesson 5

LIFE IN THE PROMISED LAND

I. JOSHUA TAKES OVER

NOTES:

- A. GOD'S PROMISE
- B. JOSHUA'S REQUIREMENTS
- C. CROSSING THE JORDAN
- D. WINNING THE LAND

- The "battle" of Jericho - Jos. 6:1-5
- The five kings of the Amorites - Jos. 10:7-14
- The Southern Cities - Jos. 10:40
- The Northern Cities - Jos. 11:23
- The death and burial of Joshua - Jos. 24:29

II. THE ERA OF THE JUDGES

- A. CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF THE ERA
- B. GODLY DELIVERERS

- Othniel
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Samson

III. THE STORY OF RUTH

- A. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD
 - God is Lord of all nations
 - Genealogy

IV. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MONARCHY

A. SAMUEL

- Eli, Samuel and God's call - 1 Sam. 3:19-20
- The Ark of the Covenant - 1 Sam. 4:1-1; 5:1-4, 11-12
- The people ask for a king - 1 Sam. 8:1-5, 19-20

B. SAUL AND DAVID

- Samuel anoints Saul king - 1 Sam. 9:15-17; 10:1, 9-11
- The Lord rejects Saul - 1 Sam. 15:24-26
- Samuel anoints David - 1 Sam. 16:7-13
- Saul and David
- The death of Saul - 1 Sam. 31:1-6

Lesson 6

KINGS AND THEIR KINGDOMS

I. THE DAVIDIC MONARCHY

NOTES:

A. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

God promised an enduring:

- house
- kingdom
- throne

B. DAVID'S REIGN

- David's sin
- David's repentance
- The consequences of David's sin
- Jerusalem: a center of government and worship
- David's altar
- David collects the material for the Temple

II. THE NATION UNDER SOLOMON

A. SOLOMON THE KING

- The coronation of Solomon
- The death of David
- Solomon seeks wisdom
- Solomon the temple builder?
- Solomon's empire

B. CORRUPTION AND COMPROMISE

- Wives
- Business
- Religion

Lesson 7

THE TEMPLE, FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES

I. THE TEMPLE

NOTES:

A. THE TEMPLE AND THE TABERNACLE

- Comparing the purposes
- Comparing the structures

B. TEMPLE FURNISHINGS

- Bronze altar
- Basins
- Lampstands
- Golden altar
- Tables

C. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

- Its history
- Its symbolism

D. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

II. FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES

A. THE SACRED FESTIVALS

- **Passover** - Ex. 12-13
- **Unleavened Bread** - 7 days preceding Passover
- **Firstfruits** - Ex 23:16
- **Pentecost (Weeks)** - Lev. 23:15-16
- **Trumpets** - Num. 29:1
- **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)** - Lev. 23:27-31
- **Tabernacles (Booths)** - This feast was celebrated in commemoration of the Israelites' dwelling in tents in the wilderness for forty years; and was kept with greater hilarity than any of the other festivals.
- **Dedication (Hanukkah)** - Cleansing of the temple following the Macabbean revolt.
- **Purim** - Esther 9:16-32 - Commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from genocide through the efforts of Esther.

III. SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS

A. ANIMAL SACRIFICES

- Sin Offering
- Guilt Offering
- Burnt Offering
- Fellowship/Peace Offering

B. BLOODLESS SACRIFICES

- Grain Offering
- Drink Offering

Lesson 8

WISDOM FOR ALL AGES

I. THE WISDOM LITERATURE

NOTES:

A. JOB

- The person
- The problem
- The conclusion

B. PROVERBS

- Date and authorship
- The personification of "wisdom"

C. ECCLESIASTES

- The person
- The problem
- The conclusion

D. SONG OF SONGS

- A story of love and devotion
- An allegory for Christ and the church

II. HEBREW POETRY

A. THE USE OF PARALLELISM

- Synonymous parallelism
- Antithetic parallelism
- Emblematic parallelism

III. THE PSALMS

A. THE FIVE BOOKS OF PSALMS

B. CATEGORIES OF PSALMS

- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- Faith
- Confession
- Complaint

Lesson 9

KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

NOTES:

A. THE KINGS OF THE NORTH (ISRAEL)

- Jeroboam
- Nadab
- Baasha
- Elah
- Zimri
- Omri
- Ahab
- Ahaziah
- Jehoram (Joram)
- Jehu
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoash
- Jeroboam II
- Zechariah
- Shallum
- Menahem
- Pekahiah
- Pekah
- Hoshea

B. THE KINGS OF THE SOUTH (JUDAH)

- Rehoboam
- Abijam
- Asa J
- Jehoshaphat ☺ - 1 Kngs. 22:41-43
- Jehoram
- Ahaziah
- Athaliah
- Joash - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 12:1-3 (was murdered)
- Amaziah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 14:1-6 (was murdered)
- Azariah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 15:1-4
- Uzziah - ☺ - 2 Chr. 26:1-4, 16-21
- Jotham - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 15:32-35
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 18:1-6 (Note vs. 4)
- Manasseh
- Amon

- Josiah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 22:1-2, 8-13; 23:1-3, 21-23, 25 (The reformation under Josiah's leadership did not change the people's hearts, it only restored the forms of worship)
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoakim
- Jehoachin
- Zedekiah

Lesson 10

THE FALL OF KINGDOMS

I. THE FALL OF ISRAEL (SAMARIA) - 722 B.C. NOTES:

B.C.

A. THE PROPHETIC WARNING

- Amos 2:1-15 - (Read 2:6-3:2)
- Hosea 1:4, 9:1-5 (Read 1:4)

B. ATTEMPTS TO FIGHT OR APPEASE ASSYRIA

C. THE DESTRUCTION OF SAMARIA

- The dispersion of the Hebrew people
- The resettlement of the land by Assyria

II. THE DEFEAT OF JUDAH - (CA. 586 B.C.)

A. THE PROPHETIC WARNING

- Jer. 3:6-11, 9:13-16, 25:1-11
- Hab. 1:5-12

B. THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

- The best and brightest go into exile
- The temple furnishings are defiled or destroyed
- The temple is destroyed

III. THE TIME OF EXILE

A. GOD'S WORD TO THE PEOPLE

- Jer. 29:4-14
- Lam. 1:1-10

B. DANIEL; A GODLY MAN IN AN UNGODLY CULTURE

- Daniel's faithfulness
- The Lord's power to minister
- The Lord's power to preserve
 - The fiery furnace
 - The den of the lions

IV. CHANGES IN HEBREW WORSHIP

A. PUBLIC WORSHIP (SYNAGOGUE)

- Antiphonal reading
- Psalm singing
- Scripture reading
- Teaching
- Blessing

B. THE LAW GIVEN NEW PROMINENCE

C. MESSIANIC HOPE WAS PROCLAIMED

Lesson 11

TIME TO RETURN AND REBUILD

I. RETURNING TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE

NOTES:

A. PROCLAMATIONS OF RETURN

- Ezra 1:1-4
- 2 Chron. 36:22
- Isa. 44:24-28
- Isa. 45:11-13

B. WORK UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ZERUBBABEL

- Restoring the altar and offering the sacrifice
- Laying the foundation
- Opposition and delay
- The dedication of Zerubbabel's temple

C. THE PROPHETIC WORD

- Zech. 4:9-10
- Haggai 1:1-14
- Haggai 2:1-9

II. REBUILDING THE CITY WALLS

A. THE DECREE OF ARTAXERXES

B. THE OPPOSITION OF SANBALLAT

- The need for prayers
- The need for swords

C. EZRA READS THE LAW

- The people confess their sins
- The people commit themselves to God

Lesson 12

GOD IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

I. THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD

NOTES:

A. THE IDENTITY OF GOD

- God is living
- God is personal
- God is Spirit

B. THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD

- God is infinite
- God is eternal
- God is unchanging

C. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

- God is holy
- God is love
- God is true

D. THE PERFECTIONS OF GOD

- God is omnipotent
- God is omniscient
- God is omnipresent

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD

A. GOD IS SOVEREIGN

- God rules the universe
- God rules the affairs of nations
- God rules the destinies of men

B. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS CREATURES

- God is the covenant maker
- God is the covenant keeper
- God is our Redeemer

C. GOD'S REQUIREMENTS

- Faith
- Faithfulness
- Fruitfulness