

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

LESSON SERIES

UNIT I – PART 1
Old Testament Orientation
The Book of Genesis

for

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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UNIT I - OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES - THE PENTATEUCH

I. ORIENTATION: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

A. Reasons why people read the Bible

- The Bible as **Literature**
- The Bible as History
- The Bible and Professional Writers
- The Bible and Education
- The Bible and Eternal Life

B. The Contents of the Old Testament

The old Testament is that collection of sacred writings which virtually since their composition have been considered by the Jews to be their scripture. The Christian Church of the first century recognized the Old Testament scriptures as their source of doctrine and ethics, and when their own literature known as the New Testament was composed, it was added to the Old Testament and both together became accepted as God's written word.

C. The Composition of the Old Testament

1. The question must inevitably arise as to the process of selection of the various books which make up the Old Testament. This is especially true in the light of the fact that there were other documents written during the historical period of the old Testament, possibly by some of the Biblical writers. How did the early Hebrews know which of these should be included in their scriptures and which should not?
2. The answer is, a **book was CANONICAL OR NOT** depending upon its adherence to certain **well-defined principles**.
 - Jewish scholars held that for a document to be scripture it must **have been written by a prophet** or an individual who at least had the prophetic gift.
 - Once a scripture was written, **it must be of benefit to every subsequent age**. not just the age in which it was written. It could only meet the immediate needs of the generation in which it was compiled, it must not be scripture - it lacked timelessness which is a **characteristic of true scripture**.
 - **INSPIRATION was perhaps the most important fact to be taken into account if it was to be included in the CANON of scripture.**

NOTE: Likewise for us in our old Testament Survey. we **MUST** believe the Bible is inspired, and that any statement it makes even with regard to its own inspiration must be believed.

Even the words of Jesus and the apostles teach us that the Old Testament is inspired; therefore, we can with confidence as Christian students accept all that is before us by *faith*. For in the final analysis, what do we believe on any other basis than that of faith? (Hebrews 11:3)

D. Inspiration Defined

- Inspiration - Greek, "God-breathed." 2 Timothy 3:16
- The influence of the Spirit of God on the mind and spirit of man; the Divine influence exerted on the writers of Scripture, by which they were instructed. 2 Peter 1:20,21

E. Method of Inspiration

- **Revelation** - communication of truth that could not be discovered by human reason.
- **Inspiration** - the process by which the revelation was recorded, and the power which enabled the men God used to write the Divine revelation without error or defect.
- **Illumination** the process of the Holy Spirit enlightening man's understanding to be able to receive revelation of God.
 - Insures perfect understanding; absolutely necessary for understanding
 - Natural man without the understanding of the Spirit does not accept the things of God. Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14
- **Revelation is reception** of truth. **Inspiration is recording** of truth. **Illumination is perception** of truth.
- **Plenary-verbal** Inspiration
 - Plenary = full, complete Verbal = by means of words
 - Divine touch makes Scriptures infallible; human touch made them understandable

F. False Theories of Inspiration

- **Natural** Theory - Bible written by human genius, superior mental abilities and insight
- **Illumination** Theory - written by men in a state of heightened religious perception
- **Mechanical** Theory - God used man as a mere machine, as a tape recorder or typewriter
- **Trance** Theory - writers caught up in a trance and wrote as they "saw"
- **Partial** Theory - part of Bible inspired, part uninspired

- **Thought Theory** - God gave man ideas and concepts, then left man to express themselves as they wished.

G. Proofs of Inspiration

- **Predictive Prophecy** - 1000's of prophecies uttered before events they predicted took place.
- **Numerical Structure** of Bible - a veritable gold-mine of amazing facts and figures: numerical beyond coincidence.
- **Unity of the Bible** - Bible possesses marvelous unity with great diversity
 - Written over a period of 1600 years by approximately 40 authors from a vast variety of backgrounds, and social states.
 - Its harmony of themes is seen throughout also the flowing harmony of the OT and NT. NT is in the OT hidden - NT is the OT revealed.
- **Miraculous preservation of Bible** - for over 3500 years in spite of attacks and opposition.
- **Influence of the Bible** - touched men, nations, cultures. Lives have been changed, histories altered.

H. Bible claims Inspiration

- **Writers** (Deut 4:2; Acts 1:16)
- **Writings** (Ex 17:14; Jer 30:2)
- **Contents** (Is 55:8-li)

I. Results of Inspiration

- **Genuineness** -it is what it claims to be
- **Credibility** - entirely truthful in what it reveals
- **Inerrant - free for error**
- **Infallibility** - means **incapable of error**, not liable to error.
- **Authority** - as we acknowledge the Bible as inspired and infallible, it becomes the supreme authority for all Christians in matters of faith and morals, and the final court of appeals for life and conscience. **If the Bible says it, I believe it and that settles it. Amen.**

J. What about the "Bible-science" Conflict?

There are those who find a conflict between science and the Bible with regards to some of the statements in the Old Testament. For example, when the scriptures speak of the "four corners of the earth" or the "rising of the sun". *Granted*, these are unscientific statements but we should not condemn the prophets for speaking unscientifically, for this way of speaking is obviously colloquialism. who would correct the weatherman and tell him he is speaking unscientifically when he says the same thing?

Let us be fair to the Bible and permit it to use the speech of the workaday world!

It is true that the Bible was not written as a science textbook, but it is equally true that it cannot be dis-proven in its scientific knowledge, far in advance of its own time. for example, Isaiah 40:22, Leviticus 17:11 and Job 26:7, to mention a few.

K. Ways to Read the Bible

- Reading the Bible by whole **books**
- Reading the **entire Bible as one unit**
- Bible reading according to a **plan**
- **Reading the Bible aloud**
- Bible reading **Marathons**
- The most satisfying Bible reading will always be personal
- Bible reading for **devotion and meditation**

L. What Version or Versions?

You may use any version you prefer.

However, I would suggest that you use either the King James or the New King James.

For your own personal Bible reading there are many good versions in modern day English. You might try different ones to help you get the meaning of difficult passages.

II. ORIENTATION: UNITS OF STUDY

To simplify the approach of the introductory student to the books of the Old Testament, this Old Testament Survey course groups the thirty-nine books chronologically according to the best opinions of their order, wherever such an arrangement works *to the advantage of the student*.

NOTE:

THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ARE TO BE READ IN JUNCTION WITH THE LESSON ON THAT PARTICULAR BOOK, IN-ORDER TO GET THE FEEL OF THE BOOK, THE BOOK NEEDS TO BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY IN ONE SITTING. THEN, AFTER HAVING READ THE ENTIRE BOOK IN ONE SITTING, GO BACK AND READ/STUDY EACH CHAPTER AND DO THE CHAPTER SUMMARY IN THE ANSWER BOOKLET FOR THAT BOOK AND CHAPTER.

UNITS OF STUDY

I. The Five Books Of Moses - The Pentateuch

- **Genesis**
- **Exodus**
- **Leviticus**

- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

II. The Books Of Conquest And Settlement Of Canaan

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth

III. The Books Of Kings And Kingdoms

- I & II Samuel
- I & II Kings
- I & II Chronicles

IV. The Prophets of Period of the Divided Kingdom

- Elijah
- Elisha

**BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS DURING THE
DECLINE AND FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, 934-721 B.C.
(PERIOD OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE, 885 TO 612 B.C.)**

- Joel
- Jonah
- Amos
- Hosea
- Isaiah
- Micah

**BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS DURING THE DECLINE
AND FALL OF JUDAH, 934-586 B.C. (THE FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE,
AND
BABYLONIAN SUPREMACY, 612 TO 538 B.C.)**

- Zephaniah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk

- **Jeremiah**

V. The Prophets in Exile

- **Ezekiel**
- **Daniel**
- **Lamentations**
- **Obadiah**

VI. The Books of The Return And Restoration

- **Ezra**
- **Esther**
- **Nehemiah**

VII. The Prophets of the Return and Restoration

- **Haggai**
- **Zechariah**
- **Malachi**

VIII. The Book of Psalms**IX. The Books of the Wise Men of Israel**

- **Job**
- **Proverbs**
- **Ecclesiastes**
- **The Song of Songs**

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch, which means five books. These books were written by Moses, and are identified in Scripture as "the Law (Deuteronomy 31:24; 31:26); "The Law of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 31:4); and "the Law of Moses" (1 Kings 2:3).

Although the Mosaic authorship has been questioned, it is affirmed:

- **By the Old Testament** (Exodus 17:14; 24:4; 34:27; Numbers 17:2; 33:2; Deuteronomy 6:9; 24:1,3; 27:3,4; 31:9,19,22,24)
- **By the New Testament**
 - **By Jesus** (Mark 7:10; 12:26; Luke 20:37; 24:27,44)

- **Others** (Acts 7:37,38; Romans 10:5,19; 1 Corinthians 9:9; Hebrews 12:21; John 1:45 Rev 15:3)
- **Conservative scholars and archaeology**

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

INTRODUCTION

The name Genesis is taken from the **Septuagint (LXX)**, which is a Greek translation made of the Old Testament in Alexandria about 285 - 247 B.C. Josephus tells us that this translation was made by 72 priests (hence its name) in 72 days. Christ and Paul quoted from this translation of the Old Testament. **It is older than any of the Hebrew texts extant today.**

Genesis is the book of **BEGINNINGS** - the beginnings of creation, man, women, Sabbath, marriage, family, work, sin, murder, sacrifice, races, languages, culture, civilization and **redemption**.

As a **BOOK OF BEGINNINGS**, it falls into **two natural divisions**,

1. The beginnings of History
2. The beginnings of the History of Israel.

A. THE BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY, CHAPTERS 1 - 11

The ancient world, before the coming of Abraham covers a minimum of 2000 years and could easily be a thousand times longer. **The time period extends to about 2150 BC.**

1. CREATION, Genesis 1:1

- **Heaven and Earth, 1:1**
"Create" (Heb. "bora" - out of nothing occurs only three times, verses 1,21,27)
- **Gap Theory** - a theory that speaks of a span of time between Genesis 1:1, the creation of the Heavens and earth, and Genesis 1:2, which literally says, "And the earth became a waste and void..." The following scriptures seem to support this theory, Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 14:1-14; Jeremiah 4:23-26; Ezekiel 28:11-17; 2 Peter 3:5-6, 13.

2. RE-CREATION - RESTORATION, Genesis 1:2 - 2:25

CREATION WAS EFFECTED -

- **by God** (Proverbs 26:10)
- **by Christ** (John 1:3,10; Col 1:16; Hebrews 1:2)
- **by the Holy Spirit** (Job 26:13; psalms 104:30)
- according to **God's purpose** (Psalms 135:6)

- for **God's pleasure** (Rev. 4:11; Proverbs 16:4)
- in **six days** - The question is frequently debated whether the days were ordinary days or not. NOTE: The Hebrew word "Yom" (day) primarily denotes an ordinary day, but the same word can have a different meaning if the context demands it. While we are free to think in terms of creation days as lengthy periods of time (examples, Psalms 50:15, Ecclesiastes 7:14, Zechariah 4:10), we must admit that the last three days of creation were evidently ordinary, 24 hour days, for they were determined by the earth's relation to the sun (Genesis 1:5, 14-19)
- **by Faith** (Hebrews 11:3) NOTE: Creation as a fact cannot really be grasped by the natural mind. Hereby we can test the type of faith we have. If we have faith in Christ, it seems to follow somehow automatically - we just understand. For even if it were possible to baffle us with arguments which atheists and scientists have, somehow we are not robbed of our experience. we just understand. A "New Creation" really doesn't need to be convinced of the validity of this creation.

3. PARALLEL REPETITION - Chapter 2:4-25

In chapter 1, the writer reveals the creative work of God, the Creator, as an accomplished fact. In chapter 2, he is giving a brief history of the world as created, with special emphasis on man as the climax of earthly creation. **Chapter 2 is not another creation account as some would think.**

4. THE FALL, Chapters 3 and 4

- **Root of Sin** - Doubting and Disobeying God
- **Hope Restored - Redemption**
Since evil did not originate within man, herein lies the hope of victory. Here in chapter 3:14,15 we have the prophecy of the Covenant of Grace and man's eventual redemption through a promised Savior and victory over the evil one. Meanwhile, man is expelled from the Garden to make his own way in the world, under the penalty of his disobedience.
- **Fruit of Sin**
"Out of the heart proceed.. murder..."

5. DESTRUCTION IMMINENT, Chapters 5 to 11

- **"My Spirit shall not always strive..."**
- Genesis 6:2-7. Some suggest that the "Sons of God" in this passage were angels, while the daughters of men were human beings. This interpretation has support from Job 1:6; 2 Peter 2:4; and Jude 6,7.
- Other side of coin, argues against above interpretation based on the description of Jesus that angels are sexless (Mark 12:25). They maintain

that the daughters of men were the descendants of Cain, while the sons of God could only have been the sons of Seth.

- With either interpretation the results was an ungodly offspring, whose evil doings were responsible for bringing on the judgment of the flood.
- **The Flood** - chapter 7
 - The deluge was the most universal and severe judgment upon the human race in Old Testament times.
 - God's grace is evident.
- **Babel - Confusion**
Man decides to build a city and a tower for the purpose of homogeneity (Genesis 11:1-4) in defiance to God's clear command (Genesis 9:1) to multiply and replenish the earth. Perhaps man's disobedience resulted from his desire to restart that one place, that Eden and God confused their language and scattered them. There can only be true oneness in the Spirit.

B. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL, CHAPTERS 12 - 50

1. THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (Faith), Chapters 12 to 25:10

Development of FAITH by seven appearances of God

- **God's Call and Promise**, 12:1-3
- **Promise Renewed**, 12:7
- **Promise Expanded**, 13:14-16
- **God reveals Himself more completely**, chapter 15
- **God makes a Covenant with Abraham**, chapter 17
 - **Abram becomes Abraham**
 - **Confirms promise of a son**
- **God reveals Coming Destruction of Sodom**, chapter 18
- **God commands Abraham to offer Isaac** - Restrains him - Reconfirms Covenant with Abraham, chapter 22

2. THE STORY OF ISAAC (Beloved Son), Chapters 24 to 26

- **Abraham sends servant for Bride for Isaac** - Rebekah returns with him - becomes Isaac's bride, chapter 24
- **Death of Abraham - birth of Esau & Jacob**, chapter 25

- **God confirms Covenant to Isaac** - Isaac misrepresents relationship with Rebekah - Isaac digs well in Gerar, chapter 26

3. THE STORY OF JACOB, Chapters 25:27 to 36

- **The patriarchal Blessing**, chapter 27
 - Isaac favors Esua
 - Blessings stolen - Immediate Consequence
- **The Dream at Bethel**, chapter 26:6-22
- **Family and wealth**, chapters 29 to 34
- **Esau and Jacob reconciled**, chapter 35

4. THE STORY OF JACOB AND JOSEPH, Chapters 37 to 50

- **Joseph's unpopularity**, chapter 37
- **Jacob's unregenerate family**, chapters 37:15 to 38
- **Joseph's unfair treatment**, chapters 39 to 40
- **Joseph's leadership unparalleled**, chapter 41
- **Joseph and His brethren**, chapters 42 to 50

END of Lesson

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