

# Overview of the Old Testament

## Why is the Old Testament Important?

1. **Hope** Romans 15:4
2. **To understand the person and work of Jesus** Luke 24:25–27

## Types of Books in the OT

**The Pentateuch:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

**The Historical books:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

**The Poetic and Wisdom writings:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

**The Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

**The Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

## What happened in the Old Testament: Key Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Major People</u>
<b>Creation</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		Adam and Eve
<b>Flood</b>		Noah
<b>Patriarchs</b>	2100 BC	Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
<b>Exodus</b>	1440 BC	Moses
<b>Conquest</b>	1406 BC	Joshua
<b>Judges</b>	1375 BC	Various
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1050 BC	Saul, David Solomon
<b>Divided Kingdom</b>	Israel: 930 BC Judah: 722 BC	
<b>Exile</b>	586 BC	Ezekiel/ Daniel
<b>Post Exile</b>	538 BC	Zerubbabel/Ezra/ Nehemiah
<b>End of OT</b>	400 BC	

## How does the Old Testament fit together: Covenants

Covenant Theology is a framework for understanding the overarching storyline of the bible, which emphasizes that God's redemptive plan and his dealings with mankind are without exception worked out in accordance with the covenants that he has sovereignly established.

### A Definition of Covenant: “A bond in blood sovereignly administered”

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7.1 states it this way:

“The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto Him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of Him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which He hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.”

## Three Distinct Covenants

### 1. The Covenant of Redemption

Scripture clearly points to the fact that the plan of redemption was included in the eternal decree of God.

Ephesians 1:3–14

1 Peter 1:1–2

**Division of labor:** The Father is the originator, the Son the executor, and the Holy Spirit the applier.

## **2. The Covenant of Works**

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7.2 states it this way:

The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.

Genesis 2:15–17, Romans 5:12

Within this covenant (as in all covenants) were the following elements:

1. Sovereignly-mandated commandments (positively, to be fruitful and exercise dominion over the earth, and negatively, not to eat of the fruit of the specified tree);
2. Promises of reward, upon the fulfillment of those commandments (eternal life and joy in fellowship with God); and
3. Threats of punishment, in the event of disobedience (death and separation from God).

## **3. The Covenant of Grace**

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7.2 states it this way:

Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the Covenant of Grace, whereby He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved; and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life His Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.

Genesis 3:15, Romans 3:20–26, Romans 5:15–17

### **Different Administrations of the Covenant of Grace:**

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7.5 states it this way:

This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel; under the law it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come, which were for that time sufficient and efficacious, through the operation of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they had full remission of sins, and eternal salvation; and is called the Old Testament.

**Covenant with Noah: A covenant of Preservation, Genesis 6-9**

**Covenant with Abraham: A covenant of Promise, Genesis 12-17**

1. He will be made into a great nation (12:2).
2. This nation will be led into the Promised Land (12:1).
3. Through him all people of the earth will be blessed (12:3).

**Covenant with Moses: a covenant of Law, Exodus 19-20**

**Covenant with David: A covenant of the Kingdom, 2 Samuel 7**

**The New Covenant: A covenant of Consummation, Jeremiah 31:31-37**

In this passage God makes several distinct promises:

1. He would give them the ability and the desire to follow Him by changing their hearts and giving them a zeal for obedience (vs 34).
2. He will be their God, and they will be His people
3. He will forgive the sins of His people (vs 34b).

This promise finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8:7-13; 9; 10:11-24), as it is through Him we receive forgiveness of our sins and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who enables us to seek after the things of God.