

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here. Welcome to Confirmation instruction here at Trinity Lutheran Church. As you watch this video, make sure you follow along in your packet and fill in the blanks as you go.

The Old Testament is a collection of books that were written before the birth of Jesus.

It can be broken down into different sections.

The first section of the Old Testament is called the Books of the Law section.

It is also known as the Torah or Pentateuch.

Torah is Hebrew for 'Law.'

And Pentateuch.

Hmm... What does that tell us about these books?

Well. Break it a part.

Penta-Teuch.

'Teuch' means vessel or tool, which, in this case, refers to a scroll on which these books were written.

But the prefix 'penta' is important here.

You've heard it before. Penta. Pentagon.

How many sides does a pentagon have?

5. The prefix 'penta' means 5.

So, put them together.

Penta-Teuch.

5 vessels or tools.

5 scrolls.

There are 5 books in the Pentateuch or Torah.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The second section of the Old Testament is the Books of History section.

It's not too difficult to figure out what's in this section. History.

Whether you like history or not, these books are very important!

They tell the story of God's plan of salvation for the people of Israel.

They teach us about God's love and forgiveness.

These books are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

There are 12 books that make up the Books of History.

The third section of the Old Testament is the Books of Poetry section.

Like the Books of History section, it's not too difficult to figure out what's in this section. Poetry.

And, also like the Books of History section, whether you like poetry or not, these books are very important.

Psalms is the hymnbook of the Old Testament.

We have our Lutheran Service Book (hymnal) in the traditional services and we have our selection of praise songs in our contemporary service.

This was their hymnbook.

These were the songs that they sang throughout the day.

The books of poetry are Job Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon).

Just like the Torah, this section has 5 books in it.

The final section of the Old Testament is the Books of Prophecy section.

Throughout this section, God speaks to His people through prophets.

All but one of these books is named after the prophet who wrote it.

Can you guess which one wasn't named after the prophet who wrote it?

The Books of Prophecy are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah.

These books are broken up into Major and Minor Prophets.

Isaiah-Daniel are the books of the major prophets.

Hosea-Malachi are the books of the minor prophets.

The terms 'major' and 'minor' don't refer to the importance of each prophet, but the length of the book.

In all, the Books of Prophecy section has 17 books in it.

So, in total, there are 39 books in the Old Testament.

If you ever forget how many books are in the Old Testament, count the letters in the words 'Old Testament.'

There are 3 letters in the word 'old' and 9 letters in the word 'testament.' 39.

These books are written mostly in Hebrew, but a few are written in Aramaic.

The New Testament is made up of 27 books which are written mostly in Greek.

There are a few spots of Aramaic mixed in the New Testament as well.

There isn't a number trick to help remember how many books are in the New Testament.

Sorry!

So then, in total, there are 66 books in the Bible.

We've talked a lot about these 'Testaments', but what does the word Testament actually mean?

Sometimes we get so used to hearing a word in a certain context that we forget that we don't know what the word actually means.

Well, a Testament is a promise, a covenant, and a contract.

From God. With His people. With you and me. God's promise to you. God's covenant with you. God's contract with you.

So, who wrote all this?

Did it just magically appear one day as a collection of 66 books?

Where did it come from?

Well, 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that All Scripture is God-Breathed.

That means that it was inspired by the Holy Spirit, but written by men.

That might be a difficult concept to understand.

Let me try and help you understand.

Imagine that you're in the car and your mom's driving.

She gets a text from your dad.

It's one that she wants to respond to right away, but can't because she's driving and it wouldn't be safe.

So she asks you to respond. "Tell dad that we're on our way home right now."

So you do.

Maybe you use those exact words, maybe you don't.

Either way, your mom inspired the text and you wrote it.

Hopefully that helps you understand this concept a little better.

Ok, so the different books of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit, but were written by men.

Did one man write all the books of the Bible?

Did he just sit down in his room one day, start writing, and not stop until he had written the whole Bible?

No. We already talked about the different prophets and how the Books of Prophecy were named after them.

So, we know who wrote those books.

A lot of books are named that way.

We'll discuss who wrote certain books as we learn more about them.

But today we are looking at Genesis and Exodus, the first two books in the Bible.

These two books were written by Moses.

Actually the whole Pentateuch (remember, Pentateuch means 5 scrolls or vessels,) was written by Moses.

So, we start with Genesis, which means 'Beginning.'

A lot takes place in the book of Genesis.

I encourage you to read through it, or at least skim some of these major events that we are going to talk about.

Since Genesis means 'Beginning', it makes sense that it would start at the very beginning.

Creation. The creation of the world, which was formed out of nothing.

The creation of light.

The creation of sky and earth, land and water.

The creation of plants and animals.

The creation of humans, who are created in God's image.

It's a perfect creation.

But, through the work of Satan in the form of a serpent, Adam and Eve are tempted in the garden.

And they sin. And this sin leads to death. Cain kills Abel.

Sin continues to grow and grow and grow until Noah and his family are the only people left on earth who follow the commands of God.

The people had become so evil that God wiped the earth clean to start over.

God used the great flood to do this.

Noah's family began to multiply and fill the earth.

At this time, they were all speaking the same language, which makes sense because they all came from the same family.

So why do we have so many different languages today?

As the people grew in number, they started thinking that they didn't need God.

To prove they didn't need God, they decided to build a building to heaven.

This was called the Tower of Babel.

When God saw this, He scattered the people and gave all of them different languages.

The rest of Genesis is a continuation of the story.

Actually the whole Bible is one big story.

But in the last half of Genesis, we get to take a close look at God's people.

The 4 people that are focused on are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

This is 4 generations of the same family.

They are known as the Patriarchs, or Fathers of the faith.

This part of the story starts with Abraham.

God makes him the Father of all nations.

The only problem with this plan is that Abraham and his wife are really old and they don't have any children.

So, how can he be the Father of all nations if he's not a father at all?

Even in his old age, God gives him a child. Isaac.

Sometime after Isaac is born, God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

Abraham listens to God, but just before Abraham kills his son, God stops him and provides a ram to sacrifice instead.

Isaac then has two sons, Jacob and Esau.

They are twins. Esau is the oldest and Jacob is the youngest.

They fight their entire life over who should get the birthright and blessing from Isaac.

Jacob actually tricks Esau into giving him the birthright and then Jacob tricks Isaac, who is old and can't see very well, into giving him the blessing.

Jacob then marries 2 wives, Rachel and Leah.

They are sisters. He works for their father for 7 years so that he can marry Rachel, but he accidentally marries Leah instead (that's a long story...).

But he loves Rachel so much that he works another 7 years to marry Rachel.

Among his two wives and their servant girls (another long story), Jacob has 12 sons, who make up the tribes of Israel.

One of those sons is Joseph.

Joseph is the youngest of the 12 sons and is Jacob's favorite.

And everyone, including Joseph knows it.

Joseph's brothers sell Joseph into slavery because they are so jealous of him!

While he's in Egypt, he finds favor in the eyes of Potiphar, an official of the Pharaoh.

Potiphar's wife finds him attractive and tries to seduce him, but he runs away.

She tells Potiphar that Joseph attacked her, so he gets thrown into jail.

Many years later, he is able to interpret one of Pharaoh's dreams, so he is released from prison and winds up becoming a high ranking official for Pharaoh.

The dream that Joseph interpreted was about a famine that was coming.

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of rationing all of Egypt's food.

When the famine hits, Joseph's family comes to Egypt in need of food.

After some time, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers, forgives them for what they did to him, and moves his entire family to Egypt to live with him.

And that's Genesis in a nut shell!

Like I said, I encourage you to pick one of these sections and read these events more in-depth.

There's way more in there than I can cover in just a few minutes.

Exodus picks up where Genesis left off.

Joseph dies in the end of Genesis and Exodus starts by noting how large the nation of Israel has become in Egypt since the death of Joseph.

This makes the new Pharaoh of Egypt nervous and he enslaves the Israelites.

Exodus means exit.

This is an appropriate title for this book because the story found in Exodus is the story of Israel's exit from Egypt.

God's plan for helping His people out of slavery is led by a man named Moses.

As we learn this plan, we learn God's name.

It is 'I AM' which, in Hebrew is YHWH or Yahweh.

Part of God's plan is the 10 plagues.

God sends these plagues so that Pharaoh will get the message to free his people.

The last plague is what we know as the First Passover.

In this plague, God "passed over" and killed each firstborn unless they had the blood of a lamb on their doorframe.

After this plague, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites free.

As they were fleeing Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them.

To aid the Israelites in escaping the Egyptians, Moses, at the bidding of God, parted the Red Sea.

All the Israelites crossed over on dry ground, but when the Egyptians tried to cross, the sea came crashing back together, killing them all.

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years looking for the Promised Land where they would settle.

During this wandering, God gives the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Soon after that, more laws follow.

These were about death, injuries, property, stealing, and daily living.

Then God commands the Israelites to build the Ark of the Covenant and a Tabernacle where they would worship God.

Throughout all of these stories, the main thing that we learn is to trust in God, because He Delivers.

That's all for today. Let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!