

ACADEMY

Survey of the Old Testament

AS TAUGHT BY

Miles Van Pelt

OT501

Bible Study

 **BiblicalTraining**

Survey of the Old Testament
Copyright © 2021 BiblicalTraining.org

Requests for information should be addressed to:
BiblicalTraining.org
20 E Airport Rd, Ste 215
Lebanon OR 97355

ISBN-13: 9798760453983

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of BiblicalTraining.org.

Printed in the United States of America

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/learn/institute/ot501-survey-of-the-old-testament>

Table of Contents

Overview	v
Your Speaker	vi
Weekly Schedule	vii
Facilitator’s Guide	vii
BiblicalTraining.org	x
1. Class Introduction	1
2. Theological Center.	7
3. Jesus is the Theological Center	14
4. Thematic Framework is the Kingdom of God.	20
5. Order of the Books in the Old Testament.	29
6. Order of the Books in the English vs. Hebrew Bible	33
7. Covenantal Structure of the Christian Bible.	38
8. Pentateuch: Authorship and Date	46
9. Genesis: Covenants and Creation	51
10. Creation: Day 6 and the Fall	58
11. Noah, Abraham, and Abraham’s Descendants	63
12. Exodus.	70
13. Leviticus	77
14. Numbers	83
15. Deuteronomy.	88
16. Former Prophets	93
17. Joshua.	99
18. Judges.	108
19. Samuel.	117

20. Kings 125

21. Latter Prophets 132

22. Isaiah 137

23. Jeremiah 145

24. Ezekiel 151

25. The Twelve 158

26. Introduction to the Writings. 165

27. Psalms 167

28. Job 174

29. Proverbs 183

30. Ruth 189

31. Song of Songs 196

32. Ecclesiastes 204

33. Lamentations 211

34. Esther 217

35. Daniel 223

36. Ezra-Nehemiah 230

37. Chronicles 238

Overview

Title: Survey of the Old Testament

Program: Academy

Speaker: Dr. Miles Van Pelt

GOALS

1. To understand the basic structure, themes and people in the Old Testament
2. To understand how the Old Testament ties together and points to Christ
3. To learn how to apply theology to life in gracious and God-honoring ways

REQUIREMENTS

1. 37 sessions
2. 21 hours

PREREQUISITES

None

FORMAT

Video and Audio

Your Speaker

Miles V. Van Pelt, Ph.D. is the Alan Hayes Belcher, Jr. Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, Director of the Summer Institute for Biblical Languages, and Academic Dean for the Jackson and Brazil campuses. Miles has strong commitment to and passion for teaching students the Bible in its original languages and has published extensively in the area of Hebrew and Aramaic language instruction, as well as biblical theology. Miles teaches Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Hebrew Exegesis, Joshua-Esther, and courses on the books of Judges and The Song of Songs at the Reformed Theological Seminary.

EDUCATION

PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

BA, Azusa Pacific University

We are pleased that you have chosen to use materials from BiblicalTraining.org. We trust that you will find them to be of the highest quality and truly helpful in your own spiritual growth and that of your church. Please read through the following guidelines; they will help you make the best use of this guide.

Weekly schedule

Listen or watch the lesson. The lesson for each chapter is designed to be listened to outside of your meeting. Each lesson lasts for an hour. This is a crucial step. If the meeting time with your fellow students is going to be productive and encouraging, everyone in the group needs to have listened to and wrestled with the lesson.

Take notes. This guide has the outline for each lesson with a summary of the teaching for each major point. If you are unable to take notes while listening to the lesson, please work through the guide at some point before your meeting.

Questions. Each chapter closes with a series of questions. Some of the questions are data based, confirming that you understand the information. Other questions are more reflective, helping you move beyond the important accumulation of knowledge to challenging you to think through what you are learning about God, yourself and others, and finally to application. Our encouragement is to think through your answers before your meeting and then use the meeting to share your thoughts and interact with others.

Meeting. Meet together with your group.

MEETING TOGETHER

While some people may have to study on their own, we strongly recommend finding a group with which you can study.

A group provides encouragement to finish the class.

Interacting with others, their understanding and insight, is the most effective way to sharpen your own thoughts and beliefs.

Just as you will need the help of others from time to time, so also they will need your help.

Facilitator's Guide

If you are facilitating the group or mentoring an individual, here are some suggestions that should help you.

Your role is to facilitate. This is not an opportunity for you to teach. In fact, the less visible role you take, the better. Your role is to listen and bring out the best in the other people.

Preparation. Be sure to have done your homework thoroughly. Have listened to the lesson and think carefully through the questions. Have an answer for each question that will get the conversation going. A great question is, "What is the Lord teaching you this week?"

Creativity. What works to help one person understand may not help another. So listen to the conversation and pray that the Lord help you bring out the greatest interaction among all the people.

Correct error. This is difficult. If someone says something that isn't right, you don't want to come down on them, telling them they are wrong and shutting down their participation. On the other hand, if you let an obvious error pass, the rest of the group may think you agree and what was said was correct. So look for gracious ways to suggest that perhaps the person's comment was incorrect.

Focus. Stay focused on Jesus and the Bible, not on church or religious traditions.

Lead the discussion. People don't want to listen to a sharing of common ignorance. Lead by asking questions that will prompt others to think.

Silence. Don't be afraid of silence. It may mean nothing more than people are thinking. But if the conversation lags, then ask thought-provoking questions to get the discussion started, and then step out of the way.

Discipleship. Be acutely aware of how you can mentor the people in the group. Meet with them for coffee. Share some life with them. Jesus' Great Commission is to teach people to obey, and the only way this happens is in relationship.

Different Perspectives. People process information and express themselves in different ways based on their background, previous experience, culture, religion and other factors. Encourage an atmosphere that allows people to share honestly and respectfully.

Privacy. All discussions are private, not to be shared outside the group unless otherwise specified.

Goal. The goal of this study is not just increased knowledge; it is transformation. Don't be content with people getting the "right" answers. The Pharisees got the "right" answer, and many of them never made it to heaven (Matt 5:20).

Relationships. Share everyone's name, email and phone number so people can communicate during the week and follow up on prayer requests. You may want to set up a way to share throughout the week using Slack or Teams.

Finish well. Encourage the people to make the necessary commitment to do the work, think reflectively over the questions, and complete the class.

Prayer. Begin and end every meeting with prayer. Please don't do the quick "one-prayer-covers-all" approach. Manage the time so all of you can pray over what you have learned and with what you have been challenged. Pray regularly for each individual in the meeting.

BiblicalTraining.org

BiblicalTraining.org is not-for-profit ministry that gives all people access to a world-class Christian education at no cost. Our classes range from new believers to biblical literacy (“Foundations”), deeper Bible study (“Academy”), and seminary-level training (“Institute”).

We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit and rely solely on the donations of our users. All donations are tax deductible according to the current US tax codes.

DISTINCTIVES

World class. Our professors are among the best academics in the world and know how to teach.

Holistic. We want to see students move through content to deep reflection and application.

Accessible. BiblicalTraining is a web-based ministry whose content is free.

Community-based. We encourage people to learn together, in mentor/apprentice relationships.

Broadly evangelical. Our materials are broadly evangelical, governed by our Statement of Faith.

Partners. We provide the content and delivery mechanisms, and our partner organizations provide the community and mentoring. When there are no partners, we hope to provide a virtual community and real-life mentors.

1

Class Introduction

I. NATURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A Story Told Twice

II. FIVE PART THESIS

A. The Bible is a God-breathed book

2 Timothy 3:16-17

B. Both living and life giving

Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:23-25

C. Its human authors were guided by the Spirit of Christ

1 Peter 1:10-11

D. It has a theological center, unified thematic framework and a covenantal structure

Acts 28:23

E. This book is a Christian book. It was written for Christians

Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11

III. THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN FOR US, NOT ABOUT US

Where's Waldo

2

Theological Center

I. MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

What is the Bible about and how is that message communicated?

II. THE CHALLENGE IS THE DIVERSITY IN THE BIBLE

Diversity in languages, authorship and content

III. UNITY IN AUTHORSHIP

Thus says Yahweh

IV. OTHER ATTEMPTS AT IDENTIFYING A THEOLOGICAL CENTER

A. Old Testament

Themes

B. New Testament

Themes

C. Lack of consensus

Diversity

V. MILLION DOLLAR ANSWER

Acts 28: 23, 30-31

VI. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS IS THE THEOLOGICAL CENTER

A. Other opinions

Different perspectives about the theological center

B. The word counting game

Proper nouns in the Old testament and New Testament

4. What is the three-word phrase that Jesus is recorded as using 76 times in the New Testament when he is teaching? Why would a Jewish audience recognize this as Jesus claiming to be God in the flesh?

5. What are some ideas people have proposed as being a theological center for the Old Testament and for the Bible as a whole? Choose one and give a few reasons why it would be a valid consideration?

6. What does Miles say is the theological center of the Old Testament and the whole Bible? What are the phrases in Acts 28:23, 30-31 that describe Paul's ministry? Why does this also show that Jesus is the theological center of the Old Testament and the Bible? How do you think this will affect the way you understand the meaning of passages in the Old Testament?

3

Biblical Testimony that Jesus is the Theological Center

I. CLAIMS OF JESUS

A. Disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:25-40

B. John 5:36-40

The Scriptures testify about me [Jesus]

C. John 5:45-47

Moses wrote about Jesus

II. APOSTLE PAUL

The Gospel promised beforehand

III. OTHER APOSTLES

Peter and John

IV. HOMILETICAL IMPACT

Christ is the focus of the Bible's storyline

V. A CHRISTOCENTRIC APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

The cross of Christ, Christ in you, the hope of glory

3. In John 5: 45-47, who does Jesus say writes about him? What are some examples that Miles gives?

4. How does Paul describe the Old Testament in Romans 1:1-3? What are the three prepositional phrases in that Miles says are key to understanding how Paul views the Old Testament? What is the meaning and significance of each phrase?

5. What does Paul say in 2 Corinthians 1:20 about how many of the Old Testament promises Christ fulfilled? What are some examples of these promises? Why does this give you confidence that both the Old Testament and New Testament are inspired by God? How does this make a difference in your motivation to read and understand the Bible and also to apply to your life?

4

Thematic Framework is the Kingdom of God

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Over-arching theme for the whole Bible

Not topics exist outside of this theme

B. Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

In reference to the Old Testament and his ministry

C. Comments by authors

John Bright, Walther Eichrodt

D. Kingdom and Covenant

1. Summary of the covenants

Administration of the Kingdom of God

2. Covenant of Redemption

Agreement between the members of the Trinity

3. Covenant of Works

Original agreement between God and Adam

4. Covenant of grace

God's redemptive judgment after the fall

II. ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE

A. Noahic Covenant 1.0

Redemptive covenant

B. Noahic Covenant 2.0

Common grace

C. Abrahamic Covenant

Programmatic

D. Mosaic Covenant

Parallels to Adam, blessing and long life in the land

E. Davidic Covenant

Eschatological kingship through the line of David

F. New Covenant

Parallels to the Mosaic covenant

12. What are the characteristics of the Mosaic covenant? What part of the Bible is it found in? What are the two signs of this covenant? How do they work together? Since there is an principle of works involved, why does that make it complicated? What are the parallels of the Mosaic covenant to the covenant with Adam? Is it possible to gain eternal life by fulfilling the Mosaic covenant? Why or why not?

13. What are the characteristics of the Davidic covenant? What did the Davidic covenant establish?

14. What are the documents of the New covenant? How are the signs of the New covenant parallel to signs of the Mosaic covenant in the Old Testament? How is the principle of works part of each of the covenants?

5

Order of the Books in the Old Testament

I. THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

A. Acts 28:23

Covenantal structure of the Bible

B. Arrangement of the Books of the Bible

Difference between Hebrew Bible and English Bible

II. ORDER CONFIRMED IN OTHER SOURCES

A. Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)

Before Jesus

B. Babylonian Talmud

After Jesus

QUESTIONS

1. Give some examples that demonstrates that an essential part of God's character is to form things from chaos to cosmos. Give some practical examples of how you do that in your daily life. Give an example of how God is doing that in your personal life.

5. What are the differences in the order of the books for the Hebrew Bible and English Bible? How does Jesus confirm this in Luke 11:49-51?

6. What are two extra-biblical writings that Miles refers to that confirm the order of books in the Hebrew Bible and what do they say about them?

6

Order of the Books in the English Bible vs. Hebrew Bible

I. ORGANIZING STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

A. Genre

History, poetry and prophecy

B. Chronology

Historical sequence

1. Authorship

Books with a common author

2. Origin of this structure

Jerome's Vulgate

II. ORGANIZING STRUCTURE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

A. Example of the book of Ruth

Connection with Proverbs

B. Order of the Writings

Covenant life

C. Song of Songs

Picture of a good marriage

III. GENERAL EDITOR OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Collecting and ordering

IV. ORDER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Connected to the Old Testament

QUESTIONS

1. What criteria was used to arrange the order of the books in the English Old Testament? Why was Jerome instrumental in popularizing this order? What three reasons does Miles give for NOT using this arrangement?

5. What connection does Miles make between Proverbs 31 and Genesis 2? In what ways is the book of Ruth a practical example? How is the message of Song of Songs similar to the message of Proverbs 31 and the book of Ruth?

6. What did the, "Canonicler" do? Who was it? Does it make a difference in determining the inspiration of the Old Testament to know who this was? Why or why not?

7

Covenantal Structure of the Christian Bible

I. THREE DIVISIONS

Law, Prophets and Writings

II. GENESIS AND REVELATION

Chiasm and inclusio

III. EXODUS TO DEUTERONOMY

A. Birth and death of the covenant mediators

Moses and Jesus

B. Parallels between Moses and Jesus

Life and ministry

C. Genesis is part of the Law but distinct

Connected by poetic intrusion

IV. PROPHETS: THE HISTORY OF THE COVENANT AND THE INTERPRETATION

Covenant recorders and covenant lawyers

V. THE BOOK OF ACTS

History of the early church

VI. WRITINGS

How to think and live in the covenant

VII. CANONICAL SEAMS

Indicated by literary devices

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Unity of the Bible

QUESTIONS

1. What books are the introduction and conclusion to the Bible? What is a chiasm? What is an inclusio? What are the parallel themes in these books and how can they be illustrated as a chiasm and an inclusio?

1. What are the covenant books of the Old Testament? What are the covenant books of the New Testament? How is the Old Testament and New Testament content similar?
2. What are the parallels between Moses and Jesus? Why is this significant?
3. What is, "poetic intrusion?" What are some examples? What examples of poetic intrusion indicate that Genesis is part of the Law and yet distinct from Exodus to Deuteronomy?

10. What are three literary devices that indicate a canonical seam? What are the similarities in the genealogies in Chronicles and Matthew? How are the endings of Genesis and Chronicles similar?
11. How are the ending verses of Deuteronomy and Malachi connected to the experience of Jesus and the disciples on the mount of transfiguration? How was this a confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah?

12. What is the similarity between Joshua 1:8 and Psalms chapter 1?

13. What practical illustration does Miles use to explain the importance of understanding the context of each section, book and passage of the Bible?

8

Pentateuch Authorship and Date

I. TWO SECTIONS

Genesis then Exodus through Deuteronomy

II. DEBATE ABOUT AUTHORSHIP

A. Moses

Traditional view

B. Documentary hypothesis

Four different authors

C. Evidence for Mosaic authorship

1. Old Testament

Verses commanding Moses to write in a book,
other OT authors

2. New Testament

Other biblical authors

III. DATE

A. Traditional date

1446 BC

B. Late date

1250 BC

QUESTIONS

1. What does that documentary hypothesis claim for the authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament and the date it was written?

2. What were the criteria that Welhausen used in the Documentary hypothesis to distinguish between the four sources? What did he name each of the four sources? How did he describe the uniqueness of each one?

3. How many of the sources in the documentary hypothesis have been discovered? Why is it inconsistent to apply modern western literary conventions to ancient middle eastern documents?

4. What is the Old Testament evidence for Moses being the author of the first five books? What is the evidence in the New Testament for Moses being the author of the first five books? Who does Miles think is the source and the author of the Law? Why is this important?

5. Why does estimating the date that the first five books were written depend on who that author was? What events can be considered in this discussion and when did they happen?

6. What is the value of studying theories like the documentary hypothesis? What is one of the downsides in isolating the individual pieces? How does Miles compare this to the metaphor of a car?

9

Genesis: Covenants and Creation

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant prologue

Protological and eschatological

B. Most covenantal book in the Bible

Beginning of the covenants

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Option 1

Pre-patriarchal and patriarchal

B. Option 2

Joseph narratives as a separate section

C. Toledoth outline

These are the generations

III. GENESIS 1

A. Two kingdoms

Visible and invisible

B. Creation of the visible world

Theological order

C. Sequence and length of creation days

Formation and filling the void

D. Sixth and seventh days

Importance of these days

E. Length of the days

Heavenly days

QUESTIONS

1. What is the English translation of the Hebrew title of this book? Why does Miles describe it as the, "most covenantal book in the Bible?"

2. What is the example that Miles gives to illustrate that the book of Genesis is eschatological? How is this fulfilled in the Old Testament and New Testament and also point to a future fulfillment in the last days? What aspects of God's character does this demonstrate? How does this make a difference in the way you relate to him and live your life each day?

3. What does God create in the first verse of Genesis? How is this related to Colossians 1: 16? How does this make a difference in the way you pray and live?

4. What is unique about each day of creation? According to the chart, which days are linked and what is the link between them?

5. What is the “dominion language” that is used throughout the process of creation? How is it applied to each kingdom?

10

Creation: Day 6 and the Fall

I. GENESIS CHAPTER 2

A. Verse 4

Looking back to the sixth day

B. Crisis of shrubbery

Moisture and humans

C. Creation of woman

Covenant of marriage

II. GENESIS CHAPTER 3

A. The Fall

Adam and Eve are tempted and sin

B. God comes in judgment

The wind of the storm

C. Consequences of sin

God addresses the serpent, Eve and Adam

11

Noah, Abraham, and Abraham's Descendants

I. LAMECH'S PROPHECY

A. Prophetic covenant mediator

Second Adam and type of Christ

B. Sons of God and daughters of man

3 explanations

II. NOAH AND THE FLOOD

A. The flood

What the eschaton will look like

B. Redemptive covenant with Noah

God will preserve a remnant

C. Common Grace

Terms and signs

III. TABLE OF NATIONS AND TOWER OF BABEL

Scattering and different languages

IV. ABRAHAM

A. The Promise

Genesis 12:1-3

B. The covenant

Genesis 15

C. The sign

Genesis 17

D. The cost

Binding of Isaac

V. HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS

Abraham's descendants

VI. JOSEPH NARRATIVE

Theme of the book of Genesis and the Bible

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does Noah function as a prophetic covenant mediator?
2. What are the three basic views that explain the sons of God and the daughters of man?

12

Exodus

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Name

First Hebrew word

B. Moses

Birth and life of the covenant mediator

C. Purpose

Deliverance from Egypt. Theme of divine presence

D. Genre

Mostly narrative

II. STRUCTURE

A. Yahweh as Israel's warrior king

Birth and call of Moses, Ten plagues and the Exodus event

B. Yahweh as Israel's covenant king

Testing in the wilderness and covenant at Mt. Sinai

C. Yahweh enthroned as God in the tabernacle

Instructions and display of God's presence

III. THE BOOK OF EXODUS AS THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

A. Jesus is the true and better Moses

Moses was a servant, Jesus is the son

B. Jesus is the true and better Israel

Jesus passed the test

C. Jesus is the true and better tabernacle

Jesus becomes the tabernacle

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main biblical theme in the book of Exodus? How is this a contrast from Genesis 3? How is this theme continued throughout the Bible? Why is this important in your relationship to God and how you live each day?

2. What is the theme of the first 15 chapters in Exodus? What events illustrate this theme? In what situation in your life do these events give you hope and confidence in God's power and love for you?

6. How does that call of Moses typify the ministry of Moses?

7. Why is God's name a promise of his immanence not a statement about his transcendence? What are some examples from the Pentateuch? In what way is Jesus the ultimate expression of this? What does this mean about your relationship to him and how you will live your life today?

8. At the Masseh-Meribah even in Exodus 17, how were the people impugning the nature of God's name? What does Miles mean about the imagery in this passage that, "the Lord was struck so his people could live?" How is Jesus an example of this metaphor?

9. In Exodus 34:6-7, what does God say his name means in application?

10. What is the difference between the imagery of the, "rock of salvation" and the, "rock of refuge?" How is Jesus the fulfillment of both of these?

13

Leviticus

I. INTRODUCTION

Levites and the Law

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Sacrificial system

1. Burnt offering

Atonement for sin

2. Grain offering

Gift

3. Peace offering

Fellowship

4. Sin offering

Purification

5. Guilt offering

Reparation

B. Institution of the priesthood

Sons of Aaron

C. Laws of impurity

Clean and unclean

D. Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur

E. Love your neighbor

Your own people and the stranger

III. LEVITICUS AS THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Jesus is true and better

QUESTIONS

1. Why does Miles describe the book of Leviticus as having, "narrative focus?" How is this different from Genesis and Exodus?
2. What are the five types of offerings in the sacrificial system? How would you describe each one? What are the two purposes that all of them have in common?

3. What family were the priests from? Who were Nadab and Abihu? Why were they consumed with fire? How is this consistent with God's character?

4. How often is the Day of Atonement observed? What is the high priest allowed to do? What is the purpose of this observance? What does this teach you about what it takes to come into God's presence and live in relationship with him? How do Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 mean when it says that the sacrificial system of the Mosaic covenant is a shadow of this to come? How does fulfill this system by becoming the perfect sacrifice?

14

Numbers

I. INTRODUCTION

Geography, purpose and genre

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Preparing for the journey from Sinai

Separation of Levites and a census

B. Sinai to Kadesh

God's provision, rebellion of the people, wandering, Meribah

C. Kadesh to Moab

Aaron dies, bronze serpent

D. Preparing to enter the Promised Land

Joshua, Transjordan, cities of refuge

III. NUMBERS CHAPTERS 13-14

Time in the wilderness was a period of testing

IV. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Wilderness testing and Pentecost

QUESTIONS

1. What is the two-fold purpose of the book of Numbers? What is an example of each one? What is a recent example of each one that you can think of from your life?
2. What was the sin of the people of Israel at Meribah? What was the sin of Moses at Meribah? What does it mean that God is holy as it relates to the people of Israel?
3. Since there was no land allotment for Levi or for Joseph, why are there still land allotments for twelve tribes of Israel?

15

Deuteronomy

I. INTRODUCTION

Name, Geography, Purpose

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Covenant mediator

Moses

B. Historical Prologue

Yahweh is faithful

C. Stipulations

10 commandments

D. Sanctions

Blessings and curses

E. Dynastic Disposition

Joshua succeeds Moses

III. PROBLEM OF THE LAW

Obedience requires a circumcised heart

3. What is the theme of the prologue? What are some examples that are used in the prologue to make this point?
4. What is different about the account of the ten commandments in Deuteronomy from the account of the ten commandments in Exodus. Give one example for each commandment.
5. What is the problem with the Law? When and how does Moses say that the problem will be solved? How does the crucifixion of Christ solve this problem?

6. What does the Decalogue reveal? What does John Calvin describe as the three uses of the Law? Describe and give an example for each of them.

7. In what way does Deuteronomy help you understand that Jesus did that we can't do for ourselves? How is Jesus a prophet like Moses only better? How does Deuteronomy give us a picture of what our ultimate salvation will be like?

16

Former Prophets

I. CONTENT

Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings

II. OUTLINED IN DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS 29-31

A. Theological and historical blueprint

Sinai covenant and occupation of the land

B. Mosaic covenant

Stage 1 fulfillment of Abrahamic covenant

C. Mosaic covenant did not give the power to obey

Contrast to the New Covenant

D. Mosaic covenant never promised eternal life

Prosperity and long life in the land

E. Israel's disobedience and exile is "Plan A"

Mosaic covenant intended to be temporary

F. Inheritance can be lost through disobedience

Mosaic covenant can be broken

G. Mosaic covenant is temporary

Internal confirmation

H. Typological significance

Adam's exile

III. SUMMARY

Themes

3. What are the five stages of Israel's occupation of the land of Canaan? In what way is Israel's occupation of the land a stage 1 fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant? About how long after God made his covenant with Abraham did this take place? How does this give you confidence that God will fulfill his promises in the future?

4. What did the Mosaic covenant lack that the New Covenant provides? What did the Mosaic covenant promise if the people would obey it? What is the promise of the New Covenant? How should living under the New Covenant be different than living under the Mosaic Covenant?

5. In what ways is the experiences of the people of Israel in the Promised Land similar to Adam's experiences in the garden of Eden? What chapters at the end of Deuteronomy predict that this will happen? When Yahweh restores his people, what will he do that will give them the ability to keep the Law? How has Jesus done that for us?

17

Joshua

I. THE PERSON

A. His name

Meaning

B. Successor to Moses

Second Moses figure

II. THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

A. Connected to Deuteronomy

Death accounts of Moses

B. History and geography

Inheritance of the tribes

C. Purpose

The land

D. Genre

Narrative

E. Date and Authorship

Writers and editors

III. OUTLINE

A. Entering the land - crossing over

Jericho and circumcision

B. Occupying the land - take

Conquest

C. Allocation of the land - divide

Allotments for each tribe

D. Keeping the land - worship

Renew the covenant

IV. HOLY WAR

A. Meaning of the Hebrew word

Devote to total destruction

B. Preserve the purity of Israel's worship

Worship practices of the surrounding nations

C. Judgment on the Canaanites

Prophesied to Abraham

D. Suspension of common grace

Intrusion of the ethics of the eschaton

V. COVENANT OBEDIENCE

Renewal of the covenant

VI. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

QUESTIONS

1. What did Joshua do before he became the leader of the nation of Israel? Who changed his name? What was the difference in meaning after it was changed? Why was he allowed to enter the promised land?

2. What were some examples in Joshua's life where he acted like a "2nd Moses" figure? What were some examples in the life of Jesus where Jesus acted like a "2nd Moses" figure? How does this consistent and overarching theme give you confidence in God's plan and the trustworthiness of the Bible?

3. Whose death account appears in the last chapter of Deuteronomy and the first chapter of Joshua that links the two books? What is the crisis that this indicates?

4. What is the purpose of the book of Joshua? Why is Israel's possession of the land so important?

5. What were the similarities between God's call of Moses and God's call of Joshua? What was unique about each call that was symbolic and prophetic about what they did as leaders?

6. What did Achan do that was against God's instruction? (Joshua chapter 7) What happened to him and his family as a result? What parallels do you see with the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Act chapter 5?

9. In what way is the occupation of the promised land by the nation of Israel a fulfillment of the promises to the Patriarchs? How long did it take between the promise and the fulfillment? How does this help you to have faith that God will fulfill his promises to you and to the world in the future?

10. How is the Promised Land a type of the garden of Eden? How does this point to the ultimate fulfillment in the new heaven and new earth? How is the new heaven and new earth even better than the garden of Eden and the promised land?

18

Judges

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The judges

Delivered God's judgment

B. Contents

Outline

C. Historical context

While Israel is in the land, before the Assyrian captivity

D. Purpose

Describe Israel's unfaithfulness

E. Genre

Events and speeches

II. WHAT AND WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

A. Modern consensus

Negative assessment

B. Internal assessment

Positive assessment

C. External assessment

New Testament and other sources

III. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Main sections

Introduction, judges, conclusion

B. Characteristics of the judges

Qualities in each judge

C. Major judges

Othniel to Samson

IV. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Cloud of witnesses

QUESTIONS

1. What was the job of the judges? How did they function differently than judges in today's court system?

2. What is the content of the book of Judges? Why is the number of Judges significant?

9. What is significant about the account of the judge Othniel?
10. How many parts are there to most of the judge narratives? What are they?
11. What are the three qualities of a judge? How is that consistent with the life and ministry of Jesus?

12. In what ways were Deborah and Barak's deliverance from Israel similar to God's deliverance of Israel from the Red Sea?
13. In what ways was Gideon's calling and actions as a judge similar to what Moses did?
14. Why does Miles say that Jephthah's vow is not rash and that he didn't kill his daughter?

15. What person in the New Testament has their birth narrative patterned after Samson? What are the similarities in their births and what they did in their lives? In what ways are Samson's actions honorable and consistent with what the Spirit is directing him to do?
16. How many birth narratives are there in the Bible? Whose births do they describe? What do they have in common? Why is Jesus the climax of these birth narratives?
17. What are some examples from the lives of the judges that show that they are witnesses of what is to come?

19

Samuel

I. INTRODUCTION

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Samuel and Kings outline

Kingship chiasm

B. Two poems

Bookends

C. Two metaphors

Rock and horn

D. Eschatological typology

David, Solomon and Jesus

III. LIFE OF DAVID

Anointed and serves as king

IV. THEOLOGY OF KINGSHIP

A. Part of the patriarchal covenant with Abraham

Nations and blessing

B. Provisions in the Mosaic covenant

Qualifications, restrictions and duties

C. Kingship in Judges

When the judge died, the people rebelled

D. Israel asks for a king

Rejection of Yahweh

E. Saul as Israel's first king

Anointed and confirmed

F. Saul's rejection

Disobedience

G. David anointed as king

Yahweh acts according to his will

H. Davidic covenant

Royal grant

I. Solomon

Started well, ended badly

QUESTIONS

1. In Judges, when it says, “In those days there was no king in Israel; every person did what was right in their own eyes,” why is this not a reference to the fact that there was not a monarchy in place at the time? How is this confirmed in 1 Samuel 8:4-8?

2. What are the two poems that “bookend” the book of Samuel? Why are they appropriate for introducing and concluding the content of the book?

3. What are the two primary metaphors that Hannah uses in her song? What is the significance of each one? Why is it significant that David uses the same metaphors in his poem?
4. In David and Solomon, the man of war precedes the man of peace? How is this typologically related to the first and second coming of Jesus?
5. What are the promises that God makes to the patriarchs regarding kingship in Genesis 17 and Genesis 49?

6. What promises does God make about kingship in Israel in Balaam’s oracle in Numbers 24:7?

7. What qualifications, restrictions and duties that God makes for kingship in Deuteronomy 17:14-20? What were God’s purposes in each of the restrictions and duties that he set up as guidelines for kings of Israel? How could you apply these biblical principles in your life today?

8. What lesson can you learn about kingship from the book of Judges? What is the only way to get true continuity in leadership?

9. In what ways did the request of the people of Israel for a king in 1 Samuel 8 indicate that they were rejecting Yahweh?

10. What were two major tragedies in David's reign and how did God turn them into something good? What has God done in your life to redeem a tragedy by making something out of it that is a blessing?

11. What caused Solomon's heart to turn away from the Lord? What refrain in 1 Kings 11 from the book of Judges describes this? Is there an area in your life where you are not living by faith? What does God want you to do about it?

20

Kings

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Content summary

History of the kings of Israel and Judah after David

B. Purpose

Three basic purposes

C. Date and authorship

Anonymous

D. Outline and contents

From Solomon to the exile

II. SPECIFIC TEXTS

A. Life of Solomon

Contrast of the first 20 years and the second 20 years

B. Jeroboam

King of the northern 10 tribes

C. Kings of the divided kingdom

Northern (Israel) all are bad, Southern (Judah) some are good

D. Elijah and Elisha

Prophets

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Jesus as the true and better king and temple

QUESTIONS

1. After David dies, which king's reign does the book of Kings begin with? What event is the high point of Israel's monarchy? What is the low point of Israel's monarchy? At the low point, what ends in Israel for all time?

2. What is the first purpose of Kings? How is it partially fulfilled in Solomon? How is it ultimately fulfilled in Jesus?

3. What is the second purpose of the book of Kings? Why is this important in understanding God's character and how he is faithful to keep his covenant? How does this give you assurance that God will be faithful in his relationship to you, even when circumstances are difficult?

4. What is the third purpose of the book of Kings? In what ways is Solomon a type of the first Adam?

5. What did Solomon do in the first 20 years of his reign that demonstrated his wisdom? What celebration culminated the first 20 years of Solomon's reign? Why was this the high point for the nation of Israel?

6. What was the purpose of Yahweh appearing to Solomon at the beginning of the second 20 years of his reign? What does Solomon do to violate each of the three restrictions that God had set up for kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-20? What happens as a result? What is something in your life that the Lord is speaking to you about? How are you responding?

7. Before he became king of the northern 10 tribes, what did God offer Jeroboam in I Kings 11:38? What did Jeroboam do in response to God's offer?

11. As the people of Israel lived in exile, what was their ultimate hope? How did God communicate this to Daniel? As you live through the experiences of your life, why do you have hope because of what Jesus did? How does that give you encouragement to live your life each day as you wait?

12. How did Solomon's life and the temple he built point forward to Jesus as the ultimate seed of David and the true and better temple?

21

Latter Prophets

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and context

II. CALL OF A PROPHET

A. OT call narratives

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Amos

B. NT Call Narrative

Saul

III. TYPES OF PROPHECY

A. Oracular

Spoken

B. Sign act

Symbolic

IV. COVENANT LAWSUIT

A. Broken Lawsuit

Deuteronomy 32

B. Implications

God is both just and merciful

QUESTIONS

1. In the Hebrew Bible, what are the books of the Latter Prophets? What is their purpose?

2. When did the Latter Prophets live? What had God done by this time to fulfill his promises? What were the people in Israel doing during this time that demonstrated their unfaithfulness?

3. What are six elements of the call of a prophet? How did Moses experience each of these? How did they apply to the call of Isaiah?

4. Of the OT call narratives from Isaiah 6, Jeremiah 1:4-19, Ezekiel 1:1-3:11 and Amos 7;10-17, choose 1 and explain which of the 6 elements of the divine prophetic call and commission are included.

5. What is an oracular prophecy? What words are often used to introduce an oracular prophecy? What are some types of oracular prophecies that are used?

6. What is the definition of a sign act? What are the two components to that the form of a sign act usually takes? Give two examples of a sign act and the message the prophet was communicating with it.

7. What are the elements of a covenant lawsuit? From either Isaiah 1:2-17 or Micah 6:1-16, write out the reference and the text of the verses that match each element of the covenant lawsuit.
8. Instead of ending with a call for repentance, what is Yahweh's message in Deuteronomy 32:26-43? Why is this referred to as a "broken lawsuit?" How does this affect the message of the other Latter Prophets?

22

Isaiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Quoted in the New Testament

"Fifth gospel"

B. Family life

Wife and children

C. Date and Authorship

740-700 BC by Isaiah

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Literary divisions

Three sections

B. Content division

Seven sections

III. THE CALL OF ISAIAH

A. Other uses of Isaiah 6 in the OT

Jeremiah and Ezekiel

B. Other uses in the New Testament

Gospels and letters

IV. MAJOR THEMES IN ISAIAH

A. God is the Holy One of Israel

God's commitment in spite of Israel's lack of commitment

B. God as savior and redeemer

God keeps his promises

C. The remnant

A seed for the future

D. Servant of the Lord

Ultimately the Messiah

E. Yahweh's kingship

Future kingdom of Israel

23

Jeremiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Second Moses figure

Similarities in life and ministry

B. Purpose of the book

Explanation of the exile and hope for restoration

C. Date and authorship

Jeremiah and Baruch

II. STRUCTURE

Chiasm

III. MAJOR THEMES

A. Prosecutor of the Mosaic Covenant

Covenant curse

B. Herald of the New Covenant

Restoration

C. Book of Consolation

New Covenant

D. Oracles in chapters 32 and 33

Everlasting covenant

E. Repentance and redemption

Call for repentance and message of hope

24

Ezekiel

I. INTRODUCTION

Prophetic message is clear

II. DATE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Priest in Babylon

III. OUTLINE

A. Theological arrangement

Oracles and signs

B. Three Visions

Judgment and reversal

IV. MAJOR THEMES

A. Glory of Yahweh

Theophany, departure, return

B. You will know that I am Yahweh

Covenant language

C. Creation, de-creation and re-creation

Pattern throughout the OT

D. Newness

Restoration

E. Crazy apocalyptic visions

Other-worldly visions and experiences

QUESTIONS

1. What made Israel distinct from all the other nations in the world?

2. What is the key theme?

3. In what city does Ezekiel's ministry begin? Why is he there?
4. What other name is Ezekiel called by in the book?
5. What are the four major sections in the book of Ezekiel? How does this follow the pattern in Deuteronomy 32?

11. What are some events in the Old Testament that illustrate the theme of creation, de-creation and new creation? How does this apply to the nation of Israel in Ezekiel's time?
12. What is apocalyptic literature? What are three purposes of apocalyptic literature? Choose one of Ezekiel's apocalyptic visions and explain how it would have fulfilled those purposes for the people in his time and also for you today?

25

The Twelve

I. HOSEA

Marriage

II. JOEL

Day of the Lord

III. AMOS

Northern kingdom

IV. OBADIAH

Edom

V. JONAH

Nineveh's repentance

VI. MICAH

Justice, mercy, humility

VII. NAHUM

Nineveh's judgment

VIII. HABAKKUK

Babylon

IX. ZEPHANIAH

Judgment and hope for Jerusalem

X. HAGGAI

Post-exilic restoration

XI. ZECHARIAH

Restoration of the temple

XII. MALACHI

Calls Israel to return to Yahweh

QUESTIONS

1. Why are the minor prophets known as the Book of the Twelve in the Hebrew Bible?

26

Introduction to the Writings

I. INTRODUCTION

Content and style

II. FIRST SIX BOOKS

Life in the land

III. SECOND SIX BOOKS

Life in exile

QUESTIONS

1. In a couple sentences for each book, summarize how they teach you how to think and live in light of the covenant.
2. What is the theme of the first six books? What is the theme of the second group of six books?
3. What does Miles mean when he talks about the principle of, “exposition and illustration?” Give an example from the Hebrew order of the first six books of the Writings that illustrates this principle.

27

Psalms

I. INTRODUCTION

Authorship and function

II. STUDYING THE PSALMS

A. Form-critical approach

Types

B. Cult-functional approach

Events

C. Canonical approach

The psalms are arranged to have meaning as a whole

III. TEN TYPES OF PSALMS

A. Overview

Description of each one

B. Lament

Crisis of God's presence

C. Thanksgiving

Recounting saving acts of God

9. What is the acronym used for understanding the lament psalms? What does each letter in the acronym stand for? Choose a lament psalm and write out each of the elements. How can you apply this to a situation in your life today?

10. What is the acronym used for understanding the thanksgiving psalms? What does each letter in the acronym stand for? Choose a thanksgiving psalm and write out each of the elements. How can you apply this to a situation in your life today?

28

Job

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Content

Narrative at the beginning and end, poetry in the middle

B. Historical context

Patriarchal era

C. Genre

Wisdom literature

II. MESSAGE

Sovereignty of God

III. MAIN CHARACTERS

Job, his friends, Elihu, Job's wife, God and the accuser

IV. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Prologue

The reason for Job's suffering

B. Job's lament

Job wishes he hadn't been born

C. Speeches of the friends

True statements but misapplied

D. Themes from Job's speeches

Suffering and hope

E. Wisdom poem

Where can wisdom be found?

F. Elihu speeches

Younger than the friends

G. God's speeches and Job's response

God is Lord of the moral order

H. Epilogue

Job restored

V. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Unjust suffering

10. Why is Elihu upset with Job and Job's friends?
11. What is God's question to Job in Job 40:1? What is Job's response? If you read Job chapters 38 and 39, and then God asked you the question in 40:1, what would you say?
12. What question does God ask Job in 40:8? What is the purpose of God's second speech in 40:6-41:34? How does Job respond?

29

Proverbs

I. INTRODUCTION

Practical wisdom

II. STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

A. Introduction

Wisdom as a relationship

B. Fifteen “my son” wisdom poems

Teaching a child

C. Proverbs chapters 10-31

Concise sayings

D. Proverbs are not promises

Best path to a desired end

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the author of Proverbs? Where did he get the wisdom and understanding necessary to write the book of Proverbs?
2. In your own words, describe the purpose of Proverbs as it is stated in 1:2-6.
3. What is the first principle of wisdom? What does this phrase mean? What does Miles mean when he says that, "wisdom and folly are presented in a theological concept and characterized as being found in relationship?"

30

Ruth

I. INTRODUCTION

II. BACKGROUND ISSUES

A. Genre

Wisdom narrative

B. Moabites

Relatives and enemies

C. Kinsman redeemer

Levirate marriage

D. Gleaning

Provision for the needy

III. THE PLOT OF THE STORY

A. Chapter 1

Naomi and sons leave but she returns with Ruth

B. Chapter 2

Ruth gleans and meets Boaz

C. Chapter 3

Boaz redeems Ruth

D. Chapter 4

Boaz and Ruth are married

QUESTIONS

1. Why does Ruth follow Proverbs in the Hebrew Bible order? What are the possible English translations of the Hebrew words, "esheth chayil" (לִיָּהּ—אִשָּׁה)?

10. In chapter 3 what is Ruth asking when she requests that Boaz, "spread your wings over your servant?" How does Boaz respond?
11. Why must Boaz go to the elders of the city before he marries Ruth? What genealogy is Ruth included in since she is married to Boaz? How does this point forward to Jesus and the gospel? Who do you know that God has unexpectedly redeemed from unexpected circumstances?

31

Song of Songs

I. IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

A. Definition of marriage

One flesh, instituted by God

B. Cultural mandate

Image of God

C. Hint of our eternal home

Heaven on earth

D. Always a covenantal act

Making, renewal or breaking

E. Powerful witness

Faith on display

II. SONG OF SONGS

A. Title

The best song ever

B. Authorship

Probably Solomon

C. Genre

Poetic wisdom song

III. INTERPRETING THE SONG OF SONGS

A. Allegory

God and Israel or the Church

B. Natural

Songs for different occasions

C. Shepherd interpretation

The woman's true love

D. Message of the Song of Songs

Rock solid, white hot

E. How could Solomon write a book like this?

Wisdom

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is marriage established in Genesis 2 a pointer and type of the marriage in Revelation 21 and 22 and what we will experience in our eternal home?

32

Ecclesiastes

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Author

Solomon

B. Basic message

Fear God

C. Approach

Skeptical

D. Theme

Vanity

E. Perspective

Observation

F. Main question

Profit

G. Mode of instruction

Experience

H. Other types of uses

Psalm 73

II. OUTLINE

A. Prologue

Cycles of life

B. Wisdom experiment

Frustration in labor

C. Conclusion

Life under the sun is meaningless

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

QUESTIONS

1. Which verses in chapter 1 indicate that Solomon was the author of Ecclesiastes? Why?

2. What is the basic message of Ecclesiastes? What is the approach used to communicate the message?

33

Lamentations

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Name

Funeral songs

B. Structure

Five poems

II. CONTENT

A. Chapter 1

Shame and mourning

B. Chapter 2

The Lord is the primary agent of wrath

C. Chapter 3

The lament of the afflicted man and his community

D. Chapter 4

The besieged city

E. Chapter 5

Final communal lament

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

The hope of a new Jerusalem

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the reasons that Jeremiah may have written Lamentations?

2. What is an acrostic? Where do you find acrostics in Lamentations? What is the point to this structure in Lamentations?

5. In what ways does the poem in chapter 4 describe the conditions for people living in a city that is besieged? What caused this to happen? In what area of your life is there sin that you need to confess and repent of?

6. What are the passages in chapter 5 that focus on hope? In what is their hope?

34

Esther

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Structure

Plot of the story

B. Canonicity

Uniqueness

C. Historical Context

Persian empire

II. THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

A. God's providence

God protects his people

B. God's hiddenness

Behind the scenes

C. Life of faith in exile

Faithfulness

III. FESTIVAL OF PURIM

The only feast established outside of the Pentateuch

QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the books of Esther and Daniel? In what ways do they share a story?
2. Why do some people have doubts about Esther being included in the canon?
3. In what ways does the book of Esther provide a historical context that is unique to other books of the Bible?

6. What is the theme of how you should live the life of faith in exile? What is the key verse in Esther that is an example of this? In what way is God calling you to live a life of faith that requires risk? How are you living your life differently as a result?

7. What does the festival of Purim commemorate? How and when did it begin? How is it celebrated?

8. How is the theme of the “seed” central in the book of Esther and in the life and ministry of Jesus?

9. How is the theme of “perishing” central in the book of Esther and in the life and ministry of Jesus?

35

Daniel

I. INTRODUCTION

A. English Bible order

After major prophets

B. Hebrew Bible order

Writings

II. STRUCTURE

A. Content and style

Two sections

B. Two languages

Hebrew and Aramaic

III. DANIEL ELSEWHERE IN THE BIBLE

A. New Testament eschatology

Visions and Son of Man

B. Explicit references

Righteous

IV. CONTENT

A. Chapters 1-6

Biographical

B. Chapters 7-12

Visions

QUESTIONS

1. How is the content of the book of Daniel different than the writing prophets?

36

Ezra-Nehemiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General information

One book

B. Position in the canon

Historical section in the English Bible, Writings in the Hebrew Bible

C. Authorship

Possibly Ezra

D. Dates of major events

Exiles return

II. STRUCTURE

Parallels

III. LANGUAGE

Aramaic section

IV. HISTORICAL PERSON

A. Priest and scribe

Lineage and training

B. Ezra's reforms

Marriage

V. NEHEMIAH

A. Historical person

Commission from the king

B. Reform 1

Debt and land

C. Reform 2

Covenant commitment renewed

D. Reform 3

Purification from contamination

VI. REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference in the order of Ezra-Nehemiah in the English Bible and Hebrew Bible? What are the reasons for the difference?

37

Chronicles

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Position in the canon

Last in the Hebrew canon, history section in English Bible

B. Author and date

Anonymous

II. CONTENTS

A. Adam to King Saul

Beginning to the present

B. God chooses David

Kingdom and worship

C. Solomon succeeds David

Temple

D. Kings of Judah from Rehoboam to Zedekiah

Kings and exile

