



Reading Through the Old Testament

Mark 12:1-12

The Bible is a story of Israel's creation and call.

¹ And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country.

Text Message:

o Here Jesus retells Israel's story to Jewish leadership (See Mark 11:27).

- o Israel as God's "vineyard" was well-known (Isaiah 5:1-7).
- o Both this parable and Isaiah 5 end with Israel's destruction.
- o The tenants represent Israel's leadership (Lev. 25:23, NRSV).
- o "Going into another country" was language of Israel's exile.

Books of the Bible- The Torah (First five books)

Genesis 1-11: Prologue to Israel's story.

Genesis 12: God promises Abraham a nation, to be a blessing to all, and land.

Genesis 13-50: Progress of and threats to God's promises.

Exodus-Deuteronomy: God prepares Israel in the desert for the Promised Land with a covenant agreement listing results for obedience/disobedience.

Books of the Bible- Historical books (First three below)

Joshua: Israel possesses the Promised Land.

Judges: Israel fails to obey her desert preparation and repeatedly rejects God in the Promised Land.

Ruth: In antithesis to Israelite unfaithfulness in Judges, a foreign woman demonstrates faithfulness to God and foreshadows the promise through

Abraham to bless all the nations of the world.

The Bible is a story of Israel's rejection of her divine calling, God, and those He sent to her.

² When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed.

Text Message:

Here is a bird's-eye view of Israel's rejection of God by those sent, resulting in exile for all of Israel (2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

Books of the Bible- rest of the Old Testament (31 books)

Historical books continued:

1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings: Israel rejects God as king and sets up a king to be like the nations. Earliest kings are Saul, David, and Solomon who rule over a united kingdom. The kingdom is then divided into two, the Northern kingdom of Israel and the

Southern Kingdom of Judah. Except for a few good kings, the kings serve the idols of the nations. The "handwriting is on the wall" for both kingdoms to be exiled from their homeland.

1-2 Chronicles: Historical explanation that leads up to the exile.

Ezra: Post-exilic book of the rebuilding of the temple destroyed in 586 BC. **Nehemiah:** Post-exilic book of the rebuilding of the destroyed city walls.

Esther: Post-exilic book of how God's people were spared while in exile.

Wisdom literature:

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon: Books of wisdom for how Israel is to worship and live before her God.

Major Prophets (5):

Referred to as "major prophets" due to their length, they are in mind in Jesus' words above as those who warned Israel and Judah to return to her God. Many also contained words of hope for restoration from exile.

Isaiah, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Minor Prophets (12):

Referred to as such not because of importance, but the short length of their writings. Like the Major Prophets above, these also spoke to Israel and/or Judah (and sometimes other nations) in both words

of warning and hope of restoration to God.

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

- o The Old Testament closes as a story without an ending; a “to be continued” story that longs for God to act and bring the story to completion.
- o Enter Jesus into the world as the completion of Israel’s story and hope for the world...