

THE OLD TESTAMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

A. The Bible is 66 different books.

B. The Bible is divided in two major sections: The Old Testament and The New Testament.

C. The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by more than 40 different authors.

D. The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.

Acts 17:10-11 As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:25-27 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- Bible book introductions can be found at www.biblica.com or www.blueletterbible.com.

II. THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. The Pentateuch (Law or Torah)

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 12:1-3 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

- **The Old Testament teaches about God’s covenantal love for His People.**

Leviticus 26:45 But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the Lord.”

B. The History Books

Joshua 1:1-3 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

- **In seasons of TRANSITION, God’s people are to PREPARE themselves for future BLESSING.**

2 Chronicles 36:15-16 The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

- **The history of the Old Testament saints instructs us and encourages us in the race of life.**

C. The Wisdom Books

Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”

Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- **The Wisdom Books provide personal, vulnerable, and practical wisdom for every season of life.**

D. The Major Prophets

Jeremiah 29:10-14 This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- **The Prophetic Books point us to Jesus Christ, as does the whole Old Testament.**

E. The Minor Prophets

Hosea 11:1-4 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

- **God loves His people as a perfect father.**
- **Old Testament saints read the scriptures in anticipation of the first coming of the Messiah.**

- Today, we read the scriptures in anticipation of the second coming of the Messiah - Jesus.

III. CONCLUSION

A. Begin reading where you are.

B. Act on what you do understand.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.