

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT Contents

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Scripture quotations are from The New International Readers' Version (NIRV)

Introduction to the Old Testament

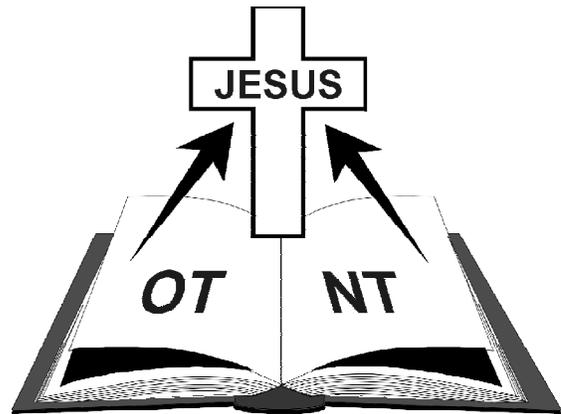
Unit 1 Old Testament Overview Lesson 1

The Bible says: "You [God] are my place of safety. You are like a shield that keeps me safe. I have put my hope in Your Word." (*Psalms 119:114 NIRV*)

The BIBLE has two parts – **Old Testament** and **New Testament**.
The OLD TESTAMENT is the story of a NATION – Israel (God's people).
The NEW TESTAMENT is the story of a MAN – Jesus (God's Son).
The Nation was started and expanded so that it could bring the Man (the Messiah) into the world.

The Bible centers around that Man and was written chiefly so that we can know, understand, believe and follow Him. Christ is the heart (center) of the Bible and of History.

The Old Testament and its prophecies point ahead to Christ Jesus; the New Testament points back to Christ, telling us that the Promised Messiah (Savior) has come and finished His work of saving us.



Who Wrote the Old Testament?

The Old Testament has 39 books that were written by several different people over a long period of time — thousands of years! But in those many books, written by many people, over many years, we find one important message: God wants to have loving fellowship with people. Our sin has broken that fellowship. So God prepared a way to bring us back to Himself.

Many of the authors of the Old Testament identified themselves by name — King David, King Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and many more. Often they gave us information that tells us where they lived and when they wrote. Many other Old Testament writers are anonymous; they didn't tell us their names.

It is important to remember that the Bible is God's Word. The Bible is not just the thoughts or words of the men who wrote the books. The Bible is "inspired" by God. That means God gave the exact words to the men who wrote it. Only the Bible is God's word – no other book in the world is God's Word. The Bible is not the story of man's efforts to find God; it is God revealing Himself and His Will (*wish*) to people on earth.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 1

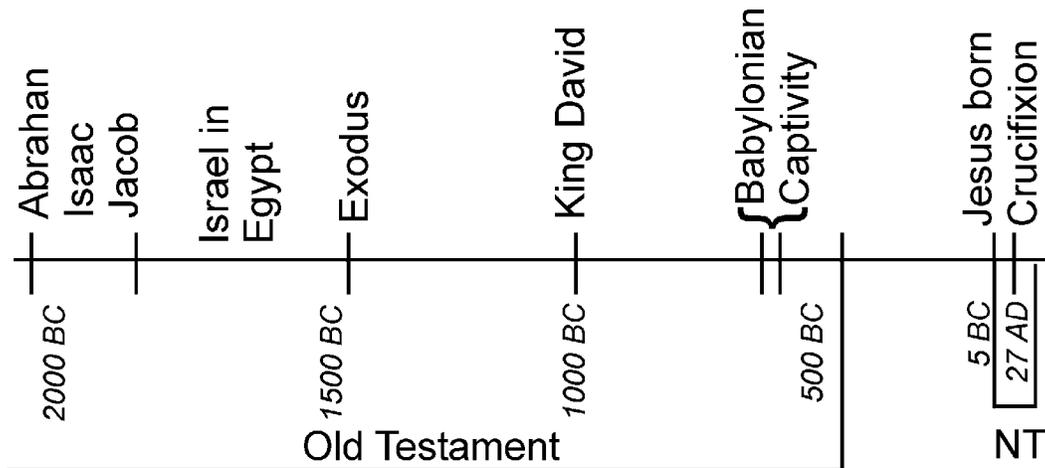
Old Testament Timeline

Normally we when we count time by years, the numbers go up — 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, etc. But we count Old Testament time *backwards*. OT year numbers go down — 1002, 1001, 1000, 999, 998, etc.

Old Testament time is **BC** — "**Before Christ.**"

New Testament time is **AD** — "**Anno Domini**" ("*The Year of Our Lord.*")

This is a simple time line of important people and events in Bible history:



Notice that there is about a 400 year gap of time between the end of the Old Testament and the start of the New Testament.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament during Israel's Exodus from Egypt — about 1200 BC. The first book, Genesis, reports 2500 years of history before Moses' time — God creating the world, Adam and Eve, the Flood, Abraham, etc.

How can we know the dates of events in the Bible?

It is hard to identify exact years and dates in the Bible. However, Bible writers gave us many important clues.

- (1) Historians often can figure out the approximate years of important world events from archeological discoveries (digging up old stone and clay documents). When the Bible talks about those same events, this helps us identify dates in the Bible.
- (2) When the Bible has a genealogy (family tree), it often tells us the age of a father when his son is born. All we need to do is add the number of years in each generation.
- (3) The Bible tells us how many years (or months) each king of Israel reigned, and which year in each king's reign that important events happened.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 1

How is the Old Testament organized?

The Old Testament's 39 books are grouped into three sections:

<u>HISTORY</u>	<u>POETRY</u>	<u>PROPHECY</u>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><i>Genesis</i> <i>Exodus</i> <i>Leviticus</i> <i>Numbers</i> <i>Deuteronomy</i></div>	Job	Isaiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jeremiah
Judges	Proverbs	Lamentations
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles</div>	Song of Solomon	Daniel
Ezra		Hosea
Nehemiah		Joel
Esther		Amos
		Obadiah
		Jonah
		Micah
		Nahum
		Habakkuk
		Zephaniah
		Haggai
		Zechariah
		Malachi

In this course we will not be able to study each of these 39 books in detail. Our focus here is the "Big Picture" of the Old Testament.

Lesson 1 Questions

1. The Old Testament is the story about what? _____
2. The New Testament is the story about whom? _____
3. Why did God start the nation of Israel? _____

4. What is the heart and center of the Bible? _____
5. The Bible is "inspired" by God. What does that mean? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 1

6. What is the main difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament:

The Old Testament points _____ to Christ.

The New Testament points _____ to Christ.

7. Years "BC" mean what? _____

8. What is the English meaning of "Anno Domini"? _____

9. BC years count ___ forward ___ backward

10. AD years count ___ forward ___ backward

11. Old Testament years are ___ BC ___ AD

12. New Testament years are ___ BC ___ AD

13. How do Bible historians figure out the dates of events in the Bible?

14. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____

15. The books of the Old Testament are in what three groups?

16. Who wrote the first five books of the Bible? _____

17. How many history books in the Old Testament focus on the kings of Israel? _____

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

18. Why is it important for Christians to study the Old Testament?

Introduction to the Old Testament

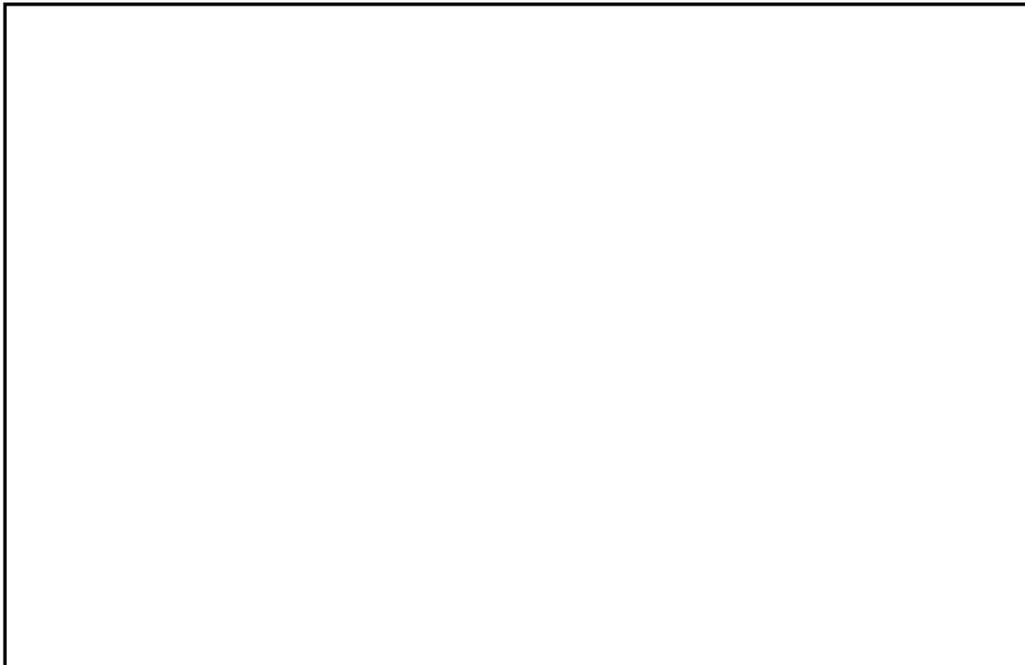
Lesson 2
Old Testament Geography

The Lord said to Abram [Abraham], "Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family. Go to the land I will show you." (*Genesis 12:1 NIRV*)

An important part of God's Word is HISTORY — His story about His relationship with people. This story happened with real people in real places. Where were those places? If we want to understand history, we must know geography. We must be able to name countries and cities on a map of the Middle East.

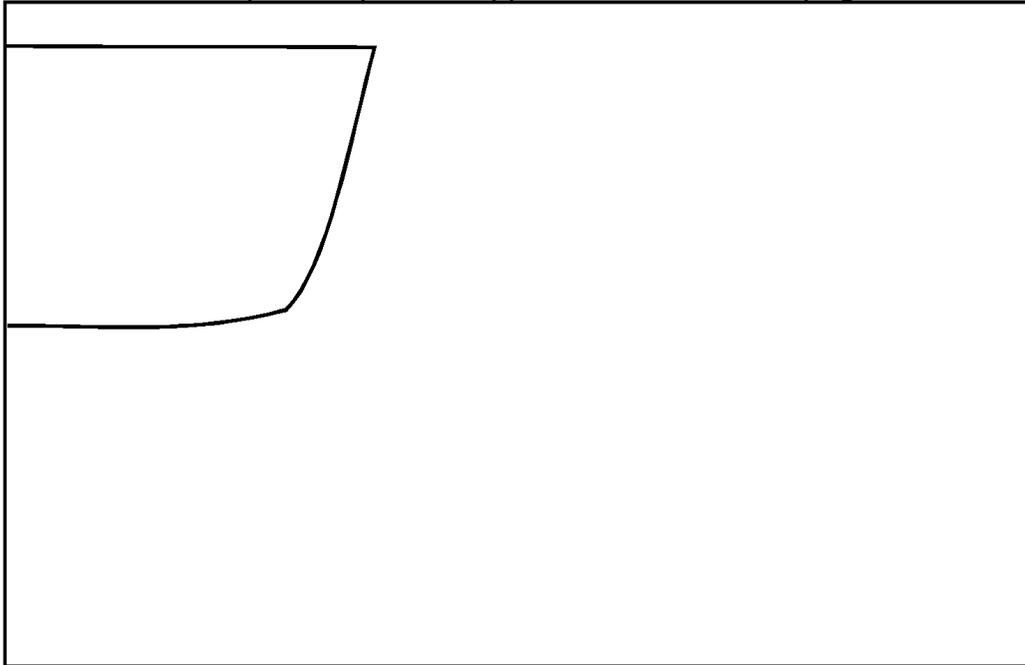
The best way to learn the geography of the Bible is to learn to draw a basic map of the Middle East. It is not hard to do.

Begin with a regular sheet of paper, turned sideways like this:



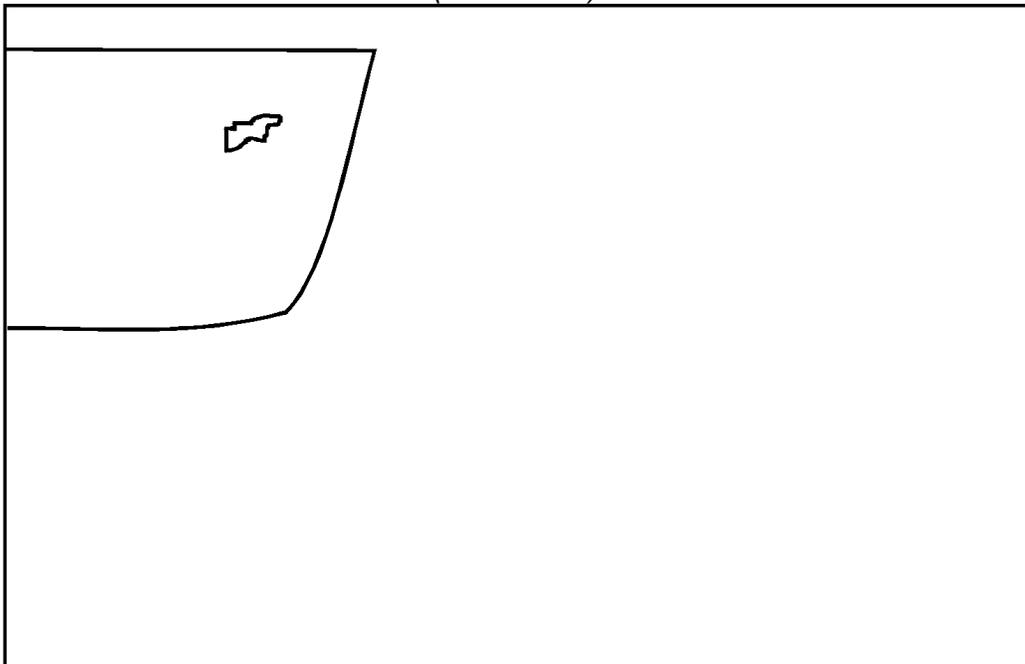
Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

Now draw a half-bowl of pea soup in the upper left corner of the page



That is the **Mediterranean Sea**.

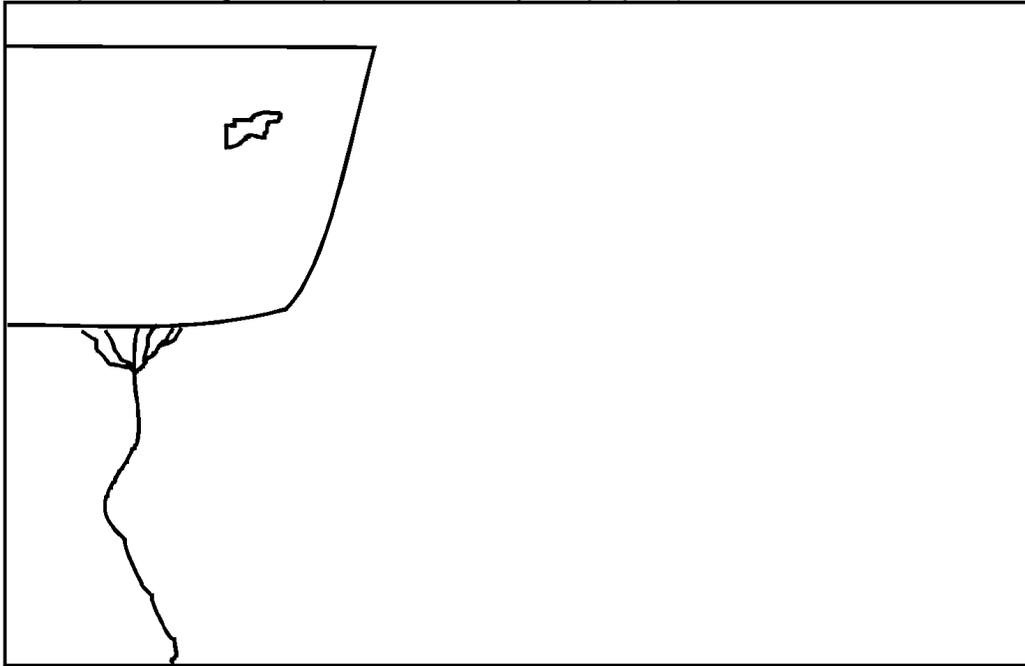
Oh, no! Our old bowl has a hole in it. *(Draw that.)*



That is the island named **Cyprus**.

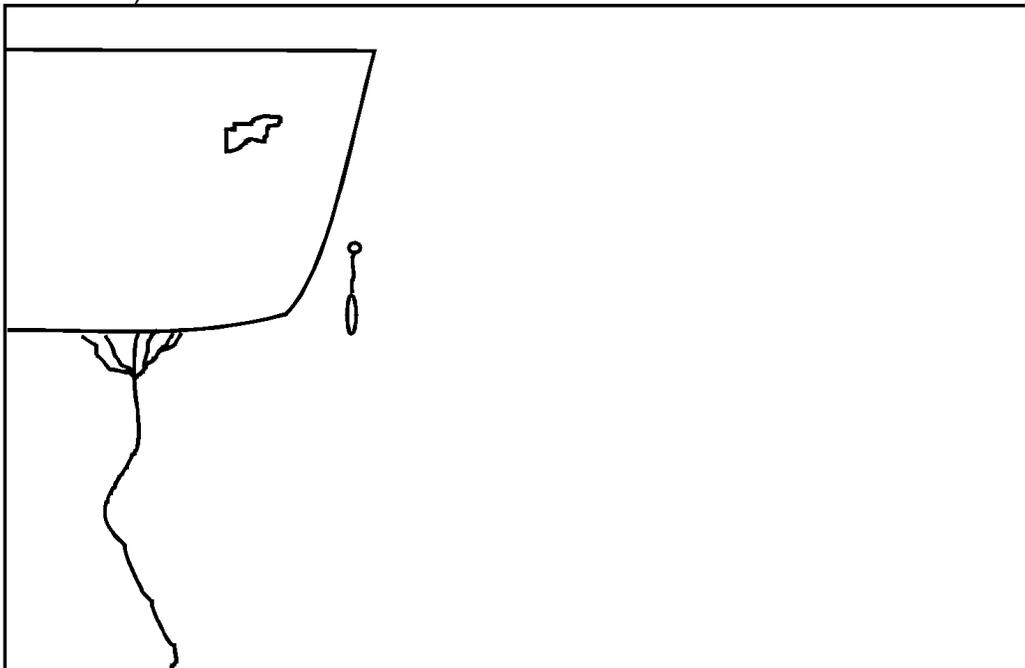
Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

Now our soup is leaking out. (Draw that on your paper.)



That is the **Nile River**.

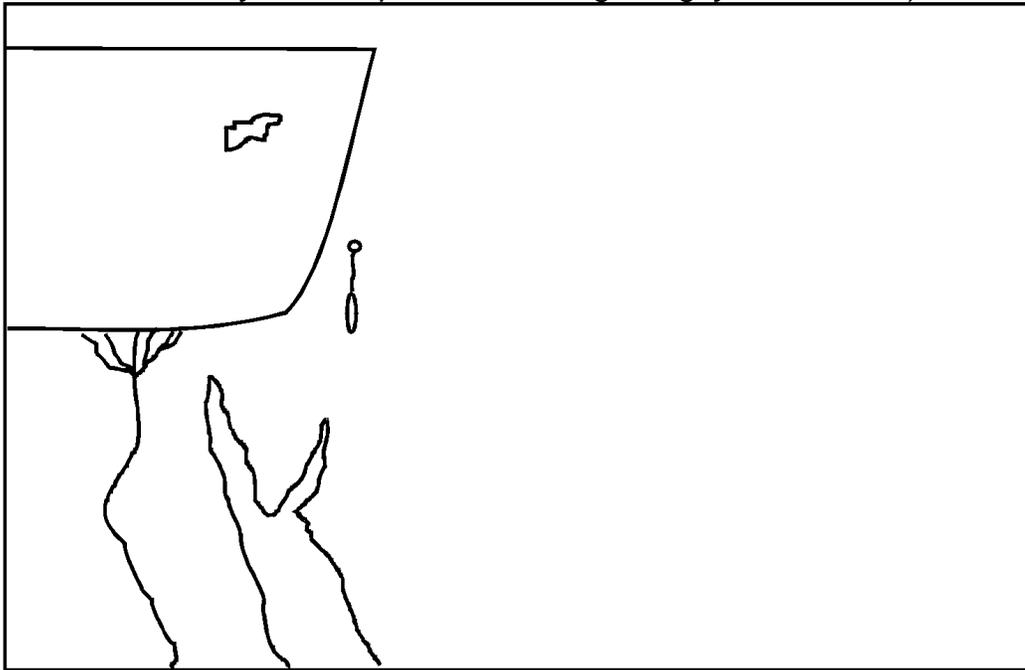
And a pea from our soup spilled out. And it looks like the pea is still attached to the pod. (Draw that.)



That little circle at the top is the **Sea of Galilee**.
The oval at the bottom is the **Dead Sea**.
And the line between them is the **Jordan River**.

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

Crocodiles live in the Nile River, and Crocodiles *love* to eat pea soup. (This one is little harder to draw. You may need to practice drawing this guy a few times.)



That is the **Red Sea** and **Sinai Peninsula**.

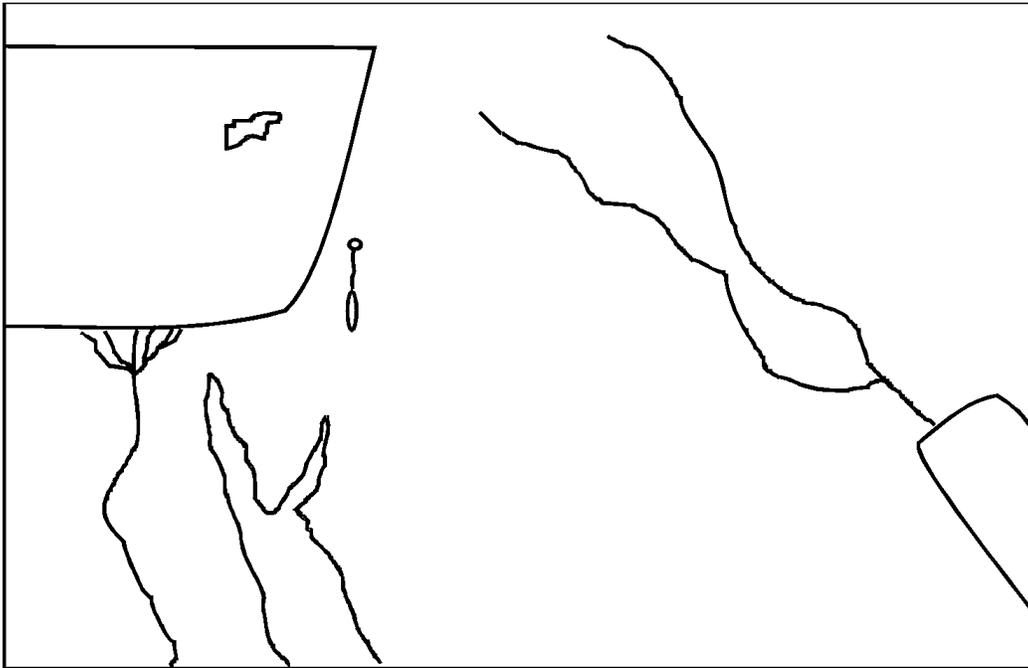
We have a high-tech kitchen. A computer mouse!



That is the **Persian Gulf** and **Tigris River**.

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

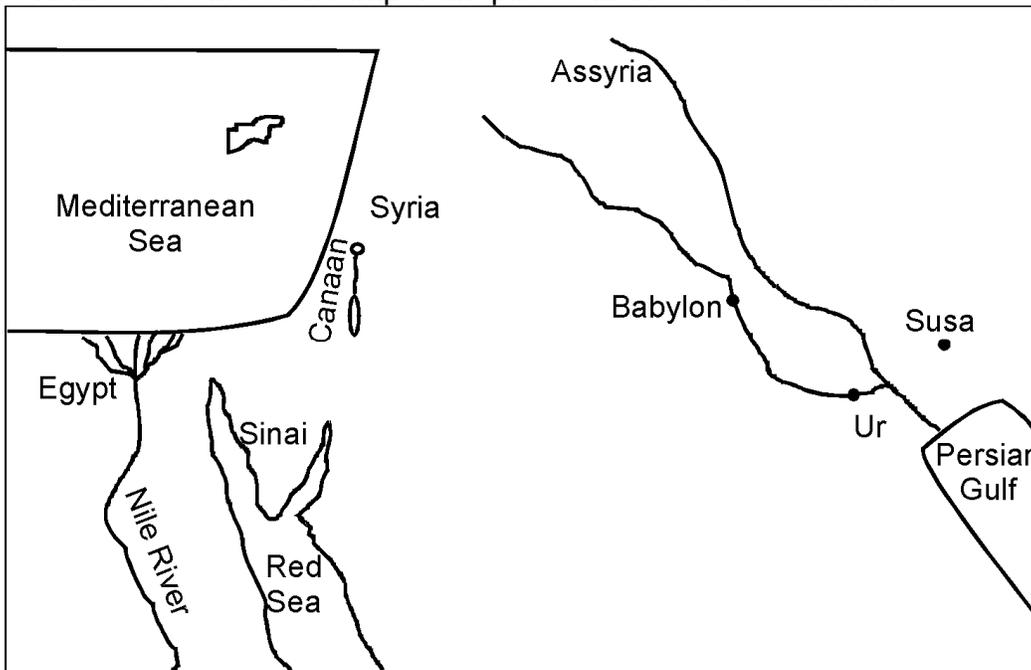
But our mouse has *two tails*.



That is the **Euphrates River**.

This is the map where *everything* happens in the Old Testament.

Here are names of some of the important places in the Old Testament:

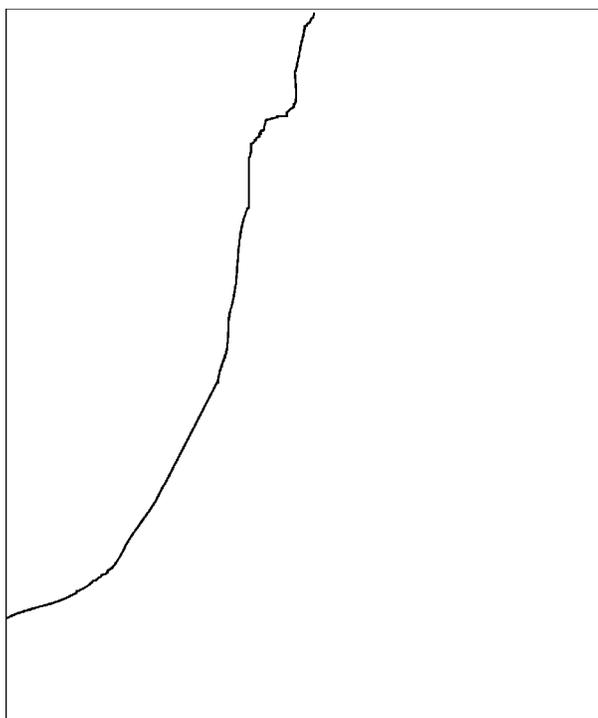


Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

The Old Testament story begins in the east. The Euphrates River flowed through the Garden of Eden. The Tower of Babel may have been near Babylon. Abraham was from the city of Ur. Then God led Abraham to Canaan. God promised to give that land to Abraham's descendants through Isaac his son.

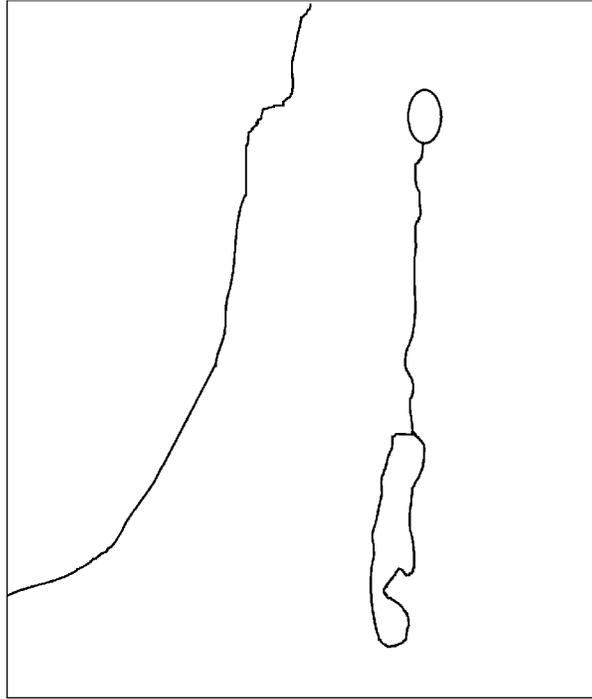
The book of Genesis ends with Abraham's grandson, Jacob, and all of his family in Egypt. Then the next four books of the Old Testament describe Israel's "exodus" from Egypt back to Canaan, the homeland that God had promised. From that time forward, Canaan's name is "Israel."

Now you will learn to draw the Old Testament map of Israel. Set your paper like this, and draw the coastline for the Mediterranean Sea:

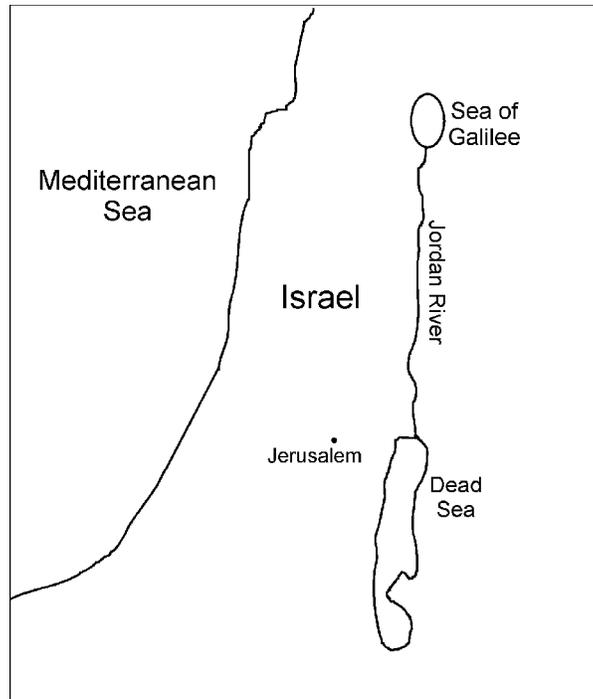


Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

Now draw the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and the Dead Sea:



And write the place names:

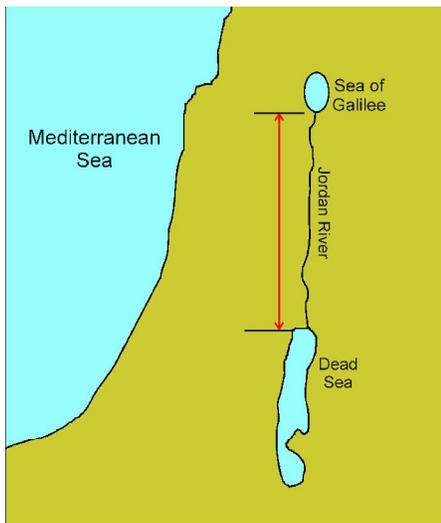
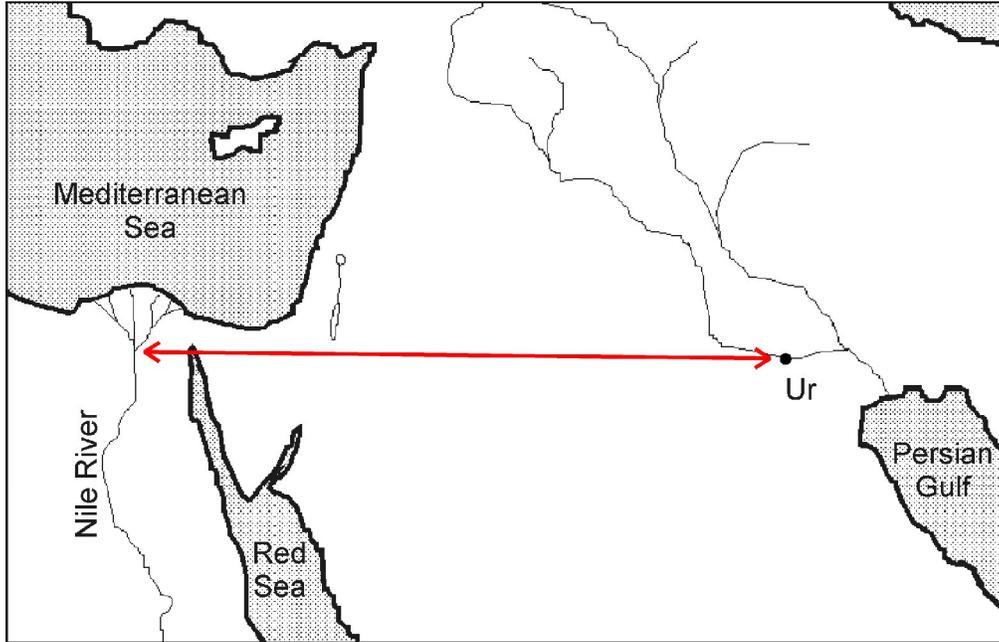


Practice drawing both of these maps. Compare your work with the maps in the back of your Bible.

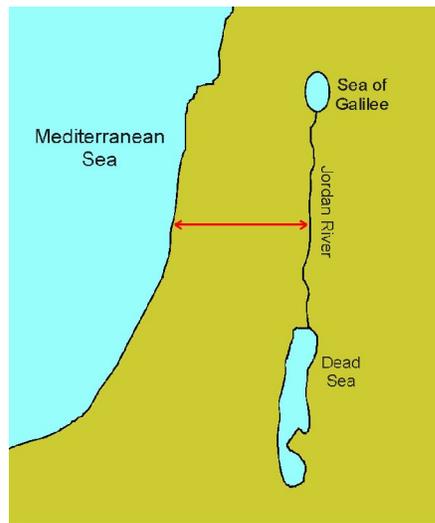
Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 2

Lesson 2 assignment:

1. Draw a map of the Middle East in Old Testament times.
2. Draw a map of Israel.
3. Use a map in your Bible to measure in miles or kilometers
 - (a) the distance between Ur and the Nile River in Egypt _____



(b) the distance between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea



(c) the distance between the middle of the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea

Introduction to the Old Testament

**Unit 2
Old Testament History**

**Lesson 3
Genesis – Part 1**

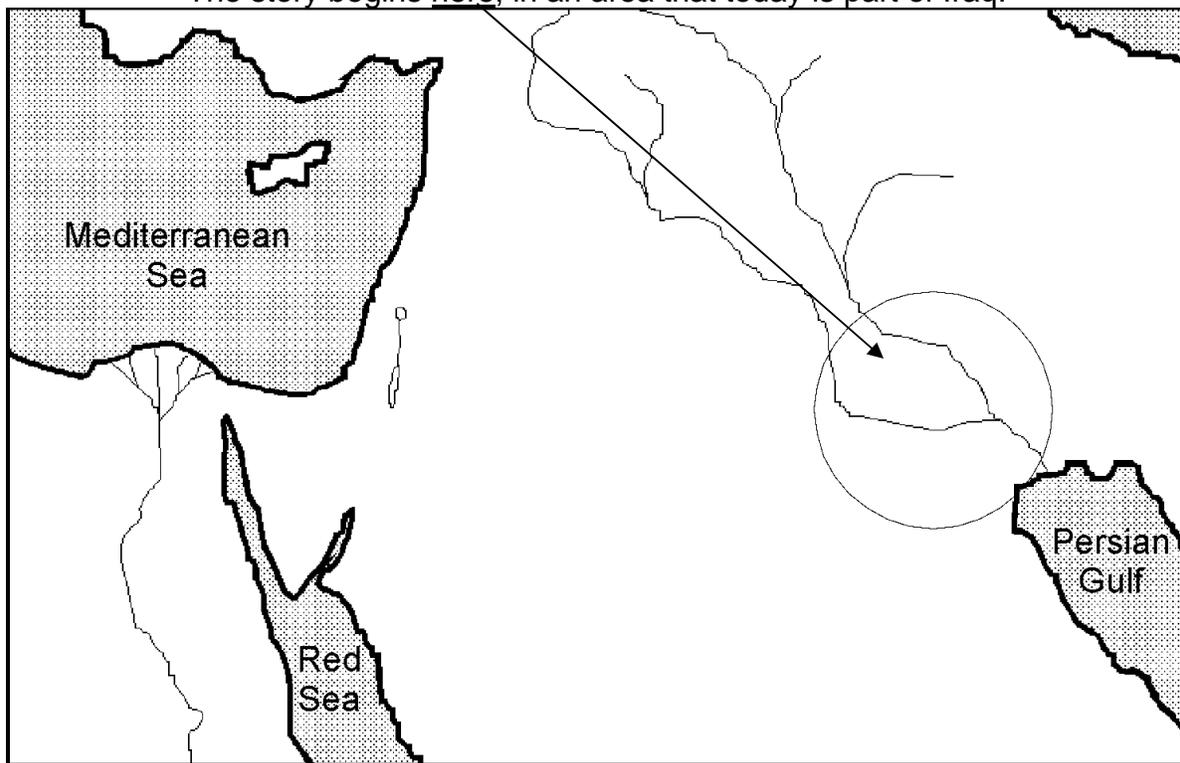
The Bible says: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (*Genesis 1:1 NIRV*)

The word GENESIS is a Greek word that means "**beginning.**"

The first book in the Bible is about many beginnings...

- ☑ The beginning of **the world** (Genesis 1)
- ☑ The beginning of **the human family** — Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)
- ☑ The beginning of **sin** (Genesis 3:1–13)
- ☑ The beginning of **God's plan to save sinners** (Genesis 3:15)
- ☑ The beginning of **death** (Genesis 3:19; and 4:8)
- ☑ The beginning **nations** (Genesis 9–10)
- ☑ The beginning of the nation of **Israel** (Genesis 12–50)

The story begins here, in an area that today is part of Iraq.



Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 3

Lesson 3 Questions:

Read Genesis 1

Creation: The beginning of the world

Date: About 4000 B.C. (Note: Dates are best guess, not exact)

1. Read Genesis 1:1. This chapter is about God creating (making) what?

2. Identify what God made on each of the first six days of Creation:

1st Day God made _____
2nd Day God made _____
3rd Day God made _____
4th Day God made _____
5th Day God made _____
6th Day God made _____

3. How did God make light, sky, sun, moon, stars, plants, fish, and birds?

4. Read Genesis 1:26–28. God made people special — different than the animals. In what ways?

Read Genesis 2

Adam and Eve: The beginning of the human family

5. What did God do on the 7th day?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 3

6. How did God make the first man, Adam?
7. What special home did God make for Adam?
8. What God want Adam to do there?
9. God commanded Adam to *not* eat what?
10. God said, "It is not good for the man to be _____."
11. How did God make the first woman, Eve?

Read Genesis 3

The Fall: The beginning of sin

Note: For important information about Satan ("The Serpent") see Isaiah 14:14 and Revelation 12:7–9.

12. Satan tempted Eve to become like whom?
13. While Eve was talking with Satan, where was Adam?

Read Genesis 3:15

The Promise: The beginning of God's plan to save sinners

14. Read Genesis 3:15. Who is the son that "will crush The Serpent's (Satan's) head"?

Read Genesis 3:17–19

15. What are the consequences of sin for the man? (What happens to people because of sin?)

Read Genesis 4

Cain & Abel

16. How did Abel die?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 3

17. Why did Abel die?

Read Genesis 6

Noah

Date: Around 2400 B.C

18. Why did God destroy the world with the flood?

Read Genesis 7

19. How many people were in Noah's Ark? _____

20. It rained for how many days? _____

21. In addition to the rain, what other place did the flood water come from?

22. How high did the water rise?

Read Genesis 8

23. How long were Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark? (*Hint: Compare Genesis 7:11 with Genesis 8:13–16.*)

Read Genesis 9:11–17

God's promise to Noah

24. What special promise did God make?

25. What special sign did God make to remember His promise?

Read Genesis 11:1–9

The Tower of Babel: The beginning of nations

Date: Around 2200 B.C.

26. What did God do to the people so they would stop their building project and so they would scatter?

Review question:

27. The name "Genesis" means what?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 4
Genesis – Part 2
The Beginning of Israel's History

God said to Abraham: "I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others." (*Genesis 12:2 NIRV*)

Read Genesis 11:27–32

Abraham's family roots

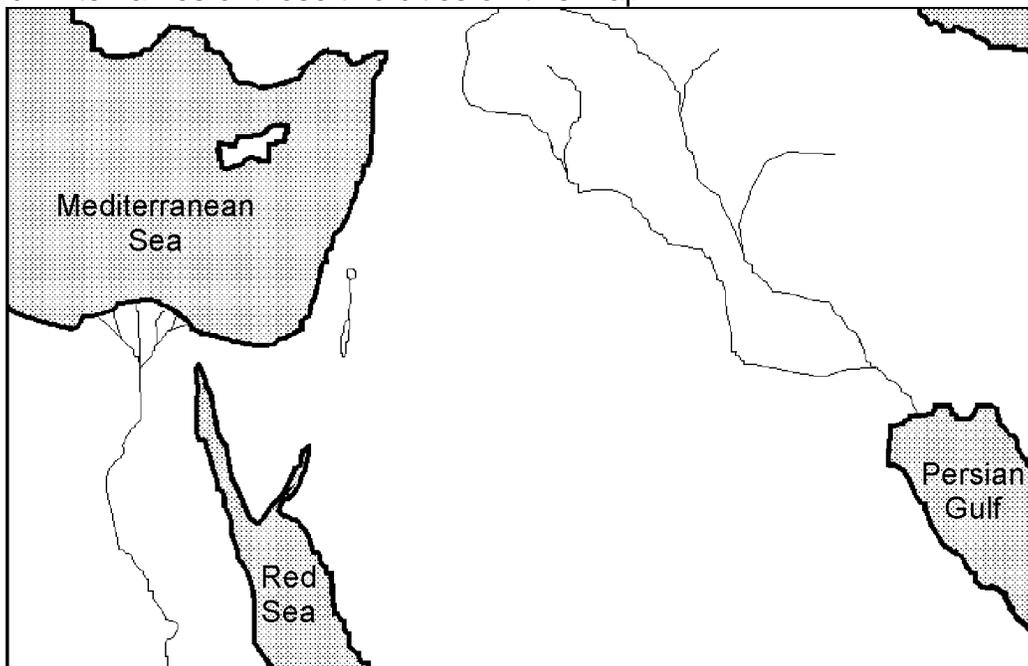
Date about 2166 B.C. — Abraham was born

Note: Abraham's name was originally "Abram," until God changed it in Genesis 17:5.

His wife, Sarah, originally was "Sarai," until God changed it in Genesis 17:15.

In this lesson we will simply call them "Abraham" and "Sarah."

1. Name these people and places:
 - a. Abraham's father _____
 - b. Abraham's nephew _____
 - c. Abraham's home town (from where?) _____
 - d. City where Abraham's family moved & settled _____
2. Look up those two cities (Abraham's home town and the city where his family moved) on an Old Testament Bible map.* Then identify the places (draw a dot) and write names of those two cities on this map:



**If your Bible does not have a map, see christdeaf.org/bible for a link to online Bible maps.*

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 4

Read Genesis 12:1–7
God's promises to Abraham

3. In Genesis 12:1 God told Abraham that he must move to where?

4. In Genesis 12:2 God promised Abraham four things:
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
 - (d) _____
5. In Genesis 12:3 God said to Abraham, "(Who?) _____ will receive a blessing because of you."
6. In Genesis 12:5 God led Abraham to where? _____
7. On the map for question 2 of this lesson, write the name of that place.
8. In Genesis 12:7 God promised to give that land to whom? _____

Read Genesis 13

9. God promised Abraham two things:
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____

Read Genesis 15:5–6

10. What did Abraham have that made him right with God? _____

Read Genesis 21:1–7

Date: about 2066 B.C.

11. How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born? _____

Read Genesis 22:1–18

Date: about 2050 B.C.

12. God told Abraham that Abraham must do what to Isaac?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 4

13. Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" What was Abraham's answer?
14. What happened that made Abraham change his plans?

Read Genesis 24

15. Who became Isaac's wife? _____

Read Genesis 25:20–34

Date: About 2006 B.C.

16. Isaac had twin sons.

The son who was born first _____

The son who was born second _____

17. Esau sold his inheritance rights for what price? _____

Read Genesis 27

18. How did Jacob steal the blessing that his father meant to give Esau?

Read Genesis 28

19. Jacob saw what in his dream?

20. God promise Jacob what?

21. Jacob named that place what? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 4

Read Genesis 29

22. Jacob married whom? _____

23. Before those two women married Jacob, how were they related to each other?

24. Before those two women married Jacob, how were they related to Jacob?

Read Genesis 30:1–22 and Genesis 35:1–26

25. Jacob had how many sons:_____ How many daughters:_____

Read Genesis 32

26. God changed Jacob's name to what? _____

Read Genesis 37–47

Date: About 1876 B.C.

Read Genesis 37:26

27. Who had the idea to sell Joseph into slavery? _____

Read Genesis 44

28. Who offered himself to become a slave in place of his brother Benjamin? _____

Read Genesis 45:4–8

29. Joseph came to Egypt because his brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph understood WHO was really responsible for that happening?

Read Genesis 45:9–28

30. Why did Jacob move his family to Egypt?

Read Genesis 46:1–3

31. God promise Jacob what?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 4

Read Genesis 49

32. Jacob said that the ruler of nations would be a descendant of which of his sons?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

33. God told Abraham, "All nations on earth will be blessed because of you." (Genesis 12:3) How do we receive a blessing through Abraham?

34. In Genesis 22 God gave Abraham a ram (a wild sheep) for a substitute sacrifice in Isaac's place. Who became our substitute sacrifice that died in our place?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 5
Exodus – Deuteronomy
Israel Becomes a New Nation

God said to the people of Israel: "I will live among you. I will not turn away from you. I will walk among you. I will be your God. And you will be my people. I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of Egypt." (*Leviticus 26:11–13 NIRV*)

Read Exodus 1

1. What happened to the family of Jacob (Israel) that made their life in Egypt hard?

Read Exodus 2

Date: About 1526 B.C.

2. Why did Moses' mother hide him?
3. Who found and adopted baby Moses?
4. Why did she name him "Moses?"
5. After Moses became an adult, he ran away to the country of Midian. Why?

Read Exodus 3

6. What did God's angel look like?

7. God told Moses to do what?

Read Exodus 4

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 5

8. Whom did God send to be Moses' helper? _____

Read Exodus 7–11

9. How many times did God send trouble (plagues) to Egypt? (You may count the section titles that name the plagues.)

10. What was the last plague?

Read Exodus 12

Date: About 1446 B.C.

11. What special meal did the people of Israel eat?

12. What protected the oldest Jewish sons from death?

13. What did Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, tell Moses and the Jewish people to do?

14. This happened **how many years after** Jacob moved his family to Egypt? (See *lesson 3*)

Read Exodus 13

15. How did God lead the people of Israel?

Read Exodus 14

16. Why did the king of Egypt send his army to chase the people of Israel?

17. How did the people of Israel escape to freedom?

Read Exodus 19

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 5

18. God led the people to a mountain named _____

Read Exodus 20

19. On that mountain God gave important laws that we call _____

Read Exodus 24:3–4

20. The people promised to do what?

21. Moses wrote what?

The rest of the books of Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy) tell more about God's laws for Israel, His promise to bless them, and the story of Israel's 40 years of travel through the desert until God gave them the land that He promised to Abraham.

EXODUS means "exit," or leave. Israel exited from Egypt.

LEVITICUS means "about Levites." Levites are descendents of Levi, the son of Jacob. God gave the Levites the special work of teaching the people God's laws and helping lead worship.

NUMBERS gets its name from the census of Israel that happened twice (Numbers 1–2 and Numbers 26)

DEUTERONOMY means "Repeating the Law." This is Moses' goodbye sermon, his last chance to remind the people about their history, God's laws, and His promises. The last chapter tells about Moses' death.

Read Leviticus 8

22. Whose family did God choose to be Israel's priests? _____

Read Leviticus 23

23. This chapter lists important holy days ("feast days") that God established for Israel. What are those holidays? (See the title for each of these verses)

1. (verse 3) _____

2. (verses 4–8) _____

3. (verses 9–14) _____

4. (verses 15– 22) _____

5. (verses 23–25) _____

6. (verses 26–32) _____

7. (verses 33–44) _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 5

Read Numbers 13 & 14

24. God made the people of Israel wander in the desert for 40 years before they could enter the promised land. Why?

Read Numbers 20:1–13

25. God didn't let Moses enter the promised land with the people of Israel. Why?

Read Numbers 27:12–22

26. Whom did God choose to replace Moses? _____

Read Deuteronomy 34

Date: About 1406 B.C.

27. How old was Moses when he died? _____

28. Who buried his body? _____

Three Kinds of Laws

It is very important to understand that God gave Israel three different kinds of laws.

(1) MORAL LAW — The Ten Commandments. These are commandments that tell us what is right and what is wrong for us to do. These are general principles which have specific application in our daily life. When we break these Laws, we sin. Because we cannot obey these commandments perfectly, Moral Law is like a mirror that shows us our sin. And the Law shows us that we need a Savior, Jesus Christ.

(2) CIVIL LAW — Rules for government, court justice, and punishing criminals. For example, the Moral Law (Ten Commandments) says, "You must not steal." The Civil Law tells what is the proper punishment for stealing. (See Exodus 22:1–15)

(3) CEREMONIAL LAW — Religious rules about worship, sacrifices, holidays, kosher foods, etc.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 5

The **Civil Law** and **Ceremonial Law** were specifically for the nation of Israel. Some of those laws have good ideas that we can still follow, but God does not require that we obey them. The ceremonial laws are not necessary any more since Christ became the perfect sacrifice for us.

The **Moral Law** is for all people in all time. That includes us.

Hebrew word for Law is **Torah**. In today's Jewish culture "Torah" means the first five books of the Bible, the Books of Moses. When you read the various laws in the Torah, learn to recognize three different kinds of law.

Here are some of God's Laws that He gave through Moses. Read each law, then circle which kind of law it is.

29. "You must not commit murder." (Exodus 20:13)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

30. "Make an altar out of dirt for me. Sacrifice your burnt offerings and friendship offerings on it." (Exodus 20:24)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

31. "Suppose (if) a man's bull wounds (hurts) a neighbor's bull and it dies. Then they must sell the live one. And they must share the money and the dead animal equally." (Exodus 21:35)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

32. "You can eat any animal that has hoofs that are separated completely in two. But it must also chew the cud." (Leviticus 11:3)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

33. "Do not have sex with any of your close relatives." (Leviticus 18:6)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

34. "Suppose (if) someone is charged with committing a crime of any kind. Then one witness won't be enough to prove he is guilty. Every matter must be proved by the words of two or three witnesses." (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Moral Law

Civil Law

Ceremonial Law

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

35. Think about the Passover in Exodus 12, especially the lamb, blood, firstborn son dying. How are those things like a picture of what Jesus Christ did for us?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 6
Joshua, Judges, Ruth
Before Israel had Kings

The Book of Joshua

God told Joshua: “Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.” (*Joshua 1:9 NIRV*)

Read Joshua 1:1–11

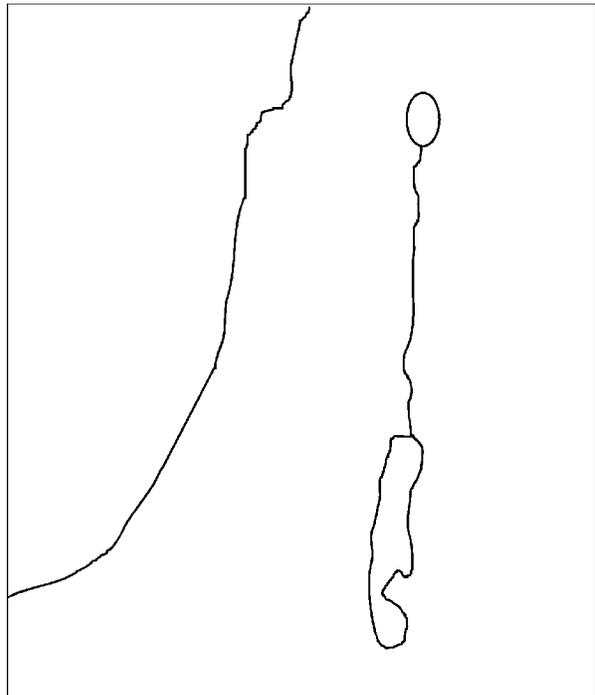
Date: About 1406 B.C.

1. God promised to give Israel what?
2. God commanded Israel to do what?

Read Joshua 2

3. Why were the people of Jericho afraid of Israel?

4. On this map write the names of:
 - Jordan River
 - Dead Sea (or Salt Sea)
 - Mediterranean Sea (or Great Sea)
 - Sea of Galilee (or Sea of Chinnereth)
 - Jericho (also draw a dot to show its location)



Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 6

Read Joshua 3

5. How did the people of Israel cross the Jordan River?

Read Joshua 6

6. How did Israel capture the city of Jericho?

*The rest of book of Joshua describes how Israel settled in the land that God had promised to give them. They divided the land for the **12 Tribes of Israel**. Look at an Old Testament Bible map that shows the division of the land for each tribe.*

Read Genesis 49 and Numbers 1

7. Compare the names of the 12 sons of Israel (Jacob) with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel:

Sons of Israel Genesis 49
v.3
v.5a
v.5b
v.8
v.13
v.14
v.16
v.19
v.20
v.21
v.22
v.27

Tribes of Israel Numbers 1
v.20
v.22
v.24
v.26
v.28
v.30
v.32
v.34
v.36
v.38
v.40
v.42

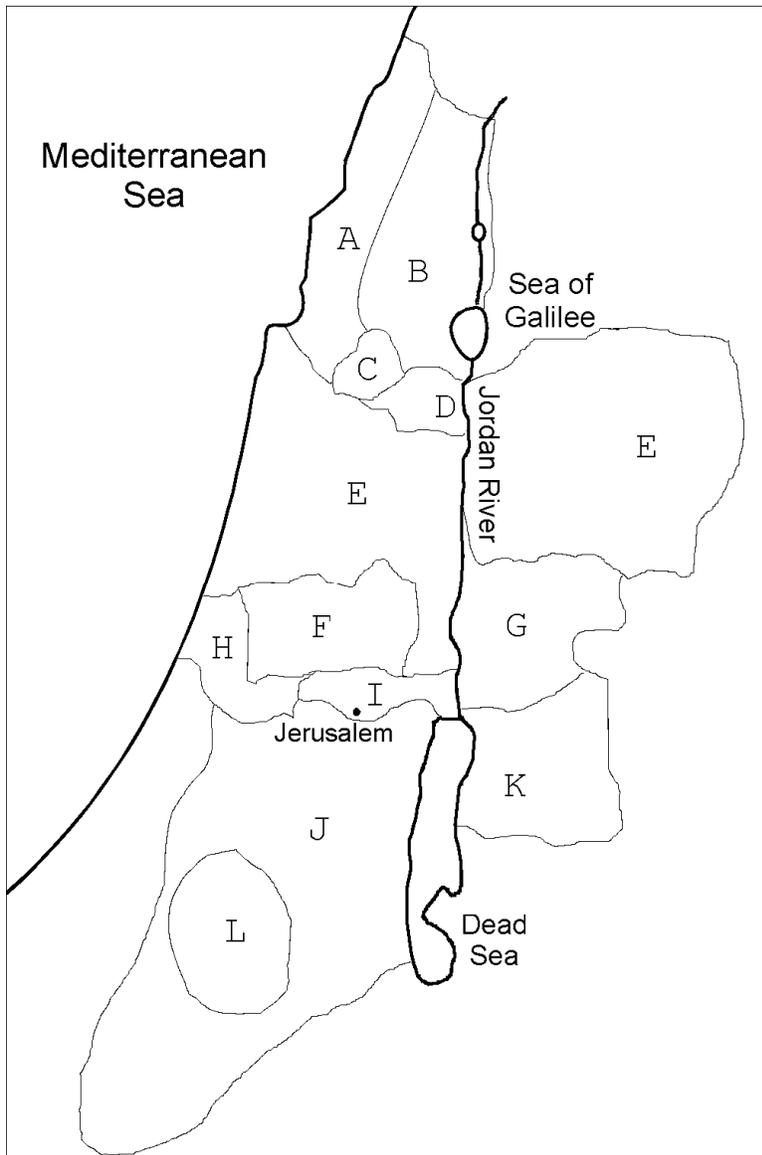
Genesis 35:22–26 lists the 12 sons, grouped under their mothers' names.

Genesis 49 lists the sons in birth order.

Numbers 1 lists the tribes by camp groups during the Exodus.

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 6

8. Which two sons names (in Genesis 35 and 49) DON'T appear in the list of the 12 tribes (in Numbers 1)?
a) _____ b) _____
9. Two names that were Jacob's GRANDSONS appear in the list of the 12 tribes in Numbers 1. (Hint: Read Genesis 41:50-52)
a) _____ b) _____
10. Who was the father of those two named in question 9? _____
11. Find a map in your Bible (or on the Internet) which shows the division of the land of Israel for the 12 tribes of Israel. Write the names of the 12 tribes for each of the land areas in the map below:



- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____
- I. _____
- J. _____
- K. _____
- L. _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 6

Read Deuteronomy 18:1–2

12. Which tribe did not receive a share (inheritance) in the division of the land?
13. What did they receive as their share instead of land?

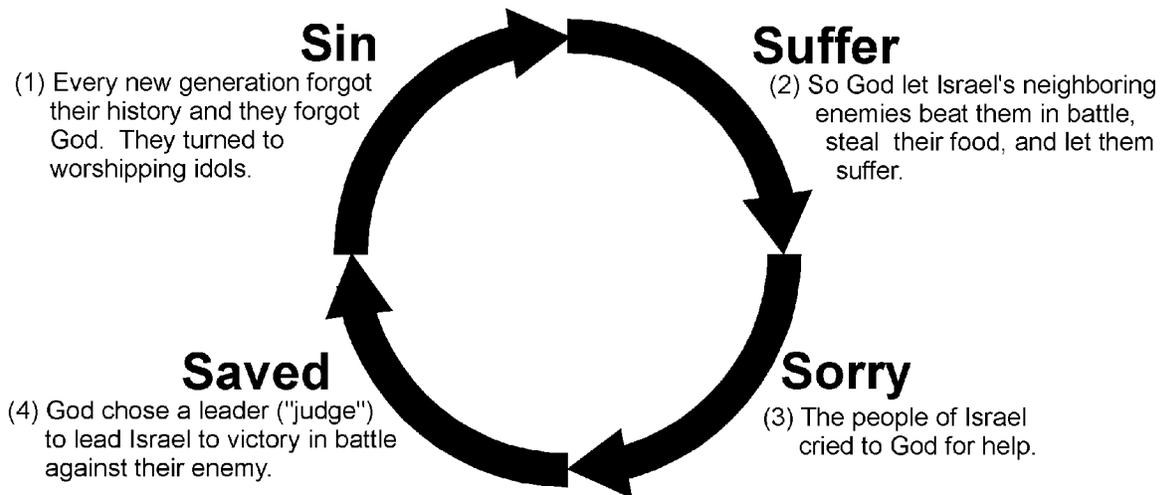
The Book of Judges

The Bible says, "In those days Israel didn't have a king. The people did anything they thought was right." (*Judges 17:6 & Judges 21:25 NIRV*)

Read Judges 2:7– 23

Dates: About 1380 B.C. – 1100 B.C. (*Remember: "BC" counts years backwards.*)

The Book of Judges tells about 270 years of Israel's history that ran in cycles, like this:



Israel ran through this cycle over nine times in the Book of Judges.

Read Judges 2:20–22

14. Why did God not drive out all of Israel's enemies from the land?

Read Judges 3:1–2

15. What other reason did God have for keeping some of Israel's enemies in the land?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 6

16. The Book of Judges names 14 leaders that served the nation of Israel. The Book of Judges mostly focuses on **four leaders**. Look through the book of Judges and find the chapters that tell each of their stories.

(a) Deborah and Barak Judges chapters _____

(b) Gideon Judges chapters _____

(c) Jephthah Judges chapters _____

(d) Samson Judges chapters _____

Read Judges 6–7

17. Gideon sent messengers to four tribes of Israel, asking men to follow him in battle against the army of Midian. At first how many Israelite men came to fight with Gideon?

18. God told Gideon that his army was too big. Twice God told Gideon to send some soldiers home. Finally, how many men did God keep in Gideon's army to fight against Midian?

The Book of Ruth

Ruth said to her mother-in-law, "Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. Where you die I'll die. And there my body will be buried. I won't let anything except death separate you from me."

(Ruth 1:16–17 NIRV)

Read the Book of Ruth *(This is a short interesting story, only 4 chapter long.)*

Date: About 1100 B.C.

19. What period of time in Israel's history did this story happen?

20. Ruth was from what country? _____

21. Why did Ruth move to Israel?

22. Ruth moved to what city in Israel? _____

23. Who was Ruth's second husband? _____

24. Who was Ruth's famous great grandson? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

25. (a) Draw the four-part cycle that was Israel's story during the time of the judges.

(b) Why did that cycle happen?

(c) Does that cycle still happen in our church or in our families today? Explain your answer.

(d) How can we stop that cycle in our church and in our families?

Read Matthew 1:1–6

26. In this lesson you studied the Old Testament books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. You read about four people who became Jesus' ancestor — they are in Jesus' family tree. What are their names?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 7
The Kings of United Israel

God said to David: “Your royal house and your kingdom will last forever in my sight. Your throne will last [continue] forever.” (2nd Samuel 7:16 NIRV)

*The last leader of Israel during the time of the Judges was **Samuel**. He was not a military leader. Samuel was a prophet. His name is in the title of two books of the Old Testament, even though the story of Samuel's life ends in the middle of the book of First Samuel.*

Read 1st Samuel 8

1. Why did the people of Israel want to have a king?

2. Why did their request for a king make Samuel sad?

Read 1st Samuel 9 & 10

3. Whom did God chose to be Israel's first king? _____

Read 1st Samuel 15:10–11

4. Why did God later reject that king?

Read 1st Samuel 16

5. Whom did God choose to be the next king? _____

6. Look at the next few chapters in 1st Samuel. In which chapters do we find these stories:

(a) David and Goliath _____

(b) Saul became jealous of David _____

Read 1st Samuel 23:19–29

7. How did God save David's life?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 7

Read 1st Samuel 24 and 26

8. Two times David saved Saul's life. Why?

Read 1st Samuel 31

Date: About 1010 B.C.

9. How did Saul die?

Read 2nd Samuel 2:1–10

10. Who chose David to be their king? _____

11. Who was Ish-Bosheth? _____

12. Ish-Bosheth became king over what? _____

Read 2nd Samuel 5:1–5

13. When David became king, he was _____ years old.

14. David ruled as king over only Israel's southern tribes (Judah, Benjamin, and Simeon) for _____ years.

15. During that time, David's capital city was where? _____

16. David ruled as king over all Israel for _____ years.

17. During that time, David's capital city was where? _____

18. David ruled as king for a total of _____ years.

*Two books of the Old Testament tell the history about Israel while David was king. Those two books are **2nd Samuel** and **1st Chronicles**. Those two books tell many of the same stories. But each book gives us important information.*

Read 2nd Samuel 7

Read 1st Chronicles 28:2–10

19. David wanted to build what? _____

20. Why did God say, "No"?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 7

21. God said who will build it? _____

22. What did God promise to do for David and his family?

Read 2nd Samuel 11

23. What two terrible sins did David do?

(a) _____

(b) _____

Read 2nd Samuel 12:1–25

Read Psalm 51

24. God sent Nathan the prophet to tell David that he did wrong. What was David's answer?

25. God said that three things will happen in David's family because of his sin:

(a) 2nd Samuel 12:10 _____

(b) 2nd Samuel 12:11 _____

(c) 2nd Samuel 12:14 _____

[You can read what happened in 2nd Samuel 13–19.]

26. What did David and Bathsheba name their second son? _____

Read 1st Kings 1

27. As David grew very old, who tried (but failed) to become the next king over Israel?

28. Who became the next king over Israel? _____

*Two books of the Old Testament tell the history about Israel while Solomon was king. Solomon's history is in **1st Kings 1–11** and **2nd Chronicles 1–9**. Those two books tell many of the same stories. But each book gives us important information.*

Read 1st Kings 3

29. Solomon asked God to give him what? _____

Read 1st Kings 6

30. Solomon built what? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 7

Read 1st Kings 11

31. Why did Solomon turn away from God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2nd Samuel 11 *again*

32. Before David did those two great sins, he made some "mistakes" by playing around with temptation. What were those mistakes?

33. When Saul and David sinned, God's prophets told each of them that they did wrong. How did Saul and David respond differently?

34. The rest of David's history in 2nd Samuel exposed more of David's sins and weaknesses. But still the Bible said that David loved God and David understood God's heart. Explain why that is true.

Read 2nd Samuel 7 *again*

35. God promised David that his kingdom will continue forever. How has God kept that promise?

Introduction to the Old Testament

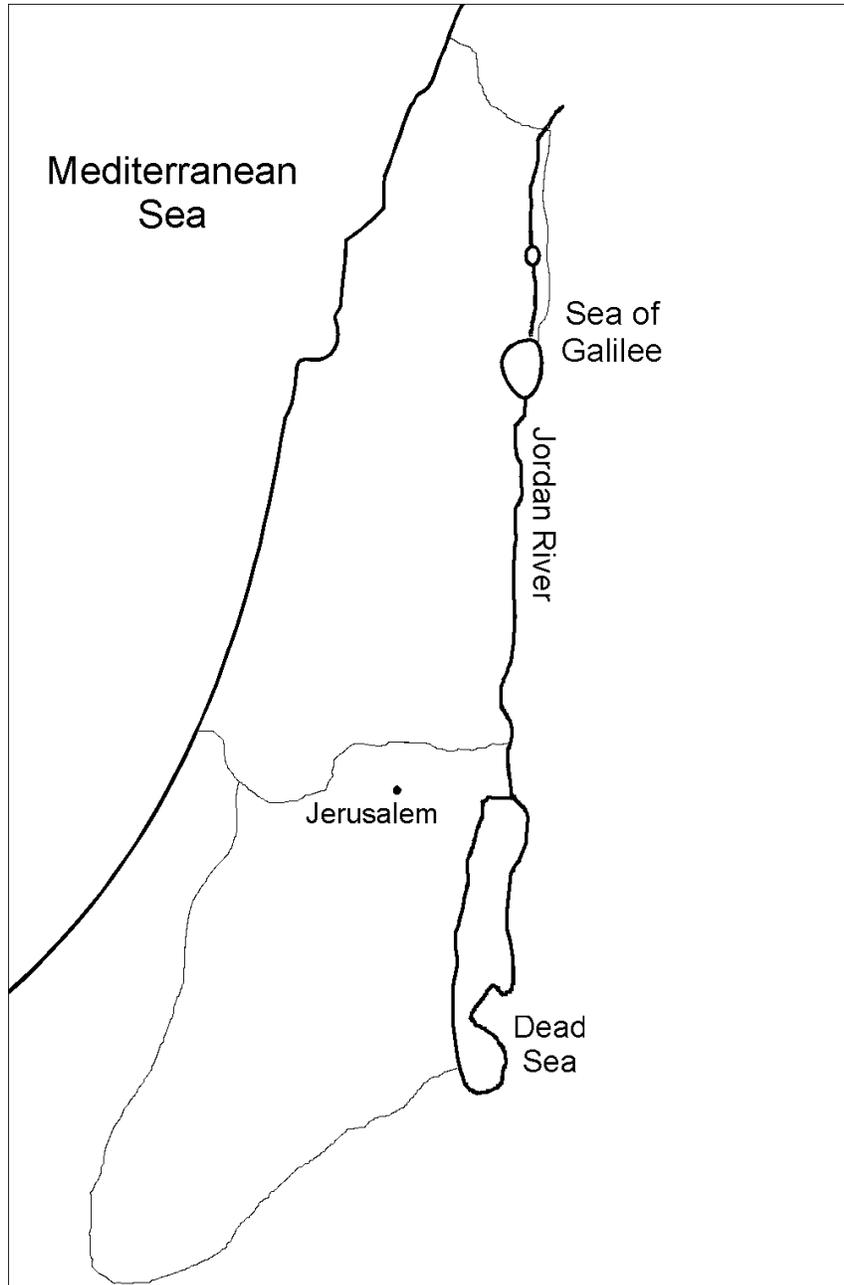
Lesson 8

The Kings of Divided Israel

Part 1 -- Kings of the North

God said to Jeroboam: "I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand. I will give you ten of its tribes. Solomon will have one of its tribes... Then my servant David will always have a son on his throne in Jerusalem." (*1st Kings 11:31–32, 36 NIRV*)

When King Solomon died, Israel divided into two separate kingdoms -- North vs South:



Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 8

Read 1st Kings 11:41–12:25

Date: About 930 B.C.

The king of the North and the king of the South had similar names:

1. **Rehoboam**

(a) Who was Rehoboam's father? _____

(b) Rehoboam became king over which tribes of Israel?

2. **Jeroboam**

(a) Who was Jeroboam's father? _____

(b) Jeroboam became king over which tribes of Israel?

(c) Jeroboam made which city his nation's capital? _____

(d) Find that city on an Old Testament map of Israel. Write the name of that city and show its location on the map printed in the beginning of this lesson.

(e) From this time forward in Israel's history, the name "**Israel**" usually means the northern kingdom, and "**Judah**" means the southern kingdom. Write those two names on the map on the previous page.

Read 1st Kings 12:25–33

3. Jeroboam put idols in what two cities?

(a) _____ (b) _____

4. Find those two cities on an Old Testament map of Israel. Write the names of those cities and show their location on the map on the previous page.

5. What kind of idols were they? _____

6. Why did Jeroboam make those idols?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 8

7. In the table below, you write the names of the kings of northern Israel. Look at the Bible verses in 1st or 2nd Kings and find:
- the name of each king
 - how many years he reigned as king (his "term")
 - what kind of king was he -- good or evil

		King	term	good or evil?
a.	1K 12:26-30 & 14:20	Jeroboam	22 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evil
b.	1K 15:25-26			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
c.	1K 15:33-34			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
d.	1K 16:8,13			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
e.	1K 16:15-20			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
f.	1K 16:23-26			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
g.	1K 16:29-33			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
h.	1K 22:51-53			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
i.	2K 3:1-3			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
j.	2K 10:31,36			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
k.	2K 13:1-2			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
l.	2K 13:10-11			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
m.	2K 14:23-24			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
n.	2K 15:8-9			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
o.	2K 15:13-15			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
p.	2K 15:17-18			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
q.	2K 15:23-25			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
r.	2K 15:27-28			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
s.	2K 17:1-2			<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Evil
	2K 17:5-6 [7-41]	<i>Fall of Samaria</i>	- - - - -	- - - - -

An important word we use when we study the history of kings is **DYNASTY**. "Dynasty" means that a series of kings are all descendents of one family.

Dynasties often ended by assassination -- someone kills the king and then he makes himself king. That is what happened to many of the kings of Northern Israel.

Northern Israel had two royal dynasties:

- Omri — Joram (3 generations)
- Jehu — Zechariah (5 generations)

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 8

Omri's dynasty was short, but it had a great influence in Israel.

Read 1st Kings 16:23–24

8. Omri built a new capital city for northern Israel. What was the name of that city?

Read 1st Kings 16:29–33

9. Omri's son, Ahab, married whom? _____

10. This queen was from what foreign city? _____

11. She and the king encouraged the people of Israel to worship what two false gods?

(a) _____ (b) _____

Read 1st Kings 17:1

12. Who was an important prophet of the Lord during Ahab's time? _____

Read 1st Kings 18:13

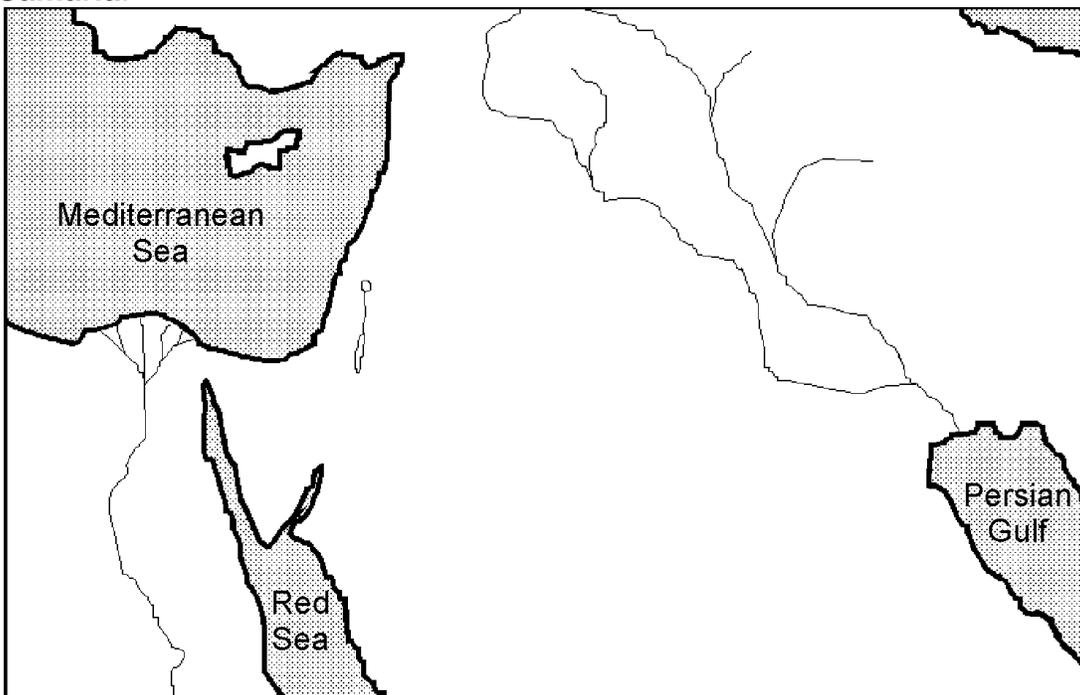
13. What did the queen try to do to all of the prophets of the Lord? _____

Read 2nd Kings 17:5–6

Date: About 722 B.C.

14. The king of which country captured the city of Samaria? _____

15. The capital city of that country was **Nineveh**. Look at an Old Testament Bible map and then show the location of Nineveh on this map. Also show the location of **Samaria**.



Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 8

16. What happened to the people of northern Israel?

Read 2nd Kings 17:7–23

17. Why did God punish the people of northern Israel?

Read 2nd Kings 17:24

18. After the people of Israel went away, who came to live in their land?

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

19. The Bible describes each of the kings of northern Israel this way:
"[He] did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He didn't turn away from the sins Jeroboam, the son of Nabat, had committed. Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit those same sins."

Who was "Jeroboam, the son of Nabat?"

What sins did he cause Israel to commit?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 9
The Kings of Divided Israel
Part 2 -- Kings of the South

God said, "I will give one of the tribes to David's son. Then my servant David will always have a son on his throne in Jerusalem. The lamp of David's kingdom will always burn brightly in my sight." (*1st Kings 11: 36 NIRV*)

The history of Israel's kings is written in six Old Testament books:

1st Samuel (<i>about King Saul</i>)	
2nd Samuel (<i>about King David</i>)	1st Chronicles (<i>about King David</i>)
1st Kings (<i>about King Solomon & the first Kings of Divided Israel</i>)	2nd Chronicles (<i>about King Solomon & the kings of Judah</i>)
2nd Kings (<i>about the rest of the kings of divided Israel</i>)	

1st and 2nd Chronicles repeat some of the same history reported in three previous books, with some additional information. 1st and 2nd Kings tells about the kings of both the northern and southern kingdoms of divided Israel. 2nd Chronicles focuses only on the southern kings, all of whom were descendents of King David. (We call them "the Davidic dynasty.")

Read 2nd Chronicles 12:13–14

- (a) **Who** became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) **How old** was he when he became king? _____
(c) **How many years** did he reign as king? _____
(d) **What kind of king** was he -- good or evil? _____

Read 1st Kings 15:1–3 and 2nd Chronicles 13:1–2

- (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(c) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 1st Kings 15:9–15 and 2nd Chronicles 16

- (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(c) At the beginning of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____
(d) At the end of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 9

Read 1st Kings 22:41–42 and 2nd Chronicles 17:1–6

4. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 21:4–6

5. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____
- (e) Whom did he marry? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 22:2–4

6. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Kings 11:1–4 and 2nd Chronicles 22:10–12

Here the history of the kings of Judah hits a bump in the road...

7. (a) Who became the next ruler of Judah? _____
- (b) Who was her father? (See question #5e, above) _____
- (c) How did she get control of the kingdom? _____
- (d) How many years did she reign? _____
- (e) What kind of queen was she? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 9

Read 2nd Chronicles 24:1–2, 17–22

8. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) At the beginning of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____
- (e) At the end of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 25:1–2, 14–16

9. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) At the beginning of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____
- (e) At the end of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 26:3–5, 16–21

10. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) At the beginning of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____
- (e) At the end of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 27:1–2

11. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 9

Read 2nd Chronicles 28:1–4

12. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 29:1–2 and 2nd Kings 20:12–21

13. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____
- (e) He showed off his wealth to representatives from what country? _____
- (f) Who was an important prophet in Judah at this time? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 33:1–20

14. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) At the beginning of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____
- (e) At the end of his reign, what kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 33:21–23

15. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
- (b) How old was he when he became king? _____
- (c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
- (d) What kind of king was he? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 9

Read 2nd Chronicles 34:1–2

16. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How old was he when he became king? _____
(c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 36:1–3 and 2nd Kings 23:31–32

17. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How old was he when he became king? _____
(c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 36:4–5

18. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How old was he when he became king? _____
(c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 36:9

19. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How old was he when he became king? _____
(c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(d) What kind of king was he? _____

Read 2nd Chronicles 36:11–12

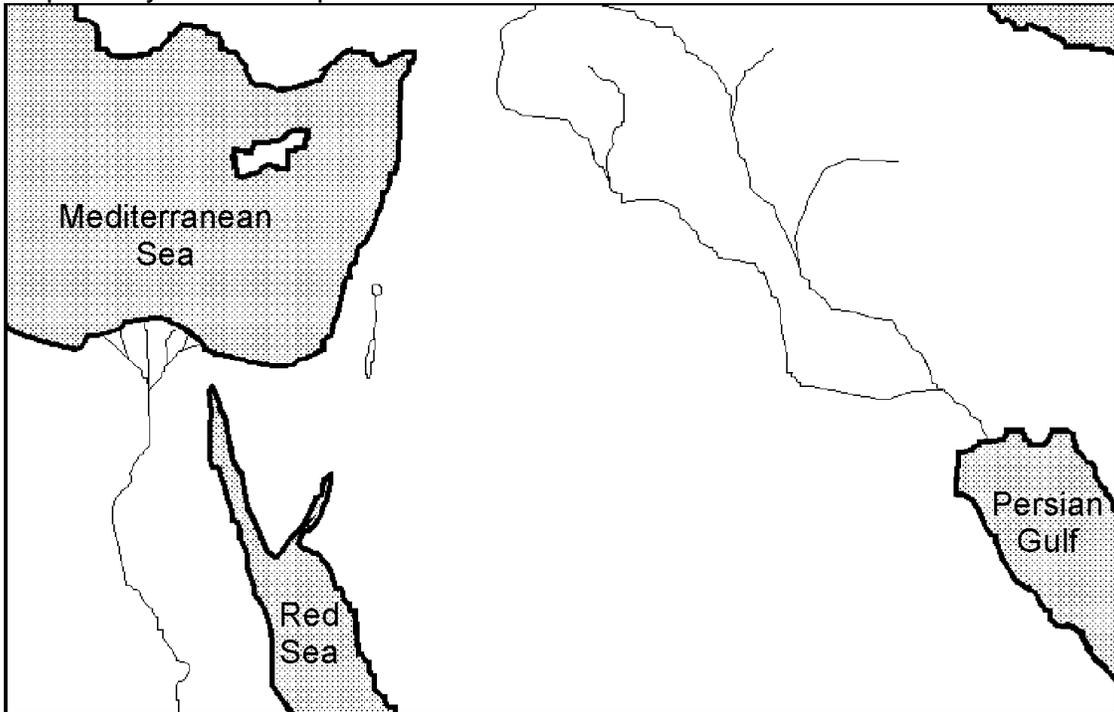
20. (a) Who became the next king of Judah? _____
(b) How old was he when he became king? _____
(c) How many years did he reign as king? _____
(d) What kind of king was he? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 9

Read 2nd Chronicles 36:6–21

Date: About 586 B.C

21. The king of which country captured the city of Jerusalem? _____
22. What was that king's name? _____
23. Look at an Old Testament Bible map and then show the location of that country's capital city on this map. Also show the location of Jerusalem.



24. What happened to the people of Judah?
25. What happened to the Lord's temple in Jerusalem?
26. What happened to the gold and bronze treasures in the temple?
27. What happened to the walls of the city of Jerusalem?
28. Why did the Lord make this happen?
29. How many years later did the people return? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 9

30. Use your answers to the questions in this lesson to fill in the information for this chart:

	King (or Queen)	Age	Term	Began..	Ended...
1	Rehoboam	41	17 yrs	evil	
2		----			
3		----			
4					
5					
6					
7		----			
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

31. Several kings of Judah started well be ended badly. How could this happen?

The examples of their lives teach us what important lessons about our lives today?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 9

Read 2nd Chronicles 20 and 2nd Kings 19

32. When large armies attacked Judah, most of Judah's kings paid the kings of other countries to come help them. When Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah faced that situation, whom did they ask for help?

The examples of their lives teach what important lesson about our lives today?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 9

FIGURING DATES

When we try to build a time line for the kings of Israel, we must remember two important things.

First, the Hebrew way of counting days, months, and years was not exactly the same way we do it today.

For example, King Omri ruled from 885 B.C. to 874 B.C. How many years did he rule? Simple math:

$$\begin{array}{r} 885 \\ - 874 \\ \hline 11 \text{ years} \end{array}$$

But 1st Kings 16:23 says that Omri ruled for **12 years**, not 11. Which is right? Both are right. Count those years the Hebrew way (remember to count years B.C. backwards).

<u>885</u>	<u>884</u>	<u>883</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>879</u>	<u>878</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>874</u>
yr 1	yr 2	yr 3	yr 4	yr 5	yr 6	yr 7	yr 8	yr 9	yr 10	yr 11	yr 12

In the New Testament, we often read, "On the eighth day..." The way we say that today is, "One week later..." But a week has seven days, not eight! We normally don't count the first day in the series, but we actually start counting on the second day, like this:

	START HERE Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our way:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Hebrew:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Our way:	Sunday						
Hebrew:	7						
	8						

The second thing that we need to remember about the kings of Israel is that sometimes the time they ruled overlapped, when two kings ruled the same country at the same time for a short time. Sometimes they agreed to rule together, like this:

"King Uzziah had the skin disease until the day he died. He lived in a separate house because he had the disease... Uzziah's son Jotham was in charge of the palace. Jotham ruled over the people of the land." (2nd Chronicles 26:21 NIRV)

But often two kings ruled as competitors, like this:

"The people of Israel divided up into two groups. Half of them wanted Tibni to be king... The other half wanted Omri. But Omri's followers were stronger than those of Tibni... So Tibni died. And Omri began to rule." (1st Kings 16:21-22 NIRV)

If we just add the years of each king's term that you listed on the chart of the Kings of Israel, we will get a number that is larger than the actual number of years. For most of the kings, we must subtract one year for the Hebrew way of counting time, and we must also subtract years when the reign of two king's overlapped.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 10

Israel in Captivity & Coming Home

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

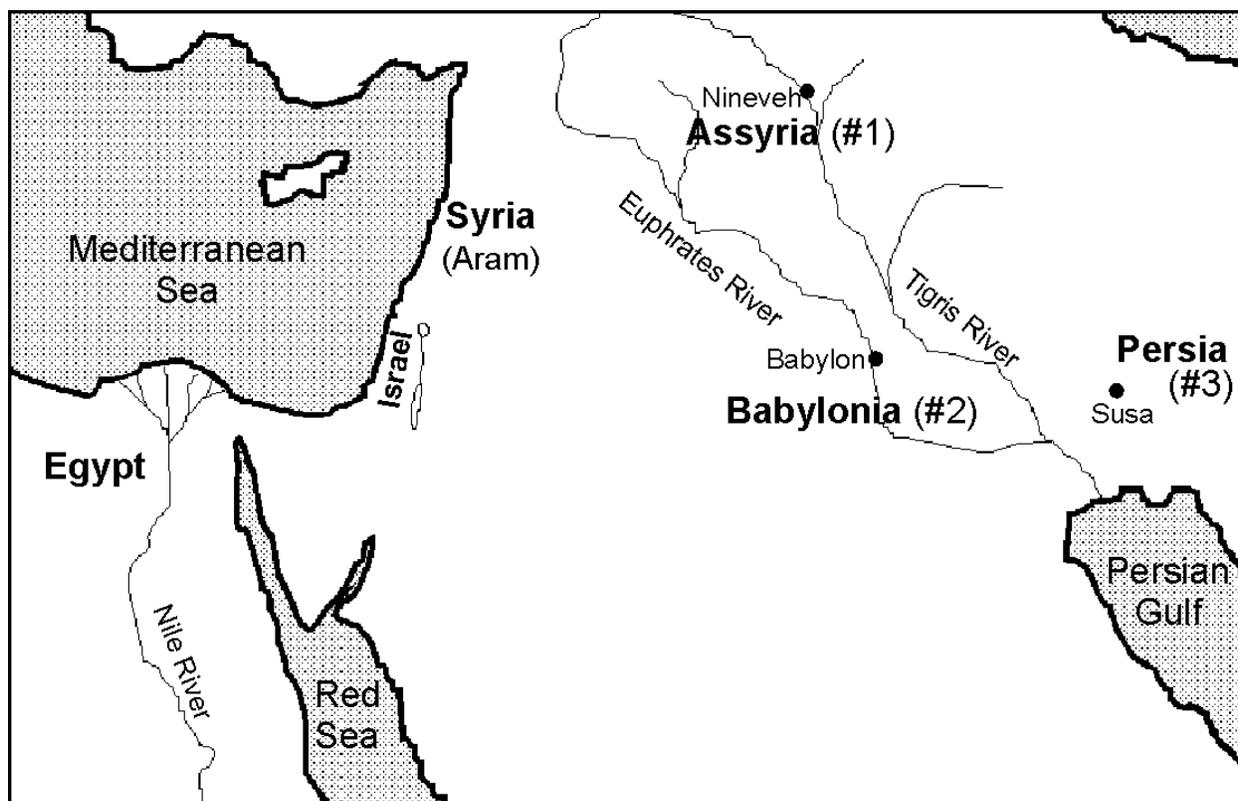
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel

God said the people of Judah: "You will be forced to live in Babylonia for 70 years. After they are over, I will come to you. My gracious promise to you will come true. I will bring you back home." (*Jeremiah 29:10 NIRV*)

Great Middle Eastern Empires

During the last 300 years of Old Testament history, three great empires conquered and ruled Israel. Those three empires were:

- #1. Assyria -- today is northern Iraq.
- #2. Babylon -- today is southern Iraq.
- #3. Persia -- today is Iran.



Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 10

DATE	KING / EMPEROR	EVENTS
#1. The Assyrian Empire		
734 B.C.	Tiglath-Pileser	Conquered Syria and Northern Israel
725 B.C.	Shalmaneser	Conquered Samaria (Israel's capital) Deported northern Jews Conquered Egypt
722 B.C.	Sargon II	
701 B.C.	Sennacherib	Attacked Judah, but could not conquer Jerusalem
#2. The Babylonian Empire		
612 B.C.	Nabopolassar	Conquered Assyria
605 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar	Conquered Syria, Israel, Judah, & Egypt Destroyed Jerusalem & the temple; deported southern Jews (586 B.C.)
556 B.C.	Nabonidus & Belshazzar	Handwriting on the wall; The fall of Babylon
#3. The Persian Empire		
550 B.C.	Cyrus the Great	Conquered Babylon (539 B.C.)
		Gave permission for Jews to return home (538 B.C.) Jew begin rebuilding the temple (536 B.C.) Jewish leaders: Zerubbabel & Jeshua
529 B.C.	Cambyses II	
521 B.C.	Darius the Great	Jews finished rebuilding the temple (515 B.C.)
485 B.C.	Xerxes I (also called "Ahasuerus")	Esther became queen in Persia (479 B.C.) Protected the Jews in Persia from genocide.
465 B.C.	Artaxerxes I	Ordered Jews to stop rebuilding the city wall. 2 nd group of Jews returned to Judah with Ezra (458 B.C.) Nehemiah came to Jerusalem and helped finish rebuilding the city walls (445 B.C.)
423 B.C.	Darius II	
404 B.C.	Artaxerxes II	

Read the following Bible stories. Then write the name of the empire, the king or emperor, and the events from the chart above that each story describes. (The first one is done for you as an example.) When different Bible stories describe the same events, you will write same answers each time.

1. **Read 2nd Kings 16:5-9**

(a) Empire Assyrian

(b) King Tiglath-Pileser

(c) Event Conquered Syria and Northern Israel

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 10

2. Read 2nd Kings 17:1-6

- (a) Empire _____
- (b) King _____
- (c) Event _____

3. Read 2nd Kings 18:17 - 19:37

- (a) Empire _____
- (b) King _____
- (c) Event _____

4. Read 2nd Kings 25:1-25

- (a) Empire _____
- (b) King _____
- (c) Event _____

5. Read 2nd Chronicles 36:22-23

- (a) Empire _____
- (b) King _____
- (c) Event _____

6. Read Ezra 1:1-8

- (a) Empire _____
- (b) King _____
- (c) Event _____

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7. Read Ezra 4:7-24

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

8. Read Ezra 5 - 6

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

9. Read Ezra 7 - 8

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

10. Read Nehemiah chapters 2, 4, and 6

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

11. Read Esther chapters 1 - 3 and 7

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 10

12. Read Isaiah 20

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

13. Read Isaiah 36 - 37

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

14. Read Jeremiah 39

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

15. Read Ezekiel 21:18 - 24

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

16. Read Daniel 1:1 - 7

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 10

17. Read Daniel 5

- (a) Empire _____
 - (b) King _____
 - (c) Event _____
- _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Jeremiah 27 - 28

- 18. False prophets said things about God that were not true. What?

- 19. What did God want the Jews to do to the king of Babylon?

- 20. Today in our time, many people say that they teach God's Word. They even quote from the Bible. How can we know for sure if the things they teach are true or false?

Unit 3
Old Testament Prophets

The Bible says, "Above all, here is what you must understand. No prophecy in Scripture ever came from a prophet's own understanding. It never came simply because a prophet wanted it to. Instead, the Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke. So prophecy comes from God." (2nd Peter 1:20-21 NIRV)

What is a prophet?

Prophets in the Bible received God's Word directly from God and they gave God's message to the people. Through the prophets...

- God **warned** people to stop sinning, turn away from false gods, and turn back to Him.
- God gave **guidance** (directions) to people in a difficult situations.
- God told what will happen in the **future** because of His judgment or His mercy.
 - Most future predictions applied only to the time and situation where the people lived.
 - Some Old Testament prophecies described God's plan of salvation yet to come in Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Some prophecies describe God's plan for the end of the world.
 - Many OT prophecies have a double meaning -- one for the time and place where prophet lived, and also for the time of Christ in the New Testament.
- God did **miracles**.

Israel had many prophets whose names we will never know. The Bible just calls them...

- "a certain prophet"
- "a man of God"
- "a seer"
- "a certain man of the sons of the prophets"
- "one of the company (or group) of prophets"

The history books in first half of the Old Testament describe the ministry of many prophets who only **spoke** their message; they didn't write any part of the Bible. The last 1/3 of the Old Testament are books by prophets who **wrote** their message. We call the four long books (Isaiah, Jeremiah-Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel) **Major Prophets**. We call the last 12 short books **Minor Prophets**.

In this unit we will look at some of the most important prophets of the Old Testament.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 11
Prophets of Northern Israel
ELIJAH & ELISHA

Moses said, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me. He will be one of your own people. You must listen to him." (*Deuteronomy 18:15 NIRV*)

1. Some of the people we have already met in this course were **prophets:**
 - (a) Who is the prophet named in Deuteronomy 34:10-12? _____
 - (b) Who is the prophet named in Judges 4:4? _____
 - (c) Who is the prophet named in 1st Samuel 3:20? _____
 - (d) Who is the prophet named in 2nd Samuel 7:2 and 12:1? _____
 - (e) Who is the prophet named in Acts 2:29-30? _____

ELIJAH

Date: About 874 B.C.

Read 1st Kings 16:29 - 17:1

2. Who were the king and queen of northern Israel when Elijah began his ministry?

King _____ Queen _____

3. What false gods did the king and queen worship?
4. Elijah told the king that something terrible would happen in Israel. What?

Read 1st Kings 17:2-6

5. Where did God tell Elijah to go hide?
6. How did God provide food to Elijah?

Read 1st Kings 17:7 - 16

7. Where did God tell Elijah to go hide?
8. How did God provide food to Elijah?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 11

Read 1st Kings 17:17-24

9. What miracle did God do for the woman in answer to Elijah's prayer?

Read 1st Kings 18

10. How did God prove that He is the only true God?

Read 1st Kings 19

11. Why did Elijah run away?

12. Where did Elijah hide?

13. How did God speak to Elijah?

14. What three things did God tell Elijah that he must do?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

15. Elijah did only one of those three things. Which one?

ELISHA

Date: About 848 B.C.

Read 2nd Kings 2:1-14

16. What did Elisha ask to receive from Elijah?

17. What happened that ended Elijah's ministry?

18. When Elijah left, something fell to the ground for Elisha to take. What was it?

Read 2nd Kings 3:1

19. Who was the king of northern Israel?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 11

2nd Kings 4-6 tells about several miracles that God did through Elisha to help people in need. In this lesson we will look at two of those miracle stories.

Read 2nd Kings 5

20. Who was Naaman?

21. What was Naaman's sickness?

22. Who advised Naaman to seek help from the prophet in Samaria?

23. What was Elisha's prescription (*Rx*) for Naaman's sickness?

24. Why didn't Naaman like Elisha's advice?

25. Who convinced Naaman to obey Elisha?

26. Why did Gehazi get sick?

Read 2nd Kings 6:8-22

27. Who were Elisha's protectors?

28. What did Elisha tell the king of Israel to do to the enemy army?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Malachi 4:5-6 (*The last two verses of the Old Testament*)

29. God promised to send which prophet to Israel again "before the day of the Lord arrives?"

Read Matthew 11:11-14

30. Jesus said that the prophet named in Malachi 4:5-6 was really who?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 11

Read Luke 9:28-36

31. Which two Old Testament prophets appeared with on the mountain of Transfiguration?

a. _____

b. _____

32. Jesus and the prophets talked about what?

Lesson 12
Prophets of Northern Israel
JONAH & HOSEA

Jonah said, "Lord, I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. You are a God who takes pity on people." (*Jonah 4:2 NIRV*)

JONAH

Date: About 793 B.C.

Read 2nd Kings 14:23-27

1. Jonah was prophet in northern Israel during the reign of which king?

_____ son of _____

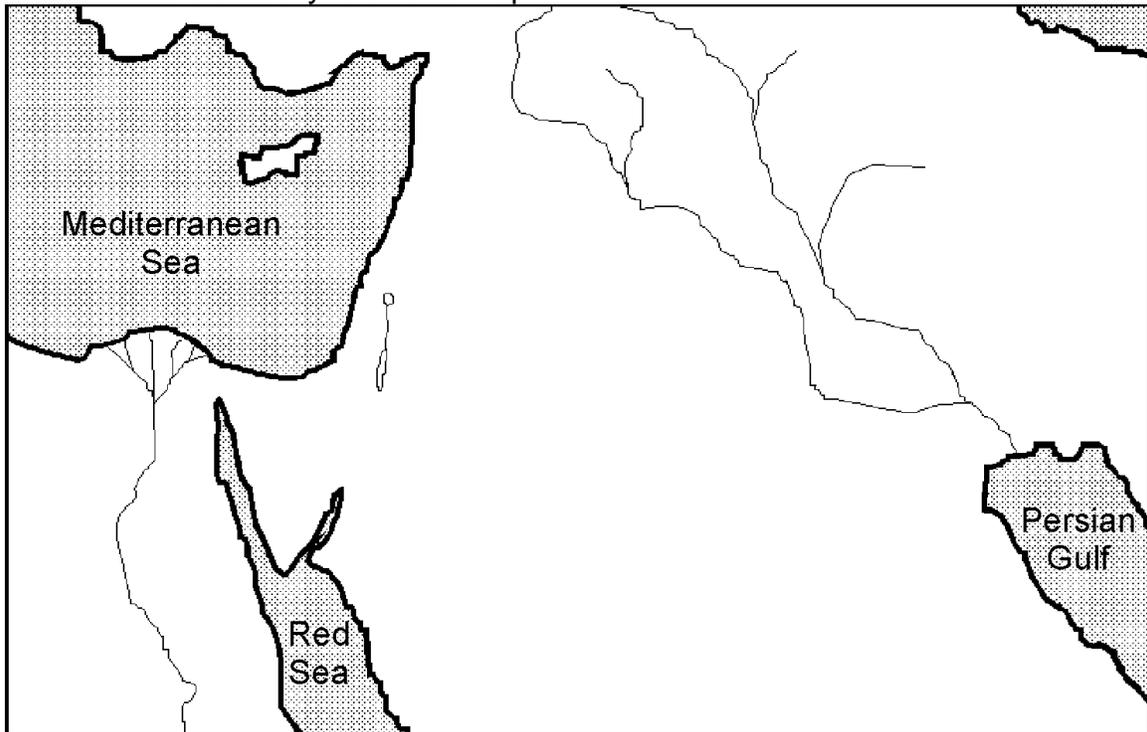
2. What message did God give to Jonah?

3. Why did God save the people of Israel from their enemies?

Read Jonah 1 - 2

4. God told Jonah to preach His Word where? Why?

5. Show where that city is on this map:



Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 12

6. Where did Jonah want to go? _____

Why?

7. In what city did Jonah find a ship to sail away from Israel? _____
(Show where that city is on the map under question #5.)

8. Most Bible teachers think that the place where Jonah wanted to go was a city in Spain that had a similar name. Find a map of the whole Mediterranean Sea (or a New Testament map of the Roman Empire).

(a) Israel and Spain are how many miles apart? _____ miles

(b) Which direction did Jonah travel from Israel toward Spain? _____
(North, South, East, or West?)

9. Who trusted God because of their strange experience with Jonah?

10. How did God bring Jonah back to land?

Read Jonah 3 - 4

11. What did Jonah tell the people that God will do?

12. Why was Jonah mad at God?

HOSEA

Date: About 750 B.C.

Read Hosea 1:1 - 3

13. Hosea was prophet during the reign of which king in northern Israel?

_____ son of _____

14. God told Hosea to marry whom? _____

What kind of woman was she? _____

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 12

15. God said that her behavior was the same as who? _____

Read Hosea 2:14-20 and 3:1-5

16. What did God promise to do for Israel?

17. What did God want Hosea to do for his wife?

18. Whom did God promise to send to Israel after "a long time?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

19. In the prophecy of Hosea, and in many other verses of the Bible, God says that idolatry (worshipping false gods) is like adultery. How are idolatry and adultery similar?

Read Matthew 12:38 - 41

20. In what way was Jonah a sign for the people of Israel?

21. In what way were the people of Nineveh a sign for the people of Israel?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 13
Prophets of Southern Israel
ISAIAH & MICAH

Isaiah said, "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace." (*Isaiah 9:6 NIRV*)

Read Isaiah 1

Dates: About 740 – 680 B.C.

1. Isaiah was a prophet in Judah during the reign of which kings?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. What were the people of Israel doing wrong?

3. God wanted the people to repent (change) and do what?

4. What did God want to do to help the people of Israel?

5. If the people refuse to repent and change, what will He do to Judah and Jerusalem?

Read Isaiah 6:1 - 8

6. Whom did Isaiah see in his vision?

7. Isaiah was afraid that God would destroy him. Why?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 13

8. The angel touched Isaiah's mouth with a hot burning coal. What did that action represent or symbolize?

9. What did Isaiah volunteer to do?

Read Isaiah 7:10 - 14

10. Isaiah prophesied the birth of whom?

Read Isaiah 9:6 - 7

11. In these verses Isaiah describes whom?

Read Isaiah 10:1 - 2

12. What were the people of Israel doing wrong?

Read Isaiah 11:6 - 9

13. The things that Isaiah describes in these verses happen where/when?

Read Isaiah 29:18 - 19

14. The things that Isaiah describes in these verses happen where/when?

Read Isaiah 53

15. What does this chapter describe?

MICAH

Dates: About 750 – 686 B.C.

Read Micah 1:1 - 7

16. Micah was a prophet in Judah during the reign of which kings?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 13

17. Micah said that God will punish Israelites in which cities?

a. _____

b. _____

Read Micah 4:1 - 8

18. God promised to do what for the people of Jerusalem?

19. The things that Micah describes in these verses happen when?

Read Micah 7:18 - 20

20. What does God do for His people?

21. Isaiah and Micah live 700 year before Jesus was born. But they prophesied about His life and ministry. In the lists below, match Isaiah's and Micah's prophecies with their New Testament fulfillment.

A:

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 6:9-10

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:1-2

Isaiah 11:10

Isaiah 28:16

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 1:22-23

Matthew 4:12-16

Matthew 13:10-15 & Acts 28:23-27

Romans 15:12

1 Peter 2:6

B:

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 29:13

Isaiah 40:3

Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah 40:6-8

Isaiah 42:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 3:1-3

Matthew 12:15-21

Matthew 15:7-9

Luke 3:1-6

1 Peter 1:24-25

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 13

C:

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:1

Isaiah 53:4

Isaiah 53:7-8

Isaiah 53:9

Isaiah 55:3

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 8:16-17

John 12:37-38

Act 8:26-33

Acts 13:34

1 Peter 2:22

D:

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 56:7

Isaiah 61:1-2

Isaiah 65:17-19

Micah 5:2

Micah 7:6

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 2:4-6

Matthew 10:34-36

Matthew 21:12-13

Luke 4:18-19

Revelation 21:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25

22. Who is Immanuel?

23. What does the name "Immanuel" mean?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 14
Prophets of Southern Israel
JEREMIAH

"A new day is coming," announces the Lord. "I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel." (*Jeremiah 31:31 NIRV*)

Read Jeremiah 1:1 - 10

Date: About 626 B.C.

1. The Lord's message first came to Jeremiah during the reign of which king of Judah?

2. When did God *choose* Jeremiah to be His prophet?

3. What was Jeremiah's excuse for not serving the Lord?

4. Jeremiah said that God touched what?

5. God appointed Jeremiah to be over whom?

6. God told Jeremiah to do four negative things:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

7. God told Jeremiah to do two positive things:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

Read Jeremiah 20:7-10 and 14-18

8. How did Jeremiah feel about speaking God's Word?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 14

Read Jeremiah 21:3-10

9. Whom did God send to attack Israel?

10. Jeremiah told the people that they would live by doing what?

Read Jeremiah 29:1 - 14

11. Jeremiah sent a letter with God's Word to whom? ...and where?

12. What did God tell the people they should do?

13. What did God promise that He will do for those people? ...and when?

Read Jeremiah 31:31 - 34

These verses describe two covenants that God made with Israel. A covenant is an agreement between two people, or between groups of people. A covenant describes what each person promises to do, and what will happen if either of them break their promise. God's covenants are usually one way promises from Him to the person or people He blesses.

14. When did God make his First Covenant with Israel?

15. What did Israel do with that First Covenant?

16. Where will God write the New Covenant?

17. What will the New Covenant do about our sins?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 14

Read Jeremiah 33:14-17

18. The Christ is descended from whom?

Read Jeremiah 36

19. Who wrote for Jeremiah, while Jeremiah spoke God's Word?

20. What did King Jehoiakim do with that scroll?

21. After that happened, God told Jeremiah to do what?

Read Jeremiah 38:1-13

22. Who wanted to kill Jeremiah? ...and why?

23. Who saved Jeremiah's life? ...and he was from what country?

Read Jeremiah 43:1 - 7

24. Jewish leaders forced Jeremiah to go with them to what country?

Read Jeremiah 52:1 - 16

25. Who was the last king of Judah?

26. How did the king of Babylon punish him?

27. Whom did the Babylonians leave in Judah to take care of the land?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 14

*Jeremiah also wrote the book of **LAMENTATIONS**. It is Jeremiah's prayer of sadness for the nation of Israel.*

Read Lamentations 3:1-33

28. Why was Jeremiah upset with God? (Verses 1-20)

29. Why did Jeremiah still have hope? (Verses 21-33)

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Read Hebrews 10:1-18

30. Why is the New Covenant much better than the First Covenant?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 15
Israel's Prophets in Captivity
EZEKIEL & DANIEL

Daniel wrote: "In my vision I saw One who looked like a Son of Man. He was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Eternal God. He was led right up to Him. And He was given authority, glory and a kingdom. People from every nation and language worshiped Him. His authority will last forever. It will not pass away. His kingdom will never be destroyed. (*Daniel 7:13-14 NIRV*)

EZEKIEL

Date: About 597 - 571 B.C.

Read Ezekiel 1

1. Ezekiel was where? ...with whom?

2. The creatures that Ezekiel saw each had four faces that looked like what?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

3. What or who was above the creatures (vv.26-28)?

Read Ezekiel 2

4. The Lord sent Ezekiel to give His message to whom?

5. What was written on the scroll?

Read Ezekiel 3:1 - 4

6. God told Ezekiel to do what with the scroll?

Read Ezekiel 3:16 - 21

7. If Ezekiel did not warn sinners to change their ways...

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 15

a. what would happen to the sinner? _____

b. what would happen to Ezekiel? _____

8. If Ezekiel warned a sinner, but the sinner didn't turn back to God...

a. what would happen to the sinner? _____

b. what would happen to Ezekiel? _____

In the book of Ezekiel, read the first verse of chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5
(Ezekiel 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, & 5:1)

9. What title did God use to call Ezekiel? _____

Read Ezekiel 8

10. What did Israelites put in the Lord's temple that upset Him?

Read Ezekiel 11:16 - 20

11. What became Israel's temple for the people of Israel during the time they are in Babylon and other countries?

12. After God brings the people of Israel back to their land, what will they do with their idols of false gods?

13. What will God put in His people?

Read Ezekiel 34

14. Israel's leaders were not faithful to God and led God's people the wrong way. Who will lead and care for them in the future?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 15

DANIEL

Date: About 605 - 536 B.C.

Read Daniel 1

15. Who were the four Jews that King Nebuchadnezzar chose for his training program?

Their real names

Their Babylonian names

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| a. _____ | _____ |
| b. _____ | _____ |
| c. _____ | _____ |
| d. _____ | _____ |

16. Ashpenaz taught Daniel and his friends what?

17. Why did Daniel and his friends eat only vegetables and drink only water?

Read Daniel 2

18. King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a statue. What did the gold head mean?

19. What did the large rock mean?

Read Daniel 3

20. What did Nebuchadnezzar set up in Dura?

21. When the music started, the people were supposed to do what?

22. What happened to the people that didn't obey the king's command?

23. How many people did the king see alive in the furnace?

Read Daniel 4

24. The tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents (means) whom?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 15

Read Daniel 5

25. Who saw the handwriting on the wall?

26. Who explained the meaning of the message on the wall?

27. What happened to Belshazzar that night?

Read Daniel 6

28. Why did the king throw Daniel into the lions' den?

29. Who had shut the lions' mouths?

30. What happened to Daniel's accusers?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

31. How were the people of Israel like dry bones?

Read Daniel 1:18-20

32. Why did Daniel and his friends have better answers to King Nebuchadnezzar's questions than anyone else in Babylon?

Read Daniel 7:13-14 and Matthew 26:62-57

33. Daniel's prophecy described whom?

34. Why did Jesus' answer upset the chief priests?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 16
Prophets back home after captivity
HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

The Lord says, "In a little while I will shake the heavens and the earth once more. I will also shake the ocean and the dry land. I will shake all of the nations. Then what they consider to be priceless will come to my temple. And I will fill the temple with glory."
(Haggai 2:6-7 NIRV)

HAGGAI

Date: About 520 B.C.

Read Haggai 1 *Haggai's first message from the Lord*

1. After the Jews returned to the homeland, Israel, who was their governor?
2. Who was their high priest?
3. Israelites returning to the land forgot to rebuild what?
4. What trouble happened because of their forgetfulness and neglect?
5. Haggai's message inspired the governor, the high priest, and the people to do what?

Read Haggai 2 *Haggai's second message from the Lord*

6. "In a little while" who will come into God's temple (verse 7)?

ZECHARIAH

Date: About 520 - 480 B.C.

Read Zechariah 1

7. When people of Israel turned away from God, God used Assyria and Babylonia to punish Israel, to make them wake up and turn back to God. But Assyria, Babylonia, and other nations did something wrong that upset God (see verses 14 & 15). What?

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 16

Read Zechariah 2:10-13

8. Who will come to live among the people of Israel?

Read Zechariah 3

9. Where was the high priest standing?

10. Who brought charges against the high priest? (Who accused him of sinning?)

11. The high priest's dirty clothes mean what? ...what do they represent?

12. How did the high priest get rid of the dirty clothes and get new clean clothes?

13. The new clean clothes mean what?

Read Zechariah 6:12-13

Many Old Testament prophets call Christ "The Branch" because, when He comes as man, He will belong to King David's family tree.

14. Christ "the Branch" will rule as the King and as _____? (...what else?)

Read Zechariah 9:9-11

15. Christ the King will come into Jerusalem riding what?

16. Christ will free the devil's "prisoners" (verse 11). Why (or how)?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 16

17. Zechariah live 500 years before Jesus was born. But he prophesied about Jesus' life and ministry. In the list below, match Zechariah's prophecy with the New Testament fulfillment.

OLD TESTAMENT

Zechariah 6:12-13

Zechariah 9:9

Zechariah 11:12-13

Zechariah 12:10

Zechariah 13:7

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 21:5 & John 12:15

Matthew 26:14-15 & 27:3-10

Matthew 26:31

Luke 1:31-33

John 19:33-37

MALACHI

Date: About 440 B.C.

The name "Malachi" means "My Messenger"

Read Malachi 1:6-14

18. How did the priests show contempt against God (look down Him)?

Read Malachi 2:10-16

19. God warned the men of Israel about family problems. What did they do wrong?

Read Malachi 3:6-12

20. How did people steal from God?

21. God invited the people to "test" Him. How?

22. Malachi prophesied about John the Baptist's life and ministry. In the list below, match Malachi's prophecy with the New Testament fulfillment.

OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 3:1

Malachi 4:5

Malachi 4:6

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 1:13-17

Matthew 11:7-10

Matthew 11:14 & 17:10-13

Introduction to the Old Testament
Lesson 16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Zechariah 3:1-5

23. Explain how that story is a picture of what Christ does for us.

Read Malachi 2:7-9

24. This warning that God gives Israel's priest is important for us today. How?

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Unit 4
WISDOM BOOKS

The Bible says:

"If you really want to become wise, you must begin by having respect for the Lord. To know the Holy One is to gain understanding." (*Proverbs 9:10 NIIRV*)

Five books in the middle of the Old Testament are written as Hebrew poems.

Some poems tell a story.

Some poems worship God in praise.

Some poems teach the reader important truth about God.

Some poems are emotional prayers asking for God's help.

Hebrew poems are more like ASL than English. English poems often play with the sounds of words. Hebrew poems play with ideas shaped as word-pictures. Those ideas often come in two lines or sentences of that compare ideas. Sometimes the two ideas are the same; sometimes they are opposites.

Bible teachers call these five books "Wisdom Literature" or Wisdom Books because they teach God's true wisdom and they expose foolish human wisdom.

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 17
JOB

Job said:

"I know that my Redeemer lives.
In the end He will stand on the earth.
After my skin has been destroyed,
in my body I'll still see God.
I myself will see Him with my own eyes.
I'll see Him, and He won't be a stranger to me.
How my heart longs for that day!"

(Job 19:25-27 NIRV)

JOB

Date is uncertain. Probably about 2000 (around the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) or later.

Note: We say the name "Job" with a long "o", like "go". This is not the English word "job," meaning work.

Read Job 1

1. God was pleased with Job. Why?
2. One day God had a meeting with His angels. Who else came to that meeting?
3. Satan thought that the reason Job loved and trusted God was because.... why?
4. God gave Satan permission to do what?
5. God said that Satan must NOT do what?
6. Satan made what happen to Job?

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Lesson 17

7. What did Job say to God about all that happened?

Read Job 2

8. God gave Satan permission to do what?

9. God said that Satan must NOT do what?

10. Satan made what happen to Job?

11. Job's wife said that Job should do what?

12. What was Job's answer?

13. Who came to visit Job? ...and why?

14. How long did they silently sit with Job?

Read Job 3

15. How did Job feel about his life?

Read Job 4

16. Job's friends said who was responsible for his problems?

Read Job 6:1-4 and Job 19:6-21

17. Job said who was responsible for his problems?

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Lesson 17

Read Job 19:23-27

18. Job trusted whom to save him? ...when? How?

Read Job 23:1-7

19. Job wanted to tell God what?

Read Job 32 & 33

20. Who was Job's fourth visitor?

21. What did Job say that made this fourth visitor angry? *(See Job 32:2 & Job 33:1-12)*

22. The fourth visitor was also angry at Job's three friends. Why? *(See Job 32:3 and Job 32:12-15)*

Read Job 38 & 39, and Job 40:1

23. God spoke to whom? ...from where?

24. God said who was responsible for Job's problems?

25. Why did God describe many of His works in creation? What was God trying to teach Job?

Read Job 42

26. What was Job's answer to God?

27. God wanted Job to pray to forgive whom?

28. After job prayed for their forgiveness, what did God do for Job?

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Lesson 17

29. Compare Job's family and the things he owned **before** and **after** his time of trouble.

How many...	Before (Job 1:2-3)	After (Job 42:12-13)
sons	7	
daughters	3	
sheep		
camels		
pairs of oxen		
donkeys		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

30. Why did God allow Satan to hurt Job?
31. Does God allow Satan to hurt us? ...why?
32. The name "Satan" means "accuser." What was his accusation against Job?

Read Job 19:25-27

33. Who is Job's "Redeemer"?

Introduction to the Old Testament

Lesson 18
PSALMS

Psalm 117

"All you nations, praise the Lord.
All you people on earth, praise Him.
Great is his love for us.
The Lord is faithful forever.
Praise the Lord."

*The word **psalm** is a Greek word that means "song of praise." The Hebrew word for praise is HALAL. This is the root of the word HALLELUJAH, "Praise the Lord!" The Hebrew title for this book of the Bible is TEHILLIM, "Praises."*

WHO WROTE THE PSALMS? ...AND WHEN?

The Psalms are a collection of worship songs that many different people wrote during 1000 years of Israel's history. The oldest psalms were written during Moses' time (about 1400 B.C.). The newest psalms were written after the Babylonian captivity (about 500 B.C.).

1. The names of the people who wrote Psalms appear in the psalm titles. Who wrote these psalms?
 - a. Psalm 23 _____
 - b. Psalm 48 _____
 - c. Psalm 72 _____
 - d. Psalm 73 _____
 - e. Psalm 89 _____
 - d. Psalm 90 _____

2. Read the titles for Psalm 1 through Psalm 30. Who wrote most of them? _____

3. Some psalm titles describe the situation that the psalmist wrote about. What happened at the time David wrote these psalms?
 - a. Psalm 18 _____

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b. Psalm 34 _____

c. Psalm 51 _____

d. Psalm 52 _____

e. Psalm 57 _____

f. Psalm 59 _____

g. Psalm 63 _____

4. Some psalms were written for special occasions or events.
What were the occasions for these psalms?

a. Psalm 30 _____

b. Psalm 45 _____

c. Psalm 92 _____

d. Psalm 100 _____

5. Many psalm titles have the name of the musical tune used for the psalm.
What was the musical tune for these psalms?

a. Psalm 9 _____

b. Psalm 22 _____

c. Psalm 45 _____

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6. Some titles describe musical instruments that worship leaders should play while people sing the psalm. What instruments should be played for these psalms?

a. Psalm 4 _____

b. Psalm 5 _____

KINDS OF PSALMS

We can group psalms many different ways. Here are a few groups:

- A. **Messianic Psalms** -- prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- B. **Teaching Psalms**
- C. **Confession Psalms**
- D. **Comfort Psalms**
- E. **Praise** and thanksgiving for
 - who God is
 - what God did, does, and will do
- F. **Prayers for help** and protection
- G. **Prayers for revenge** against enemies. These angry psalms are not examples for the way we should pray (forgiving our enemies), but they honestly express the way that the psalmists felt.

Many psalms fit in to more than one group. For example:

- Some praise psalms include Messianic prophecy
- Confession psalms often end with praise and teaching
- Prayers for help often end with comfort and praise

7. Read these psalms and identify what kind psalm it is. Most have one answer. Some have two or three answers.

a. Psalm 1 _____

b. Psalm 2 _____

c. Psalm 6 _____

d. Psalm 8 _____

e. Psalm 13 _____

f. Psalm 14 _____

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- g. Psalm 22 _____
- h. Psalm 23 _____
- i. Psalm 33 _____
- j. Psalm 51 _____
- k. Psalm 69 _____
- l. Psalm 91 _____
- m. Psalm 100 _____

8. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117.
- a. Psalm 117 has how many verses? _____
 - b. What kind of psalm is Psalm 117? _____

9. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. It uses the Hebrew alphabet to teach about God's holy Law. Many English Bible translations show or name the Hebrew letter that begins the first word in every verse in each section.

Psalm 119 has how many verses? _____

PROPHECIES OF CHRIST IN PSALMS

10. In the lists below, match the prophecies with their New Testament fulfillment.

A.

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 2:1-2

Psalm 2:7

Psalm 8:1-2

Psalm 16:8-11

Psalm 22:1

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 21:15-16

Matthew 27:46

Acts 2:22-32

Acts 4:23-28

Acts 13:32-33

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B.	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:41-43
	Psalms 22:16	John 10:11
	Psalms 22:18	John 19:18
	Psalms 23:1	John 19:23-24
	Psalms 34:20	John 19:31-36
C.	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
	Psalms 40:6-8	John 2:13-17
	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18-30
	Psalms 45:6-7	Ephesians 4:7-10
	Psalms 68:18	Hebrews 1:8-9
	Psalms 69:9	Hebrews 10:4-10
D.	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
	Psalms 78:1-2	Matthew 13:34-35
	Psalms 110:1-2	Matthew 21:6-9
	Psalms 110:4	Matthew 21:42-44
	Psalms 118:22-23	Matthew 22:41-46
	Psalms 118:26	Hebrews 7:15-22

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

11. If we read Psalms when we feel sad, angry, or frustrated, the Psalms can build up our faith. Why?

Lesson 19
Wisdom of King Solomon
PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON

King Solomon wrote:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Do not depend on your own understanding.
In all your ways remember him.
Then he will make your paths smooth and straight." (*Proverbs 3:5-6 NIRV*)

REVIEW SOLOMON'S LIFE

Read again Lesson 7 of this course, questions 23 - 28.

1. Who was Solomon's father? _____
2. When Solomon was a young king, he asked God to give him what? _____
3. When Solomon became old what happened to him? How did he change?

PROVERBS

Read Proverbs 1

4. Why did Solomon write these proverbs? (verses 1-7)
5. Solomon warned his son about whom? (verses 10-19)
6. In several places in Proverbs, Solomon wrote that wisdom is like a wise and good woman and foolishness is like a prostitute. If we ignore wisdom, what will we get? (verse 20-33)

Read Proverbs 5

7. Solomon warned his son about whom?

Read Proverbs 9:10-18

8. If we want to become wise, we must begin by having what?
9. Foolishness leads to where?

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Read Proverbs 14:12

10. The way that may seem right leads to where?

Read Proverbs 15:1

11. If someone is mad and yells at you, what is a wise answer?

Read Proverbs 31

12. Who wrote the last chapter of Proverbs?

13. The last chapter of Proverbs (starting at verse 10) is about whom?

Suggestions for reading Proverbs every day

The book of Proverbs has 31 chapters. Read one chapter each day -- the same chapter as the day of the month. (Example: On April 7 read Proverbs 7.) This will lead you through the book of Proverbs in one month.

Have a notebook to copy verses in proverbs under these topics:

- *Marriage*
- *Parents & Children*
- *Work*
- *Money*
- *Honesty*
- *Helping other people*

ECCLESIASTES

The Book of Ecclesiastes lets us see the world through the eyes of a man like Solomon who turned away from God later in his life. Ecclesiastes is a sad book that shows us what life is like without God.

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

These first verses of Ecclesiastes summarize the message of this sad book.

14. What is the meaning of life for a person without God? (See verse 2. Solomon repeats this often in the rest of Ecclesiastes.)

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In his old age, Solomon remembered that God had good plan for his life, and Solomon is sad he turned away from God. He encourages us not to make the same mistake.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

15. "There's a _____ for everything that is done on earth."
16. Who is responsible for making that happen? (See verses 11 and 14.)

Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

17. What one important thing we must do all through our life, from the time we are young until we die? (See verse 1 and verses 4-7)

SONG OF SOLOMON (Song of Songs)
--

This is a love song between a bride and groom, between a husband and wife. The Song of Solomon teaches about having a happy marriage. Some teachers say this is like Christ and the church loving each other.

The Song has many word pictures. For example:

Read Song of Solomon 2:1-7

18. Verses 1 & 2 say that the woman is like what?
19. Verses 4 & 5 describe husband and wife doing what?
20. What were they *really* doing? (See verse 6.)
21. The woman gives important advice to her single friends. (See verse 7. Also see Song of Solomon 3:5 and 8:4.) What is that advice?

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Lesson 19

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Read Proverbs 19

22. When you find a verse that matches one of the topics listed below and on the next page, write that verse the topic. Some verse touch on two or more topics. Some verses don't touch any of these topics.

(a) Marriage

(b) Parents & Children

(c) Work

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(d) Money

(e) Honesty (don't lie)

(f) Helping other people

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**Unit 5
Lesson 20
Old Testament Covenants**

God said:

“During Noah’s time I took an oath and made a promise.
I said I would never cover the earth with water again.
In the same way, I have promised not to be angry with you.
I will never punish you again.
The mountains might shake.
The hills might be removed.
But my faithful love for you will never be shaken.
And my covenant that promises peace to you will never be broken,”
says the Lord. He shows you his loving concern. *(Isaiah 54:9-10 NIRV)*

A covenant is an agreement between two people, or between groups of people. A covenant describes what each person promises to do, and what will happen if either of them break their promise. For example:

Read Joshua 9

1. Joshua and the Israelites made a peace treaty with what people?

Read 1st Samuel 20:12-17

2. What two people made a covenant with each other?

(a) _____

(b) _____

GOD'S COVENANTS

God often made one-way covenants, promising to bless. And sometimes God made a "sign" for the covenant to show that He made that promise. For example:

Covenant #1

Read Genesis 9:8-17

3. God made a covenant with whom?
4. God promised to do what?
5. What was the sign of God's covenant?

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Covenant #2

Read Genesis 12:1-3

6. God made a covenant with whom?

7. God promised to do what?

Read Genesis 17

8. What was the sign of the covenant? (See verses 10-14.)

9. Who next received this covenant? (See verses 18-21.)

Read Genesis 28:10-15

10. Who next received this covenant?

Read Genesis 32:24-30

11. God changed his name to what?

Covenant #3

Read Exodus 19

12. God made a covenant with whom?

13. God made this covenant with them where?

14. God said that they must do what? (See verse 5.)

15. God promised that He will do what for them? (See verse 6.)

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16. This covenant had several "signs." Read each of these verses and find the thing that was a sign of this covenant.

(a) Exodus 24:3-8 (see verse 8) _____

(b) Exodus 25:10-22 and Exodus 26:33 _____

(c) Exodus 34:27-28 _____

(d) Leviticus 12:3 _____

(e) Leviticus 23:1-3 _____

Read 2nd Kings 18:10-12 and Jeremiah 11:6-10

17. What did the people do with this covenant?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

18. What did God do to replace this covenant?

Covenant #4

Read 2nd Samuel 7

19. God made a covenant with whom?

20. God promised that He would do what? (See verse 16)

Note: Old Testament prophets repeated the promise of this covenant many times.

Read Luke 1:26-38

21. God kept His promise how? ...by whom?

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Lesson 20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

22. Which covenant was a TWO WAY covenant of **Law** -- God started it and people must obey?

___ Covenant #1 ___ Covenant #2 ___ Covenant #3 ___ Covenant #4

23. Which covenants were ONE WAY of **Grace** -- God's gift, all His doing?

___ Covenant #1 ___ Covenant #2 ___ Covenant #3 ___ Covenant #4

24. How do Covenants #2, #3, and #4, point to Jesus?

(a) Covenant #2

(b) Covenant #3

(c) Covenant #4

Read Isaiah 42:5-7

25. Who is the "Servant" that the prophecy is speaking about?