



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Class One:
OVERVIEW

When I was asked to do a modular on Old Testament Survey my first thought was...
“This should be easy!”

My first thought was to break this down into the kind of books that made up the Old Testament:

1. The Torah
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Major Prophets
5. Minor Prophets

Look at that...

Five groups to cover and the modular is six classes long.

I'm going to have an extra class to work with.

All I had to do was go class by class

But then God began to talk to me.

"Everyone teaches Old Testament Survey that way."

In fact, we have a series of classes archived on our School of Ministry site taught by Pastor Harold Anderson that way

I knew what was coming...

God has done this to me before
He wanted me to take a different approach...

How different?

He wanted me to deal with topics.
This changed everything.
Just in Genesis there were three major topics I needed to cover:

1. The Bible Code
2. Creation
3. The Nephelim

This is before I could even get to the Flood
Then there were the Patriarchs:

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob

And of course we had to cover Joseph

If I was lucky, I could cover Genesis in one evening...maybe
Then came the Book of Exodus and the Law of God
This would include the Tabernacle and all the pictures of Jesus God gave to Moses

Leviticus...

That's a boring book

We can cover that quickly and skip everything

But I could not skip:

1. The Sacrifices
2. The Feasts

Numbers and Deuteronomy might be a quick review with several highlights.

But at best, I am using three of the six classes to cover just the Torah and there are still 34 more books to cover

But it got worse...

As I put the three main topics together I discovered that there would be one entire class to cover each topic:

1. The Creation
2. The Bible Codes; and
3. The Nephelim

There was no way to cover the rest of the New Testament in just three additional classes

It's amazing how God has already worked out solutions to problems we are just discovering

Dave approached me one Sunday morning...

"What do you think about doing the Old Testament Survey in eight sessions instead of six?"

I can always use two extra classes

In most modulars I end up asking for extra classes

So let me begin with the 200-mile high view of the Old Testament

The entire Bible is a single theme

That theme is the Redemption of Mankind

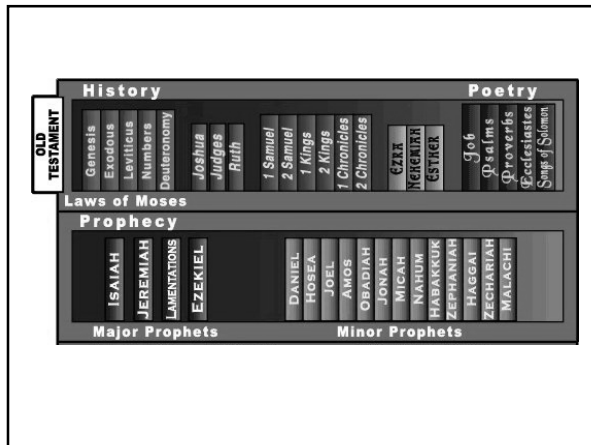
The Bible, as a whole, is God's written contract of how He is going to redeem His Creation

The Old Testament is God's actual contract –
This would be His promise to save us
This is why we need saving
This is who His Messiah will be
This is how He is going to do it

The New Testament is God doing what He promised to do
This is God's documentation that He has fulfilled His part of the contract
This is how and when God fulfilled His promise
Along with some new promises

After God has saved us He plans to remove sin and evil forever
The day is coming where there will no longer be sin
There will no longer be evil
They will be gone forever

Let's drop to the 500-mile view
 Here are the stats for those
 who want to know:
 We are looking at 39 Books
 They were written over a
 period of 2,000 years
 They were written by around
 29 authors [maybe less]



For the 100-mile view, let me steal
 a theme from several Bible
 scholars
 Let me quote a passage and refer
 to an incident in the Book of
 Joshua that can tie everything
 together for us...

Rahab had protected the two spies sent by the Children of Israel
In exchange they promised to save her and her family
Right before the battle of Jericho they returned with instructions for her

Joshua 2:18:
“Behold, when we come into the land, you shall bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which you did let us down by: and you shall bring your father, and your mother, and your brethren, and all your father's household, home unto you.”

Notice the scarlet line...
Cross-reference this with the Passover blood on the door posts and lintel
When God sees this, He will spare them and keep them safe

Notice how God tells His prophets that He will speak with/through them

Hosea 12:10:

“I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”

What you are seeing here with the “scarlet line” is a similitude.

“This is similar to this”

It is not exact, but it is close

God is using this thing which is similar to what He is going to do to teach us

It is a visual aid

The “scarlet line” is a similitude of the Gospel of Jesus

These things are similar to what God is going to actually do for us

This scarlet line – this blood-colored image is going to open a window to the Gentiles
It will protect us and save us
It will deliver us from the judgment of God

I am going to use this “scarlet line” as my over-all theme for this Old Testament Survey
God’s plan to redeem mankind will be my main theme
All other themes will fall under the umbrella theme of God’s salvation

For a 50-mile view let me walk you through the Old Testament tonight in a quick book-by-book and player-by-player summary
This will be a very short traditional overview of the Old Testament

We will start with the Torah or the Books of Law

These are also called the Pentateuch which refers to the first five books of the Bible

These are not the oldest books in the Old Testament

But they start at the beginning

The Pentateuch refers to the first five books of the Old Testament:

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

They are also called the Books of Law since they contain God's Law

Genesis is the beginning of everything
Through the Bible presents the name Genesis like this:

GeNesis

Notice that there is a Big "N" in the middle of the name

Think of Big "N" as "Begin" or "Beginnings"

Genesis starts with “The Beginning...”
God created the heavens and the earth
This would be our dimension – our universe
This is the creation of space, time, matter and light

God then transforms the earth into a livable environment
He creates life
He creates man
He creates woman
He then sets a standard for them: “Don’t eat the forbidden fruit”
They eat the forbidden fruit

As a result, two other items are created that day:
Sin is created – introduced into our universe
Death is created – introduced into our universe
This creates the need for a Savior
This person is also known as Messiah and as Redeemer

It is in Genesis that God promises a Redeemer to break the power of sin and death

This Redeemer is going to be the result of a virgin birth

Genesis 3:15:

“And I will put enmity [conflict] between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; and it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

We see sin and corruption grow to the point where God needs to destroy the human race and start over

This was the Flood of Noah

We see God now focusing on this promised Redeemer, and the remainder of Genesis is documenting God's selection process:

God chose Noah and his son Shem
God then chose Abraham and his son Isaac
God chose Jacob and his son Judah
This is the line of the Redeemer

Now let me identify some titles:
"Hebrew" – this began with Abraham
It means "to cross over" or "one from beyond"

Abraham and his line came from beyond Canaan
The line of Abraham was called Hebrews

This would be Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Jacob had an encounter with God and his name was changed to Israel
"One who had struggled with God"
Beginning with Jacob, his line was called the Children of Israel

Finally, God sent the Kingdom of Judah into Captivity into Babylon
They stayed in Babylon and lost their individual tribal identity
When they returned to the Promised Land they were seen as the Kingdom of Judah or the Tribe of Judah
And so they were called Jews from this point forward

This brings us to Exodus
Think of the word "Exit" for this book because it is the account of God bringing the Children of Israel [Jacob] out of Egypt where they have been slaves for four hundred years

God told Abraham that the sin in the land of Canaan was not full
In other words, it was going to become even more evil
To protect his descendants, God sent them into Egypt where they were turned into slaves
Exodus is the story of their return

We meet Moses in this book.
The Pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew babies to be killed
His mother hid him in a basket in the Nile River
He was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him
He was raised in Pharaoh's palace

At forty years old, he was aware of his lineage and killed an Egyptian to protect a Hebrew
He was discovered and had to flee Egypt
He lived forty years in the Wilderness herding flocks

Moses was 80 years old when God called him to the burning bush and sent him back to Egypt.
From the burning bush until the Children of Israel entered Canaan and Moses died was another forty years.

Before the Children of Israel complete their journey to Canaan, there are three more books:

1. There is Leviticus
2. There is Numbers
3. There is Deuteronomy

These three books cover the forty years in the Wilderness for the Children of Israel.

When you see Leviticus, think of the Tribe of Levi – the Priestly Tribe

This book is a How-To Book God wrote for them on how to be priests before Him

The Book of Numbers is the wandering in the Wilderness
Through the Bible used a picture of actual numbers wandering in the desert as if they were blind
This book covers the Children of Israel's refusal to trust God and move into the land

They did not trust God, and so
God punished them

No one twenty years or older
would enter the Promised Land
except for Joshua and Caleb

This book covers these forty years
as the older generation died off

Deuteronomy literally means
“Second Law”

This entire book is Moses’
farewell message to the Children
of Israel before he dies

He repeats the Law and God’s
warnings to them a second time

The Book of Joshua begins the
second group of the Old Testament
called the Books of History.

These books cover the conquest of
the land, the transition from a
Theocracy [God-ruled government]
to a Monarchy

It covers the fall of Israel into
idolatry and God’s punishment

Joshua is the conquest of the Promised Land

Judges is the period where God ruled Israel through Judges

The people would sin, God would punish them using invaders

They would repent and a Judge would deliver them

And the cycle would start all over

Ruth focuses on the line of David and his ancestors before he was born

It is also a physical example of the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer which is the Law God would use to redeem the human race

Samuel was the transition from the Theocracy to the Monarchy
Samuel was the last Judge and the first Prophet

He anointed King Saul

He anointed King David

The books of Samuel document this transition of power

The Books of Kings and the Books of Chronicles document the reign of the various kings from Solomon unto the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
Solomon was David's son
With Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided into North and South

The Northern Kingdom never followed God
All its kings were evil
The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 BC
The Northern Kingdom involved ten of the twelve tribes
They were scattered to never return

The Southern Kingdom had good kings and evil kings
There were several revivals and returning to God followed by idolatry that was worse each time
It became so bad that God cut off the line of Solomon and no one from his line would sit on the throne ever again

The Southern Kingdom fell to Babylon in 586 BC
The inhabitants were taken captive to Babylon
They were in captivity there for seventy years
God then used Persia to set them free and send them home

The Babylonian years were covered by Ezekiel, Daniel and Esther
Daniel was counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to the kings of Persia afterwards
Esther was a Jew who was queen of Persia

Ezra and Nehemiah were historical accounts of the Jews returning home and rebuilding the Temple and the walls of the city
The rest of the Books of the Old Testament deal with poetry and prophecy
We will discuss them in more detail when we cover these books

Before I close, let me identify the key players and who they were and what they did...

Adam, the first man. He ate the forbidden fruit and was exiled from the Garden

Eve, the first woman, Adam's wife

Pre-Flood figures:

Seth, the son of Adam

Enoch, he was taken bodily into Heaven

Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived – 969 years old

Noah – God called him to build a boat – the Ark

Post Flood:

Noah – God used him and his family to start over

Shem – Noah's second son who would eventually form the Jews

Abraham – God called him and identified that he would be the ancestor of the Messiah

Isaac – the son of Abraham
Jacob, the second son of Isaac.
He would be the one who would
start the tribes of Israel. His name
was changed from Jacob to Israel
Judah – the son of Jacob who
would become the Kingly Tribe
Levi – Son of Jacob who would
become the Priestly Tribe

Joseph – Son of Jacob who would
be sold into slavery and sent to
Egypt. God would use him to
bring Jacob [Israel] and his family
to Egypt out of Canaan
Moses – God called him to lead
the Children of Israel out of
slavery in Egypt to become the
nation of Israel

Aaron – the brother of Moses. He
would be the first High Priest
Joshua – Servant of Moses. He
would lead the Children of Israel
to capture the Promised land
Samson – one of the Judges. God
gave him great strength as long
as he obeyed and did not cut his
hair

Ruth and Boaz – Great-grandparents of King David
Samuel – young boy dedicated and given to God by his mother. He was the last Judge and the first Prophet. He anointed Saul and David as king over Israel

Saul – First King over Israel. He sinned and God took the throne from him and gave it to David
David – Killed Goliath. Became King over Israel. God promised David's descendant would be the Messiah
Solomon – David's son. Wisest man to ever live

Elijah – Prophet used to warn the Northern Kingdom of judgment. He called fire from Heaven to consume a sacrifice. He was taken bodily into Heaven
Elisha – the prophet after Elijah. He warned the Northern King of judgment and performed miracles

Isaiah – Prophet who warned the Southern Kingdom of judgment. His prophecies dealt with the Messiah, Tribulation and Millennium

Jeremiah – Prophet in Jerusalem at the time it fell to Babylon

Jonah – Prophet to Nineveh. He was swallowed by a whale

Ezekiel – Prophet to the Southern Kingdom at time it fell to Babylon. His prophecies cover the Tribulation Period and Millennium

Daniel – Prophet during the Babylonian Captivity. He saw the Four Kingdoms, the 70 Weeks and the Tribulation Period. He survived the lion's den.

Ezra – Beginning of the Pharisees. He edited and organized many Old Testament Books

Nehemiah – God used him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

Esther – a Jew who became the Queen of Persia and thwarted a plot to wipe out all the Jews

We are going to backtrack a little in our next session
We are going to discuss how God authenticates that He is the one who inspired those who wrote the Bible
This is His message and not man's

We will discuss various Bible Codes and prophecy and how God uses these to prove that He does exist, He is in charge, and He did write these books in order to reveal Himself to us

QUESTIONS

