

History of the Old Testament

Taught by Rev. Jerry Munz
Study Guide

History of the Old Testament is an online *DeafPah!* course that helps prepare church members to serve in their congregation's teaching ministry. You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from deafjesus.org.

The videos for this course were originally prepared as VHS videotapes for the Deaf Institute of Theology. Because the voice translation on the original project was done poorly, we have muted the audio and corrected some of the captions.

The textbook that was the basis for this course is no longer in print. However, we have included in this student guide reference materials cited in the original videos lessons.

While you watch the videos, take notes, especially when the teacher describes a list of topics. At the end of each video lesson, reinforce what you have learned by answering the questions in this student guide.

Now please watch video lesson #1, and then answer the study guide questions and share your answers with your mentor.

Chapter 1 – God's Written Record of His Unfolding Promise

Lesson 1 – Introduction / The Old Testament leads us to Jesus Christ

The BIBLE has two parts – **Old Testament** and **New Testament**.

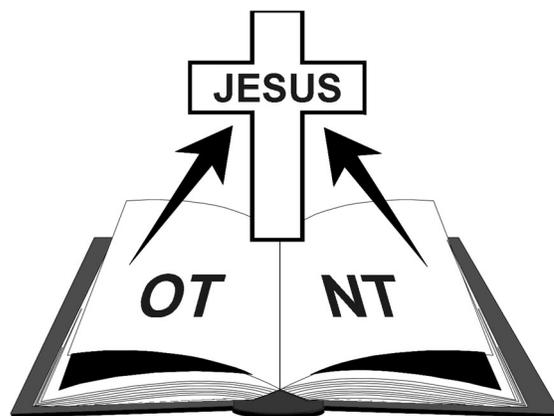
The OLD TESTAMENT is the story of a NATION – Israel (God's people).

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.



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LESSON 1 STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. It is important for Christians to learn the Old Testament because.....
2. Which Old Testament story or Psalm is important to you?

Lesson 2 – God’s Promise of Grace in the Old Testament

LESSON 2 STUDY QUESTION:

Describe an example of God’s grace in the Old Testament

Lesson 3 –The Old Testament Library

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.

LESSON 2 STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. God led people to write the 39 books in the Old Testament. Explain how God helped them to write.
2. This lesson describes five different parts of the Old Testament. What are they?

Chapter 2 – The Story Begins

Lesson 4 – God’s Creation, God’s Promise

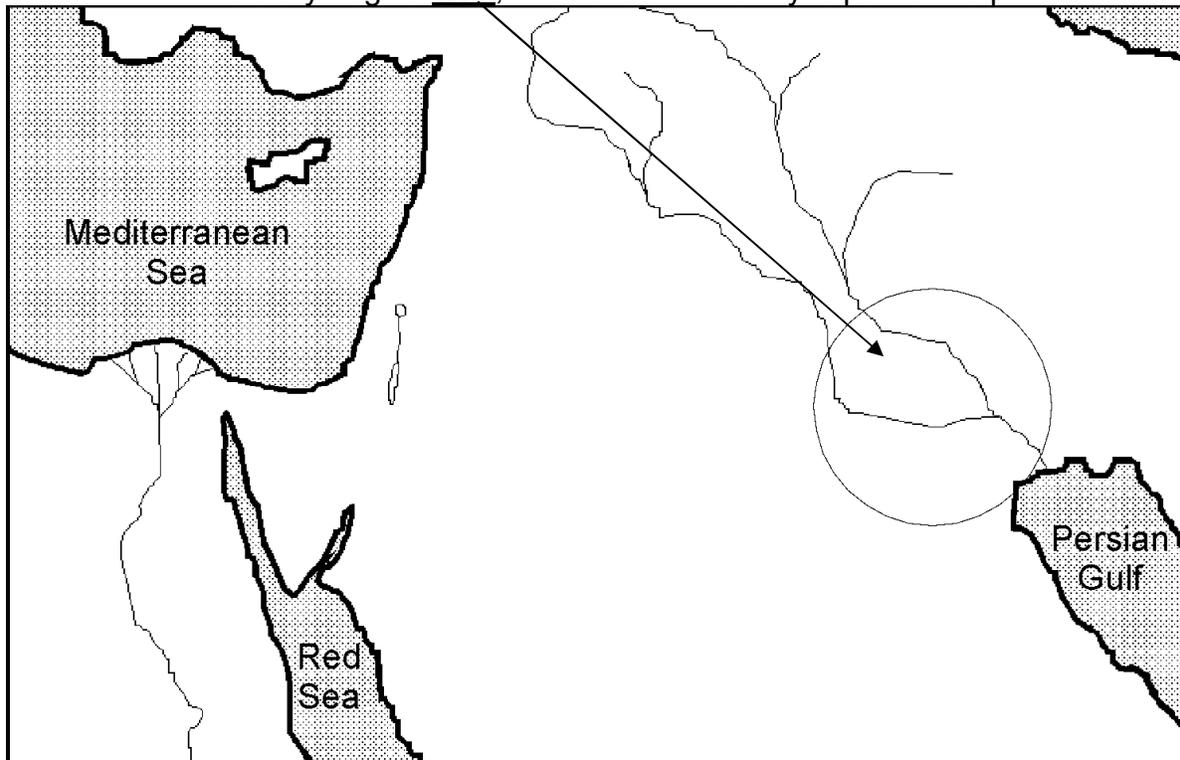
Genesis 1 – 3

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.



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

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2. What happened to the world because Adam and Eve sinned?

3. What Bible verse is God's first promise to send a Savior?

Lesson 5 – Cain & Able

Genesis 3:21 – 4 :24

1. What was the first cause of death for animals?

2. What was the first cause of human death?

2. Read Hebrews 11:4. Why did God reject Cain's sacrifice, but He accept Abel's sacrifice?

Lesson 6 – Noah

Genesis 4 - 7

1. Who was Cain's wife?

2. Which son of Adam and Eve continued to trust God's promise?

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

Lesson 7 – The Tower of Babel

Genesis 8 - 11

1. God promised Noah that God will never again destroy the world with a flood. God showed His promise how?

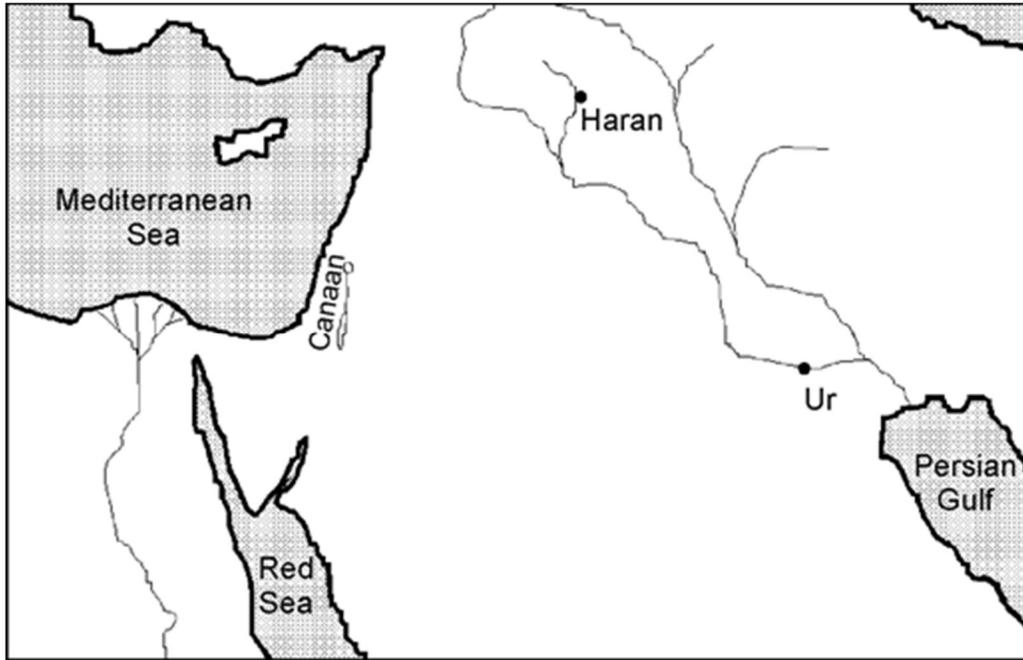
2. Why did God mix up the languages that people speak?

Chapter 3 – By Faith Alone (part 1)

Lesson 8 – God’s Promise to Abram

Genesis 12 – 17

Abram’s hometown was Ur. First he moved with his family to Haran. Then God led him to live in Canaan.



1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 God promised to Abram what?
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
2. God said to Abraham, "All nations of the earth will be blessed because of you." What very important blessing have you received through Abraham?
3. The word "covenant" means what?
4. God gave Abram a sign that showed Abram's faith in God. What was that sign?

Lesson 9 – Abraham’s Sons

Genesis 16 – 18

1. Why did God change Abram’s name to Abraham?
 2. Who were Hagar and Ishmael?
 3. How did Isaac get his name?
 4. Which of Abraham’s two sons was the son that God promised?
-

Lesson 10 – Isaac

Genesis 22 – 24

1. How does this story about Abraham and Isaac apply to Jesus?
2. How does this story apply to us?

Chapter 4 – By Faith Alone (part 2)

Lesson 11 – Jacob vs. Esau (Birthright)

Genesis 25:19-34

1. How & why did Jacob get his name?
2. What did “birthright” mean?
3. Esau gave Jacob his birthright in exchange for what?

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Lesson 12 – Jacob vs Esau (Stolen Blessing)

Genesis 27

1. How did Jacob steal the blessing Isaac planned to give to Esau?
-

Lesson 13 – Jacob’s Dream

Genesis 28

1. What did Jacob see in his dream?
 2. What did God promise to Jacob?
 3. Compare Jacob’s dream and Jesus.
-

Lesson 14 – Jacob’s New Name

Genesis 29 – 32

1. How did Laban trick Jacob?
 2. Jacob had how many sons? ...how many daughters?
 3. God changed Jacobs name to what?
 4. Jacob’s new name means what?
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Lesson 15 – Joseph (part 1)

Genesis 37 - 41

1. What did Joseph get that made his brothers mad? Why were they mad?
2. What dreams did Joseph have that made his brothers mad? What did those dreams mean?

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3. Why did Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery?
4. Joseph became a slave in what country?
5. Read Genesis 39:11-20. How did Joseph respond to temptation?
6. Why did Joseph go to prison?
7. How did Joseph get out of prison?

Lesson 16 – Joseph (part 2)

Genesis 42 – 46

1. Why did Joseph save his brothers' lives?
2. Why did all of Israel's family move from Canaan to live in Egypt?

Chapter 5 The Promise Creates a nation (Part 1)
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Lesson 17 – Moses

Exodus 1 – 2

1. Why did Egyptian king's daughter adopt Moses?
2. Why did Moses run away to Midian?

Lesson 18 – The Passover

Exodus 3 – 12

1. What was the 10th plague?

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2. What protected the people of Israel from the 10th plague?

3. Compare the Passover Lamb and Jesus.

Lesson 19 – The Exodus

Exodus 13 – 14

1. Why did the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) let the people of Israel go free?

2. Read Exodus 14:5. Why did the king change his mind and send his army after Israel?

3. How did God lead the people?

4. How did God protect the people of Israel from the Egyptian army?

Chapter 6 The Promise Creates a Nation (Part 2)
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Lesson 20 –The Exodus–Sacramental Connection

Exodus 15 – 16

1. Every day God fed the people of Israel in the desert, how?

2. Compare the Exodus (crossing the Red Sea) and Baptism. How are they similar?

3. Compare Passover and the Lord's Supper. How are they similar?

4. Compare Manna and Jesus. How are they similar?

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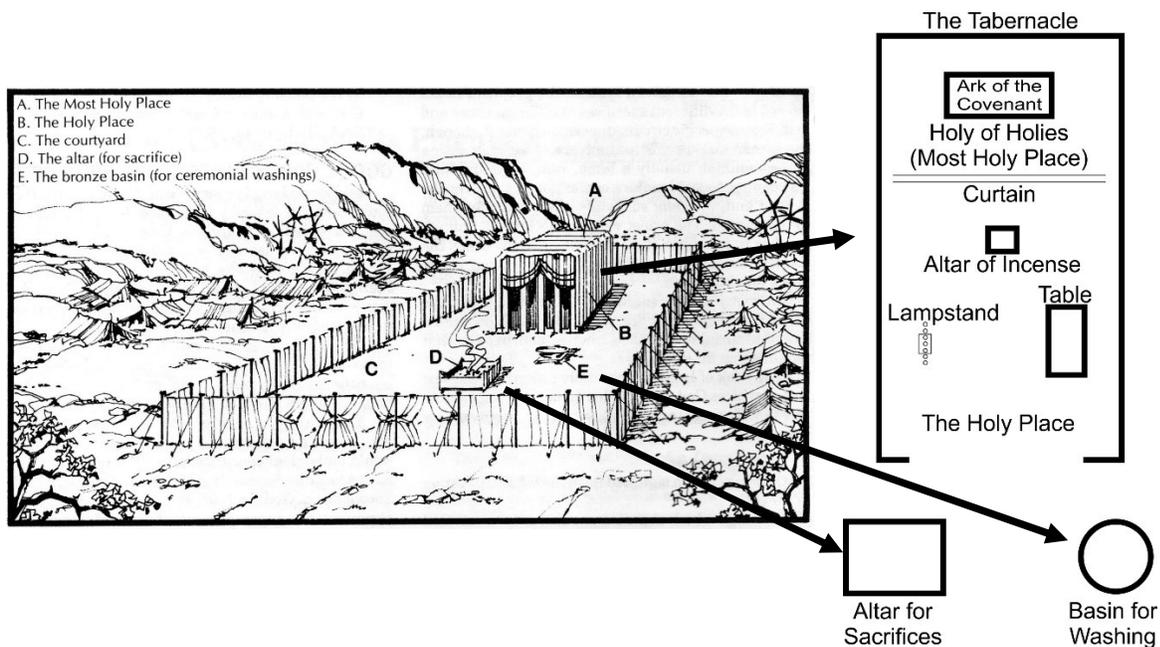
Lesson 21 – Mt Sinai

Exodus 19

1. Why did God choose Israel to become His children?
2. Why does God choose us to be His children?
3. Describe three different times that Israel regularly offered sacrifices.
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)

Lesson 22 – Worship, Sacrifice, and the 10 Commandments

Leviticus 1 – 7; Exodus 20; Exodus 25 – 27



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1. Describe three different kinds of sacrifices that God established for Israel.
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)

2. In John 19:30, Jesus said “It is finished.” What is the connection between this verse and the Old Testament sacrifice system?

3. Describe the two parts of the tabernacle (worship tent)

Lesson 23 – The Priesthood and the Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 28 – 40

1. What is the Ark of the Covenant?

2. What was in the Ark? (See Hebrews 9:2-5.)

3. Compare the Old Testament Priests and Jesus. How are they similar? How are they different?

4. Compare the Ark of the Covenant and Jesus.

Chapter 7 God gives Israel its promised homeland (part 1)
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Lesson 24 – Rebellion

Numbers 11 – 15

1. Why did the people of Israel rebel?

2. What happened to them because they rebelled?

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3. Read Numbers 13:30 Two of Israel's spies believed that Israel can take the land. Why? How could they win against a stronger enemy?

Lesson 25 – Forty Years Wandering

Numbers 16; Numbers 20:22-29

1. Compare Moses and Jesus. How was Moses like Jesus in this lesson?
2. What did they eat and drink?

Lesson 26 – The Journey Ends

Numbers 21; Deuteronomy

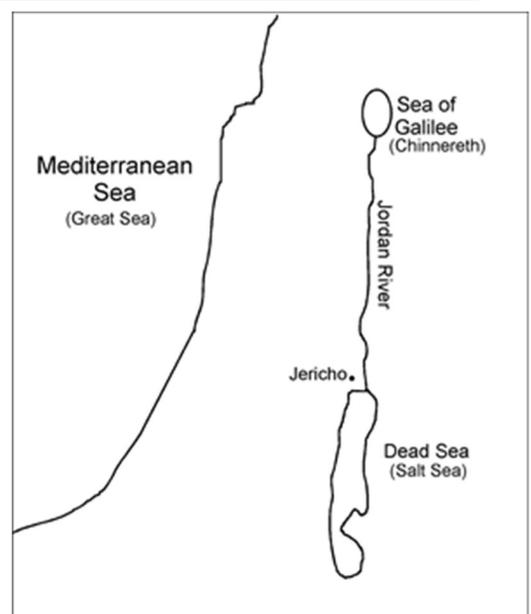
1. Compare the story about the snakes (Numbers 21:4-9) and Jesus (John 3:14-15). How are they similar?
2. For 40 years the people of Israel complained and rebelled against God. But God did not reject them or destroy them. Why not? (See Exodus 32:11-14)

Chapter 8 God gives Israel its promised homeland (part 2)

Lesson 27 – In The Promised Land

Joshua 1 – 5

1. Who replaced Moses as leader of Israel?
2. How did the people of Israel cross the Jordan River?
3. What did circumcision represent?
4. Which person in this lesson is in Jesus' genealogy (family tree)? (See Matthew 1:1-5) Why was this unusual (strange)?



Lesson 28 – Jericho

Joshua 6

1. How did Israel conquer the city of Jericho?
 2. Who was the strange man that Joshua met? (See Joshua 5:13 – 6:5)
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Lesson 29 – Ai

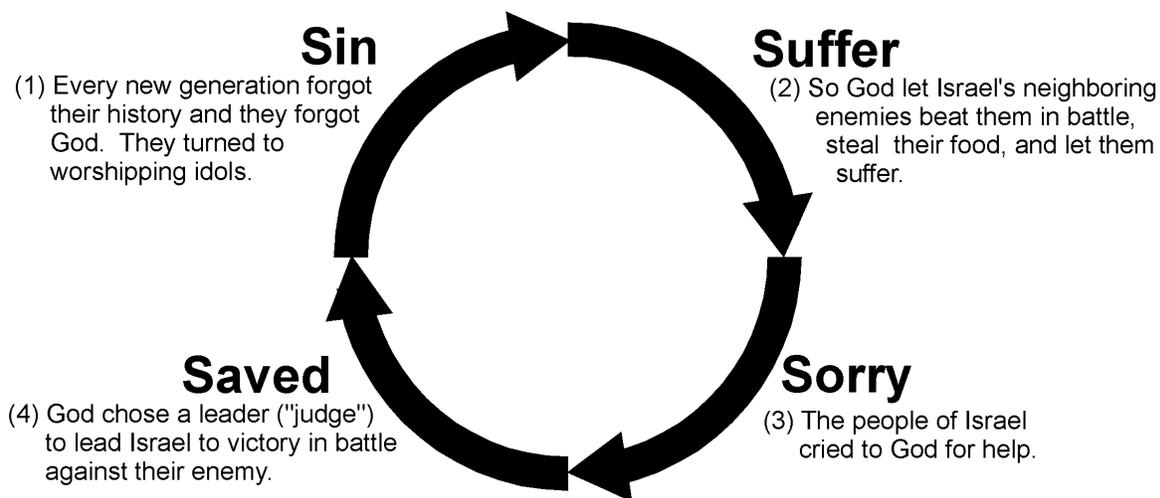
Joshua 7 – 8

1. Why did Israel lose their first battle at Ai?
 2. Why did God tell Israel to destroy the towns and the local people?
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Lesson 30 – Israel’s Repeating Cycle

The book of Judges

Read Judges 2:7– 23 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.

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1. What does this cycle in Israel's history teach us about our generation now?
2. What solution did God give for Israel's sin (and our sin)?

Chapter 9 – God Established a Kingdom for Israel

Lesson 31 – Israel Asks for a King

1 Samuel 8

1. Why did the people of Israel ask Samuel for a king?
2. God told Samuel that Israel sinned to ask for a king. Why was that a sin?
3. What warnings did Samuel give Israel?

Lesson 32 – King Saul

1 Samuel 9 – 16

1. Read 1 Samuel 15:10-11. Why was God sorry that He made Saul the king of Israel?
2. Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23. What pleases God more than giving Him offerings and sacrifices?
3. What was David's hometown?
4. What work did David do in his hometown?

Lesson 33 – Saul vs. David

1 Samuel 17 – 31

1. David killed Goliath, how?
2. Compare David and Jesus in this story. How are they similar?

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Lesson 34 – David Becomes King

2 Samuel 2 – 6

1. What city did David establish as the government capital of Israel?
2. What city did David establish as the religious center of Israel?

Lesson 35 – God’s Promise to David

2 Samuel 7

1. David wanted to build a nice temple for God. What was God’s answer to David?
2. What special promise did God make to David?
3. How has God kept that promise?
4. David wrote many Psalms, including Psalm 22. (Please read Psalm 22 now.)
Psalm 22 is a prophecy about something that happens 1000 years later. What?

Lesson 36 – David’s Sin

2 Samuel 11 – 12

1. What was David’s FIRST mistake that led him to sin?
2. How did David try to hide his sin?
3. The prophet Nathan confronted David about his sin. What was David’s answer?
4. 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.

Lesson 37 – King Solomon

1 Kings 1 – 11

1. Who was Solomon's father?
2. King Solomon ask God to give him what?
3. What did Solomon build?
4. Why did Solomon's heart turn away from God?
5. What happened to Israel because of Solomon's sin?

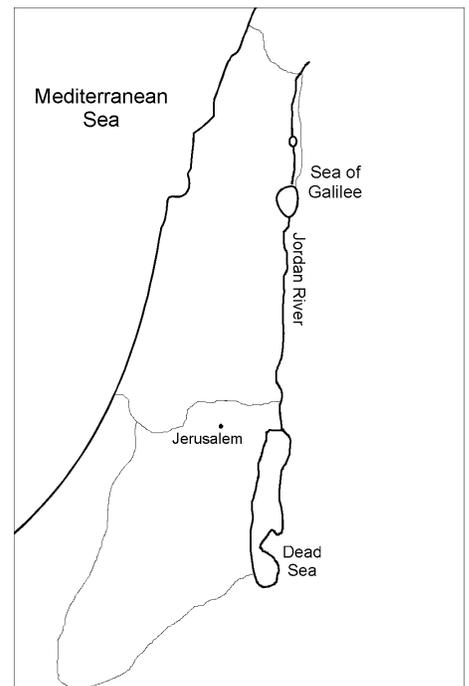
Chapter 10 – God's Promise for Broken Israel

Lesson 38 – The Divided Kingdom (Part 1)

1 Kings 12

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

1. What was the name of northern kingdom of Israel?
2. What was the name of southern kingdom of Israel?
3. The two kings were Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Which one was Solomon's son?
4. Rehoboam ruled over which part of Israel? (North or south?)
5. Jeroboam ruled over which part of Israel? (North or south?)



Lesson 39 – The Divided Kingdom (Part 2)

1 Kings 13 – 2 Kings 20

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1. The kings of the north – were they good or bad?
2. The kings of the south – were they good or bad?
3. What happened to the northern kingdom?

Lesson 40 – Elijah

1 Kings 16 – 18

1. The prophet Elijah preached to the people of the northern kingdom that they should do what?
2. How did God prove to the people of Israel that He is the true God?
3. Read Luke 9:28-36 Which two Old Testament prophets appeared with on the mountain of Transfiguration?
 - (a)
 - (b)
4. Jesus and the prophets talked about what?

Lesson 41 – Elisha & Isaiah

2 Kings 2 – 5; Isaiah 9

1. How did God take Elijah to heaven?
2. How did God heal Naaman from his leprosy?
3. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25. Who is Immanuel?
4. What does the name "Immanuel" mean?

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5. Read Isaiah 53. This is a prophecy about something that happens 700 years later. What?

Lesson 42 – Other OT Prophets

Jonah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk.

See 50 Old Testament Prophecies About Christ on the last two pages of this study guide.

Read Jeremiah 31:31 - 34

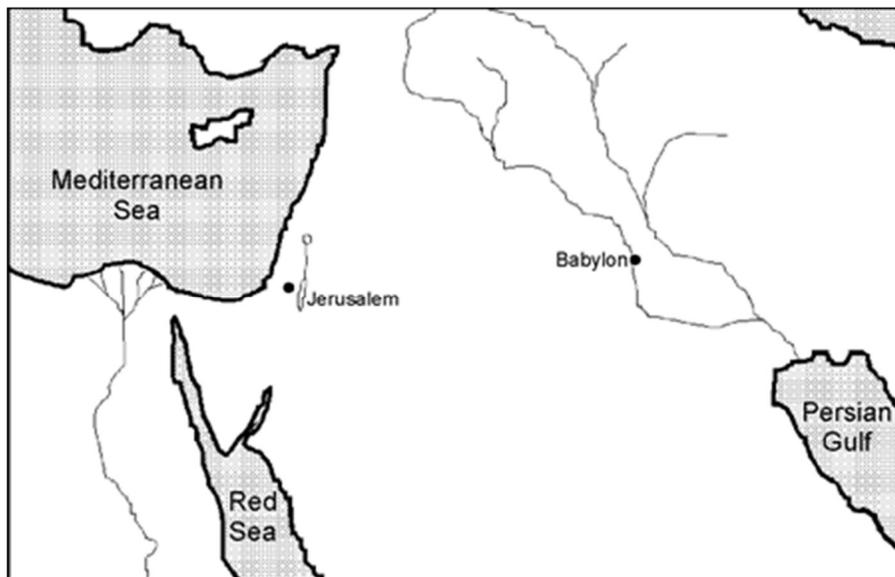
These verses describe two covenants that God made with Israel. A covenant is an agreement between two people, or between groups of people. A covenant describes what each person promises to do, and what will happen if either of them break their promise. God's covenants are usually one way promises from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

1. When and where did God make his First Covenant with Israel?
2. What did Israel do with that First Covenant?
3. Where will God write the New Covenant?
4. What will the New Covenant do about our sins?

Chapter 11 The Promise raises up a crushed kingdom

Lesson 43 – The Babylonian Captivity

2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 52



1. Who was King Nebuchadnezzar?
2. Jewish people in Babylon wanted to keep alive their faith and worship of God. So they established what?

Lesson 44 – Daniel and His Three Friends

Daniel 1 – 3

Read Daniel 1

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

Their real names

Their Babylonian names

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

2. Why did Daniel's three friends refuse to obey the king?

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3. How did the king punish them?

Lesson 45 – Ezekiel & Cyrus

Ezekiel 37; Ezra 1 – 4

1. What did Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones mean?
2. What did King Cyrus do for the people of Israel?

Lesson 46 – Prophets encouraged the people to rebuild the temple

Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi

1. Read Haggai 1:2-11. The people of Israel made a bad decision that caused them to experience trouble. What was that bad decision?

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2. Zechariah lived 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

3. 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

Lesson 47 – Course Summary

1. Through all this course we saw many different ways that the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ. Describe some of those things in the OT that show us Jesus.

2. How has this course helped you better understand the Old Testament?

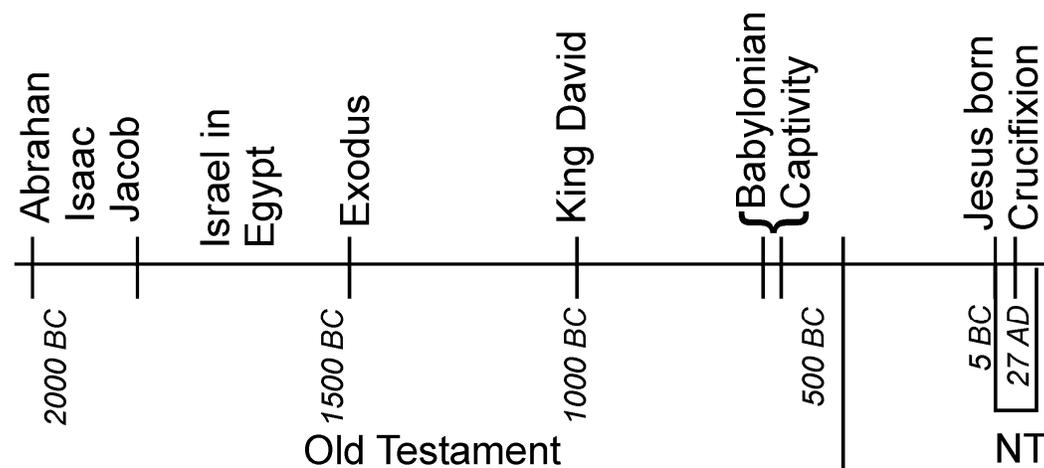
Old Testament Timeline

Normally 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.

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50 Old Testament Prophecies About Christ

	THE LIFE OF CHRIST	O.T. PROPHECY	N.T. FULFILLMENT
1	He was born from human mother	Genesis 3:15	Gal.4:4; Matt.1:20f
2	He was born from a virgin woman	Isaiah 7:14	Matt.1:18f; Lk.1:26f
3	He is the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matt. 3:17, etc.
4	He is descended from Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1
5	He is descended from Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Matt.1:2; Lk.3:23
6	He is descended from Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Matt.1:2; Lk.3:23-34
7	He is descended from Judah	Gen.49:10; Mic.5:2	Matt.1:2; Lk.3:23-33
8	He is descended from Jesse	Isaiah 11:1,10	Matt.1:6; Lk.3:23-32
9	He is descended from David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23-31, etc.
10	He was born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt.2:1; Lk.2:4-7
11	Wise Men give gifts	Ps.72:10; Is.60:6	Matthew 2:1-11
12	Herod killed children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16
13	Preceded by Messenger (John)	Is.40:3; Mal.3:1	Matt. 3:1-3; 11:10f
14	Anointed with the Holy Spirit	Is. 11:2; 61:1	Matt.3:16f;Lk.4:16ff
15	Ministry begins in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12-17
16	Ministry of Miracles	Is.35:5-6; 32:3-4	Matt.4:24 8:17 9:35
17	Palm Sunday, rides donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-11
18	He entered Temple	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 21:12
19	He was betrayed by a friend	Ps.41:9 55:12-14	Matt.26; Jn.13
20	He was sold for 30 silver coins	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
21	Money thrown into God's House	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
22	Price for potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7
23	He was forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matt. 26:31,56
24	Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matt. 26:59-60
25	He was silent before accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
26	He was wounded and bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
27	People hit and spit on Him	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
28	He was mocked	Psalms 22:7-8	Matt. 27:31,43
29	His hands and feet were pierced	Psalms 22:16	Lk.24:39f Jn.20:25
30	He was crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matt.27:38 Lk.23.33
31	He prayed for His persecutors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
32	Rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11; 7:5,48
33	People hated Him for no reason	Psalms 69:4	John 15:25
34	Friends stood far away	Psalms 38:11	Lk.23:49;Mt.27:55
35	People shook their heads at Him	Ps.22:7; 109:25	Matthew 27:39
36	People stared at Him	Psalms 22:17	Luke 23:35
37	Soldiers gamble for His clothes	Psalms 22:18	Matt.27:35;Jn.19:23f
38	He suffered thirst	Ps.22:15; 69:21	John 19:28
39	He was offered vinegar & gall	Psalms 69:21	Matt.27:34;Jn.19:28f
40	He cried out, forsaken by God	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
41	He trusted God with His life	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46
42	Darkness over the land	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45

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43	His bones were not broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:31-36
44	His side was pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34,37
45	Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
46	He rose to life again	Ps. 16:10; 30:3 Is.53:10-11 etc	Matt.28 Mk.16 Lk.24 Jn.20; Acts 2:24
47	He ascended to heaven	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9
48	Seated at Father's right hand	Psalms 110:1	Mk.16:19; Heb.1:3
49	He sends the Holy Spirit	Joel 2:28	Acts 2:1-4
50	Christ will come again	Daniel 7:13-14	Revelation 22:20