

# **Overview of the Old Testament**

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## Introduction:

A. In going through the Old Testament we want to not only know the Bible but the method of teaching the Bible.

B. The geography of the Old Testament is important to know how the patriarchs moved.

1. Abraham went from Ur to Haran to Palestine.
2. Exodus goes from Egypt to Mt. Sinai.
3. Leviticus was given in the wilderness.
4. Numbers covers the wandering in the wilderness.
5. Deuteronomy is five sermons given just outside of Jericho.

I. Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldeans.

A. Abraham, Sarah, Terah, and Lot are important figures.

1. They were in Haran for 23 years when Terah died.
2. Abraham moved to the Dead Sea with Sarah and Lot.
3. Ishmael the father of the Arabs and Isaac the father of the Jews were Abraham's sons.
4. Isaac had two sons, Jacob the father of Israel and Esau the father of the Edomites.
5. Jacob had 12 sons and one daughter, Dinah.
6. Joseph the next to the youngest was sold into slavery by his ten older brothers.
7. Abraham was given a covenant with God promising three things.
  - a. Land, developed under the Palestinian Covenant.
  - b. Seed, developed under the Davidic Covenant, descendants.
  - c. Blessing, developed in the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31).

B. Moses comes on the scene after 400 years in Egypt.

1. After Joseph was sold into slavery his brothers come to Egypt.
2. Moses attempts to deliver Israel from Egypt but fails.

3. God chooses Moses to deliver by divine power.
4. God sends 10 plagues to Egypt and Israel escapes.
4. Moses is given the Law and the pattern for the Tabernacle in Sinai.
5. At Kadesh Barnea 12 Spies spy out the Promised Land and only Joshua and Caleb bring back a good report.
6. The older unbelieving generation dies in the wilderness, recorded in Numbers.
7. Even Moses dies in the wilderness but delivers 5 sermons in Deuteronomy (second Law) to encourage Israel to believe God as they enter the Promised Land.
8. Moses dies on Mt. Nebo.

C. In the book of Joshua.

1. Joshua crosses the Jordan River and takes Jericho.
2. At Ai they face defeat before regathering and winning.
3. Joshua conquers the south then he nearly conquers the north and then he passes from the scene.

D. Judges.

1. Israel goes through a 400 year cycle of faithfulness to sin, to discipline, and finally deliverance.
2. Samuel is the last of the judges and the first of the prophets.
3. Samuel anoints Saul, then David.
4. Solomon follows David.
5. The kingdom splits after Solomon.
6. Jereboam is the first king of Israel with 10 tribes.
7. Rheboam is the first king of Judah with 2 tribes.

E. Captivity.

1. 250 years later Israel goes in to captivity to Assyria in 722 B.C. and never recovers.
2. In 586 B .C. Judah goes into captivity to Babylon for 70 years.
3. Ezra and Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple.
4. Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem.

5. Ezekiel and Daniel were written in captivity.

F. 400 silent years follow until the time of Christ.

G. Overview.

1. Genesis closes with Israel in Egypt.

2. Exodus shows Israel now in slavery in Egypt.

3. God delivers Israel.

4. Leviticus deals with the pattern of the Tabernacle worship.

5. In Numbers Israel fails to believe God and wanders 40 years.

5. Deuteronomy Moses encourages Israel to believe God.

7. Joshua shows the conquest.

8. Judges shows the cycle of Israel's unbelief, oppression, deliverance and renewed unbelief.

9. Samuel introduces the period of prophets and kings.

10. The kingdom splits in Kings and the history of the captivity follows.

11. The prophetic books are addressed to either northern Israel, to southern Judah, or sometimes to surrounding Gentile nations.

a. To Israel we have Hosea and Amos.

b. To Judah we have Habakkuk, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Zephaniah.

c. To Edom we have Obadiah.

d. To the rebuilding remnant we have Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

e. To Nineveh we have Jonah and Nahum.

f. To the exiles in Babylon we have Ezekiel and Daniel.

12. Patriarchal period from Abe to Moses

13. Moses to Joshua.

14. Joshua to Samuel.

15. United kingdom; Saul, David, Solomon.

16. Divided kingdom Northern and Southern

17. Exile.

18. Restoration with Ezra, Zerubbabel and Nehemiah.

H. Three kinds of books.

1. Historical.

a. I & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

b. Post exile Ezra,

2. Poetical.

a. Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon.

b. We don't know who wrote Job but David and Solomon wrote the rest.

3. Prophetic.

a. Pre exile Isaiah and Jeremiah, with Lamentations written just as the captivity was happening.

b. Exile, Daniel and Ezekiel.

c. Post exile, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

II. Abrahamic Covenant.

A. Six keys that hold Scripture together.

1. It is a literal covenant.

2. Eternal covenant. (Psalm 89)

a. This eternal nature of the covenant makes it unconditional.

b. The covenant cutting ceremony indicated that this covenant was a unilateral covenant initiated by Yahweh himself. (Genesis 15)

c. It was a blood covenant where God walked between pieces of cut meat indicating that he would give the land to Abraham's descendants no matter what.

d. These contracts are developed later in more detail. (Deuteronomy 30)

e. The greater son of David would come to rule in righteousness. (2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89)

f. These unconditional promises assure Israel a future in God's program because God promised the land to them by vow.

g. There are three seeds of Abraham.

1. Unbelieving Jews.
2. Believing Jews.
3. Gentile believers who are spiritual sons of Abraham.

h. An inward principle works here where the New Covenant is prefigured.  
(Matthew 26:26-29)

i. Christ's death ratified the covenant.

j. The significance of the covenant is the born again privilege. (John 3:1-16)

1. The Old Covenant anticipates the new.
2. The Old Testament anticipates the new work of the rebirth by the Spirit.
3. Pentecost was the greatest day in the ministry of the Lord Jesus.

k. The world situation is focused on the land promised to Abraham, setting the stage for the final conflagration of the ages.

l. The Abrahamic Covenant is the center piece of the world's problems today.

1. Israel rejected Christ.
2. Israel suffered judgment.
3. God set them aside for a time until the fullness of the Gentiles.
4. Now that Israel is reunited to their land they are the focus of the world.
5. The church will be raptured before Christ returns.
6. Daniel predicted there would be 69 weeks of years from cutting off of Messiah until the desolation of the temple.
7. The 70<sup>th</sup> week of years is designed to bring Israel to see who Christ is.  
(Zechariah 14)
8. God and Magog will attack Israel to drive them into the sea but God will defend his people.
9. This is the birth pangs spoken of by Christ in Matthew 24.
10. Christ's return sets up the Davidic Covenant for Israel bringing in worldwide blessing promised to Abraham.

11. The purpose of the 70 weeks is focused on Israel, not the church.

(Ephesians 3)

12. The church is not appointed to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

13. Some believe the church will also experience the Tribulation but I believe Christians will be taken away before this happens. There could be some persecution of Christians leading up to the time of the desecration of the Temple but God has promised the church will not experience the wrath of God.