Course #2:

OT Survey

Compiled by Project North Africa

Sources: Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003)

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, How To Read the Bible Book by Book, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004)

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**How to learn from these lessons**

These lessons are meant to be taught by a teacher who is experienced and prepared in the subjects presented. However, the student will only learn as much as he wants to learn. We advise the student to follow these instructions in order to get the most out of the class:

1. **Read**

Reading the Old Testament is a long-term goal. If the student reads 6 pages each day, he can finish reading the Old Testament books in approximately 4.5 months. If the student reads both the Old and New Testaments, he can finish reading both in a little less than 6 months. If the student establishes this reading as a regular habit, it will enable him to keep Bible content current.

1. **Use the notes**

The first section of the notes for each Old Testament book is the OVERVIEW. The goal of the overview is to realize the aspects of each book that help the student understand how the author used different literary tools to communicate God’s message.

The second section of the notes for each Old Testament book is the CONTENT. The goal of the content portion is to focus on important information in the text. Since this is a survey course, we will only be able to focus on some of the more important passages in each book.

At the end of the notes for each Old Testament book is the SUMMARY STATEMENT. This is a most important part of the course. Each of these statements focuses on the contribution of that particular book to the message of the entire Bible. SINCE WE WILL FOCUS ON THE UNIFIED MESSAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, THESE STATEMENTS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE BOOK THEY SUMMARIZE.

A special focus for the course will be passages in the Old Testament that are used in the New Testament, especially those that speak of Christ, the Messiah. The student should pay particular attention to these.

1. **Interpret**

One of the most important aspects of this course is the need of the student to understand how to properly interpret different kinds of literature in the Old Testament. Pay particular attention to this information in the first lesson of the first day.

1. **Share**

Plan on sharing with someone else the things you are learning. Find someone who will listen and explain to them how the Old Testament unfolds and explains the gospel in a progressive way. These are the most important truths in the world and are not meant to be held to yourself. You will learn more when you share what you learn with others.

Day 1 – THE PENTATEUCH

**Goals of the day**

At the end of today’s study, the student will be able to:

1. **List the sections of the OT**
2. **List the different types of literature in the OT and tell how each type communicates its message**
3. **Tell what is the central message of all the content of the OT**
4. **Tell how God uses each book of the Pentateuch as He develops that central message in the Pentateuch.**
5. **Tell how God uses the Pentateuch as He develops that central message at the beginning of the OT**
6. **List OT references to Jesus as seen in:**
   1. **The Seed of the woman**
   2. **The Abrahamic Covenant**
   3. **The substitute ram**
   4. **The Passover Lamb**
   5. **The spiritual Rock**
   6. **The Prophet like Moses who would come**

Lesson 1: Introduction

1. The Bible is a unique book.
   1. It is divine (from God).
      1. According to 2 Tim 3.16-17, who inspired the Bible? God
      2. According to 2 Pet 1.19-21, what did God use to give us His word? Holy men
      3. All of its words, in the original, came from God.
      4. God must reveal Himself to us, or we will not be able to know Him.
         1. According to Rom 1. 19-20, God reveals Himself through His works (creation).
         2. According to Jn 5.39, God reveals Himself through the Bible, the written Word.
         3. According to Jn 1.18, God revealed Himself through Jesus, the Living Word.
   2. It is human (by man).
      1. According to 2 Pet 1.19-21, what did God use to write the Bible? Holy men
      2. Men wrote for other men in the language of men to be understood by men so that they could know God.
2. In our Bibles, the OT is divided into 4 sections.
   1. The first section is called the Pentateuch.
      1. According to Dt 31.24, who wrote these 5 books? Moses
      2. Which book of the Bible begins God’s story? Genesis
      3. How does each successive book of the Bible help tell God’s story? It continues and develops that story.
      4. What event does the Pentateuch begin with? End with? It begins at creation and ends as Israel is preparing to enter the Promise Land.
   2. The second section is called the Books of History.
      1. Was there just one author for the Books of History, as there was for the Pentateuch? No. Different authors wrote these; we are not sure who the authors of certain books were (ex: Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Chronicles)
      2. What event does the Books of History begins with? End with? It begins with the conquest of the Promised Land and continues through the return of the Jews from the exile in Babylon.
   3. The third section is called Wisdom (sometimes called Poetry).
      1. These books are often written in poetry.
         1. Job deals with the question of the suffering of the righteous.
         2. Psalms is called the songbook of the Jews.
         3. Proverb shows us how to live a life that benefits from God’s wisdom in practical ways.
         4. Ecclesiastes communicates truths about the seeming futility of life and how to overcome it.
         5. Song of Solomon gives us God’s view of the importance of the physical relationship in marriage.
   4. The fourth section is called Prophecy.
      1. Major Prophets
         1. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel
         2. They are called “major” because of their greater length when compared with…
      2. Minor Prophets
         1. Daniel (often viewed as a Major Prophet)
         2. The books of Hosea-Zephaniah were written before the exile of the Jews to Babylon.
         3. The books of Haggai-Malachi were written after the exile of the Jews from Babylon.
3. The OT includes 5 different types of literature.
   1. Narrative
      1. An author (narrator) tells what happened (history).
      2. The narrator tells us what he wants us to know, not everything that happened.
      3. Narrative demonstrates God’s truth to us by what people say and do.
   2. Law
      1. Rules and regulations from God to Israel in the Mosaic Covenant
      2. Not binding on Christians (true followers of Christ)
      3. Law communicates God’s truth to us by:
         1. Commanding the Israelites how to:
            1. Worship (deal with) God
            2. Serve (deal with) other Israelites
            3. Deal with the nations
         2. Showing us God’s character by what He commanded
   3. Psalms
      1. Poetry put to music
      2. Makes use of figurative language very often (not to be taken literally)
      3. Communicates to human emotions in order to communicate truth to the understanding
      4. Psalms powerfully teach us God’s truth by:
         1. Connecting with our emotions first
         2. Using our emotional response to show us His truth
         3. Giving us a model for our own personal and corporate worship
   4. Wisdom
      1. An ancient, middle eastern, literary form
      2. Dealt with the big philosophical issues of humans
      3. Wisdom communicates God’s truth to us by: (see above)
   5. Prophecy
      1. Prophets were primarily preachers.
         1. God’s people were breaking the covenant He had made with them.
         2. The prophets preached:
            1. “You are breaking the covenant!”
            2. “Repent and return to YHWH!”
            3. “If you don’t, He will judge you; if you do, He will bless you.”
      2. Included in their preaching were predictions of what would happen in keeping with the people’s response to the prophets’ preaching:
         1. Repentance would bring blessing, both immediate and future.
         2. Rejection would bring judgment, both immediate and future.
      3. Prophecy communicates God’s truth by:
         1. Reminding us that God is omniscient, knowing the future
         2. Reminding us that God keeps His promises to:
            1. Eternally and joyfully bless those who submit to Him in faith
            2. Eternally and horribly judge those who refuse to submit and believe

Lesson 2: Genesis

1. Overview
   1. Genesis 1-11 is the foundation, the root of the rest of the Bible.
      1. God created all things. **(DOCTRINE OF GOD, DOCTRINE OF THE SPIRIT** begin here**)**
      2. What part of the doctrine of God do we learn in Gen 1.1? God created all things.
      3. What part of the doctrine of the Spirit of God do we learn in Gen 1.1? The Spirit created the world.
      4. God created man in His image. (**DOCTRINE OF MAN** begins here)
      5. What part of the doctrine of man do we learn in Gen 1.26? God made man in His image.
      6. God responded to man’s sin. (**DOCTRINES OF SIN**, **SALVATION, ANGELS, CHRIST, ESCHATOLOGY** begin here)
      7. What part of the doctrine of sin do we learn from Gen 3.6? Man fell into sin when he disobeyed God’s command.
      8. What part of the doctrine of salvation is implied form Gen 3.15? The Redeemer (Seed of the woman) would crush Satan’s head.
      9. What part of the doctrine of angels do we learn from Gen 3.1? Satan is the destroyer, the enemy of God.
      10. What part of the doctrine of Christ is implied in Gen 3.22? Christ would die to clothe us with righteousness.
      11. God chose a man who became a people through whom He would bless all  nations. (**CONCEPT OF COVENANTS BETWEEN GOD AND MAN** begins here)
      12. What do we learn about God from Gen 6.18 and 15.18? God binds Himself to men with a covenant.
      13. All the major doctrines of the Bible find their root in Gen 1-3.
      14. Major Bible Themes with their root in Gen 1.11
          1. In the following passages, what shows the power, supremacy and sovereignty of YHWH?
             1. Gen 1.1 “God created the heavens and the earth.”
             2. Gen 18.14 “Is anything too difficult…Sarah will have a son.”
             3. Ex 13.21 “In a pillar of cloud by day a pillar of fire by night.”
             4. Ex 14.21 “The Lord drove the sea back…made (it) dry land.”
             5. 2 Sam 7.22 “You are great…none like You”
             6. Ps 135.6 “Whatever the Lord willed to do, that He did.”
             7. Is 59.1 “The Lord’s hand…not shortened that it can’t save”
          2. In the following passages, what shows the mercy and grace of YHWH?
             1. Gen 3.21 “The Lord God made…garments of skins for (them)
             2. Gen 19.12-16 “bring them out …the Lord being merciful to him”
             3. Ex 33.17 “you have found favor in My sight
             4. Ps 84.11 “YHWH will give grace and glory”
             5. Jer 31.2 “The people left…found favor in the wilderness”
             6. Zech 12.10 “I will pour out…the spirit of grace”
          3. In the following passages, what shows the anger and judgment (wrath) of YHWH against sin?
             1. Gen 3.14-19 Judgments on Adam, Eve, and Satan
             2. Ex 14.3-4 God judges Pharaoh and his armies
             3. Judg 2.1-3 God judges Israel
             4. Is 10.6 God judges Assyria in His wrath
             5. Is 13.10 God judges Babylon
             6. Mal 2.1-3 God judges unfaithful priests of Israel
          4. In the following passages, what shows that YHWH makes covenants with His people?
             1. Gen 9.1-17 Noah: “I establish My covenant with you”
             2. Gen 12.1-3 Abraham: “all the families of the earth…blessed”
             3. Ex 24.8 Moses: “the covenant…YHWH…made with you”
             4. 2 Sam 23.5 David: “He has made with me an eternal covenant”
          5. In the following passages, what shows the battle between God and Satan, between good and evil?
             1. Gen 3.4 “The serpent said…‘You shall not surely die’”
             2. Gen 3.14-15 “You have done this…He shall bruise your head”
             3. Ex 5.2 “Pharaoh said…‘Who is YHWH?’”
             4. Ex 12.12 “Against…gods of Egypt I will execute judgments”
             5. Ex 15.21 “The horse and rider He has thrown into the sea”
             6. Josh 10.11 “The Lord threw down great stones…on them”
             7. 2 Sam 5.24 “The Lord has gone…to strike down the Philistines”
             8. Is 37.36 “The Lord…struck down 185,000…of the Assyrians”
          6. In the following passages, how do we see God’s choice of the weaker or younger or less likely to carry on His plan/story?
             1. Gen 17.18-19 “No, but Sarah (a barren woman) your wife will have a son…I will establish My covenant with him” (not Ishmael, the first-born)
             2. Gen 27.33,37 “Yes, he shall be blessed”
             3. 1 Sam 16.6-13 “There remains yet the youngest…anoint him for this is he”
             4. Ruth 4.17 “Obed (son of Ruth, a Moabitess)…the father of Jesse, the father of David (the father of Messiah)”
   2. Genesis 12-50 tells the beginning of the unfolding of the story of redemption until  the death of Joseph.
      1. The family story of Abraham
      2. The family story of Isaac
      3. The family story of Jacob (Israel)
2. Content
   1. Days of creation: 1.1-2.3
      1. 1-3: the form of the universe...(light, expanse,  water/land, plants)
      2. 4-6: into which the elements were created and placed (i.e., into the form)  (sun/moon/stars, fish/sea/birds, land animals/man)
      3. What is Gen 2.1-3? A review/summary of Gen 1.
      4. Six days of work, then one of rest
         1. Were the 6 days of creation in Gen 1 long periods of time or 24-hour days?
            1. *Yom* (Hebrew for *day*)

What words in Gen 1.5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31 seem to indicate that these were 24-hour days? The evening and the morning

What other words in Gen 1.5 seem to indicate that these were 24-hour days? He called the light Day and the darkness Night.

In every occurrence of the word *yom* with a number (ex: seventh day), *yom* means a 24-hour day.

* + - * 1. Long period of time

In Job 15.18, is the expression “day of the LORD” a 24-hour day or a period of time? Period of time

In Ps 20.1, is the expression “day of the LORD” 24-day or a period of time? Period of time

* + - * 1. Your professor believes the 6 days of creation in Gen 1 are 24-hour days.
      1. Sabbath principle: its relationship to the gospel
         1. In Heb 4.3 (in the context of 3.19-4.10), what does the author say about Sabbath rest and the gospel? “For we who have believed have entered that rest…”
         2. In Rom 4.4-5, what does Paul say about this rest and the gospel? “To the man who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”

Lesson 3: Genesis

* 1. Human beginnings- 2.4-4.26
     1. Man and woman created good with the responsibility to oversee and  manage God’s creation
     2. What themes does man’s fall and removal from Eden demonstrate? The battle of God and Satan, good and evil; God’s wrath and judgment against sin
        1. Adam’s decision to follow his own ideas about Eve’s sin made him act independently of God.
        2. The result of this independence is death (Gen 2.16-17).
        3. Death has three aspects.
           1. Physical death: the separation of the soul from the body
           2. Spiritual death: the separation of man from God

The state of existence in which man rejects God and His will.

“Sin is lawlessness”: 1 Jn 3.4

*Lawlessness* literally means *no law*.

Man is spiritually dead.

Eph 2.1: “And you were dead in trespasses and sins”

Col 2.13: “And you who were dead in your trespasses”

1 Tim 5.6: “She who is indulgent is dead while she lives”

This does not mean he cannot respond to God; it means he will always respond to God in a way that is displeasing (passive) or antagonistic (active) to God and that separates him from God.

This rejection can be either passive (no interest in God or His will) or active (rebellion against God and His will)

* + - * 1. Eternal death: the separation of man from God

God in heaven with those who believe in Him through Jesus Christ

Unbelieving man in the lake of fire, forever separated from God with all other unbelievers

* + - 1. God always demands faith.
         1. Faith is man depending on Him, not himself.
         2. Faith leads to submission to what God wants, what He says.
    1. God’s response to Adam’s sin
       1. In Gen 3.9, 11, 13, how did God deal with Adam and Even when he first met them after their sin? He asked them questions.
       2. He dealt with Adam in such a way as to:
          1. Deal directly and conclusively (in the ultimate sense) with Adam’s sin
          2. Deal mercifully and graciously with Adam in his sin
       3. He provided salvation from sin for Adam and his race.
    2. **Gen 3 allusions to** **Jesus and the gospel**
       1. **In Gen 3.15, what shows us the first sign of the gospel in the Bible? “Bruise his heel…crush your head**”
       2. **In Gen 3.21, what is the second thing indication of the gospel in the Bible? “YHWH God made garments of skins…clothed them**” (Compare this with Rev 19.7-8)
    3. Cain’s murder of Abel
  1. Adam’s family line- 5.1-6.8
     1. Seth’s righteous line as opposed to Cain’s unrighteous line
     2. How does Gen 6.6 show God’s attitude toward all the people on the earth when they wouldn’t obey Him? “And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”
  2. Noah- 6.9-9.29
     1. According to Gen 6.3, how long did God wait before destroying the earth with a flood? 120 years
     2. According to 2 Pet 2.5, what did Noah do for God while he was building the ark as he waited for God’s judgment to come upon the wicked? “Noah, a herald of righteousness…”
     3. In 1 Pet 3.20, how does Peter relate God saving Noah from the flood to salvation? “…were brought safely through water (of the flood)”
        1. 1 Pet 3.19-21 is a difficult passage to interpret.
        2. However, it is clear that the Spirit, through Peter, presents Noah’s salvation from the flood as a picture of Christ’s salvation of those who believe in Him (as pictured in water baptism).
  3. Shem, Ham and Japheth- 10.1-11.26
     1. Special attention given to Mizraim (Egyptians) and Canaan (people who would inhabit the promised land)
     2. Babel
        1. How does Gen 11.1, 4, 7-8 show that the greatest factor for division among people is the lack of communication?
           1. Gen 11.1 and 4: “The whole earth had one language… Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”
           2. Gen 11.7-8: “Let us go down and confuse their language…YHWH dispersed them from there over all the face of the earth”
        2. **Why did God confuse the languages when one, common language would make world evangelism simpler?**
     3. Shem’s genealogy leading up to Abraham (the family line of Messiah, Jesus Christ)
  4. Account of Terah and Abraham- 11.27-25.11
     1. Abraham is the main character
        1. Pilgrimage from Ur with a barren wife
        2. According to Gen 12.2-3, what promises did God make to Abraham in the Abrahamic Covenant?
           1. “And I will make of you a great nation”
           2. “I will bless you and make your name great”
           3. “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse”
           4. “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”
           5. In Gen 17.8, what other blessing is added to these covenant promises to Abraham? “And I will give to you and to your offspring after you…all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession…”
           6. How does Gal 3.16 say this last promise is fulfilled? “Referring to one, ‘who is your offspring’, which is Christ.”
     2. Abraham is ultimately characterized by trust and worship
        1. He made some bad choices.
           1. He made Sarai lie about her relationship with him to safeguard himself, even though it would probably mean that Pharaoh would seek her as wife (Gen 12.10-16).
           2. He yielded to Sarai’s pressure to have a son with Hagar, Sarai’s maidservant (Gen 16.1-2).
        2. He also made some wonderful, powerful choices in the face of great difficulty.
           1. According to Gen 15.6, how did Abraham become righteous? “He believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness”. (Cf. Rom 4.1-3)
           2. Gen 22 tells a powerful story of Abraham’s faith.

According to Gen 22.8, what did Abraham tell Isaac God would do for them? “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”

According to Gen 22.13, what did God provide for Abraham when he was willing to offer his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to God? **“**Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.”

* + 1. Isaac is the promised son.
       1. God makes promises to His people, and expects them to believe and depend on Him to fulfill those promises.
       2. According to Heb 11.6, what is impossible without faith in God? “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”
       3. The Spirit relates Isaac’s position to ours as believers in Gal 4.23-28.
          1. Galatians was written by Paul to correct a serious doctrinal problem.
          2. False teachers had told the Galatian churches that circumcision, a command of the Law of God to Israel, was necessary for Gentiles.
          3. According to these false teachers, the Gentiles needed to believe in Christ **AND** be circumcised in order to be born again.
          4. According to Gal 4.28, how were Isaac and the Galatians believers alike? “Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.”
          5. In the same way, we are born again as a result of God’s purpose and promise.
  1. Account of Ishmael- 25.12-18
     1. Ishmael is a son, but not of promise.
        1. Ishmael’s story runs parallel to Isaac’s, though it is shorter.
        2. The Good vs. Evil theme is seen here.
        3. God does His work, unfolding His “story” for His people and for  the success of His plan.
        4. Satan has a counterfeit “story”/plan that runs parallel and in oppositionto God’s.
  2. Account of Isaac- 25.19-35.29
     1. Most of the account of Isaac is about Jacob in his younger days.
        1. According to Gen 32.28, what name did YHWH give to Jacob? “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel (*Prince with God*) for you have wrestled with God…and prevailed.”
     2. Isaac was, for the most part, a submissive and obedient servant  of YHWH.
  3. Account of Esau- 36.1-37.1
     1. Throughout Israel’s history, Esau’s descendants were some of Israel’s bitterest foes.
     2. This short account of Esau demonstrates the Evil vs. Good theme.
  4. Account of Jacob- 37.2-50.26
     1. Jacob’s story is the longest narrative of its kind in the OT.
     2. It contains the story of Joseph, Jacob’s youngest and favorite son.
     3. Joseph saved God’s people during the severe famine.
     4. Joseph did this, not Reuben (first born) or Judah (leader). (Theme?)
     5. According to Gen 50.20, God’s turned Joseph’s brothers’ hatred to use for what? “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good…”
  5. All the stories of Genesis, and all the stories of the entire Bible, actually only tell one story.
     1. Each book has a role to play in God’s Big Story.
     2. Each section of books has a role to play in God’s Big Story.
     3. Both testaments are closely connected, yet different parts of God’s Big Story.
     4. God is the main character, the hero, of His Big Story.
     5. God’s Big Story is **the** story:
        1. Of His creating man for fellowship and glory
        2. Man falling in sin due to his attempt at independence from God
        3. God’s plan (including its accomplishment) to bring sinful man back into a personal, intimate, love-truth relationship with Himself.
     6. God’s Big Story is the story of the gospel.

1. Chapter Content (see Appendix 3)
2. GENESIS SUMMARY STATEMENT “Genesis **begins the biblical story** with **God as Creator, human beginnings as created in God’s image but fallen, and God’s response through a redemptive creation of a chosen people** ... through all kinds of circumstances (good and ill) and despite their faults."[[1]](#footnote-2)

LESSON 4: EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS

1. Overview: Exodus
   1. Exodus can be divided into sections of narrative, law and instructions.
      1. Narrative 1-20
      2. Laws 21-24
      3. Instructions 25-31 (details of how the tabernacle should be built)
      4. Narrative 32-34 (for the nation as a whole)
      5. Narrative 35-40 (detailed narrative: construction of the tabernacle)
      6. Narrative 40.34-38 (for the nation as a whole)
         1. This short narrative section that ends Exodus leads to the themes of the next two books.
         2. Leviticus: Glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle as God meets with His people via their sacrifices (40.34)
         3. Numbers: The cloud guiding the journeys of the people (40.35-38)
   2. “Exodus narrates the crucial matters that define Israel as a nation.”[[2]](#footnote-3)
      1. Israel delivered from captivity (Gen 1-11: Deliverance/Redemption)
         1. Israel is helpless to deliver itself.
         2. YHWH delivered the nation in love and grace.
      2. God’s presence with His people
      3. Law given to Israel
         1. How to relate to God
         2. How to relate to each other as God’s people
2. Content: Exodus
   1. Oppression of Israel in/by Egypt- 1.1-2.25
      1. According to Ex 1.9, why did the Egyptians put the Israelites to hard, slave labor? “The people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us…if war breaks out, (they may) join our enemies and fight against us…”
      2. According to Ex 1.16, what was Pharaoh’s command to Hebrew midwives? “When you serve as midwife…if it is a son, you shall kill him.”
      3. According to Ex 2.3-4, how did Moses’ mother attempt to save him from death? “She took a basket…daubed it with bitumen and pitch…put the child in it…And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.”
      4. According to Acts 7.25, what did Moses think the Israelites would understand before he fled into Midian (Ex 2.11-15)? “He supposed that his brothers would understand that He was giving them salvation by his (Moses’) hand…”
   2. Call and commissioning of Moses- 3.1-6.27
      1. According to Ex 3.10, what did God tell Moses He would send him to do? “Come, I will send you…to bring My people…out of Egypt.”
      2. According to Ex 3.14, what did God say His name is? “I AM WHO I AM.”
      3. According to Ex 4.1-9, what were the three signs YHWH gave Moses to show Israel that He had really sent him? Staff/serpent; leprous hand; water to blood
      4. Return to Egypt
   3. Divine deliverance from bondage- 6.28-15.21
      1. Confrontation with Pharaoh and plagues
         1. According to Ex 6.30, what did Moses say to YHWH when He told him to speak to Pharaoh? “I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?”
         2. According to Ex 7.2, how did YHWH respond to these words of Moses? “You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.”
         3. According to Ex 7.5, why did YHWH judge the Egyptians? “ The Egyptians will know that I am YHWH when I stretch out My hand against Egypt…”
         4. Pharaoh’s hardened heart
            1. According to Ex 7.3, who hardened Pharaoh’s heart? “I (YHWH) will harden Pharaoh’s heart…” See also 4.21; 9.12; 10.1, 20, 27; 11.10; 14.4, 8
            2. According to Ex 8.32, who hardened Pharaoh’s heart? “Pharaoh hardened his heart this time…” See also 8.15; 9.34
            3. According to Ex 7.13, who hardened Pharaoh’s heart? “Pharaoh’s heart was hardened…” See also Ex 8.19; 9.7, 35
      2. **Institution of the Passover**
         1. **The clearest picture of salvation given in the OT up to this point**.
            1. **According to Ex 12.5, what kind of animal was sacrificed? “**Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.”
            2. **According to Ex 12.7, what was to be done with the blood of the animal sacrificed? “T**hen they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.”
            3. **According to Ex 12.13, what would YHWH do when He judged every household in Egypt with the death of the firstborn? “**And when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”
         2. **According to 1 Cor 5.7-8, what title did Paul give to Jesus? “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”**
      3. Leaving Egypt after the death of the firstborn and the Passover
         1. According to Heb 11.26, what motivated Moses to lead Israel in leaving Egypt? “He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.”
         2. According to Heb 11.27, what enabled Moses to obey God and serve Israel? “By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”
      4. According to Ex 15.20-21, what did Miriam do when YHWH had destroyed the chariots of Pharaoh? “Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”
   4. Journey to Mt. Sinai- 15.22-18.27
      1. According to Ex 15.24-25, after three days journey into the desert after Israel left Egypt, what did the people do? What did YHWH do? “And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.”
      2. According to Ex 16.12, what did the people do after leaving Elim? What did YHWH do? “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”
      3. According to Ex 17.3, what did the people do at Rephidim? What did YHWH do? “But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?...you (Moses) shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”
      4. Cf. 1 Cor 10.1-6
         1. Paul refers to this provision of water as an example for Christians to follow.
         2. How is Christ referred to in 1 Cor 10.6? “For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.”
   5. The Covenant at Sinai-19.1-24.11
      1. Ten Commandments given
         1. According to Ex 20.1-11, what are the first four commandments? “You shall have no other gods before Me…You shall not make for yourself any carved image…You shall not take the name of YHWH your God in vain…Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”
         2. According to Ex 20.12-17, what are the next six commandments? “Honor you father and mother…You shall not murder…You shall not commit adultery…You shall not steal…You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor…You shall not covet.”
         3. Relationship of God’s people
            1. With God (the first four commandments)
            2. With each other (the next six commandments)
            3. With Gentiles (the same six commandments)
      2. Many more specific rules and regulations of the covenant were given, indicating how to apply the Ten Commandments in different situations.
         1. Examples of civil rules
            1. According to Ex 21.17, what is done to a child who curses his father or mother? “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.”
            2. (From Ex 21.22-25) If a man hit a pregnant woman, and her child’s eye is lost, what shall be done to the man? “But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”
         2. Examples of social rules
            1. (From Ex 21.1-6) What does a master do to a slave who does not want to leave his master? “And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.”
            2. According to Ex 23.1, what social rule is commanded? “You shall not spread a false report.”
         3. Examples of worship rules
            1. According to Ex 23.14-16, what three feasts was Israel commanded to celebrate each year? “Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread…You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor…You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.”
            2. According to Lev 1.3, what kind of animal must be sacrificed for a burnt offering? “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish.”
      3. **Jesus quoted Exodus**
         1. **Mt 5.21 from Ex 20.13: “You shall not murder”**
         2. **Mt 5.27 from Ex 20.14: “You shall not commit adultery”**
         3. **Mt 5.38 from Ex 21.24: “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”**

Note: In Mt 5, Jesus is explaining how to properly interpret and apply these commandments.

* + - 1. **Mt 15.4 from Ex 21.17: “Honor your father and mother”**
      2. **Mt 19.18 from Ex 20.12-16: “You shall not murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness”**
  1. Instructions for building the tabernacle- 24.12-31.18
     1. According to Ex 31.3, who would enable Bezalel to do the work of building the tabernacle? “And I have filled him with the Spirit of God.”
     2. The Spirit would enable him with Oholiab to make (and to teach others how to make) the tabernacle and its articles.
  2. Golden calf incident- 32.1-34.35
     1. According to Ex 32.1, who pressured Aaron to make a golden calf? Why did they want it? “When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us.”
     2. This was in spite of the fact that they had heard the voice of YHWH speaking the Ten Commandments to them.
     3. The Levites and the judgment of the worshippers of the golden calf (Ex 32.26-29)
        1. According to Ex 32.25-26, how did the people obey Moses words after he came down from the mountain and saw them worshipping the golden calf? What did Moses do? Who responded to Moses? “And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me.” And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.”
        2. According to Ex 32.27, what did Moses sent them out to do? “Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.”
        3. According to Ex 32.28, what was the result of the Levites’ obedience? “And Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day.”
     4. God punishes sin and rewards faithfulness.
  3. Construction of the tabernacle- 35.1-39.43
     1. This carefully followed instructions previously given.
     2. According to Ex 35.21, how did the people respond to the need for materials to build the tabernacle? “And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord’s contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments.”
     3. According to Ex 12.35-36, where did many of the materials for building the tabernacle come from? “ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”
     4. See Appendix 2 for diagram of tabernacle
        1. **According to Ex 36**.37, **how many gates were there for worshippers to enter the tabernacle and approach YHWH? “**He also made a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework**.”**
        2. **According to Ex 34.25, what was required of anyone seeking to approach YHWH in the tabernacle? “**You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened, or let the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover remain until the morning.”
        3. **All men, Jew or Gentile, had to approach God this way or not at all**.
        4. **According to Jn 14.6, how many ways are there to approach God? (Jesus said) “I am the Way,** the **Truth the Life; no one comes to** **the Father except by Me.”**
  4. Tabernacle set up and glory descends- 40.1-38

EXODUS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Exodus plays an especially important role in the rest of the biblical story, since it tells the basic story of **God’s saving His people from bondage and of His giving them the law so that they will become the people of His presence.”[[3]](#footnote-4)**

1. Overview: Leviticus
   1. Sacrificial system 1-16
      1. Meaning of sacrifices not given
      2. Procedure for sacrifices given
      3. Note: Lev 16- Day of Atonement
   2. Holiness Code- 17-25
      1. How to be holy in relationships with God and men
      2. **According to Lev 20.26, why did YHWH separate His people to Himself? “You shall be holy to Me, for I, the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples that you should be Mine.”**
      3. **According to Tit 3.13-14, what did God want when He saved His people? “A people for His own possession who are zealous of good works.”**
      4. This constant reminder that YHWH is holy speaks to the nature of this agreement (covenant) between YHWH and Israel.
         1. YHWH is sovereign; Israel is His people/servant. (Cf. Lev 20.26 above)
         2. According to Dt 28.1, 15, how will YHWH respond to Israel’s obedience? Their disobedience? “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”
         3. Holiness is a characteristic of the covenant.
         4. According to Lev 19.18, how should a covenant-keeping Israelite act toward others? “You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” Cf. Mt 19.19; Rom 13.9

Content: Leviticus

* 1. How to perform five offerings 1.1-7.38
     1. Offerings to show thanks and gratitude (**sacrifice needed even here**)
        1. According to Lev 1.5, how far into the tabernacle was the person who brought an offering allowed to go? “Then he shall kill the bull before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.”
        2. According to Lev 1.5, who handled the blood once it had been shed? “Then he shall kill the bull before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.”
     2. Offerings for sin
  2. Priesthood begins- 8.1-10.20
     1. Ordained for priestly service
     2. First offerings made
     3. **According to Lev 10.1-2, what did Nadab and Abihu do that was wrong? How did YHWH respond? “**Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.”
  3. Cleanness and uncleanness- 11.1-16.34
     1. Foods
     2. Animals
     3. Diseases
     4. **According to Lev 16.34, how often was the Day of Atonement celebrated? “**And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.”
  4. Holiness Code- 17.1-25.55
     1. Personal holiness- 17.1-20.27
     2. Liturgical holiness- 21.1-25.55
     3. **Lev 19.18 quoted in the NT by authors (other than Jesus):**
        1. **Gal 5.14**
        2. **Jas 2.8**
  5. Blessings and curses of the covenant- 26.1-46
  6. Redemption laws- 27.1-34

LEVITICUS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Leviticus is the part of God’s story where the Israelites are given instructions on **how to be holy, on how to be truly acceptable to God and in good relationship with one another**, (something) they could not achieve without His special provision.”[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. Overview: Numbers
   1. Two genealogies given (Why?)
      1. First genealogy
         1. The covenant at Sinai made these people God’s people.
         2. He wanted them to live by His laws; to act in His ways toward Him and each other.
         3. This list is the first generation to begin carrying out the laws of the covenant.
      2. Second genealogy
         1. This list is of a second generation.
         2. The first generation from the first genealogy died in disobedience in the wilderness.
         3. This second genealogy is of those who survived and would enter the Promised Land.
         4. Entering the Promised Land was a key element of the Abrahamic Covenant.
   2. Narrative central to Numbers (see content)
   3. Laws rehearsed
2. Content: Numbers
   1. Census taken and people arranged at tabernacle- 1.1-2.34 (**Note: 24.5**)
      1. According to Num 1.51, who took the tabernacle down when Israel prepared to move the camp? Who was to set it up again? “When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up.”
      2. According to Num 1.53, who camped closest around the tabernacle when Israel set up camp? “But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel.”
      3. According to Num 2.1-31, where did each tribe camp around the tabernacle? What was the order of march when Israel was to move?
         1. JUDAH, Issachar, Zebulun: east side, facing the tabernacle, set out first
         2. Merarites, carrying the tabernacle, followed JUDAH, set out second
         3. REUBEN, Simeon, Gad: south side, facing the tabernacle, set out third
         4. Kohathites, carrying the holy things, followed REUBEN, set out fourth
         5. EPHRAIM, Manasseh, Benjamin: west side, facing the tabernacle, set out fifth
         6. DAN, Asher, Naphtali: north side, facing the tabernacle, set out sixth
   2. Account of Levites- 3.1-4.49
      1. Their privilege
      2. Their duties
   3. Cleansing the camp- 5.1-6.27
      1. Unclean people
      2. Unclean woman **(test for adultery)**
      3. Nazarite vow
      4. Aaronic blessing (given as Israel readies to begin their march)
   4. Final preparations for departure- 7.1-9.14
      1. Worship preparations, not military/practical **(Worship of YHWH is very important to YHWH)**
      2. Passover celebrated before departure
   5. From Sinai to Kadesh- 9.15-14.45
      1. Israel marches in battle formation.
      2. The cloud lifts and moves to lead them.
      3. Each day ends with the cloud returning to the tabernacle.
      4. Israel complains in spite of God’s presence and blessings.
         1. According to Num 13.31, what report did 10 of those give who were sent to survey the Promised Land? “Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.”
         2. According to Num 14.3, what was the response of Israel to this report? “Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?”
         3. According to Num 13.30, what was Caleb’s advice to the people? “But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.”
         4. According to Num 14.22-23, what was God’s response to Israel refusing to obey Him and go into the Promised Land? “None of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.”
         5. According to Num 14.29, how would these people die? “Your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me.”
   6. Supplemental laws- 15.1-41
   7. Crisis over leadership and priesthood- 16.1-19.22
      1. According to Num 16.9-10, what was the sin of the Levites Korah, Dathan, Abiram? “Is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel…to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord? And would you seek the priesthood also?”
      2. According to Num 16.31-32, what did YHWH do to Dathan and Abiram? “And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods.”
      3. According to Num 16.35 , what did YHWH do to Korah and those with him? “And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.”
   8. From Kadesh to the plains of Moab- 20.1-25.17
      1. Miriam and Aaron die.
      2. Edom refuses to let Israel pass through their territory.
      3. The kings east of Jordan (Sihon and Og) are conquered.
      4. Balaam tries to curse Israel.
         1. God causes Balaam to bless them instead.
         2. Num 24.17ff speaks of Israel’s dominion over all its enemies.
         3. Many commentators believe this speaks of Jesus (Messiah) during the Millennium.
   9. Preparations to enter the Promised Land- 26.1-36.13
      1. Second census (genealogy)
      2. Sanctity of people and land to be preserved

NUMBERS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The significant part of Israel’s story we find recorded in Numbers has a long history in Israel’s memory (Dt 1-4; Neh 9; Ps 78, 105, 106, 135; Acts 7), stressing **God’s faithfulness to His people despite their many failures**…”[[5]](#footnote-6)

LESSON 5: DEUTERONOMY

1. Overview: Deuteronomy
   1. **Format of book**: core is the focus of the covenant
      1. Outer frame/section: Look backward- 1-3
         1. Inner frame/section: Great exhortation- 4-11
            1. Core: Stipulations of the Covenant- 12-26
         2. Inner frame/section: Covenant ceremony- 27-30
      2. Outer frame/section: Look forward- 31-34
   2. This book has had a great influence on the biblical (YHWH’s) story.
      1. **When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, which verses did He quote?** 
         1. **Dt 8.3:** “Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
         2. **Dt 6.16: “**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.”
         3. **Dt 6.13:** “It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve.”
         4. **Dt 10.20:** “You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him.”
      2. **Moses spoke of Jesus as The Prophet who would come: Dt 18.15** (Cf. Acts 2.22-23)
      3. **“Deuteronomy looks forward to a day when God will change Israel’s heart. This longing recurs in...(Jer 31.31-34; Eze 36.24-28). It is finally met through the work of Jesus’ death and the giving of the Spirit (eg., Rom 2.25-29; Col 2.11-14).”[[6]](#footnote-7)**
      4. **Paul quoted it as he sought to explain Israel’s place in God’s plan for His people of the Old and New Covenants.**
         1. **Rom 10.6-8, 19**
         2. **Rom 11.8**
   3. Has two main themes:
      1. God is one.
      2. Be loyal to Him since He has first loved you (worthy of devotion, worship).
   4. Based on this love and loyalty: (Outworking of the two main themes)
      1. Worship God in obedience.
      2. Possess the land.
      3. Destroy Canaanite temples and people.
      4. Worship regularly at one, central sanctuary.
      5. Treat one another in love, according to the covenant stipulations.
   5. Deuteronomy looks forward!
      1. **Deuteronomy themes at issue in the future!**
      2. **God will view Genesis themes from a covenant (Deuteronomy) perspective.**
2. Content
   1. Historical prologue (a look back: Sinai to Moab across Jordan)- 1.1-3.29
   2. Introduction to exhortation- 4.1-43 **(“My unique people”; law our wisdom)**
      1. According to Dt 4.13, why did YHWH bring Israel out of Egypt? “But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.”
      2. According to Dt 4.6, what is Israel’s wisdom in the eyes of the Gentile nations? “When they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”
      3. No other nation has God so near to it as Israel does.
         1. According to Dt 4.7, how is YHWH’s relationship with Israel described? “For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us…”
         2. You heard the sound of His voice at Mt. Sinai. **4.12**
         3. According to Dt 4.20, what does Moses say for a second time about YHWH’s purpose in bringing Israel out of Egypt? “The LORD has taken you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of His own inheritance.”
      4. No other nation has ever:
         1. Heard the voice of God
         2. Been taken out of another nation by God’s power
      5. God did these things to show you that:
         1. According to Dt 4.37, why did YHWH do that no other god has ever done? “And because He loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence…”
         2. He is faithful to His promises
         3. There is no God like YHWH.
   3. Exhortation- 4.44-11.32
      1. YHWH is one! 6. 4-5
         1. This is the great Sh’ma.
         2. This is the phrase spoken so often by the people of Israel.
         3. It can be translated in several ways:
            1. The LORD our God is one LORD.
            2. The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.
            3. The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.
         4. According to Dt 6.7, who was Israel to teach the Sh’ma? “You shall teach them diligently to your children…”
      2. According to Dt 6.10, what was YHWH giving to Israel at this time? “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you.”
      3. **Jesus quoted from this section of Deuteronomy:**
         1. **Mt 4.4; Lk 4.4 from Dt 8.3: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”**
         2. **Mt 4.7 from Dt 6.16: “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test”**
         3. **Mt 4.10 from Dt 6.13: “You shall fear the LORD your God, you shall worship Him”**
   4. Law Code of Deuteronomy- 12.1-26.19
      1. Deuteronomy = second law
      2. This is a second presentation of the Law first given at Sinai.
      3. This is in preparation for Israel going into the Promised Land.
         1. Laws governing worship- 12.1-16.17
         2. Laws governing leadership- 16.18-18.22
         3. Laws governing community life- 19.1-25.19
            1. **How did Jesus use Dt 24.1 in Mt 5.31?** “He has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce…”
   5. Covenant ceremony- 27.1-30.20
      1. Reminders of stipulations of the covenant
      2. Sanctions of the covenant **(blessings and curses) (28-30)** 
         1. According to Dt 28, how many verses are used to speak of YHWH’s blessings on Israel for their obedience to the covenant? Fourteen
         2. According to Dt 28, how many verses are used to speak of YHWH’s curses on Israel for their disobedience to the covenant? Fifty-four
         3. Which seems to receive more attention from YHWH: Israel’s expected obedience, or their expected disobedience? Disobedience
   6. Look forward- 31.1-34.12
      1. According to Dt 31.15, how is Israel’s response to YHWH’s great blessings described? “But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.”
         1. Who is Jeshurun? Israel
         2. Who is the Rock of his (Jeshurun’s) salvation? YHWH
         3. How did Jeshurun act toward YHWH? Kicked; forsook God who made him
      2. According to Dt 32.26, how will YHWH deal with His people, even after they have rejected Him? “For the Lord will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants…”
      3. Moses’ death
         1. According to Dt 34.5, where did Moses die? “So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.”
         2. According to Dt 34.6, who buried Moses’ body? Where? “And he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.”
      4. According to Dt 34.9, who was chosen as successor to Moses? “And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.”
      5. This sets the stage for the next book (Joshua).

DEUTERONOMY SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Deuteronomy **brings the Pentateuch to a conclusion** with its constant reminders of **God’s love and faithfulness despite His people’s constant rebellion**…the final word is one of hope that God will ultimately prevail with His people.”[[7]](#footnote-8)

LESSON 6: DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

DAY 2 – HISTORY

**Goals of the Day**

**By the end of the day, the students will be able to:**

1. **List the books in the section**
2. **Tell the way each of these books functions in its place to further the Big Story**
3. **Tell how the section (History) furthers God’s story begun in the Pentateuch**
4. **Relate Joshua’s Day of Rest to the rest of Jesus**
5. **Tell the function of the Kinsman-Redeemer in Ruth and how his role relates to Jesus**
6. **Relate the Davidic Covenant to Jesus**

LESSON 1: Joshua (Covers a period of approximately 20 years of Israel’s history)

1. Overview
   1. Main sections of Joshua
      1. Entrance in the land: 1.1-5.12
      2. Conquest of the land: 5.13-12.24
         1. Southern campaign
            1. Circumcision and Jericho: 5-6
            2. Achan and Ai: 7-8
            3. Gibeon: 9
            4. Valley of Aijalon: 10
         2. Northern campaign: 11-12
      3. Distribution of the land: 13-21
         1. Ephraim, Gad, ½ Manasseh: east of Jordan: 13
         2. Other tribes: west of Jordan: 14-19
         3. Cities of refuge, Levite cities: 20-21
      4. Renewal of the covenant: 22-24
         1. Eastern tribes altar of witness: 22
      5. Joshua’s charge to the people: 23-24
   2. Themes to recognize
      1. Battle of good and evil
      2. **Covenant (to Abraham) fulfilled: Promised Land**
   3. Covenant (with Israel): Will they keep the covenant?
2. Content
   1. Introduction- 1.1-18 (To Joshua: Be faithful, courageous, strong before Me/covenant.)
      1. In Josh 1.1-9, how many times does YHWH tell Joshua to “be strong and courageous”? Three
      2. What does this tell you about being a leader among God’s people?
      3. In Josh 1.2, what does YHWH say He is giving to His people? “Go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.”
      4. In Josh 1.5, what does YHWH promise Joshua? “No man shall be able to stand before (against) you all the days of your life.”
      5. According to Josh 1.8, how will YHWH’s word help Joshua? “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
   2. Preparation for and entrance into the land- 2.1-5.12 (Circumcision at Gilgal)
      1. According to Josh 2.1, what city was the first that Israel would conquer? “And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”
      2. How does Josh 2.11 show us who the first convert to YHWH was among the Canaanites in the Promised Land? “For the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.” The confession of Rahab
      3. In Josh 3.15-16, at what moment did the Jordan open a way for Israel to cross on dry ground? “And the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away…”
      4. What important event took place in Josh 5.3? “So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.”
      5. According to Josh 5.15, what words did the Commander use to encourage Joshua? “And the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.”
   3. Jericho and Ai- 5.13-8.35 (Divine and human instrumentality; south)
      1. In Josh 6.20, what unusual weapon gave Israel victory? “So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat…”
      2. According to Josh 7.11, why did Israel suffer defeat at Ai? “Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things…”
      3. According to Josh 7.1, who took the devoted things? “For Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things.”
   4. Gibeon’s ruse- 9.1-10.43 (Valley of Aijalon [stones + 24 hours]; south)
      1. According to Josh 10.11, what unusual weapon did YHWH use to fight the Amorites who came against Gibeon? “And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them...There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.”
      2. According to Josh 10.12, in what famous valley did YHWH cause the sun and moon to stand still? “At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”
   5. Northern campaigns- 11.1-12.24
   6. Distribution of the land- 13.1-21.45
      1. How many chapters does the book of Joshua take to tell us about the distribution of the Promised Land to Israel? Josh 13-21; 9 chapters
      2. Why do you think there is so much detail about this subject?
   7. Epilogue- 22.1-24.33 (Joshua’s addresses focuses on covenant loyalty)

JOSHUA SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Joshua contributes to God’s story of redemption by **bringing closure to the covenant promise of the land made in Genesis** (and throughout the Pentateuch), thus setting the stage for the next phases of the story.”[[8]](#footnote-9)

LESSON 2: Judges, Ruth

1. Overview: Judges
   1. Covers a period from 1380-1050 BC (330 years)
   2. 3 sections
      1. Introduction- 1.1-3.6 (Why things got bad)
      2. Main narrative **cycle**- 3.7-16.31 (Bad things demonstrated)
      3. Epilogue- 17.1-21.25 (How bad things got)
   3. **Deuteronomic cycle** 
      1. Israel does evil against YHWH/covenant
      2. YHWH’s anger shown by failure in battle and oppression
      3. Israel cries out in repentance
      4. YHWH rescues Israel
      5. Leader (judge) dies and Israel returns to evil
   4. Points to remember
      1. Judges = primarily military leaders, not judicial leaders
      2. Leader didn’t lead whole nation, but particular tribes (“Come help us”)
      3. Stories not necessarily in chronological order
         1. Phinehas is priest: 20.27-28
         2. Phinehas, a young man in Num 25.7
         3. Phinehas, priest after his father, Eleazar, died: Josh 24.33
         4. Therefore, chronological order not the point of Judges
      4. Unrelenting deterioration in relationship between YHWH and Israel
      5. Unrelenting care of Israel by the offended YHWH
2. Content: Judges
   1. Basic problem: Canaanites not destroyed- 1.1-2.5
      1. According to Judg 1.21, how did the tribe of Benjamin deal with the Jebusites? What did the Jebusites do? “But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.”
      2. According to Judg 1.27, how did the tribe of Manasseh deal with the Canaanites? What did the Canaanites do? “Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages…for the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land.”
      3. According to Judg 1.29, how did the tribe of Ephraim deal with the Canaanites? What did the Canaanites do? “And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.”
      4. According to Judg 1.31-32, how did the tribe of Asher deal with the Canaanites? What did the Asherites do? “Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon or of Ahlab or of Achzib or of Helbah or of Aphik or of Rehob, so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites…”
      5. According to Judg 1.34, how did the tribe of Dan deal with the Amorites? What did the Amorites do? “The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.”
      6. According to Judg 2.3, what did the Angel of YHWH say to the people of Israel about these things? “So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”
   2. Pattern established- 2.6-3.6
      1. According to Judg 2.12, how did Israel act toward YHWH? “And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them…”
      2. According to Judg 2.14, how did YHWH react toward Israel? “And He sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.”
      3. According to Judg 2.16, how did YHWH help His people? “Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.”
      4. According to Judg 2.19, how did Israel respond to YHWH’s saving help? “But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods.”
   3. Othniel (from Judah vs. Arameans)- 3.7-11
   4. Ehud (from Benjamin vs. Moabites), Shamgar- 3.12-31
   5. Deborah (from Ephraim vs. northern Canaanites)- 4.1-5.31
   6. Gideon (from Benjamin vs. Midianites and Amalekites), Tola,
   7. Jair- 6.1-10.5
   8. Jephthah (from eastern Manasseh vs. Ammonites), Ibzan, Elon, Abdon- 10.6-12.14
   9. Samson (from Dan vs. Philistines)- 13.1-16.31
   10. Israel’s degeneracy demonstrated- 17.1-21.25 (Lack of true worship = broken covenant)
       1. Micah’s mother-silver-idol-Levite as “house priest”
       2. Danites-Levite in Micah’s house-priest of the tribe of Dan

JUDGES SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The **tragic pattern** in Judges points to the next phase of God’s great story of redemption, which will begin to move forward considerably through the stories of Ruth and her great-grandson, David.”[[9]](#footnote-10)

1. Overview: Ruth
   1. Took place between Judges and 1 Samuel
   2. “YHWH’s love for Israel here finds expression in Ruth’s and Boaz’s loving concern for Naomi, and in Boaz’s for Naomi and Ruth…The narrative plot deals with Naomi’s moving from ”emptiness” in a foreign land to “fullness” back home in Bethlehem of Judah; from a form of “barrenness” (widowhood with no male heir) to full inheritance through Boaz’s assuming the responsibilities **of kinsman-redeemer**…providing her with a male heir – and what an heir he turned out to be!”[[10]](#footnote-11) (Obed, who was father of Jesse, who was father of David)
2. Content: Ruth
   1. Prologue- 1.1-5 (Men die)
   2. Scene 1- Naomi and Ruth: Grief, loyalty, conversion- 1.6-22
   3. Scene 2- Ruth, Boaz and Naomi: Surprising kindness- 2.1-23
   4. Scene 3- Naomi, Ruth and Boaz: Ruth petitions marriage- 3.1-18
   5. Scene 4- Boaz, Ruth and Naomi…and David: Marriage and a son- 4.1-22
      1. According to Ruth 4.3, how were Boaz and another man both related to Naomi? “Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.”
      2. According to Ruth 4.6, why didn’t the other man redeem (buy) the land of Naomi’s husband, Elimelech? “Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair (diminish) my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”
      3. According to Ruth 4.9, who was willing to diminish his inheritance in order to take care of Naomi and Ruth? “Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech.”
      4. The kinsman redeemer had to be:
         1. Closely related enough to redeem the situation of the ones in need
         2. Far enough removed to be great enough to provide their need.
         3. Jesus:
            1. According to Heb 2.14-15, what did Jesus do for sinners? Did He suffer loss? What did He accomplish for sinners? “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”
            2. **Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer!**

RUTH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Ruth tells the story of God’s faithfulness to His people in a specific case, as **a Moabite woman becomes part of His story of redemption**.”[[11]](#footnote-12)

LESSON 3: 1 & 2 Samuel

1. Overview
   1. Narrates events from the end of the period of the judges to the end of David’s reign (1100-970 BC).
   2. 3 main characters: Samuel, Saul and David
      1. Part 1: Samuel- 1 Sam 1-7
      2. Part 2: Samuel and Saul- 1 Sam 8-15
      3. Part 3: Saul and David- 1 Sam 16-31
      4. Part 4: David- 2 Sam 1-24
   3. 1 & 2 Samuel; Book(s) of **transition**
      1. Periodic rule by judges of parts of Israel → institutionalized, hereditary monarchy
      2. Typical king (Saul) → a king who is loyal to YHWH/covenant (David)
      3. Decentralized place of tabernacle → permanent place in Jerusalem
      4. All under the supervising eye of YHWH
2. Content
   1. Story of Samuel- 1-7
      1. Birth and call of Samuel- 1 Sam 1.1-4.1
         1. According to 1 Sam 1.7, what was the relationship like between Hannah and Peninah? “So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.”
         2. According to 1 Sam 1.11, what did Hannah say she would do if YHWH gave her a son? ““O Lord of hosts, if you will…give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”
         3. According to Num 6.1-8, what is the significance of “no razor shall touch his head”? Another way of indicating the total commitment of her son to YHWH.
      2. Loss and return of ark- 1 Sam 4.1-7.17
         1. Dagon fallen; fallen with head and hands cut off
         2. The ark among the Philistines: mice and tumors
         3. 70 at Beth-shemesh killed by YHWH
   2. Samuel and Saul- 1 Sam 8-15
      1. Saul anointed king- 1 Sam 8.1-12.25
         1. Saul prophesied: 10.6 (“Be turned into another man”)
         2. Saul had a good beginning.
            1. According to 1 Sam 10.27, what did King Saul say when his authority was challenged? “He held his peace”
            2. According to 1 Sam 11.13, what did King Saul say when he could have taken vengeance on traitorous Israelites? “No man shall be put to death…YHWH has worked salvation”
      2. Saul fails as king- 1 Sam 13.1-15.35
         1. According to 1 Sam 13.7-8, what was the morale of King Saul’s troops? “Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.”
         2. According to 1 Sam 13.8-10, what did King Saul do? “So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering.”
         3. According to 2 Chron 26.18, why was this wrong? ““It is not for you, (King) Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense.”
         4. Saul did not obey YHWH about Amalekites: 15.1-35
            1. According to 1 Sam 15.34, why did King Saul disobey YHWH about the Amalekites? “Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”
            2. According to 1 Sam 15.22-23, YHWH saw King Saul’s disobedience as equal to what? “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.”
   3. Saul and David- 1 Sam 16-31
      1. Rise of David- 1 Sam 16.1-17.58
         1. According to 1 Sam 16.7, how does YHWH judge people? “For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”
         2. In 1 Sam 17.32, how does David describe the primary reason that he will fight and defeat Goliath? “Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”
         3. According to 1 Sam 17.47, what was David’s confidence as he approached Goliath in battle? 17; “(that) all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.”
      2. Decline and death of Saul- 1 Sam 18.1-31.13
         1. In 1 Sam 18.8 and 12a, why did King Saul become angry and afraid of David? “And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?...And Saul was afraid of David”
         2. Saul’s attempts to kill David in Jerusalem: 18.11, 25; 19.10, 11
         3. Saul’s pursuit of David to kill him:
            1. According to 1 Sam 22.18, how deeply was King Saul effected by his hatred and fear of David? “Then the king said to Doeg, “You turn and strike the priests.” And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod.”
            2. The Wilderness of Ziph: 23.19-24
            3. According to 1 Sam 24.4-6, how did David honor King Saul even though the king was trying to kill David? “And the men of David said to him, “…the Lord said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand…Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. And afterward David’s heart struck him…“The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord’s anointed.”
            4. The Widerness of Ziph again: 26.1-2
         4. According to 1 Sam 28.6-7, how desperate was King Saul for supernatural help to defend his throne and kingdom? “And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.”
         5. Saul killed by the Philistines on Mt. Gilboa: 21.3-5
   4. Story of David- 2 Samuel
      1. David as king of Judah- 2 Sam 1.1-4.12
         1. David anointed by the men of Judah at Hebron: 2.1-4
         2. According to 2 Sam 4.12, how did David react to the men who killed Ishboseth, who also claimed the throne of Israel? “And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.”
         3. According to 2 Sam 3.26-27, who murdered Abner, commander of the armies of Israel? Was David involved in the murder? “When Joab came out from David’s presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.”
      2. David as king over all Israel- 2 Sam 5.1-9.13
         1. David anointed at Hebron by all Israel: 5.3
         2. David in Jerusalem, his capital, the City of David: 5.6-10
         3. According to 2 Sam 7.8-17, what did YHWH make with David? What are three things YHWH promised David? “And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth…Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
            1. YHWH made a covenant with David.
            2. David: a great name
            3. David: a “house” (i.e., a dynasty)
            4. David: a descendant of his will sit on the throne forever
      3. David, Bathsheba, and consequences- 2 Sam 10.1-20.26
         1. According to 2 Sam 11.2-5, what sin did David commit? “It happened, late one afternoon…that he saw from the roof a woman bathing…So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.”
         2. According to 2 Sam 11.15, what other sin did David commit? “In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.”
         3. Child died: 12.14,19
         4. According to 2 Sam 13.10-14, what was one consequence of David’s sin of adultery? “Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food into the chamber…he took hold of her and said to her, “Come, lie with me, my sister.” She answered him, “No, my brother, do not violate me…But he would not listen to her, and…he violated her and lay with her.”
         5. Absalom and Amnon: 13.28-29
         6. Absalom’s rebellion against David: 15.1-12
         7. According to 2 Sam 18.14-15, what was one other consequence of David’s sin of murder? “Joab said, “I will not waste time like this with you.” And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak…Joab’s armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.”
   5. Final perspective on David and his reign- 2 Sam 21.1-24.25

1 & 2 SAMUEL SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book(s) of Samuel **take God’s story into the monarchy, especially by means of the story of King David**, a man of faith even while a man of weakness. **God’s covenant with David is the basis for the Jewish (view of Messiah)…fulfilled finally in the ultimate Son of David, Jesus of Nazareth.”**[[12]](#footnote-13)

LESSON 4: 1 & 2 Kings

1. Overview
   1. Kings of Israel (north) and Judah (south) from the death of David (970 BC) to the exile of Judah (586 BC)
   2. Deuteronomic themes throughout
      1. Loyalty to YHWH- Solomon’s and Hezekiah’s early years; Josiah; Jehoshaphat
      2. Disloyalty to YHWH- Solomon and Hezekiah in latter years; Jeroboam; Ahab
      3. Disobedience/obedience in worship- Jeroboam; Hezekiah
      4. Covenant loyalty- Josiah (the key theme for each king)
      5. Curses- Both Israel and Judah horribly crushed (with exile)
   3. No super-powers until Assyria, then Egypt, then Babylon
   4. YHWH uses small and great to carry out His judgments: Solomon vs. Jeroboam; Hezekiah vs. Assyria
2. Content
   1. Solomon becomes king- 1 Kg 1.1-2.46
      1. According to 1 Kg 3.9, what did Solomon ask YHWH to give him as king of Israel? “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”
      2. According to 1 Kg 3.12-13, what did YHWH do for Solomon? “Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind…I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.”
   2. Reign of Solomon- 1 Kg 3.1-11.43
      1. According to 1 Kg 10.27, what value did Solomon give to silver in Jerusalem? “And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone.”
      2. According to 1 Kg 11.1-3, what turned Solomon’s heart away from YHWH? “Now King Solomon loved many foreign women…He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.”
   3. Kingdom divided (931-855 BC)- 1 Kg 12.1-16.20 (Rehoboam; Jeroboam)
   4. Kings of Israel and Judah- 1 Kg 16.21-2 Kg 17.41
      1. All kings of Israel broke covenant.
      2. Some kings of Judah kept covenant.
   5. Judah’s final years- 2 Kg 18.1-23.50 (Decline [even with some good kings] leading up to Babylonian exile [587 BC])
      1. According to 1 Kg 14.14-16, why would YHWH judge Israel? “And henceforth the Lord will strike Israel…And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.”
      2. According to 1 Kg 15.33-34, how was Baasha, king of Israel, described? “In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah began to reign over all Israel…He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.”
      3. How is the evil of Ahab, king of Israel, described in 1 Kg 16.33? “Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”
      4. According to 1 Kg 15.11, how did Asa, king of Judah, rule his kingdom? Who was he like? “And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done.”
      5. According to 1 Kg 18.3, how did Hezekiah, king of Judah, rule his kingdom? Who was he like? “And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father had done.”
      6. According to 1 Kg 23.24-25, who was a king of Judah who turned to YHWH more than any other? “Josiah…Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.”
   6. See Appendix 3: Kings List

1 & 2 KINGS SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. “The book(s) of Kings is ultimately answering the question: **‘In light of God’s covenant with Abraham [the land] and with David [an everlasting throne], how did all of this happen to us?’** The answer: **God has not failed His people; His people, led by their kings, have failed their God.** The covenants, after all, have the (consequences) of Israel’s unfaithfulness written into them. But the covenant also promises return from exile for those who return to (the Lord).”[[13]](#footnote-14)

LESSON 5: EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER

1. Overview: Ezra, Nehemiah
   1. Notice sections that use “I” while others use “he/they.”
   2. Notice rebuilding of temple and wall; renewal of the covenant
   3. Deuteronomic themes
      1. Purity of faith in Jehovah (Reforms of Ezra 10, Neh 9-10)
      2. National/covenantal identity (People of God)
      3. Purity of people and worship (Covenant renewal)
2. Content
   1. Rebuilding of the temple reviewed- Ezra 1-6 (538-516 BC)
      1. According to Ezra 7.6, 10, what kind of man was Ezra? “This Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses…For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”
      2. According to Ezra 8.22, what was Ezra ashamed to do? Why? “For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him.”
   2. Return of Ezra and others to Jerusalem- Ezra 7-8 (458 BC)
   3. Crisis of intermarriage- Ezra 9-10
   4. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem: Nehemiah governor- Neh 1-7
      1. According to Neh 2.2, how did Nehemiah risk his life in order to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem? “And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.”
      2. What information in Neh 2.3-5 makes us believe that Nehemiah had planned what he would do and say when he was sad before the king? “I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when…the place of my fathers’ graves, lies in ruins…Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven…“If it pleases the king… that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ graves, that I may rebuild it.”
      3. According to Neh 6.15, how many days did it take to finish rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem? “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.”
   5. Renewal of the covenant- Neh 8-10
   6. Resettlement of Jerusalem, dedication of the wall- Neh 11-12
3. Conclusion: Community purity reinforced- Neh 13
   1. What in Neh 13.8 shows how zealous Nehemiah was for truly following YHWH from the heart? “And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber.”
   2. According to Neh 13.17, what did Nehemiah do when he realized that the Sabbath was being profaned? “Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?”
4. Overview: Esther
   1. God’s name is not mentioned; yet He is seen as superintending each turn of events.
   2. Note the irony:
      1. Haman wants to destroy the Jews; Haman is destroyed by Esther.
      2. Haman erects gallows for Mordecai; Haman is hanged on the gallows.
      3. Haman seeks to plunder the Jews; Jews plunder their enemies.
      4. Haman writes script for his praise; Mordecai receives this praise from Haman’s own mouth.
   3. Gen 1-11 theme: Good vs. evil
5. Content
   1. Xerxes, Vashti and Esther- 1.1-2.28
   2. Plot begins to take form- 2.19-3.15
   3. Plot unfolds- 4.1-7.10
      1. According to Esther 4.14, what did Mordecai believe would happen to Esther if she concealed her identity from the king? “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish.”
      2. According to Esther 4.14, why did Mordecai believe that Esther had become queen? “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
   4. Xerxes edict favoring the Jews- 8.1-17
   5. Triumph of the Jews- 9.1-10.3

ESTHER SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Esther tells the story of God’s providential protection of His people during a bleak moment in the Persian Empire, thus preserving them for the future gift of the Messiah.”[[14]](#footnote-15)

LESSON 6: Questions and Discussion

DAY 3: POETRY, MAJOR PROPHETS

**GOALS OF THE DAY**

By the end of this day, the students will be able to:

1. Explain the unique contribution of each of the five books to the Big Story
2. Identify the passage in Job that most directly points to Christ
3. List 5 prominent prophecies about Jesus Christ from Psalms
4. Explain how a modern Christian should read and use the Psalms
5. List 5 prominent prophecies about Jesus Christ in Isaiah
6. List 3 prominent prophecies about Jesus Christ in Jeremiah

LESSON 1: JOB, PSALMS, PROVERBS

1. Overview: Job
   1. Two main questions asked;
      1. Why do the righteous suffer from “acts of God”?
      2. Where is wisdom found?
   2. Structure of the book
      1. Prologue- 1-2 (Whose fault is this suffering?)
      2. 3 dialogue-disputes/cycles of speeches: 4-27
         1. According to Job 9.33, what does Job want that he thinks he doesn’t have? Who is the fulfillment of this desire? “There is no arbiter between us, who can lay a hand on us both.” Jesus Christ
         2. According to Job 28.28, where can man find wisdom? “And He said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”
         3. According to Job 32.2, what was Job’s primary problem? “Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God.”

* + 1. 3 monologues: God and Job- 29-41
       1. According to Job 38.2, how did YHWH respond to Job’s words? “Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to Me.”
       2. According to Job 42.5-6, how did Job respond to YHWH? “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”
    2. Epilogue- 42
  1. Themes
     1. Conventional wisdom vs. God’s wisdom
        1. Love for Him vs. His gifts
        2. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar similar to Satan!
           1. Satan: Job loves God because of God’s gifts to Job.
           2. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar: God punished Job because Job sinned.
           3. **God’s relationship with men is centered what God does for men.**
     2. Will man let God be God, or will he demand to share in God’s decisions?
     3. Does man deserve God’s explanation when he suffers?

JOB SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Job has an important place in the biblical story, not only by calling us to **total trust in God even in the most trying situations**, but also by preparing the way for Jesus Christ, who, as the incarnate God, gives **the ultimate answer to Job’s question by assuming the role of innocent sufferer – only in His case to bear the sins of the entire world**.”[[15]](#footnote-16)

1. Overview: Psalms
   1. Psalms are songs, poems put to music.
   2. Psalms communicate God’s truth to the mind through the emotions.
   3. The book of Psalms was, in the Hebrew scriptures, a collection of songs.
      1. Put together after return from Babylonian exile
      2. **“The Hymnbook of Judaism”**
      3. Certain psalms used for certain occasions/situations. (120-134 for ascending up to Jerusalem when travelling there)
      4. **The Jews used the psalms to express their desires/needs to God.**
      5. **We should use them in the same way**. Examples:
         1. Burden/sadness: Ps 42.5; 43.5; 137
         2. Joy: Ps 149
         3. Thanksgiving: Ps 136
   4. Prophecies about Jesus from Psalms:
      1. Ps 2.2 and 6 speak of Jesus as the Anointed King. (Cf. Acts 4.25-26): “The rulers…gathered together against YHWH and His anointed…I have set My King on Zion”
      2. Ps 2.7 speaks of Jesus as being in what relationship to YHWH? “You are my Son; today I have begotten You” (Cf. Acts 13.33)
      3. Ps 8.2 speaks of Jesus being praised by whom? “Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself” (Cf. Mt 21.16)
      4. Who will not be abandoned in Sheol according to Ps 16.8-11 “You will not abandon my (David and Jesus) soul to Sheol” (Cf. Acts 2.25-28)
      5. Ps 22.7 speaks of Jesus being where? “He saved others; Himself He cannot save…come down from the cross” (Cf. Mt 27.41-43)
      6. Ps 22.1 speaks of Jesus being forsaken by whom? “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Cf. Mt 27.46)
      7. Ps 22.18 tells what will happen to what that belongs to Jesus? “They cast lots to divide His clothes” (Cf. Lk 23.34)
      8. Ps 31.5 predicts the words of whom? “Into Your hand I commit My (Jesus) spirit” (Cf. Lk 23.46)
      9. Ps 34.20 tells what about Jesus in His death? “Not a bone of Him shall be broken” (Cf. Jn 19.36)
         1. Where in the OT do we find the first mention of this sacrifice with none of its bones broken? Ex 12.46
      10. Ps 35.11 predicts what kind of witnesses will speak about Jesus? “Many false witnesses came forward” (Cf. Mt 26.60)
      11. How does Ps 41.9 predict what Judas, one of the Twelve apostles, would do? “My close friend has lifted up his heel against” (Cf. Jn 13.8)
      12. Ps 45.6-7 refers to Jesus as who? “Your throne, O God, if forever and ever” (Cf. Heb 1.8-9)
      13. What does Ps 69.4 say about what some people will think of Jesus? “They hated Me without a cause” (Cf. Jn 15.25)
      14. Ps 69.9 tells that Jesus will be consumed by what? “Zeal for Your house has consumed Me” (Cf. Jn 2.17)
      15. What does Ps 69.21 predict that Jesus will drink while on the cross? “Wine to drink mixed with gall” (Cf. Mt 27.34)
      16. What element of Jesus’ teaching does Ps 78.2 speak of? “I will speak to this people with parables” (Cf. Mt 13.34)
      17. What does Ps 91.11 say about YHWH’s care for Jesus? “He will command His angels concerning You” (Cf. Lk 4.10)
      18. What does Ps 109.4 say that Jesus will say on the cross? “Father, forgive them” (Cf. Lk 23.34)
      19. Ps 102.25-27 says that who laid the foundations of the earth? “You (Jesus) have laid the foundations of the earth” (Cf. Heb 1.10-11)
      20. What does Ps 110.1 say that YHWH will do with Jesus’ enemies? “The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet” (Cf. Mt 22.44)
      21. According to Ps 118.22-23, what would Jesus claim to be? “The Stone which the builders rejected, this became the U” (Cf. Mt 21.42)
      22. How does Ps 118.26 show that Jesus would come in YHWH’s authority? “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD” (Cf. Mt 23.38)
2. Content: Psalms
   1. 1 The two ways
   2. 2 Psalm of the King
   3. 19 The voice of nature
   4. 22 Suffering Messiah
   5. 23 Shepherd psalm
   6. 24 Christ’s reign
   7. 51 David’s repentance
   8. 90 Song of Moses
   9. 91 Protection of the saint
   10. 78 The sins of Israel
   11. 106 The sins of Israel
   12. 119 The Word of God
   13. 136 God’s mercy
   14. 137 Sorrow on the way to Babylon
   15. 139 Attributes of God

PSALMS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The collection of psalms, which is the voice of Yahweh’s people singing to Him in praise and prayer, **functions also to remind them – and us – of the central role of worship in the biblical story**. (This worship) focuses on the living God by recalling His essential goodness and love and His wondrous deeds on their behalf.”[[16]](#footnote-17)

1. Overview: Proverbs
   1. How to live morally and beneficially in the world
   2. Must be read as a collection: different proverbs “balance each other”
   3. Are not guarantees of success
      1. Point toward a truth
      2. Are often technically inexact
      3. Poetry in figurative language (not to be understood literally)
         1. Figurative language
         2. Truths expressed suggestively rather than in exact detail
      4. Should not be taken too literally or universally
         1. 6.27-29: “He who touches her will not go unpunished”
         2. 16.3: “Commit to the Lord whatever you do and…succeed.”
      5. Worded to be memorable, not technically accurate
         1. 15.19: “Way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.”
         2. 31.22: “…her clothing is fine linen and purple.”

PROVERBS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Proverbs fits into the biblical story by giving practical instruction to the young (and all others listening) in order to help them follow in the ways of the Lord and (to) have a beneficial, fruitful life on earth.”[[17]](#footnote-18)

LESSON 2: ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON, LAMENTATIONS

1. Overview: Ecclesiastes
   1. Statements that are contrary to biblical truth
      1. “All is vanity!”- 1.2
      2. “…It is an unhappy business that Jehovah has given to the sons of men…”- 1.13
      3. One view: The author is Solomon, who writes from the perspective of one who tried all these ways to find meaning, only to realize afterwards that serving Jehovah is the way to find true meaning in life.
   2. “(The author) does not leave the young dangling (wondering what truth really is). One way is clearly to be preferred to the other, and the so-called contradictions serve to high light that fact.”
2. Content: Ecclesiastes
   1. Introduction of the theme: 1.1-11
   2. Ways of trying to gain from labor: 1.12-2.26
   3. A time for everything: 3.1-22
   4. Success, oppression, and being alone: 4.1-16
   5. About approaching God: 5.1-7
   6. Wealth and oppression: 5.8-6.12
   7. Advantage of wisdom: 7.1-29
   8. Dealing with an unjust world: 8.1-17
   9. Living while one knows death is coming: 9.1-12
   10. Way of wisdom: 9.13-10.20
   11. About not understanding the ways of God: 11.1-8
   12. Final word to the young: 11.9-12.8
   13. Epilogue- A wise man: 12.9-14

ECCLESIASTES SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Ecclesiastes fits into the biblical story as a constant reminder of the brevity of human life in light of eternity, emphasizing our need to fear God while also paving the way for the greater revelations of our certain resurrection through Jesus Christ.”[[18]](#footnote-19)

1. Overview: Song of Solomon
   1. Two views of its purpose
      1. This is a poem/song about Solomon as he pursued one of his wives and brings her into a marriage relationship with him.
      2. This is a song written for one of Solomon’s marriages
   2. Two (of several) perspectives:
      1. It speaks of and teaches:
         1. Purity in and enjoyment of the physical relationship in marriage
         2. Marriage fidelity between an man and a woman in marriage
      2. Its purpose is to show Christ’s love for the church.
         1. The physical attraction described is symbolic.
         2. It is a way to show how much Christ loves the church.
2. Content: Song of Solomon
   1. Lovers presented: 1.1-6
   2. First scene- The lovers together: 1.7-2.7
   3. Second scene- Hope, invitation, and a dream: 2.8-3.5
   4. Solomon’s wealth and extravagance: 3.6-11
   5. Third scene- Admiration and invitation: 4.1-5.1
   6. Fourth scene- Dream and search: 5.2-6.3
   7. Fifth scene- The delights of love: 6.4-8.4
   8. Conclusion- Love is as strong as death: 8.5-14

SONG OF SOLOMON SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Song of Songs fits into God’s story as a reminder that the sexual love He created is good and should be embraced with godly fidelity and delight.”[[19]](#footnote-20)

1. Overview: Lamentations
   1. 5 laments over Jerusalem’s destruction and Jewish exile to Babylon
      1. Narrator and (personified) Jerusalem speak in 1-2.
         1. 1.1-9a: Narrator
         2. 1.9b: Jerusalem
         3. 1.10-11a: Narrator
         4. 1.11b-16: Jerusalem
         5. Etc.
      2. Narrator speaks as though he were Jerusalem in 3
      3. Narrator and (personified) Jerusalem speak in 4-5
   2. The theme of God dwelling among His people in covenant relationship runs throughout the OT. (Deuteronomy themes)
      1. Jerusalem and the temple (God’s dwelling place) were synonymous.
      2. The Jews of Jerusalem felt that since they were Jehovah’s covenant people in the city where Jehovah dwelled, the city would not be taken.
      3. Lamentations deals with the full realization that Jerusalem has been taken, and that it is her sin/covenant breaking that are the cause.
      4. The only hope is Jehovah’s continued mercy (3.22-25a, the one bright spot in the book).
         1. According to Lam 3.22, what never ceases? “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end”
         2. According to Lam 3.23, what is great? “Great is your faithfulness.”
         3. According to Lam 3.24, what will the author do? “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, therefore I will hope in him.”
2. Content: Lamentations
   1. First lament- Zion laments over her destruction: 1.1-22
   2. Second lament- Zion’s lament and appeal: 2.1-22
   3. Third lament- Despair, hope and prayer for justice: 3.1-66
   4. Fourth lament- Searching blindly in the streets: 4.1-22
   5. Fifth lament- Remnant of Zion weeps: 5.1-22

LAMENTATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Lamentations reflects a significant turning point in the biblical story – the fall of Jerusalem. (It) reminds us that God is true to His word about standing in judgment against unfaithfulness while still holding out hope for the future based on His character.”[[20]](#footnote-21)

LESSON 3: ISAIAH

1. Overview
   1. Looks forward to:
      1. Israel’s judgment into exile
      2. Israel’s redemption from exile
      3. Fulfillment of Abrahamic Covenant through the Suffering Servant (which blessing includes the nations)
   2. Quoted more in the NT than any other OT book (except the Psalms)
   3. Deals with Israel’s failure to:
      1. Trust Jehovah and the resulting worship of idols (Love God: Dt 6.5)
      2. Uphold social justice (Love your neighbor as yourself: Lev 19.18)
   4. Ends with a view to Messiah’s blessed rule over His people
   5. Deuteronomic themes
      1. Jehovah is the “Holy One of Israel” (39 times in Is; 6 in rest of OT).
      2. Israel is Jehovah’s “holy people”.
      3. Jerusalem is Jehovah’s “holy city” and “holy mountain”
      4. Nations included in Messiah’s salvation
2. Content
   1. Yahweh’s complaint with Judah; Isaiah’s call: 1-6
      1. Corruption and future of the holy people and the holy place: 1.1-2.5
         1. According to Is 1.5-6, how spiritually sick is Israel? “The whole head is sick and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds.”
         2. According to Is 1.18, what does YHWH invite Israel to do in spite of all their sins? “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”
      2. Coming of the day of Yahweh: 2.6-5.30
      3. Isaiah’s vision and commission: 6.1-13
   2. Crisis of trust- Ahaz and the coalition with Syria and Israel: 7-12
      1. Failure of the king in Judah: 7.1-8.22
         1. According to Is 7.14 in its context, how do we know it is foretelling Jesus’ birth? “YHWH Himself will give you a sign: behold a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Emmanuel.”
         2. When did people know that Is 7.14 referred to Jesus’ birth? Mt 1.23
         3. Is 7.14 is one illustration of multiple fulfillments of prophecy.
      2. Future of Messiah in Judah: 9.1-12.6
         1. According to Is 9.6, what are four ways the Messiah is described? “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
      3. According to Is 10.1-2, which two classes of people do the wicked not care for as God does? “Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees…that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey.”
   3. Yahweh’s complaint against the nations: 13-27
      1. Against Babylon and Assyria: 13.1-14.27
      2. Against Philistia, Moab and Damascus: 14.28-17.14
      3. Against Cush and Egypt: 18.1-20.6
      4. Babylon and her allies: 21.1-23.18
      5. Distress of the nations and feast on Yahweh’s holy mountain: 24.1-27.13
         1. According to Is 24.21, YHWH’s judgment will include what? “On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven (all creation), in heaven, and the kings of the earth (all people), on the earth.”
         2. According to Is 25.6, for whom will YHWH make a great feast? “On this mountain YHWH of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow and aged wine well refined.”
         3. According to Is 25.8, what will YHWH do? “He will swallow up death forever.”
   4. Crisis of Trust- Hezekiah and the Babylonian threat: 28-39
      1. Woe to Ephraim and Judah because they trust in Egypt: 28.1-33.24
      2. More judgment on the nations and the future of Zion: 34.1-35.10
      3. Trusting Yahweh concerning Assyria and failure regarding Babylon: 36.1-39.8

LESSON 4: ISAIAH-JEREMIAH

* 1. Consolation and confrontation: 40-48
     1. Introduction: 40.1-11
        1. According to Is 40.11, what four ways will YHWH treat His flock? “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”
        2. According to Is 40.26, who named the stars? “Lift up your eyes on high and see who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name” YHWH
     2. Consolation of Israel: 40.12-41.29
        1. According to Is 41.10, what two things should believers not do? What three things does YHWH promise to do? “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
     3. Israel as God’s reluctant servant to the nations: 42.1-44.23
     4. Cyrus, Yahweh’s servant: 44.24-45.25 (Supremacy of Jehovah)
        1. According to Is 44.28, who is the servant of YHWH? “(YHWH) says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose”
        2. Cyrus was the king of the Medes and the Persians.
     5. Yahweh disputes with stubborn Israel: 46.1-48.22
  2. Yahweh’s coming servant who will bring salvation: 49-55
     1. Yahweh’s Servant and Israel’s salvation: 49.1-50.11
        1. According to Is 49.3, who is the servant of YHWH? “You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
        2. According to Is 49.6, who is the servant of YHWH? “He says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
     2. Glorious future of Zion: 51.1-52.12
     3. The Suffering Servant atones for Israel’s sins: 52.13-53.12
        1. According to Is 52.13, who will act wisely? “Behold, My servant shall act wisely…”
        2. According to the first half of Is 53.3, how is YHWH’s servant treated? “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief”
        3. According to Is 53.6, what did YHWH’s servant suffer for? “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
     4. Glorious future of Zion: 54.1-17
     5. Yahweh’s invitation to Israel and the nations: 55.1-13
        1. According to Is 55.1, who is invited to the feast of YHWH’s salvation? “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”
        2. According to Is 55.6-7, what four things are people told to do? What two things will YHWH do for them? “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”
  3. Present failure and Zion’s glorious future: 56-66
     1. Future glory of Zion and Yahweh’s anointed One: 60.1-63.6
        1. “Darkness shall cover the earth…and the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you…and nations shall come to your light.” Is 60.2-3
        2. “The wealth of the nations shall come to you” Is 60.5
        3. “Foreigners shall build up your walls…bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession” Is 60.10-11
        4. Jewish attitudes
           1. The Jews (both in the OT and during the Gospels and Acts) read and knew prophecies like these of God’s destruction of the Gentiles.
           2. They knew Messiah would come and bring this judgment to pass.
           3. Their vision of Messiah’s reign was one of Gentile defeat and shame.
           4. Those Gentiles who would trust in Messiah would do so in the dust of defeat.
     2. Yahweh’s people pray: 63.7-64.12
     3. Judgment and salvation: 65.1-16
  4. Future Zion in a new heaven and new earth: 65.17-66.24

1. Chapter Content
   1. 1-6 Rebuke and promise
      1. 6 Isaiah commissioned
   2. 7-12 Immanuel
      1. 7 “...the virgin shall conceive…call His name Immanuel…”
      2. 9 “…child is born…his name shall be called…everlasting Father…”
   3. 13-23 Judgments upon the nations
   4. 36-39 Historical section
   5. 40-66 Comfort for His people in redemption and restoration
      1. 53 “…the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
   6. 58-66 Millennial kingdom
2. Prophecies about Jesus in Isaiah
   1. How did Jesus use Is 6.1-2 in Lk 4.18-19? To show that He was the Messiah
   2. How did Jesus use Is 6.9-10 in Mt 13.14-15 when He said: “Blind their eyes…lest they should see with their eyes” Judgment was coming since the people wouldn’t believe YHWH’s word/prophet.
   3. How did Matthew use Is 7.14 in Mt 1.22? To show that Jesus was born of a virgin.
   4. How did Matthew use Is 9.1-2 in Mt 4.15-16? To show that Jesus was the light for salvation.
   5. How did Paul use Is 11.10 in Rom 15.2? “The root of Jesse” (Jesus) will come…to rule the Gentiles; in Him (Jesus) the Gentiles will hope.”
   6. How did Paul use Is 25.8 in 1 Cor 15.54? “He Jesus) will swallow up death forever”
   7. How did Paul use Is 28.16 in Rom 10.11: “Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will not be ashamed”
   8. How did Jesus use Is 29.13 in Mt 15.8-9? To show that people in His days on earth worshipped God based on human tradition, not from a pure heart of love.
   9. How did Matthew use Is 40.3 in Mt 3.3? He identified John the Baptist as the one who would prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah.
   10. How did Matthew use Is 42.1-3 in Mt 12.18-21? It shows that Jesus, YHWH’s servant, will be humble, not be boastful.
   11. How did Paul use Is 49.6 in Acts 13.47? To show that Jesus was the promised servant who would bring salvation to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews
   12. How did Mark refer to Is 50.6 in Mk 15.19? He recalled Isaiah’s words that YHWH’s servant would be spit on.
   13. How did John use Is 53.1 in Jn 12.38? To show why people did not believe in Jesus
   14. How did Luke use Is 53.3 in Lk 17.25? To show that Jesus would be rejected by His own people
   15. How did Luke use Is 53.7 in Lk 23.9? To show that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s words
   16. How did Matthew use Is 53.9 in Mt 27.57-60? To show that Jesus was buried in a rich man’s tomb as Isaiah had said
   17. Ho did Mark use Is 53.12 in Mk 15.28? To show that Jesus was crucified with criminals as Isaiah had said
   18. How did Paul use Is 55.3 in Acts 13.34? To show that Jesus, raised from the dead, was the Messiah, David’s son
   19. How did John use Is 64.13 in Jn 6.45? To show that those taught by God come to Jesus

ISAIAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Isaiah stands in the middle of the Old Testament as a reminder that Yahweh is the living God who will both judge the world in righteousness and in mercy save His people and the nations through His “Suffering Servant”, (the) Messiah. It thus gathers up the whole of the Old Testament story and prepares the way for the New (Testament story).”[[21]](#footnote-22)

1. Overview: Jeremiah
   1. General structure (sections)
      1. Prophecies against Jerusalem- 1-25
         1. Narratives: Hope for the future- 26-36
         2. Narratives: Fall of Jerusalem- 37-45
      2. Prophecies against the nations- 46-51
      3. Epilogue- 52
   2. How sections relate
      1. Narratives in 26-36 relate to prophecies in 1-25
         1. Content of “temple sermon”- 7.1-29; reaction to sermon- 26
         2. Prophecy to volunteer for exile- 21.8-10; narratives- 27-29
         3. Judging kings/prophets- 22-23; narratives- 26-29 & 34-36
   3. Jeremiah’s ministry was during the last years of Judah’s independence.
      1. Assyria in decline
      2. Egypt and Babylon battling for supremacy
      3. Babylon victor over Egypt in 605 BC
   4. Babylon attacks & conquers Judah three times. (605,597,586)

LESSON 5: JEREMIAH-EZEKIEL

1. Content: Jeremiah
   1. Oracles of judgment against Judah and Jerusalem: 1-25
      1. Introduction: 1.1-19
         1. According to Jer 1.5, when did YHWH know Jeremiah? What did YHWH determine for Jeremiah? “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you…I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
         2. According to Jer 1.c, what was Jeremiah’s response to YHWH’s appointment? “Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”
         3. According to Jer 1.8, what promise did YHWH make to Jeremiah? “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”
         4. According to Jer 1.17, why should Jeremiah not be dismayed in his ministry? “But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.”
         5. According to Jer 1.18, YWHW said He would make Jeremiah like what three things? “And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.”
      2. Oracles against Judah’s idolatry: 2.1-6.30
      3. More oracles against idolatry: 7.1-10.25
         1. According to Jer 10.5, what is it that idols cannot do? “Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”
      4. The broken covenant: 11.1-13.27
         1. In Jer 12.1-4, Jeremiah expresses his frustration with YHWH’s slow judgment on sinful Judah. How does YHWH respond? “If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?”
         2. In Jer 13.1-7, YHWH tells Jeremiah to use a piece of clothing for a sign. What is the piece of clothing? “Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.”
      5. Yahweh’s rejection of His people: 14.1-17.27
      6. Symbols and laments: 18.1-20.18
         1. In Jer 18.3, YHWH told Jeremiah to go to a house to see a symbol of His thought about Judah. What was the work done in that house? “So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel.”
         2. According to Jer 20.2, what did Passhur, the false prophet, do to Jeremiah? “Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord.”
      7. Judgments against kings and prophets: 21.1-24.10
      8. Summary of this section: 25.1-38
   2. God’s Word offers hope, but is rejected: 26-36
      1. Reaction to Jeremiahs’ sermon in the temple: 26.1-24
      2. Jeremiah and the false prophets: 27.1-29.32
      3. Restoration and a new covenant promised: 30.1-33.26
         1. According to Jer 31.31, what will YHWH do for the house of Judah? “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”
         2. According to Jer 31.34, what will YHWH do about Judah’s iniquities and sin? “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
      4. Zedekiah, Jehoiakim and Jeremiah’s scroll: 34.1-36.32
   3. Fall of Jerusalem and consequences: 37-45
      1. Jeremiah and politics in the king’s court: 37.1-38.28
      2. Jeremiah and the fall of Jerusalem: 39.1-41.15
      3. Jeremiah and the flight to Egypt: 41.16-45.5
   4. Oracles against the nations: 46-51
      1. Egypt: 46.1-28
         1. Notice the language and message.
            1. “They (Egyptians) are dismayed and have turned backward. Their warriors are beaten down and have fled in haste; they look not back-terror on every side.” Jer 46.5
            2. “O virgin daughter of Egypt…the nations have heard of your shame.” Jer 46.11-12
      2. Judah’s neighbors: 47.1-49.39
         1. Again, notice the language and message.
            1. In its context (Jer 48.1-20), what country does Jer 48. 17 say will sit on parched ground? “Come down from your glory, and sit on the parched ground” Moab
            2. In its context (Jer 49.1-2), what nation does Jer 49.2 say shall be dispossessed by Isarel? “Then Israel shall dispossess those who dispossessed him, says the LORD.” Ammon
            3. In its context (Jer 49.7-22), what nation does Jer 49.10-11 say will be stripped bare by YHWH? Edom
      3. Babylon: 50.1-51.64
         1. According to Jer 51.4-5, who will fall down slain in their land? Chaldeans
         2. According to Jer 51.30, the warriors of what nation have become as weak as women? Babylon
      4. Jewish attitudes
         1. As seen in Isaiah, the Jews looked forward to a time when their Gentiles masters would be crushed.
         2. They knew Messiah would be the source of their destruction.
         3. They did not understand the love of God for Gentiles expressed in the gospel.
         4. They did not understand their need to open their hearts to believers from among the Gentile peoples.
   5. Epilogue: 52
   6. Prophecies about Jesus in Jeremiah
      1. How did Jesus use Jer 5.21 when He spoke to people in His day (Mk 8.18)? “Having eyes you do not see”
      2. How did Jesus use Jer 7.11 when He cleansed the temple (Mk 11.17)? “My house has become a den of thieves”
      3. Jer 31.15 in Mt 2.18: “Voice was heard in Ramah…of weeping”
      4. The author of Hebrews spoke of what when he quoted Jer 31.31-34 (Heb 8.8-12)? “Behold, I will make a new covenant”
      5. What did the author of Hebrews say YHWH would remember no more when he quoted Jer 31.33-34 (Heb 10.16-17)? “Their sins I will remember no more”
      6. How does Matthew use Jer 32.6-9 (Mt 27.9-10) to refer to Jesus? “30 pieces of silver…the price of him”

JEREMIAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Jeremiah is a constant reminder of God’s faithfulness to His word in Deuteronomy that His elect will be cursed by exile for their unfaithfulness to Jehovah. (But they) will be restored at a later time with the hope of a new covenant. (This covenant) was fulfilled through Jesus Christ, David’s ‘righteous Branch’ (Jer 23.5).”[[22]](#footnote-23)

1. Ezekiel: overview
   1. Ezekiel, a priest and younger contemporary of Jeremiah, was taken to Babylon in the second wave of exiles in 598 BC.
      1. Ministered from 593-571 BC, Jerusalem’s most turbulent years
      2. Ez 1-24: oracles vs. Judeans given during 5 years before the siege of Jerusalem
      3. Ez 25-32: oracles vs. surrounding nations (not Babylon)
   2. Ez 33-48: oracles given during 16 years after fall of Jerusalem, giving hope for the future
2. Content
   1. Oracles of judgment against Israel: 1-24
      1. Ezekiel’s call and commissioning: 1.1-3.27
      2. Coming siege and doom of Jerusalem: 4.1-7.27
         1. According to Ezek 4.3, what did Ezekiel place between himself and a model of the city of Jerusalem? “And you, take an iron griddle, and place it as a wall between you and the city.”
         2. According to Ezek 4.4-5, what did YHWH command Ezekiel to do? “Then lie on your left side, and place the punishment of the house of Israel upon it. For the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their punishment. For I assign to you a number of days, 390 days, equal to the number of the years of their punishment.”
         3. According to Ezek 4.9-12, what four other unusual things did YHWH command Ezekiel to do? “And you, take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and emmer, and put them into a single vessel and make your bread from them…And your food that you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day…And water you shall drink by measure, the sixth part of a hin...And you shall eat it as a barley cake, baking it in their sight on human dung.”
         4. According to Ezek 5.2-3, what was Ezekiel to do with hair shaved from his head? “A third part you shall burn in the fire in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. And a third part you shall take and strike with the sword all around the city. And a third part you shall scatter to the wind…And you shall take from these a small number and bind them in the skirts of your robe.”
      3. Israel’s idolatry and Yahweh’s departure from Jerusalem: 8.1-12.20
         1. According to Ezek 9.4-6, what were the people that YHWH would spare doing? “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” And to the others he said in my hearing, “Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare…but touch no one on whom is the mark.”
         2. According to Ezek 12.4-6, what five things did YHWH command Ezekiel to do? At he end of verse 6, what reason did YHWH give to Ezekiel for His command to do these things? “You shall bring out your baggage by day in their sight…and you shall go out yourself at evening in their sight, as those do who must go into exile. In their sight dig through the wall, and bring your baggage out through it. In their sight you shall lift the baggage upon your shoulder and carry it out at dusk. You shall cover your face that you may not see the land, for I have made you a sign for the house of Israel.”
         3. All these were pictures or illustrations to the Jews around Ezekiel
         4. They would see what the prophet was doing and understand the message from Yahweh.
      4. False prophets and misguided elders: 12.21-14.23
      5. Doom of Jerusalem and her kings: 15.1-19.14
         1. Ezek 16
            1. According to Ezek 16.4-5, what was Israel like in YHWH’s eyes? “And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.”
            2. According to Ezek 16.6, what made the baby (Israel) live? “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, “Live!” I said to you in your blood, “Live!””
            3. A beautiful picture of God’s love for His people
            4. A tragic picture of Israel’s love for God.
            5. A powerful reminder of our need to love God for who He is
      6. Catastrophe coming closer and closer: 20.1-24.27
   2. Oracles of Judgment against the nations: 25-32
      1. Against nations surrounding Israel: 25.1-17
      2. Against Tyre and Sidon: 26.1-28.26
      3. Against Egypt: 29.1-32.32
   3. Oracles of hope and consolation: 33-48
      1. Ezekiel’s role: 33.1-33
      2. According to Ezek 33.11, what three phrases show God’s love for sinners? “Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”
      3. According to Ezek 34.2, what does YHWH want His shepherds to do? “Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?”
      4. Restoring Yahweh’s role as Shepherd of Israel: 34.1-31
      5. Restoring Yahweh’s land: 35.1-36.15
      6. Restoring Yahweh’s honor in Israel: 36.16-38
         1. According to Ezek 36.26-27, what did YHWH say He would do for Israel? “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”
      7. Restoring Yahweh’s people and His covenant: 37.1-28
         1. According to Ezek 37.1, what did YHWH show Israel was like? “The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of (dry) bones.”
      8. Restoring Yahweh’s supremacy: 38.1-39.29
3. Restoring Yahweh’s presence among the people in the land: 40.1-48.35
4. One allusion to the Ezekiel in the NT
   1. How did Jesus allude to Ezek 36.27 in Jn 14.16-17: “I will put My spirit within you”

EZEKIEL SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Ezekiel is a significant part of God’s story as it tells of the final failure of the people of God (who were called and organized) by the first covenants. (It) looks forward to their being (brought together again) by a new covenant that includes the true Shepherd and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”[[23]](#footnote-24)

Lesson 6: Questions and discussion

DAY 4: MINOR PROPHETS

**GOALS OF THE DAY**

By the end of this day, the students will be able to:

1. Explain why liberal scholars claim that the book of Daniel was not written by Daniel
2. Explain the eschatological link between the books of Daniel and Revelation
3. Explain the importance of the prophet Hosea’s marriage to an unfaithful wife
4. List two contrasts (as to both time and character) of “the Day of the LORD”
5. List at least one prophecy about Jesus Christ and/or the gospel from each of the following books:
   1. Joel
   2. Micah
   3. Habakkuk
   4. Zechariah
   5. Malachi

LESSON 1: DANIEL

1. Overview
   1. Two divisions
      1. 1-6: Narrative
         1. Four Hebrews’ absolute faithfulness to Jehovah
         2. Jehovah’s deliverance of these four
         3. The pagan king’s acknowledging of Jehovah’s greatness
         4. Daniel’s ability (from Jehovah) to interpret dreams
      2. 7-12: Apocalyptic visions of succeeding kingdoms
   2. Though Daniel is called a prophet (by us), he doesn’t call Israel to repent.
   3. Daniel is written in Hebrew (1, 8-12) and Aramaic, language of the Babylonian court (2-7).
2. Content
   1. Introduction- Daniel and friends in Nebuchadnezzar’s court: 1.1-21
   2. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the image interpreted by Daniel: 2.1-49
      1. According to Dan 2.38, who is the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision? “O king of kings, you are the head of gold.”
      2. According to Dan 2.35, what struck the image and broke it in pieces? “But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”
   3. Saved from Nebuchadnezzar’s fiery furnace: 3.1-30
   4. Nebuchadnezzar’s insanity and humiliation: 4.1-37
   5. Belshazzar’s feast and fall of Babylon: 5.1-31
   6. Daniel in the lions’ den: 6.1-28
   7. Vision of the four beasts from the sea: 7.1-28
   8. Vision of the ram and the goat: 8.1-27
      1. According to Dan 8.20-21, what countries do we identify with the ram and the goat in the vision of Daniel? “As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. And the goat is the king of Greece.”
   9. Interpretation (by Gabriel) of Jeremiah’s prophecy of seventy weeks: 9.1-27
      1. According to Dan 9.25, how many weeks would pass between the “going out of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” to the coming of “an anointed one”? Seven
      2. According to Dan 9.26, how many weeks would pass while Jerusalem is being rebuilt? “Sixty-two
      3. According to Dan 9.27, for how many weeks will the prince who is to come make a covenant with Israel? One
   10. Daniels’s prayer answered by the angel’s revelation of the future: 10.1-12.4
       1. Egypt-Syrian wars and Antiochus: 11.1-45
       2. Resurrection and 3 ½ year period: 12.1-4
          1. According to Dan 12.7, how is the last 3 ½ year period described by Gabriel described? “it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.”
   11. Conclusion: 12.5-13

DANIEL SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Daniel, though focusing primarily on one period in Israel’s history, looks forward to the great eternal reign of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ. (Daniel) had great influence on the imagery of John’s revelation.”[[24]](#footnote-25)

LESSON 2: DANIEL (Link/connection to Revelation)

1. Daniel 7-12
   1. Visions given to Daniel about Israel’s nearer and distant future.
   2. Prophecies are understood from these visions (**a Dispensational point of view**).
   3. The apostle John uses these images and kingdoms when he writes of the end times.
      1. Dan 7: Four beasts
         1. Four beasts arise out of the great sea.
         2. The sea is a reference to the Gentile nations.
         3. The beasts refer to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
         4. The last kingdom
            1. This refers to the Roman Empire in New Testament times.
            2. It also refers to an empire in the far future that is “different from all the (others) that were before it.” 7.7
         5. The Ancient of Days appoints one “like the son of man” to reign eternally.
         6. A further description of the fourth, different beast
      2. Dan 8: The ram and the goat
         1. The ram refers to Medo-Persia.
         2. The goat refers to Greece
            1. The great horn: Alexander the Great
            2. The four horns: Alexander’s generals who divided his empire
            3. The little horn: Refers to Syrian leader(s)
      3. Dan 9: Daniel’s prayer and Seventy Weeks
         1. Daniel prayed to understand the time (chronology) of the visions.
         2. Seventy weeks
            1. From the command to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple (Cyrus) until the arrival of “an anointed one” will be 7 weeks.
            2. The city (Jerusalem) will continue, being built up, for 62 more weeks.
            3. After these 69 weeks, the an anointed one shall be “cut off.”
            4. A final week will begin after an indefinite period of time has passed.

For half of that week, another prince (Anti-Christ) will make and keep a covenant with Israel.

For the second half of the week, he will break the covenant, putting “an end to sacrifice and offering.”

* + - 1. Understanding the weeks
         1. Each week is 7 years, 1 year per day.
         2. 69 weeks = 483 years
         3. From the command of Cyrus to the death of Christ is 483 years.
         4. The “indefinite period of time” [2) d) above] is still continuing in our days.
         5. The last week, or 7 years, will take place during the time some call the Tribulation/Great Tribulation.

Anti-Christ will seem to be a friend of Israel, making a covenant with them.

Anti-Christ will break this covenant after 3.5 years (“a time, times, and a half-time”), at which point the Great Tribulation will begin.

At the end of the Great Tribulation, Christ will return to reign for 1000 years.

* + 1. Daniel 10-12: A very detailed description of the events that would take place during the Intertestamental Period
       1. Jews in Palestine were extremely oppressed.
       2. Syrian (Greek) rulers persecuted the Jews intensely.

1. Revelation (**a Dispensational perspective**)
   1. The future (last) days as revealed to the apostle John in the book of Revelation related primarily to Daniel 9
   2. Rev 1-3: A preview of Church history from the time of John to the present
   3. Rev 4-22: A preview of God’s dealing with His people (national and spiritual) from the time of the Rapture of the Church until the end of time.
      1. Rev 6: Seal judgments
      2. Rev 8-9: Trumpet judgments
      3. Rev 14: Bowl judgments
      4. These judgments all describe what will happen on the earth during the 7 years between the Rapture of the Church and Christ’s return in glory to establish His 1000-year reign of peace on the earth.
      5. Rev 13: The Dragon, the Beast and the Image
         1. The Dragon (Satan, from Rev 12) gives his power to the Beast.
         2. A Beast comes out of the sea with characteristics of a lion (Babylon), a bear (Persia), a leopard (Greece).
         3. He rules for 42 months (3.5 years).
      6. Rev 14: The second Beast
         1. This beast speaks great, boasting words (little horn of Dan 8) and exercises more authority (more severe in his rule) than the first beast.
         2. This second Beast rules for 42 months, the second half of the Tribulation.
2. The links between Daniel and Revelation relate to the end times when God brings His plan and work for Israel and all the earth to its culmination.

LESSON 3: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, OBADIAH, JONAH, MICAH

1. Overview: Hosea
   1. Prophetic ministry- 758-722 BC
   2. Jehovah’s unfailing love for His people even in the face of the need to judge their sin.
   3. Introduction- 1.1-3.5
   4. 2 cycles
      1. 4.1-11.11- Judgments for “adultery” and unfailing love
      2. 11.12-13.16- Same subject (Tension between truth and love)
      3. 14.1-8- Jehovah’s love song to His people
   5. Historical context
      1. 6 kings, intrigue, assassination, etc; (difficult/terrifying time)
      2. Ministry up to time of Assyrian conquest of Israel (722 BC)
   6. Religious/spiritual context
      1. Jehovah-Israel = husband/wife (Personal, intimate, passionate)
      2. Jehovah is:
         1. Lion, leopard, bear, eagle, trapper
         2. Husband, lover, parent, green tree
      3. Israel is:
         1. Adulterous wife, stubborn heifer
         2. Heated oven, half-baked bread
         3. Senseless dove, faulty bow, baby refusing birth
   7. Sown the wind; reap the whirlwind
2. Content
   1. Introduction: 1.1
   2. Hosea, Gomer and their children: 1.2-2.1
      1. According to Hos 1.2, what kind of wife would YHWH tell Hosea to marry? “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom…”
   3. Israel punished and restored: 2.2-23
      1. According to Hos 2.11, what would YHWH do to Israel’s mirth? “And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her Sabbaths, her new moons, and all her appointed feasts.”
      2. According to Hos 2.13, what would YHWH do to Israel for her worship of the Baals? “I will punish her for the feast days to the Baals, when she burned offerings to them…”
      3. According to Hos 2.14, what three things would YHWH do for Israel? “Behold, I will allure her and bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.”
      4. What reason does YHWH give for doing these three things? None (except His love)
   4. Judgment and restoration: 3.1-5
   5. Yahweh’s charge against Israel’s unfaithfulness: 4.1-5.7
   6. Israel’s unfaithfulness by entangling alliances: 5.8-7.16
   7. Judgment because of unfaithfulness: 8.1-9.9
   8. Israel condemned for not living up to her calling: 9.10-10.15
   9. God’s undying love for Israel: 11.1-11
      1. How is YHWH’s anger for Israel expressed in Hos 11.7 (two phrases)? “My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.
      2. How is YHWH’s love for Israel expressed in Hos 11.8 (four phrases)? "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel…My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.”
   10. Israel’s sins and coming judgment: 11.12-13.16
   11. Invitation and restoration: 14.1-9

HOSEA SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Hosea, which burns with the fire of God’s love for His people, reminds us that the God of the biblical story judges unfaithfulness even as He (offers) hope beyond judgment.”[[25]](#footnote-26)

1. Joel: Overview
   1. Locust plague as judgment for Israel’s sin
   2. Day of Jehovah: future day of judgment and salvation
   3. Repentance at the core, but sins to be repented from not named
   4. Day of Jehovah
      1. Amos: first mention (Amos first prophet to write)
      2. Israel thought of it as a time when Jehovah came to rescue them and make them great.
      3. Amos made judgment a part of it as well as salvation.
      4. Joel follows this pattern.
   5. Joel and Deuteronomy (covenantal relationship; Deuteronomic themes)
      1. Locusts and drought (1.4; 1.8-12) promised as judgment in Dt 28.22
      2. Scattered among the nations (3.2) promised in Dt 28.64
   6. Repentance (2.13) sought in Dt 30.1-10
2. Content
   1. Introduction: 1.1
   2. Scene 1a- The locust plague: 1.2-12
      1. What four kinds of locusts are included in Joel 1.4? “What the cutting locust left the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.”
   3. Scene 1b- Call to repentance: 1.13-20
   4. Scene 2a- God’s invading army: 2.1-11
   5. Scene 2b- Call to repentance: 2.12-17
   6. Scene 3a- God’s response is a promise of plenty: 2.18-27
   7. Scene 3b- God’s response is the promise of the Holy Spirit: 2.28-32
   8. Scene 4a- God’s response is final judgment of the nations: 3.1-16
   9. Scene 4b- God’s response is future blessing of His people: 3.16-21
   10. In which verses of Joel do we find the phrase “the day of YHWH”? 1.15; 2.1, 11, 31; 2.14
3. Joel quoted in the NT
   1. How does Paul use Joel 2.32 in Rom 10.13? “Whoever calls on the name of YHWH will be saved.”
   2. How does Peter use Joel 2.28-32 in Acts 2.17-21? “And whoever calls on the name of YHWH will be saved.”

JOEL SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Besides prophesying of the great outpouring of God’s Spirit, the book of Joel is especially concerned with the great themes of the biblical story: God’s judgment of human sin; the need for repentance; the merciful grace of God so that all who call on His name will be saved.”[[26]](#footnote-27)

1. Overview: Amos
   1. Economic prosperity, political strength, ca. 760 BC
   2. Jehovah’s total rejection of Israel
      1. Religious and socioeconomic ways
         1. Glutted on religion
         2. No concept of who Jehovah really was
   3. Judgment
      1. Israel to be destroyed
      2. Israel to be sent into exile
   4. Amos contemporary with Hosea, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah
   5. Historical background- 2 Kg 14.23-15.7; 2 Chron 26
      1. Kingdom of Israel expanded (Almost as great as David/Solomon)
      2. Great economic growth
      3. Israel’s response: “Jehovah’s blessing; we’re good/godly.”
   6. Amos (Jehovah’s) perspective: “Everything is the opposite of what you think!”
   7. Deuteronomic themes
      1. Worship Jehovah in truth.
      2. Deal with others in love/purity.
   8. Widows, orphans, foreigners, Levites mistreated/abused
2. Content
   1. Introduction: 1.1-2
   2. Judgment on the nations and Israel: 1.3-2.16
   3. First announcement oracle: failure to keep the covenant: 3.1-15
      1. How is Israel’s breaking of their covenant with YHWH expressed in Hos 3.2? “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for your iniquities.”
      2. According to Hos 3.7, to whom will YHWH reveal His secrets? “For the Lord YHWH does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets.”
   4. Second announcement oracle: rejection of divine warnings: 4.1-13
   5. Third announcement oracle: false religion and injustice: 5.1-17
      1. According to Hos 5.11-12, how did the unrighteous treat the poor and needy? “You trample on the poor…turn aside the needy in the gate.”
   6. False security in religion: 5.18-27
   7. False security in material good and military success: 6.1-14
   8. Three visions: locusts, fire, plumb line: 7.1-9
   9. Encounter with Amaziah: 7.10-17
   10. Two visions: certainty of Israel’s coming destruction: 8.1-9.10
   11. Hope for the future: 9.11-15

AMOS SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Amos (boldly) declares an important dimension of the biblical story: true religion and social justice must go hand in hand. (Otherwise) one is breaking the covenant.”[[27]](#footnote-28)

1. Overview: Obadiah
   1. Shortest book of OT
   2. Judgment against Edom (No oracles against Israel)
      1. “Brother nations” (Israel and Edom)
      2. Edom: Israel’s most tenacious foe
      3. More prophetic oracles against Edom (in all prophets) than any other nation
   3. Gen 1-11 theme
      1. Good vs. evil
   4. Other passages that give insight
      1. Ps 137
      2. Ob 1-6 w/ Jer 49.9-10 & 49.14-16
2. Content
   1. Introduction:
   2. Edom’s doom announced: 2-9
   3. Reasons for Edom’s doom: 10-14
   4. The day of Yahweh: 15.21

OBADIAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Obadiah reminds us of God’s justice in punishing human sinfulness and of God’s ultimate victory over earthly powers.”[[28]](#footnote-29)

1. Overview: Jonah
   1. No prophetic oracles; only narrative
   2. Prophet’s reluctance to communicate Jehovah’s message
   3. Primary theme: Jehovah’s compassion on the nations
   4. Book’s end
      1. Question for the prophet from Jehovah (Not oracle against heathen)
      2. Question is the point of the whole book
2. Content
   1. Jonah runs from the Lord: 1.1-17
   2. Jonah’s prayer of thanksgiving: 2.1-10
   3. Jonah’s anger at the Yahweh’s compassion: 4.1-11

JONAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Jonah continues the biblical story of the Creator and Redeemer God who shows compassion not only for His own, but also for all whom He has created. The God of the scriptures loves His enemies (as well as) ours.”[[29]](#footnote-30)

1. Overview: Micah
   1. Oracles alternate between:
      1. Judgment on Israel & Judah for:
         1. Idolatry
         2. Social injustice
      2. Future hope based on Jehovah’s mercy
   2. Sometime between 740-686 BC
   3. Theology
      1. Deuteronomic theme: curses & blessings of Dt 28-30
      2. Similar to Hosea’s tension between:
         1. Necessity of divine judgment
         2. Jehovah’s love for & future mercy/blessing on Israel
   4. Gen 1-11 theme: Messiah (Abraham’s seed) a blessing to the nations
      1. Gen 12.3 with Micah 7.18-20
      2. God’s Agent (Messiah) for peace to the nations- 5.5
2. Content
   1. Introduction
   2. First threats against Samaria and Jerusalem: 1.2-16
   3. Reasons for judgment: 2.1-11
   4. First word of hope: 2.12-13
   5. Second threats and reasons: 3.1-12
   6. Second word of hope- God’s messianic kingdom and king: 4.1-5.15
      1. According to Mic 5.2, where would Messiah be born? “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah…from you shall come forth to Me one who is to be ruler in Israel.”
      2. According to Mic 5.2, when did this ruler’s life begin? “Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”
   7. Third threat- God’s case against Jerusalem: 6.1-16
   8. Micah’s lament: 7.1-17
   9. Third word of hope: 7.8-20
3. Micah quoted in NT: Mic 5.2 in Mt 2.6

MICAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Micah is a marvelous prophetic representation f the essentials of the biblical story, both in its Old Testament expression and in its anticipation of the New (Testament), with the promised Messiah and the restoration of His people.”[[30]](#footnote-31)

LESSON 4: NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

1. Overview: Nahum
   1. All poetry
   2. Judgment against Nineveh (Nineveh’s repentance not long lasting)
      1. Cruelty
      2. Injustice
   3. Jehovah’s sovereignty over the nations (Obadiah and Nahum)
      1. Jehovah’s patience has run out.
      2. Begins with victory hymn (Gen 1-11 theme: evil vs. good)
      3. Several taunts against Nineveh
         1. 2.11-13
         2. 3.1-17
   4. Prophecy comes while Nineveh at height of power
2. Content
   1. Triumph as the Divine Warrior: 1.1-8
      1. How does Nahum 1.8 show YHWH’s triumph? “But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of the adversaries and will pursue His enemies into darkness.”
   2. Vision and taunt over Nineveh’s fall: 2.3-13
   3. Pronouncement of woe and taunt over Nineveh: 3.1-7
   4. Concluding taunts and dirge over Assyria’s fall: 3.8-19

NAHUM SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Nahum reminds us of the essential character of the God whose story is told in the Bible. (He is) a God of goodness and salvation as well as of justice and judgment standing side by side…(The same combination) is finally exhibited in the same way in the death of Jesus Christ on a cross.” [[31]](#footnote-32)

1. Overview: Habakkuk
   1. Dialogue: Habakkuk with Jehovah
      1. Evil people get away with evil; Jehovah does nothing.
         1. About Jehovah’s “patience” with evil Judah
            1. (Deuteronomic themes)

Social injustice

Violence

Neglect of Law

* + 1. About Jehovah’s use of evil Babylon
  1. Ends with Habakkuk’s prayer
     1. Trust/faith in Jehovah in spite of situation
     2. Remembrance of Exodus (Deuteronomic theme)

1. Content
   1. Habakkuk’s first complaint: 1.1-4
      1. According to Hab 1.2-3, what is Habakkuk’s complaint? “O YHWH, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear?...Why do You make me see iniquity, and why do You idly look at wrong?”
   2. Yahweh’s answer: 1.5-11
      1. According to Hab 1.6, who will YHWH use to judge sinful Judah? “I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation.”
   3. Habakkuk’s second complaint: 1.12-2.1
      1. According to Hab 1.16-17, how does Habakkuk describe the Chaldeans? “He sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet…Is he then to keep on…mercilessly killing nations forever?”
   4. Yahweh’s answer: 2.2-5
   5. Oracles against the oppressor: 2.6-20
   6. Habakkuk’s prayer and confession: 3.1-19
      1. According to Hab 3.17-18, how does Habakkuk show his faith in YHWH? “Thought he fig tree should not blossom nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food…yet I will rejoice in YHWH”
2. Habakkuk quoted in NT:
   1. How does Paul use Hab 2.4 in Rom 1.17? “The just shall live by faith.”

HABAKKUK SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Habakkuk carries on the biblical story in grand fashion: the Creator, Redeemer God will do something about human iniquity while His people live in hope and (in) faithful trust in Him.”[[32]](#footnote-33)

1. Overview: Zephaniah
   1. “Day of Jehovah” (17 times from 1.7-2.3) against Judah
   2. Future blessing for remnant (Concept of “the remnant”)
2. Content
   1. The prophet’s identity: 1.1
   2. The day of Yahweh’s judgment against Judah is coming: 1.2-18
   3. Judgment on the nations: 2.1-3.8
   4. Restoration of the remnant: 3.9-20

ZEPHANIAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The small book of Zephaniah speaks in powerful ways of both God’s judgment on sins and His gracious act of salvation for the humble and undeserving… (This) anticipates the gospel as expressed in the New Testament.”[[33]](#footnote-34)

1. Overview: Haggai
   1. After return of exiles from Babylon
   2. Encouragement to rebuild temple (Deuteronomic theme: worship)
      1. Current drought/poor harvests
         1. Built their homes
         2. Not build Jehovah’s house
      2. 1½ months later: “Keep up the good work!”
      3. Word to encourage Zerubbabel (governor)
   3. Book relates to Ezra 1-6
   4. First exile returnees built altar and laid temple foundation
      1. Then stopped for selfish reasons
      2. 19½ year later, Haggai used to re-start and finish
   5. Specific dates for oracles
      1. 29 Aug 520: time of full maturing of grain
      2. 17 Oct 520: end of Feast of Tabernacles
      3. 18 Dec 520: growing season
      4. Farmers not working/busy at these times of the year
2. Content
   1. Call to rebuild the temple: 1.1-15
      1. According to Hag 1.4, what were the returned exiles building instead of YHWH’s temple? “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies in ruins?”
      2. According to Hag 1.6, what did YHWH cause these people to lose their money? “And he who earns wages does so to put hem into a bag with holes.”
   2. Glory of the second temple: 2.1-9
   3. A defiled people purified and blessed: 2.10-19
   4. Message to Zerubbabel: 2.20-23

HAGGAI SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Haggai reminds us that God’s people are to be identified as a people of God’s presence (the role of the temple), finally fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ and the Spirit.”[[34]](#footnote-35)

1. Overview: Zechariah
   1. Encouragement to rebuild temple (contemporary of Haggai)
   2. Future King who will die and triumph (12.10)
      1. Relates to Is 52-53
      2. Often quoted (Isaiah &Zechariah) in NT re Christ’s crucifixion
2. Content
   1. Introduction: 1.1-6
   2. Vision 1- The horsemen- God’s return to Jerusalem: 1.7-17
   3. Vision 2- Four horns destroyed: 1.18-21
   4. Vision 3- Jerusalem cannot be measured (return to prosperity): 2.1-13
   5. Vision 4- Reinstatement of the high priest: 3.1-10
   6. Vision 5- Lamp stand and olive tress: 4.1-14
   7. Vision 6- Flying scroll: 5.1-4
   8. Vision 7- Woman in a basket: 5.5-11
   9. Vision 8- Four chariots: 6.1-15
   10. In response to a question about fasting: 7.1-8.23
   11. Zion’s king and the glorious future of God’s people: 9.1-11.17
   12. Smiting of and final triumph of God’s King: 12.1-14.21
3. Zechariah quoted in NT:
   1. How does John use Zech 9.9 in Jn 12.15? “Your king…sitting on a donkey’s colt”
   2. How does John use Zech 12.10 in Jn 19.37? “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”
   3. How does Mark use Zech 13.7 in Mk 14.27? “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

ZECHARIAH SUMMARY STATEMENT

“The book of Zechariah advances the biblical story by reminding us that God’s presence by His Spirit is at the heart of a restored Israel…At the same time (it speaks of) the sacrificial death of the Messiah who is to come.”[[35]](#footnote-36)

1. Overview: Malachi
   1. 6 interrogations of Israel by Jehovah
   2. Jehovah expects people to keep covenant (Deuteronomic theme)
      1. People complain against Jehovah
      2. People defend their disobedience and unfaithfulness
   3. Book an indication of moral and spiritual apathy (Sets stage for Messiah)
   4. Interrogations’ general form
      1. Jehovah declares the issue (sin)
      2. People’s response: “What do You mean? How so?”
      3. Jehovah’s response to establish His truth/view of issue
   5. OT ends with:
      1. “Send Your messenger before Him” (Elijah [John Baptist] before Messiah [Jesus])
      2. Moses and Elijah mentioned (They were with Jesus at transfiguration)
2. Content
   1. Introduction: 1.1
   2. First dispute- Yahweh’s love: 1.2-5
      1. In Mal 1.2, what do the people say about God’s love? “How have You loved us?”
      2. In Mal 1.2-3, how does YHWH respond to this statement challenging His love for His people? “I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated.”
   3. Second dispute- offering unacceptable sacrifices: 1.6-2.9
      1. According to Mal 1.6, how were the people despising YHWH’s name? “By offering polluted food upon My altar.”
   4. Third dispute- intermarriage and divorce: 2.10-16
      1. According to Mal 2.16, what does YHWH think about divorce? “I hate divorce.” NASB
   5. Fourth dispute- wearying Yahweh with words: 2.17-3.5
   6. Fifth dispute- returning to Yahweh: 3.6-12
      1. According to Mal 3.8, what did the people do against YHWH? “Will a man rob God? Yet you say, ‘How have we robbed You’”?
      2. According to Mal 3.8, how were the people robbing God? “In your tithes and offerings.”
   7. Sixth dispute- speaking harshly about Yahweh: 3.13-4.3
   8. Law and prophets (Moses and Elijah): 4.4-6
      1. In Mal 4.5, YHWH is talking about whom? “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of YHWH comes.”
      2. According to Matt 11.14, who was this Elijah? “And if you will accept it, he (John the Baptist) is Elijah who was to come.”
3. Malachi quoted in the NT:
   1. How does Jesus use Mal 3.1 in Lk 7.27? “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.” Identifying John the Baptist
   2. Mal 4.5 in Mt 11.10 (Same as above)

MALACHI SUMMARY STATEMENT

“Malachi reminds God’s people that they must take their covenant relationship with Him seriously…A new day will dawn for them with the coming of Elijah (John the Baptist) to precede the Lord (Jesus Christ).”[[36]](#footnote-37)

LESSON 5: THE DAY OF THE LORD

1. A general definition
   1. The occasion of God’s final intervention in human affairs to punish sin, restore the faithful of his people and establish his rule over the nations.
   2. It is linked with the Messianic hope and will be fulfilled at Jesus Christ’s return.
   3. This future consummation is anticipated in historical acts of judgment and, although its time is unknown, it will be heralded and accompanied by signs and by great upheavals in nature.
2. The Hebrews believed that Yahweh was both a God of mercy and a God of justice, rendering people their due; salvation to the righteous and damnation to the unrighteous.
   1. For centuries they saw God’s justice enacted in history.
   2. Yahweh punished Israel’s enemies at the time of the Conquest.
   3. During David’s (sons’) reign God also punished his own people’s apostasy by deporting the ten northern tribes and later the two southern tribes.
3. During the time of the later prophets when God’s chosen people disregarded his law and contributed to the rampant injustice in Canaan, these prophets warned about a future Day of the Lord, which would bring doom as well as deliverance.
   1. Often the prophets stressed the aspects of judgment and condemnation.
      1. The ninth-century prophet Joel called it a “great and terrible” day, which none would be able to endure (Joel 2.11), a day of cosmic changes (3.15) and of judgment against the nations surrounding Israel.
      2. Similarly, the eighth-century prophet Amos depicted it as a day of darkness and gloom, a day of unexpected disaster (Amos 5.18–20), in a context of judgment against Samaria’s wealthy citizens (cf. Joel 2.12–14).
   2. After the deportation of the northern kingdom, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah chastised the southern kingdom for its idolatry and envisaged God’s righteous recompense for the proud and mighty (Isa. 2.11, 17; cf. 13.6, 9).
   3. Finally, Zephaniah (*ca.* 615 B.C.), sometimes called the prophet of the Day of the Lord, reiterated the stern message of his predecessors, but enlarged its scope to include all people, not just Judah (Zeph. 1.14–18; 2.4–15).
   4. The Day of the Lord is thus the occasion when Yahweh actively intervenes to punish sin that has come to a climax.
      1. This punishment may come through an invasion (Am. 5–6; Is. 13; Ezk. 13.5), or through some natural disaster, such as a locust invasion (Joel 1–2).
         1. All lesser interventions come to a head in the actual coming of the Lord himself.
         2. At this Day there are truly repentant believers who are saved (Joel 2.28–32), while those who remain enemies of the Lord, whether Jews or Gentiles, are punished.
      2. There are also physical effects on the world of nature (Is. 2). [[37]](#footnote-38)
4. The OT prophets used a term familiar to their audience, a term by which the audience expected light and salvation (Amos 5.18), but the prophets painted it as a day of darkness and judgment (Isa. 2.10–22; 13.6, 9; Joel 1.15; 2.1–11, 31; 3.14–15; Amos 5.20; Zeph. 1.7–8, 14–18; Mal. 4.5).
   1. The OT language of the Day of the Lord is thus aimed at warning sinners among God’s people of the danger of trusting in traditional religion without commitment to God and His way of life.
   2. It is language that could be aimed at judging Israel or that could be used to promise deliverance from evil enemies (Isa. 13.6, 9; Ezek. 30.3; Obad. 15).
5. The Day of the Lord is thus a point in time in which God displays His sovereign initiative to reveal His control of history, of time, of His people, and of all people. [[38]](#footnote-39) Although the major prophetic emphasis is on judgment, there is a note of comfort.
   1. Joel threatens, but he also proclaims Israel’s security in their God (Joel 3.16–17).
   2. Zechariah very explicitly refers to God’s protective care of Israel (Zech. 12–14).
   3. Accordingly, the faithful, especially the oppressed, await the Day of the Lord and the vindication of their cause.[[39]](#footnote-40)
6. “Day of the Lord” does not in itself designate the time perspective of the event, whether it is past, present, or future.
   1. Lamentations 2.1 can speak of the “day of the Lord’s anger” in past tense, describing the fall of Jerusalem.
   2. Joel 1.15 could describe a present disaster as the “Day of the Lord.” [[40]](#footnote-41)
   3. Ultimately, though, the term refers to climactic future judgment of the world (Jl 3.14–21; Mal 4.5).
   4. Often prophecy of a near-future event and an end-time prophecy are merged, the immediate judgment being a preview of the final day of the Lord.
   5. The prophecy of Isaiah against Babylon is an example (Is 13.5–10).
      1. Jesus combined events described there with other prophecies to explain his second coming (Mk 13.24–37).
   6. Another example is Joel’s prophecy of the day of the Lord (Jl 1.15–2.11).
      1. Though the prophet initially spoke of God’s judgment on Israel by a locust plague, that judgment prompted further pronouncements about a final day of the Lord far beyond Joel’s time (Jl 2.31; 3.14–17).
      2. That day of the Lord extended even beyond the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost predicted by Joel’s prophecy (Jl 2.28–32; Acts 2.16–21; Rv 6.12, 13).
7. The final day of the Lord is characterized in the Bible as a day of gloom, darkness, and judgment.
   1. Associated with God’s judgment is language depicting changes in nature, especially a darkening of the sun, moon, and stars (Is 13.10; Jl 2.31; 3.15; Mt 24.29; Rv 6.12). Nations will be judged for their rebellion against God’s anointed people and king (Jl 3.19; cf. Ps 2).
   2. Israel is counseled not to be eager for that day, because it will also include judgment on the chosen nation (Am 5.18–20).
   3. But the prophets promise that a believing “remnant” will be saved by looking to the Messiah they once rejected (Jl 2.32; Zec 12.10).
8. Following the judgment, the future day of the Lord will be a time of prosperity, restoration, and blessing for Israel (Jl 3.18–21).[[41]](#footnote-42)
9. New Testament writers took up the OT expression to point to Christ’s final victory and the final judgment of sinners. In so doing, they used several different expressions (HCSB).
   1. “Day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1.6)
   2. “Day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1.8)
   3. “Day of the Lord” (1 Cor. 5.5; 1 Thess. 5.2)
   4. “Day of Christ” (Phil. 1.10; 2.16)
   5. “Day of judgment” (1 John 4.17)
   6. “This day” (1 Thess. 5.4)
   7. “That day” (2 Tim. 1.12)
   8. “Day of wrath” (Rom. 2.5).
10. People who take a dispensational perspective on Scripture often seek to interpret each of the terms differently.
    1. (They believe that) the “day of Christ” is a day of blessing equated with the rapture, whereas the day of God is an inclusive term for all the events of end time (2 Pet. 3.12).
    2. In this view the Day of the Lord includes the great tribulation, the following judgment on the nations, and the time of worldwide blessing under the rule of the Messiah. [[42]](#footnote-43)
11. Many Bible students who do not take a dispensational viewpoint interpret the several expressions in the NT to refer to one major event: the end time when Christ returns for the final judgment and establishes His eternal kingdom.
12. Whichever interpretation one makes of specific details, the Day of the Lord points to the promise that God’s eternal sovereignty over all creation and all nations will one day become crystal clear to all creatures.
13. A representative lists of references to the Day of the LORD in the OT and the NT
    1. The day of the Lord as a day of judgment
       1. Of universal judgment Isa 24.21-22 *See also* Zep 1.14-18
       2. Of judgment on the nations Isa 13.9-11; Jer 46.10 *See also* Job 20.28-29; Isa 13.4-6
          1. God’s judgment on Egypt. Isa 19.16-17; Eze 30.3-4
          2. God’s judgment on Edom; Zep 3.8; Ro 2.16; Rev 6.15-17
          3. Of judgment on faithless Israel Am 5.18-20 *See also* Isa 2.12; Joel 1.15; 2.1-2; Mt 7.22-23; Jn 12.48; Ro 2.5 (Isa 27.1; Joel 3.12-14; Ob 15 )???
    2. The day of the Lord as a day of hope
       1. A day of restoration for God’s people Jer 30.7-8 *See also* Joel 2.23-28
       2. God will gather his people Isa 11.11; 27.12-13; Mic 4.6-7; Mt 24.30-31; Mk 13.26-27
       3. God will save his people Zep 3.14-20 *See also* Isa 4.5-6; 26.1; Joel 2.32; 3.16-18; Ob 17; Zec 9.16-17
       4. God will purify his people Isa 4.3-4; Zeph 3.11-13; Zech 14.20-21; Mal 4.1-2
       5. God will exalt his people Ob 21; Mic 4.8; 5.8-9; Rev 22.5

LESSON 6: QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

1. Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), p. 33 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Ibid, p. 37 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Ibid, p. 42 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ibid, p. 48 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Ibid, p. 54 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. ESV Study Bible, Crossway, 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Fee and Stuart, p. 62 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Ibid, p. 69 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Ibid, p. 77 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Ibid, pp. 78-79 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Ibid, p. 81 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
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13. Ibid, p. 98 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
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30. Ibid, p. 239 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. Ibid, p. 243 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. Ibid, p. 247 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
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34. Ibid, p. 255 [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
35. Ibid, p. 261 [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
36. Ibid, p. 265 [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
37. Wright, J. S. (1996). Day of the Lord. In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer & D. J. Wiseman, Ed.) (3rd ed.) (261). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL. InterVarsity Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
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