

# A WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

## AN OVERVIEW

### WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?

1 Cor. 10:1-6 –

James 5:17-18 –

Hebrews 4:14-16 –

Matthew 1:22-23 -

### WE ARE GOING TO DIVIDE THE OLD TESTAMENT INTO EIGHT TIME FRAMES.

These are the eight Time Frames commonly used by Bible scholars.

#### **Time Frame #1 – Creation to Babel**

This is a time of beginnings. It is also a time when God works and speaks to humankind in general.

#### **Time Frame #2 – The Patriarchs (2166 BC – 1805 BC)**

God chooses one man, Abraham, and his family to be His people. The Covenant promise of people and land are given to each generation. Through them God will bless the world through His Son, Jesus Christ.

#### **Time Frame #3 – The Exodus (1526 BC – 1406 BC)**

After some 400 years of slavery, God delivers His people under the leadership of Moses. In addition, both religious and societal Laws are given along with the Sacrificial System. However, entrance into the Promise Land is delayed as a result of the people's failure to trust and obey God.

#### **Time Frame #4 – Conquest of the Land and Life under the Judges (1406 BC – 1050 BC)**

Joshua leads the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. Years of fighting for territory will follow. After Joshua comes 3-4 centuries of leadership under a series of Judges, where a cycle of Idolatry – God's Discipline – Repentance – Idolatry will repeat itself numerous times.

#### **Time Frame #5 – The United Kingdom (1050 BC – 931 BC)**

The nation of Israel is fully united and reaches her peak of power under three kings: Saul, David and Solomon.

#### **Time Frame #6 – The Divided Kingdom (931 BC – 586 BC)**

The glory days of the nation are rather brief. After Solomon's death the nation of Israel divides in two. The northern 10 tribes keep the name 'Israel' while the two southern tribes are known as Judah. Israel will be conquered by Assyria and completely removed from the land, never to return. Judah will be conquered by Babylon.

#### **Time Frame #7 – The Babylonian Captivity (586 BC – 538 BC)**

The people of Judah are taken to Babylon. They will spend some 70 years in captivity.

#### **Time Frame #8 – Restoration to the Land (538 BC – 445 BC)**

Three waves of people travel back to Judah over some 90 + years.

## **WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE LIVES OF 12 KEY CHARACTERS**

As we look at these people, we will be looking for Spiritual Life Lessons that we can apply to our lives.

**Noah** – Being righteous and blameless

**Abraham** – A growing faith

**Moses** – Being a friend of God

**Joshua** – Faith that leads to action

**Samuel** – Hearing the voice of God

**David** – Being a person after God's own heart

**Elijah** – Overcoming discouragement

**King Hezekiah** – Three steps forward and two steps back

**Daniel** – Representing God in the marketplace

**Ezra** – Bringing people to God through His Word

**Deborah** – Being the leader behind the leader

**Esther** – Placed by God; Used by God

## **HOW THE CLASS WILL WORK**

This is a survey of the OT, so we will take a wide but not deep look.

- It is designed to include a fair amount of reading each week.
- While the amount of reading will vary, you can count on an average of 3-4 hours each week. This could be done by spending 20-30 minutes a day reading the Bible.
- Each week you will have notes you can use as you read. These notes are available to use as you want.
- You will be reading ahead. For instance, this week you will be doing the reading for Creation to Babel. Then next class we will overview the Time Frame briefly and then look at the life of Noah in more detail.
- Each week you will be given Class Notes for that overview and study of the Key Character.

**NOTE:** There will be value in coming to class even if you do not do the reading.  
There will be far greater value if you do the reading ahead of each class!

## **WHAT WE HOPE TO EXPERIENCE TOGETHER AS WE READ AND STUDY:**

- Gain a better understanding of the Old Testament
- See how God works in and through the lives of Fully Devoted Followers of Christ
- Most importantly, know God more fully.
  - Elohim (God) – Creator, strong and mighty
  - Yahweh (LORD) – The personal name of God
  - Adonai (Lord) – Master
  - El Elyon (Most High God) – The majestic, most powerful God

These are some of the names of God found in Genesis.