

Old Testament Survey (and Theology)

Class Description

This class will survey all the books of the Old Testament, primarily noting the history of Israel. The books will be covered primarily in relation to Israel's chronology, namely—

- The founding and constitution of Israel *Genesis–Deuteronomy*
- The history of Israel *Joshua–Esther*
- The wisdom of Israel *Job–Song of Solomon*
- The prophets of Israel *Isaiah–Malachi*

Occasionally we will zero in on some particular aspect of theology from an OT perspective (thus the “and theology”), such as—

- Worship in Israel
- Is the Christian under the Law?
- Israelology
- The OT doctrine of salvation
- OT Prophetism
- The Kingdom in the OT

You won't learn *everything* about the OT in this class! However, you will learn enough of the basics of the OT so that you will be able to correctly understand and apply it to your life.

Goals for this Class

- God will be glorified and pleased by our consideration and study of His Word
- You will be equipped to “accurately handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15)
- Learn the basic theme and content of each OT book
- Learn the flow of history in the OT and how each book “fits in” to that history
- Learn the location of every OT book (memorize their names in the order they occur in the Bible!)

Requirements

- In preparation for each class, please **read the notes covered during the previous class**
- Additionally, before each class **complete the worksheet** handed out for that class.
- By preparing for each class in this manner you will have a better grasp and handle on the material. Remember, *what you get out of this depends on what you put into it!*

Notes and Class Instruction

- I have notes and blanks throughout – if at anytime you miss something, ask at anytime, call me, or check the church website (the full notes will be available in Adobe PDF format)
- Unless otherwise indicated I will use the *New American Standard Bible* (1995 edition) which is what I teach and preach from in the services of Orwell Bible Church. You are welcome to use the translation you currently use, but extra copies will be available if you so desire.
- If at *any* time you have a question or comment, please ask! The objective is to learn, not plow our way through the notes in a set amount of time.

Introduction

1. Why Study the OT?

- 1) The OT is God's Word
- 2) What we know of Christ, His atonement, and His kingdom is based on the OT
- 3) Your faith is informed through the OT for perseverance and encouragement so you have solid hope (Rom 15:4).
- 4) Through the OT you are taught, rebuked, corrected, and disciplined to live a righteous life so that you are perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16–17). All of the Bible is essential for you to grow in your faith!
- 5) There are false teachers who twist and pervert the OT, so you must be able to detect their false teaching.
- 6) You are expected to minister to other believers so they will grow in their faith, and that as a result of this mutual ministry the body is unified, matured, protected, and growing.
- 7) The first five books of the OT are especially important for—
 - Correctly understanding every book of the Bible
 - (1) Historical books – the settling, early years, height, and demise of the theocracy
 - (2) Poetical books – wisdom literature, love of God and his Word, skillful living based on the Law
 - (3) Prophets – calling Israel to covenant faithfulness, encouragement to such on basis of future fulfillment
 - (4) Gospels – Jesus as Messiah, ruler of Israel,
 - (5) Acts and epistles – the gospel, evangelism, role of the church cp. with Israel
 - (6) Revelation – Israel's future, messianic/mediatorial kingdom, goal of human history
 - Correctly understanding most aspects of theology (the exception being the church)

The Bible testifies of one God. “Wherever he speaks or acts he is consistent with himself, and with the total revelation concerning him” (NASB Scofield, xiii)
 - Seeing God's overall purpose and goal in history
 - (1) A proper grasp of the whole of Scripture, from the viewpoint of the progressive nature of revelation (if you don't understand the beginning, you'll mishandle and/or miss the point of the rest).

(2) God’s motivation behind everything He does is His glory. God will ultimately glorify Himself in human history in the Kingdom of God, when God will lovingly rule and dwell with His people on earth forever (for more on this see the Bible Class notes “How to Study the Bible,” pp. 22–23).

- Edification

While not everything in the Bible was written *to* us, everything was written *for* us. This involves knowing God (who he is, what he is like, what he has done) and His will (what He has said), and then making correct applications for Christian living.

- Protection from false teaching

(1) Romans, Galatians – false basis of justification

(2) 1 Corinthians – ungodly, idolatrous living

(3) Hebrews – superiority of Christ to angels, Moses, Levitical priesthood and sacrifices

2. A Bird’s Eye View of the Entire OT

The 39 books of the OT can be seen as belonging to four major sections—

1) The **Law** (also called the *Pentateuch*)

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

2) **Historical** Books

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1, 2 Samuel
- 1, 2 Kings
- 1, 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

3) **Poetry** (also called *Wisdom books*)

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

4) **Prophecy**

“Major” Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

“Minor” Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

Genesis

1. Introduction to Genesis

1) Title

- In the Hebrew Bible the title comes from the first Hebrew word of the book, so the title is “in the beginning”
- A Greek translation of Genesis (called the *Septuagint*) titled it “Genesis”

2) Author

Although Genesis doesn't have “This book was written by...” to help us with this, there is clear evidence from the Pentateuch and the rest of the Bible that God moved **Moses** to write this section of Scripture.

3) Theme—**beginnings**

4) Purpose

- Generally speaking, the purpose of Genesis is to give an account of the beginning of **all things**

“Genesis” is a Greek word that means **origins** or **beginnings**.

- There is a more specific reason for this book though, and that reason is the nation of Israel. **The purpose of Genesis** is to show the **origin, purpose,** and **destiny** of Israel as God's chosen people—*Where* Israel came from, *why* God choose them, and *what* God has planned for them.

- Genesis includes the “beginnings” or origins of—

- (1) The universe, 1:1
- (2) Man, 1:26–27
- (3) Marriage, 2:21–24
- (4) Sin in mankind, 3:1–7
- (5) Blood sacrifice, 3:21
- (6) Murder, 6:2
- (7) Human government, 9:6
- (8) The nations, 10:32
- (9) Human languages, 11:1–9
- (10) The family of Israel, 12:1–3

5) Message

☞ Genesis tells the historical background of the nation of Israel.

- Specifically, this involves the creation of the universe, man as God’s representative ruler over creation, the entrance of sin, judgment through the Flood, disobedience and judgment at Babel, call of and covenant with Abram, reaffirmation of Abrahamic covenant to Isaac and Jacob (later renamed “Israel”), and their temporary relocation to Egypt.

6) Time Span

- Because it is extremely difficult to determine the date of creation with exactness, we can only give a fairly accurate idea. The following chart illustrates the time period covered by Genesis

Genesis 1–11 Covers probably 5–10/15,000 years				Genesis 12–50 Covers approximately 300 years				
Creation Gen 1–2 ?	The Fall Gen 3 ?	The Flood Gen 6–9 ?	Babel Gen 11 c. 4800 BC	Abraham Gen 12 c. 2100 BC	Isaac Gen 21 c. 1950BC	Jacob Gen 25 c. 1900BC	Joseph Gen 37 c. 1880 BC	Genesis Closes c. 1800 BC

- Genesis does not tell about *everything* that took place in every part of the world! It is a *selective* history, telling about important events necessary for the book’s purpose. The Bible gives the record of *God’s* activity in history, moving and acting to fulfill His purpose.
- *Everything* the Bible says is true and right—without error—so everything it does say is perfectly accurate and dependable.

2. Outline of Genesis

Genesis uses a word translated “generations” or “account” that introduces the main sections of the book.

Basic Outline

- 1) History **Before** the Patriarchs, 1:1–11:26
- 2) History **Of** the Patriarchs, 11:27–50:26

“Patriarch” refers to the fathers of Israel, namely, **Abraham**, **Isaac**, and **Jacob**

More Detailed Outline

1) History Before the Patriarchs, 1:1–11:26

a. **The Creation, 1:1–2:3**

- (1) The origin of the universe, 1:1–5
- (2) The creation of the world, 1:6–2:3

b. **The Account of the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth, 2:4–4:26**

- (1) Man's origin and environment, 2:4–25
- (2) The temptation and Fall, 3:1–24
- (3) The progression of sin, 4:1–16
- (4) The spread of sinful civilization, 4:17–26

c. **The Generations of Adam, 5:1–6:8**

- (1) The genealogy from Adam to Noah, 5:1–32
- (2) The corruption of the race, 6:1–8

d. **The Generations of Noah, 6:9–9:29**

- (1) The Noahic Flood, 6:9–8:22
- (2) The Covenant with Noah, 9:1–17
- (3) The Curse of Canaan, 9:18–29

e. **The Generations of the Sons of Noah, 10:1–11:9**

- (1) The table of nations, 10:1–32
- (2) Dispersion at Babel, 11:1–9

f. **The Generations of Shem, 11:10–26**

2) History Of the Patriarchs, 11:27–50:26

a. **The Generations of Terah, 11:27–25:11**

- (1) The making of the covenant with Abraham, 11:27–15:21
- (2) The provisions for Abram's promised seed, 16:1–22:19

b. **The Generations of Ishmael, 25:12–18**

c. **The Generations of Isaac, 25:19–35:29**

- (1) The transfer of the promised blessing to Jacob, 25:19–28:22
- (2) Covenantal blessings of Jacob in his sojourn, 29:1–32:32
- (3) The return of Jacob to Canaan, 33:1–35:29

d. **The Generations of Esau, 36:1–37:1**

e. **The Generations of Jacob, 37:2–50:26**

- (1) The selling of Joseph into Egypt, 37:2–36
- (2) The corruption of Judah's family, 38
- (3) Joseph's rise to power in Egypt, 39–41
- (4) Israel's move to Egypt, 42:1–47:27
- (5) The provision for the continuation of the promised blessing, 47:28–50:26

Exodus

1. Introduction to Exodus

1) Title

- In the Hebrew Bible the title is “now these are the names”
- A Greek translation of Genesis (called the *Septuagint*) titled it “Exodus”

2) Author—see the Introduction to Genesis

3) Theme—**deliverance**

4) Purpose

- Exodus shows how God was **partially** fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant by making Israel a kingdom of priests and a holy nation via the Mosaic Covenant (Gen 12:2; 17:6; **Exod 19:6**)
- Exodus records the birth of Israel as a **nation**

5) Message

- Exodus has three primary themes—

- (1) The **exodus** out of Egypt, 1-18
- (2) The giving of the **Law**, 19-24
- (3) The description and function of the **Tabernacle**, 25-40

☞ Exodus focuses on God’s **deliverance** of Israel out of Egypt and His **establishment** of Israel as a nation over which He rules.

- **Summary:** Exodus, which takes up the history of the Israelites where Genesis leaves off, is preeminently the book of redemption. Delivered out of Egyptian bondage, the newly constituted nation is given the law, the priesthood, and the system of sacrifice as the provision for the worship and government of a redeemed people. Moses is set forth as the great deliverer and lawgiver.

2. Outline of Exodus

Basic Outline

- 1) The Exodus, 1–18 *the formation of Israel as a **nation***
- 2) The Law, 19–24, *the **constitution** of Israel*
- 3) The Tabernacle, 25–40, *Israel's place of **worship***

More Detailed Outline

1) The Exodus, 1–18

a. Projected in Moses, 1–4

- (1) Israel's bondage in Egypt, 1
- (2) Moses in the land of Egypt, 2:1–15
- (3) Moses in the land of Midian, preparing for the work the Lord had for him, 2:16–25
- (4) The call of Moses, 3–4

b. Obstructed by Pharaoh, 5–11

- (1) God's demand, 5:1–7:13
- (2) Nine plagues increasing in severity, 7:14–10:29
These plagues were directed against the Egyptian gods, and demonstrated that the Lord is the one true God (Exod 12:12; Num 33:4). The purpose of these miracles was to prove to the Egyptians that God is the Lord (7:5; 8:22; 9:14-16). To know the true God means to recognize and submit to his authority.
- (3) The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, resulted in the departure of Israel from Egypt, 11:1–10

c. Effected by the Lord, 12–18

- (1) Exodus and Passover, 12:31–13:16
 - (a) The observance of the first Passover, 12:31–36
 - (b) Israel's departure from Egypt, 12:37–51
 - (c) Dedication of the firstborn, 13:1–16
- (2) Miracle at the Red Sea, 13:17–15:21
In the OT this is the central, most important event in Israel's history of God's deliverance. In the NT it is the resurrection of Christ, but in the OT it is the Lord's deliverance of Israel from Egypt through the Red Sea.
- (3) From Red Sea to Sinai, 15:22–18:27
 - (a) During this journey God provides water (15:22–27; 17:1–7) and manna (16:1–36)
 - (b) Amalek is defeated by Joshua, 17:8–16
 - (c) Moses is visited by his father-in-law, Jethro, 18

2) The Law, 19–24

At Mount Sinai Israel became a nation ruled by God, a nation that represented God to every other nation on earth (“you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation,” 19:6). The Mosaic Law served as Israel’s “constitution,” organizing and controlling the nation. God gave this Law to regulate the spiritual and national life of Israel (Exod 19:5–6).

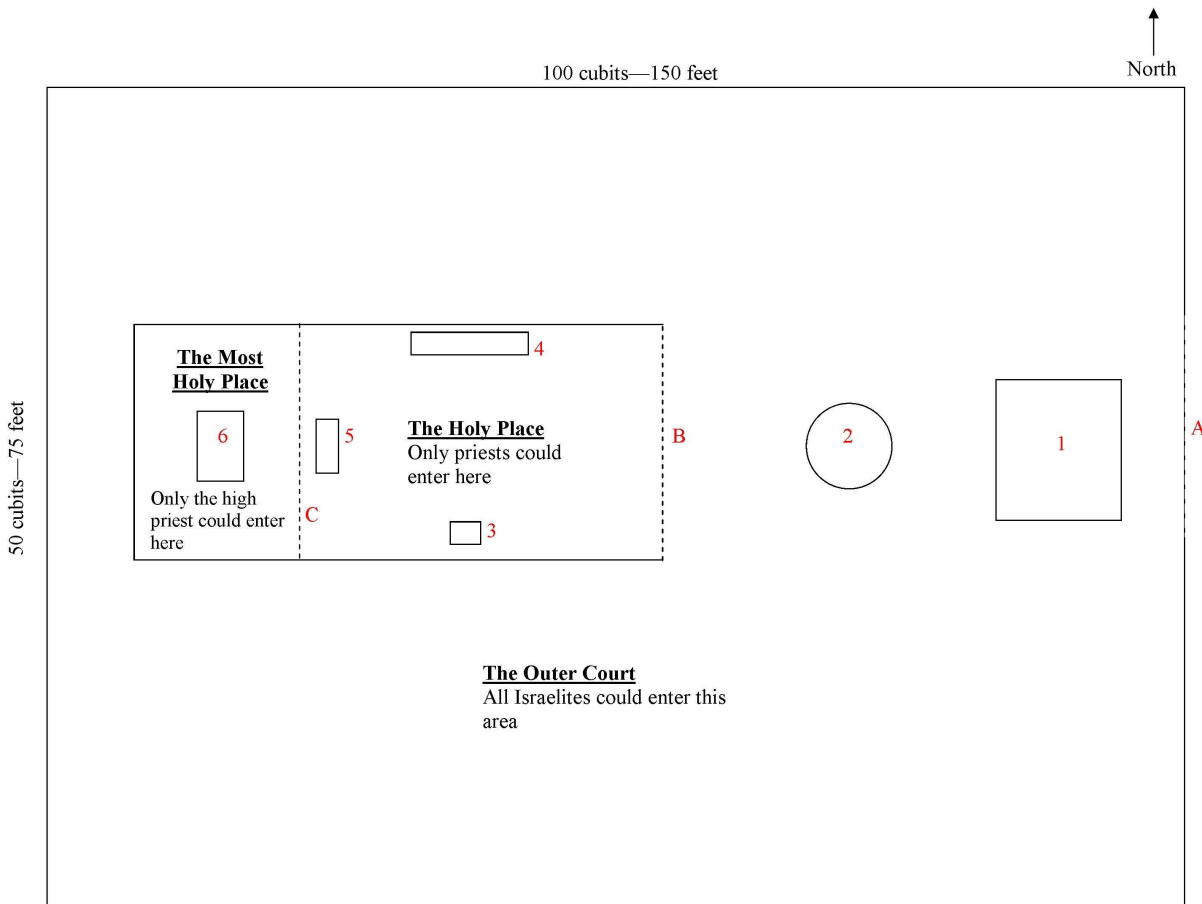
- a. Commandments governing moral life, 19–20**
- b. Commandments governing social life, 21–23**
- c. Commandments governing religious life, 24**

3) The Tabernacle, 25–40

The Tabernacle served as the place where God dwelt with men (cf. 6:7; 40:34–35).

- a. Designed, 25–31**
- b. Delayed (the golden calf incident), 32–34**
- c. Completed, 35–40**

A description of the Tabernacle follows on the next page.



Tabernacle Furniture

1. *The Brazen Altar* – this is where burnt offerings were sacrificed morning and evening; individual Israelites were to bring their sacrifices here
2. *Laver* – this contained water that the priests washed their hands and feet in before entering the tent or offering a sacrifice
3. *Golden Lampstand* – provided light; was to burn continually
4. *Table for the Bread of Presence* – 12 loaves here symbolized the covenant between God and Israel (Lev 24:8), reminding Israel that their life depended on God; the priests' eating symbolized the communion between God and the people
5. *Altar of Incense* – the high priest was to offer incense here every morning and evening, symbolizing the prayers of God's people (cf. Ps 141:2)
6. *Ark of the Covenant* – the top of the ark was called the mercy seat, and annually blood was to be sprinkled on it on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:14). In the Ark were the stone tablets that the Ten Commandments were written on, a jar of manna, and Aaron's rod.

Tabernacle Hangings

- A. *The Gate*
- B. *The Door*
- C. *The Veil*

The Tabernacle was constructed to be completely portable, and careful instructions were given by the Lord as to its transportation and its place in the marching and camping arrangement of the Israelites' camp. **This tabernacle was to be the focal point of the worship of all Israel** up until the time when a permanent temple was erected by Solomon in Jerusalem, some 500 years after the death of Moses.