

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

## Study Pack 1A

**MEMORIZE** Genesis 3:18                      **Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;**

**Memorize and recite vocabulary to the Supervisor before proceeding to the study pak material.**

### Vocabulary Words

- **Old Testament** – is the Old Testament or Covenant in contrast with the New Testament. Covenant and testament are both translated from the same Greek word in the New Testament.
- **Canon** – comes from the Greek word *kanon*, and refers to a “rule” by which something is measured.
- **Apocrypha** – writings of Jewish literature and history accepted as canonical by the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic religions, but not accepted by the Jewish people.
- **Pseudepigrapha** – are “false writings” of the Jewish people.
- **Pentateuch** – Genesis through Deuteronomy, the first 5 books of the Bible.
- **Historical books** – Joshua through Esther.
- **Poetic books** – Job through Song of Solomon.
- **Prophetic books** – Isaiah through Malachi.
- **Aramaic** – a Semitic language spoken widely in the ancient world for many centuries, used in writing some of the Old Testament Scriptures.
- **Torah** – the Hebrew name for the first five books of the Bible, meaning the Law.

To many new Christians, the Old Testament is a mystery. The reality is that the Old Testament is the Word of God with very practical applications for our Christian lives. God says the Old Testament is for our admonition, and learning. The Old Testament has spiritual, historical, and cultural value, and is just as inspired as the New Testament. Men have attempted to destroy it, but God has preserved the Bible, keeping His promise.

“The New is in the Old \_\_\_\_\_; the Old is in the New revealed.” We commonly use the term “Old Testament”, but could just as properly use the expression, Old Covenant. Both the Old Testament and New Testament are covenants, pacts, or alliances between God and His people. The highest sanction of the Old Testament comes from \_\_\_\_\_ Himself. What was accepted by Christ Himself must be accepted by us.

Jesus made many references to the Old Testament. When Jesus is tempted by the devil, He quotes Old Testament Scriptures three times. In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ repeatedly quotes from the Old Testament. In Matthew 8, Christ commanded the leper who was healed to offer the gift that Moses commanded.

Jesus recognized the historicity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus recognized Sodom and Gomorrah as being historic cities destroyed by God. Jesus quotes from Isaiah 35:4-6 when telling John's disciples to tell what they have seen. Jesus recognized the historicity of David, Jonah, and Daniel. Jesus pointed out that the religion of the Pharisees was in direct contradiction to the Law of Moses.

Jesus made reference to historical events, quoted from the Psalms, the Prophets, and the Law. When speaking of the Old Testament Scriptures, Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

The Old Testament is called such in order to contrast it with the New Testament. In reality, the Old Testament could be called the Old Testament or Covenant. Canon comes from the Greek word *kanon*, referring to \_\_\_ "\_\_\_\_\_" by which something is measured or evaluated. The Old Testament canon is a collection of divinely inspired books that are recognized by the spiritual leaders of Israel during ancient times. When these books were written, they were the canon.

In the New Testament, the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Bible all agree on the 27 books of the Canon. Protestants and Jews agree on the Old Testament content. The Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic accept several Jewish books of history and poetry that are called "\_\_\_\_\_" or hidden writings.

The Hebrew Bible has twenty-four books which constitute the same materials as the thirty-nine books found in the current King James Version. The Jews consider the six books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles to be just three books, and the Minor Prophets, which are called "The Book of the Twelve," are considered to be just one book.

There have been a number of Jewish writings that have not been accepted by the Jewish people, which are called Pseudepigrapha, or "\_\_\_\_\_" Some of the ancient Jews and Christians, especially the Gnostics of Egyptians, considered a larger canon, including the books of the apocrypha. Even the Roman Catholic Church did not consider these books to be official part of the canon until the AD 1500's. The Author of the Old Testament is the Holy Spirit. He moved Moses, David, Ezra, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the others to write under his guidance. The implication of the Greek in 2 Peter 1:21 is that the writers were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible does not attempt to prove God's existence, but starts with the assumption that God exists. The entire Bible was written by about forty men over a period of about 1500 years. The common thread that runs through the Bible is God's redemption of man. The Bible is God's written record of selected events in which He acted on the behalf of man. Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Bible, and is pointed to in both the Old and New Testaments. Only the Bible clearly points out the origin of man, his destiny and his means of arriving at that destiny.

The books of the Bible are written by men, but are totally the Word of God. The divine element kept the human element from making any errors. Jesus was fully human and fully God, not partly human and partly divine. The same thing can be said about the Written Word that is said about the Living Word. The divine nature made it impossible for the human to err or sin in any way.

The New Testament took only about 50 years to write, while the Old Testament took at least 1,000 years to write. The first books written were either the Pentateuch (about 1400 B.C.), or Job (there is no known date, but the context suggests that it was written before the law was given).

The Law contains the 5 books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Old Testament History contains the 12 books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st Samuel, 2nd Samuel, 1st Kings, 2nd Kings, 1st Chronicles, 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Old Testament Poetry contains the 5 books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Old Testament Prophecy contains the 5 books of the Major Prophets and 12 books of the Minor Prophets.

The Major Prophets contain the 5 books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The Minor Prophets contain the 12 books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The Pentateuch, which contains the first five books of the Bible, is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible. These books were written by Moses and contain God's revelation of His creation, the origin of sin, the promise of redemption, His covenant with Abraham, and the commands and ordinances of the Law as the basis for Hebrew life and government. The Jews call these books the Torah, or the Law. A good theme for the Pentateuch is "God is faithful to his promises." Through God's promises to Abraham, we have the promise of Israel as God's chosen nation from which a Redeemer would come for all mankind.

In the ancient times, books were found in the form of scrolls rather than being bound as a "codex" (book form). The Greek word for "five roll" is *pentateuchos*, from which we get the word Pentateuch. Another name for Pentateuch is "the Book of Moses."

\_\_\_\_\_ is the Greek word for *beginning*. Genesis 1-11 trace the development of human history, but chapters 12-50 narrow the story down to God's chosen people, the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exodus, Greek for the *way out*, shows how over a period of 400 years Abraham's family grew to become a nation under the forced servitude of the Egyptians. Exodus not only gives the story of their redemption of Israel, but also gives a detailed description of the tabernacle.

Leviticus is the manual for the responsibilities of the Levites, describing the rituals necessary for sinful men to have fellowship with a holy God. There are many pictures and types of the sacrifice of Christ in Leviticus.

Numbers covers the census of the people of Israel. Numbers also gives a record of the historical events that the Israelites experienced in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy, the second law in the Greek, not only gives the law, but establishes the link for future generations of Israel, since it gives record, not only of the death of Moses, but also the establishment of the new leader of Israel, Joshua.

Most Judeo-Christian orthodoxy has recognized Moses as the author of the Pentateuch down through the centuries. The higher critics at one time maintained it was impossible for Moses to write the Pentateuch. Archaeological evidence has since confirmed that Moses could have written them in early Hebrew script, Egyptian hieroglyphics, or Acadian cuneiform. Long before archeology confirmed the possibility of Moses writing the Pentateuch, believers have accepted it upon the authority of God's Word.

There are specific claims in the Torah that Moses wrote down God's command on occasions. The internal evidence is quite overwhelming that Moses is the author of the Pentateuch. The rest of the Bible also claims Moses' authorship of the Pentateuch. Another evidence of Moses' authorship of the Pentateuch is the acceptance of Moses by Christ.

The higher critics' view that Jesus, in His humanity was ignorant of science and history, or He may have known better, but just accommodated the prejudices of his countrymen is not even worthy of our consideration, for it is inconsistent with the perfection of the Son of God. The higher critics have held for years that the Mosaic authorship is impossible, since many customs, words, names and cultural details were too late for them to be Mosaic. They have had their theories disproven by archeological finds that give evidence that all of these issues have been found to predate Moses already. Their theory, that redactors (editors), living many centuries later, pieced these historical details together from various sources has now been proven to be inaccurate.

**Historical Sequence of the Old Testament** (All dates below are B.C.)

