

APPROACHING THE OLD TESTAMENT

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A. OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to allow the Bible "to speak from its own vantage point"? How does one apply this methodology?
 - To allow the Bible to speak from its own vantage point is to accept the message the Bible is trying to teach.
 - According to the Andrew Hill and John Walton, to apply this methodology, one must learn to discern what the text is teaching rather than superimposing their own ideas on it.

2. What is the objective of the Old Testament? Explain.
 - The objective of the Old Testament is to have a deeper or an in-depth knowledge of God.

3. What is the primary interest of the history in the Old Testament?
 - The primary interest of the history in the Old Testament is creation. Also, how God has made Himself know to people.

4. What is God's plan?
 - To create a people He could dwell with and to have a relationship with.

5. Number the stages of God's presence in order from earliest to latest.
 - 4 Tabernacle/temple
 - 5 Incarnation
 - 7 New Creation
 - 2 Covenant
 - 1 Eden
 - 6 Pentecost
 - 3 Exodus

6. Define "covenant." How does God use the covenant in his self-revelation?
- The main aspect of covenant is a collection of books.
 - God use the covenant in his self-revelation as instrument.
7. True/False: The written Word has authority, but the reader's response does not. (circle your answer)
- True
8. What is NOT an implication of the authority of the Old Testament? (circle your answer)
- We need to respond to God's self-revelation.
 - We need to try to find the message the author intended to communicate.
 - We need to accept what the Old Testament says as truth.
 - We need to search for the hidden meaning and mystical symbolism of each passage.
 - all of the above
- The answer is D
9. Define "storyline." Define "plotline." What is the difference?
- Storyline is defined as factual details, God's revelation of Himself.
 - Plotline is defined as literature and scripture.
 - The difference between the two is: plotline is focused more on theology of the text, while storyline is focusing more of the history of Israel (people, places, dates and events).
10. True/False: Proper interpretation requires readers to throw away all presuppositions. (circle your answer)
- True
11. Why is it important to identify the genre of the part of the Bible you are trying to interpret?
- It allows the readers to understand the words and the message of the section that is being interpreted.
12. . Since the Old Testament is God's self-revelation, what can you expect to learn in most instances?
- Learn something about God or the attributes of God.

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B. THINK ABOUT IT

1. Go back and read one of your favorite Old Testament stories or passages. As best you can, identify the genre of the passage. What do you think the original author intended as the message? What do you learn about God from this passage? Has your interpretation of this passage changed at all after reading this chapter?

2. In your own words, describe what is meant by the phrase "inspiration of Scripture." What about the phrase "authority of Scripture"? How does the methodology presented in this chapter honor the inspiration and authority of the Old Testament?

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GEOGRAPHY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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A. OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which regions do the Old Testament narratives encompass?
 - Mesopotamia in the east, Asia Minor or Anatolia in the north, Syro-Palestine, Egypt in the west and the Arabian Peninsula in the South.

2. Four-fifths of Old Testament history take place where?
 - Syro Palestine on the eastern Mediterranean coast.

3. What area was considered the Fertile Crescent?
 - The world of the Old Testament.

4. What does the name Mesopotamia mean?
 - The land between the rivers.

5. Define the following key terms.
 - a. wadi: The land bridge between the continents of Africa and Asia (Syro-Palestine)
 - b. steppe: Negev in the south
 - c. alluvial: Plains at the Persian Gulf
 - d. Levant: Region of the Syro-Palestine
 - e. Apis: Calf Cult of Egypt
 - f. Baal: Phoenician Religion

6. Where was the Hittite Empire located during the second millennium BC?
 - The central portion between central Asia and Southeastern Europe.

7. Where was the land of covenant-promise for the Hebrews located?
 - The region of Palestine or Canaan

8. Name the two regions into which ancient Egypt was divided. Which was located in the north and which in the south?
 - Upper Kingdom (south) and Lower Kingdom (north).

9. How is Egyptian influence seen in the language and literature of the Old Testament?
 - There are about 50 Egyptian loan words in the Old Testament. Also, there are long-acknowledged parallels between Egyptian and Hebrew wisdom literature and love poetry.

10. What were the lineages of the Moabites and Ammonites?
 - Lot and his incestuous relationship with his two daughters.

11. What was the Edomites' lineage? Where did they live?
 - Their lineage was traced to Esau (Jacob's brother). They lived in the south of Moab from the River Zered to the Gulf of Arabia.

12. Where did the Philistines settle?
 - Mediterranean coast from Joppa to Gaza.

13. What are the four basic geographical regions into which Palestine can easily be divided?
 - The coastal plain, the central hill country, the Jordan rift and the Transjordan plateau.

14. Where was the King's Highway located?
 - Transjordan plateau from Bozrah to Damascus.

15. Why was the plateau area of the Transjordan region often the site of military conflict?

- It was the trade route centers along the Kings Highway and the fruitful land of Gilead and Bashan.

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16. What were the names of the two international highways that linked Mesopotamia and Egypt via Palestine?

- The way of the sea and the way of the kings.

17. What was significant about the length of Israel's exile from the land?

- The concept of sabbatical rest for the covenant land.

18. Briefly outline the effects of the development of a merchant class in Israel.

- Control of the institution of society
- Oppress the poor
- Breaking down covenant community

