

ACADEMY

Survey of the Old Testament

AS TAUGHT BY

Miles Van Pelt

OT501

Student Guide

 **BiblicalTraining**

Survey of the Old Testament
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ISBN-13: 9798760453983

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Printed in the United States of America

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/survey-old-testament/miles-van-pelt>

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Overview

Title: Survey of the Old Testament

Program: Academy

Speaker: Dr. Miles Van Pelt

GOALS

1. To understand the basic structure, themes and people in the Old Testament
2. To understand how the Old Testament ties together and points to Christ
3. To learn how to apply theology to life in gracious and God-honoring ways

REQUIREMENTS

1. 37 sessions
2. 21 hours

PREREQUISITES

None

FORMAT

Video and Audio

Your Speaker

Miles V. Van Pelt, Ph.D. is the Alan Hayes Belcher, Jr. Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, Director of the Summer Institute for Biblical Languages, and Academic Dean for the Jackson and Brazil campuses. Miles has strong commitment to and passion for teaching students the Bible in its original languages and has published extensively in the area of Hebrew and Aramaic language instruction, as well as biblical theology. Miles teaches Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Hebrew Exegesis, Joshua-Esther, and courses on the books of Judges and The Song of Songs at the Reformed Theological Seminary.

EDUCATION

PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

BA, Azusa Pacific University

We are pleased that you have chosen to use materials from BiblicalTraining.org. We trust that you will find them to be of the highest quality and truly helpful in your own spiritual growth and that of your church. Please read through the following guidelines; they will help you make the best use of this guide.

Weekly schedule

Listen or watch the lesson. The lesson for each chapter is designed to be listened to outside of your meeting. Each lesson lasts for an hour. This is a crucial step. If the meeting time with your fellow students is going to be productive and encouraging, everyone in the group needs to have listened to and wrestled with the lesson.

Take notes. This guide has the outline for each lesson with a summary of the teaching for each major point. If you are unable to take notes while listening to the lesson, please work through the guide at some point before your meeting.

Questions. Each chapter closes with a series of questions. Some of the questions are data based, confirming that you understand the information. Other questions are more reflective, helping you move beyond the important accumulation of knowledge to challenging you to think through what you are learning about God, yourself and others, and finally to application. Our encouragement is to think through your answers before your meeting and then use the meeting to share your thoughts and interact with others.

Meeting. Meet together with your group.

MEETING TOGETHER

While some people may have to study on their own, we strongly recommend finding a group with which you can study.

A group provides encouragement to finish the class.

Interacting with others, their understanding and insight, is the most effective way to sharpen your own thoughts and beliefs.

Just as you will need the help of others from time to time, so also they will need your help.

Facilitator's Guide

If you are facilitating the group or mentoring an individual, here are some suggestions that should help you.

Your role is to facilitate. This is not an opportunity for you to teach. In fact, the less visible role you take, the better. Your role is to listen and bring out the best in the other people.

Preparation. Be sure to have done your homework thoroughly. Have listened to the lesson and think carefully through the questions. Have an answer for each question that will get the conversation going. A great question is, "What is the Lord teaching you this week?"

Creativity. What works to help one person understand may not help another. So listen to the conversation and pray that the Lord help you bring out the greatest interaction among all the people.

Correct error. This is difficult. If someone says something that isn't right, you don't want to come down on them, telling them they are wrong and shutting down their participation. On the other hand, if you let an obvious error pass, the rest of the group may think you agree and what was said was correct. So look for gracious ways to suggest that perhaps the person's comment was incorrect.

Focus. Stay focused on Jesus and the Bible, not on church or religious traditions.

Lead the discussion. People don't want to listen to a sharing of common ignorance. Lead by asking questions that will prompt others to think.

Silence. Don't be afraid of silence. It may mean nothing more than people are thinking. But if the conversation lags, then ask thought-provoking questions to get the discussion started, and then step out of the way.

Discipleship. Be acutely aware of how you can mentor the people in the group. Meet with them for coffee. Share some life with them. Jesus' Great Commission is to teach people to obey, and the only way this happens is in relationship.

Different Perspectives. People process information and express themselves in different ways based on their background, previous experience, culture, religion and other factors. Encourage an atmosphere that allows people to share honestly and respectfully.

Privacy. All discussions are private, not to be shared outside the group unless otherwise specified.

Goal. The goal of this study is not just increased knowledge; it is transformation. Don't be content with people getting the "right" answers. The Pharisees got the "right" answer, and many of them never made it to heaven (Matt 5:20).

Relationships. Share everyone's name, email and phone number so people can communicate during the week and follow up on prayer requests. You may want to set up a way to share throughout the week using Slack or Teams.

Finish well. Encourage the people to make the necessary commitment to do the work, think reflectively over the questions, and complete the class.

Prayer. Begin and end every meeting with prayer. Please don't do the quick "one-prayer-covers-all" approach. Manage the time so all of you can pray over what you have learned and with what you have been challenged. Pray regularly for each individual in the meeting.

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DISTINCTIVES

World class. All Bible classes are taught by world-class professors from major seminaries.

Holistic. We want to see students move through content to deep reflection and application.

Configurable. Ministries can use BT lectures as well as their own to design their educational program.

Accessible. BiblicalTraining is a web-based ministry whose content is provided at no cost.

Community-based. We encourage people to learn together, in mentor/apprentice relationships.

Broadly evangelical. Our materials are broadly evangelical, governed by our Statement of Faith, and are not tied to any one church, denomination or tradition.

Partners. We provide the content and delivery mechanisms, and our partner organizations provide the community and mentoring.

1

Class Introduction

I. NATURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A Story Told Twice

II. FIVE PART THESIS

A. The Bible is a God-breathed book

2 Timothy 3:16-17

B. Both living and life giving

Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:23-25

C. Its human authors were guided by the Spirit of Christ

1 Peter 1:10-11

D. It has a theological center, unified thematic framework and a covenantal structure

Acts 28:23

E. This book is a Christian book. It was written for Christians

Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11

III. THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN FOR US, NOT ABOUT US

Where's Waldo

9. What is the overall structure of the Bible? What difference does this make when you are reading and studying the Bible?
10. In order to understand the different books of the Bible, why is it important to know who the original audience was and what was the author's intent? What does Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:11 say was the ultimate purpose for the writing of the Bible? As you read the Bible this past week, what is one example of how you have experienced this?
11. What does Miles mean when he says, "The Bible is written for us, but not about us.?" Give one example of a passage where that would make a difference in how you understand and apply the Old Testament.

2

Theological Center

I. MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

What is the Bible about and how is that message communicated?

II. THE CHALLENGE IS THE DIVERSITY IN THE BIBLE

Diversity in languages, authorship and content

III. UNITY IN AUTHORSHIP

Thus says Yahweh

IV. OTHER ATTEMPTS AT IDENTIFYING A THEOLOGICAL CENTER

A. Old Testament

Themes

B. New Testament

Themes

C. Lack of consensus

Diversity

V. MILLION DOLLAR ANSWER

Acts 28: 23, 30-31

VI. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS IS THE THEOLOGICAL CENTER

A. Other opinions

Different perspectives about the theological center

B. The word counting game

Proper nouns in the Old testament and New Testament

4. What is the three-word phrase that Jesus is recorded as using 76 times in the New Testament when he is teaching? Why would a Jewish audience recognize this as Jesus claiming to be God in the flesh?

5. What are some ideas people have proposed as being a theological center for the Old Testament and for the Bible as a whole? Choose one and give a few reasons why it would be a valid consideration?

6. What does Miles say is the theological center of the Old Testament and the whole Bible? What are the phrases in Acts 28:23, 30-31 that describe Paul's ministry? Why does this also show that Jesus is the theological center of the Old Testament and the Bible? How do you think this will affect the way you understand the meaning of passages in the Old Testament?

3

Biblical Testimony that Jesus is the Theological Center

I. CLAIMS OF JESUS

A. Disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:25-40

B. John 5:36-40

The Scriptures testify about me [Jesus]

C. John 5:45-47

Moses wrote about Jesus

II. APOSTLE PAUL

The Gospel promised beforehand

III. OTHER APOSTLES

Peter and John

IV. HOMILETICAL IMPACT

Christ is the focus of the Bible's storyline

V. A CHRISTOCENTRIC APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

The cross of Christ, Christ in you, the hope of glory

4

Thematic Framework is the Kingdom of God

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Over-arching theme for the whole Bible

Not topics exist outside of this theme

B. Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

In reference to the Old Testament and his ministry

C. Comments by authors

John Bright, Walther Eichrodt

D. Kingdom and Covenant

1. Summary of the covenants

Administration of the Kingdom of God

2. Covenant of Redemption

Agreement between the members of the Trinity

3. Covenant of Works

Original agreement between God and Adam

4. Covenant of grace

God's redemptive judgment after the fall

II. ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE

A. Noahic Covenant 1.0

Redemptive covenant

B. Noahic Covenant 2.0

Common grace

C. Abrahamic Covenant

Programmatic

D. Mosaic Covenant

Parallels to Adam, blessing and long life in the land

E. Davidic Covenant

Eschatological kingship through the line of David

F. New Covenant

Parallels to the Mosaic covenant

12. What are the characteristics of the Mosaic covenant? What part of the Bible is it found in? What are the two signs of this covenant? How do they work together? Since there is an principle of works involved, why does that make it complicated? What are the parallels of the Mosaic covenant to the covenant with Adam? Is it possible to gain eternal life by fulfilling the Mosaic covenant? Why or why not?

13. What are the characteristics of the Davidic covenant? What did the Davidic covenant establish?

14. What are the documents of the New covenant? How are the signs of the New covenant parallel to signs of the Mosaic covenant in the Old Testament? How is the principle of works part of each of the covenants?

5

Order of the Books in the Old Testament

I. THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

A. Acts 28:23

Covenantal structure of the Bible

B. Arrangement of the Books of the Bible

Difference between Hebrew Bible and English Bible

II. ORDER CONFIRMED IN OTHER SOURCES

A. Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)

Before Jesus

B. Babylonian Talmud

After Jesus

QUESTIONS

1. Give some examples that demonstrates that an essential part of God's character is to form things from chaos to cosmos. Give some practical examples of how you do that in your daily life. Give an example of how God is doing that in your personal life.

6

Order of the Books in the English Bible vs. Hebrew Bible

I. ORGANIZING STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

A. Genre

History, poetry and prophecy

B. Chronology

Historical sequence

1. Authorship

Books with a common author

2. Origin of this structure

Jerome's Vulgate

II. ORGANIZING STRUCTURE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

A. Example of the book of Ruth

Connection with Proverbs

B. Order of the Writings

Covenant life

C. Song of Songs

Picture of a good marriage

III. GENERAL EDITOR OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Collecting and ordering

IV. ORDER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Connected to the Old Testament

QUESTIONS

1. What criteria was used to arrange the order of the books in the English Old Testament? Why was Jerome instrumental in popularizing this order? What three reasons does Miles give for NOT using this arrangement?

7

Covenantal Structure of the Christian Bible

I. THREE DIVISIONS

Law, Prophets and Writings

II. GENESIS AND REVELATION

Chiasm and inclusio

III. EXODUS TO DEUTERONOMY

A. Birth and death of the covenant mediators

Moses and Jesus

B. Parallels between Moses and Jesus

Life and ministry

C. Genesis is part of the Law but distinct

Connected by poetic intrusion

IV. PROPHETS: THE HISTORY OF THE COVENANT AND THE INTERPRETATION

Covenant recorders and covenant lawyers

V. THE BOOK OF ACTS

History of the early church

VI. WRITINGS

How to think and live in the covenant

VII. CANONICAL SEAMS

Indicated by literary devices

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Unity of the Bible

QUESTIONS

1. What books are the introduction and conclusion to the Bible? What is a chiasm? What is an inclusio? What are the parallel themes in these books and how can they be illustrated as a chiasm and an inclusio?

1. What are the covenant books of the Old Testament? What are the covenant books of the New Testament? How is the Old Testament and New Testament content similar?
2. What are the parallels between Moses and Jesus? Why is this significant?
3. What is, "poetic intrusion?" What are some examples? What examples of poetic intrusion indicate that Genesis is part of the Law and yet distinct from Exodus to Deuteronomy?

12. What is the similarity between Joshua 1:8 and Psalms chapter 1?

13. What practical illustration does Miles use to explain the importance of understanding the context of each section, book and passage of the Bible?

8

Pentateuch Authorship and Date

I. TWO SECTIONS

Genesis then Exodus through Deuteronomy

II. DEBATE ABOUT AUTHORSHIP

A. Moses

Traditional view

B. Documentary hypothesis

Four different authors

C. Evidence for Mosaic authorship

1. Old Testament

Verses commanding Moses to write in a book,
other OT authors

2. New Testament

Other biblical authors

III. DATE

A. Traditional date

1446 BC

B. Late date

1250 BC

QUESTIONS

1. What does that documentary hypothesis claim for the authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament and the date it was written?

9

Genesis: Covenants and Creation

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Covenant prologue

Protological and eschatological

B. Most covenantal book in the Bible

Beginning of the covenants

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Option 1

Pre-patriarchal and patriarchal

B. Option 2

Joseph narratives as a separate section

C. Toledoth outline

These are the generations

III. GENESIS 1

A. Two kingdoms

Visible and invisible

B. Creation of the visible world

Theological order

C. Sequence and length of creation days

Formation and filling the void

D. Sixth and seventh days

Importance of these days

10

Creation: Day 6 and the Fall

I. GENESIS CHAPTER 2

A. Verse 4

Looking back to the sixth day

B. Crisis of shrubbery

Moisture and humans

C. Creation of woman

Covenant of marriage

II. GENESIS CHAPTER 3

A. The Fall

Adam and Eve are tempted and sin

B. God comes in judgment

The wind of the storm

C. Consequences of sin

God addresses the serpent, Eve and Adam

11

Noah, Abraham, and Abraham's Descendants

I. LAMECH'S PROPHECY

A. Prophetic covenant mediator

Second Adam and type of Christ

B. Sons of God and daughters of man

3 explanations

II. NOAH AND THE FLOOD

A. The flood

What the eschaton will look like

B. Redemptive covenant with Noah

God will preserve a remnant

C. Common Grace

Terms and signs

III. TABLE OF NATIONS AND TOWER OF BABEL

Scattering and different languages

IV. ABRAHAM

A. The Promise

Genesis 12:1-3

B. The covenant

Genesis 15

C. The sign

Genesis 17

D. The cost

Binding of Isaac

12

Exodus

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Name

First Hebrew word

B. Moses

Birth and life of the covenant mediator

C. Purpose

Deliverance from Egypt. Theme of divine presence

D. Genre

Mostly narrative

II. STRUCTURE

A. Yahweh as Israel's warrior king

Birth and call of Moses, Ten plagues and the Exodus event

B. Yahweh as Israel's covenant king

Testing in the wilderness and covenant at Mt. Sinai

C. Yahweh enthroned as God in the tabernacle

Instructions and display of God's presence

III. THE BOOK OF EXODUS AS THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

A. Jesus is the true and better Moses

Moses was a servant, Jesus is the son

B. Jesus is the true and better Israel

Jesus passed the test

13

Leviticus

I. INTRODUCTION

Levites and the Law

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Sacrificial system

1. Burnt offering

Atonement for sin

2. Grain offering

Gift

3. Peace offering

Fellowship

4. Sin offering

Purification

5. Guilt offering

Reparation

B. Institution of the priesthood

Sons of Aaron

C. Laws of impurity

Clean and unclean

D. Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur

E. Love your neighbor

Your own people and the stranger

14

Numbers

I. INTRODUCTION

Geography, purpose and genre

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Preparing for the journey from Sinai

Separation of Levites and a census

B. Sinai to Kadesh

God's provision, rebellion of the people, wandering, Meribah

C. Kadesh to Moab

Aaron dies, bronze serpent

D. Preparing to enter the Promised Land

Joshua, Transjordan, cities of refuge

III. NUMBERS CHAPTERS 13-14

Time in the wilderness was a period of testing

IV. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Wilderness testing and Pentecost

QUESTIONS

1. What is the two-fold purpose of the book of Numbers? What is an example of each one? What is a recent example of each one that you can think of from your life?
2. What was the sin of the people of Israel at Meribah? What was the sin of Moses at Meribah? What does it mean that God is holy as it relates to the people of Israel?
3. Since there was no land allotment for Levi or for Joseph, why are there still land allotments for twelve tribes of Israel?

15

Deuteronomy

I. INTRODUCTION

Name, Geography, Purpose

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Covenant mediator

Moses

B. Historical Prologue

Yahweh is faithful

C. Stipulations

10 commandments

D. Sanctions

Blessings and curses

E. Dynastic Disposition

Joshua succeeds Moses

III. PROBLEM OF THE LAW

Obedience requires a circumcised heart

16

Former Prophets

I. CONTENT

Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings

II. OUTLINED IN DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS 29-31

A. Theological and historical blueprint

Sinai covenant and occupation of the land

B. Mosaic covenant

Stage 1 fulfillment of Abrahamic covenant

C. Mosaic covenant did not give the power to obey

Contrast to the New Covenant

D. Mosaic covenant never promised eternal life

Prosperity and long life in the land

E. Israel's disobedience and exile is "Plan A"

Mosaic covenant intended to be temporary

F. Inheritance can be lost through disobedience

Mosaic covenant can be broken

G. Mosaic covenant is temporary

Internal confirmation

H. Typological significance

Adam's exile

III. SUMMARY

Themes

5. In what ways is the experiences of the people of Israel in the Promised Land similar to Adam's experiences in the garden of Eden? What chapters at the end of Deuteronomy predict that this will happen? When Yahweh restores his people, what will he do that will give them the ability to keep the Law? How has Jesus done that for us?

17

Joshua

I. THE PERSON

A. His name

Meaning

B. Successor to Moses

Second Moses figure

II. THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

A. Connected to Deuteronomy

Death accounts of Moses

B. History and geography

Inheritance of the tribes

C. Purpose

The land

D. Genre

Narrative

E. Date and Authorship

Writers and editors

III. OUTLINE

A. Entering the land - crossing over

Jericho and circumcision

B. Occupying the land - take

Conquest

C. Allocation of the land - divide

Allotments for each tribe

D. Keeping the land - worship

Renew the covenant

IV. HOLY WAR

A. Meaning of the Hebrew word

Devote to total destruction

B. Preserve the purity of Israel's worship

Worship practices of the surrounding nations

C. Judgment on the Canaanites

Prophesied to Abraham

D. Suspension of common grace

Intrusion of the ethics of the eschaton

V. COVENANT OBEDIENCE

Renewal of the covenant

VI. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

QUESTIONS

1. What did Joshua do before he became the leader of the nation of Israel? Who changed his name? What was the difference in meaning after it was changed? Why was he allowed to enter the promised land?

2. What were some examples in Joshua's life where he acted like a "2nd Moses" figure? What were some examples in the life of Jesus where Jesus acted like a "2nd Moses" figure? How does this consistent and overarching theme give you confidence in God's plan and the trustworthiness of the Bible?

3. Whose death account appears in the last chapter of Deuteronomy and the first chapter of Joshua that links the two books? What is the crisis that this indicates?

4. What is the purpose of the book of Joshua? Why is Israel's possession of the land so important?

18

Judges

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The judges

Delivered God's judgment

B. Contents

Outline

C. Historical context

While Israel is in the land, before the Assyrian captivity

D. Purpose

Describe Israel's unfaithfulness

E. Genre

Events and speeches

II. WHAT AND WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

A. Modern consensus

Negative assessment

B. Internal assessment

Positive assessment

C. External assessment

New Testament and other sources

III. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Main sections

Introduction, judges, conclusion

B. Characteristics of the judges

Qualities in each judge

C. Major judges

Othniel to Samson

IV. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Cloud of witnesses

QUESTIONS

1. What was the job of the judges? How did they function differently than judges in today's court system?

2. What is the content of the book of Judges? Why is the number of Judges significant?

15. What person in the New Testament has their birth narrative patterned after Samson? What are the similarities in their births and what they did in their lives? In what ways are Samson's actions honorable and consistent with what the Spirit is directing him to do?
16. How many birth narratives are there in the Bible? Whose births do they describe? What do they have in common? Why is Jesus the climax of these birth narratives?
17. What are some examples from the lives of the judges that show that they are witnesses of what is to come?

19

Samuel

I. INTRODUCTION

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Samuel and Kings outline

Kingship chiasm

B. Two poems

Bookends

C. Two metaphors

Rock and horn

D. Eschatological typology

David, Solomon and Jesus

III. LIFE OF DAVID

Anointed and serves as king

IV. THEOLOGY OF KINGSHIP

A. Part of the patriarchal covenant with Abraham

Nations and blessing

B. Provisions in the Mosaic covenant

Qualifications, restrictions and duties

C. Kingship in Judges

When the judge died, the people rebelled

D. Israel asks for a king

Rejection of Yahweh

E. Saul as Israel's first king

Anointed and confirmed

F. Saul's rejection

Disobedience

G. David anointed as king

Yahweh acts according to his will

H. Davidic covenant

Royal grant

I. Solomon

Started well, ended badly

20

Kings

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Content summary

History of the kings of Israel and Judah after David

B. Purpose

Three basic purposes

C. Date and authorship

Anonymous

D. Outline and contents

From Solomon to the exile

II. SPECIFIC TEXTS

A. Life of Solomon

Contrast of the first 20 years and the second 20 years

B. Jeroboam

King of the northern 10 tribes

C. Kings of the divided kingdom

Northern (Israel) all are bad, Southern (Judah) some are good

D. Elijah and Elisha

Prophets

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Jesus as the true and better king and temple

QUESTIONS

1. After David dies, which king's reign does the book of Kings begin with? What event is the high point of Israel's monarchy? What is the low point of Israel's monarchy? At the low point, what ends in Israel for all time?

21

Latter Prophets

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and context

II. CALL OF A PROPHET

A. OT call narratives

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Amos

B. NT Call Narrative

Saul

III. TYPES OF PROPHECY

A. Oracular

Spoken

B. Sign act

Symbolic

IV. COVENANT LAWSUIT

A. Broken Lawsuit

Deuteronomy 32

B. Implications

God is both just and merciful

22

Isaiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Quoted in the New Testament

"Fifth gospel"

B. Family life

Wife and children

C. Date and Authorship

740-700 BC by Isaiah

II. OUTLINE AND CONTENT

A. Literary divisions

Three sections

B. Content division

Seven sections

III. THE CALL OF ISAIAH

A. Other uses of Isaiah 6 in the OT

Jeremiah and Ezekiel

B. Other uses in the New Testament

Gospels and letters

IV. MAJOR THEMES IN ISAIAH

A. God is the Holy One of Israel

God's commitment in spite of Israel's lack of commitment

B. God as savior and redeemer

God keeps his promises

C. The remnant

A seed for the future

D. Servant of the Lord

Ultimately the Messiah

E. Yahweh's kingship

Future kingdom of Israel

23

Jeremiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Second Moses figure

Similarities in life and ministry

B. Purpose of the book

Explanation of the exile and hope for restoration

C. Date and authorship

Jeremiah and Baruch

II. STRUCTURE

Chiasm

III. MAJOR THEMES

A. Prosecutor of the Mosaic Covenant

Covenant curse

B. Herald of the New Covenant

Restoration

C. Book of Consolation

New Covenant

D. Oracles in chapters 32 and 33

Everlasting covenant

E. Repentance and redemption

Call for repentance and message of hope

24

Ezekiel

I. INTRODUCTION

Prophetic message is clear

II. DATE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Priest in Babylon

III. OUTLINE

A. Theological arrangement

Oracles and signs

B. Three Visions

Judgment and reversal

IV. MAJOR THEMES

A. Glory of Yahweh

Theophany, departure, return

B. You will know that I am Yahweh

Covenant language

C. Creation, de-creation and re-creation

Pattern throughout the OT

D. Newness

Restoration

E. Crazy apocalyptic visions

Other-worldly visions and experiences

QUESTIONS

1. What made Israel distinct from all the other nations in the world?

2. What is the key theme?

11. What are some events in the Old Testament that illustrate the theme of creation, de-creation and new creation? How does this apply to the nation of Israel in Ezekiel's time?
12. What is apocalyptic literature? What are three purposes of apocalyptic literature? Choose one of Ezekiel's apocalyptic visions and explain how it would have fulfilled those purposes for the people in his time and also for you today?

25

The Twelve

I. HOSEA

Marriage

II. JOEL

Day of the Lord

III. AMOS

Northern kingdom

IV. OBADIAH

Edom

V. JONAH

Nineveh's repentance

VI. MICAH

Justice, mercy, humility

VII. NAHUM

Nineveh's judgment

VIII. HABAKKUK

Babylon

IX. ZEPHANIAH

Judgment and hope for Jerusalem

X. HAGGAI

Post-exilic restoration

XI. ZECHARIAH

Restoration of the temple

XII. MALACHI

Calls Israel to return to Yahweh

QUESTIONS

1. Why are the minor prophets known as the Book of the Twelve in the Hebrew Bible?

26

Introduction to the Writings

I. INTRODUCTION

Content and style

II. FIRST SIX BOOKS

Life in the land

III. SECOND SIX BOOKS

Life in exile

27

Psalms

I. INTRODUCTION

Authorship and function

II. STUDYING THE PSALMS

A. Form-critical approach

Types

B. Cult-functional approach

Events

C. Canonical approach

The psalms are arranged to have meaning as a whole

III. TEN TYPES OF PSALMS

A. Overview

Description of each one

B. Lament

Crisis of God's presence

C. Thanksgiving

Recounting saving acts of God

9. What is the acronym used for understanding the lament psalms? What does each letter in the acronym stand for? Choose a lament psalm and write out each of the elements. How can you apply this to a situation in your life today?

10. What is the acronym used for understanding the thanksgiving psalms? What does each letter in the acronym stand for? Choose a thanksgiving psalm and write out each of the elements. How can you apply this to a situation in your life today?

28

Job

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Content

Narrative at the beginning and end, poetry in the middle

B. Historical context

Patriarchal era

C. Genre

Wisdom literature

II. MESSAGE

Sovereignty of God

III. MAIN CHARACTERS

Job, his friends, Elihu, Job's wife, God and the accuser

IV. OUTLINE AND CONTENTS

A. Prologue

The reason for Job's suffering

B. Job's lament

Job wishes he hadn't been born

C. Speeches of the friends

True statements but misapplied

D. Themes from Job's speeches

Suffering and hope

E. Wisdom poem

Where can wisdom be found?

F. Elihu speeches

Younger than the friends

G. God's speeches and Job's response

God is Lord of the moral order

H. Epilogue

Job restored

V. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

Unjust suffering

13. What is a situation in your life where you felt like God abandoned you or let you down? How has the message of the book of Job changed the way you view God and encouraged you in your relationship to him?
14. In what ways is Job restored at the end of the book? Why doesn't he get double the number of children?
15. In what ways is Job's suffering and restoration a picture of the suffering and restoration of Jesus? How is Jesus even better than Job in suffering and restoration?

29

Proverbs

I. INTRODUCTION

Practical wisdom

II. STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

A. Introduction

Wisdom as a relationship

B. Fifteen “my son” wisdom poems

Teaching a child

C. Proverbs chapters 10-31

Concise sayings

D. Proverbs are not promises

Best path to a desired end

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

30

Ruth

I. INTRODUCTION

II. BACKGROUND ISSUES

A. Genre

Wisdom narrative

B. Moabites

Relatives and enemies

C. Kinsman redeemer

Levirate marriage

D. Gleaning

Provision for the needy

III. THE PLOT OF THE STORY

A. Chapter 1

Naomi and sons leave but she returns with Ruth

B. Chapter 2

Ruth gleans and meets Boaz

C. Chapter 3

Boaz redeems Ruth

D. Chapter 4

Boaz and Ruth are married

QUESTIONS

1. Why does Ruth follow Proverbs in the Hebrew Bible order? What are the possible English translations of the Hebrew words, "esheth chayil" (לִיָּהּ—אִשָּׁה)?

31

Song of Songs

I. IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

A. Definition of marriage

One flesh, instituted by God

B. Cultural mandate

Image of God

C. Hint of our eternal home

Heaven on earth

D. Always a covenantal act

Making, renewal or breaking

E. Powerful witness

Faith on display

II. SONG OF SONGS

A. Title

The best song ever

B. Authorship

Probably Solomon

C. Genre

Poetic wisdom song

III. INTERPRETING THE SONG OF SONGS

A. Allegory

God and Israel or the Church

B. Natural

Songs for different occasions

C. Shepherd interpretation

The woman's true love

D. Message of the Song of Songs

Rock solid, white hot

E. How could Solomon write a book like this?

Wisdom

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is marriage established in Genesis 2 a pointer and type of the marriage in Revelation 21 and 22 and what we will experience in our eternal home?

32

Ecclesiastes

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Author

Solomon

B. Basic message

Fear God

C. Approach

Skeptical

D. Theme

Vanity

E. Perspective

Observation

F. Main question

Profit

G. Mode of instruction

Experience

H. Other types of uses

Psalm 73

II. OUTLINE

A. Prologue

Cycles of life

B. Wisdom experiment

Frustration in labor

C. Conclusion

Life under the sun is meaningless

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

QUESTIONS

1. Which verses in chapter 1 indicate that Solomon was the author of Ecclesiastes? Why?

2. What is the basic message of Ecclesiastes? What is the approach used to communicate the message?

33

Lamentations

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Name

Funeral songs

B. Structure

Five poems

II. CONTENT

A. Chapter 1

Shame and mourning

B. Chapter 2

The Lord is the primary agent of wrath

C. Chapter 3

The lament of the afflicted man and his community

D. Chapter 4

The besieged city

E. Chapter 5

Final communal lament

III. THE GOSPEL PROMISED BEFOREHAND

The hope of a new Jerusalem

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the reasons that Jeremiah may have written Lamentations?

2. What is an acrostic? Where do you find acrostics in Lamentations? What is the point to this structure in Lamentations?

34

Esther

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Structure

Plot of the story

B. Canonicity

Uniqueness

C. Historical Context

Persian empire

II. THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

A. God's providence

God protects his people

B. God's hiddenness

Behind the scenes

C. Life of faith in exile

Faithfulness

III. FESTIVAL OF PURIM

The only feast established outside of the Pentateuch

QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the books of Esther and Daniel? In what ways do they share a story?
2. Why do some people have doubts about Esther being included in the canon?
3. In what ways does the book of Esther provide a historical context that is unique to other books of the Bible?

6. What is the theme of how you should live the life of faith in exile? What is the key verse in Esther that is an example of this? In what way is God calling you to live a life of faith that requires risk? How are you living your life differently as a result?

7. What does the festival of Purim commemorate? How and when did it begin? How is it celebrated?

8. How is the theme of the “seed” central in the book of Esther and in the life and ministry of Jesus?

9. How is the theme of “perishing” central in the book of Esther and in the life and ministry of Jesus?

35

Daniel

I. INTRODUCTION

A. English Bible order

After major prophets

B. Hebrew Bible order

Writings

II. STRUCTURE

A. Content and style

Two sections

B. Two languages

Hebrew and Aramaic

III. DANIEL ELSEWHERE IN THE BIBLE

A. New Testament eschatology

Visions and Son of Man

B. Explicit references

Righteous

IV. CONTENT

A. Chapters 1-6

Biographical

B. Chapters 7-12

Visions

QUESTIONS

1. How is the content of the book of Daniel different than the writing prophets?

36

Ezra-Nehemiah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General information

One book

B. Position in the canon

Historical section in the English Bible, Writings in the Hebrew Bible

C. Authorship

Possibly Ezra

D. Dates of major events

Exiles return

II. STRUCTURE

Parallels

III. LANGUAGE

Aramaic section

IV. HISTORICAL PERSON

A. Priest and scribe

Lineage and training

B. Ezra's reforms

Marriage

V. NEHEMIAH

A. Historical person

Commission from the king

B. Reform 1

Debt and land

C. Reform 2

Covenant commitment renewed

D. Reform 3

Purification from contamination

VI. REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference in the order of Ezra-Nehemiah in the English Bible and Hebrew Bible? What are the reasons for the difference?

37

Chronicles

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Position in the canon

Last in the Hebrew canon, history section in English Bible

B. Author and date

Anonymous

II. CONTENTS

A. Adam to King Saul

Beginning to the present

B. God chooses David

Kingdom and worship

C. Solomon succeeds David

Temple

D. Kings of Judah from Rehoboam to Zedekiah

Kings and exile

