



# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Seeing the Big Picture

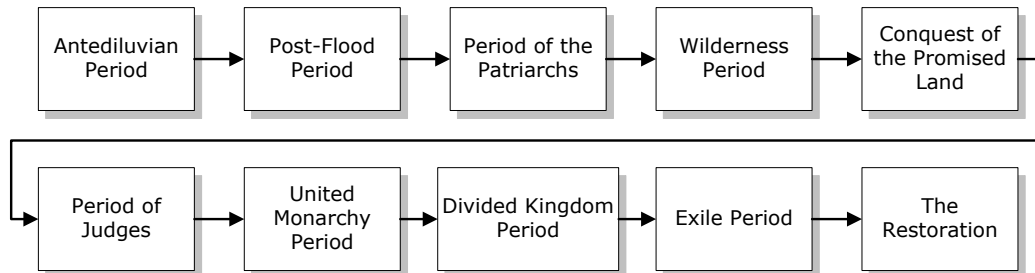
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## Part 1: Introduction to the Old Testament

### Ten Major Periods of the Old Testament



### Seven Great Reasons for Studying the Old Testament

- The Bible is incomplete without the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament presents great truths about God and humanity.
- The Old Testament provides the historical setting out of which Christianity and the New Testament emerged.
- The Old Testament instructs believers concerning the person and work of Jesus, the promised Messiah.
- The Old Testament presents spiritual truths and lessons that are applicable for Christians.
- The Old Testament lays the foundation for biblical prophecy.
- The Old Testament is “God-breathed and profitable” (2 Tim. 3:16).

### How the Old Testament is Organized

- Pentateuch (Genesis→Deuteronomy): From creation to the origin of the nation of Israel to entering the land promised to Abraham’s descendants.
- Historical Books (Joshua→Esther): Children of Israel conquering the Promised Land, narratives about the kings of Israel, and the nation of Israel return to its land after 70 years of living in Babylon (Iraq).
- Poetic Books (Job→Song of Solomon): Beautifully written books of praise and wisdom and genuine human love written in Hebrew poetic form; over 40% of OT is poetry (see. Psa. 119).
- Prophets (Isaiah→Malachi): Major and Minor Prophets → God’s dealing with Israel when it broke the Mosaic Covenant, and his love for them, by promising a future golden age.

## Original Languages of the Old Testament

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- Hebrew: original vowel sounds were lost but were assigned later by Masoretes (500-950 A.D.).
- Aramaic: A cognate language to Hebrew and used in Ezra 4:8—6:18; 7:12-26; Daniel 2:4—7:28).

## Old Testament Covenants

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- Definition: A biblical covenant is a binding agreement between God and man.
- Two types of biblical covenants: conditional and unconditional.
- Conditional (bilateral) Covenants: God blesses humans if they obey the terms of the covenant. This type of covenant is often characterized by the word “if.”
- Unconditional (Unilateral) Covenants: God blesses humans regardless of their obedience or disobedience to the terms of the covenant.
- Adamic Covenant: Includes the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve, as well as God’s provision for that sin (Gen. 3:16-19).
- Noahic Covenant: God would never again destroy mankind with a flood (Gen. 9:8-17).
- Abrahamic Covenant: Abraham’s descendants would become a great nation. God would be their God forever. This covenant contains land, seed, and blessing promises (Gen. 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18).
- Palestinian Covenant: Amplifies the land promises of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 15:18-21; Deut. 30:3-4).
- Mosaic or Sinaitic Covenant: Israel would be God’s special people, a holy nation, but they would have to keep their part of this covenant (Exodus 19-24; Deut. 28).
- Davidic Covenant: This covenant amplifies the seed promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. Salvation is promised to come through David’s line, through the birth of the Messiah. His throne (authority) would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:8-16).

## Discussion Questions

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1. Is Genesis 12:1-3 a conditional or unconditional covenant?
2. Is Deut. 28 a conditional or unconditional covenant? (See Deut. 28:1, 15)

## How the Old Testament Helps Us Today

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- Much of the New Testament wouldn’t make sense were it not for the Old Testament.
- It gives us valuable transferable principles.

## Old Testament Prophecies

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- Some scholars estimate there are up to 400 individual prophecies in the OT.
- Over 300 prophecies confirmed Jesus as the Messiah (Christ).
- Fulfilled prophecies give credibility to the Bible (e.g. Daniel 2:29-43).
- Unfulfilled prophecies give hope for the future (e.g. Daniel 2:44).