

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE "WALK-THROUGH"¹

INTRODUCTION:

A) The Bible says that the Old Testament stories are examples for us to learn from - **Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:6, 11**

B) **Layout the "human map"** – Locations that you need to mark with individuals: 1) Ur, 2) Haran ["barren"] 3) Jericho, 4) Ai, 5) Kadesh-Barnea ["Katie's barn"], 6) Mt. Sinai. Additional places to identify: 1) Jordan River, 2) Egypt, 3) Assyria, 4) Babylon, 5) Potiphar's ["pot of fur"] house.

I. HISTORICAL BOOKS (Genesis-Esther).

A. GENESIS.

1. THE BEGINNING OF THE HUMAN RACE! - Gen. 1-11.

- a. Chapter 1: Creation (first thing)
- b. Chapter 2: Two people: Adam & Eve
- c. Chapter 3: Three letters: Sin. (**Why world is messed up: "Love requires...Choice... which requires...Results"-Dewitt**)
- d. Chapter 4: Four letters: Cain & Abel
- e. Chapter 5: Genealogical (family) tree
- f. Chapters 6-8: Noah & the flood (yes, it was a universal flood!)
- g. Chapter 9: Rainbow (a promise that God won't do that again)
- h. Chapter 10: Genealogical (family) tree
- i. Chapter 11: Tower of Babel **Lesson: You can't work your way to heaven!**

2. THE BEGINNING OF THE HEBREW (JEWISH) RACE. - Gen. 12-50.

a. Abraham.

- (1) Came from Ur with Sarah (wife), Terah (father-in-law) & Lot (nephew).
- (2) Went to Haran. (Terah dies, Abraham becomes rich).
- (3) Continued on to "Promised Land." (3 promises: land, seed [offspring] & blessing).
- (4) Had two sons through the eyes (I's) of faith: Isaac & Ishmael.

b. Isaac. He also had two sons:

- (1) Esau (oldest)
- (2) Jacob (received the blessing). **Lesson: God is sovereign & gracious-both were sinful!**

c. Jacob. Had 12 sons & one daughter named Dinah.

- (1) Youngest son: Benjamin
- (2) Second youngest son: Joseph. (the story of his brothers & their jealousy).

d. Joseph.

- (1) Potiphar's house. Faithful worker but Potiphar's wife lies. **Lesson: Flee youthful lusts** (II Tim. 2:22; Rom. 13:14)
- (2) Egypt's prison (Interprets baker's & butler's dreams).
- (3) Pharaoh's office (Pharaoh's dreams [*cows & corn*] & Joseph's new position). **Lesson: God sovereignly controls circumstances for our ultimate good [Gen. 50:20].**

B. EXODUS. Four hundred (400) years between Genesis & Exodus. Nation grows to 2-2&1/2 million. The book is about what great man? Moses!

1. Moses told Pharaoh: "*Let my people go*" but Pharaoh says, "*No!*"
2. God sends 10 plagues (The plagues mocked the Egyptian gods). After 10 plagues Moses asks again & Pharaoh says, "*Go!*"
3. People cross the Red Sea & make a "*right turn.*" (It was a real sea, NOT a swamp or marsh! *Red* does = "*reed*" but the same term is used to refer to the Gulf of Aqaba, which is big enough for large ships [I Kings 9:26]!)
4. People go to Mt. Sinai.
5. Moses comes down with two things:
 - a. Ten Commandments (& other laws)
 - b. Plans for building the Tabernacle. – The remainder of the book of Exodus the Jews build & set up the Tabernacle.

C. LEVITICUS. Leviticus covers about 30 days at the base of Mt. Sinai ordaining the priesthood & learning the

¹ I obtained the original outline of much of this material in 1976 from Rev. Mike Charles, then director of the "Forever Generation" Christian campus ministry at Ohio State University. Pastor Charles then served for several decades as the pastor of the Portersville Bible Church, Portersville, Pennsylvania. Over the years I have added many additional scripture references, applications, quotes, etc. Reformatted 5 May, 1998, Goroka, Papua New Guinea (rev. 2007, 2011 & 2012, St. Vincent, West Indies, 2015 & 2018, Madison, Ohio & 2021, Taylors, SC). – Mike Edwards

various prescribed offerings & feasts. From Greek: “*That which pertains to the Levites*”; Hebrew name: “*And He called*” [1:1]. “No other book in the Bible affirms divine inspiration so frequently as Leviticus. Under the heading of the verb *to speak (dibber)* alone ... (there are) no less than thirty-eight occurrences of the statement that Jehovah spoke to Moses or to Aaron. Nothing could be clearer than that this entire sacrificial system was no invention of the Hebrew people but a direct revelation of God...A remarkable authentication of the divine origin of this Mosaic code is to be found in the semi-prophetic twenty-sixth chapter. Here there is a preview of the subsequent history of Israel with its progressive decline from faith to apostasy, and a clear intimation of the Babylonian Exile (vv. 32-39) and the subsequent restoration (vv.40-45)...(basic teachings of the book include)...as a unique people of God, redeemed Israel is (a) to **keep holy**, that is, to set themselves apart from the unconverted world unto the service and worship of the one true God; (b) to maintain access to God on the basis of the **substitutionary atonement**, by means of the shedding of the blood of the sacrifice, *as an innocent life is substituted for the forfeited life of the guilty.*”(cf. Jesus Christ) (Gleason Archer, *Survey of OT Introduction*, pp. 257-259).

D. NUMBERS. (The book is called “*Numbers*” in the LXX because of the census lists. Hebrew title: “*In the wilderness of [Sinai]*”)

1. Israelites leave Mt. Sinai & go to Kadesh-Barnea (Katie's barn).
2. Twelve spies go into the land.
 - a. 10 say "No" because of giants.
 - b. 2 say "Yes" with God's help (Joshua & Caleb). **Lesson: The majority is always right, right? WRONG! The majority is usually wrong! Don't follow the crowd.**
 - c. 38 more years in the wilderness for disobedience (2 years up to that point +38=40 years to allow one generation to die off).
 - d. The Jews finally come to Mt. Pisgah on the other side of the Jordan. Moses not allowed into the land. Why? Struck the rock TWICE (ruined a "type" of Christ). **Lessons: a) "To whom much is given, much is required (expected)" [Lk. 12:48] & b) "Results" are not a correct basis for determining whether something is right or wrong [Num. 20] (from notes by John Ashbrook) i.e. "the end does not justify the means!"** (the Jesuit philosophy)
 - e. Before Moses died, he preached five messages called Deuteronomy ("2nd law-giving").

E. DEUTERONOMY. i.e. 2nd Law-giving. (Heb: “*These are the words*”) Review and Reiteration of the Law, because of a whole new generation.

F. JOSHUA. (Next leader & next book)

1. Crosses through the Jordan River (a miraculous crossing similar to the Red Sea).
2. They fight the battle of Jericho. Do they win? YES!
3. They Fight the battle of Ai (spell it). Do they win? NO! Why? Hidden sin in the camp (Achan). **Lesson: We can't hide sin from God, and He will not bless us until we get it out of our life!**[cf. Ps. 38]
4. After they get rid of Achan, etc., do they win? YES!
5. First campaign is the "Central" campaign. They divide the land.
6. Second campaign is the "Southern" campaign. They make a pact with the Gibeonites.
7. Third campaign is the "Northern" campaign. They leave many people (The "ites"). **Lesson: When we don't obey God fully we experience many unnecessary heartaches, difficulties & sorrows.**
8. Remaining portion of the book is the dividing of the land.

G. JUDGES. Called “*the dark ages of Hebrew history*” because “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (Judges 17:6; 21:25).

1. 14 Judges in all, counting Samuel.
2. Seven good judges.
3. Seven not-so-good judges.
4. Name some judges:
 - a. Gideon (he cut down an idol grove)
 - b. Samson (strong physically, but followed his flesh and was weak & selfish spiritually)
 - c. Deborah (a woman judge)
 - d. Samuel (the last judge & first prophet).

H. RUTH. One of two OT books named after a woman. Two views regarding interpretation of the book:

1. It is typology, i.e. It is a Christ-like example in the OT, with the kinsman-redeemer (Boaz) a picture of Christ who redeems his bride (the church) like Boaz did Ruth.
2. **The major themes are emptiness, fullness, Ruth's mercy towards Naomi & God's providential mercy**

to Ruth in return. In other words, God graciously in His providence will reward the person who gives up his life for the benefit of others (cf. Mk. 8:35). [from notes by Dr. Terry Rude, *OT Theology* class -mwe].

I. **I SAMUEL.** One thing prophets did (besides prophesy) was to anoint kings. Samuel as the last judge & first prophet anoints the first king. His name: Saul.

1. Saul was man's choice, not God's choice.
2. Was Saul good or bad? A bad king. Examples:
 - a. Offered sacrifices himself (which was forbidden) – I Sam. 13
 - b. Failed to fully obey God in regard to the Amalekites – I Sam. 15
 - c. Tried to kill his son Jonathan, as well as David – I Sam. 18 & 20
 - d. He went to the witch of Endor. – I Sam. 28 – **Lesson: Consulting or dabbling with witchcraft/sorcery in any form (e.g. Tarot cards, Ouija boards, séances, etc.) is totally condemned in Scripture.** And yes, I would avoid such things as “Harry Potter” etc., too.

J. **II SAMUEL.**

1. The next king was David. Was he man's choice or God's choice? God's choice.
2. Was David good or bad? A good king.
3. He certainly wasn't perfect (he committed adultery & murder). The difference: He confessed & repented of his sin (e.g. Ps. 32; 38; 51).
4. He was a man “*after God's own heart*” (Acts 13:22 cf. I Sam. 13:14).

K. **I & II KINGS.**

1. Next king: David's son-Solomon. A very wise king who eventually went bad due to multiple wives. Interestingly, Solomon didn't follow his own inspired advice in Proverbs. **Lesson: You can know God's Word and what He desires. But it is not enough to know the truth. You must practice it in your own life!**
2. Solomon's son followed him as king. Was it Rehoboam or Jeroboam? Rehoboam. (an easy way to remember: “R” is next to “S” in the alphabet, while “J” is a long way from “S”) Jeroboam was Solomon's servant's son. Rehoboam listened more to his young friends than the wise old men, and taxed the people heavily. So something BIG happened: the nation split in two! **Lessons: Older people with experience have much wisdom! Also, be sure and get wise godly counsel b/f making decisions!**
3. Jeroboam with ten tribes withdrew to the north. Rehoboam stayed in the south with two tribes.
4. The rest of I & II Kings deals with the kings of the north & south.
 - a. North: mostly bad kings (e.g. Ahab & Jezebel).
 - b. South: both good & bad kings (some revivals).
5. North was judged in 722 B.C. because of sin (Assyrian's attack-10 lost tribes of Israel).
6. South was judged in 586 B.C. (final deportation) because of sin (Babylonian captivity-70 years).

L. **I & II CHRONICLES.** These books are two things:

1. A genealogy from Adam to the time of the writing of the book.
2. A chronological order of the kings of Judah.

M. **EZRA.** After the 70 year Babylonian captivity some Jews return to Jerusalem.

1. Zerubbabel works at rebuilding the temple.
2. Ezra rebuilds the people through the preaching of God's Word (Neh. 8:8).

N. **NEHEMIAH.** The Jews encounter difficulties so Nehemiah returns to lead in rebuilding the walls.

O. **ESTHER.** The second book in OT named after a woman. Two thoughts on this book:

1. It clearly testifies to God's sovereignty & providence. The name of God is never mentioned in the book, yet His control of all the circumstances is obvious. **Lesson: There are no accidents or “mistakes” in a believer's life. God is in sovereign control.**
2. It also “...explains the origin of the *Feast of Purim* (2 Maccab. 15:36) on the 13th and 14th days of Adar (Feb.-Mar.), when Jews celebrate the deliverance from Haman.” (Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible* (KJV), p. 743).
3. This ends the history of the Old Testament! After this 400 years go by, then John the Baptist appears, then Christ begins His ministry! **But... what about the other books???** All of them had already been written, or the events in them had already occurred by the time the events in Esther happened... *So let's go back & fit them in!*

II. **POETRY.**

- A. **JOB.**
1. A possible contemporary of Abraham. Thus possibly the oldest book in the Bible?
 2. Amazing statements: e.g. the earth hangs on nothing-26:7; belief in life after death & a redeemer-19:25-26; dinosaurs?-40:15ff)
- B. **PSALMS.**
1. Written *mainly* by David, so mostly when events in I & II Samuel were occurring. There are exceptions (e.g. Ps. 90 by Moses)
 2. They deal mainly with praise & prayer. Known as “*The song book of Israel.*”
- C. **PROVERBS.**
1. Written mainly by Solomon, when he was king over Israel.
 2. Deals with godly wisdom (i.e. presents wisdom from God's viewpoint).
- D. **ECCLESIASTES.**
1. Written by Solomon.
 2. Deals with worldly wisdom, i.e. he is looking at life on *this earth alone*, to the exclusion of an eternal viewpoint, except for the final chapter.
 3. **It gives a biblical philosophy of life while on earth.** Five major themes in Ecclesiastes:
 - a. **Vanity** (a failure or inability to produce that which is expected or desired. cf. Dt. 32:21; Job. 21:34; Isa. 30:7; etc.) i.e. Life is often frustrating, and that’s true no matter who you are! Solomon tried to solve the dilemma three ways:
 - b. **Man in his Labor** – He built incredible buildings, gardens, etc., but it didn’t solve the problems of life!
 - c. **Wisdom** – He tried to figure things out via his incredible wisdom...to no avail!
 - d. **Pleasure** – He thought he could solve life’s frustrations by immersing himself in every kind of pleasure. It left him empty!
 - e. **God** (i.e. Solomon discovered that since neither b, c, or d can rescue life from its frustrations, man should have a right perspective & focus on God! In other words, enjoy God's calling for you, acquire wisdom, & enjoy the **RIGHTEOUS** pleasures God gives & what you can accomplish for Him while living life here on earth. But don't try and get rid of frustration & achieve utopia. That will only come when the Lord Jesus returns to set up His millennial kingdom and rule as King of the earth! (from notes by Dr. Terry Rude, *O.T. Theology -mwe*).
- E. **SONG OF SOLOMON.**
1. A biblical portrayal of physical love within marriage.
 2. A picture (typology) of the love of Christ for His bride, the Church.

III. **MAJOR PROPHETS.**

- A. **ISAIAH.**
1. From the south.
 2. Wrote to the southern kingdom of Judah just before the *Assyrian* attacks & destruction.
- B. **JEREMIAH.**
1. From the south, wrote to the southern kingdom of Judah just before the *Babylonian* captivity.
 2. Known as the weeping prophet, so he also wrote...
- C. **LAMENTATIONS.**
1. The name means “*crying.*”
 2. Jeremiah was weeping over the sins of the people & the destruction of Jerusalem.
- D. **EZEKIEL.**
1. He was taken during one of the three sieges of Jerusalem by the Babylonians (607, 597 & 586 B.C.)
 2. He wrote during the Babylonian captivity.
- E. **DANIEL.** He was also taken from Jerusalem & wrote during the Babylonian captivity. The book is heavily attacked due to its amazingly accurate predictions & prophecies.

IV. **MINOR PROPHETS.** There are a total of twelve.

- A. **HOSEA-ZEPHANIAH** (9 in all). These were written during the times of the kings (i.e. I & II Samuel, I & II Kings & I & II Chronicles), some wrote & prophesied to the northern kingdom, others to the southern.
- B. No minor prophet wrote during the time of the Babylonian captivity.
- C. **HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI.** These three prophets wrote when the Jews returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. **So these books and prophets were contemporaneous with individuals and events in Ezra & Nehemiah.** So read them together. This is the end of the OT! After this there were 400 “*silent years,*” then birth of John the Baptist & then the birth of Jesus Christ!