

"It's All about God"

Old Testament Introduction

Why Study the Old Testament?

1. Romans 15:4

_____, _____, comfort, _____

2. Major reason: We learn about God! He is the central Figure.

Facts about the Old Testament

Major language: _____

Number of writers: _____

Time period covered: _____

(from creation through _____)

How to Divide the Old Testament

Five divisions as we have the Old Testament ordered:

1. Books of _____ (Genesis-Deuteronomy)

2. Books of _____ (Joshua-Esther)

3. Books of _____ (Job-Song of Solomon)

4. Major Prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)

5. Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)

Notice that the Old Testament is NOT arranged chronologically. Rather, it is basically arranged by the type of literature.

The Jews had three divisions: Law, Prophets, and _____.

(see Matthew 22:40 and Luke 11:51 for examples of this)

Literary Styles in the Old Testament

Narrative prose

Over half the Old Testament is straightforward prose, and can be read as such. Most of the accounts we were taught as children (David and Goliath, the flood, etc.) fit this style, as do the laws and much of history.

Poetry

Hebrew poetry is not like English poetry. Poets were not concerned with _____

Instead, they were concerned with rhythm (or feel) and imagery

Key is "parallelism" (see Psalm 36:5 and Proverbs 11:1 for examples)

***To the Hebrew mind, prose and poetry are closely related. Basically, one switches to "poetry" from prose when he/she starts using image-based language.

Major Themes in the Old Testament

God's Power and Sovereign Nature

Man's _____

Redemption

_____ (God's and the need for man's)

Law vs. Grace

The coming Messiah

“By studying carefully the events and the lives of the Old Testament record, we gain information and encouragement which contribute to steadfastness and comfort. We can learn what they did that was right, and what they did that was wrong. We can learn of their trials, their problems, their sorrows, their joys, their disappointments. We can learn how they overcame and how God blessed them.” (Roy C. Deaver)

Purpose/Approach of Our Study

Purpose:

1. NOT a textual or in-depth study. (Not verse-by-verse or even chapter-by-chapter)
 2. Purpose is to overview each book quickly to see:
 - (a) Major themes
 - (b) Major people and events
 - (c) Outline of the book
 - (d) Attributes and characteristics of God
 - (e) The unfolding of God's redemptive plan, ultimately brought by Jesus
- *Each week's handout will reflect these five areas, as they apply to the book of study.

Approach:

One book per week is our goal, though we may take 2 weeks for some longer books. Each book will be accompanied with a short handout to help you study further and review.

**If we fail to see God in these books,
we have failed our purpose,
because it's all about God!**