

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 10 – Review and Back to the OT
Valley Bible Church Adult Sunday School
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Divisions of the OT

Old Testament (39)							
History (17)			Poetry (5)	Prophecy (17)			
				Major (5)		Minor (12)	
Pentateuch (5)	Pre-Exilic (9)	Post-Exilic (3)		Pre-Exilic (2)	Exilic (3)	Pre-Exilic (9)	Post-Exilic (3)
Genesis	Joshua	Ezra	Job	Isaiah	Lamentations	Hosea	Haggai
Exodus	Judges	Nehemiah	Psalms	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Joel	Zechariah
Leviticus	Ruth	Esther	Proverbs		Daniel	Amos	Malachi
Numbers	1 Samuel		Ecclesiastes			Obadiah	
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel		Song of Sol			Jonah	
	1 Kings					Micah	
	2 Kings					Nahum	
	1 Chron					Habakkuk	
	2 Chron					Zephaniah	

Purpose of the OT according to the NT

There are several reasons given in the NT for the OT.

1. To lead us to Christ (Gal 3:24).
2. To show that faith is the requirement for entering into a relationship with God (Rom 4:22-25).
3. To give us examples and instruction for sanctification, perseverance, and encouragement (1 Cor 10:6; Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11).

The Pentateuch (Law)

The first five books of the OT are called the Pentateuch (Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, and Deut). These five historical books cover the period from the creation of the universe to the death of Moses just before Israel entered the Promised Land. Each of the last four books begins with a conjunction (now, then) indicating that they were probably one single book or one account of God's purpose, plan, and participation in fulfilling His desire to have a personal relationship with man.

Genesis

In Genesis, we see God creating the universe “ex nihilo”. God chooses the nation of Israel through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (12:2) and promises to give it the land of Canaan. The reasons for bondage include salvation from famine (chap 41-50) and salvation from corruption by the idol worshippers (chap 34 – Dinah / chap 38 – Judah and Tamar). The result is found in 50:20.

Outline:

- I. Primeval History (1:1-11:9)
 - A. Creation (Chapters 1-2)
 - B. The Fall (Chapters 3-4)
 - C. The Flood (Chapters 5-9)
 - D. Tower of Babel (Chapters 10-11)
- II. Patriarchal History (11:10-50)
 - A. Abraham (Chapters 11-25)
 - B. Isaac (Chapters 17, 22, 24-27)
 - C. Jacob (Chapters 25-36)
 - D. Joseph (Chapters 37-50)

Exodus

Genesis ends with the death of Joseph. This spells bad news for the newly born nation of Israel. In the 400 plus years between the books of Genesis and Exodus, the patriarchal family of 70 became a people of between two and three million (Ex 1:7). The sojourn in Egypt fulfills a prophesy in Gen 15 that there would be at least 400 years of affliction in a strange land. In Exodus God delivers His people from oppression in Egypt (1-12), separates the nation from their pursuing enemies and separates them unto Himself with the giving of the Law (13-24), and sanctifies them by giving them the tabernacle (25-40). The story of Moses and the children of Israel is a story of grace, mercy, and redemption. Moses' life is broken down into 40-year increments: 1) 40 years in Pharaoh's palace; 2) 40 years in the desert school in Midian; and 3) 40 years in wilderness leadership.

Outline

- I. God's People Saved From Bondage
 - A. The nation in bondage (1:1-22)
 - B. God's Man (Chapters 2-4)
 1. Birth in Egypt (2:1-10)
 2. Call in Midian (2:11-4:17)
 3. Back in Egypt (4:18-4:31)
 - C. God's Might (Chapters 5-12)
 1. Moses vs. Pharaoh (5:1-11:10)
 2. Passover(12:1-28)
 3. Exodus (12:29-50)
- II. God's People Separated from Enemies
 - A. Separated From Enemies (Chapters 13-19)
 1. Consecration of Firstborn (13:1-16)
 2. Crossing of the Red Sea (13:17-14:31)
 3. Contest of Wills (15:1-18:27)
 - a. Bitter waters of Marah – Grumbling – Waters made sweet (15:21-25)
 - b. Food – Grumbling - Manna and quail (Ex 16:1-36)
 - c. Water shortage – Grumbling – Moses strikes rock and water comes out (Ex 17:1-7)
 - d. Israel prevails over Amalek as Aaron and Hur hold up Moses' hands (Ex 17:8-16)
 - e. Jethro gives logistical advice on judging. (Ex 18:1-27)
 - B. Separated Unto God (Chapters 19-24)
 1. Mt. Sinai (19:1-25)
 2. Ten Commandments (20)
 3. Practical Law (21-24)
- III. God's People Sanctified Unto God
 - A. Directions from God Concerning the Tabernacle (25-31)
 - B. Disobedience to God (32-35)
 1. The Golden Calf (32:1-6)
 2. Moses Intercedes for the People (32:7-35)
 3. The Promise of God's Presence (33)
 4. New Tablets and Renewed Covenant (34)
 - C. Dedication to God (35-40)
 1. Gifts Received for Tabernacle (35:1-36:7)
 2. Tabernacle Built and Priest's Garments Made (36:8-39:43)
 3. Tabernacle Erected (40)

Leviticus

Leviticus is the worship manual of Israel. Leviticus presents the way to God as by sacrifice (chap 1-10 – Atonement mentioned 45 times) and the walk with God as by sanctification (chap 11-27 – Holiness 87 times). It lays out in detail the proper form for such things as the sacrifices, the priesthood, and Israel's holy days. In his book, *Exploring the Scriptures*, John Philips says, "In Exodus we see how God gets His people out of Egypt. In Leviticus we see how God gets Egypt out of the people." All of Leviticus and the first 10 chapters of Numbers occurred between the first day of the first month (following the erection and God's filling of the tabernacle at the end of Exodus) and the twentieth day of the second month (departure from Sinai at end of Leviticus). Just 50 days! Historically there are only four events recorded in Leviticus: 1) Receiving of the Laws; 2) Consecration of Aaron and his sons; 3) Death of Nadab and Abihu; and 4) Stoning of a blasphemer.

Outline:

Section 1 – The Way to God – Sacrifice (Chapters 1-10)

- I. The Laws of Offerings (Chapters 1-7)
 - A. Sweet Savor Offerings (1-3) – Offerings of voluntary obedience.
 1. The Burnt Offering (1)
 2. The Meal Offering (2)
 3. The Peace Offering (3)
 - B. Other Offerings (4-5) – These were acts of repentance to deal with sin.
 1. The Sin Offering (4, 5)
 2. The Trespass Offering (5, 6)
 - C. Regulations – Recap of the offerings and specific guidelines on the manner of the offering (6-7)
- II. The Laws of Consecration (Chapters 8-10)
 - A. Consecration of Priests (8)
 - B. Ministry of Priests (9)
 - C. Restrictions on priests – Swift judgment on Nadab and Abihu for offering “strange fire” (10)

Section 2 – The walk with God – Sanctification (Chapters 11-27)

- I. The Laws of Holiness (Chapters 11-15 and 18-22)
 - Food and Hygiene (11-15) – Diet, purification of women and diseased persons, rules about blood.
- II. Laws of Atonement (Chapter 16) – Why a special day? What is it? The day's events.
- III. Application of Commandments and Priests Standards (17-22)
 - Application of Commandments – Practical applications of laws and punishments for disobedience: Laws regarding sacrifices and eating blood; laws regarding sexual immorality; various laws regarding idolatry, family relationships, interpersonal relationships, the occult, and the poor; and the penalties for breaking the laws (17-20)
 - A. Priests' Standards (21-22)
- IV. The Laws of Holidays (Chapter 23)
 - Festivals: 1) Sabbath (23:3); 2) Passover (23:4-5); 3) Unleavened Bread (23:6-8); 4) First Fruits (23:9-14); 5) Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) (23:15-21); 6) Feast of Trumpets (23:23-25); 7) Day of Atonement (23:26-32); 8) Feast of Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering) (23:33-44)
- V. The Laws of Sabbaths (Chapters 24:1-25:7)
 - A. The Penalty for Blasphemy (24)
 - B. Seventh Year Rest For Land (25:1-7)
 - C. Seventh Year Rest For People
- VI. The Laws of Jubilee (25:8-55)
 - A. The Fiftieth Year
 - B. Provision
- VII. The Blessings of Obedience; The Penalty for Disobedience (26)
- VIII. Instructions on the Use of Vows (27)

Numbers

In Genesis, we saw the election of God's people; in Exodus, we saw their redemption; in Leviticus, we saw their sanctification; in Numbers, we see their direction given by God. Between Exodus (12 months after the departure from Egypt) and Numbers, about a month passes and the book of Leviticus takes place. In contrast, the events recounted in Numbers take about 38 years. Numbers gets its name from the first census (numbering) in the first chapter and the second census in chapter 26. The book begins with the movement of the camp and Tabernacle from Mt. Sinai (13 months after the Exodus) and continues through 38 years of wandering in the wilderness.

This is the journey from Sinai to Moab, on the border of Canaan. It is interesting to notice that the distance between Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea is 150 to 200 miles, about an 11 day journey according to Deut 1:2. Then they spent 40 years on a journey ending up back where they started, in Kadesh-Barnea. Why? Unbelief! They refused to go in and take the Promised Land. One supreme message of Numbers is that unbelief in following God will lead to frustration and lack of progress in our lives. One thing to remember about the Book of Numbers throughout this study is: God had a perfect and direct way through the wilderness to bring His people immediate possession of the Promised Land. Unbelief robbed His people of that pleasure. From beginning, almost to the end, it is pervaded by a spirit of rebellion, which grieved God. Numbers is organized according to the two censuses: the old generation (1-19) and the new generation (19-36).

Outline:

- I. Old Generation (1-19)
 - A. Fitted (1-9:14)
 - 1. Counted and Camped (1-4)
 - 2. Cleansed and Consecrated (5-9:14)
 - B. Forward (9:15-10:36)
 - 1. God Leads (9:15-10:10)
 - 2. People Follow (10:11-10:36)
 - C. Failure En Route to Kadesh-Barnea (11-12)
 - 1. Failure of the People – Grumbling and complaining (11:1-9)
 - 2. Failure of Moses – Grumbling and complaining (11:10-15)
 - 3. God Provides for Moses and the People – Quail and disobedience (11:16-35)
 - 4. Failure of Miriam and Aaron – Pride (12:1-16)
 - D. Failure at Kadesh-Barnea (13-16)
 - 1. Sent Twelve Spies (13)
 - 2. Delay of Blessing (14 and 15)
 - 3. Leadership questioned – Korah rebellion (16)
 - 4. Priesthood Re-affirmed (17-19)
- II. New Generation (20-36)
 - A. Rehearsing the Past (20)
 - 1. Murmuring and Miracles (20:1-6)
 - 2. Moses' Mistake – Striking rock instead of speaking (did not believe God) (20:7-13)
 - B. Grasping the Present (20:14-27:11)
 - 1. Physical and Spiritual Victories – Grumbling and serpents then victories in battles, Balaam (21-25)
 - 2. New Census, New Hope (26:1-27:11)
 - C. Previewing the Future (27:12-36)
 - 1. Leadership (27:12-23)
 - 2. Laws – Laws of Offerings, Laws of Feasts, and Laws of Vows are reiterated(28-30)
 - 3. Land – Allotments (31-36)

Deuteronomy

The Book of Deuteronomy consists of a series of addresses by Moses just before he died. Moses gave these discourses on the east of the Jordan just before the people entered the Promised Land. The nation makes final preparation to enter the land with Moses being careful not to let them forget and repeat their earlier mistakes. Moses reminds them of their history (1-4); reminds them of how to love and obey God (5-26); and then looks to the future of Israel (27-34). The adult generation that experienced the redemption from Egypt is now dead. Only Joshua, Caleb, and Moses are left. The nation now stands on the border of the Promised Land where they had made the wrong decision 40 years earlier and now face the same obstacles. This time Moses would prepare his people to successfully enter, take it, and live in it. When first Israel stood at Kadesh-Barnea they heard reports of giants, walled cities, powerful armies, and they were terrified. Now, in the shadows of those same obstacles Moses wants to make sure history does not repeat itself so he points back to their failures and God's faithfulness and ultimate purpose.

Outline:

- I. The Preamble (1:1-5)
- II. Historical (Retrospective) (1:6-4:49)
 - A. The Journey Reviewed (1:6-3:29)
 1. Moses' Failure (1:6-18)
 2. The People's Failure (1:19-45)
 3. Holding at Kadesh-Barnea (1:46)
 4. Conquest of Eastern Lands (East of Jordan) (2:1-3:17)
 5. Contemplation of Western Land (West of Jordan) (3:18-29)
 - B. Moses Speaks of the Law (4)
 1. They are to "observe the laws carefully"
 - a. So they will be blessed
 - b. To serve as an example to the world
 2. They are to avoid idolatry
 3. The Lord is God, proven
- III. Legislative (Introspective) (5-26)
 - A. Moses presents the Ten Commandments (5)
 - B. Moses Gives the Means of Communicating the Truth (6)
 - C. Moses Speaks of the Lord and His grace (7-8)
 - D. Moses Speaks of the Land (9-11)
 - E. Laws for Settling the New Land (12-18)
 1. Purity – Centralized worship; avoiding idol worship; clean / unclean food and tithing (12-14)
 2. Property – providing for the poor (15)
 3. Piety – Relationship to God and holy living: feasts and offerings (16:1-17)
 4. Positions – Judges, court system, Messiah, false prophets (16:18-18:22)
 - F. Laws for Separation in the New Land (19-26)
 1. Protection – Cities of Refuge, punishments for criminal acts, military rules(19-20)
 2. Relationships – Personal laws (21-25)
 3. Priorities – First fruits (26)
- IV. Prophetical (Prospective) (27-34)
 - A. Near Future – Provision for monuments and Mt. Ebal / Mt. Gerizin blessings and curses (27-30)
 - B. Moses the Statesman – Joshua commissioned (31)
 - C. Moses the Singer (32)
 - D. Moses the Seer – Blesses each tribe (33)
 - E. Moses the Saint – Sees the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo then taken home (34)

Joshua

When we turn to the Book of Joshua, we have left the first block of OT books, the Pentateuch, and we move into the second block consisting of books of history. In Genesis God brings about the birth of Israel (Gen 12:2) and promises to give it the land of Canaan. In Exodus He delivers His people from oppression in Egypt, gives them the Law, and leads them to the Promised Land (they fail to enter). In Leviticus, He gives them a way to come to Him (the sacrifice offerings) and away to keep right with Him (the special events). In Numbers, Israel is organized and journeys across the desert and up to the very gates of Canaan again. In Deuteronomy, they make final preparation to enter the land with Moses being careful not to let them repeat their earlier mistakes. Joshua then is the historical account of the claiming (1-5), conquest (6-12) [central campaign (6-8); southern campaign (9-10), and northern campaign (11)], and division (12-24) of the Promised Land. Joshua commands the people's faithfulness to their personal and national relationship to their Lord.

Joshua was forty when he left Egypt with his people in the Exodus. He led Israel in battle against Amalek (Ex 17:9-14). He was a faithful servant of Moses who waited for him at Mt. Sinai (Ex 24:13; 32:17; 33:11). He was one of the twelve sent into the Promised Land as a spy (Num 13, 14; 26:56; 32:12). He was 80 years old when he received his commission from God (Num 27:15-23; Deut 31:7, 8; 34:9). Joshua lived to be 110 years old (Josh 24:29). He was a man of: faith (Num 14); courage (Josh 1); loyalty (Ex 33); obedience (Josh 11); and commitment (Josh 24).

Outline:

- I. Claiming the Land (1-5) – Faith believes (1); counts (2); acts (3); increases (4); and pays (5)
- II. Conquering the Land (6-11)
 - A. The Central Campaign (6-8)
 1. Victory through Faith – Jericho (6)
 2. Defeat through Sin of Achan – Ai (7)
 3. Victory through purging of Sin and Restoration (8)
 - B. The Southern Campaign (9-10)
 1. Alliance with Gibeon (9) (The Gibeonite deception)
 2. War Against the Five Kings (10:1-27) – Hail and long day
 3. Other Conquests (10:28-43) – One after another, the other cities of the south fall to Israel.
 - C. The Northern Campaign (11)
- III. Colonizing the Land (12-22)
 - A. Declaring the Spoils of Victory (12)
 - B. Dividing the Spoils of Victory (13-21)
 - C. Dedicating the Spoils of Victory (22)
- IV. Joshua's Farewell Addresses (23-24)
 - A. Joshua to the Leaders (23)
 - B. Joshua to the Nation (24:1-28)
 - C. The Deaths (23-24)

Judges

The Book of Judges gets its name from the civil leaders God raised up to deliver Israel from its oppressors. Judges covers the historical period of ~350 years between Joshua and the creation of a monarchy under Saul. This was a turbulent and tragic time in Jewish history described by the phrase, "the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD." The book is outlined as: Israel's wars (1-2); Israel's woes (3-16) which are six cycles of rebellion, subjection, repentance, and restoration; and Israel's evil ways (17-21) of apostasy, immorality, and anarchy. There were fourteen Judges involved in seven cycles (or six depending on how the book is outlined). All of the judges had some defect, odd characteristic, or handicap that God used. The Judges reveal that God can use any man or woman who is willing to be used.

Outline:

- I. Israel's Wars (Chapters 1-2)
 - A. The Tribe of Judah (1:1-21)
 1. Promise of victory (1:1-18)
 2. Peril of incomplete victory (1:19-21)
 - B. The House of Joseph (1:22-3)
 1. Promise of victory (1:22-26)
 2. Peril of incomplete victory (1:27-2)
- II. Israel's Woes (Chapters 3-16) – Six Cycles of Subjection
 1. Mesopotamians / Othniel (3:7-11)
 2. Moabites, Ammonites, and Amalikites / Ehud the assassin (3:12-30) then Shamgar (3:31)
 3. Canaanites / Deborah and Barak (4 and 5)
 4. Midianites / Gideon the coward (6-8)
Intermission with Abimelech (9:1-10:5) then Tola and Jair
 5. Ammorites / Jephthah the impulsive (10:6-12)
 6. Philistines / Samson the proud (13-16)
- III. Israel's Ways (Chapters 17-21)
 - A. Religious Apostasy / Idolatry (17-18)
 - B. Immorality (19)
 - C. Political Anarchy (20-21)

Ruth

The book of Judges describes a bleak period in Israel's history – particularly the last five chapters that contain some of the ugliest stories in the Bible: tales of homosexual assault, idolatry, civil war, thievery, rape, and murder. No enemy does all this; Israelites do it to each other. The book of Ruth is set against this background. The Book of Ruth gets its name from its heroine, Ruth, the Moabite. Her devotion to God and love for her family has made her a favorite among all the many characters in Scripture.

Outline:

- I. Ruth's Choice of Faith (Chapter 1)
 - A. The Setting (1:1-5)
 - B. Ruth's Dilemma (1:6-18)
 - C. Ruth's Destiny (1:19-22)
- II. Ruth's Challenge in Faith (Chapter 2)
 - A. Ruth's "Chance" Meeting (2:1-3)
 - B. Ruth's Care Managed (1:4-23)
- III. Ruth's Claim by Faith (Chapter 3)
 - A. Ruth's Obedience (3:1-11)
 - B. Ruth's Trust (3:12-18)
- IV. Ruth's Reward for Her Faith (Chapter 4)
 - A. Ruth's Redemption (4:1-12)
 - B. Ruth's Rest (4:13-22)