

Introduction to the OT

Code: 7/OT/1

1. General Aims of the unit

Better Understanding of the "Old Testament" and to look at it as the introduction to the New Testament

2. Special aims of the lesson

- I. Understand the main aim of the OT and God's plan for Salvation
2. Have a brief about the history of the chosen people (the Jews) as it is related to the books of the OT.
3. Know the total number of books in the OT and the main subdivisions of these books .
4. Understand the difference between the Hebrews OT and the Greek OT (Septuagint) and the first canonical books and the second canonical books.
- 5 The writers of the OT books and the time of collection of these books together.

3.Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:

1. Recite the main theme of the OT and relates it to the Salvation of Jesus Christ.
2. Name the subdivisions of the OT and the books in each division and the main theme of each subdivision and the writers of the books .
3. Discuss the reasons behind the difference in the number of the books in the Hebrews OT and the Greek OT (Septuagint)
4. Put details to a time scale map of the Jewish nation

4. Verses :

1. 2Tim. 3:15-17
2. 2Pet. 1:20-21

5. References : Attached notes [Better understanding of the OT , the history of the Jews]

The delivery of the lesson depends on the level of teens . It is suggested that the teens divided into groups , each collect the data from the net in a form of project with a presentation to the whole class . Rewords may be presented to the best project.

Introduction:

The Holy Bible is the word of God to mankind...and when we read it we know God's purpose in our life. It is important to understand that there is **a personal message** from God to every one of us in every passage we read in the Holy Bible, despite the widely different topics of these passages. And the messages change to suit the particular circumstances that the person is facing. These messages include knowledge, prophecy, comfort and guidance. They expose the desires and pleasures of the inner person. They motivate the will in the direction of goodness, sanctification and repentance. And, in brief, **they give life**, strength, hope and faith.

If you approach the word of God in this spirit ... and in readiness to receive the word of God ... and obedience to God's commandments ... surrendering your heart to the work of the word ... the Holy Bible will become the partner of your life and its light until the last hour.

We will try in this message and in forthcoming ones to introduce a simple syllabus to help you to read the word of God, understanding it and become enlightened by its light. To follow an organized program in our studies, we shall start by a brief outline of the books of the Holy Bible, followed by general comments on the Old Testament.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Holy Bible

It contains 73 books written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit over a period of more than 15 centuries. These books are divided into two testaments:

1) **The Old Testament:** Includes the history of creation, the fall and corruption of mankind, and the establishment of a covenant between God and man in preparation to save mankind from their corrupt state. The Old Testament covers the period from the creation till the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior and the King. The Old Testament consists of 46 books. These books are again divided into:

a- The first canonical books, which are 39 books collected by Ezra the priest in one volume

b- The second canonical books (Deuterocanonical or Apocryphal), which are seven in addition to the completion of the books of Daniel and Esther.

2) **The New Testament:** The New Testament consists of 27 books.

II. The Main Sections Of The Old Testament

1) **The Five Books of Moses** (from Genesis to Deuteronomy): Also called the Pentateuch, Torah or the covenant. They correspond to the four gospels in the New Testament. These books describe the beginning of human history dealing with God...the failure of the human race...until his arrival to the gates of the Promised Land. Whereas these books declare the need for a savior to free the human race from bondage, the gospels in the New Testament reveal this savior, who is the desire of all nations, and take us into the true Promised Land.

- 2) **The Historic Books (from Joshua to Esther):** These books present the chronicles of the work of God with His people from before the period of the kings (period of Joshua and the Judges) until the captivity in Babylon. The corresponding book in the New Testament (The book of the Acts of the Apostles, “Praxis”) presents Jesus Christ as the judge and king who does not request an earthly kingdom. It also presents His disciples declaring the only savior (Joshua vs. Jesus), and warning against sin that leads to devil’s captivity.

- 3) **Poetic, Edification or Wisdom Books** (from Job to the Song of Solomon): They present practical teachings for living with God, teachings which help us throughout the present life. The corresponding books of the New Testament (the Epistles: the Pauline and Catholic) present the Christian life with the Father in His Son through the Holy Spirit as a true foretaste of eternal life in heaven.

- 4) **Prophetic Books** (From Isaiah to Malachi): These books came in a spiritually dark period, calling people to repentance and preaching a glorious vision of the Messiah, Christ the Savior. The corresponding book in the New Testament, Revelation, encourages us to keep up our struggle expecting the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

III. General Comments On The Old Testament

- 1) **Jesus is the center** of the two Testaments. He appears in the Old Testament behind the scenes and the events and in symbols and through holy men. For example:
 - ☉ At the creation of man, God said, “Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26).
 - ☉ Isaac carries the wood (the cross) on his way to death as a burnt offering (redemption) but he returns alive (resurrection).
 - ☉ Joseph saves the world from starvation and death (salvation) in the Old Testament.
 - ☉ Moses and Joshua lead the Israelites from slavery to freedom.
 - ☉ The Passover and sacrifices as a method to escape death and receive forgiveness.

- 2) **The Holy Bible is one book**, and the Holy Spirit has inspired the writing of the two Testaments. The New Testament complements the Old Testament and sees the men of the Old Testament as heroes of faith (Hebrews 11). They are the people that hoped for salvation and resurrection of the dead. In the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus (Matthew 17:1-8).

- 3) **The Law** was the means to discover man’s sin, and a helper for him to look ahead to the savior (Galatians 3:24). It successfully accomplished these purposes during the period of spiritual childhood of mankind until the coming of the “fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4) declaring Jesus Christ the Savior who gives new life and grants liberty, and proclaiming the age of the generous grace for every one who accepts.

- 4) **The sons of Israel** are the people whom God has entrusted with the seed of faith in order to prepare a field for the continuation of the work of God, i.e. the salvation of all people and the spread of the kingdom of heaven when His Son arrives in the “fullness of time”.

Conclusion:

We leave you in the hands of the Holy Spirit that He might guide you to God's purpose in what you read, and guide your steps to its depth to gain the spiritual experience. The interaction with the word is a continuously renewed field, in which the heroes of faith become alive among us, and the past in flesh becomes the present in the Spirit, through Him.