

Suggested Course Syllabus Outline for Old Testament Survey

Course Description: An overview study that focuses on the major themes of the Old Testament. These include God's plan for man's redemption through the Messiah and God's covenant relationship with the nation of Israel. The course studies the lives of outstanding characters of the Old Testament and God's dealing with both righteous and sinful people. The messages of the prophets present timeless truths about God, His plan for the redemption of man, and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will know the main divisions of the Old Testament and how each part relates to the whole.
2. The student will know the main themes of each book in the OT.
3. The student will learn how to teach and preach from the main divisions of the OT.
4. The student will understand the significance of the key people in the OT.
5. The student will know the historical background of the OT time period.
6. The student will learn how to apply the Bible in their personal lives.

Course Procedure:

1. The timeline of the OT
2. Historical background of the OT
3. Different categories of the books of the OT, eg Pentateuch, Historical Books, Writings and Prophets.
5. Overview of each book of the OT, its themes, key verses and importance.

Suggested Course Requirements: (What should a teacher expect a student to do?)

- a. Attend all classes and participate in discussion
- b. Take midterm and final exam.
- c. Parts of the Old Testament shall be read in conjunction with our class. (Outside of class time) | The teacher needs to assign particular parts before class time to be read.
- d. Write one page inductive Bible Studies from 5 different passages. Write in paragraph form. Make observations, interpretations and applications from the passage. Choose 5-10 verses in one chapter that focus on one theme. Do one Bible Study from one chapter in each of the following books: 1) Pentateuch 2) Historical Books 3) Writings (Psalm, Job, or Proverbs) 4) Major Prophets 5) Minor Prophets.
- e. Memorize Exodus 20:1-17 and the 10 key scriptures listed below. You will write them on your final exam.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Exodus 3:5-6 | 6. Isaiah 40:30-31 |
| 2. Exodus 19:2 | 7. Jeremiah 29:11 |
| 3. Deut. 6:4-6 | 8. Jonah 2:9 |
| 4. Joshua 1:8 | 9. Micah 6:8 |
| 5. II Chronicles 7:14 | 10. Zechariah 4:6 |

Suggested Grading:

60%-Tests, Give Exam #1, 2 and 3. Each are worth 20%.
10%-Reading of the Old Testament in conjunction with the class
30%- Five one page papers.

Suggested Course Text(s): (Hebron Texts ?)

The Bible

**OT Survey
Introduction**

Content of the Old Testament

Lesson # 1- Historical Background of the Old Testament

Lesson # 2- Genesis

Lesson # 3- Exodus and Leviticus

Lesson # 4- Number, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges

Lesson # 5- Ruth and I and II Samuel

Lesson # 6- I and II Kings

Lesson # 7- I and II Chronicles and Ezra

Lesson # 8- Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

Lesson # 9- Introduction to The Prophets

Lesson # 10- The Major Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson # 11- Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea and Joel

Lesson # 12- Amos, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah

Lesson # 13- Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Haggai

Lesson # 14- Zechariah and Malachi

**OT Survey
Lesson 1**

Historical Background of the Old Testament

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the Timeline, key themes and parts of the Old Testament

Main Points:

- The Timeline of the OT.
- The Main divisions of the OT
- The Main themes of the OT

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the key events and persons in the OT and when they happened/lived.
- The student will know the main themes of the OT.
- The student will know the divisions in the OT.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give students Handout #1

2100 BC	1850 BC	1446 BC	1000 BC	930 BC	722 BC	586 BC	538 BC	516 BC	458 BC	432 BC	430 BC
Abraham	Jacob moves to Egypt	The Exodus	King David	Kingdom Divides	Israel falls to Assyria	Judah falls to Babylon	Jews return from Exile	2nd temple rebuilt	Ezra returns	Nehemiah rebuilds wall	Malachi

I. The Old Testament timeline. This helps the student to know the dates when the main events of the OT happened.

OT Timeline- the following are possible dates, but some of the dates are debatable. From NIV Study Bible.

* = estimated dates

A. 2200-1800 BC The Patriarchs- Abraham-Joseph

- 2166 BC * Abraham born
- 2066 BC * Isaac born
- 2006 BC * Jacob and Esau born
- 1898 BC * Joseph sold into Egypt
- 1805 BC * Joseph dies

B. 1800-1400 BC * - Israelites in Egypt

- 1526 BC- Moses born
- 1446 BC- Exodus begins

C. 1375-1050 BC- Time of the Judges

D. 1050-930 BC The Kingdom of Israel (before the kingdom divided)

- 1050-1010 BC -Saul Ruled
- 1010-970 BC- David ruled
- 970-930 BC Solomon ruled

E. 930 BC - The Kingdom Divides into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah)

F. 722 BC- Fall of Northern Kingdom to the Assyrian army. The 10 tribes of Israel disappeared and never returned from exile.

G. 587/6 BC Fall of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon. Jerusalem was finally conquered by the Babylonians and the temple was destroyed. But the Babylonians attacked and took people into exile three different times, in 605 BC Daniel and his friends were taken into exile, in 597 BC when Ezekiel

went into exile and in 587 BC when the temple was destroyed. Disobedience and especially the sin of idolatry led to the exile.

H. 539BC- The Persians conquered the Babylonians

I. **538 BC**- Return from exile- Cyrus the Persian issues the decree that the Jews should return to Jerusalem and build their temple.

J. 538-516 BC. Temple Rebuilt

538 BC- Foundation of temple is laid- First group returns to Jerusalem from exile under Zerubbabel – building stops.

520 BC-Temple rebuilding begins again

516 BC- 2nd temple is finished-70 years after Solomon's temple was destroyed in 586 BC.

K. 458 BC- 2nd group returns under Ezra

L. 432 BC- Last group returns under Nehemiah- wall around Jerusalem is built

M. 440-430 BC Malachi ministers

N. 430- 00 BC. The inter-testamental period. The Time between the end of the OT and the events of the NT.

II. Intro to OT- The OT gives us the background for the NT. Remember that Jesus and His original disciples were Jews, with roots tied to the OT. For the NT believers their scripture was the OT. There are over 600 references to the OT in the NT. When Paul went to a city to evangelize he started in the synagogue (Jewish worship centre) and he preached about Christ but he used the OT to show that Jesus was the one the OT prophets were pointing toward. The history of the OT is found in the 1st 17 books of the OT. It begins with creation and gives the history of the Jews beginning with Abraham in Gen 12. It ends with the story of the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem under Nehemiah around 450 BC. The OT tells the story of God's revelation to man especially through the Jewish people. In our Bible there are 39 OT books.

A. The Themes of the OT

1. The OT reveals to us who God is

a. God is the creator of the heavens and the earth

b. God is a personal God who has chosen to reveal Himself to man.

c. God is a holy God who is totally righteous and without any sin

d. God is a just God who punishes sin/disobedience

e. God is a loving God who is merciful to His people

2. God has chosen to reveal Himself through one nation/people

a. God chose Abraham to be the father of God's chosen people

b. God has chosen to reveal Himself to the Gentile world through the Jewish people

c. God raised up prophets to teach and rebuke His people

d. God promised to raise up a Messiah through the Jewish people to save his people from their sins

3. The OT reveals the sinful nature of man

a. Man sinned at the beginning

b. God's chosen people failed to live holy lives and sinned.

c. The law revealed man's sin but could not cure man from sin.

d. The wages of sin is death, destruction and separation from God for individuals and the nation of Israel.

4. God has chosen to have a relationship with man through a covenant. God made a covenant with Noah not to destroy the earth again by water, with Abraham to make of him a great nation and with David to give him a dynasty that would last forever. The Old Testament is about God's covenant with Israel, the people of God. The mark of the covenant is circumcision.

5. The OT reveals that God promises hope and restoration for God's people

a. Through the coming of the Messiah

b. Through the coming of the Holy Spirit

c. Someday on the Day of Yahweh everything will be made right, the unrighteous will be punished and the righteous will be blessed.

B. OT History

1. The beginning of earth and man- Genesis 1-11.

2. The beginning of Abraham and his descendants- through Joseph, Genesis 12-50

3. The beginning of the nation of Israel and their exodus from Egypt into the Promised Land - Exodus- Deut.

4. Entering and Conquering the Promised Land - Joshua- Ruth.
5. The united kingdom- Kings Saul, David and Solomon, I & II Samuel, I Chronicles; 2 Chronicles 1-9, I Kings 1-11.
6. The Divided Kingdom of Israel (Northern) Kingdom and Judah (Southern Kingdom) I Kings 12- 2 Kings 25, 2 Chronicles 10-36.
7. The postexilic era – Ezra, Esther and Nehemiah-.

C. The Prophets- they prophesied during the time of Israel’s history from the beginning of the exodus until the last prophet Malachi.

1. Non Writing prophets- Elijah and Elisha
2. Former prophets- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations written by Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel
3. Latter prophets- 12 “minor” prophets

D. Divisions of the OT

1. Pentateuch- Five Books of Moses or the Law (Torah)
2. Historical Books- 12 in all. Joshua- Nehemiah.
 - a. Tribal government- Joshua, Judges and Ruth
 - b. Rise and Fall of the Monarchy- I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles
 - c. The Return from Exile- Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther
3. Wisdom and Poetical Books/ The writings-Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon
4. Major Prophets- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel
5. Minor Prophets- the 12.

E. Jewish Division of Scriptures.

1. The Hebrew scriptures were divided into three parts- the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Writings). Luke 24:44.
2. They contained 24 books, the same material that we have listed above under D-divisions of the OT but organized in a different way.
 - a. Law of Moses or Torah- First five books of the OT. The Pentateuch, Law or Torah- the first 5 books of the OT, were written by Moses.
 - b. The Prophets
 - i) The Former Prophets-4- Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (both of the latter two are considered one book)
 - ii) The latter prophets- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 minor prophets. (the 12 were considered one book)
 - c. The Writings
 - i) Poetical- Psalms, Proverbs and Job
 - ii) Five Rolls- Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther
 - iii) Historical- Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the book of Genesis

Main Points:

- The book of the beginnings
- The story of Abraham
- The story of Jacob
- The story of Joseph.

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the two main divisions of Genesis.
- The student will know the basic life and key events in the lives of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give students Handout #2
- Teach lesson #2 as outlined.

Genesis-The Beginning

I. Outline of Genesis

A. 1-11- The Beginning of the World

1. 1-2:25- Creation
2. 3:1-6:10 The Fall of man because of sin and the results of that sin.
3. 6:11-8:19- The Flood
4. 8:20- 11:32- The new beginning with Noah

B. 12-50- The Beginning of the Jewish Race

1. 12:1-25:18- Story of Abraham
2. 26- Isaac
3. 27-36- Jacob
4. 37:1- 50:26- Joseph

II. Key Ideas/People in Genesis

A. Abraham- the father of the Jews.

1. His background. Abraham emigrated from Ur of the Chaldeans (the Tigris-Euphrates valley) to Palestine because God called him. Abraham was a wealthy man.
2. The man of faith. He is known as a great man of faith and the father of the Jews. Even the Arabs (Moslems) trace their history back to him through Ishmael.
3. The promise of a son. God promised Abraham a son but Abraham had to wait 25 years before Isaac, the promised son, was born.
4. The human effort for sonship.
 - i) When Sarah did not conceive, Abraham thought about making his servant Eliezer his promised son. God said no.
 - ii) Abraham had a child through Hagar, Sarah's maid- Ishmael. Abraham thought he would be the promised son, but again God said no, Ishmael would not be the promised son. Eventually Hagar and Ishmael left Abraham's family. Ishmael is the father of the Arabs.
5. The Promised son. Isaac was the promised son, born to Abraham when he was 99 and Sarah was 90.
6. The covenant and blessing. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised to bless him- Gen 12:2-3.
 - a. I will make you into a great nation.
 - b. I will bless you,
 - c. I will make your name great.
 - d. You will be a blessing.

- e. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.
 - f. All of the people of the earth will be blessed through you.
 - g. The sign of the covenant was circumcision.
7. Abraham is known as the friend of God.
8. Abraham's intercession. He interceded with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah but God still destroyed them.
9. Abraham's test. To test him God asked him to sacrifice his promised son on an altar on Mount Moriah. Then when he passed the test God said look, I have provided a lamb for the sacrifice in place of your son. In that place Abraham called God, Jehovah Jireh- the God who provides.
10. Abraham's other children. Later Abraham had others sons through other wives.
- B. Isaac. Not much is said of Isaac. His wife was Rebekah. They waited 19 years for children. Isaac prayed for children. God gave them twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau was the older son and according to custom was to receive the birthright blessing, which included greater blessings and a greater inheritance.
- C. Jacob.
1. Jacob's deception. His name means deceiver. Jacob stole the birthright from his brother Esau, and we speak of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, not Abraham, Isaac and Esau.
2. Jacob's 4 wives. Through them he had 12 sons and one daughter.
- a. Through Rachel were born
- i. Joseph- Rachel's son Joseph, created jealousy in the family and was sold into slavery by his brothers. Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to his Egyptian wife in Egypt and those two grandsons of Jacob were considered Jacob's sons and part of the "12 tribes" of Israel. Levi, the third son born to Leah, was the father of the priestly tribe and because the Levites ministered to all their brothers they are not officially one the 12. Joseph suffered many injustices including being sold by his brothers into slavery, but in the providence of God he rose to be the #2 leader in all of Egypt next to Pharaoh and helped to save Egypt and his own family during a terrible famine.
 - 1) Manasseh
 - 2) Ephraim
 - ii. Benjamin - . Jacob's youngest son born to Rachel was Benjamin. She died after giving birth to Benjamin.
- b. Through Leah were born
- i. Reuben
 - ii. Simeon
 - iii. Levi
 - iv. Judah
 - v. Issachar
 - vi. Zebulun
 - vii. Dinah- a daughter
- c. Through Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant.
- i. Dan
 - ii. Naphtali
- d. Through Zilpah, Leah's maidservant.
- i. Gad
 - ii. Asher
3. Jacob becomes Israel. Jacob wrestled with an angel from God when he returned from his father in law's, Laban's place. His name was then changed from Jacob which means deceiver to Israel which means people who struggle with God and overcome.
- D. Joseph. Genesis 37- 50 are dedicated to the life of Joseph.
1. Joseph was the next to youngest son of Jacob- a child of Rachel- Jacob's favorite wife.
2. Joseph's younger brother was Benjamin. Rachel died in giving birth to Benjamin. (Ch 35)

3. The dreams of Joseph (Ch 37)
 4. Sold into slavery (Ch 37)
 5. The temptation of Joseph with Potiphar's wife.(Ch 39)
 6. The prison experience for Joseph and the interpreter of dreams.(Ch 40)
 7. Joseph interprets Pharaohs dreams (Ch 41)
 8. He becomes second to Pharaoh. (Ch 41)
 9. Famine comes and eventually Jacob and his family move to Egypt. (Ch 42-50)
- III. Key Verses:** 1:1; 3:15; 12:1-3; 22

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the book of Exodus and Leviticus

Main Points:

- The story of Moses
- The confrontation with Pharaoh
- Exodus from Egypt
- The Tabernacle and 10 commandments.
- Offerings and special days/feasts of the Jews

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand how the exodus happened.
- They will understand the sacrifices and feasts of the Jews

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue filling out Handout #2 and then give them Handout #3
- Teach lesson #3 as outlined.

Exodus- Coming Out of Egypt

Introduction: There are 400 years between the end of Genesis- the life of Joseph- and the birth of Moses and exodus from Egypt. The Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians during those years. Some scholars believe that the Jews helped build the pyramids of Egypt during that time. However there is no clear evidence of that. Some believe that the pyramids were built before Jacob and his family moved to Egypt. Many scholars believe that Moses led the Jews out of Egypt around 1446 BC. (NIV Study Bible)

I. Key Ideas in Exodus

- 1. Birth of Moses.** Moses was raised during a time of great difficulty. The Israelites were crying out for deliverance from slavery. Pharaoh commanded all baby boys to be killed because they were multiplying so fast. Moses is spared in his basket on the Nile River.
- 2. Moses in Pharaoh's family.** Moses was raised in Pharaoh's family and lived in Egypt for 40 years.
- 3. He flees to Midian.** Then he killed an Egyptian who was beating a fellow Jew and when confronted by another Jew about his crime he flees across the desert to Midian. He remained there for 40 years and marries a Midianite, Zipporah,- the daughter of Jethro.
- 4. God calls Moses to go back to Egypt.** He has his burning bush experience while he was shepherding sheep. God speaks to him through the bush and calls him to go back and lead his people out of Egypt. (Exodus 3) Although reluctant at first, he agrees when God gives him two signs and his brother Aaron to help him by speaking for him. Moses was 40 years old when he fled Egypt and was 80 years old when he returned to lead his people out of Egypt.
- 5. Moses returns and confronts Pharaoh.** When Moses returns to Egypt he speaks to Pharaoh, demanding him to let the Israelites go free. Pharaoh refuses and God sends 10 plagues to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites. These plagues may have been directed at the gods of the Egyptians to show them that Yahweh was the only God. Finally after the 10th plague, the death of the first born son, Pharaoh let the Jews go. But then he again changed his mind and went after the Israelites. At the Red Sea God delivered them by separating the water so that they could walk across and then when the Egyptians tried to follow them on the path God had created, God caused the sea to roll back and the Egyptians drowned.
- 6. He leads the Jews to the edge of the Promised Land.** Moses sent 12 spies, one from each tribe, to spy on Canaan. 10 spies came back with a bad report because they did not believe that God could protect them from the Canaanites.
- 7. Exile in the Wilderness.** The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert because of their unbelief. Only two spies, Caleb and Joshua, came back with a good report and believed God would

help them defeat the Canaanites They lived through the 40 years in the wilderness and went into the Promised land. The rest of the adults all died in the wilderness. Moses died before entering the promised land because he disobeyed God by striking a rock looking for water and not simply speaking to it like God told him. He died at the age of 120 just before Israel entered the Promised land.

8. The Tabernacle. In Exodus Moses also records the instructions for building the tabernacle. This was the center of worship for the Israelites. It was 15 feet (4.6 meters) wide by 45 feet (13.8 meters) long and 15 feet (4.6 meters) high. It was divided into two rooms- the holy place which was 30 feet by 15 feet and the holy of holies which was 15 ft by 15 ft. Only the priests could enter the tabernacle- the holy place and only the high priest could enter the holy of holies. In the Holy Place on one side was the 7 branched golden candlestick. It was lit at night. On the other side was the table of showbread or the bread of the Presence with 12 cakes of unleavened bread. Each Sabbath these were eaten by the priests and replaced with fresh loaves. There was a golden altar of incense at the rear near the holy of holies. It had a fire on it along with incense. In the Holy of Holies was the ark of the covenant which contained the two tablets of the law- from Mt. Sinai, a golden bowl full of manna and Aaron's rod. The lid over the ark was called the mercy seat and was covered with gold and had a golden cherub (angel) at each end. At the center of the mercy seat was a brilliant light called the shekinah glory which symbolized the presence of God. The furniture in the tabernacle was arranged in the form of a cross. A veil separated the holy place from the holy of holies.

9. The 10 Commandments. Key chapter- Exodus 20. All the commandments are repeated in the NT except for the Sabbath commandment. The primary feature of the Decalogue was monotheism as opposed to the surrounding tribes which were polytheists. The first four commandments dealt with one's relationship with God and the last six dealt with man's relationship with his fellow man. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love their neighbor as much as they loved themselves. Those two commandments summarize the Ten Commandments.

II. Key verses 3:5-6

Leviticus-The Laws and Rituals for Israel.

Introduction- The word Leviticus actually means "relating to the Israelites." It has been called the handbook on holiness. It deals with the service of worship at the tabernacle which was conducted by the Levites and the sons of Aaron. The directions were given during the year they were camped at the base of Mount Sinai. This book teaches about the various offerings and sacrifices that God required of the Israelites. Moses wrote about the burnt offering, the peace offering, sin offering and the trespass offering. He also wrote about the feasts that were important in the worship of Yahweh such as the Feast of the Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Tabernacles and the Day of Atonement. All these were foreshadowing the coming of the Messiah and His sacrifice on the cross. The key thought of the book is holiness, the holiness of God and the holiness that God expected in man.

I. Key Ideas-

A. Basic Outline-

1. 1-16- The first 16 chapters give instructions as to the way of access to God,
2. 12-27- The next 11 chapters show the way to maintain fellowship with God. The sacrifices symbolized the need for atonement for sin and for consecration to God.

B. Offerings.

1. Offerings Involving blood. There were 4 kinds of offerings which involved the shedding of blood.
 - a. Peace Offering (fellowship offering)- This was an offering which was done voluntarily and the meat was eaten by the priest and the worshipper, symbolizing fellowship between man and God.
 - b. Burnt Offering- In this offering the entire sacrifice was burnt or consumed symbolizing entire consecration or dedication to God. The person offered his best to God. The animals offered had to be clean and without blemish. They could be oxen, sheep, goats or pigeons.
 - c. Trespass Offering (guilt offering) - This offering was given when you had sinned against someone or broken someone's rights and now restitution was demanded. This offering and the sin offering were made as an atonement for sin.
 - d. Sin Offering - This offering was given for unwillful sin- sins of ignorance committed without knowledge. No restitution was possible. The animal sacrificed was a ram .

2. The meal offering (grain offering). There was given with the above offerings. It was a grain offering and it was a recognition of the fruit of man's labor given by the hand of God. There was no blood shedding in this offering.

C. Special days and festivals

1-Sabbath day- It was the 7th day every week and was a time for rest and ceasing from labor. They were to remember what God had done for them, especially their delivery from Egyptian bondage.

2. New Moon and Feast of Trumpets- The beginning of each new month was marked by trumpets blasts. First day of 7th month was the feast of trumpets. Numbers 29:1-6

3. Sabbatical year- Every 7 years they allowed the land to rest for one year- no planting, no pruning of the vineyards. Debts were cancelled and Hebrew slaves were freed every 7 years. This reminded them of their deliverance from Egypt.

4. Year of Jubilee- After 7 sabbatical years came the year of jubilee- (50 Years) Those who had lost their family inheritance had it restored this year. Debts were cancelled. Slaves were freed and the land lay dormant- it was not ploughed. (Lev 25:8-55)

5. Passover and unleavened bread. This was celebrated once a year on the 14th of Nissan (Abib), somewhere between March and April. The meat of the Passover was eaten followed by 7 days of eating unleavened bread. It reminded them of their deliverance from Egypt, the time when their first born sons were passed over because of the blood of the lamb.

6. Feast of Weeks- 50 days after Passover. Offerings of grain and flour were given, acknowledging God's provision of daily bread.

7. Feast of Tabernacles- For one week they lived in booths to remind themselves of the wanderings in the wilderness. It was held at the end of the harvest. Every 7th year the law was read publicly.

8. Day of Atonement-(Yom Kippur) One day every year the high priest went into the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice to God. He offered a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He also brought two goats, one was offered as a sin offering, the other was a scapegoat and escaped into the wilderness. He placed his hands on the scapegoat, confessed the sins of the nation and then it was taken away into the wilderness to bear away the sins of the people.

II. Key vs 19:2

Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the book of Numbers through Judges

Main Points:

- 40 years of wandering because of unbelief
- The 2nd law
- Possessing Canaan
- The Judges of Israel in Canaan

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand the main ideas and events in Numbers through Judges

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue with Handout #3.
- Give them Handout #4
- Teach lesson #4 as outlined.

Numbers- The Census and Wilderness Wanderings of Israel

Introduction- This book records the 38 years of wandering in the desert after the establishment of the covenant at Sinai up till Moses' death and the entry into Canaan.

I. Outline of Numbers

- A. Israel at Mount Sinai preparing to leave for Canaan. Chapters 1-10:10
- B. From Kadesh to Moab Chapters 10-21
- C. In Moab- Chapters 22-36

II. Events/ Ideas.

- A. Numbering of the people. The people of Israel numbered about 600,000 during their time in the wilderness.
- B. The problem of sin and unbelief. Sin kept Israel from going into Canaan immediately. God makes a covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai but then they proceed to break it by repeated acts of rebellion. The Israelites complained and rebelled against God and Moses. Because of disobedience, unbelief and ungratefulness they died in the wilderness and failed to enter the promised land. Because of their sin and unbelief God punished them. This reminds us that God punishes the believer and the unbeliever if they live in sin and unbelief.
- C. The Spies- Moses sent out of the 12 spies into Canaan- only 2 believed they could take the land.
- D. Only two faithful men. Caleb and Joshua lived to see the promised land because of their faith. The rest of Israel wandered for 40 years until all of the other adults died.
- E. Moses' sin. Moses strikes the rock instead of speaking to the rock and water comes out. But because of his disobedience God says he will not enter Canaan. Chapter 20.
- F. Balaam is asked to curse Israel. Balaam, a prophet from Moab was asked to curse Israel but because of the sovereignty of God failed and in fact ended up blessing Israel. 22-24.
- G. The Levites were appointed to take the place of the first born children whose lives were spared in the Passover and were to be consecrated to God.
- H. God sent a cloud to be above them in the day and a cloud of fire at night to give them light.
- i. At the end of Numbers (ch 22-36) Moses gives them instructions preparing them to enter Canaan. Joshua is preparing to be the new leader of Israel.

III. Key chapter. Chapter 13.

Deuteronomy- The 2nd law

Introduction. Here the book of the law is being repeated. Moses is speaking to the people. It is a kind of covenant renewal led by Moses on behalf of the Israelites. Moses reviews with Israel what Yahweh had done for Israel and what He expected Israel to do.

I. Outline. Moses gives three addresses:

- A. Deut 1-4 He reviews God's faithfulness to them and their need to obey God's holy law,
- B. Deut 5-26. Here he emphasizes their need to keep the moral law- the 10 commandments are in this section,
- C. Deut 27-30. Here Moses looks to the future and proclaims the blessings and the curses depending on whether Israel obeyed or disobeyed the commands of God.

II. Key Ideas

- A. The 10 commandments are repeated in Deut 5.
- B. Loving God is the priority. Deut 6:4ff forms the Shema, the heart of the OT law.
- C. Possessing the Land. One key phrase used repeatedly is that, Israel would possess and inherit the land.
- D. Covenant. The word covenant is found 26 times in the book. Covenant is an agreement between two parties, there is an agreement in terms of obedience and blessings.
- E. Blessings or curses. In Chapter 27 and 28 the blessings and curses given by Moses were to be read after they entered the promised land.
- F. Moses' farewell. Moses gives Israel his farewell message and we are told that he went up to Mount Nebo where he looked into Canaan and then he died. God buried him in Moab and Deuteronomy ends with the handover of the Israelites to Joshua.

III. Key verses: 6:4-6; 10:12, 13, 18

Joshua- Possessing the Promised Land

Introduction- God had given Canaan to Israel, now the Jews had to enter and take possession of it by taking the land and destroying its inhabitants. The Canaanites were polytheists, they had many gods such as El, Baal, and Asherah. They practiced religious prostitution, child sacrifice and snake worship. Israel was to drive them out.

I. Key Ideas.

- A. Memorial stones. Once they entered Canaan the Israelites erected two memorials of stones to remind them and their descendants of their deliverance from Egypt.
- B. Spiritual life in Canaan. They also observed the Passover, practiced circumcision and the manna ceased.
- C. Sacred Places.
 - 1. Gilgal was the central place from which they attacked Canaan.
 - 2. Shiloh in Ephraim was the first sacred capital of the Israelites when they entered the promised land. It was here that the tabernacle was set up with the ark of the covenant. Shiloh was the designated center for worship where the tabernacle and the ark of the Covenant was, which symbolized the presence of God.
- D. The Command to take the land. God told Joshua and Israel to take the land.
 - 1. Capture of Jericho. They began by crossing the Jordan River supernaturally when God divided the water and they captured Jericho with the power of God.
 - 2. Rahab is delivered. Rahab, the prostitute, helped the spies and she was saved from the destruction that came on Jericho. She also is in the genealogy of Jesus.
 - 3. Achan's sin. God Himself took down the walls of Jericho but because of Achan, who disobeyed by taking some of the treasures in Jericho, the Israelites were defeated at Ai.
 - 4. Capture of the land. As they conquered the land 31 kings were defeated. Canaan was made up of many city states with a king over each city or area.
 - 5. Land is divided and given to the tribes of Israel. Eventually Joshua divided up the land among the tribes of Israel.

E. Challenge of Joshua. Joshua dies at the end of the book, after giving his moving challenge to the Israelites- "choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Chapter 24.

II. Key verses 1:8-9; 24:14-15

Judges- God Raises leaders in a difficult time

Introduction-During the period of the judges Israel is led by judges and the Jews did what was right in their own eyes. These judges were military leaders that God raised up to help Israel. Their leadership lasted for 2-3 centuries. One of the key ideas of Judges is that Israel had no king and the nation did what they thought was right.

I. Cyclical Pattern. Throughout the book there is a distinct circular pattern which follows.

- 1) Yahweh raises up a leader and things go well,
- 2) Israel falls into sin and forgets Yahweh,
- 3) Yahweh punishes them by sending a nation, people against them,
- 4) The people cry out to God for help and
- 5) God raises up a new leader who then defeats the enemy and the cycle continues again.
- 6) The cycle was sin, sorrow, supplication and salvation. There are six of these cycles in Judges.

II. Key Leaders

- A. Deborah and Barak,
- B. Gideon,
- C. Jephthah
- D. Samson.

III. Key verse- 21:25

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the books of Ruth and I and II Samuel

Main Points:

- The faithfulness of Ruth.
- God raises up key leaders like Samuel, Saul and King David
- David becomes the greatest king of Israel.
- Sin has its consequences.

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand Ruth's importance in the Bible and the history behind Samuel, Saul and David.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give Exam #1
- Continue filling out Handout #4
- Teach lesson #5 as outlined.

Ruth-The faithful Moabitess- Great Grandmother of King David

Introduction- This book shows the faithfulness of God toward Naomi and her daughter Ruth. Because of a famine in Israel, Naomi and her husband go to Moab where their two sons marry Moabite women. There in Moab her husband dies along with the two sons. Naomi decides to go back home to Israel and discourages her daughters in law from following. One stays in Moab, but the other one, Ruth, refuses to stay and insists on going back home with Naomi. Ruth is significant because she was a Moabiite who married Boaz and her great grandson was David, the king of Israel.

I. Key Ideas

- A. God's love for the Gentile world. Ruth was a Gentile but because of her faithfulness she is included in the lineage of Jesus Christ.
- B. The faithfulness of Ruth. When Naomi, her mother in law encouraged Ruth to return home to Moab, Ruth replied to her, no I am going with you- "Where you go, I will go, where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried."
- C. Redemption is a key idea in the book. Boaz redeemed Ruth in the sense that he took her in as a kinsman because she was married to Boaz's relative who died in Moab.

II. Key verses.1:16-17.

I Samuel- Transition from Judges to Kingship and a nation

Introduction- Up until this time Israel had no strong leader and they were not united as 12 tribes. They had just come through the time of the Judges where everyone did what was right in their own eyes. In Shiloh where the tabernacle was, Eli was the priest who looked after the Ark of the Covenant and the sacrificial system. God raised up a child Samuel to be the spiritual leader of Israel.

Key Ideas

- A. The Problem of leadership

1. The problem of Eli. The problem was the Eli was not a strong leader and the nation fell into apostasy. Among other things Eli failed to train his sons properly and they fell into sin.
2. The problem of the sons. Those sons, Hophni and Phineas, were symptomatic of the nation of Israel. They committed immorality and misused the sacrifices.
3. The problem of the Ark. In one battle the ark of the covenant was taken into battle, but the ark was stolen by the Philistines and the two sons of Eli were killed.
4. The Glory of God departs. When Eli heard the bad news, he collapsed and died. Eli's daughter in law was pregnant and shortly after the death of her husband and father in law she gave birth to a son that she named Ichabod meaning the glory has departed.

B. God raises up His man.

1. Samuel

a. Hannah asked God for a child. Into this apostasy a child was born to Hannah and Elkanah. Hannah made a promise to God that if he gave her a child she would dedicate him to God and give him to the temple at Shiloh.

b. The last and greatest judge of Israel. Samuel was born and became the last and greatest judge of Israel who prepared them for kingship and brought Israel back to God. Samuel also served as a prophet and priest for Israel.

2. Saul- Israel wanted a king and Yahweh allowed them to have a king even though He wanted to be their King.

God used Samuel to anoint Saul king over Israel but then Saul disobeyed God.

3. David's rise to power. God withdrew the anointing from Saul and transferred it to the son of Jesse- David when he anointed David to be king even though Saul was still the recognized King of Israel.

a. David and Goliath- I Sam 17.

b. Saul's jealousy. Saul is jealous of David and tries to kill him a number of times. David never tried to kill King Saul, because he would not harm God's anointed one.

c. David runs for his life and wins battles.

d. Saul visits a witch. The anointing and presence of God was gone and Saul tries to communicate with the dead Samuel through a witch.

e. Saul's death. I Samuel ends with King Saul's suicide.

II. Key verses: I Samuel 17:45-47

II Samuel-David's Kingship

Introduction- David was the King of Israel- all other kings of Israel are measured by him. He was promised an everlasting kingdom because his "son" was Jesus the Christ whose kingdom is everlasting. II Samuel is about David as King of Israel.

I. Key Ideas

A. The Beginning of David's rule. David began his kingship in Hebron where he served for 7 + years.

B. David relocates the capital to Jerusalem. Then he moved his capital to Jerusalem, which was known as the city of David. It is also known as Zion. He built a palace there where he moved the ark of the covenant.

C. David's reigned for 40 years in all. He reigned in Jerusalem for another 33 years and Hebron for 7.

D. David desires to build the temple. David wanted to build a temple in Jerusalem to hold the ark of the covenant but God refused because he was a man of blood.

E. David and Bathsheba. II Samuel records his sin with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah (II Samuel 11)

F. Nathan's rebuke. As a result of that sin Nathan the prophet rebuked him and David confessed his sin. His confession is found in Psalm 32 and 51.

G. The consequences of David's sin. However the consequences of his sin were bad.

1. Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba was murdered.

2. The baby born out of adultery died.
 3. Tamar is raped by Amon. Amon a son of David raped a daughter by another wife of David's.
 4. Absalom killed Amon.
 5. Absalom rebels. He rebelled against his father trying to take the kingdom by force. Eventually he died a tragic death, hanging by his hair from a tree. One of the soldiers of David killed him.
- H. David sins again by counting his army. Finally David counts his army which displeased God and God sent a plague on the Israelites. In the end, as a result of that sin, David buys a threshing floor from Araunah the Jebusite and builds an altar on which to offer a sacrifice – a burnt offering and a fellowship offering as a form of repentance. That threshing floor which he bought is eventually the place where the temple was built.
- I. God's grace abounds where sin abounds.
1. The temple was built on the spot where David offered his sacrifice after counting his army.
 2. Solomon, the next King of Israel was born to Bathsheba and David.

II. Key verses: 12:1-13

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the books of the Kings

Main Points:

- The reign of Solomon
- Rehoboam, the last King of the complete Israel and 1st king of Judah
- The Ministry of Elijah and beginning of the ministry of Elisha
- The sin of Israel and Judah
- The fall of Israel and Judah

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand the reign of Solomon and sins and fall of Judah and Israel.

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue with Handout #4
- Teach lesson #6 as outlined.

I Kings- The Kings of Israel and Judah part I

Introduction- I Kings tells the story of Solomon and the beginning history of the kings of Judah and Israel. After David died I Kings tells the story of both kingdoms up until Jehoshaphat of Judah (Chapter 22) and Ahab king of Israel in Chapters 20-22.

I. Key Ideas/Persons

A. David- In Chapters 1-2:10 David chooses Solomon to be his successor.

B. Solomon- Solomon, the son of David is the 3rd King of Israel. Chapters 2:11-chapter 11. In I Kings we read of King Solomon's wisdom (3-4) and how he built the temple, (6). David provided much of the money to build the temple- (I Chronicles 28- 29) The temple was built on Mount Moriah where Abraham had gone to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice in response to God's command. This was also the place David had offered a sacrifice and prayer after his sin of calling for the military census. He bought the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite. The writer of 1 Kings says that Solomon had "seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines" (1 Kings. 11:3) The number of wives a ruler had symbolized his might and power. Rulers took on wives to seal political alliances and trade agreements. But Solomon allowed his foreign wives to turn him away from worshipping the one true God. (Kings. 11:1-3) Solomon served as king for 40 years.

C. Rehoboam- Chapter 12. Rehoboam was the son of Solomon and became the 4th King of the United Kingdom of Israel. When he became king the people asked him to reduce the heavy "yoke" Solomon had put on them. He had taxed them heavily. When he refused to do that the kingdom split into two – the Northern Kingdom of Israel made up of 10 tribes and the Southern Kingdom of Judah made up of 2 tribes- Judah and Benjamin. The first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was Jeroboam who was not a descendent of King David and therefore not a part of the Davidic Dynasty. The first king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah was Rehoboam himself.

D. Kings of Israel. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had 20 kings before it was taken into exile. Not one of them was considered good by God. I Kings records the Northern Kingdom's kings through Ahaziah, son of Ahab.

E. Ahab- The most wicked of Israel's kings after Jeroboam was Ahab. He married a Phoenician princess named Jezebel. She brought the worship of Baal and Asherah into Israel. Both Ahab and Jezebel hated Elijah.

F. Kings of Judah- After the division the Southern Kingdom of Judah had 20 kings; 6 were commended as good but with some reservation. Two, Hezekiah and Josiah, were commended as good without reservation! The last king of Judah mentioned in I Kings is Jehoshaphat.

G. Elijah-I Kings also tells the story of the prophet Elijah who called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice in his confrontation with the prophets of Baal. (I Kings 17ff) Elijah ministered during the time of King Ahab of Israel and his wife Jezebel. Elijah brought a drought to Israel and fled for his life from Jezebel.

H. Elisha- Elijah chose an assistant to take his place, his name was Elisha. He was a farmer who sacrificed his oxen and followed Elijah.

II. Key verses: 18:16-39

II Kings-The kings of Israel and Judah Part II

Introduction- The history of the kings of Israel and Judah from Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoshaphat of Israel until the end of the kingdoms. I and II Kings tell the history of the Kings of both Israel, the Northern Kingdom and Judah, the Southern kingdom. In the Jewish Bible I and II Kings are all one book- the book of Kings.

In 1 and 2 Kings there is a contrast between King David the good king of Judah and King Jeroboam I, the wicked king of the northern kingdom of Israel.

I. Key Ideas/Persons.

A. Elijah. The beginning of II Kings continues with the ministry of Elijah, tells how he passed his mantle to Elisha and how he was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire. Chapter 2.

B. Elisha. Chapters 2-8. Elisha continues to minister with the double portion of the Spirit of Elijah.

C. The kingdom of Israel. In Israel, the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam established idol worship in this new nation by setting up golden calves at Bethel and Dan. (1 Kings. 12:25-33) These were symbols of the fertility religion of Baal. His strategy was to mix this religion with the worship of Yahweh to try to win the people and keep them together as a distinctive nation. The writer of 1 and 2 Kings condemned that. Each succeeding king of Israel was measured against the standard of Jeroboam's idolatry. Of each king who led the people astray, it was written, "He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin". (2 Kin. 15:9). Samaria became the capital of Israel, the Northern Kingdom.

D. The Kingdom of Judah. Just as Jeroboam was used as a bad example by the writer of 1 and 2 Kings, King David was used as a standard of justice and righteousness. He became the measure of righteousness for all kings who followed him. The Northern Kingdom was marked by rebellion and strife as different opposing factions rose to reign, but the house of David continued in Judah for nearly four centuries without interruption. However the Northern Kingdom influenced the Southern Kingdom. Ahab and Jezebel's daughter Athaliah married king Jehoram of Judah. She influenced Jehoram and Judah to follow the way of her father Ahab. (II Kings 8:18) Ahaziah, son of Jehoram continued to follow the wickedness of Ahab, through the influence of his mother Athaliah. Athaliah ruled Judah after her son

Ahaziah died and tried to kill all of the royal line, all of David's descendants. But God spared Joash, Ahaziah's son as a little boy who was kept hidden in the temple until he could become king. The writer explained that the wickedness of the evil kings did not cancel out the love and mercy that God had promised to the house of David: "Nevertheless for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord". (1 Kings. 15:4-5). Jerusalem was the capital of Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

E. Fall of Israel. The Northern kingdom fell in 722 BC when the Assyrians conquered Samaria and took the 10 tribes into exile. Chapter 17. The last king of Israel was Hoshea. Assyria was conquered by the Babylonians in 612 BC.

F. Fall of Judah. In 586 BC Babylon conquered Jerusalem, tore the walls down, destroyed Solomon's temple and took the two tribes into exile into Babylon. (II Kings 25) Zedekiah was the last King of Judah.

G. Sin which led to exile. Both Israel and Judah were conquered and taken into exile because of their sin, especially the sin of idolatry. Israel's sin- Chapter 17. Israel fell because of idolatry and the sin of Manasseh. Chapter 23:26; 24:2-4. Israel never fully recovered and the 10 tribes there were lost in exile and to history. We don't know what happened to them. But God spared a remnant from Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and they returned from Babylonian exile in 538 BC. Judah was made up of two tribes- Judah and Benjamin.

II. Key verses: II Kings 2:1-14

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the books of the Chronicles and Ezra

Main Points:

- I and II Chronicles are the story of the southern kingdom of Judah
- I Chronicles has a long genealogy and the story of King David.
- II Chronicles is the story of Solomon and the kings of Judah up until exile.
- Ezra tells the story of the return to Jerusalem of the exiles from Babylon and the rebuilding of the temple.

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand purpose of the Chronicles and the main ideas in these three books.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give students Handout #5
- Teach lesson #7 as outlined.

I and II Chronicles

Some have characterized these two books as "books of hope." They tell the history of the nation of Israel/Judah from Adam to the CAPTIVITY and Restoration. These books repeat parts of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. The writer of Chronicles may have written this history to encourage the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem after the many years of captivity in Babylon. This account reminded them of the good things that happened in the past and gave them hope for the future. The focus in these books is on the Davidic Dynasty- the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

I Chronicles- The Genealogy of Israel and David's kingship

Introduction- The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles contain long genealogies from the descendants of Adam up to the ancestors of King David. Chapters 10-29 focus on King David's reign. After the genealogies it begins with the death of Saul, to show that he was unqualified for office and that David was God's choice for this responsibility, 10:14.

I. Key Ideas/Persons

A. The Genealogy from Adam to King David. Chapters 1-9

B. The Suicide of King Saul- (10)

C. The Reign of King David- Chapters 11-29. David's reign is presented in a positive light with the details of David's sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah left out.

1. David tries to bring the Ark to Jerusalem but Uzzah touches it and dies. David establishes Jerusalem as his capital city and place of worship (13)

2. David finally brings the Ark to Jerusalem in the right way. (15-16)

3. God promises David an eternal kingdom through his son Solomon.

4. David sins by counting his fighting men and offers a sacrifice on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite which he had purchased. This also was where Abraham had prepared to offer his son Isaac on the altar. This eventually became the place the temple was built.

5. David challenges Solomon to build the temple.

6. David shares his plans for the temple with the people and Solomon.

7. David gives and challenges the people to give to help finance the temple that Solomon will build.

II. Key chapter- I Chronicles 29

II Chronicles- King Solomon and the Kings of Judah to the exile

Introduction- II Chronicles also contains two major sections. Chapters 1-9 focus on the rule of King SOLOMON. 10--36 is a selective account of the kings of Judah-from Rehoboam (chaps. 10-12) until the time of the Captivity (chap. 36). The focus of the Chronicler is on the Davidic kingdom and of the southern Kingdom of Judah. II Chronicles includes little information about the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel. It says mostly positive things about the kings of Judah. This shows that the Chronicler writer wanted to show that Judah and the Davidic line was the nation which remained faithful to the covenant. This would have encouraged the exiles who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and reminded them that they were part of the covenant God had made with Israel.

I. Key Ideas/Persons.

A. Solomon.(Chapters 1-9)

1. Solomon asks God for wisdom- Chapter 1.

2. He builds the temple. (Chapters 2-4) Solomon's big achievement was the building of the TEMPLE in Jerusalem.

3. He dedicates the temple. (5-7) These chapters record the dedication of the Temple including Solomon's prayer and God's response. The key verse of the book is found in chapter 7:14 when God gives a promise concerning the prayers offered into the temple.

4. The splendor of Solomon's kingdom. (9) The achievements of Solomon are mentioned but his spiritual downfall because of his many foreign wives are not mentioned.

B. Rehoboam-The kingdom splits under Rehoboam and Jeroboam becomes king of the Northern kingdom of Israel. (10) Shishak the king of Egypt attacks Jerusalem and carries off some of the temple treasures. The reason was that they had been unfaithful to the Lord. (10:2)

C. Asa becomes king of Judah and leads the nation in a reformation. (14-16). However in the end he sinned.

D. Jehoshaphat was another godly king of Judah. (17-20) His prayer to God when attacked by the Ammonites and Moabites and the deliverance God gave through the choir is a highlight of the book. (20)

E. Joash, king of Judah. Joash starts well by repairing the temple which had fallen into disrepair. However when his mentor the priest Jehoida died, Joash turned away from God.

F. Uzziah, king of Judah. He was another king that began well but ended poorly. (26)

G. Hezekiah, king of Judah. He also led Israel into a spiritual reformation, he then became proud but eventually repented. (29-32)

H. Manasseh, king of Judah. He ruled for 52 years. He started out poorly by leading the people into idolatry. However in the end he repented and removed some of the foreign idols. The writer of II Kings does not mention Manasseh's repentance and instead suggests that Yahweh sent Judah into exile because of Manasseh's sins. II Kings 21:10ff; 23:26

I. Josiah, king of Judah. He was a righteous king who found the book of the law and restored proper worship in Judah and the temple.

J. Zedekiah- last king of Judah. He also did evil in the eyes of Yahweh and Babylon attacked and destroyed Jerusalem. They took the people from Judah into exile for 70 years like Jeremiah has prophesied.

J. King Cyrus the Persian. He gives the order which allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple after 70 years of exile. The last part of II Chronicles is the same as the first part of Ezra. II Chronicles 36:22-23 = Ezra 1:3b.

II. Key verses: II Chronicles 7:14; chapter 20.

Ezra-Return to Rebuild Jerusalem Spiritually

Introduction- The events in this book happened from 539 BC on. The first 6 chapters tell the history of what happened when the Jews returned to Jerusalem; Ezra was not with them. The Persians had defeated the Babylonians in 539 BC. Then in 538BC King Cyrus the Persian king decreed that the Jews could return to Jerusalem and 50,000 did.

I. Key Ideas/Persons

A. Cyrus the Persian. The Persians conquered the Babylonians in 539 BC. The next year Cyrus, the king of the Persians decreed that the Jews should return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple.

B. The rebuilding of the temple.

1. The beginning and the opposition. Zerubbabel a descendent of King David and Joshua the high priest returned with the exiles. When they arrived in Jerusalem they built the altar and offered sacrifices on it. Then they made plans to build the temple and laid the foundation. However because of opposition and discouragement because this temple paled compared to Solomon's temple, the building of the temple stopped.

2. The completion. In 520 BC after 18 years of waiting they began again to build the temple. The temple was then completed in 516 BC. (in five years). (Chapter 6)

C. Ezra-Ezra himself did not return until 458/7 BC. The story of his coming to Jerusalem begins in Ezra chapter 7.

1. He knew the law. He had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord and to teach those laws to Israel.

2. He saw the sin of intermarriage. When he arrived in Jerusalem he was shocked at what he found- the Israelites had intermarried with foreigners- heathens. He challenged them to divorce their foreign wives and offer a sacrifice for their sins.

3. The people then confessed their sins and sent away their foreign wives. (10)

II. Key verse: 7:10

OT Survey
Lesson 8

Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms and Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

Lesson Purpose:

- To give an overview of the OT books from Nehemiah – Song of Solomon

Main Points:

- Nehemiah is the story of the rebuilding of the wall around and spiritual life in Jerusalem.
- Esther tells the history behind the Feast of Purim and how God raised up Esther to save the Jews.
- Job deals with problem of suffering
- Psalms is the praise and prayer book of the Bible
- Proverbs are the principles by which we should live
- Ecclesiastes teaches that without God everything is meaningless
- Song of Solomon is a love poem

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the basic themes of each of these books.

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue filling out Handout #5
- Continue teaching lesson #8 as outlined.
- Give Exam #2

Nehemiah- Rebuilding the Wall around Jerusalem

Introduction- Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem in 444 BC. He was a Jew and a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. He went to Jerusalem as the governor after being distressed because of what he heard was happening in Jerusalem.

I. Key Ideas/Persons

A. Rebuilding of the wall. In spite of opposition he and his friends rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem in 52 days.

B. Opposition. One of the key ideas in this book is the opposition to the building of the wall.

C. The Reading of the law. Nehemiah organized for the law to be read and the Feasts of the Jews to be celebrated. The people assembled and Ezra read out loud from the law from daybreak until noon. The people stood as he read the Word. During this time the Feast of the Tabernacles was celebrated. The people lived in booths for about 7 days and listened to the law being read and explained.

D. The temple ministry was begun again. Nehemiah and Ezra worked together on this.

E. Confession of sin. Then at the end they stood and confessed their sins and prayed. Nehemiah also dealt with the problem of mixed marriages and a failure to keep the Sabbath.

II. Key verses: Neh 1:5-7; 8:10

Esther- God raises up a queen to save the Jewish people

Introduction- This is the story of the Jews who remained in Babylon after the decree was given to return to Jerusalem. One man plotted to kill all the Jews but God raised up a woman to deliver them. The feast of Purim celebrates this deliverance.

I. Key Ideas/People:

A. Xerxes- The king of Persia who made a decree that certain people, the Jews, who did not obey the king's law should be put to death.

B. Queen Esther. God raised her up to become Queen of Persia after the previous queen Vashti refused to obey the king.

C. Haman, a key royal official of the king. He hated the Jews because Mordecai refused to bow down to him and plotted to kill them. Haman went to the king and said there were a group of people who failed to obey the king's law, the Jews- that should be put to death.

D. Mordecai was the cousin of Esther who had raised her. He had encouraged her to apply to be the queen. Mordecai finds out about Haman's plot and informs Esther who takes her life into her own hands and goes into the king's presence to ask for help on behalf of the Jews. Her request is granted and the lives of the Jews are spared. Haman is then hung on the gallows he had prepared for the Jews.

E. Feasts- there are 10 banquets in the book of Esther. After this deliverance by Esther the Jews began the Feast of Purim to celebrate their deliverance.

F. No mention of God. One interesting fact about this book is that God is not mentioned. This may have been a literary device used by the author to show that God is behind our lives even when that isn't clear and in His sovereignty he takes what seems to be insignificant events and turns them into something powerful for His people.

II. Key verses: 4:14, 16.

Job- The problem of Suffering

Introduction- This book deals with theodicy – A just God and human suffering. In Job we see the sovereignty of God, the justice of God and the sin of man which leads to human suffering.

I. Key Ideas/People

A. The Problem- Why do good people sometimes suffer? The problem in Job is that Job was a righteous man and yet he suffered terribly. Part of his suffering came from his friends who accused him of sin, that's why they said he was being punished.

B. Job- Job was a righteous man who lost everything he had-to the point that even his wife told him to curse God and die. The beginning chapters of Job tell how he lost his family, his possessions and eventually his body suffered because of many different catastrophes. In all of his suffering Job did not turn away from God.

C. Satan. Job teaches us that Satan is behind much suffering and his attacks are allowed by God. Satan tries to separate man from God and he uses our pain and suffering as one way of doing that. Sometimes we suffer not because we sinned but because he live in a sinful world controlled by Satan, but in the end God will have the last word and will make all things right.

D. Job's friends. In this book, four of Job's friends are mentioned along with their diagnoses of the problem. His "friends" are Bildad, Eliphaz, Zophar, and finally Elihu. After each of them speak Job responds. In short they all felt that Job had sinned and if he would confess his sin God would restore his life. They spoke for many people who believe that our suffering in life is because of our own sin. That may sometimes be true, but not always, because Job was a righteous man and yet he really suffered.

E. God.- After all Job's suffering and the seeming silence of God, God finally speaks. God's response is so powerful that Job can only confess that he didn't know. In the end God blessed Job by giving him a double portion of blessings.

II. Key verses:

Chapter 38-41- God speaks; 42- Job's blessings

Psalms- Worship Prayers and Songs

Introduction-The Psalms were written by several people over a long period of time- 100's of years. David wrote almost half of them and other writers included Solomon and Asaph. It is a collection of songs used in private as well as public worship. They are praises and prayers to God.

I. Key Ideas

A. Outline of Psalms-Psalms are divided into five parts- Part 1:1-41; II: 42-72; III:73-89; IV:90-106; V:107-150.

B. Form of Psalms- The Psalms take different forms eg

- 1) Prayers of individuals- eg Ps 3,
- 2) Praise to God by the individual for God's help eg Psalm 34,
- 3) Prayers of the community eg Ps 44,
- 4) Praise for God's help from the community eg ps 66,
- 5) Psalms celebrating God's reign eg Ps 93-99,
- 6) Confessional Psalms eg Ps 51.

C. Poetry in Psalms The Psalms are poetical. Their distinctive feature is parallelism where the second line or phrase repeats the first in different language, contrasts the first, or somehow completes the first. The psalms are part prayer and part praise.

D. Kingship- The most basic picture of Yahweh in the Psalms is that He is the King over all the earth and heavens.

II. Key chapters:

1. Psalm 1- The Blessed Man
2. 23-The Shepherd Psalm
3. 51- David's confession ;
4. 119-The Word Psalm

Proverbs- Simple Truths about living a godly life

Introduction- Most of the Proverbs were written by Solomon. Most proverbs are short statements that teach truths about human behavior. Many of the proverbs are two lines long with the second line contrasting the first. Oftentimes they use figurative language using the word like or as. Eg pleasant words are like honey. Pr 16:24. The purpose of the Proverbs is to make man wise, especially in the ways of God. It is full of practical instruction.

I. Key Ideas

- A. The importance of Wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- B. The danger of immorality. Proverbs 5.
- C. Husband/wife relationships. It teaches about the importance of a good relationship between a husband and wife.
- D. The necessity of hard work,
- E. The importance of guarding your tongue,
- F. The importance of teaching children,
- G. The danger of those who have pride.

II. Key Verses: Proverbs 1:7

Ecclesiastes- Everything in meaningless without God

Introduction- Generally this is known as the most pessimistic book in the Bible. It was written by King Solomon. This book appears to be the reflections of an elderly man who has lived most of his life without focusing on God and at the end he realizes that without God at the center everything becomes meaningless. Remember Solomon had everything a person might want in life- he had wisdom, wealth and wives, but without God it was all meaningless.

I. Key Ideas:

- A. Meaningless- A key phrase in the book is, "Utterly meaningless, everything is meaningless." Solomon is testifying that taken by itself everything in life is meaningless. In other words if we live just for the things of this life, then life becomes meaningless.
- B. Fear God and Follow Him alone. But when everything has been said and done Solomon's conclusion is : "Fear God and keep his commandments for that is the whole duty of man." If life is not focused on God then it becomes meaningless.

II. Key verses:

Eccl. 1:2; 3:1-8; 12:13-14

Song of Songs (Solomon)- a love song

Introduction: This book was written by Solomon. It is a long song that has two basic interpretations.

I. Key Ideas. There are Two basic interpretations of this book:

- A. This is a spiritual metaphor of Christ and His church. We should spiritualize what is being said- The picture of romance in the book is a metaphor of the love between Christ and His church or between God and Israel.
- B. This a love poem. It should be literally interpreted- We should interpret it is a celebration of the physical love between a man and his wife. It was written by Solomon.

II. Key verse: Song of Songs 2:4; 8:6-7

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the prophetic books of the Old Testament.

Main Points:

- The different categories of the prophets.
- Major political events which affected the prophets.
- The Prophet and his ministry

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand the different categories of the prophets, the major political events which affected the prophets and the basic ministry of the prophets.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give the students handout #6.
- Teach lesson #9 as outlined.

The Prophets

I. The Kinds of Prophets in the OT.

A. Non-writing prophets - Elijah and Elisha who prophesied around 875-797 BC.

B. Early Pre-exilic Prophets

1. -To Nineveh- Jonah and Nahum;

2. To Israel-Amos and Hosea. Amos and Hosea prophesied to Israel, the Northern Kingdom.

3. To Edom- Obadiah;

4. To Judah-Micah and Isaiah. Micah and Isaiah prophesied under 4 different kings of Judah- Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh. Hezekiah was the most righteous of them all.

C. LATE pre-exilic prophets-Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Joel (?) Jeremiah served under King Josiah (Zephaniah also served during this time), under King Jehoiakim (Habakkuk also served during this time) and under Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. (Joel may have also served during this period).

Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar which caused the Babylonians to attack and destroy Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah the new governor over Judah but when he was killed by the Jews and the Jews fled to Egypt.

D. Exilic Prophets- Ezekiel and Daniel were both taken as captives into Babylon and prophesied from there.

E. Post Exilic Prophets- Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi –they prophesied after the exile. In 520 BC Haggai and Zechariah were called by God to lead the people in rebuilding the temple and it was finished in 516 BC, 70 years after it was destroyed, like Jeremiah had prophesied.

II. Key political events that affected the prophets.

A. Israel split into two kingdoms. Judah and Israel separated around 930 BC after the death of Solomon.

B. Israel, the Northern Kingdom was taken into exile by the Assyrians in 722/1/BC. The 10 tribes disappeared from history. They went into exile because of idol worship and sin. They never returned from exile. The Assyrians were defeated in 612 BC by the Babylonians.

C. Babylon attacked Jerusalem and Judah.

1. First time in 605 BC

2. Second time in 597 BC

3. Third and final time in 587/6 BC when the Babylonians destroyed the temple and all of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar took all but the very old and injured into captivity in Babylon. (II Kings 24:18ff).

Judah was conquered by Babylon because of poor leadership and religious apostasy. The leaders and people followed other gods and did not completely trust in Yahweh alone.

D. Persia. In 539 BC the Persian Empire conquered the Babylonian Empire. The next year Cyrus the Persian released the Jewish captives and about 50,000 returned to Jerusalem to build the temple which has been destroyed by the Babylonians in 587/6 BC. They were led by Zerubbabel, the governor and Joshua, the High Priest. They rebuilt the altar and began to lay the foundation of the temple but then stopped the building process. It was finally finished under the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

E. Ezra and Nehemiah. In 458 BC Ezra came to Jerusalem and began a religious reformation among the Jews because many of the men had married foreign wives who worshipped other gods. Then in 445 BC Nehemiah came with a group of people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Finally in 420 BC Malachi challenged the people to return to God because they had failed to follow Him fully.

THE PROPHET

I. The Nature of a Prophet. In the Bible the prophet is called a “man of God”, a seer, a prophet and a visionary. Prophets are also called messengers of the Lord, servants of God, watchmen and shepherds of God. Except for God's call, prophets had no special qualifications. They appeared from all walks of life and classes of society. They included shepherds and farmers like Amos.

Thru the prophet God revealed His will for Israel's people and spoke His Word of judgment and salvation. The prophet was chosen by God and often rejected by the people. They served as mediators between God and the nation. They represented God to the people.

The Jews divided the Prophets into two categories, i) The Former Prophets-4- Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (both of the latter two are considered one book) ii) The latter prophets- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 minor prophets. (The 12 were considered one book.)

According to the Jewish system of organizing the prophets, the former prophets told the history of that period of time whereas the latter prophets interpreted particular phases of that history. But regardless of the time of fulfillment, the prophet's message applied to his generation as well as to ours. The prophetic movement extended over several centuries. What saved the prophets from despair was their messianic vision and man's ability to repent. The focal point of Biblical revelation is knowing God (OT) and knowing Jesus Christ (NT).

II. The job of a prophet. The main job of the prophet was to proclaim God's word with the goal of teaching, reproof, correcting, and training in righteousness. They were similar to the preacher in the church today.

Their purpose was to shock their hearers. God's prophets challenged everyone, the false prophets, priests, kings and the rich. He exhorted more than predicted the future. They were forth tellers rather than foretellers. It was not easy to be a prophet. At times he stood alone. The true prophets had both insight and foresight, they foretold and told forth, they not only predicted the future but more importantly they revealed God's will for the present. They spoke of the coming of the Messiah and need for righteousness in social, political and economic relationships. The prophets bear witness to God. They prepared the way for Christ. They were called by God. The prophets spoke to Israel and Judah in times of crises. If there been no crises there would have been no need for a prophet. A prophet sometimes became quite dramatic and acted out his message. Zechariah broke two staves -Zech. 11:7-14. Hosea married a prostitute.

III. The Source of the Prophet's message. They claimed to receive messages from God. The prophet's Word was the Word from Yahweh. Prophecy originated in the call of Yahweh. The Biblical prophets sometimes received their messages by visions and dreams but they depended mainly on direct communication from Yahweh.

IV. The Message of the prophet. They spoke of a future deliverance brought about by the Messiah. They emphasized God's Sovereignty, His holiness and His love. For the prophets, God's Word became a part of them; it burned inside them. Therefore they spoke passionately and powerfully because they felt things deeply. They preached about justice and righteousness. Justice was part of God's character, therefore they demanded that Israel be righteous, just and holy. If man didn't change, judgment was coming. The good news was that if man repented then God would withhold his judgment and punishment. For the prophets, idol worship was the main problem- those who worshipped idols didn't understand God's sovereignty over all of nature. The prophets said that worship without obedience and righteousness was worship in vain. Righteousness is more important than sacrifice. Worship is only proper worship if it is accompanied by morality. The primary purpose of worship was to lead one to love, righteousness and true justice. The prophet was also compassionate. He brought hope, compassion and a promise of a future reconciliation.

IV. The False Prophets- False prophets received their word by divination, dreams and visions. They preached what the people wanted to hear.

V. The Ultimate Prophet. The ultimate example of a prophet was Moses. He was the original prophet who spoke for God.

The Major Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations

Main Points:

- Isaiah was the Messianic Prophet
- Jeremiah was the prophet who prophesied just before Judah fell and he was persecuted.
- Lamentations are songs of lament over the fall of Jerusalem.

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the basic ideas in all three books.

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue filling in Handout #6
- Teach lesson #10 as outlined.

Isaiah- The Messianic Prophet, the prince of the prophets

Introduction- Some have called Isaiah the greatest of the Hebrew prophets and some feel that this is the greatest book in the OT. He wrote to the southern kingdom of Judah.

I. Outline of Isaiah.

A. Isaiah 1-39- Part I- In Part I he speaks of the many judgments which Yahweh will bring against Judah and the enemies of Israel.

B. 40-66 -Part II. In Part II he speaks of Israel's deliverance and gives a beautiful picture of restoration when the wolf and lamb will feed together. Some people call Isaiah the Gospel of the Old Testament or the Gospel according to Isaiah.. The Bible has 66 books and there are 66 chapters in Isaiah. The OT has 39 books and the NT has 27- same as the two parts of Isaiah.

II. Key Ideas

A. The Messianic Prophet- Isaiah is the messianic prophet because of his many references to the Messiah.

1. The servant- a person. The servant (Messiah) will come and help to restore Israel. The Messianic King is called "my servant"(42). The birth, character, life, death, resurrection and 2nd coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ) are found in Isaiah.

a. God will be with us. (7:14; 9:6)

b. When the Messiah comes he will restore all things. (11)

c. The Messiah will suffer for man's sins. (53) He speaks of the suffering servant who will bring salvation.

d. Peace and safety are the marks of the coming Messiah and His kingdom. (Chapters 11,49,65)

2. The servant- Israel. The term servant could also be applied to Israel.

B. The Holy One of Israel- This is the title of God found 26 times in Isaiah. (43:3; 54:5) He speaks about the sin of Judah and the coming judgment of fire but also he speaks of a time when God will forgive them and restore them.

C. Judgment is coming on the unfaithful people of God and the enemies of God.

D. Those who trust in Yahweh will soar like the eagle. (40:29-31)

E. The time of restoration will be incredible, like the garden of Eden. (Is 51:3,11; 60; 65:17ff)

III. Key verses/chapters-

Isaiah 6- The Call of Isaiah

Isaiah 40:28-31; 41:10; 43:1-3

Isaiah 53-The suffering servant is pictured here. 55:1-3,6-12; 58:3-9

Jeremiah- The Weeping, Persecuted Prophet

Introduction- Jeremiah was persecuted by the last two kings of Judah and even by his own family. He is known as the weeping prophet because of the messages God gave him to preach and the way he was rejected by the Israelites. False prophets opposed him and he himself struggled with his call to preach. Despite all the persecution against him, he still loved God and his fellow Jews. Jeremiah was chosen by God even before he was born. In spite of his feelings of inadequacy God strengthened him and promised to help him.

I. Key Ideas-

A. Confess and Repent- He challenged the Jews to confess their sins and come back to God so that the kingdom of God could be established in Jerusalem. Although they claimed to know God they lied, did not fear God and listened to the false prophets. They thought that God would continue to bless them because they worshipped at the temple. But God wanted repentance- from stealing, lying, offering sacrifices to Baal and oppressing the poor. But the people wouldn't listen and it appeared that no healing would come to Israel.

B. Jeremiah's preaching and persecution. In the 1st part of the book he prophesies and prays for his people. He rebuked the Jews for trusting in manmade idols which were a violation of the covenant. Because of their sin God forsook them and promised to destroy them. That caused Jeremiah to weep. When Jeremiah prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem he was persecuted. People tried to kill him, he was beaten and put in stocks and he cried out to Yahweh and God encouraged him.

C. Jeremiah's symbolic action. Jeremiah acted out God's message- wearing a useless loincloth to symbolize worthless Judah, no weeping when his friends died, symbolized the coming destruction of Jerusalem, the potter's wheel and the way he formed a vessel symbolized God's control over Judah and the breaking of the pottery symbolized how God was going to break His people Judah.

D. Coming Destruction- In chapters 21-29 he records the warnings about the coming destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah spoke directly to King Jehoiakim and Zedekiah. For example he told Zedekiah that the only way to survive was to surrender to the Babylonians.

E. Hope after the exile. He prophesied that they would go into exile for 70 years (25:12) and that God would send a shepherd messianic King from David's lineage to lead His people. Jeremiah speaks about a new covenant that Yahweh will bring; Jesus is the initiator of that new covenant. (31:31ff)

F. Practical applications

1. When God calls you to a task He will help you to carry out that task.
2. Sometimes doing what God asks you to do will bring persecution and difficulties upon you.
3. God brings judgment on His people who trust in false gods and who trust in their own beliefs and not in what God is saying.
4. God is sovereign, He can bring down the proud and exalt the humble.
5. We should weep when God brings judgment on the unrighteous and pray for them.

II. Key verses:

Jeremiah 1:5-8; 17:5-8; 29:11

Lamentations- God is sovereign over the good and evil things that happen.

Introduction- Lamentations has 5 "funeral songs" that grieve over the destruction of Jerusalem and capture of Judah by the Babylonians. Jeremiah probably wrote them just

after Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. These “songs” recognize that God brought judgment because of Judah’s sins but it also reveals the mercy of Yahweh to forgive and restore. They reveal Yahweh as a just God who punishes His people for sins but they do not put the blame on God.

I. Outline:

A. Chapters 1-2- The first two chapters grieve over Jerusalem’s fall and the fact that God is punishing Judah’s sins.

B. Chapter 3 prays for God to be compassionate and gracious. God saves those who turn to Him and His faithfulness is great.

C. Chapter 4-Jerusalem is being attacked. Things were so bad in Jerusalem that parents ate their children and the enemies of Judah, such as Edom, rejoiced.

D. Chapter 5 speaks of the desperation they faced because of their sins but ends with the fact that Yahweh will rule over all the world and Israel will be restored.

II. Key Ideas:

A. God will punish the unrighteous and when He does it will be devastating.

B. Even when he punishes the sinner Yahweh offers hope, if a person repents and seeks His face.

III. Key verses: Lamentations 5:1-7

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the books of Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea and Joel

Main Points:

- Ezekiel and Daniel were the exilic prophets.
- Ezekiel was the watchman of God
- Daniel was a prophet gifted to interpret dreams.
- Hosea is the prophet of love
- Joel is the prophet of Pentecost.

Desired Outcome

- The student will understand the importance of these four books.

Suggestions for teaching

- Finish filling out Handout #6
- Teach lesson #11 as outlined.

Ezekiel-The Watchman of Israel- one of 2 prophets of the Babylonian Exile

Introduction- Ezekiel and Daniel are called the exilic prophets since they prophesied during the Jewish exile in Babylon. Ezekiel was 25 years old and married when he was taken into captivity in Babylon in 597 BC. At the age of 30 he was called and filled with the Spirit.

I. Key Ideas:

A. The revelation of Yahweh. 65 times Ezekiel says that this happened so that, "They will know that I am the Lord." 38:23; 39:28; This shows the sovereignty of Yahweh.

1. 1-24- The revelation of God through the capture of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple

2. 25-32- The revelation of God to the nations. A coming judgment.

3. 33-48- The revelation of God through His promise of restoration.

B. Coming Destruction- He prophesied about the coming destruction of Jerusalem although the Jews in exile did not believe him. God was going to destroy Jerusalem and no one should mourn- the sign of that was that when his wife died he did not mourn. In chapter 33 he hears that Jerusalem has been captured and destroyed.

C. The Watchman for Israel- 3:17; Chapter 33. As a watchman Ezekiel gives hope to the Jews.

1. God would shepherd His people and bring them back to their land,

2. God would destroy Israel's enemies,

3. The temple would be rebuilt and God would be there

4. A river would flow from Jerusalem.

5. Ezekiel promised that God would raise up a Messiah for Israel a Shepherd king- Chapter 34.

D. The river of life flows from the temple and brings life wherever it flows. (47)

E. Application

1. Believers are the watchmen of God challenging people to repent and put their faith in God. 22:30

2. God will punish his own people and their places of worship if they fail to worship Him properly.

3. God is in control of all the nations of the world and will someday judge them.

4. Every person is responsible for their own sins because Yahweh is just.

5. God has a plan to give man a new hope, a new heart and a new life through the Messiah.

6. God can made dry, spiritual bones to live again. (37)

7. There is a spiritual river that will flow from the throne of God (temple).

II. Key chapters/ verses: Ezekiel 22:30; Chapters 34, 37 and 47. 48:35- Jehovah Shammah.

Daniel-The visionary/apocalyptic (revelatory) prophet who was delivered from the lion's den

Introduction- Daniel is the second exilic prophet. Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar came to power in 605 BC when he conquered Egypt. In that year he also went to Jerusalem and took Daniel and friends into captivity. He returned to take more captives in 597 BC and then to destroy Jerusalem in 587/6 BC. Daniel served as one of the highest government officials for 70 years. Daniel is known as a man with a good reputation, one highly esteemed by God.

I. Key Ideas:

A. The fiery furnace. In chapter 3 we read about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were thrown into the fiery furnace for refusing to bow down to the image/idol. They were delivered unharmed by an angel.

B. Wisdom. God honored Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel with great wisdom. Daniel was able to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

C. Daniel and the lion's den. Chapter 6.

D. Apocalyptic-Visions of the future- Daniel uses strange pictures/visions that are symbolic of things which will happen in the future. His writing is "apocalyptic" (revelatory) and is similar to the book of Revelation in some ways. The 2nd half of the book contains visions of the future.

1. Beasts from the sea. One vision in chapter 7 is about 4 beasts coming from the sea. The last one is especially destructive, but God, the ancient of days overcomes him, and the Son of Man is lifted up. This assures the people of God that God will triumph in the end even though His people will go through a time of persecution and tribulation.

2. Small horn.-Some believe that the small horn in chapter 7 refers to the antichrist of Rev. 13 and 17.

E. Son of Man- The term Son of Man is found in Daniel and Jesus uses it in reference to Himself. (7:13) Matt 24:30; 25:31-46.

F. The Prayer of Daniel- Chapter 9- His prayer for Jerusalem.

G. Application.

1. There will be persecution for the people of God but God will deliver them and the Messiah will rule.

2. All wisdom is from God and he gives wisdom to His children in order to bring glory to His name.

3. God has the power to control people and nations. He humbles the proud and lifts up the humble.

II. Key verses:

Daniel 3; 6- whole chapter, esp vs 22,26-27.

Hosea- The Prophet of Love, the prophet of God's love for His people

Introduction- God told Hosea to take an unfaithful wife (prostitute) and bring her back to show how God loved unfaithful Israel. He prophesied just before Assyria conquered Samaria- the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

I. Key Ideas-

A. Failure of Israel to love God. He said that Israel's problem was a failure to acknowledge and love God.

B. Ephraim. He calls the Northern kingdom of Israel Ephraim which was the largest tribe in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and was a symbol of power and strength. Ephraim was one of the two sons of Joseph.

C. The Prophet of Love. Some call him the St. John of the OT because of his emphasis on love.

1. God loves us even when we sin against Him, but His love will not keep Him from punishing sinners.
2. God is like a loving husband who yearns desperately to have a faithful wife.
3. God is a God who rebukes us because of our sin but promises restoration if we repent.

II. **Key verses:** 4:17; 6:1;10:12

Joel- The Prophet of Pentecost

Introduction- He probably prophesied just before Jerusalem fell in 587/6 BC but some feel that his prophesy was much earlier. He focused on the Southern Kingdom- Judah

I. Key Ideas-

A. The Day of the Lord. A key phrase which occurs 5 times is “the day of the Lord.” The day of the Lord is both near at hand and in the future.

B. Coming Judgment. Joel said that a grasshopper plague would be a sign, warning from God about the coming Day of the Lord. The locusts possibly refer to the coming Babylonians. The locusts would destroy everything. But they were also a sign from God to fast and cry out to God for help. Joel interpreted the locusts as a military invasion. Joel speaks of the judgment coming and of the hope that God will bring.

C. The coming of the Holy Spirit - God will bring about joy and pour His Spirit on all flesh so that whoever calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved. Judah will be restored and the nations will be judged. God will judge the world on that great Day and then all will know that He alone is God.

D. Application:

1. Repentance is the only way to avoid God’s judgment.
2. God will judge the wicked and will bless the righteous on the final day of the Lord.
3. Someday God will pour out His Spirit on all people. This is a reference to the Holy Spirit’s working in salvation and the baptism- 2nd work of grace.

II. **Key verses:** Chapter 2:28-32 “ I will pour out my Spirit on all people....”

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the books of Amos, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah.

Main Points:

- Amos and Micah were especially concerned with social justice
- Obadiah prophesied against Edom and their pride when they rejoiced at Judah's downfall
- Jonah was the reluctant prophet

Desired Outcome

- The student will know what true justice and true religion is.
- They will know the danger of pride
- They will understand the danger of running from God's call.

Suggestions for teaching

- Give the students handout #7
- Teach lesson #12 as outlined.

Amos- The prophet of Social Justice, the prophet of Righteousness

Introduction- There was economic prosperity in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and God sent a poor shepherd from Judah- the Southern Kingdom to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom.

I. Key Ideas-

A. Oppression of the poor. They were oppressing the poor in the Northern Kingdom. Amos hammers them for their oppression. He says that God will judge his disobedient, unfaithful people. He was a spokesman for social justice.

B. Judgment and restoration. Judgment is coming was his message, but he also prophesies that God will one day restore Israel.

C. Application

1. God will oppose you and judge you if you oppress the poor, worship idols, reject God's offer of salvation, or defile the Lord's holy name .

2. God hates hypocrisy, greed, injustice, and empty ritualism in worship.

3. God promises judgment because of sin and restoration and redemption if man repents.

4. God chooses common people to declare His message. Amos was a shepherd from Judah.

5. True religion and worship results in a changed life and behavior where you treat others justly, follow God's will and see His face. It is not simply giving offerings, worshiping at the sanctuary or celebrating the religious holidays. It is seeking God's will, treating others with justice, and following God's commands. "Let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream" - 5:24.

II. Key verses:

3:7-8; 5:4-6, 14, 22, 24

Obadiah- The Prophet against Edom- Beware of your pride

Introduction- Obadiah prophesied against the people of Edom just after the fall of Jerusalem. He saw how the Edomites rejoiced and frustrated the Jews when the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem. The Edomites mocked, robbed and killed the Jews who were running away. The Jews were wondering why God did not punish them.

I. Key Ideas:

A. Pride goes before a fall. Edom had a problem of pride- they thought they could not be defeated because of where they were located- their kingdom was high in the mountains. Obadiah promised they would have their own Day of the Lord. Yahweh would bring them down.

B. Application

1. Pride in your own resources and ability cannot save you, but in the end, that will be your downfall.
2. God will judge those who rejoice when others suffer.

II. Key verse:- 15 "As you have done, it will be done to you."

Jonah- The Reluctant Prophet, A Prophet of God's mercy to a sinful nation

Introduction- His focus was on Assyria and especially Nineveh. This prophecy is more about the prophet himself than about his message. God called him to go to Nineveh and preach but he ran away. God raised up a storm to threaten his boat and he was tossed overboard. But then God provided a fish to save his life and eventually he repented and went to Nineveh and preached about the coming destruction of Nineveh. When the people there repented, God relented and Jonah became angry because he wanted them to be destroyed. In truth there was a revival in the city that spared them the wrath of God for many years.

I. Key Ideas:

1. When God calls you to do something do not run away from that call.
2. God is a sovereign God; He is in control of everything on earth including the nations that seem to oppose Him and His will.
3. God will forgive anyone if they will repent.
4. When God causes people to repent, even your enemies rejoice, don't sulk.
5. God's love even reaches out to the enemies of God's people.

II. Key verse:

2:9 " But I, with a song of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord."

MICAH- The prophet of the oppressed, the prophet of the poor

Introduction- He began preaching before Samaria fell in 722/21 BC. He prophesied to both the Southern Kingdom of Judah and also the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He is the Prophet of the poor, oppressed, common people. His name means who is like Yahweh. He prophesies against Israel and Judah for their idolatry and social injustices. The poor were being oppressed by the rich. He was from Judah and ministered between 740 BC and 686 BC. Micah, was a contemporary of Isaiah in Judah and Hosea in Israel.

I. Key Ideas-

- A. Judgment is coming. He foretold the fall of both Samaria and Jerusalem and even the Babylonian exile later. He preaches a threat of judgment for breaking covenant with Yahweh. He says that the Lord has a case against His people. and prophesies the coming of the Messiah.
- B. The champion of the oppressed. The rich were continually oppressing the poor. Micah fought for them.
1. Merchants were cheating their customers. He attacks dishonest merchants for using false weights, bribing judges, and charging excessive interest rates.
 2. He condemns the leaders. Even the priests and prophets seemed to be caught up in this tidal wave of greed and dishonesty that swept his country. The religious and judicial leaders were corrupt, and the true prophets were told to keep quiet. Many people were so insensitive to the problem that they believed God would still defend them--in spite of their sins. Micah's message reminded them of the consequences of national sin.
 3. He condemns the wealthy. He condemns wealthy landowners for taking the land of the poor. 2:2.

C. Idolatry and injustice- He denounces the idolatry of his times, the injustice of judges and falsehoods of false prophets,

D. Justice and mercy. To a people more concerned about observing rituals than living a life of righteousness, Micah thundered, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" 6:8. This is one of the greatest passages in the Old Testament. It expresses the timeless truth that authentic worship consists of following God's will and dealing justly with other people.

E. The coming Messiah. He prophesies about the coming Messiah and foretells the restoration of Israel. . The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem and one day will be the king over all the earth. (5:2)

F. A debate-The final two chapters of Micah's book are presented in the form of a debate between God and His people. God invites the nations of Israel and Judah to reason with Him on the subject of their conduct. He convinces them that their sin is deep and grievous, but He assures them of His presence in spite of their unworthiness.

G. Application

1. God will judge those who do not rule with justice.

2. Religious ritual is useless without righteousness. God wants His people to practice justice, to be humble and be kind to others.

3. There is hope in the midst of oppression and trouble if we trust in God and His promises.

II. Key verses:

5:2; 6:8- ..." What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. "

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the books of Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Haggai

Main Points:

- Nahum is a prophecy against the Assyrians and especially Nineveh
- Habakkuk the prophet of faith questions the justice of God
- Zephaniah prophesies about the coming Day of judgment- the Day of Yahweh when everything will be made right.
- Haggai the prophet of the temple who challenged Judah's priorities

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the themes and key ideas in these four books.

Suggestions for teaching

- Continue with handout #7
- Teach lesson #13 as outlined.

NAHUM- the Prophet who prophesied about Nineveh's fall

Introduction- A prophecy against the Assyrians, especially Nineveh, before Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 BC. His message is that man's sin brings God's wrath and that God's wrath will fall on Nineveh. He encouraged King Josiah and the people of Judah with his message. 150 years before, the Ninevites had repented after Jonah preached to them, but now they went back to their old sinful ways. People began to wonder if God would ever deal with the Assyrians. God told Nahum that He was the powerful God who would judge evil doers and bless those who trust in Him. Nahum's prophecy encouraged Josiah to not give in to the Assyrians but to work on reformation in Judah.

I. Key Ideas

A. The holiness and power of Yahweh.- God desires holy living because He is holy. Nahum begins by reminding his listeners of God's wrath, power and goodness. Even though he is slow to anger He will punish His enemies. Yahweh has great power and will protect those who trust in Him.

B. Nineveh's fall. Nahum describes the siege and destruction of Nineveh, God would destroy them. The city fell in 612 BC. Nahum taunts the Assyrians by suggesting that they draw water from the flood waters to make new bricks to save their city and to try to multiply themselves like grasshoppers.

C. Application

1. God is sovereign and He alone rules over the nations in the world. Those who trust in Him, He will bless, those who don't, will be judged with His wrath.

2. The wrath of God cannot be removed with riches or military power.

3. God had been gracious to the Assyrians during the time of Jonah, but God's patience runs out when man turns against Yahweh.

II. Key verse:

1:3--"Yahweh is slow to anger and great in power, he will not leave the guilty unpunished..."

Habakkuk- The prophet who questioned GOD'S JUSTICE

Introduction-He prophesied about the time Nineveh fell in 612 BC but probably before 605 BC when the Babylonians became powerful. He may have prophesied around 607 BC, during the reign of King Jehoiakim. He prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He grapples with the issue of

theodicy- explaining how God can be good and powerful in the midst of an evil world. He prays for justice in Judah, he questions God about His justice and he prays for mercy in times of trouble.

I. Key Ideas

A. Similarity between Job and Habakkuk. Job and Habakkuk are similar in that both struggle with the issue of how God could let bad things happen to “good” people.

B. The problem of injustice- When Jehoiakim begins to reign there was injustice and oppression of the righteous. Habakkuk asks God why, why do you allow this evil to go unpunished and why God did not help those who were righteous?

C. God sometimes uses the wicked to punish the wicked. God’s answer was I will provide justice in my own way. God’s plan was to raise up Babylon to punish the Assyrians and the wicked people of Judah. But this raised another problem for Habakkuk. How could a holy God allow the wicked Babylonians to punish and destroy the nation of Judah- God’s people who were more righteous than the Babylonians?

D. Eventually all the wicked will be punished. This is God’s answer-

1) The righteous person will live by faith in times of trouble.

2) The Babylonians would eventually be cut off and devastated because they worshipped foreign gods and lived unrighteous lives.

E. A plea for mercy. Habakkuk pleads with God to have mercy as He pours out His wrath. He feared the power of God’s wrath but he also rejoiced in the mercy of God.

F. The need for faith. In the NT, the writers echo Habakkuk. The statement that the just shall live by faith and not by works is found in Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11. No one can work their way to heaven, salvation only comes by grace through faith.

G. Application

1. God’s ways are sometimes difficult to understand but God is a righteous God.

2. The just will live by faith. The power of God will give strength to face difficulties with joy.

II. Key verse-

2:4- “The just will live by faith.”: 3:17-19

Zephaniah- The Prophet of the day of the Lord

Introduction- He warns Judah about the coming Day of the Lord. Zephaniah probably lived before King Josiah’s reform which began in 621 BC.

I. Key Ideas

A. The Searching God. God will be “searching Jerusalem with lamps.”

B. The Day of the Lord.

1. The day of the Lord will be a day of judgment. That day would be a day when the strong will weep, when destruction will be rampant.

2. Repent to prepare for the coming of the day of the Lord. But if the people of God would repent, humble themselves and seek Yahweh, He will be gracious to them.

3. The Day of the Lord will be a day of restoration and joy.

4. Wrath for unbelievers, joy for believers. That day will be a day where unbelievers will experience the wrath of God but it will be a day of vindication and joy for the believers. God’s wrath would fall on all people even the unfaithful Jews.

C. Application:

1. No one can avoid the day of the Lord.

2. Unbelievers will face the wrath of God on the day of Yahweh.

3. But those who repent and trust in Yahweh will be blessed and enjoy the presence of God.

II. Key verses:

Zephaniah 1:2-3;14-18;3:12,17-20.

Haggai- The temple building prophet who challenged Judah’s priorities.

Introduction. Haggai is one of the two prophets that God raised up to challenge the Jews to rebuild the temple. The other prophet was Zechariah. One interesting fact is that King Cyrus of Persia, the one who sent the Jews home from exile also paid for the cost of the temple. Although the Jews had returned from exile to rebuild the temple they got sidetracked because of the Persians, local people and their own lack of commitment.

I. Key Ideas:

A. Focus on God's priorities. Haggai's message was set your priorities straight; build the temple not just your own houses was his message. The people were struggling with finances, there was a drought and they began to focus on their own homes. Haggai challenged them to focus of Yahweh's priorities. The people responded to the challenge and began to work on the temple. The people became discouraged because the temple was not going to be as nice as Solomon's temple. But Haggai challenged them to follow God's plan and told them that God would help them.

B. Holiness- Holiness must become the priority of the Jews so that they could receive God's blessing.

C. God raised up a man to build the temple- Zerubbabel. Haggai prophesied that Zerubbabel would be blessed by God and be used by God to build God's temple. He was a very practical minded prophet.

D. Application-

1. God cares more about personal holiness than outward spiritual activities- eg than the temple and the spiritual activities there.

2. There will be opposition and problems in life, but we must find out God's will and pursue that above all other things.

II. Key verses

1:4-6 "How can you live in paneled houses while God's house remains unfinished."

Lesson Purpose:

- To introduce the books of Zechariah and Malachi

Main Points:

- Zechariah was the 2nd temple prophet who was a messianic prophet like Isaiah
- Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, challenged the people to holiness.
- The people of Judah had become lazy and sinful and Malachi called them back to God.

Desired Outcome

- The student will know the prophecies of Zechariah concerning the Messiah
- The student will see the importance of holiness from Malachi

Suggestions for teaching

- Finish filling out Handout #7
- Teach lesson #14 as outlined.
- Give Exam #3

Zechariah – The visionary, messianic temple prophet-By the power of the Spirit the temple will be built

Introduction- Zechariah was the 2nd temple prophet who believed that by the Spirit the temple would be rebuilt. He was a visionary, a messianic prophet. Zechariah apparently had 8 visions in one night- Chapter 1-6. He emphasized the restoration of Israel by God. He worked together with Haggai to challenge the people to build the temple.

I. Outline of book.

A. Chaps 1-8 encouraged the building of the temple

B. Chapters 9-14 speak about the coming of the messianic kingdom. Zechariah was used by God to bring hope to the Jews who were still living in sin and wondering why Yahweh had not yet brought restoration.

II. Key Ideas:

A. The restoration of Jerusalem. Zechariah records a series of visions God gave him about the restoration of Jerusalem. God promises the people that He is watching over Jerusalem, He will destroy their enemies and Jerusalem will be filled with people and with joy.

B. Two olive trees. God would turn the mountains into plains through Zerubbabel and Joshua the two olive trees. There was a special word of encouragement for Joshua and that God would see that the temple would be finished.

C. Repent. Zechariah challenges the people to repent because of their sin God will remove the curse of sin and will control all the earth.

D. Fasting. When the people asked about the practice of fasting, Zechariah asks if they were fasting for God or themselves. God wanted them to practice righteousness through justice, compassion and removing their stubborn hearts. If they obeyed, God promised to bless them; God would turn their fasts into feasts.

E. The Coming Messiah. God promises to send the Messiah- the Branch and Israel would receive a crown of jewels- symbolized by Joshua. Yahweh promised to bring judgment and restoration through the messiah coming on a donkey, the renewing of the covenant, the removal of idolatry and God giving strength to His people. But the king (Messiah) would be rejected and they would follow a bad shepherd. The Good Shepherd will be sold for 30 pieces of silver.

F. A Great war. In 12-14 Zech describes God's deliverance in a great war waged against God's people. When God saves Israel and destroys the nations, then the people will finally see and know the one that was pierced and they will repent and be cleansed.

G. The victory of Yahweh. Finally God Himself will stand on the Mount of Olives and defend His people. He will finally reign over all the earth and kings. Those who refuse to worship Him will be destroyed.

H. Relationship between Zechariah's prophecy and the NT fulfillment. He and Isaiah are the messianic prophets because of their many prophecies of the coming Messiah. Notice the relationship between Zechariah's prophecy and NT fulfillment. He gives more prophecies about the Messiah- Christ than any other minor prophet.

1. Jesus was the humble King who rode on a donkey Zech 9:9- Matt 21:5
2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Zech 11:4-14 and John 10:14
3. Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Zech 11:12 and Matt 26:15
4. Jesus was pierced at the cross. Zech 12:10 and John 19:37
5. There will be no night in heaven. Zech 14 and Rev. 22:5
6. There will be a river running out of Jerusalem. Zech 14:8 and Rev. 22:1-2

I. Application

1. Repentance is the only way to remove God's anger.
2. Someday God Himself will judge the world; the righteous will be blessed and the wicked punished.
3. The work of God will be accomplished through the Holy Spirit, not the might or power of man.
4. Fasting is useless if it is not done for God out of a pure heart.
5. Although the world rejected the Messiah when he first came, someday the Jews and Gentiles will know Him as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and they will bow down to Him.

III. Key verse:

4:6- "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord." That scripture refers to the building of the temple and was an encouragement to Zerubbabel and Joshua as they led the rebuilding effort. Through the power of the Spirit all things are possible.

Malachi- the prophet of holiness.

Introduction - Malachi means "my messenger" or "messenger of Jehovah." The prophecy was probably written in the period between 450 and 425 B.C. during the time of Nehemiah. Malachi challenged Judah to honor God in everything. He is the prophet of integrity, purity and divine love. He ministered at the same time as Nehemiah, about 433 BC. He ministered 100 years after Haggai and Zechariah. The temple was built but the people had become spiritually lazy, divorcing their Jewish wives and again taking foreign wives. They were failing to live according to the covenant. People were beginning to question God's love for them. Malachi tells the people that God will be glorified and they needed to be serious about worshipping Him. The Temple was completed and sacrifices were being given, but the priests were failing to truly lead the people properly.

I. Outline of Book- There are four chapters in the book, broken into 3 parts.

- A. In the first section (1:6-2:9) the prophet rebukes the priests who had despised the name of Yahweh, misled the people in worship and away from the covenant, and for failing to properly administer the law.
- B. (2:9-16) the people are rebuked for their marriages to unbelievers.
- C. (2:17-4:6) He warns all the people of the coming of the judgment of God, after the coming of the Messiah. This book is referred to in the New Testament in Matthew 11:10; 17:12; Mark 1:2; 9:11, 12; Luke 1:17 and Romans 9:13.

II. Key Ideas

- A. Bad sacrifices. At first the people had been excited about rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple and renewing their system of worship. But years later they became discouraged and wondered about God's love for them as His people. They began to offer diseased and lame animals as sacrifices and failed to offer their tithes and offerings to God. They failed to honor God in their worship.
- B. Bad leaders. Even the priests who should have been leading the people and living godly lives were failing.
- C. Failure to tithe. Another problem was their failure to tithe. If they would begin tithing, God would stop the evil things attacking their harvest and give them a bountiful harvest.
- D. Bad worship- This book was written to challenge the Israelites for their lack of true worship. At this time, 100 years after their return from exile the Jews in Jerusalem were discouraged. There was no rain and the harvest was bad. They were wondering if God cared. Malachi tells them that

Yahweh is still on his throne, he still punishes man for his sin. He challenges them to give their tithes, live in obedience and they would see the blessings of Yahweh.

E. The problem of sin. There was a problem with divorce, taking foreign wives and there was a question if God was just.

F. True Worship- Malachi wrote to call the people back to the true worship of Yahweh. Malachi is known for his powerful picture of God's love, might and power in a time when Israel had begun to doubt.

G. The day of the Lord- To those who wondered whether they should still serve Yahweh, God says through Malachi that He is recording in His book those who honor Him and on the Day of the Lord the righteous would be blessed and the wicked would be punished. Finally God promises that Elijah will come in preparation for the Day of the Lord. The Messiah will come to destroy the wicked and bless the righteous, but before He comes, Elijah, John the Baptist, will come.

H. The debate. Part of the book is written in the format of a debate where God makes a statement of truth which the people then deny. Then God specifically refutes their argument. Malachi is one of the most argumentative books of the Bible.

I. Application

1. God hates divorce and marriage with pagans.

2. Don't offer useless gifts to God.

3. God blesses those who faithfully tithe.

4. God is a loving and a just God- on the Day of the Lord, He will bless the righteous and condemn the unrighteous.

5. God expects that those who represent Him through preaching and teaching, to be faithful- they will be judged for what they do or don't do.

6. We must honor God by worshipping Him properly.

Key verses: Malachi 1:6-8; 3;7-12;4:5-6.

This is the last book in the OT. After this prophecy there were 400 years of silence until the time of Jesus the Christ.