

Old Testament Basics

Genesis 1-11

Introduction

The Purpose of the Law

- The Old Testament is a remarkable expression of God's love for mankind and reveals God's purpose and plan for all creation.
- Because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, fellowship with God was broken.
- God, being omniscient (all knowing), set in motion a plan before creation to redeem (buy-back) this broken fellowship.

Rules of the Law

- Through the Law (Genesis-Deuteronomy) given to Moses, God gave rules to be followed.
- God set an absolute and holy standard for which all should live.
- It was necessary for God to give these Laws in order for mankind to differentiate between right and wrong (righteousness and sin).
- If one could live without breaking any part of the Law, they would be declared righteous.

The Law is Impossible to Follow

- Because of man's sinful nature, a complete holy and sinless life was impossible to live.
- As a result, all were doomed to a separation from God. Due to God's incomprehensible love for mankind, He provided a way for sin to be resolved.
- This would be accomplished by way of animal sacrifices.
- The Laws given to Moses were intended to be a temporary fix for sin. God was planning a more perfect way for the remission of sin.

A Substitute for the Law

- This plan was for His Son, Jesus Christ, to be offered as the ultimate sacrifice.
- In the Old Testament, not participating in the animal sacrifice meant separation from God.
- Today, separation from God comes by refusing God's free gift of Jesus Christ.
- No amount of work, effort, or lifestyle will give man a right fellowship with God.
- God's ultimate desire is for all to live with Him forever.
- Eventually, a new heaven and a new earth will be created.
- The effects and presence of sin will be nonexistent, and God will reign with us in a perfect and holy world.

God's Perfect Plan

- The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse into this eternal world, "...and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain..." (Revelation 21:4).

Outline of the Old Testament

- The Old Testament is an incredible compilation of 39 books written by many various authors, spanning a period of time from 1450 B.C. to 400 B.C.
- Each book remarkably parallels every other book without contradiction or discrepancy and tells the same story of God's love and plan for mankind.
- The Old Testament is divided into 5 major sections:

•The five sections are:

- Books of the Law**- (*Pentateuch*) Genesis-Deuteronomy
- Books of History**-Joshua-Esther
- Books of Poetry/Wisdom**-Job-Song of Solomon
- The Major Prophets**-Isaiah-Daniel
- The Minor Prophets**-Hosea-Malachi

•**Be prepared for an amazing adventure as we study God's word.**

The Beginning

- Chapter 1 through chapter 2 verse 3 gives us a description of the first week of creation.
- Genesis 1:1 states God created the heavens and the earth.
- The word for God is Elohim which is plural, indicating plentitude of power and majesty and allows for the New Testament revelation of the Trinity
 - (God the Father,
 - God the Son,
 - and God the Holy Spirit)-Ryrie.

The Order of Creation:

- Day 1- light and darkness -this light was not the sun since the sun and moon were created on day 4.
 - Ryrie states, “Evening and morning cannot be construed to mean an age, but only a day; everywhere in the Pentateuch the word day, when used (as here) with a numerical adjective, means a solar day (now calibrated as 24 hours).
- Day 2-separation of the sky from the waters
- Day 3-separation of **land and sea**; vegetation
- Day 4-creation of sun and moon
- Day 5-creation of sea creatures and birds of the air
- Day 6-creation of creatures upon the land and man (male and female)
- Day 7-God rested, blessed and sanctified (separated) the seventh day. “He ceased or desisted from His work. No weariness is implied. The Hebrew word is Sabbath, the name of the day that later was given to Israel at a time of cessation from normal activities.

Adam and Eve

- Chapter 2: 8-9; 16-17-The Garden of Eden was a perfect dwelling but God set forth a specific rule; they were not to eat from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil or they would die (separation from God).
- Chapter 3:1-7-Here we see the deceitfulness and craftiness of Satan. Satan's temptations will always lead to destruction. No matter how tempting or enticing Satan's schemes are, they always destroy.
- In Chapter 3:14-19, we see one of the first prophetic passages in the Bible.
- Satan is cursed; it is foretold women would have pain in childbirth; the ground was cursed; and man would die and return to the dust of the ground.
- Vs. 15 gives us the first glimpse of God's redemptive plan for mankind.
- Satan would bruise the woman's heel, but Satan's head would be bruised.
- This indicates Christ will come from woman and be bruised (death on the cross but ultimate everlasting victory) but Satan's head will be bruised (everlasting defeat) when Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.
- Vs. 22 and 24 shows the Tree of Life being guarded from man.
- Revelation 22: 14 reveals the Tree of Life will be freely given to believers in the new heaven and new earth.
- We see the first murder in Chapter 4 when Cain kills Abel.
- God rejected Cain's sacrifice but accepted Abel's.
- It is a bit unclear why God rejected Cain's sacrifice; it is possible that God would only accept a blood sacrifice. or perhaps the sacrifice was presented in unbelief or defiance.
- God gave Cain the ability to repent but Cain refused to repent (vs. 7 and 16).

The Flood

- Genesis 5:29 gives us another glimpse of God's redemptive plan for man through Christ.
- Christ came through Noah and would ultimately rule and bring victory over sin.
- The flood in Genesis 7:1; 7:23 is a foreshadowing of one's security in Christ (Romans 8:38-39) and of Christ's millennial reign after His second coming. See Luke 17:20-37 (vs.26-27).
- God promised never to destroy the world with a flood 9:8-9; 11-13. God does not promise to destroy the earth again.
- God will destroy the earth and the heavens after Christ's millennial reign. He will then create a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1, 4)

The Tower of Babel

- Ch. 11-The Tower of Babel-God confused the language of the people because of their defiance to Him. God told Noah in 9:1 to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.
- 11:4 states the tower was made to keep the inhabitants of the earth from scattering.

Christ's Early Lineage

- God had a plan for Christ's lineage. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- Canaan was cursed due to his father Ham's wickedness.
- Genesis 11:26 speaks of Shem's blessing.
- Ryrie notes, "Yahweh will be Shem's God and Shem's blessing. (Jews are of Semitic-from 'Shem'-descent". Abraham was a descendent of Shem.
- 11:31 gives us an interesting account of Terah, Abraham's father. He set out for Canaan but settled in Haran (between the region of Ur of the Chaldeans and Cannan).

- God called Abraham out of Haran and directed him to Canaan.

Conclusion

- Has God called you for a special work? Is He telling you to yield your life or service to Him?
- It is easy to go part way with God and then to stop.
- God had a beautiful plan made for mankind and He has a beautiful plan for each one of us.
- Even though sin ruined God's ultimate plan, God had a wonderful alternative.
- We may not be able to see God's plan clearly in our lives. In fact, our lives may seem chaotic and out of control. We may be wondering, "Where is God anyway?"
- It is very important to place our faith and trust into God's hands. He knows what is best for us even when life does not make sense. Trust Him with **everything**.