



OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

**COURSE MANUAL
No. 2**

(From p. 8 in Manual #2)

COURSE 2

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Syllabus

Course Description:

A broad overview and survey of the Old Testament designed to emphasize the structure, theme and message of the Old Testament and each of its 39 individual books in order to provide understanding of God’s self-revelation and His plan of redemption.

Course Goals:

- (1) To teach pastors and church leaders the basic structure, theme and message of the Old Testament and its 39 books as the foundation for the New Testament.
- (2) To teach pastors and church leaders the broad sweep of Old Testament theological history as it relates to Israel and God’s plan of redemption.
- (3) To lead pastors and church leaders to a clear understanding of the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- (4) To lead pastors and church leaders to a better understanding of and appreciation for—
 - who God is
 - who man is
 - the purpose for which man was created
 - the nature and consequences of sin
 - the gracious love and mercy of God expressed in redemption
 - the integrity, unity and value of the Word of God.
- (5) To encourage pastors and church leaders to learn from the examples and illustrations of the Old Testament.
- (6) To encourage pastors and church leaders to walk by faith before God.
- (7) To encourage pastors and church leaders to fully obey the Word of God.
- (8) To exhort pastors and church leaders to preach and teach the principles, truths and concepts of the Old Testament.

**SACRED SCRIPTURE MAKES US WISE
FOR SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION**

(From pp. 12–15 in Manual #2)

Course Outline

I. Introduction	(pp. 16–30)
A. How we got the Old Testament	p. 16
B. The 39 Books of the Old Testament	p. 18
C. Overview of Old Testament history	p. 19
D. Time periods of Old Testament history	p. 20
E. Brief time line of the Old Testament	p. 22
F. Why study the Old Testament	p. 23
1. Old Testament was written for us	
2. Developing a biblical world view	
G. Relationship between Old Testament and New Testament	p. 25
H. Theology of the Old Testament	p. 28
I. Theme of the Old Testament	p. 29
II. The Books of the Old Testament	(pp. 31–314)
A. The 5 Books of The Law	(pp. 31–68)
• Introduction to the Pentateuch	
– Pentateuch chart	
• Genesis	
– Special aspects of creation account in Genesis 1	
– Map of the Old Testament world	
• Exodus	
– Purpose of the Law	
• Leviticus	
– Comparison with Exodus	
• Numbers	
• Deuteronomy	

B. **The 12 Historical Books** (pp. 69–150)

1. Introduction to the historical books

- Map–Israel as divided among the 12 tribes p. 70

a. **Pre-exilic** (9 books) (pp. 71–128)

1) Time of conquest and judges (3 books)

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth

2) Time of the kings (6 books)

- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- Map–The Divided Kingdom p. 114
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Comparison of books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles

b. **Post-exilic** (3 books) (pp. 129–150)

Introduction

- Post-exilic period
- Dates in the restoration
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

C. **The 5 Books of Poetry** (pp. 151–192)

Introduction

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Solomon’s Song of Songs

D. **The 17 Books of Prophecy** (pp. 193–314)

1. **5 Major Prophets** (5 books) (pp. 193–238)

Introduction

1. Why study prophecy
2. Nature of God's prophets
3. Message of a prophet
4. Time periods and emphasis of biblical prophecy
5. Major/minor prophets in their historical timeline
6. Relationship between Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and New Covenants

a. **Pre-exilic** (3 books) (pp. 199–222)

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations

b. **Exilic** (2 books) (pp. 223–238)

- Ezekiel
- Daniel

2. **12 Minor Prophets** (12 books) (pp. 239–314)

Introduction

a. **Pre-exilic** (9 books) (pp. 241–293)

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah

- b. **Post-exilic** (3 books) (pp. 294–314)

Introduction

- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi
- Comparison chart of major/minor prophets

- III. Summary—The most significant chapters of the Old Testament (pp. 315–322)

- IV. Close of the Old Testament (pp. 323–324)

- Overview
- Key developments between the Old Testament and New Testament

JUDGES

DARK AGES OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY

Degeneration	Disobedience - Deliverance								Depravity			
Initial victories (1) — “but they did not drive them out completely” (1) — Israel disobeyed. God said - “I will not drive them out. Their gods will be a snare” (2:3) — “They forsook God and served Baal and did not abandon their practices or stubborn ways” — Intermarriage Idolatry — Summary of book 2:10-19	“And Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord”											
	“The Lord was moved to pity by their groaning” 2:18						“Then the Lord raised up judges who saved them” 2:16					
	Judge	Othniel 3:7-11	Ehud/ Shamgar 3:12-31	Deborah/ Barak 4:1-5:31	Gideon 6:1-8:32	Tola Jair 8:33-10:5	Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon 10:6-12:15	Samson 13:1-16:31				
	Enemy	Mesopotamians	Moabites	Canaanites	Midianites	Abimelech	Ammonites	Philistines				
	Yrs in bondage	8	18	20	7	3	18	40				
	Yrs of peace	40	80	40	40	45	6, 7, 10, 8	20				
Description — Nations left to test and train Israel — Intermarriage Idolatry — Summary of book 2:10-19	Forgot God & served Baals — Spirit of Lord came upon him	God strengthened King Eglon against Israel — left-handed sword/fat	Iron chariots of Sisera — Lord will sell Sisera into hands of woman — Song — Jael tent peg/head	“Brought low” — Go and deliver Israel — fleece 300 men trumpets/pitchers — Idol a snare to Gideon	Anarchy 70 sons of Gideon killed — King Abimelech — God returned wickedness on their heads	True repentance - put away idols — diplomacy — “Whatever I see, first is God’s” — War with Ephraim	Nazirite vow — “It was of the Lord” lion/honey riddle — foxes/fire — jawbone slaughter — Delilah’s haircut — Death to Dagon					
Spiritual condition	Seven Sin Cycles								Spiritual collapse			
1	2	3						16	17	21		
Idolatry			Immorality				Intermarriage					
1380 BC			“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit” (21:25)								1045 BC	

(From p. 78 in Manual #2)

(From p. 79 in Manual #2)

4. Summary of content

Chapters 1-2

Spiritual condition—Degeneration

After the death of Joshua, the tribes of Israel did not completely obey the Lord and drive out the wicked inhabitants of the land. The Canaanites practiced idolatry and immorality and through intermarriage, lax spiritual standards and disobedience the Israelites were soon conformed to the sinful ways of the Canaanites (see **Ro. 12:2**; **2 Co. 10:2**). God had earlier in **Deuteronomy** predicted that the “gods” of the Canaanites would become a snare to Israel’s spiritual walk with God and that is exactly what happened. The people sinned and reaped the consequences of it.

In 2:10-19 the book of **Judges** is summarized as the “cycle of sin and deliverance” is described. **Idolatry, immorality** and **intermarriage** corrupted the people and enslaved them to sin and heathen oppression.

Chapters 3-16

Seven sin cycles—Disobedience/deliverance

For over 300 years Israel was trapped in successive vicious cycles of sin – deliverance – sin. Over and over again the story is repeated. There are seven distinct cycles of sin described (see the book chart) when God raised up deliverers/judges to free the people from sin and oppression. For a while the people would repent and enjoy peace and freedom. But soon they would lapse into sin again and became oppressed by foreign nations (see chart near Judges 1, *The NIV or NASB Study Bible*). God’s mercy, compassion and longsuffering patience are displayed over and over again as He responded to Israel’s cry for help and raised up judges like Gideon (see chart near Judges 7, *The NIV or NASB Study Bible*) and Samson. But even these great men did not live up to their spiritual potential and the cycle continued.

Chapters 17-21

Spiritual collapse—Depravity

The last five chapters of **Judges** form an appendix describing various selected events which occurred during the period of the judges and which illustrated the incredibly low level to which Israel’s spiritual condition had sunk. What is depicted are the results of uncontrolled sin when each person is his own standard of morality — of right and wrong. Perhaps the most important verse in the book is the last verse.

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” (**21:25**)

And while the statement is true in a sense it is also false. Israel had no earthly king but they did have a KING — i.e., GOD. But instead of obeying God, each man was his own “god” for the essence of sin is living independently of God (see **Ge. 3:1-4**; **Ro. 1:25**). Anarchy, chaos and sin were the results. The book of **Judges** sets the stage for the books of **Samuel, Kings** and **Chronicles**.

(From p. 11 in Manual #2)

Suggestions For Teaching Course 2

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Pages: 324 **Hours required:** 60 **Class sessions:** 30
Pace and schedule: 10-11 pages per 2 hour session adjusted for natural divisions in the material.

Note: After the introductory material (pp. 12–32), which will take at least 2 hours just to review briefly, the teacher may want to divide the course by books deciding how much time to spend on each.

For example, one approach would be as follows:

Intro: pp. 12–32, 1 session; **Genesis–Daniel**, *1 session per book;
12 minor prophets, 2 books per session.

*Even then some books like **Esther, Ruth, Lamentations, and Song of Solomon** could be done in 1/2 session (1 hour each leaving more time for longer books.)

Hints and approach

- At least scan read the book and headings before teaching the book.
- Be familiar with the basic content and key chapters.
- Cover the introductory charts quickly while providing enough explanation so the students can understand the purpose and content.
- Emphasize the relationship between the OT and NT and enhance their appreciation of the OT.
- Use the Time Periods Chart on pp. 20–21 to overview the books and history of the OT.
- Stress the importance of developing a biblical world view.
- For each book of the OT the teacher should make sure the students understand the structure, content, theme, how the book fits into the OT canon and flow of OT history, the applicational message, the book’s contribution to theology and understanding of God and man.
- Specifically use the book chart to talk through the book; refer to and use in class a few key passages from the book which focus on the theme and main teachings; highlight a few main teachings; focus on key distinctive features and the book’s contribution to the Bible as a whole; don’t get “bogged-down” in details or try to cover all the book. Remember, this is a survey or overview with synthesis not analysis being the most important aspect. Keep in mind that all of the key truths, principles and concepts of each book will be covered in a later course. Don’t try to do it all in the survey (e.g. Evolution vs. special creation is covered in Bible Doctrine Survey). The assignments in Courses 2 and 3 are designed to help students develop the skill of finding the main idea or central truth of a passage. The teacher will want to illustrate the concept in class using an example from the manual.