

2 3 TENTS, TEMPLES, PALACES 4

This study is outlined generally on the ICI course of the same name, authored by Rick C. Howard. Further information on the course can be obtained by contacting Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone, Springfield, Missouri 65804.

5 6 INTRODUCTION 7

8
9 Many of the greatest stories known originate within the sacred pages of the Old
10 Testament (or the Hebrew Scriptures). From Adam to Zedekiah, the dramas unfold in
11 unending wonder. In this study we will learn from these marvelous (and not-so-
12 marvelous) human beings and their walk (or lack thereof) with God. We will study the
13 fall of empires. We will learn of kings of incalculable wealth. We will learn of
14 shepherds, harlots, soldiers, statesmen, prophets and leaders who changed the world.
15

16 But, even beyond those stories, we will learn what God is really like and how He deals
17 with us. As Howard puts it in his text, we learn how God revealed Himself to us in two
18 basic ways: 1) through His mighty works and 2) through His prophetic messages.
19

20 We are going to see different kinds of writing. We will find historical narratives, giving
21 us the marvelous story of the Jews of Israel. We will encounter love poetry. We will
22 find a full song book in the Old Testament. We will find prophecies of the most
23 magnificent proportions, *almost all of which have already occurred*.
24

25 We will find the Old Testament is divided into five basic parts:
26

- 27 1. The Torah (the Pentateuch - meaning five books):
28 *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy* (5 books)
29
- 30 2. The Historical Books
31 *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, 2 Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, 2*
32 *Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther* (12 books)
33
- 34 3. Books of Poetry
35 *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon* (5 books)
36
- 37 4. Prophecy (the Major Prophets - so called because of length of books)
38 *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel* (5 books)
39

1 5. Minor Prophets - so called because of the brevity of the books)
2 *Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai,*
3 *Zechariah and Malachi* (12 books)
4

5 Thirty-nine books in all in the Old Testament. The problem in understanding them
6 is that they are not all necessarily in chronological order, that is what order in time did
7 they occur. How does one know that there is a “time tie” between the prophet Isaiah
8 and the great King of Judah Uzziah (who reigned for 55 years)? How does a reader of
9 scripture make a connection between wicked King Ahab and Elijah? And how do we
10 know that following King Solomon’s death the nation of Israel was split (in 931 BC)?
11 Why did the nation divide? Do we know that after that “split,” the northern nation was
12 called Israel with its capital in Samaria and the southern nation (very tiny) was called
13 Judah and retained its capital in Jerusalem? Do we know that Judah had 20 kings until
14 its destruction by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and that only 7 of those 20 kings were
15 good? (We read about them in I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles). And do we
16 know that the northern kingdom of Israel had 19 kings *and every single one of them was*
17 *bad?* And, wow! what stories!
18

19 And where do we find Old Testament understanding that a Messiah (Deliverer or
20 anointed One) was coming and that the Messiah would be Jesus, the Christ of God? Or
21 how do we understand Paul’s writing to the Galatians that “in the fullness of time” God
22 would send forth His Son – what was “the fullness of time?” All of this information is
23 unraveled for us in these 39 books we Christians call The Old Testament.
24
25

WHAT IS A TESTAMENT? It is an agreement, a covenant. In this case, a covenant or agreement between God and mankind. In these 39 books, the agreement was that animal sacrifice would provide an atonement (covering) for sin. In the New Testament, the agreement was that Christ was the sacrifice for sin - and no other. Since Judaism does not accept that Christ was the Messiah or the Son of God, they do not recognize a “New Testament” other than for historical narrative. Thus they refer to these 39 books as “The Bible” or “The Hebrew Scriptures” or “The Tanak” - a word formed by combining the initial letters of the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible: the Torah, Nebhiim (Prophets)_ and Kethubbim (the writings, such as the historical and poetical books. **It is your pastor’s firm conviction that a Bible student (one who studies the scriptures) can have little or no real understanding of the New Testament unless he or she has a grip on the Old Testament. For Jesus did not come to DESTROY the Old Testament, but rather to FULFILL it. (Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”**

26
27

1 So....what did He fulfill? You cannot know what Jesus came to fulfill unless you have
2 an understanding of the Old Testament.

3
4 **NOW....HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?**

5
6 There are three general ways in which God makes known to us His will and plan.

7
8 Rick Howard: *God created man for fellowship with Himself. He speaks to man in*
9 *distinct ways through the voice of nature or creation. According to Psalm 19, that voice*
10 *is heard plainly every day. It goes out **“to all the world and is heard to the ends of the***
11 ***earth”** (Ps. 19:4). According to Romans 1:20, God’s eternal power and divine nature*
12 *are plainly seen in creation: Romans 1:20 **For the invisible things of him from the***
13 ***creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,***
14 ***even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.** So we see that*
15 *God speaks to us through His WORK. (Tents, Temples and Palaces / ICI / Howard p.*
16 *17)*

17
18 *The second way by which God speaks to man is through the Bible, His written WORD.*
19 *The written word has only one major subject: the history of God’s plan for the*
20 *redemption of man from sin through God’s son, Jesus Christ.*

21
22 *In the Bible, Jesus Christ is often referred to as “the living word of God.” Therefore Jesus is*
23 *the third distinct way in which God has spoken to us. Hebrews 1:2 ...**Hath in these last days***
24 ***spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he***
25 ***made the worlds;***

26
27 **VIDEO:** Some years ago, my good friend Christopher Gornold Smith and I made a series
28 of teaching videos at the International Correspondence Institute studios in Brussels, Belgium.
29 Here is a five minute clip in which Christopher clearly explains these very vital truths.

30 **NOW WE COME TO AN ESSENTIAL MATTER: HOW DO WE KNOW THE**
31 **BIBLE IS RELIABLE?**

- 32 The name B I B L E is derived from the Greek word B I B L I A which means “many
33 books.”
- 34
35 The Bible was written by more than 40 authors in many lands over a period of 1400 -
36 1600 years.
- 37
38 The 66 books contained in the Bible were written in several languages and under
39 widely differing circumstances. Yet there remains only ONE GREAT BOOK and ONE

1 GREAT THEME. The Bible is distinct from all other alleged “holy books” in that all
2 these 66 manuscripts have but one main theme, and they all correspond to each other
3 (each book validates the other).
4

5 2 Tim. 3:16-17 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for**
6 **doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the**
7 **man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

8
9 The words “given by inspiration of God” mean “breathed by God.” When we speak of
10 the “verbal inspiration” of the Bible, we mean that *every word of it is God-breathed and*
11 *is not merely a man’s effort to express important truths.*

It is a fact that God miraculously allowed the individual nature of each writer to shine through his writings. Moses, Isaiah and Samuel, for example, who wrote several of the Old Testament books, were not simply secretaries to whom God DICTATED His message. Their own personalities are revealed to us in their writings. For example, when we read I Samuel, it becomes pretty clear immediately that Samuel did not particularly like King Saul. There are reasons for that. When the people clamored for a king (the nation’s first one) Samuel, the priest and prophet of Israel (their leader), said, “No.” But God said, “OK.” And God himself chose Saul to be Israel’s first king, which meant Samuel was no longer the kingpin of the land. So it is not difficult to see through Samuel’s writings, he had a bone to pick with Saul. These character studies increase our interest in God’s Word and make it even more clear how anointed and inspired each passage truly is.

12
13 The bottom line is that our sovereign God directed each word in the Scripture. **THE**
14 **BIBLE NOT ONLY CONTAINS THE WORD OF GOD, IT IS THE WORD OF GOD.**
15 More than 2,000 times in the Old Testament you will come across such phrases as *the*
16 *Lord says* or similar words.

17 Exodus 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him,
18 Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble
19 thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

20 Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of
21 Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah,
22 the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

23 2 Samuel 24:12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three
24 things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.
25

26 **NO OTHER ALLEGED “HOLY BOOK” MAKES SUCH CLAIMS.**

27
28 Some interesting facts about the Bible:

- 1 The first part of the Bible was written 3,000 years ago and the last part nearly 2,000
2 years ago. Although it was not the first book to be written, IT WAS THE FIRST
3 BOOK TO BE PRINTED when the printing press was invented in 1450 A.D.
4
5 Over 30-million copies of the Bible are printed every year.
6
7 Some parts of the Bible have been translated into 1,090 languages and the whole Bible
8 has been translated into over 200 languages.
9
10 The Bible has influenced writers, artists and musicians all over the world.
11
12 William Tyndale gave his life so that people in his country of England could read the
13 Bible in their own language. He began to translate the Bible into English in the year
14 1525. In 1536, with his task incomplete, He was condemned to die for translating the
15 Bible. As he was being burned to death in flames of fire he said this prayer out loud,
16 “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes!” What a price Tyndale paid to give the Bible
17 to others.

18
19 **WHY SHOULD WE WANT TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND THE OLD**
20 **TESTAMENT? WHAT MAKES IT SO IMPORTANT?**

- 21
22 1. Jesus considered the Old Testament scriptures as vital! In fact, he quoted from 22 of the
23 Old Testament books. In addition, the book of Mark has 15 quotations from the Old
24 Testament, Matthew has 19, Luke has 25, Hebrews has 85 and the book of Revelation has 245!
25
26 2. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament valued the Old Testament and recognized its
27 authority. They often referred to “the Scriptures” and “the Law,” meaning the
28 commandments God gave us in the Old Testament.
29
30 3. The Old Testament provides for us many historical facts about the Jews and the Jewish
31 nation. Yes, it is history, but it is much more than that: it is SACRED HISTORY. That is,
32 it is a book of God’s revealing Himself to us. **The basic theme of the Old Testament is**
33 **God revealing His nature to mankind through mighty acts and prophetic words.**
34
35 4. The written record of the Old Testament as it was received by Jews and Christians alike
36 was considered to be a divine-human product, free of error. It contains truth for the entire
37 human race.
38
39 5. The Old Testament “sets the table,” so to speak, for the New Testament. The New
40 Testament is the continuation of the Old.
41

THE RELIABILITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

It has become popular in our times to cast doubt at Scripture. We remember that the first thing Satan ever said to a human being was what he hurled at Eve, “Yea, hath God said...?” (Genesis 3:1) So how do we know we can rely on the authenticity of the Old Testament?

1. From earliest times God has caused men to keep a written account of His words and revelations.

2. The kings of Israel were required to have a copy of His law. Deut. 17:18-19 **And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: [19] And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them**

3. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language spoken by the people of Israel. Around the time of Christ, Aramaic became a popular language as well. In fact, a small part of the Old Testament was written in Aramaic (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-20; Jeremiah 10:11, and Daniel 2:4 - 7:28).

4. The material on which the Old Testament was written was called *vellum*. Skins of animals were used to prepare this substance. A piece of vellum on which the Scriptures were written usually measured about 10 inches in width and 30 feet in length. These strips were rolled up to form what is called a scroll. When a scroll became worn out through use, a particular group of scholars called *Masoretes* copied the texts onto a new scroll with great care. The old scroll was usually destroyed. We have manuscripts of this type from around 900 A.D. However, the discovery of some much earlier manuscripts from around 70 A.D. was made in 1947 at a place called Qumran near the Dead Sea. They are called The Dead Sea Scrolls. They show that the Old Testament which we have received has been faithfully passed on to us. It deserves our wholehearted trust and acceptance.

5. Many translations of the Old Testament have been made. In the last centuries before Christ, Jewish scholars made a translation into Greek. Tradition indicates there were 72 translators. Thus the title *Septuagint*, a Greek word meaning seventy, was given to this translation. This made it possible for many more people to read the Old Testament. Along with the Hebrew Old Testament, the Septuagint was used during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry.

6. When we visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, we see a magnificent statue in the courtyard of a man named Jerome. In the latter part of the 4th century A.D., a translation was made into Latin by Jerome, who was a brilliant scholar. Then in the 14th and 15th centuries,

1 several other translations appeared in German, French, Italian and English. About the time of
2 William Tyndale, the famous “authorized” or King James Version appeared in 1611. In our
3 day we have many other translations. The Bible is now available in the language of people
4 who live all over the world.

5 6 **HOW DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT RELATE TO YOU AND ME TODAY?**

7
8 There are many ways, but let me relate just a couple here:

9
10 1. Take Abraham, for example. He is known as the father of the nation of Israel. But he
11 was not just the father of that nation. According to the New Testament, believers today are
12 his spiritual descendants:

- 13 Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the
14 righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might
15 be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that
16 righteousness might be imputed unto them also:
- 17 Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the
18 promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to
19 that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
- 20 Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him
21 that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

22 That’s just one of so many direct tie-ins to the OT for us today.

23
24 2. Hebrews 4:12 teaches us that God’s word is “alive and active, sharper than any double-
25 edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet...it judges the desires
26 and thoughts of man’s heart.” The Old Testament not only reveals God’s nature, *but we*
27 *learn so much about our own lives as we read it.* We often find ourselves in similar
28 situations to the ones encountered by the men and women of the Old Testament. God uses the
29 lives of those people of old to help us through our journey right now.

30 31 **THE KINDS OF WRITINGS WE WILL ENCOUNTER** 32 **IN OUR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY**

33
34 The 39 books of the Old Testament can actually be divided into three main categories, though
35 I prefer to divide them into five. The three main categories are history, poetry and prophecy.
36 But my division would be this: The Torah (Books of the Law from Moses), Genesis through
37 Deuteronomy (5 books); Historical books, Joshua through Esther (12 books), Poetry (Job
38 through Song of Solomon), Major Prophets (Isaiah through Daniel - so named because of the
39 length of their writings), and the Minor Prophets, (Hosea through Malachi), so named because
40 of the brevity of their writings.

- 1 □ The first five books of the Law (the Torah) were closely associated with the life and
2 ministry of Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt.
3
4 □ Five books, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon, are called the
5 books of poetry. They express the feelings, thoughts and emotions of various people
6 who lived in Israel’s history.
7
8 □ The remaining 17 books are called books of prophecy. God raise up prophets when
9 they were needed to declare His Word and bring the people back to himself. They had
10 a message for their generations, but, by the law of “double-reference,” often spoke to
11 future events as well. *Details in the historical books are the keys to a proper*
12 *understanding of the message of the prophets....and the words of the prophets help the*
13 *student to understand what is in the books of history.*
14

15 **THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A CORNUCOPIA OF INCREDIBLE HUMAN DRAMAS**
16

- 17 ■ Adam
- 18 ■ Noah
- 19 ■ Abraham
- 20 ■ Joseph
- 21 ■ Moses
- 22 ■ Joshua
- 23 ■ David
- 24 ■ Job
- 25 ■ Elijah
- 26 ■ Nebuchadnezzar
- 27 ■ Manasseh
- 28 ■ Daniel
- 29 ■ Ezekiel
- 30 ■ Jonah
- 31
- 32 ■ And a host of others.
- 33

34 For a closing moment, let’s consider the case of Samson and Delilah, Judges 14-16.

35
36 Next Wednesday evening, June 25th, we study Genesis 1 - 11 and THE HISTORY OF THE
37 HUMAN RACE.
38
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41