

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Lesson 1 - Introduction

The purpose of this survey is twofold: 1) to provide students with a chronological framework for the people, events, and books of the Old Testament from Genesis thru Song of Solomon and 2) to glean key lessons for Christian living today. The books of Isaiah thru Malachi are studied in a separate survey called "A Survey of the Prophets".

A. How would you define what the "Old Testament" is to someone with no/little knowledge of the Bible? How would you contrast it with the "New Testament"?

B. Define the following:

- a) "Pentateuch"
- b) "Torah"
- c) "Oral Torah"
- d) "Talmud"

C. Briefly describe the more significant manuscripts (including their approximate ages) we have available for the Old Testament.

D. How many books are in the Old Testament? List the OT books of Genesis thru Song of Solomon first in Bible order and then in chronological order. Note the differences.

E. Prepare a timeline that lists the approximate dates (B.C.) for the following people or events.

- a) Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon
- b) Any two of the judges from the Book of Judges (not including Samuel)
- c) The time period for the Egyptian bondage, the wanderings in the wilderness, the rule under judges, and the "United Kingdom"
- d) When the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians.

F. Add the books of Genesis thru Song of Solomon to your timeline, being careful to note the span of time covered by each book.

G. What do we know about author of the first five books in the OT?

H. Of what value is a survey of the Old Testament for Christians today?