

A BIRDSEYE VIEW
of the
Old Testament

**A survey of
history, structure,
and themes**

by Keith S. Andrews

A BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Wk. 1 WHAT IS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?
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Lesson 1

WHAT'S IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

I. GENERAL CATAGORIES

A. HISTORY

Books of Moses
 Genesis
 Exodus
 Leviticus
 Numbers
 Deuteronomy
 Joshua
 Writings of Samuel
 Judges
 Ruth
 1&2 Samuel
 1&2 Kings
 Writings of Ezra
 1&2 Chronicles
 Ezra
 Nehemiah
 Esther

B. WISDOM AND POETRY

Job
 Psalms
 Writings of Solomon (?)
 Proverbs
 Ecclesiastes
 Song of Songs

C. PROPHECY

Major Prophets
 Isaiah
 Jeremiah (Lamentations)
 Ezekiel
 Daniel
 Minor Prophets
 Hosea
 Joel

WHY SHOULD FOLLOWERS OF JESUS STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?

- 1) It is in our studying the OT that we understand the unity of the Bible -- God has not changed and His redemptive purposes have not changed.
- 2) God's revelation to man is progressive -- the OT provides the foundation for the New. The NT fulfills the Old.
- 3) The New Testament quotes the Old. Jesus quotes the OT Scripture and treats it as authoritative.
- 4) The Bible as a whole presents God's relationship to His people -- a relationship that continues unbroken from the OT to the NT.

DIVISIONS OF THE HEBREW BIBLE: THE TORAH

The Torah (instruction) consists of the first five books of the Bible. This portion of Scripture is also known as the *Pentateuch* or the *Law of Moses*.

THE PROPHETS

THE FORMER PROPHETS:
 Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
 THE LATTER PROPHETS:
 Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve (minor prophets)

THE WRITINGS

POETICAL
 Psalms, Proverbs, Job
 THE FIVE ROLLS
 S of S, Ruth, Lam., Eccl., Est.
 HISTORICAL
 Dan., Ez/Neh. Chron.

Amos
 Obadiah
 Jonah
 Micah
 Nahum
 Habakkuk
 Zephaniah
 Haggai
 Zechariah
 Malachi

THE APOCRYPHA

I and II Esdras
 Tobit
 Judith
 The Remainder of Esther
 The Wisdom of Solomon
 Ecclesiasticus
 Baruch
 The Song of the Three
 Hebrew Children
 The History of Susanna
 Bel and the Dragon
 The Prayer of Manasses
 I and II Maccabees

II. GENERAL CONTENTS

A. REVELATION

Through the inspired Scripture, God reveals His person and character to us. Apart from this revelation, we would know nothing of God with the exception of His existence and His power (cf. Rom. 1:20). The Scripture is not a record of man discovering God, but of God showing Himself to man.

B. SACRED HISTORY

We serve a God who is active in the affairs of mankind. It is God, not man, who determines the course of history (Ps. 47:7-8 Ps. 22:27-28). Sacred history, then, is the account of God's interaction with men in the field of ordinary life.

NOTE: These books were never considered Scripture by the Jews. Nevertheless, eleven of them were admitted to the canon of Scripture by the council of Trent in 1546 and confirmed by the Vatican Council in 1870.

There is not a single quote from any of these books in the NT!

Lesson 2

THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY

I. CREATION

- A. HOW WAS IT ACCOMPLISHED?**
- B. CONTROVERSIES OVER "yom" (day)**
- "Yom" as a literal 24-hour period
 - "Yom" as a revelational day
 - "Yom" as an epoch or geological age
- C. WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION**
- Creation vs. making
 - The significance of "kinds"

II. MAN'S FALL INTO SIN

- A. WHAT HAPPENED?**
- B. WHAT WAS THE RESULT?**
- How does Adam's sin effect you?
- C. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?**
- How does Christ's righteousness effect you?

III. NOAH AND THE FLOOD

- A. WHY DID GOD DESTROY MANKIND?**
- Mixing of godly and ungodly
 - The evil intent of the heart
- B. WHY DID GOD PRESERVE NOAH AND HIS FAMILY?**
- Gen. 6:8-9
- C. HOW DID GOD PRESERVE NOAH AND HIS FAMILY?**
- Gen. 6:13-14, 21-7:1

IV. THE GREAT TOWER

- A. WHY DID THE PEOPLE BUILD THE TOWER OF BABEL**
- Is the "babel" attitude still around? Where?
- B. HOW DID GOD RESPOND?**

WHY BUILD THE TOWER? - Gen. 11:1-4
 SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? - Gen. 1:28
 THE BABEL ATTITUDE - Doing what seems right "in your own eyes" - SEE Prov. 14:12
 HOW DID GOD RESPOND? Gen. 11:6-9

THE COMMAND OF GOD

God's command, His spoken word, in all its forms, is an expression of God's will. It never fails. Whatever God desires to do He is able to do. Therefore, what he speaks, is.

CONSIDERING BIBLICAL DAYS

DAY = 24 HOURS This is certainly the most traditional understanding of the days of Gen. 1. Difficulties include the fact that we have days before we have a sun and the seeming contradiction with scientific evidence.

DAY = REVELATIONAL DAY
 The day in Gen. 1 corresponds to the day on which Moses was shown the stages of creation. They are literal days, but do not represent the duration of the creative actions of God.

DAY = EPOCH OR GEOLOGICAL AGE View attempts to bring together theological and scientific understanding of the means of creation. Theistic evolution?

THE "EVOLUTION" PROBLEM

Heb. Bara = create, absolute origination. Only applied to God in Scripture (Except Joshua 17)
 Heb. Asah = make, do or accomplish.
 Kind = the boundaries between species. Man was not made "according to his kind." Man as a "kind" of ape is non-biblical.

Discuss Gen. 1:11, 20

RESULTS OF SIN - Gen. 2:17, 3:6, 16-19.

THE SOLUTION FOR SIN - 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Rom. 5:12-19

Lesson 3

THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS

I. ABRAHAM

A. GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

- Make him a great nation / father of many nations
- To give him innumerable descendants
- Bless him and make him a blessing
- To make Abraham's name great
- To give his descendants the land of promise

B. ABRAHAM'S BROTHER

- Dividing the land
- The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah

C. GOD'S GIFT OF A SON

- Isaac's miraculous birth
- God's test and provision

II. ISAAC

A. ISAAC AND REBEKAH

B. ISAAC'S SONS, THE BIRTHRIGHT AND BLESSING

III. JACOB

A. JACOB'S DREAM

- God's promise
- Jacob's vow

B. LEAH AND RACHEL

C. JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL

IV. JOSEPH

A. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

- His dream
- Sold into Slavery

B. JOSEPH IN EGYPT

- Joseph, Potiphar, and Potiphar's wife
- Pharaoh's dreams
- Famine
- Joseph's faith

ABRAHAM, OUR FATHER

Read and discuss the following

NT passages:

Matt. 1:1

Jn. 8:37-39

Rom. 4:16

Gal. 3:6-9, 14

Discuss how each of God's promises to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ.

Abram and Lot divided the land between them to avoid conflicts over grazing land. Lot chose the plain of the Jordan (the region of Sodom) and Abram chose the land of Canaan.

THE NAME "HEBREW" - Shem (an ancestor of Abram) is called "the father of the sons of Eber" in Gen. 10:21. The term seems to be derived from the Hebrew word meaning "to cross over," or "to transgress."

THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Read and discuss: Gen. 13:13, 18:20-21, 19:24-29

ISAAC'S BIRTH

Read and discuss: Gen. 17:15-17, 19, 21:2-3

GOD PROVIDES THE SACRIFICE:

Gen. 22:1-14

NOTE: Abraham's faith (vs. 5, 8)

HOW ISAAC GOT HIS WIFE - Gen. 24:42-48, 63-67

HOW JACOB GOT THE BIRTHRIGHT - Gen. 25:23-34

GOD'S PROMISE TO JACOB - Gen. 28:10-15

JACOB'S VOW - Gen. 28:20-22

TURN-ABOUT-IS-FAIR-PLAY (The deceiver is deceived)
Gen. 29:17-18, 20-23, 25-30

WRESTLING WITH GOD - Gen 32:22-30

JOSEPH - Gen. 37:3-8, 12-33; 39:1-4, 7-12, 16-21; 41:9-14, 25, 38-41; 50:19-20.

Lesson 4

FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

I. THE NATION OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT

A. FAVOR ENDS

- The death of Joseph
- Oppression and bondage

B. A LEADER FOR ISRAEL

- Mose's birth
- God calls Moses

C. GOD'S DELIVERANCE

- The plagues / God's judgment of the gods of Egypt
- The Passover
- The Red Sea

II. A GENERATION-LONG JOURNEY

A. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- God's provision
- God's law
- The commandments of God (the moral law)
- The laws for Israel (social and ceremonial law)
- The Tabernacle
- The objects
- The priesthood
- The offerings

B. THE PEOPLE'S FEAR

- Spying out the land
- A negative report
- Blessings and curses
- The benefits of obedience
- The results of disobedience
- An offer of life or death

THE GENERATION AFTER JOSEPH - Read Ex. 1:6-14, 22.

MOSES' BIRTH - Read Ex. 2:1-10

THE BURNING BUSH - Read Ex. 2:1-15

Note: The verb tenses of God's name are obscure in the Hebrew. It is usually translated "I am that I am" (or "I am who I am" in NIV). It could also be translated "I will be what I will be" [future tense] The tenses could also be mixed. It would, therefore read, "I am as I will be." The implication of this name, then, is that as God was to the Patriarchs so He is to Moses . . . and to us!

GOD'S PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE - Read Ex. 6:6-8

THE PLAGUES AGAINST EGYPT -

Blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, First-born

PASSOVER - Discuss Ex. 12:12. In what way did God bring judgment on the "gods of Egypt"? Read Ex. 12:24-27

THE RED SEA - Read Ex. 14:10-18, 29-31. In what ways did God's deliverance require faith on the part of Israel?

PROVISION - Read Ex. 16:3-4, 11-15, 17:1-6; Deut 8:2-4.

COMMANDMENTS AND LAW - See Ex. 20:1, 21:1

TABERNACLE - Read Ex. 25:8-9, Heb. 8:1-5

THE ARK - Discuss the mercy seat covering the law - Demonstration of GRACE

PRIESTS - Represented God to the people, offered acceptable sacrifices. Read 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9.

CHECKING OUT THE LAND - Read Num. 13:1-3, 17-20, 25-14:2.

BLESSING AND CURSES - Read Deut. 11:13-21, 26-28.

Lesson 5

LIFE IN THE PROMISED LAND

I. JOSHUA TAKES OVER

- A. GOD'S PROMISE
- B. JOSHUA'S REQUIREMENTS
- C. CROSSING THE JORDAN
- D. WINNING THE LAND

- The "battle" of Jericho - Jos. 6:1-5
- The five kings of the Amorites - Jos. 10:7-14
- The Southern Cities - Jos. 10:40
- The Northern Cities - Jos. 11:23
- The death and burial of Joshua - Jos. 24:29

II. THE ERA OF THE JUDGES

A. CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF THE ERA

B. GODLY DELIVERERS

- Othniel
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Samson

III. THE STORY OF RUTH

A. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

- God is Lord of all nations
- Genealogy

IV. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MONARCHY

A. SAMUEL

- Eli, Samuel and God's call - 1 Sam. 3:19-20
- The Ark of the Covenant - 1 Sam. 4:1-1; 5:1-4, 11-12
- The people ask for a king - 1 Sam. 8:1-5, 19-20

B. SAUL AND DAVID

- Samuel anoints Saul king - 1 Sam. 9:15-17; 10:1, 9-11
- The Lord rejects Saul - 1 Sam. 15:24-26
- Samuel anoints David - 1 Sam. 16:7-13
- Saul and David
- The death of Saul - 1 Sam. 31:1-6

JOSHUA'S CALL - Read Jos. 1:1-5
REQUIREMENTS:

- Be strong
- Be courageous
- Be careful
- Be obedient

CROSSING THE JORDAN - Read Jos. 3:14-17. Compare this crossing with the crossing of the Red Sea.

JOSHUA TEACHES A HISTORY LESSON - Read Jos. 24:2-15.

BACKGROUND FOR JUDGES:

Read Jud. 2:8-13, 16-23.

'Evil in the sight of the Lord . . .'

- Jud. 3:7
- Jud. 3:12
- Jud. 4:1
- Jud. 6:1
- Jud. 8:33-34
- Jud. 10:6
- Jud. 13:1

RUTH - The book is set in and around Bethlehem. It is particularly significant because it relates to Jesus' genealogy. (See Matt. 1:5; Lk. 3:32). Discuss the fact that Ruth was a Gentile.

SAUL AND DAVID - Saul was God's answer to the people's prayer to have a king "like the other nations." David was a man after God's heart. Even though he was not perfect, he did honor God all of his life.

David continued to serve Saul as king even after he had been anointed himself. Several times David could have killed Saul but did not.

Lesson 6

KINGS AND THEIR KINGDOMS

I. THE DAVIDIC MONARCHY

A. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

God promised an enduring:

- house
- kingdom
- throne

B. DAVID'S REIGN

- David's sin
- David's repentance
- The consequences of David's sin
- Jerusalem: a center of government and worship
- David's altar
- David collects the material for the Temple

II. THE NATION UNDER SOLOMON

A. SOLOMON THE KING

- The coronation of Solomon
- The death of David
- Solomon seeks wisdom
- Solomon the temple builder?
- Solomon's empire

B. CORRUPTION AND COMPROMISE

- Wives
- Business
- Religion

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT:

Read and compare 2 Sam. 7:12-16 and Ps. 89:3-4, 27-37.

DAVID'S HOUSE = God's covenant people, the church, the household of God.

DAVID'S KINGDOM = the kingdom of God [Messiah's kingdom]

DAVID'S THRONE = the everlasting King, Jesus the Messiah.

DAVID'S SIN = 2 Sam. 11:1-6, 14-18

DAVID'S REPENTANCE = 2 Sam.

12:1-10.

THE CONSEQUENCES – 2 Sam.

12:13-14, 15:13-15.

A PLACE FOR THE ARK – 1 Chron. 15:1

SOLOMON BECOMES KING – 1

Kngs. 1:38-40.

SOLOMON THE TEMPLE BUILDER

- Re-read God's covenant promise to David (2 Sam. 7:1-17). How did God respond to David's desire to "build a house for Him" (vs. 11b)? In what ways did God's promise apply to Solomon? In what ways does God's promise apply to Jesus? What is the temple of the true and living God? (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19).

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON - 1

Kngs. 3:4-14.

Discuss vs. 11 - praying for "right things," praying for "wrong things" and the Lord's response.

THE FOOLISHNESS OF SOLOMON

- Read 1 Kngs. 11:1-4, 7-8.

Lesson 7

THE TEMPLE, FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES

I. THE TEMPLE

A. THE TEMPLE AND THE TABERNACLE

- Comparing the purposes
- Comparing the structures

B. TEMPLE FURNISHINGS

- Bronze altar
- Basins
- Lampstands
- Golden altar
- Tables

C. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

- Its history
- Its symbolism

D. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

II. FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES

A. THE SACRED FESTIVALS

- **Passover** - Ex. 12-13
- **Unleavened Bread** - 7 days preceding Passover
- **Firstfruits** - Ex 23:16
- **Pentecost** (Weeks) - Lev. 23:15-16
- **Trumpets** - Num. 29:1
- **Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) - Lev. 23:27-31
- **Tabernacles** (Booths) - This feast was celebrated in commemoration of the Israelites' dwelling in tents in the wilderness for forty years; and was kept with greater hilarity than any of the other festivals.
- **Dedication** (Hanukkah) - Cleansing of the temple following the Macabbean revolt.
- **Purim** - Esther 9:16-32 - Commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from genocide through the efforts of Esther.

COMPARING THE TABERNACLE AND THE TEMPLE:

Read Ex. 25:8-9, 29:44-46, 35:30-35 The execution of the plan mysteriously given to Moses was entrusted to Bezaleel and Aholiab, who were specially endowed with wisdom and artistic skill for this purpose. The people provided materials for the tabernacle. Their contributions must have consisted in a great part of the gifts which the Egyptians so readily bestowed on them on the eve of the Exodus.

Read 2 Sam. 7:1-3, Jer. 7:3-4 Chronicles makes it clear that David planned the Temple and accumulated great wealth and gifts for it, though Solomon was the one who actually built it. Jeremiah in his great Temple sermon warned all who came into the Lord's house in Jerusalem that if they trusted primarily in the Temple, instead of the Lord, He could destroy Solomon's Temple just as He had the previous one at Shiloh.

III. SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS

A. ANIMAL SACRIFICES

- Sin Offering
- Guilt Offering
- Burnt Offering
- Fellowship/Peace Offering

B. BLOODLESS SACRIFICES

- Grain Offering
- Drink Offering

Lesson 8

WISDOM FOR ALL AGES

I. THE WISDOM LITERATURE

A. JOB

- The person
- The problem
- The conclusion

B. PROVERBS

- Date and authorship
- The personification of "wisdom"

C. ECCLESIASTES

- The person
- The problem
- The conclusion

D. SONG OF SONGS

- A story of love and devotion
- An allegory for Christ and the church

II. HEBREW POETRY

A. THE USE OF PARALLELISM

- Synonymous parallelism
- Antithetic parallelism
- Emblematic parallelism

III. THE PSALMS

A. THE FIVE BOOKS OF PSALMS

B. CATEGORIES OF PSALMS

- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- Faith
- Confession
- Complaint

WISDOM:

First, wisdom is considered by many to be simply the art of learning how to succeed in life. Apparently, ancient persons learned very early that there was orderliness to the world in which they lived. They also learned that success and happiness came from living in accordance with that orderliness.

Second, wisdom is considered by some to be a philosophical study of the essence of life. Certainly, much of the Books of Job and Ecclesiastes seem to deal with just such existential issues of life.

Third, though the other definitions might include this, it seems that the real essence of wisdom is spiritual, for life is more than just living by a set of rules and being rewarded in some physical manner. Undoubtedly, in this sense wisdom comes from God. (READ Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10).

THE BOOK OF JOB: Job does not mention the Law. He offers sacrifices himself, which would indicate that he predates the establishment of the priesthood. Though the book clearly centers on the person of Job, it does not indicate that Job is the author. The author is, therefore, unknown.

Person – Job was a real person, wealthy, blessed, Godly.

The Problem – Satan contended that Job only loved and served God because God had made him wealthy and blessed; so, to demonstrate Job's true faith, God allowed Satan to take away Job's family, wealth, and health.

The Conclusion – Job was faithful and God restored him.

PROVERBS: Even though the proverbs are attributed to Solomon, it is probable that he collected, and perhaps, edited them into their present form. Some of the latter proverbs seem to be the words of Solomon that were recorded and added to the collection by another person. Read 1 Kngs 4:30-32.

THE FIVE BOOKS OF PSALMS:

- The first book comprises the first 41 psalms, all of which are ascribed to David except Ps. 1, 2, 10, and 33, which, though anonymous, may also be ascribed to him.
- Book second consists of the next 31 psalms (Ps. 42—72), 18 of which are ascribed to David and 1 to Solomon (Ps. 72). The rest are anonymous.
- The third book contains 17 psalms (Ps. 73—89), of which Ps. 86 is ascribed to David, Ps. 88 to Heman the Ezrahite, and Ps. 89 to Ethan the Ezrahite.
- The fourth book also contains 17 psalms (Ps. 90—106), of which Ps. 90 is ascribed to Moses, and Ps. 101 and 103 to David.
- The fifth book contains the remaining psalms, 44 in number. Of these, 15 are ascribed to David, and Ps. 127 to Solomon.

Lesson 9

KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

A. THE KINGS OF THE NORTH (ISRAEL)

- Jeroboam
- Nadab
- Baasha
- Elah
- Zimri
- Omri
- Ahab
- Ahaziah
- Jehoram (Joram)
- Jehu
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoash
- Jeroboam II
- Zechariah
- Shallum
- Menahem
- Pekahiah
- Pekah
- Hoshea

B. THE KINGS OF THE SOUTH (JUDAH)

- Rehoboam
- Abijam
- Asa J
- Jehoshaphat ☺ - 1 Kngs. 22:41-43
- Jehoram
- Ahaziah
- Athaliah
- Joash - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 12:1-3 (was murdered)
- Amaziah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 14:1-6 (was murdered)
- Azariah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 15:1-4
- Uzziah - ☺ - 2 Chr. 26:1-4, 16-21
- Jotham - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 15:32-35
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 18:1-6 (Note vs. 4)
- Manasseh
- Amon

THE DIVISION OF THE

KINGDOM: First proclaimed to Solomon. (SEE 1 Kngs. 11:9-13; 2 Chr. 9:31-10:19). Q: How would you describe Rehoboam's attitude? What was the result? What can we learn?

GOOD AND BAD KINGS: All of the northern kings were ungodly. Many of the southern kings were ungodly. Read the following:

1 Kngs 15:25-26, 15:33-34, 16:23-26, 16:30-33, 2 Kngs 16:1-4.

Q: What makes bad kings bad? [Pride, Idolatry, Violence, Lust for power . . .]

Read: 2 Kngs 18:1-8, 2 Kngs. 22:1-13; 23:1-3, 21-25

Q: In what ways can the heart of the king affect the hearts of the people?

NOTE: The kings Azariah and Uzziah were the same person. Compare the passages in 2 Kngs. 15 and in 2 Chr. 26. Also note the reference to Uzziah in Isa. 6:1.

- Josiah - ☺ - 2 Kngs. 22:1-2, 8-13; 23:1-3, 21-23, 25 (The reformation under Josiah's leadership did not change the people's hearts, it only restored the forms of worship)
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoakim
- Jehoachin
- Zedekiah

Lesson 10

THE FALL OF KINGDOMS

I. THE FALL OF ISRAEL (SAMARIA) - 722

B.C.

A. THE PROPHETIC WARNING

- Amos 2:1-15 - (Read 2:6-3:2)
- Hosea 1:4, 9:1-5 (Read 1:4)

B. ATTEMPTS TO FIGHT OR APPEASE ASSYRIA

C. THE DESTRUCTION OF SAMARIA

- The dispersion of the Hebrew people
- The resettlement of the land by Assyria

II. THE DEFEAT OF JUDAH - (CA. 586 B.C.)

A. THE PROPHETIC WARNING

- Jer. 3:6-11, 9:13-16, 25:1-11
- Hab. 1:5-12

B. THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

- The best and brightest go into exile
- The temple furnishings are defiled or destroyed
- The temple is destroyed

III. THE TIME OF EXILE

A. GOD'S WORD TO THE PEOPLE

- Jer. 29:4-14
- Lam. 1:1-10

B. DANIEL; A GODLY MAN IN AN UNGODLY CULTURE

- Daniel's faithfulness
- The Lord's power to minister
- The Lord's power to preserve
 - The fiery furnace
 - The den of the lions

IV. CHANGES IN HEBREW WORSHIP

A. PUBLIC WORSHIP (SYNAGOGUE)

- Antiphonal reading
- Psalm singing
- Scripture reading
- Teaching
- Blessing

B. THE LAW GIVEN NEW PROMINENCE

C. MESSIANIC HOPE WAS PROCLAIMED

ASSYRIAN ASSIMILATION: It was the practice of the Assyrians to "transplant" peoples in order to more easily assimilate them into Assyrian culture. Israel was, therefore, mixed in with other conquered peoples and the Samaritans of Jesus day were of mixed race.

ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE: READ 2 Kings 15:17-20, 27-29; 2 Kings 16:7-9

THE FALL OF SAMARIA: READ 2 Kings 17:1-8.

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM and the DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE: READ 2 Kings 25:1-16

BABYLONIAN EXILE: See 2 Kngs. 24:13-14. Only the "important" people were taken from Judah into exile. The Temple, however, was destroyed and its furnishings removed. This ended Hebrew worship in Jerusalem.

THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN FORMS OF WORSHIP: It was the simple worship of the synagogue (Israel in exile) that provided the basis for the worship of the early church. Even after the Temple was re-built, the synagogues remained the worship centers for the common Jews.

Lesson 11

TIME TO RETURN AND REBUILD

I. RETURNING TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE

A. PROCLAMATIONS OF RETURN

- Ezra 1:1-4
- 2 Chron. 36:22
- Isa. 44:24-28
- Isa. 45:11-13

B. WORK UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ZERUBBABEL

- Restoring the altar and offering the sacrifice
- Laying the foundation
- Opposition and delay
- The dedication of Zerubbabel's temple

C. THE PROPHETIC WORD

- Zech. 4:9-10
- Haggai 1:1-14
- Haggai 2:1-9

II. REBUILDING THE CITY WALLS

A. THE DECREE OF ARTAXERXES

B. THE OPPOSITION OF SANBALLAT

- The need for prayers
- The need for swords

C. EZRA READS THE LAW

- The people confess their sins
- The people commit themselves to God

READ the passages listed under I.A. Do you think that Cyrus was a believer in the God of Israel? (**Consider Jer. 27:6**). Does God cause unbelievers to serve His purposes? Explain your answer (Pharaoh? The unbelieving nations that surrounded Israel? Pilate?)

Altar and sacrifice: READ Ezra 3:1-6. Foundation: READ Ezra 3:10-13. Why was there both weeping and rejoicing?

Opposition: READ Ezra 4:11-21, 24. Completion and Dedication: READ Ezra 5:1-2, 6:1-12.

READ and discuss the passages listed under I.C.

READ Neh. 2:1-5, 7-8, 10.

Sanballat & Tobiah: READ Neh. 4:1-3, 7-8.

Prayers and Swords: Neh. 4:16-21.

DISCUSS the symbolism of the **rebuilding of temple and walls** – The Lord rebuilds our hearts and our lives into a place that honors His name – from the rubble that sin has produced.

Ezra reads the law: READ Neh. 8:1-3, 8-10.

Lesson 12

GOD IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

I. THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD

A. THE IDENTITY OF GOD

- God is living
- God is personal
- God is Spirit

B. THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD

- God is infinite
- God is eternal
- God is unchanging

C. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

- God is holy
- God is love
- God is true

D. THE PERFECTIONS OF GOD

- God is omnipotent
- God is omniscient
- God is omnipresent

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD

A. GOD IS SOVEREIGN

- God rules the universe
- God rules the affairs of nations
- God rules the destinies of men

B. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS CREATURES

- God is the covenant maker
- God is the covenant keeper
- God is our Redeemer

C. GOD'S REQUIREMENTS

- Faith
- Faithfulness
- Fruitfulness

THE HERESY OF MARCION - Marcion (ca. 110-160 AD), taught there were two gods, a wrathful, vengeful, bloodthirsty god of the Old Testament and a loving, full of grace, merciful god of the New Testament. Though there is no basis for it in Scripture, Marcion's "two God" heresy is still common in modern theology.

LIVING & PERSONAL GOD – Ps. 84:2; Jer. 10:10; Matt. 16:16; 2 Cor. 6:16.

INFINITE AND ETERNAL – Ps. 90:2; Isa. 57:15; Jer. 23:24; 1 Tim. 6:15-16

UNCHANGING – Num. 23:19; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; Rev. 1:18

HOLY – Lev. 11:45; Rev. 15:4

LOVING – Ps. 103:8; Isa. 55:7; Jn. 3:16; Tit. 3:4-5

TRUE (JUST) – Deut. 32:4; Hos. 14:9; Rom. 3:25; Rev. 15:3

PERFECTIONS – Ps. 18:30; Eccl. 3:14

SOVEREIGNTY – Deut. 4:39; 1 Chron. 29:12; Ps. 22:27-28; Rev. 15:4

COVENANTS AND PROMISES – See chart

REDEEMER – Isa. 44:24; Ps. 18:46; Job. 19:25; Luke 2:11; Titus 2:11-14.

FAITH – Heb. 11:4-40; Heb. 10:38

FAITHFULNESS & FRUITFULNESS – Jn. 15:1-8