

## English Transcript

### Story of the Old Testament

#### Telling the OT Story in 15 minutes

This is our final recording of the story of the Old Testament.

After you've gone back and reviewed the handout, reviewed each of the nine lessons, looked at the different tools for understanding the story of the Old Testament, then it is time to synthesize your learning to tell the story in your own words.

And you can do this in 15 minutes or less. Some may think, oh no, the Old Testament is so long, it's so confusing. Hopefully you have seen through this course that there is a major storyline in the Old Testament.

There is a major theme. It is about the kingdom of God. The Old Testament and the entire Bible is focused on God establishing his kingdom.

And how from the very beginning, sin has separated man from God. Yet God is going to fulfill His promise and His commitment to build His kingdom. What I would like to do in this lesson is tell the story of the Old Testament in my own words in less than 15 minutes.

Remember, the story is not meant to include every detail. You are not attempting to summarize every book of the Old Testament. You are simply looking to summarize the main points from the Old Testament to help someone else understand what God was communicating through these 39 books of the Old Testament. Focus on the major themes of the story of Old Testament remembering that everything points forward to Jesus.

What follows is my telling of the story of the Old Testament and the nation of Israel.

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God entered into an unconditional, eternal covenant with Israel first through Abraham and then King David to bring glory to God and salvation to all mankind. The Old Testament is a story with spiritual victories and defeats and the amazing love, grace, and faithfulness of God.

The Old Testament story is revealed in two parts, with each part covering at least 2,000 years.

Part 1 covers Genesis chapters 1 to 11. And I will summarize this section by saying that God was dealing with mankind in a general way at that time.

There was no special group like Israel at the beginning this story. God dealt with individuals. The key events focus on creation, the fall, God's judgment of sin through the worldwide flood of Noah, and the rebellion and division of the nations at the Tower of Babel.

We learn of the origin of the universe, as well as God's desire to create mankind in His image, to be in perfect relationship with God. As a result of Adam's sin in Genesis 3, there was separation between God and man. A holy God must judge sin.

As a result of sin, we see brokenness, division, pain, pride, and worship of self. As part one of the story ends, God's relationship with humanity shifts from the universal to the particular. God divided the world into nations, and then He began to build one nation for His very own.

And that leads to Part 2 of the Old Testament story that covers a period of about 2,000 years, from Genesis 12 all the way through the book of Malachi.

Genesis 12 is a cornerstone chapter in the Bible. God chooses Abraham and makes an eternal, unconditional promise with him and his descendants.

The promise is that God would bless Abraham, and all who would follow in his faith. God may call us to unknown places, and His promises may take many years to happen, and He may ask us to make painful sacrifices along the way. This is normal in God's kingdom.

This is how God grows our trust, develops our perseverance, and equips us for significant kingdom purposes. The Abrahamic covenant in Genesis chapter 12 promises that God will make Abraham into a great nation. Genesis 12 through the book of Joshua records the formation of the nation of Israel.

Every kingdom must have a king, a place or land, a people to serve the king, and a rule of law or purpose for living under the king's reign. In Genesis chapters 12 through 50, God begins to form His people through four patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. By the end of the book of Genesis, there are 75 people in Jacob's family.

Jacob's name is changed to Israel. His family has moved to Egypt to escape the worldwide famine. God has worked through Joseph to provide salvation for his people during this time.

By the start of the book of Exodus, after close to 300 years of living in Egypt, God has grown His kingdom to more than 2 million people. To function as a nation or the kingdom of God, Israel would need a rule of law to live by and to honor its king.

The Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt for more than 400 years. God saw their pain and sent a deliverer, Moses, to set them free from the bondage of Pharaoh. After 10 plagues demonstrating the power and sovereignty of God, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. This growing nation of possibly 6 million people journeyed to Mount Sinai to receive the Law from God.

They camped at the foot of Mount Sinai for one year. During that time, they constructed the portable tabernacle which became the central place of worship of God. God made it clear that these people were His people and He was their God.

The law provided guidance on how God's people can live with and honor a holy God. The nation left Sinai to travel north to the land promised to Abraham almost 450 years earlier. In the book of Numbers, we learn of a rebellion that took place at Kadesh Barnea. Chapters 13 and 14 of Numbers tell this story.

In response to their rebellion, the nation was punished for its refusal to enter the Promised Land. As a result, the nation wandered in the wilderness for 40 years as God used that time to develop the trust of His people.

Moses led Israel in the wilderness over these 40 years and died just before it was time to enter the land. Joshua had been called and equipped by God to lead the nation into the promised land after the death of Moses. The book of Joshua details the consecration of God's people, the crossing of the Jordan River, the conquering of the land, and dividing the land among the 12 tribes of Israel.

At this point in the story, God's people are in God's land with God's rule of law and God is intended to be their king. This is what's called the Theocracy. God did not establish national leaders to replace Moses and Joshua. In this period of the Theocracy, God was their king.

Very quickly, we learn that Israel was not obedient to God's commands and His rule. They did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land and they were enticed to follow false gods and worship man-made idols.

Over the next 300 years, Israel experienced seven downward cycles of sin. We see this in the book of Judges. Unbelief and divine judgment, repentance, and deliverance were part of those cycles.

God would raise up judges or deliverers to save His people when they repented of their sin. Near the end of this period, God called Samuel as the last judge and His first prophet to call Israel back to God. In Samuel's old age, the nation rejected God as their king and demanded a human king so they could be like all the other nations.

This moved the story from the period of the Theocracy to the period of the Monarchy. There would be 120 years of the united rule under three successive kings, Saul, David, and Solomon.

Saul was a king with no heart for God.

He was followed by David who had a whole heart for God. He was not perfect, but he was a man after God's own heart. When he sinned, he was quick to confess and repent and continue walking closely with God.

In 2 Samuel chapter 7, God makes an unconditional, eternal covenant with King David similar to what he did with Abraham. God promised that a king from the tribe of Judah would reign on David's throne forever. David's son Solomon followed David as king.

Solomon ruled during a wonderful time of peace and prosperity for Israel. Yet it became clear that this shalom or peace was lacking within the heart of Solomon. As a result of Solomon's sin and divided heart towards God, God splits the kingdom in two after Solomon's death.

The northern kingdom, known as Israel, was made up of ten tribes. The southern kingdom, known as Judah, was made up of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. These kingdoms co-existed for more than 200 years before God's judgment of the northern kingdom. God judged Israel for its sin and idolatry that started during the reign of its first king, Jeroboam.

The northern kingdom went into captivity in Assyria in 722 BC. The southern kingdom survived another 150 years due to a few kings who followed after the ways of King David. God brought mini revivals to the southern kingdom through these good kings.

But in 586 BC, the Babylonians destroyed the southern kingdom, the capital of Jerusalem. Most of the inhabitants were taken into exile under King Nebuchadnezzar. Throughout the time of the divided kingdom, God sent many prophets to call the northern and southern kingdoms to repent and return to God.

One prophet, Jeremiah, prophesied that the southern kingdom's exile in Babylon would only last 70 years. God is a faithful God. He is a promise-keeping God.

God would continue his covenant promise with Abraham and David. During the period of the exile in Babylon, the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel wrote to encourage those in exile and give them hope in God's faithfulness to fulfill His covenant promises. At the end of the 70 years, God moved the heart of the King Cyrus of Persia, to allow the Israelites that were in exile to return to their land and rebuild their temple.

This story of the return and restoration is told in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This period covered about 150 years. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, the temple is rebuilt, the people are restored to the worship of God through his Word, the wall around the city of Jerusalem is rebuilt, and the city is repopulated.

God worked through the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi during this time to encourage God's people and challenge them to continue walking with God. As the Old Testament ends, God's people are once again in God's land, under God's rule, and waiting for God's promised king to come.

Malachi writes about a time in the future when God would send a messenger in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way for the promised Messiah, the Deliverer, the Savior, the promised King who would reign on David's throne forever.

There would be 400 years of silence before John the Baptist would break the silence and proclaim that it was time for the Messiah to come. God is always at work, and he was working during the 400 silent years. The years were only called silent because there were no prophets writing or proclaiming God's Word during that season.

Galatians chapter 4:4 tells us that when the time was just right, the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. The story of God's kingdom will continue in the New Testament when the promises of the Eternal King will be revealed and fulfilled in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

That is the conclusion of the overview of the Story of the Old Testament.

I checked the recording time and I did this in about 10 minutes. I could make it longer or shorter depending on what details I might add or subtract.

You might tell the story in a slightly different way. You might emphasize additional points, but you can get a sense from what you just heard that the story followed along with the OT pictorial roadmap that you have in your Appendix.

It followed along the graphic of the Kingdom of God versus the kingdom of man.

It followed along with the Chronological Books of the Old Testament. You noticed the 5-12-5-5-12 format of the Old Testament that includes the books of the Law, the books of History, books of Poetry, the Major Prophets, and the Minor Prophets.

So whichever tool(s) you might use to tell the story, the key is to develop a story of your own that fits into your personality. Your objective is to help someone who doesn't know anything about the Bible to understand more about God's story, His love, His grace, His faithfulness, His redemption, and the salvation He offers them.

The telling of this story may also be used to help a new believer.

Help them understand more about the structure and the books of the Old Testament, the story of God, and how God is at work in their lives.

Take your first step!

- Study through your handout on your own.
- Develop your own story. You may even make your own recording.
- Share this story with others.
- Be that ambassador that God has called you to be.
- Make Jesus known and you will be amazed at how God works through you.

He will work through you to draw people to Himself, to enter into His kingdom, where God will be their God, and they will be his people for all eternity.

I look forward to continuing with you as we explore the Story of the New Testament.

God bless.