

English Transcript

Story of the Old Testament

Lesson 1 – Introduction

I'd like to welcome you to Global Training Network's course called The Story of the Old Testament. My name is Pastor Mike Edelman. Looking forward to walking you through this wonderful story.

The goal of this course is to provide you with the big picture story of the Old Testament. We also have a course focused on the story of the New Testament. And coupled together, you will be able to tell the story of the entire Bible in less than 30 minutes.

After this course, you will feel equipped to teach and disciples those in your church.

Look with me at the table of contents. There are nine lessons. The training handout is filled with illustrations, scriptures, and more information than we will be able to discuss in this recording.

You may go back after this training to review, look up Scriptures, make the training your own so you can effectively teach it to others.

Let's begin on page three in your handout.

You can see some random numbers at the top of page 3: 66, 40, 1500, and so on. How do these random numbers relate to the Bible?

- 66: The number of books in the Bible.
- 40: The number of authors of the Old and New Testament.
- 1,500: The number of years that span of the writing of the Old and the New Testament.
- 3: There are three languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.
- 3: There are three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- 1: There is one message. One united theme throughout the Bible. The theme of the kingdom of God. God will establish his kingdom, draw people to Himself, to serve Him and love Him throughout eternity.
- 0: There is no human editor. The miracle is that we have 66 books, 40 authors, written over 1,500 years, in 3 different languages, located on 3 different continents, having 1 common message and no editor other than obviously God. The Holy Spirit was the editor.

The prophets and apostles wrote the Scriptures as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Why would we want to study the Old Testament?

(2 Timothy 2:15) We are called to be approved workmen who study the Word of God and know how to handle the Word of God accurately. Every believer should have a good

understanding of the Word of God. This begins with a solid understanding of the big picture story.

(2 Timothy 3:14-17) The scriptures are what makes us wise for salvation. And we know that all Scripture is God breathed. And it is useful. Useful for teaching or doctrine. Also useful for rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. There is also a purpose, so that the man or woman of God would be fully equipped for every good work.

- The Old Testament brings clarity to our study of the New Testament. There are things introduced in the Old Testament that are revealed in greater detail in the New Testament.
- The Old Testament demonstrates why the New Covenant was necessary. In Romans 3, we learn that all have sinned. There is no one righteous, no not one. And we learn that the law was introduced in the Old Testament to lead us to God, to show us our need of a Savior. No one could ever keep the law. The law is good. The law is holy. It reflects the character and the heart of God. Yet no one can be perfect because only God is perfect. The law was put in place to lead us to Christ. To show us our need for salvation.
- The Old Testament describes real people living out their faith and it should motivate us towards an active faith. In 1 Corinthians 10, the Apostle Paul says that all the things that were written in the Old Testament are meant to serve as an example. We can also look at Hebrews 11, the great Hall of Faith. This chapter is filled with characters from the Old Testament who were living by faith. They serve as example for us to follow.
- The Old Testament teaches us God's priorities and what they mean. In the Old Testament we learn the first and second greatest commandments – to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. And we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. And we see these commandments reinforced in the New Testament. Jesus even says, “A new command I give you, to love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” The theme in the Bible is always to love God and as His followers and then to love others the way He has loved us.
- The Old Testament gives us a clearer picture of the God that we serve.
 - We can look at life of Abraham and the prophets.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 - being an approved workman.
 - 2 Timothy 3:14-17 - through the study of the Scriptures we become wise for salvation and we are equipped to serve God in this world.

There are four overall goals for this course:

1. Understand how the story of the Old Testament fits into the big picture story of the Bible. As we grasp this story, we will discover that the Old Testament points to Jesus. There are more than 350 Old Testament references and prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament that ultimately are fulfilled in the New Testament.
2. Synthesize the Old Testament story as one story and not a collection of 39 different books and isolated stories. Tell the Old Testament story in 15 minutes or less.
3. Summarize the major themes and purposes of the Old Testament.
4. Get excited about the Old Testament. The Old Testament is filled with treasures. The more we understand the Old Testament, the more we will understand the New Testament

One the bottom of page, there are three diagrams: head, heart, and hands.

In our GTN training, we always teach first to the head. There is information that we take in, biblical truth. Training is not meant to stop there. It's meant to impact our heart.

Biblical training should inspire us as we believe God's Word in deeper ways and desire to have it impact our lives. This stirs a passion or zeal within our heart.

But this passion can fade unless we take what we have learned (information) and allow it to move our hearts (inspiration) and then put what we have learned into practice (transformation). This last step represents our hands or our life. As we go through these lessons, stay focused on your head, heart and hands or Information, Inspiration, and Transformation.

The vision for all GTN training is summarized in 2 Timothy 2:2. Paul passed things on to Timothy as a young pastor, who was to pass things on to others, who would pass things on to others. This training is not meant to stay in your head. Do not just put this handout on the shelf when the training is completed. Your responsibility is to study this material, make it your own, so you can teach those in your church and beyond.

Turn to page 4.

How can we summarize a biblical story? The story is about the kingdom of God. The Bible is the story of the kingdom of God redeeming His creation and establishing His kingdom after the Fall.

There are basic requirements for any kingdom. There must be a king. There must a land or domain. There must be people to serve the king. And there must be a rule of law or a purpose to live by that will honor the king.

All of this is true of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God can be defined as God's people, living in God's designated land, fulfilling God's purposes under His rule.

The diagram on page 4 will be expanded throughout this training to help tell the story of the Kingdom of God. The red arrows represent the purpose of God. God's purposes are for His people to love Him with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others. As God's people live out this purpose, God will draw others to know the one true God. The Old Testament reveals the promise of God's eternal kingdom to come. The New Testament shows the fulfillment of what was promised.

Who are some of the most important characters in the Old Testament? I am sure you might include Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, and Solomon. Maybe some of the kings like Hezekiah, and Josiah. Or some of the prophets like Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

God worked through each of these characters in very specific ways. I would say that the most important character in the Old Testament is Jesus. I will explain more as we continue.

Jesus knew that the Old Testament was the Word of God. He made bold claims stated at the bottom of page 4 that reveal Jesus' confidence in the Old Testament as the Word of God.

On the top of page 5, Jesus spoke about many Old Testament stories as truth. These people and stories were not fables, myths or metaphors.

- Jesus proclaimed that Adam and Eve were created by God.
- He talked about Abel being murdered by Cain.
- He talked about the worldwide flood in the time of Noah.
- He spoke about Moses meeting with God at the burning bush.
- He talked about Elijah performing many different miracles.
- He talked about Jonah being in the belly of a great fish for three days.
- He even talked about Daniel and his predictions of the future.

Jesus testified to the truth of the Old Testament.

In the third chart though, Jesus states that all of Scripture points to Him.

Look at Luke 24:27. Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he showed them what all the Scriptures said concerning Himself as the promised Messiah.

The same is true in Luke 24:44, when Jesus appeared to the ten after the resurrection. He said that everything written about Him in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

The main character in the story of the Old Testament is Jesus. The Old Testament is written to point us to Jesus, to get our eyes and heart focused on Him.

Throughout the Scriptures, there is a "Red Thread of Jesus" that runs through every book of the Old Testament. I have reinforced this on the top of page 6.

We won't go through this in detail now, but throughout this course, we will make note of these Red Threads. Each of them point forward to the reality of Christ as the promised Savior, the Redeemer, the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

This is a key point: It is very easy to link the Old Testament story to the gospel. The Old Testament can point very quickly to the good news of Jesus Christ. We can use the Old Testament story as a bridge to point people to Jesus as the Savior.

On page 7, you will notice eight major segments that are helpful in understanding Bible story: The Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, the Gospels, Acts, the 21 epistles, and Revelation.

I referenced an excellent book called *The King of Glory*. This book includes 70 chapters, each just one page in length along with an illustration. The book tells the story of the Bible following these 8 segments. The Bible is the story of God's kingdom where He is the King of Glory. I will leave this book to you to read on your own. You can purchase a copy in French.

On page 7, I included a portion of the introduction to The King of Glory. As you read through this on your own, you will be drawn into the story of the Bible. The greatest story ever told about the King of Glory.

On the top of page 8 we see that from the beginning of the Old Testament story, there is evidence that the kingdom is in conflict. There is a conflict between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man. This conflict continues through the New Testament. This conflict will continue until Jesus comes again to rule and reign over His kingdom when he reigns on David's throne for eternity.

The conflict began in Genesis 3:15, where we see the first prophecy of Jesus. This is a veiled reference to the gospel. After the fall of Adam and Eve, God told Eve that she was going to have a son, that there would be enmity or conflict between her Seed and the serpent or Satan. Satan would strike the heel of the Seed of the woman, but the Seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent. This is a prophecy of the Lord Jesus. And this battle continues in our hearts, in the church, in the world, until Jesus returns. The time will come when all followers of Jesus will be set free from the presence of sin.

We can see examples of these kingdoms in conflict. The conflict of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man.

- Adam and Eve versus Satan.
- Cain versus Abel.
- Noah versus the world leading up to the flood.
- The tower of Babel.
- Ishmael and Isaac.
- Sarah and Hagar.
- Israel versus Canaan.
- Esau and Jacob.
- Joseph and his brothers.

These are just examples of this kingdom in conflict in Genesis alone.

As we tell the story of the Old Testament, we will look for these conflicts. We will also find that the solution to the conflict is continually drawing closer to God and serving Him and living for Him in His kingdom.

Some might say that the structure of the Old Testament can be confusing. On the next few pages, I included tools that will help to simplify the structure of the Old Testament.

Old Testament scriptures, they were called the Tanakh. They were originally written in Hebrew, some of it was written in Aramaic. The original Hebrew Scriptures had three sections.

There was the law of Moses that was called the Torah.
The second section was section called the Prophets (Nevi'im).
The third section was called the Writings or the Ketuvim.

In the original Hebrew Bible, there were only 24 books compared with the 39 books that we have today in our Bibles today. The chart at the bottom of page 8 shows that some of the books were combined.

For examples, under the section called The Prophets, Samuel included 1 and 2 Samuel and Kings included 1 and 2. The minor prophets from Hosea to Malachi were condensed into a book called The Twelve.

How did we get from 24 books to 39 books? Turn to page 9.

Around 250 BC to 200 BC, in Egypt, a group of 70 theologians were commissioned to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek. Greek had become the common language of the world at that time, following the conquest of Alexander the Great.

These 70 theologians began to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek. The final product was called the Septuagint. In Greek, the word "Sept" means 70. There were 70 theologians doing this work. You may see LXX, the Roman numeral for 70, as a symbol for the Septuagint.

It is from the Septuagint that we received the 39-book structure in our Bibles today. There are five sections: The Law, History, Poetry, and the Prophets that are divided into Major and Minor prophets.

Here is a simple song to remember the Old Testament structure.

5-12-5-5-12 (Cinq-Douze-Cinq-Cinq-Douze)

Cinq-Douze-Cinq-Cinq-Douze ! Cinq-Douze-Cinq-Cinq-Douze ! Cinq-Douze-Cinq-Cinq-Douze !

- 5: The books of the Law
- 12: The books of History
- 5: The books of Poetry
- 5: The Major Prophets
- 12: The Minor Prophets

By the end of this course, you will be able to place the Old Testament books in the proper order. You'll know which are the books of Law, which are the books of History, which are the books of Poetry, who were the Major prophets, who were the Minor prophets.

You will also be able to summarize the major theme of each book.

On page 10, I have included the timeline of this Old Testament story. This begins with the preparation for God's kingdom all the way down to the restoration. The chart includes the name of the Period, the dates, and the books of the Bible that tell that part of the story.

For example, the Preparation for God's kingdom runs from Creation to about 2000 BC. Genesis chapters 1 through 11 tell this story.

The Formation of God's kingdom, or the period of the Patriarchs, runs from about 2000 BC to 1500 BC. Genesis chapters 12 to 50, as well as the Book of Job tell this part of the story.

You can follow the rest of the chart to see the outline for the Old Testament story as well as outline for the lessons in this course.

On page 11, you will find another tool to help tell the Old Testament story. I call this the roadmap. At the end of this course, you will be able to use a tool like this to tell the Old Testament story to another person in less than 15 minutes.

You will highlight the major events from creation to the Garden of Eden, to the Fall, the flood, the patriarchs, Joseph, with Moses and the Exodus, the wandering in the wilderness, the time of Joshua and the conquest of the land, the period of the Judges, the Monarchy, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile.

We will show you important covenants that God made with His people throughout the Old Testament that help to understand key transitions in the narrative.

- The Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 12
- The Mosaic covenant in Exodus 20.
- The Davidic covenant in 2 Samuel 7.
- The New Covenant in Jeremiah 31

This roadmap will be a helpful tool for you throughout this course.

Page 12 is our last tool which is the chronological story of the Old Testament showing all 39 books of the Old Testament.

The middle line of this picture, from Genesis to Nehemiah tell the story. Books that are shown above or below the 11 books on the center line, reinforce the story line. For example, Job supports Genesis. Leviticus is a support to the that story that continues in Exodus. And Deuteronomy supports the story in the book of Numbers.

This will become clear for you as we work our way through the course. At the end of this course, you will be able to complete a blank chart listing the Old Testament books in their proper order as you tell the story of the King of Glory!

With this as an introduction, we are ready to begin with the Preparation for God's Kingdom as God begins to work with the world in general way to build his kingdom. We will look at a portion of the Bible that will be very familiar to you in Genesis 1-11. As we begin, look for the Red Thread of Jesus. Look for the conflicts between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of man. And get excited about how the Old Testament will help you share the gospel with greater confidence and clarity as a result of your understanding of the story of the Old Testament.

Join me for Lesson 2.