



Course: Old Testament Survey I

Teacher: Pastor Luke

Textbook: The Old Testament

Expectations: Complete any assigned reading prior to class, attend class, engage in class discussion, and continue or start a Bible reading plan that will involve reading at least one chapter per day from the Old Testament. (For those taking the class for credit, there will be a light exam at the end of the semester.)

Course Description:

The Old Testament accounts for more than 77% of the entire Bible; it was written by dozens of authors over the course of 1,500 years; in nearly half a million words, it describes God and His relationship with His people from creation to the incarnation of Christ. Yet despite it constituting the majority of the scriptures, many bibles do not easily fall open to its contents. We often find the later pages of the New Testament worn and pliable from eager reading and re-reading, but the pages of the Old stiff with disuse.

Doubtless in many so-called churches across our country, this neglect is fostered in the modern view that the Old Testament is irrelevant, outdated, and filled with questionable stories of a vengeful God. But certainly, there are many others who affirm 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*, and the reason for a lack of time spent in the Old Testament is not fueled by skepticism, but simply by the difficulty of understanding its content and its relevance to us today.

Not only will these difficulties be addressed in this class, but by God's grace we will sail beyond to behold the true wonder of the Old Testament as it paints a picture of the character of God, and in every way yearns for and points us to Christ. We will see the Old Testament not in contrast to the New, but in unity and continuity with it.

This course will not constitute an in-depth analysis of each book in the Old Testament, rather, true to its name, it will help the student have a general knowledge of its nature and purpose. The aim is to help the student not to lose sight of the forest for the trees; to develop a map that they can use to navigate the landscape of the O.T. in their daily bible reading.

The primary objectives that will lead to the formation of this 'map', are as follows,

1. Developing a Theological framework for understanding the O.T.
2. Developing a Christological framework for understanding the O.T.
3. Developing a Historical framework for understanding the O.T.