

**THE
TRUE STORY
OF THE
OLD
TESTAMENT**

Responding to God's Revelation and Redemption

OPENING

The Bible contains:

- 2 Testaments
- 66 books
- 783,137 words
- 3,116,480 letters
- 39 books in the Old Testament
- 27 books in the New Testament



Facts from "The Kings Bible"; <https://thekingsbible.com/Library/BibleStatistics>

Introducing the Old Testament Story

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Chapters and Verses:

- The Bible has 1,189 Chapters
- The Bible has 31,102 verses
- The Old Testament has 929 chapters
- The Old Testament has 23,145 verses
- The New Testament has 260 chapters
- The New Testament has 7,957 verses
- Chapters were added to the Bible in 1238 by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro.
- Verse divisions were added in the year 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.



Facts from "The Kings Bible"; <https://thekingsbible.com/Library/BibleStatistics>

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Lesson 1

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	BOOKS	CHAPTERS	VERSES
OT	39	929	23,145
NT	27	260	7,957
TOTALS	66	1,189	31,102
	BOOKS	CHAPTERS	VERSES
OT	59%	78%	74%
NT	41%	22%	26%

Looking at just the volume of the Old Testament, how much do you know about the Old Testament?

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Lesson 1



Outline

- I. The Value of the Old Testament
 - A. A New Testament Perspective
 - B. An Old Testament Perspective
- II. Orientation to the Old Testament
 - A. Major Divisions of the Old Testament
 - B. Other Considerations for Effective Study
- III. The Blessings of Old Testament Study

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Lesson 1

I. The Value of the Old Testament

A. A New Testament perspective

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.



I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- Jesus Christ – The Messiah

“*Christ* means God’s *anointed one*, God’s chosen one.

***Christ* is Greek and the Hebrew equivalent is *Messiah*.”**

Messiah – in Daniel 9:25-26

“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.18-19)

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Lesson 1

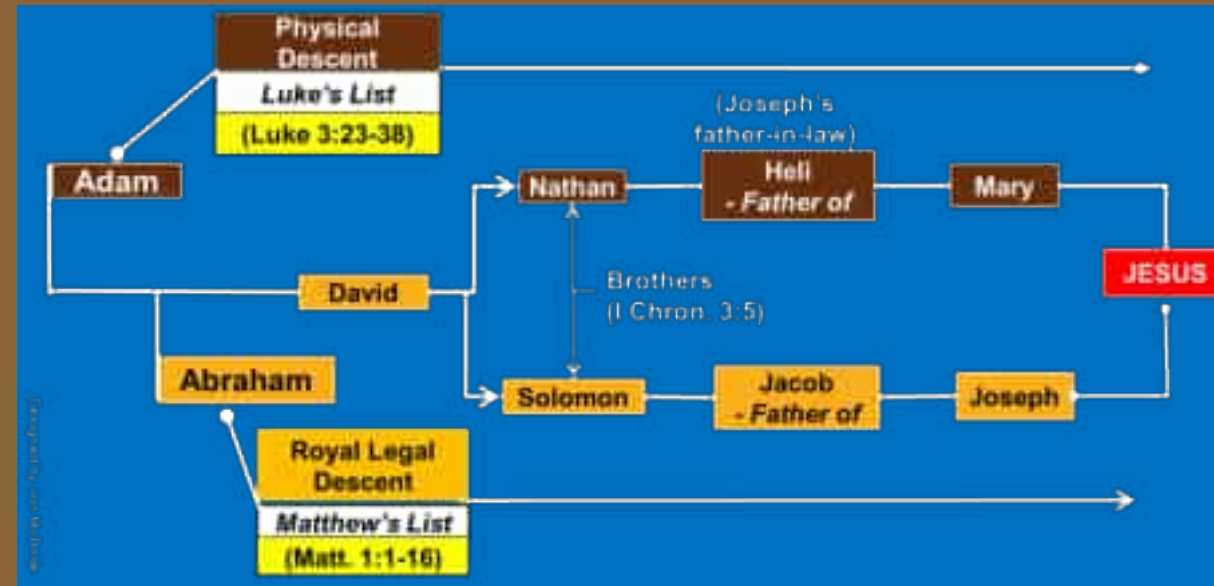
I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- The New by the genealogies of Christ.

The genealogies show Christ’s lineage back to Abraham (Mt. 1:1-16) and to Adam (Lu. 3:23-38).



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.18-19)

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I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective (continued)

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- The New by Abraham’s covenant...God promised to Abraham the following things:
 - A nation (Gen. 12:2)
 - A blessing to all nations (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:8,9)
 - A land (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-17)
 - Seed as the stars of heaven (Gen. 15:5)



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.19)

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I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective (continued)

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- The New by types of Christ. The OT is filled with powerful types or pictures of Christ as the Passover and the Tabernacle.



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.19)

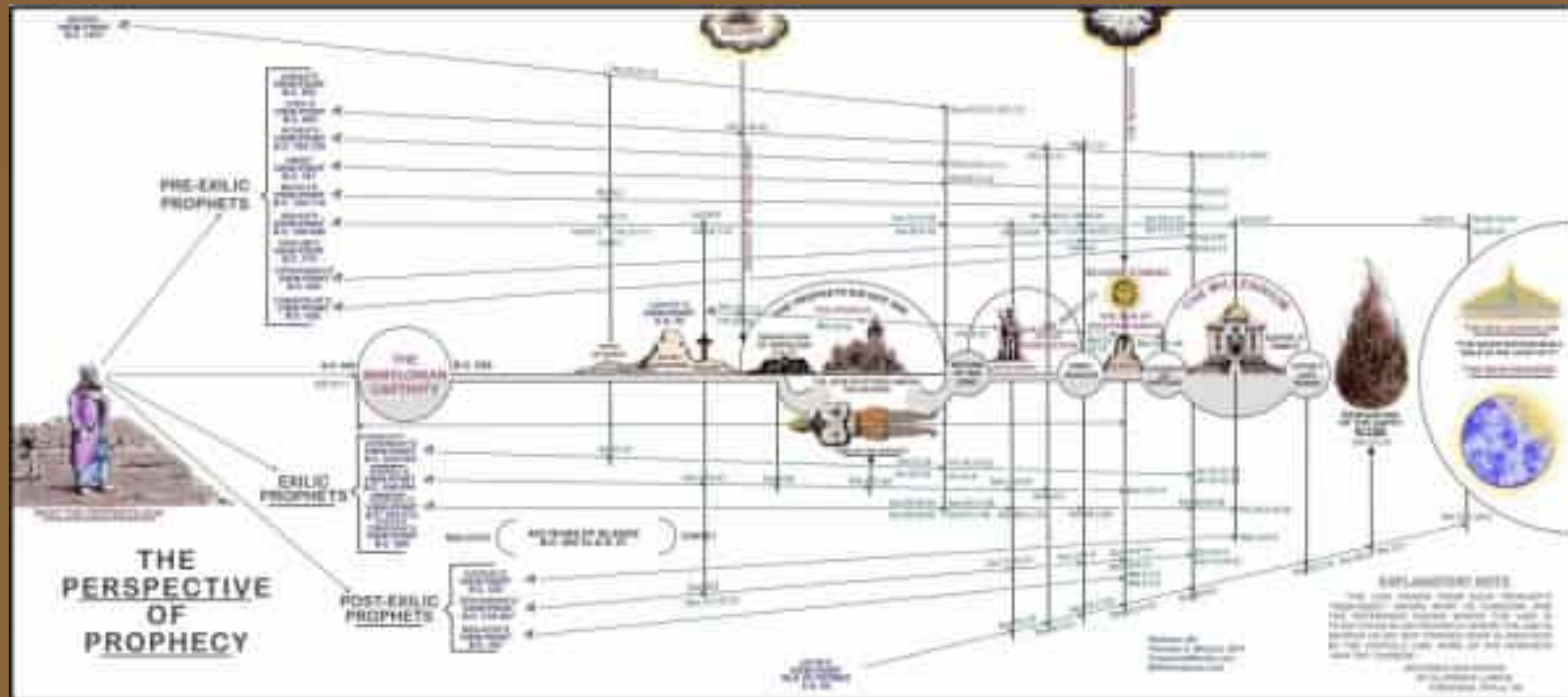
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I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective (continued)

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

➤ The New by prophecies of Christ. (Isa. 61:1-3)



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.19)

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Lesson 1

I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective (continued)

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- The New by the law of Moses, which shows men that they are sinners in God’ sight and leads them to salvation in Jesus Christ (see Galatians 3:24)



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.19)

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I. The Value of the Old Testament

B. An Old Testament perspective (continued)

“The Old Testament prepares the way for:

- The New by examples (Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:11)

See Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning....”

See I Corinthians 10:11

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples....”



“Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years”, David Cloud, p.19)

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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament

1. Law
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Major Prophets
5. Minor Prophets

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Lesson 1



II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament

1. Law (5) – the Pentateuch, means “Five Books”

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| ✓ Genesis | ✓ Leviticus | ✓ Deuteronomy |
| ✓ Exodus | ✓ Numbers | |

Consists of:

- Creation
- The fall of humanity into sin
- The Flood
- The Patriarchs
- The development and deliverance of the nation of Israel

- God’s law given
- Israel’s disobedience and wanderings
- God’s care of Israel

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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament (continued)

2. History (12)

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Joshua | ✓ II Samuel | ✓ II Chronicles |
| ✓ Judges | ✓ I Kings | ✓ Ezra |
| ✓ Ruth | ✓ II Kings | ✓ Nehemiah |
| ✓ I Samuel | ✓ I Chronicles | ✓ Esther |

Consists of:

- Conquest of the Promised Land
- Rule of judges
- Appointment of kings
- A united kingdom; A divided kingdom
- Destruction of Jerusalem
- Captivity to foreign lands
- Return to Promised Land
- Rebuilding of temple.

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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament (continued)

3. Poetry (5)

- ✓ Job
- ✓ Psalms
- ✓ Proverbs
- ✓ Ecclesiastes
- ✓ Song of Solomon

Consists of:

- Righteous Job's suffering & restoration
- Israel's ancient hymns reflecting theology and worship
- God's wisdom to help man
- Man's challenges with life
- A love story illustrated

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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament (continued)

4. Major Prophets (5)

- ✓ Isaiah
- ✓ Jeremiah
- ✓ Lamentations
- ✓ Ezekiel
- ✓ Daniel

Consists of: "...God's warnings to Israel and the nations as well as prophecies of the future. They describe the first coming of the Messiah to suffer for man's sins and the second coming to establish His kingdom."

"Mastering the English Bible: OT History – Genesis to the Silent Years", David Cloud, p.20)

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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament (continued)

5. Minor Prophets (12)

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| ✓ Hosea | ✓ Jonah | ✓ Zephaniah |
| ✓ Joel | ✓ Micah | ✓ Haggai |
| ✓ Amos | ✓ Nahum | ✓ Zechariah |
| ✓ Obadiah | ✓ Habakkuk | ✓ Malachi |

(see previous slide's note under Major Prophets)



II. Orientation to the Old Testament

A. Major divisions of the Old Testament

B. Other considerations for effective study

1. Different perspectives

The practices of ancient Israel differ from those of the church...The tabernacle, temple, feasts, sacrificial system, and priestly order are not part of God's instructions for the church...While the practices of ancient Israel are different than our practices as believers today, we can gain a greater understanding of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work.”

“The True Story of the Old Testament”, Adult Bible Study Leader's Guide, 2014, Regular Baptist Press, p.14)

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The OT and Christ's Redemptive Work

Correlations

Old Testament sacrifices connect with Jesus as the Lamb of God.

The blood of Old Testament sacrifices connect with Christ's shed blood on the cross.

Separation of Israel from God's presence demonstrates God's holiness.



II. Orientation to the Old Testament

B. Other considerations for effective study

2. Diverse literary styles

“The Old Testament contains historical narratives, lengthy law codes, protracted lists, hymns, proverbial sayings, vivid love poetry, and numerous prophecies.

The assortment of literary styles can make Bible interpretation difficult.

The wide range of literary styles means that students of the OT must work harder; they must pay careful attention to the distinctive characteristics of the various literary devices.”

“The Old Testament Story”, Adult Teacher Book, 2002, Regular Baptist Press, p.14)

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2. Diverse literary styles (continued)

“Recognizing the assortment of literary styles is essential to effective Bible interpretation.”

- ❑ **NARRATIVES** – records accounts.
- ❑ **BIBLICAL POETRY** – helps us understand the total experiences of the life of faith.
- ❑ **WISDOM LITERATURE** – is poetry that teaches us how to live with Biblical skillfulness.
- ❑ **PROPHETIC LITERATURE** – contains predictions of future events.

“The True Story of the Old Testament”, Adult Bible Study Leader’s Guide, 2014, Regular Baptist Press, p.14-15)

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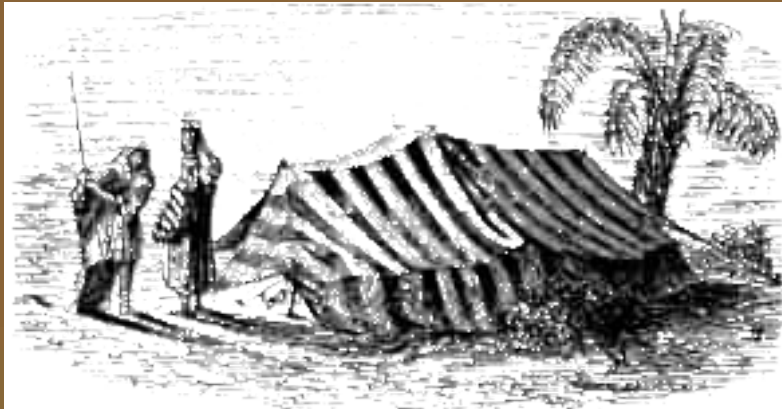
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II. Orientation to the Old Testament

B. Other considerations for effective study

3. Cultural and linguistic differences

“The Old Testament way of life seems far removed from that of modern times.”



“The True Story of the Old Testament”, Adult Bible Study Leader’s Guide, 2014, Regular Baptist Press, p.16)

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Lesson 1

3. Cultural and linguistic differences (continued)



Old Testament

- Written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- Both are Semitic languages
- Hebrew seems to move along rather haltingly, with short, staccato-like phrases

New Testament

- Written in Greek
- Both Greek and English are Indo-European languages
- Therefore Greek is closer to English than to Hebrew or Aramaic

“The True Story of the Old Testament”, Adult Bible Study Leader’s Guide, 2014, Regular Baptist Press, p.16)

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III. The Blessings of Old Testament Study (2 Timothy 3:16)

- ❑ **Fascinating Stories** (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11)
- ❑ **Rich Theology** – it is history of the attributes of God
- ❑ **Vivid Poems** – the Psalms brilliantly communicate inner spiritual struggles, loft aspirations, and growing faith
- ❑ **Sage Advice for Living** – the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
- ❑ **Essential Background Setting** for New Testament

“The Old Testament Story”, Adult Teacher Book, 2002, Regular Baptist Press, p.15)

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Lesson 1



Responses to God's Revelation and Redemption

1. Value a study of the Old Testament.

2.

3.

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