

Old Testament Curriculum

Summary Guide

(Single Page Summaries of each Lesson)

for

The Apprenticeship

and

Eternity Bible College

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## I. The Torah

The Torah is the first division of the Old Testament in the Hebrew Canon. It consists of Genesis-Deuteronomy and is foundational to the rest of Scripture. Some of the major themes include God's Sovereignty and Plan for the world, the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants, the Law and the sacrifices, and blessing and cursing. This is a 4 unit class and consists of 18 lessons.

## 1. God's Plan for the World: Overview of The Torah

**Scripture:** Genesis-Deuteronomy

**Theme:** God's Plan is to Bless the World through His Covenant Keeping Nation

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the structure of both the Torah and Genesis.
- To understand the setting and recipients of the Torah.
- To understand the purpose of the Torah and Genesis in the Torah.
- To shape our worldview through an understanding of God's purpose in the world.

### **Reading:**

- Skim through the Torah and familiarize yourself with its contents and structure.
- Read "Interpreting the Pentateuch," in The Pentateuch as Narrative by Sailhamer, pages 1-79.
- Read "Introduction," in An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch by Wolf, pages 17-47  
(this one is not due until the 4th class period).

### **Questions:**

1. Application: How does understanding the overarching structure, literary and historical context of the Torah affect the way that we read, study, and apply the Bible 1) collectively as the Church, 2) personally, and 3) devotionally?

## **2. God's Good Creation: Genesis 1**

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-2:3

**Theme:** God Created His World Good for His Purpose and Placed Man at the Center of His Plan

### **Objectives:**

- To understand who God has revealed Himself to be.
- To understand who man is and what is his created purpose.
- To lay a foundation for understanding the purpose of Genesis, the Torah, and the Bible.

### **Reading:**

- Read (thoughtfully) Genesis 1:1-2:3 **three** times.
- Read "Method for Studying Genesis," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 37-49.
- Read "The Composition of Genesis," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 65-97.
- Read "The Creation of the Universe by the Word of God," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 99-116.

### **Questions:**

1. Application: How does understanding God's creative intent for the world and for mankind affect the way that we think about life and our relationship to the world we live in?
2. Application: How should an understanding of God's fundamental goodness affect every aspect of our lives?

### **3. Man's Purpose and Plummet: Genesis 2-3**

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:4-3:24

**Theme:** God Created Man to Rule His Good World, but Man Fell through not Trusting Him

**Objectives:**

- To understand God's purpose for creating man and woman
- To understand the similarities and differences between man and woman
- To understand the effects of the fall on God's creation
- To understand how God's plan will continue

**Reading:**

- Read (thoughtfully) Genesis 2:4-3:24 **three** times.
- Read "The Creation of Man and Woman in the Garden," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 117-129.
- Read "The Temptation and Fall," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 130-138.
- Read "The Oracles of God at the Fall," in Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 139-151.

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does this passage effect our understanding of men's and women's roles? How does it effect our understanding of marriage? In what ways should this change the way you live either now or in the future?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about temptation and how to battle temptation from this passage? How will understanding this section effect how you respond to temptation in the future?

## **4. The Downward Spiral of Sin and Death: Genesis 4-11**

**Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-11:26

**Theme:** After Mankind Fell into Sin, the Effects of Death Permeated God's Good World

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the effects of sin and death on the world
- To give an appreciation for God's plan to restore blessing to the world
- To understand God's holiness and hatred of sin

### **Reading:**

- Read (thoughtfully) Genesis 4:1-11:26.
- Read Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 152-256.

### **Questions:**

1. Application: What does this section teach us about mankind and our predicament? How does this shape our worldview and effect how we interact with unbelievers?



## 5. The Chosen Man in God's Plan: Genesis 12-25

**Scripture:** Genesis 11:27-25:11

**Theme:** God Chose One Man through whom He Would Work out His Plan to Restore Global Blessing

**Objectives:**

- To understand how God's promise to bless the world will be worked out so that we know how to participate in God's plan
- To see how Abraham trusted in God and was blessed so that we will be confident to trust
- To be grounded in the faithfulness of God to His promises so we will be encouraged to live in faithful obedience

**Reading:**

- Read (thoughtfully) Genesis 11:27-25:11.
- Read Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 257-430.

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do you learn about God and man's relationship to Him by walking through the Abrahamic covenant? How does that knowledge effect the way you live?
  
2. Application: What do you learn through Abraham's triumphs and failures of faith as a whole that will change the way you walk in relationship to God?

## **6. The Faithfulness of God Despite Deceit: Genesis 25-36**

**Scripture:** Genesis 25:12-36:43

**Theme:** Although Jacob did not Trust God and so Acted Deceitfully, He was Still God's Chosen means through which to Work, so God Ultimately Changed his Heart and Used him

**Objectives:**

- To see how deceit endangers God's plan and our participation in it
- To see how God is faithful to His Word and plan despite sin

**Reading:**

- Read Genesis 25:12-36:43.
- Read Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 431-594.

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn for ourselves in this narrative? What is the interrelation of God's plan and our involvement in it?

## **7. God Meant it for Good: Genesis 37-50**

**Scripture:** Genesis 37:1-50:26

**Theme:** God will Sovereignly Work out His Plan in the End, though it Doesn't always Look Like it

### **Objectives:**

- To see how God works out everything according to His sovereign plan
- To learn how to trust God in the midst of circumstances that seem contrary to His plan

### **Reading:**

- Read Genesis 37:1-50:26.
- Read Creation and Blessing by Ross, pages 595-717.

### **Questions:**

1. Application: How does the Joseph story effect our perspective as we go through difficult circumstances? How should we respond?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about God and His plan from Genesis as a whole to apply to our lives?

## 8. Yahweh's Saving Power: Exodus 1-12

**Scripture:** Exodus 1-12

**Theme:** Yahweh Displayed His Saving Power and Mercy through Redeeming His People

**Objectives:**

- To see what God was accomplishing through the Exodus
- To understand how we fit into God's grand design and what our response should be

**Reading:**

- Read Exodus 1-12 *three times*.

**Questions:**

1. Application: Who is our God? Who has He revealed Himself to be? How does that change our lives? How do we live in light of His revealed character?

## **9. Entering Faithful Covenant Relationship: Exodus 13-24**

**Scripture:** Exodus 13-24

**Theme:** Yahweh Entered into Covenant Relationship with His People at Sinai, and Called them to be Faithful to it.

**Objectives:**

- To understand God's purpose in entering into covenant relationship with Israel
- To shape our worldview in terms of what God is doing in this world and how He is accomplishing that plan

**Reading:**

- Read Exodus 13-24 *twice*.

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Are we bound to obey these laws in 21-23? How about the 10 Commandments? Why or why not? (1+ paragraphs)
  
2. Application: How is our purpose similar or different from Israel's purpose? How is the basis for our obedience similar or different?

## 10. God with Us: Exodus 25-40

**Scripture:** Exodus 25-40

**Theme:** God Dwells among His Covenant People when they are Holy in Relationship to Him

**Objectives:**

- To understand the significance of God dwelling with His people and the implications of that
- To see God's character more clearly, and how we should respond to it

**Reading:**

- Read Exodus 25-40 *twice* (you can skim over the specific laws)

**Questions:**

1. Application: How is the presence of God significant in our lives? What do we learn from this section about God's presence and how that should affect us? What is necessary for God's presence?
2. Application: What do we learn about God's character from this section? How should we respond?

## 11. Sacrifice and Atonement: Leviticus

**Scripture:** Leviticus 1-7, 10, 16-17

**Theme:** Substitutionary Atonement through Sacrifice is Necessary to be in Relationship with God

**Objectives:**

- To understand the various aspects of sacrifice and atonement from an OT perspective
- To understand the importance and significance of sacrifice and atonement in God's economy

**Reading:**

- Read Leviticus 1-7, 10, 16-17
- Read Holiness to the LORD by Ross, pages 15-33; 42-58; 65-66; 73-82; and Introduction, Theological Ideas, Synthesis, and Concluding Observations from chapters 2-15, 19, 28, 30.
- Read **carefully** "The Terminology of Atonement; The Old Testament Root (כַּפֵּר)" in A Biblical Theology of the Doctrines of Sovereign Grace by George Zemek, pages 118-123. ***We will discuss this article in class, so try to understand it even though it is difficult. Feel free to discuss it with fellow students.***

**Questions:**

1. Application: What does learning about sacrifice and atonement change about the way you think of 1) God, 2) yourself, 3) Christ's sacrifice? How do you respond?
  
2. Application: What does Leviticus teach us about sin?

## **12. Holiness, Purity, and Priesthood: Leviticus**

**Scripture:** Leviticus 8-15, 18-27

**Theme:** God is Holy and so Requires Holiness and Purity from His People

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the relationship between holiness and purity and what this teaches about God and His relationship to people
- To understand how God wants His people to live in the world and how holiness and purity relate to God's purposes in this world

### **Reading:**

- Read (quickly) Leviticus 8-15, 18-27
- Read Holiness to the LORD by Ross, the Synthesis, and one sentence summary statement (indented in the text and using a different font in the Concluding Observations) from chapters 16-27; 31-48; 50
- Watch: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-morality-other-than-harm>

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: Why is there a distinction between the priests and the rest of the people? What other distinctions can you think of in Leviticus? What do these distinctions teach us? Think about this! (1 paragraph)
2. Thought question: Discuss the purpose of all these laws from the standpoint of the video on morality. What makes laws moral or immoral? Why did God give so many detailed laws? (1+ paragraphs)
3. Thought question: How do the concepts of 'law' and 'sacrifice' so prevalent in Leviticus (and the rest of the Torah) fit together to explain how to have covenant relationship with Yahweh and what are the implications of this for us today? (1+ paragraphs)
4. Application: Why is there such a huge emphasis on all these themes in Leviticus? What does it teach us about God and our relationship to Him to see such an emphasis on holiness, cleanliness, sanctification, purity, etc. etc. etc.



### **13. God's Blessing and Israel's Failure: Numbers 1-18**

**Scripture:** Numbers 1-18

**Theme:** God Continues to Bless His People Despite their Sin, but their Ultimate Lack of Faith will Result in Judgment for that Generation

**Objectives:**

- To see the importance of faith and trusting in God in order for God's plan to be accomplished
- To learn how God prepares people for what He sends them to do
- To understand key principles upon which to build a life of prayer

**Reading:**

- Read Numbers 1-18 *twice*
- Read Dominion and Dynasty by Dempster, pages 15-51

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about trusting God from this section?
  
2. Application: Think much about Moses' prayer and how we should pray like Moses. What should be the basis for our prayers? What should we ask for in our specific circumstances?

## 14. Rebellion and Hope: Numbers 19-36

**Scripture:** Numbers 19-36

**Theme:** Even though the People continue to Rebel, God Continues to Bless and Give Hope for the Future

**Objectives:**

- To understand the seriousness of rebellion against God and yet the grace of God toward sinners
- To see how the plan of God will continue despite whatever sin and rebellion oppose His plan

**Reading:**

- Read Numbers 19-36 *twice*.
- Read Dominion and Dynasty by Dempster, pages 55-92

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about rebellion against God and His grace?
2. Application: What do we learn about God's plan for the future and our faith?

## **15. History has Meaning: Deuteronomy 1-5**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 1-5

**Theme:** God will be Faithful in the Future because He has Done so in the Past

**Objectives:**

- To have a greater understanding of God's faithfulness that will cause us to trust Him more
- To understand how God was accomplishing His purpose through His covenant people and how that applies to believers today

**Reading:**

- Read Deuteronomy 1-5 *three times*.
- Read Deuteronomy by Merrill, pages 21-32 and 38-57.

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does our own history/testimony or that of others encourage us to continue to trust God?
  
2. Application: How does an understanding of God's purpose in calling a people to Himself help us to be about that same purpose?

## **16. The Heart of the Covenant: Deuteronomy 6-11**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6-11

**Theme:** God Calls His People to Covenant Faithfulness from the Heart

**Objectives:**

- To understand what covenant faithfulness looks like and the motives for keeping relationship with Yahweh
- To understand the hindrances to keeping relationship with Yahweh and how to resist them

**Reading:**

- Read Deuteronomy 6-11 *twice*.

**Questions:**

1. Application: What does this section teach us about our relationship to God? What should we beware of? What should we be careful to do? Why?

## **17. Specific Obedience and Blessings for it: Deuteronomy 12-28**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 12-28

**Theme:** God Calls His People to Obey Him in Specific Ways, but will Bless them Specifically for their Obedience

**Objectives:**

- To understand what principles were guiding the specific instructions given to Israel and how they apply today
- To understand how the OT law as a whole relates to believers today
- To see how the specifics in this section play out in the rest of the Old Testament

**Reading:**

- Read Deuteronomy 12-28.

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: How specific are the blessings and the cursings? Should we expect to see these specifics played out one way or another in the rest of the Old Testament? (2-3 sentences)
2. Read and carefully think through what the following verses teach us about the believer's relationship to the Old Testament law. Be prepared to discuss: Romans 6:12-19; 10:1-13; 13:8-10; Galatians 3:1-4:11; 5:1-15
3. Application: What specific principles have you learned in this section that you need to live out in your own life?

## **18. Israel's Future Failure and Fame: Deuteronomy 29-34**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 29-34

**Theme:** Israel will Reject Yahweh in the Future because of their Hardness of Heart in Anticipation of the Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant

**Objectives:**

- To show that though Israel was not able to keep the Mosaic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant guarantees that God will ultimately bless His people
- To raise anticipation for transformed hearts that come through the New Covenant

**Reading:**

- Read Deuteronomy 29-34

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What is at the heart of Israel's failure as portrayed in this section? What does this point to? (2-3 sentences)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Application: What does this section teach us about the importance of guarding our own hearts?

## II. Former Prophets

The Former Prophets class is the first class in the middle portion of the Hebrew Canon called 'The Prophets'. It consists of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel-Kings. These books are narrative, and yet are included in the Prophets because they were written to the nation of Israel corporately, to call them back to faithful covenant relationship with Yahweh. Some of the major themes include unity, corporate solidarity, judgment, and the faithfulness of Yahweh. This is a 3 unit class and consists of 12 lessons.

## 1. Conquering the Land: Joshua 1-12

**Scripture:** Joshua 1-12

**Theme:** Yahweh fights for His people who are united in trusting relationship with Him

**Objectives:**

- To summarize the characteristics and themes of the Former Prophets, and to understand how to interpret narrative literature
- To be amazed at the omnipotent power of Yahweh in behalf of His people
- To be encouraged to radically trust in Yahweh because of His great faithfulness
- To see the importance of corporate solidarity and how sin effects God's people

**Reading:**

- Read Chapter 1 “What Are the Histories? A Survey of Recent Scholarship” in *Exploring the Old Testament (EOT) A Guide to the Historical Books*, pp. 1-25
- Read Chapter 4 “Deuteronomistic History and Chronistic Books” by Richard Nelson in *The Historical Books*, pp. 67-78
- Read Joshua 1-12 *two times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about faith and trusting God from Joshua?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about corporate solidarity and unity from Joshua?



## **2. Dividing the Land: Joshua 13-24**

**Scripture:** Joshua 13-24

**Theme:** God gave Israel the land and called them to faithfulness to keep it

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged by the need for faithful trustings with Yahweh
- To see the dangers of syncretism, forgetfulness, fear, and laziness to faithfulness
- To be encouraged by a zeal for unity of faithfulness among God's people

**Reading:**

- Read Joshua 13-21 *once* and 22-24 *two times*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What women gain land rights in Joshua? Why would this stand out in that context? (1-2 sentences)
2. Thought question: Do you think the land promise was fulfilled in the days of Joshua? Why or why not? (1 paragraph)
3. Thought question: Comment on the ethics of Israel wiping out the Canaanites. (1 paragraph)
4. Application: What do we learn about unity and corporate solidarity from Joshua?
5. Application: Comment on the danger of forgetfulness and not persevering from the book of Joshua.

### **3. Trusting Courage Pleases God: Judges 1-9**

**Scripture:** Judges 1-9

**Theme:** Those remembering Yahweh's faithfulness will courageously live in obedient faith

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged by how Yahweh's faithfulness motivates us to live courageously for Him
- To see the need of leadership who takes initiative by acting out of obedient faith
- To be humbled by the fact that God doesn't use perfect people, but people who trust Him

**Reading:**

- Read all of Judges *once*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What are ways that we need to step out in faith in obedience to Yahweh by courageously trusting Him?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about leadership from this section?

## 4. God is Still Working when People Fail: Judges 10-21

**Scripture:** Judges 10-21

**Theme:** Despite the nation's plunge into sin and her leaders' failure, Yahweh mercifully still saves

**Objectives:**

- To be overwhelmed with Yahweh's patience, grace, and compassion on sinful people
- To see how Yahweh's faithfulness results in pursuing His rebellious people
- To hope for the day when the anticipation of a righteous King is fulfilled

**Reading:**

- Read all of Judges *once*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Summarize the role of women in the book of Judges. (They not only play a pervasive role, but a quite ironic one at that). List the key passages. (1 paragraph)
2. Thought question: Comment on the presence of the Spirit in Judges. What can we learn from the emphasis of this theme in this book? Is the function the same as the NT function of the Spirit? Why or why not? (1 paragraph)
3. Thought question: Reflect on God's sovereignty displayed in the book of Judges. How would you summarize this aspect of God's character? How does it relate to the themes of God's mercy and compassion and also His faithfulness in the book of Judges? (1 paragraph)
4. Application: What do we learn by continuing to see Yahweh's faithfulness to His people despite their downward spiral into sin? How should this affect our hearts?
5. Application: What should the effect be of seeing how Yahweh uses sinful people to accomplish His purpose? How does seeing God use people with huge blemishes and yet trust in Him at times change our view of what God is looking for in us? What does this teach us about our relationship with Him?

## **5. The Establishment of the Monarchy: 1 Samuel 1-15**

**Scripture:** 1st Samuel 1-15

**Theme:** God hears the cry of the lowly who trust in Him and establishes leaders to stand for justice

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged to trust in God fully and not in ourselves even in the midst of hardship
- To be reminded and encouraged of God's great power and eagerness to help the weak
- To be exhorted to care for the lowly as God does, and thus to care about justice
- To see the example of both good and bad leadership, and what characterizes each

**Reading:**

- Read 1st Samuel 1-15 *twice*
- Skim 1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel quickly

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about trusting God from this section of 1st Samuel? How do our concepts of power, greatness, and lowliness fit into our understanding of trust?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about justice and leadership from this section of 1st Samuel? How do our concepts of power, greatness, and lowliness fit into our understanding of justice?

## 6. The Rise of David: 1 Samuel 16-31

**Scripture:** 1st Samuel 16-31

**Theme:** God raises up and tears down in His time

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged to never exalt ourselves but to humbly seek God's glory alone
- To be encouraged to trust in Yahweh, waiting upon Him for vindication
- To be instilled with a fear of Yahweh that is reticent to question His sovereign choices
- To be humbled by the fact that we don't often understand God's purposes and timing

**Reading:**

- Read 1st Samuel 16-31 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: 1 Sam 16:14 says “an evil spirit from Yahweh” which “terrorized Saul.” Does God *cause* evil? Talk as well about the interaction between this evil spirit and Saul's own spirit (1 paragraph)
2. Application: What do we learn about trusting and waiting from this passage of Scripture? What do we learn about how to handle hardships, trials, and otherwise being a 'sojourner'? What do we learn about vindication?

## **7. The Reign of David: 2 Samuel 1-10**

**Scripture:** 2nd Samuel 1-10

**Theme:** God honors the humble who trust in Him by always out-giving those who serve Him

**Objectives:**

- To see the great importance of not seeking self, but trusting in God to vindicate us
- To be encouraged to give everything to God, because we can't outgive Him
- To be reminded of His omnipotent power to enact His plans
- To be encouraged to wait, knowing that God's plans and timing are always best for us

**Reading:**

- Read 2nd Samuel 1-10 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about not seeking self, but trusting in God for everything from this section?

## **8. The Downfall and Demise of David: 2 Samuel 11-24**

**Scripture:** 2nd Samuel 11-24

**Theme:** The lure of sin has tragic, messy, and lasting consequences yet God is still gracious

**Objectives:**

- To be sobered by the tragic, messy, and lasting effects of sin
- To be warned against the temptation of sin
- To be encouraged by the pervasive grace of God and be reminded to show mercy

**Reading:**

- Read 2nd Samuel 11-24 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Why do you think God sends Nathan to tell David a parable, rather than to confront him directly? What do we learn from this? (2-3 sentences)
2. [Optional] Thought question: David is a very complex character in the Bible, but nowhere is this better demonstrated than in 2 Samuel 12-21. Describe in detail how David is portrayed here. Please include a description of his emotional, spiritual and physical state.
3. Application: What do we learn about dealing with peoples' sin from this section (ours and others)?

## **9. King Solomon: 1 Kings 1-11**

**Scripture:** 1st Kings 1-11

**Theme:** God Exalts David's Son to Reign over the Greatest Kingdom on Earth

### **Objectives:**

- To be amazed at the awesome blessing of the presence of God
- To be encouraged by the unflinching faithfulness of God
- To be challenged to use our blessings for justice and righteousness
- To be warned by the deceptive appeal of sin

### **Reading:**

- Read 1st Kings 1-11 *twice*

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: By 1 Kings 11, Solomon seems to have violated Deuteronomy 17 by multiplying horses and wives, and “greatly increasing silver and gold for himself” (Deuteronomy 17:17). However, God promised to give him “riches and honor” in 1 Kings 3:13. Was Solomon’s riches, wealth, etc. a bad thing, a blessing from God, or what? How do you resolve this apparent tension? (1 paragraph)
2. Thought question: List and describe all the incidents in Solomon’s life *prior to 1 Kings 11*, which are cast in a more negative light by the author. Some of these may be explicit, but others may be implicit (i.e. pseudo-objective narration). (1 paragraph)
3. Application: In what ways has God been faithful to us and has blessed us immensely?
4. Application: What do we learn about the dangers of blessing and the deceitfulness of sin from this passage?
5. Application: With the emphasis on justice and righteousness in this passage, what do you think the lesson is for those who have been blessed by Yahweh?



## **10. The Decline of Israel and Judah: 1 Kings 12-22**

**Scripture:** 1st Kings 12-22

**Theme:** Yahweh is the Real King, whose Word has Ultimate Authority over every Human King

### **Objectives:**

- To be challenged to submit to the absolute sovereignty of Yahweh
- To be encouraged by the absolute faithfulness of Yahweh to His Word
- To be strengthened by the power of God available to those who trust Him
- To be vitalized by grace of God towards those who are weak

### **Reading:**

- Read 1st Kings 12-22 *twice*

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: We have seen that the relationship between prophet and king is very important in the book of Kings. Summarize the nature of that relationship. (1 paragraph)
2. Application: What do we learn about God's Word from this section of Scripture? How should this understanding effect the ways that we relate to God on a daily basis?

## 11. The End of Israel: 2 Kings 1-17

**Scripture:** 2nd Kings 1-17

**Theme:** Yahweh Works in and Warns His People, but Finally Upholds His Word in His Threats

**Objectives:**

- To be stunned by the long-suffering of Yahweh towards even openly rebellious people
- To be sobered by the reality that the judgment of Yahweh finally comes
- To be challenged to remain faithful to Yahweh in the midst of wickedness

**Reading:**

- Read 2nd Kings 1-17 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does this section encourage us to trust God's word, both His promises and warnings?
2. Application: What do we learn about Yahweh's patience and also His judgment from this passage? How should this effect the way we view evangelism?

## **12. The End of Judah: 2 Kings 18-25**

**Scripture:** 2nd Kings 18-25

**Theme:** Faithful Covenant Relationship with Yahweh is Everything, Externals are Nothing

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged that simple, trusting & humble faith are what Yahweh wants
- To be reminded that Yahweh's plan works through those who trust Him but will not be thwarted by those who don't
- To stand in awe and hope for the coming of Yahweh's righteous king/kingdom which this section of Scripture sets up a great anticipation and longing for

**Reading:**

- Read 2nd Kings 18-25 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about Yahweh's sovereign plan from this passage? How does our faith or lack of it affect this plan and our interaction with it?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about what it looks like to trust Yahweh even when surrounded by sin from this passage?

#### **IV. Latter Prophets I**

Latter Prophets I is the middle class in the middle portion of the Hebrew Canon called 'The Prophets'. It consists of the pre-exilic prophets (Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk). Some of the major themes include God's glory, the fulfillment of God's plan, judgment, restoration, hope, and the salvation of Israel and the nations. This is a 2 unit class and consists of 14 lessons.

## **1. Yahweh will Have His Day: Obadiah/Joel**

**Scripture:** Obadiah 1 and Joel 1-3

**Theme:** Yahweh will have His Day when He Comes and Acts in Power

**Objectives:**

- To grow in our fear of Yahweh
- To better understand how God's plan relates to His people and His covenant with them
- To understand the nature of true repentance
- To be anticipating Yahweh's Day

**Reading:**

- Read Obadiah and Joel *four times each*
- Read Chisholm's section on Obadiah and Joel

**Questions:**

1. Summarize the message of the Torah. Summarize the four primary Biblical covenants and their relationships. (1-2 paragraphs)
2. Application: What does this book teach us about pride? What about the relationship between pride and jealousy?
3. Application: How should we respond in light of Yahweh's coming day?

## 2. Where is Your Compassion: Jonah

**Scripture:** Jonah 1-4

**Theme:** God has a Heart for the Nations and Sovereignly Acts to Save them

**Objectives:**

- To Better Understand God's Heart and Plan for the Nations
- To Better Understand God's Sovereignty and Salvation
- To be Convicted by our own Lack of Compassion

**Reading:**

- Read Jonah *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Jonah

**Questions:**

1. Thought questions: What are the lessons we learn about God in this chapter? What did Yahweh do in this chapter? How is Jonah portrayed? How is he contrasted with the sailors? (1 paragraph)
2. [Optional] Thought question: How does chapter 1 foreshadow the main point of the book? How can a simple story/narrative have a convicting point? Who was this book written to again? Start to think about what the point of the book would have been to them. (2-3 sentences)
3. Thought question: What is the overall point of the book of Jonah? How would/should the original recipients be affected by it? (1 paragraph)
4. [Optional] Thought question: Who do you think wrote the book of Jonah? Why? (2-3 sentences)
5. Application: Think about what the Ninevites were like and think who would be the 'Ninevites' in our own lives? What does this book teach us about God and His desire for people? What do we learn about the character and purposes of God from this book?

### 3. Yahweh Roars: Amos

**Scripture:** Amos 1-9

**Theme:** Yahweh Roars in Power to Shake People out of Complacency

**Objectives:**

- To Fear the Awesome Nature of Yahweh
- To be Shaken out of our Complacency

**Reading:**

- Read Amos *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Amos

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn from Amos that changes our daily lives?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about justice and complacency from Amos?

## 4. Relationship with Yahweh: Hosea

**Scripture:** Hosea 1-14

**Theme:** God Wants Relationship with His People and will Bring it about

**Objectives:**

- To Better Understand what Relationship with Yahweh looks like
- To Create a Desire for Relationship with Yahweh

**Reading:**

- Read Hosea 1-3 *four times* and Hosea 4-14 *twice*
- Read Chisholm's section on Hosea

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Can a husband and wife have a good relationship without knowing each other? If they never talk and spend time with one another, will their relationship be a good one? Explain.
2. Application: Do you have a **relationship** with Yahweh? How do you foster that relationship? How do you know Him?
3. Application: What does this book teach us about faithfulness and pursuing love in relationship?



## **5. The Holy God Saves Sinful People: Isaiah 1-5**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 1-5

**Theme:** The Plan of The Holy God to Save a Sinful People to Demonstrate His Glory

**Objectives:**

- To understand the background and setting of Isaiah
- To understand the purpose, and message of the book of Isaiah
- To be humbled beneath the awesome holiness of God

**Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 1-5 thoughtfully *three times*
- Read Webb's Introduction (19-39) and section on Isaiah 1-5 (41-58)
- Read Oswalt's Introduction: II. A. (4-13), VIII (31-44), and X (54-60)
- Skim Isaiah *once* (trying to get a general feel of the contents of each chapter) [due at end of first full week]

**Questions:**

1. Application: Read 2:22 five times slowly. Ask yourself in which way you still honor man and esteem man above God. What do you need to change?
  
2. Application: How do we think of ourselves and how do we think of God? What does it mean to us that God is Holy?

## 6. In Whom shall we Trust: Isaiah 6-12

**Scripture:** Isaiah 6-12

**Theme:** Yahweh Alone Can Save and so He Alone should be Trusted

**Objectives:**

- To understand and long for the hope of Israel's coming King
- To see the need to trust in and fear Yahweh
- To better understand and revere the Holiness of God

**Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 6-12 thoughtfully *three times*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 6-12
- Begin memorizing Isaiah 52:13-53:12 [due at end of semester]

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about the faithfulness of God from this section? What do we learn about the Holiness of God from this section? How should we respond in light of these attributes of God?

## **7. Yahweh has no Rivals: Isaiah 13-27**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 13-27

**Theme:** God Opposes the Proud but Gives Grace to the Humble

**Objectives:**

- To understand the connection between pride and trust
- To feel the awesome nature of Yahweh and to live in light of His day
- To see God's plan for the nations and to have a heart for that same plan

**Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 13-27 *twice*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 13-27

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What do we learn about pride, humility, and glory in this section? How do these topics relate to trust [think about this!]? How does this relate to the gospel [think!]?
2. Thought question: What do we learn about the nations in this section? What about God's plan? What do we learn about Yahweh's Day, what will it be like? What will He do on it and why?
3. Application: What are things that you trust in instead of trusting in God? How is your pride manifested in trusting in these things?

## 8. Don't Trust the Nations: Isaiah 28-39

**Scripture:** Isaiah 28-39

**Theme:** Yahweh is Faithful so we can Humble ourselves and Patiently Wait and Hope in Him

### **Objectives:**

- To see the need to trust in Yahweh at **all** times
- To better know Yahweh's faithfulness and power to save so that we will trust Him
- To understand what trust look like, and how it relates to faith, waiting, and hoping
- To become aware of how our pride causes us to trust in ourselves

### **Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 28-39 *twice*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 28-39

### **Questions:**

1. Application: When can we trust God? When should we trust God? Think about in what situations you are tempted not to trust God and what times you become complacent and forget to. What thinking do you need to change in order to recognize that you need to trust God all the time? What are four specific truths that you need to remember to bolster your continual trust in God?

## **9. The Awesome Creator Saves Alone: Isaiah 40-48**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40-48

**Theme:** Yahweh Alone is God and therefore Able to Save

**Objectives:**

- To understand Yahweh's complete sovereignty as the Creator
- To understand how God's salvation is for His own glory, and to be about that same purpose
- To see the purpose of the Servant and to see the ways we share that purpose

**Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 40-48 *three times*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 40-48

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Summarize the main points of 40-48 and how they tie together.
  
2. Application: How should we respond to Yahweh in light of what we learn about Him in this section?

## **10. The Suffering Servant's Saving Substitution: Isaiah 49-55**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 49-55

**Theme:** In the Climactic Servant Song God's Plan for Salvation is Finally Revealed through the Humble Work of the Suffering Servant's Substitution

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the purpose and identity of the Servant
- To understand how the final Servant song fits into the purpose and flow of the book
- To understand the nature of the gospel according to Isaiah
- To rejoice in the greatness of God's salvation

### **Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 49-55 *three times*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 49-55

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: Summarize the message of the final Servant song. How does it fit into the purpose of the book as a whole?
  
2. Application: How does a better understanding of the nature of salvation effect each of us? How does understanding the purpose of the Servant effect each of our purposes in life? What does His humility teach us?

## **11. The Completion of God's Perfect Plan: Isaiah 56-66**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 56-66

**Theme:** God's Perfect Plan of Salvation will be Accomplished

**Objectives:**

- To understand the nature of God's salvation and what it entails
- To better understand God's purpose and goal for His creation and how it will be accomplished
- To praise God for His marvelous salvation which will be accomplished

**Reading:**

- Read Isaiah 56-66 *twice*
- Read Webb's section on Isaiah 56-66

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about Yahweh and His salvation from this section? How should that effect us personally?

## 12. God is Faithful: Micah

**Scripture:** Micah

**Theme:** Although God Judges His People for their Sin, because of His Faithfulness there is always Hope in the End

**Objectives:**

- To better understand and trust in God's Faithfulness
- To better understand and participate in God's Plan for the World

**Reading:**

- Read Micah *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Micah

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: How do we see resolution come to each of the problems presented in the book?
2. Application: What do we learn about Yahweh in Micah that effects the way we live today? What do we learn about His faithfulness?



### **13. The Avenger will Have His Global Day: Nahum/Zephaniah**

**Scripture:** Nahum 1-3 and Zephaniah 1-3

**Theme:** Yahweh is An Avenging God and will have His Glorious Global Day

**Objectives:**

- To Understand and Live in Light of Yahweh's Righteous Judgment and Hatred of Sin
- To Rejoice in the Triumph of Yahweh
- To Understand the Global Nature of Yahweh's Glory and Plan
- To Grow in our Fear of Yahweh

**Reading:**

- Read Nahum and Zephaniah *four times each*
- Read Chisholm's section on Nahum and Zephaniah

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: How do you think the original readers would have felt after reading Nahum? Comment on it's style and how that effects the message of the book. (2-3 sentences)
2. Application: How should Nahum impact our lives? What does knowing about Yahweh's wrath and vengeance produce in us?
3. Application: What do we learn about God's plan in Zephaniah? How should we respond to what we learn about God here?

## 14. Faith in the Unfathomable God: Habakkuk

**Scripture:** Habakkuk

**Theme:** God Calls us to Trust in Him, even though we can't Understand His Ways

**Objectives:**

- To learn to trust in Yahweh even when we don't understand His ways

**Reading:**

- Read Habakkuk *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Habakkuk

**Questions:**

1. What is the message of chapter 3? How does it fit into the message of the first two chapters? (1 paragraph)
2. Application: How are we encouraged to trust God more from this book? What are reasons given to trust God given in Habakkuk?

### **III. Latter Prophets II**

Latter Prophets II is the final class in the middle portion of the Hebrew Canon called 'The Prophets'. It consists of the post-exilic prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). Some of the major themes include God's holiness, the fulfillment of God's plan, judgment, restoration, hope, and the salvation of Israel and the nations. This is a 3 unit class and consists of 12 lessons.

## **1. The Punishment for Prostitution: Jeremiah 1-20**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 1-20

**Theme:** God will Judge His Whoring Nation, although they Claimed to Know Him

**Objectives:**

- To see the heart of God for righteousness, not religion
- To see the importance of covenant relationship with Yahweh and how to have it
- To understand our need for strength and faithfulness amidst persecution and rejection

**Reading:**

- Read Jeremiah 1-20 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about ministry and people's response to the Word from the life of Jeremiah? What do we learn about God's purpose in ministry? Opposition in ministry?
2. Application: What do we learn about external worship in Jeremiah? What is important to God? What is God's heart for?

## **2. The Shocking Restoration: Jeremiah 21-33**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 21-33

**Theme:** God Must Judge, but God will Restore

**Objectives:**

- To understand the seriousness of sin and necessity for God in righteousness to judge
- To be challenged by the faithfulness of Jeremiah in light of persecution and rejection
- To be amazed at God's promises of restoration in light of the peoples' sin
- To understand the promise of the New Covenant and its significance in Biblical revelation

**Reading:**

- Read Jeremiah 21-33 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: In light of the absolute hardness of heart of God's people, what do we learn about His faithfulness? How does the New Covenant fit into this?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about ministry from Jeremiah's personal life?

### **3. The Judgment Comes: Jeremiah 34-52**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 34-52

**Theme:** Israel is Judged for their sin by Babylon

**Objectives:**

- To see the need to trust and obey Yahweh, even when it doesn't make sense
- To see that Yahweh always keeps His word
- To see the need for faithfulness in ministry

**Reading:**

- Read Jeremiah 34-45 and 52 *twice* and 46-51 *once*.

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about trusting in God from this section?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about ministry amidst people who reject?

## 4. Yahweh's Glory and Holiness: Ezekiel 1-11

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 1-11

**Theme:** Yahweh is Glorious and so calls His People to Holiness for Him to Dwell among them

**Objectives:**

- To understand the background, setting, and audience of Ezekiel
- To understand the structure and purpose of the book of Ezekiel
- To be humbled and overwhelmed by Yahweh's awesome nature
- To be challenged by Yahweh's holiness and incompatibility with sin

**Reading:**

- Read Ezekiel 1-11 *two times*
- Read Wright's Introduction and section on Ezekiel 1-11
- Skim Ezekiel *once* (trying to get a general feel of the contents of each chapter)  
[due at end of first full week]

**Questions:**

1. Application: How should meditating on the glory of Yahweh and the vision of chapter 1 effect our daily lives? How should God's glory effect our view of sin? How should it effect our purpose and mission in life?

## **5. Judgment against Israel and the Nations: Ezekiel 12-32**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 12-32

**Theme:** Yahweh will Make His Name Known through Judging both His People and the Nations

**Objectives:**

- To be overwhelmed with Yahweh's patience and grace
- To be shaken out of things we depend on or sins we become comfortable with
- To be challenged by a radically Yahweh centered worldview

**Reading:**

- Read Ezekiel 12-32 *two times*
- Read Wright's section on Ezekiel 12-32

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about God's plan to glorify Himself from this section? What does this teach us about how we can live for His glory?



## 6. The Salvation of the Nation: Ezekiel 33-39

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 33-39

**Theme:** God will Vindicate His Holiness and Show His Glory in Saving His People

**Objectives:**

- To see how salvation is ultimately doxological in purpose
- To have hope in God's future restoration and God's coming King
- To be humbled by the fact of Divine agency in salvation
- To worship at the amazing power of God to save, restore and transform

**Reading:**

- Read Ezekiel 33-39 thoughtfully *three times*
- Read Wright's section on Ezekiel 33-39

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: How does the New Covenant apply to us since it was so clearly given to and about the nation of Israel? When is the New Covenant fulfilled? You will need to think through New Testament passages about the New Covenant for this one... (1-2 paragraphs)
2. Application: What do we learn about the relationship between God's glory and salvation in this passage? How does this relate to the topic of Divine Agency in salvation? How should having a God centered as opposed to man-centered view of salvation effect us on a daily basis?
3. Application: What do we learn about God's glory as it relates to His promises and faithfulness in this passage? How should this encourage and challenge us?

## **7. The Presence of Yahweh: Ezekiel 40-48**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 40-48

**Theme:** God's Glory will Return to His Temple and He will Forever Dwell with His People

**Objectives:**

- To be encouraged by Ezekiel's vision of what the kingdom will be like
- To be exhorted to holiness in light of God's glory
- To be encouraged to trust in God's faithfulness to His promises
- To be encouraged to long for the presence of Yahweh

**Reading:**

- Read Ezekiel 40-48 *two times*
- Read Wright's section on Ezekiel 40-48

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Explain your understanding of the timing of the events in Ezekiel that are yet future to us in relation to other events that the Bible prophecies for our future. In other words, give a rough overview of your understanding of eschatology. (1 paragraph)
  
2. Application: What encouragement do we receive from seeing Ezekiel's picture of what the kingdom will be like?

## 8. Serving Yahweh: Haggai

**Scripture:** Haggai

**Theme:** It is Worth it to Give Everything to Serve Yahweh in Light of the Coming Glory

**Objectives:**

- To learn the priorities and principles for serving Yahweh
- To learn to serve in light of God's empowerment, by the power of His Spirit
- To learn to serve in light of eternity

**Reading:**

- Read Ezra 1-6
- Read Haggai *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Haggai

**Questions:**

1. Summarize the message of each of the different prophecies of Haggai. What is the overall message of the book in light of the message of each of the individual prophecies? (1 paragraph)
  
2. Application: What do we learn about serving God from Haggai?

## **9. Messiah Sent to Cleanse & Empower: Zechariah 1-6**

**Scripture:** Zechariah 1:1-6:8

**Theme:** God will Send Messiah who brings the Kingdom by Forgiveness and the Power of the Spirit

### **Objectives:**

- To give us hope in the certainty of God's plan
- To strengthen us to work for the furtherance of God's plan
- To impress on us the need for holiness and repentance to participate in God's plan

### **Reading:**

- Read all of Zechariah once
- Read Zechariah 1:1-6:8 *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Zechariah 1:1-6:8

### **Questions:**

1. Application: What do the central visions (chapter 3-4) teach us about God's role in using us for His glory?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about the Messiah from this section, and how He fits into God's plan for the world?

## **10. You Can't Coast into the Kingdom: Zechariah 6-11**

**Scripture:** Zechariah 6-11

**Theme:** God will bring His King, but Humble, Heartfelt Relationship is how you enter His Kingdom

**Objectives:**

- To call God's people to humble repentance and courageous work
- To warn against the danger of religious duty without heartfelt listening to God
- To encourage that God's plan overrules even His peoples' rejection of Him

**Reading:**

- Read Zechariah 6-11 *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Zechariah 6-11

**Questions:**

1. Application: What are ways that we, like them, have redefined what relationship with Yahweh looks like (chapter 7)?
2. Application: How does a clear understanding of our hope, motivate us to work for the kingdom in the here and now?

## **11. Yahweh Loves to Save: Zechariah 12-14**

**Scripture:** Zechariah 12-14

**Theme:** Yahweh Loves to Humble His People and Bring them to the Lowest Point so He can Show Off His Amazing Power to Save

**Objectives:**

- To demonstrate God's love to save, and how He humbles His people to show His power
- To cause us to worship at the majesty of God's plan
- To grant us thankfulness at the graciousness of God's plan

**Reading:**

- Read Zechariah 12-14 *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Zechariah 12-14

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about God's plan from Zechariah? What was at the heart of God's message for His people in this book?
  
2. Application: How does an understanding that Yahweh repeatedly brought His people low so that they would look to Him and He would save them impact us in our daily lives? How does it impact how we go through trials?

## **12. Living in the Awesome Majesty of God: Malachi**

**Scripture:** Malachi

**Theme:** Yahweh's Fearsome Majesty and Demands our Zeal for His Glory

**Objectives:**

- To grow in our fear of Yahweh
- To grow in our zeal and jealousy for the glory of Yahweh
- To grow in our understanding of how living in the fear of Yahweh affects daily life

**Reading:**

- Read Malachi *four times*
- Read Chisholm's section on Malachi

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: How do the messages of all the various sections of Malachi fit together? What is the message of the book as a whole? (2-3 sentences)
  
2. Application: How does Malachi impact the way you go about your daily life in the small details of life? What does it mean to live by fearing Yahweh according to Malachi? How are you challenged to live by faith in everything that you do?

## V. Writings

Writings is the class that contains the majority of the third portion of the Hebrew Canon called 'The Writings' (Psalms is included in the BTOT class). This class consists of Lamentations, Daniel, Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles, and the wisdom books: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. The Writings focus much more on individuals than on the corporate nation as in the Torah and the Prophets. Some of the major themes include God's sovereignty over nations and history, personal responsibility, prayer, the future of God's plan, the fear of God, and wisdom. This is a 4 unit class and consists of 23 lessons.



# 1. Mourning Our Brokenness: Lamentations

**Scripture:** Lamentations 1-5

**Theme:** Mourning over the Brokenness of the World with Proper Perspective

## **Objectives:**

- To understand the function of the acrostic form of Lamentations
- To study the theological purpose and themes of Lamentations
- To examine the different facets of biblical Lament
- To write a personal lament over some personal or historic tragedy, in order gain a better sense of the personal impact of Lamentations

## **Reading:**

- Read Lamentations *three times*
- Barry Webb, "Lamentations: Garment of Suffering," in *Five Festal Garments*, pp. 59-81
- Memorize Lam 3:19-27 in one of following translations: NASB, ESV, NKJV, NLT, or NIV.

## **Questions:**

1. Application: How does (or should) the book of Lamentations put things in perspective for us? How should it affect the way we go through trials?
2. Application: What do we learn about the brokenness of the world from Lamentations? How does this affect how we minister to both believers and unbelievers?
3. Application: What do we learn about the world and history being God centered and not man centered from Lamentations? How does this affect our questioning of difficult events in our lives and in the world?
4. Write your own Lament (1/3 to 1 page) reflecting on one of the following tragedies:
  - a. Rwanda genocide (1994)
  - b. Haiti earthquake (2010)
  - c. Another catastrophic event
  - d. Personal event

In preparation, I encourage you to study the details of the event to which you are responding (internet, books, news clips, etc.). Your lament may be poetic but it doesn't have to be. The main point is that the event should elicit feelings of extreme grief; questioning, yet affirming, God's goodness; confirming God's justice, yet expressing intense pain over the execution of it. The point of this project is to train ourselves to "grieve with those who grieve," and to be saddened by and lament for the pain and suffering that life in this world brings, and yet to be confident that God is sovereign and is working in and through the tragic events. The themes in your lament should broadly correlate with the themes in Lamentations. You can even use the language of Lamentations and apply it to your lament.

## 2. Living in God's Sovereignty: Daniel 1-3

**Scripture:** Daniel 1-3

**Theme:** Living with Wisdom and Trust in Light of God's Sovereignty

**Objectives:**

- To grow in our fear of Yahweh and therefore complete trust in Him
- To understand how God's sovereignty should impact our daily lives
- To learn what wisdom is and where true wisdom comes from
- To understand what the fear of man is, and how knowing Yahweh produces a fear of Him
- To learn to rest of God's sovereignty, whether it results in what we desire or not

**Reading:**

- Read Daniel 1-3 *five times*.

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Why did Neb change their names in 1:7? Did they resist this? Why or why not? (2-3 sentences)
2. Application: What can we learn about how to respond in wisdom according to chapter 1?
3. Application: What do we learn about how to respond in wisdom from chapter 2?
4. Application: What do we learn about God and His plan from chapter 2?
5. Application: What does chapter 3 teach us about trusting God? What does it teach us about the effects and results of trusting Him (for ourselves and for others)?

### 3. Fearing Yahweh and Humbling Yourself: Daniel 4-6

**Scripture:** Daniel 4-6

**Theme:** Understanding Yahweh's Sovereignty Produces Humility, Fear, and Confidence

**Objectives:**

- To see how pride is opposed to God and His glory and so learn humility
- To see the utter foolishness of self-trust and the wisdom of trusting in God
- To understand our need to depend upon Yahweh every day
- To see the confidence of those whose trust is Yahweh
- To be encouraged to see the faithfulness of God for His children

**Reading:**

- Read Daniel 4-6 *five times*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What do we learn about how to be about God's glory in this world from this chapter? How does God want us to live? What does this teach us about our purpose in the world? (2-3 sentences)
2. Application: What are specific ways that we rob God of His glory in our own lives?
3. Application: What do we learn about our purpose for living from chapter 5?
4. Excursion: Talk about how pride, salvation, and faith are related throughout Scripture.
5. Application: What do we learn about prayer from chapter 6?
6. Application: What do we learn about our witness from chapter 6?

## **4. God's Sovereignty over the Nations: Daniel 7-9**

**Scripture:** Daniel 7-9

**Theme:** God is in Complete Control of History for His Glory, but still Wants us to Plead for His Glory

### **Objectives:**

- To be overwhelmed by God's complete sovereignty so that our trust in Him will grow
- To see how God's plan for the world centers around Israel and how that plan is worked out
- To see how the trials God brings the world through are to demonstrate His victory
- To learn humility in our prayer that is concerned with God's glory and not our own
- To learn holy boldness in prayer that reasons with God for His glory
- To see how God loves to answer prayers for His glory

### **Reading:**

- Read Daniel 7-9 *five times*

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: What do we learn from all the events of these two chapters? How do both chapters end? What does all the trouble before the end remind us of? (2-3 sentences)
2. Application: How should we respond to these chapters? What is our hope in? Can we trust God even if things get worse? What are we longing and hoping for? How should knowing the end change our life today?
3. Application: What does this chapter teach us about how to pray? What should be the basis for our prayers? What should be the purpose for which we are praying? What are attitudes we should have in prayer? What do we learn about how God responds to prayer and how should that effect our prayers?

## 5. A Message of Great Conflict: Daniel 10-12

**Scripture:** Daniel 10-12

**Theme:** There is a Spiritual Battle going on for the Glory of God that centers on Humanity

**Objectives:**

- To understand how prayer impacts the spiritual world in a way that encourages us to pray
- To understand the purpose of fasting and its relationship to prayer
- To once again see Yahweh's sovereignty so that we will trust and depend on Him
- To better grasp how to live in the middle of circumstances we don't understand

**Reading:**

- Read Daniel 10-12 *five times*

**Questions:**

### Chapter 10

1. Application: How does a greater understanding of the spiritual battles going on impact your personal prayer life? How does better understanding the purpose of fasting impact your prayer life?
  
2. Application: What does this section teach us about how we should live?

## 6. Yahweh's Sovereign and Tender Care: Ruth

**Scripture:** Ruth 1-4

**Theme:** Yahweh is Sovereign over and Caring for those who Seek Refuge in Him and oversees even the smallest events for His wonderful plan

**Objectives:**

- To understand how the author skilfully tells his narrative to make his point
- To be challenged by Boaz and Ruth's faithfulness to Yahweh and their strength of character
- To see God's Sovereign attendance of every aspect of life
- To understand the difference between our responsibility and God's
- To worship God as we see how He works in history

**Reading:**

- Read Ruth *four times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about Yahweh from these two chapters? What do we learn about how we should live in light of who Yahweh is?
2. Thought question: At the start of chapter 3, does Naomi and Ruth simply wait for God to act or do they take action? Was this taking things into their own hands? Was it right? Why or why not? How does the author frame it?
3. Thought question: What reversals have occurred in this story? (1 paragraph)
4. Application: What do we learn in this story about Yahweh? How should we respond to Him?
5. Application: In what ways were Boaz and Ruth exemplary (think about and list several ways with personal applications)?

## 7. God's Good Gift: Song of Songs

**Scripture:** Song of Songs

**Theme:** Love is Good because Love is from God

**Objectives:**

- To think through what love is and what love looks like
- To understand that sex and sexuality are good gifts from God
- To grow in wisdom understanding our sexuality

**Reading:**

- Read Song of Songs *three times*

**Questions:**

1. What does Song of Songs teach about what true love is like? Contrast the following two definitions of love and then comment: 1) Love is a duty to selflessly sacrifice for the sake of another; 2) Love is an emotion of strong affection towards another. How would you define biblical love? (1-2 paragraphs)
2. What do we learn about how one thinks about another person with whom they are 'in love'? What does this teach us about the lenses through which we view other people? (1 paragraph)
3. What does the book of Song of Songs teach about human sexuality? What perspective or viewpoint does the book have about sex? (1 paragraph)
4. Application: How should Song of Songs affect the way that we understand love and sex?

## 8. The Hidden God: Esther

**Scripture:** Esther

**Theme:** From Fasting to Feasting, a Coincidental Tale of Irony and Reversal

**Objectives:**

- To be amazed at the hidden providence of God
- To be encouraged at God's unswerving faithfulness to His promise, despite people
- To wrestle through issues of syncretism and living out one's faith in a pagan society
- To understand the purpose and benefit of a good story

**Reading:**

- Read Esther *three times*
- [Optional] Watch the movie, "One Night with the King"
- Read Esther in "Five Festal Garments"

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Comment on the reoccurring word "Jew/Jewish" in Esther. Think about what we learn from the constant use of the term 'Jew/Jewish', what it was like to be a Jew in a pagan society? Think about the theme of syncretism. Comment on what 3:8 adds to this discussion. What do you think about how Mordecai and Esther lived in society and what can we learn from the book on this theme? Put yourself in their shoes and think about what it would be like. (1 paragraph)
2. Application: What does this understanding of story teach us in terms of how we tell, and listen to stories (both secular and sacred)? (1 paragraph)
3. Application: What do we learn about good stories from studying Esther? Why do you think the Bible is so full of so many stories? How do stories affect us differently than reasoning from propositional truth, laws, poems, and other genres found in Scripture? Think about this! (1-2 paragraphs)
4. Application: How are you encouraged and amazed by the book of Esther? What does it remind you of that will help you as you seek to live out your faith?



## 9. Our Part in God's Plan: Ezra

**Scripture:** Ezra 1-10

**Theme:** God Sovereignly Works out His plan, but our Part to Play involves Purity and Prayer

**Objectives:**

- To see the importance in purity of worship in worshipping as God designed
- To be reminded of the faithfulness of God because He always keeps His promises
- To see our need to pray and be encouraged by God's sovereign answers to prayer

**Reading:**

- Read Ezra-Nehemiah *once* and Ezra *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about prayer from Ezra-Nehemiah that should change the way we pray?
2. Application: How are we encouraged by the sovereignty of God in Ezra-Nehemiah? How does this relate to His faithfulness? What truths should we be reminded of from these books that will affect us on a daily basis?

## **10. Watching and Working on the Walls: Nehemiah**

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 1-13

**Theme:** As we Work for God we Need to Watch out for Compromises because we Fear God

### **Objectives:**

- To see the dangers of syncretism and to better understand how to combat it
- To better understand our human responsibility in light of Divine sovereignty
- To be challenged to fear God and not man in doing God's work

### **Reading:**

- Read Ezra-Nehemiah *once* and Nehemiah *twice*

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: There is a large emphasis in Ezra-Nehemiah on purity of worship: The temple is a huge emphasis, faithfulness to the law is emphasized, purity from the influence of foreigners runs throughout. Comment on the danger of syncretism and what we learn about it from Ezra-Nehemiah. Think about this! (1 paragraph)
2. Respond to the following statement, "All of the Old Testament promises toward Israel were fulfilled in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah: Israel was back in the land, the temple and Jerusalem was restored, and the covenant had been renewed (Neh 8-10)." This is not true, but how would you respond to this? What proof from the text of Ezra-Nehemiah itself do you have that the promises were not fulfilled and that we are awaiting something more? (1-2 paragraphs)
3. Application: Think carefully what we learn about the relationship between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in Ezra-Nehemiah. When is it right to simply wait on God and not take action? When is it right to take action without waiting?
4. Application: What are idolatrous forms of worship that surround us that we need to be very careful to guard against being mixed with our relationship with God? How/where is syncretism common today? What is the function of God's Word in this?

## **11. God Keeps His Promises: I Chronicles 1-9**

**Scripture:** 1 Chronicles 1-9

**Theme:** God will be Faithful to the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants Despite the Exile

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the purpose of genealogical lists
- To study and recall the historical and theological background of the writing of Chronicles
- To observe and analyze the particular manner in which the Chronicler gives his genealogy in 1 Chron 1-9
- To suggest a few theological themes that are apparent in the genealogy, in order to establish certain themes that may be developed throughout the ensuing narrative

### **Reading:**

- Skim 1-2 Chronicles *quickly* to get a feel for its general structure and contents
- Read 1 Chronicles 1-9 *once*

### **Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about God's faithfulness from Chronicles? How can we be encouraged that God will keep His promises from these books?

## **12. The Davidic Reign: I Chronicles 10-29**

**Scripture:** 1 Chronicles 10-29

**Theme:** God is Ruling through His Chosen King

**Objectives:**

- To begin to understand the Davidic covenant and it's significance on all of Scripture
- To see the significance of the temple and God's presence with His people

**Reading:**

- Read 1 Chronicles 10-29 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does seeing David's rise to power, victories, reign and prosperity and then plan to build the temple encourage us to be faithful in putting God first?
2. Application: How does understanding both God's conditional and unconditional promises help and challenge us in our relationship with Yahweh?

### **13. A Glimpse of the Kingdom: II Chronicles 1-9**

**Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 1-9

**Theme:** Israel in Solomon's Reign Foreshadows the Kingdom when the True Son of David Comes

**Objectives:**

- To see the importance of the Abrahamic covenant in understanding God's plan for the world
- To see a glimpse of how the kingdom should have been and get a taste for how it will be
- To be encouraged to humbly seek Yahweh because of His unfailing faithfulness
- To be challenged by the need for faithfulness to be used by Him

**Reading:**

- Read 2 Chronicles 1-9 *three times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does seeing a glimpse of how great Yahweh's kingdom was encourage us as to the greatness of His future coming kingdom with the Messiah as the perfectly righteous King?

## 14. Divine Alignment: II Chronicles 10-36

**Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 10-36

**Theme:** God Blesses those who Humbly Seek Him and Fights against those who don't

**Objectives:**

- To understand the theological features of the Chronicler's retelling of the divided kingdom
- To compare the presentation of kings in Chronicles with the narratives of the book of Kings
- To understand the exhortation that the Chronicler is drawing from Israel's history and proclaiming to his post-exilic audience

**Reading:**

- Read 2 Chronicles 10-36 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Summarize the main theological point(s) being made by the Chronicler in comparison to what we see in Kings. (2-3 sentences)
2. Given this theological point, or points, what is the *exhortational point* that the Chronicler is making to his audience by retelling history in this way? (2-3 sentences)
3. Application: How should we respond to Yahweh in light of what we learn about Him in this section?
4. Application: What sense of expectation and anticipation does Chronicles leave us with?

## **15. What is Wisdom?: Overview of Wisdom Literature**

**Scripture:** Selected Passages in Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes

**Theme:** Wisdom only Comes from Yahweh; We must Humble ourselves and Seek His Revelation

### **Objectives:**

- To familiarize ourselves with the purpose and methods of wisdom literature
- To compare & contrast Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes and to see their distinctive emphases
- To understand the genre of Proverbs and to develop a grid for understand how to interpret and apply proverbs
- To understand how wisdom fits into a biblical grid for decision making

### **Reading:**

- *Skim* Proverbs looking for *key terms* for wisdom and folly, section breaks and noting structure
- *Skim* Job and Ecclesiastes *quickly*, looking for section breaks & structure, genre, and purpose
- Begin thinking about a topic for your Proverbs Project

### **Questions:**

1. Thought question: How are we supposed to interpret proverbs? Are proverbs always true? Is Proverbs a rule book? Why or why not? If so, how are proverbs the same as rules, if not, how are they different? How and when should we apply the proverbs (think about this!)? (1-2 paragraphs)
2. Is the book of Proverbs purely practical? Can the proverbs it contains be just as easily applied to a believer and a non-believer? If so, what makes it distinctly biblical? Are these proverbs something that non-believers could come up with from normal life experience? (1 paragraphs)
3. Comment on your view of decision making. How do you make decisions? How do you 'find God's will'? How do you think the book of Proverbs addresses this question? Comment on how the Biblical concepts of the hidden and revealed will of God factor into your decisions. How does the 'conscience' fit into this picture? How does the Holy Spirit fit into this? How does the Sufficiency of Scripture? (2-3 paragraphs)
4. Why do you think God would give us biblical principles to live by rather than just giving us rules and telling us what to do? Think about this from the standpoint of a parent. If you are a parent, how do you want your children to live when they are grown? (1 paragraph)
5. Application: Do you think of yourself as wise? How does your view of yourself affect how you make decisions?

## **16. The Absolute Necessity of Wisdom: Proverbs 1-6**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 1-6

**Theme:** Humbly Seeking Wisdom is Absolutely Necessary for us Because it is our Life

**Objectives:**

- To understand the absolute vital importance of seeking wisdom and to want it deeply
- To see the necessity of guarding our hearts to be wise
- To learn to think ahead and see how paths we take bring us to unintended destinations

**Reading:**

- Read Proverbs 1-6 *three times*
- Turn in your Proverbs Project topic

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn about the importance of seeking wisdom from this section? Why wouldn't we seek wisdom? Why should we?
  
2. Application: What do we learn about our hearts in the section?



## **17. Choose your Woman: Lady Wisdom or Folly: Proverbs 7-9; 30-31**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 7-9; 30-31

**Theme:** There are Two Paths Represented by two Woman Vying for our Attention, We Must Choose!

**Objectives:**

- To once again be exhorted for our need for wisdom by its value, worth, and long term results
- To be encouraged that wisdom can be found if it is sought in God
- To see and value one picture of what wisdom looks like in the life of a woman/wife/mother

**Reading:**

- Read Proverbs 7-9 and 30-31 *three times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What have we learned about wisdom as it relates to wisdom being a choice and how does this shape our priorities?
  
2. Application: What have we learned about what a life looks like that lives in the fear of Yahweh?

## **18. Humility, Counsel, Money, and Words: Proverbs**

**Scripture:** Selected Proverbs

**Themes:** We need Humility so we will be Teachable; Money has Value for Doing Good, but is not Ultimate; Words contain Ideas which Profoundly Reveal and Effect what and how we Think and Feel

**Objectives:**

- To help us to better understand how various principles fit together into a value system
- To further recognize our own lack of wisdom and see how Scripture is full of it
- To see our need for humility so we will love correction, counsel, and discipline
- To shape our worldview as it comes to money and possessions
- To open our eyes as to the massive effects of words on all of life and to wise us up in our use of our tongues

**Reading:**

- Read through Proverbs 10-29 looking for Proverbs on Humility, Counsel/Discipline, Money, and Words (see below)

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does studying what Proverbs says about humility, counsel, and discipline change your worldview? What difference should this make in your daily life?
2. Application: How does studying what Proverbs says about money change your worldview? What difference should this make in your daily life?
3. Application: How does studying what Proverbs says about words and deception effect how you communicate with others? What difference should this make in your daily life?

## **19. The Emptiness of Life Under the Sun: Overview of Ecclesiastes**

**Scripture:** Overview of Ecclesiastes and Chapters 1-3

**Theme:** Life from a Secular/Human Viewpoint is Completely Empty and Without Purpose

**Objectives:**

- To sober us up by giving us a long, hard look at the reality of the fallen world
- To challenge us to think through the implications of a secular worldview
- To give us compassion for those who through the fear of death are in slavery all their lives

**Reading:**

- Read Ecclesiastes *twice*
- Read Ecclesiastes 1-3 *twice*

**Questions:**

1. Application: What are the implications and attitudes of a secular worldview? How do understanding these help us in our interactions with non-believers?
2. Application: What effect does meditating on the effects of the Fall on the world have on our own worldview? What attitudes should this produce in us?

## **20. Contentment in God: Ecclesiastes 4-12**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4-12

**Theme:** Recognizing our Finiteness helps us to find Contentment by Rejoicing in our Lot

**Objectives:**

- To help us to see the emptiness of ambition and the need for contentment and joy
- To be challenged and reminded about what is truly important in life
- To understand how to live wisely in light of our finitude

**Reading:**

- Read Ecclesiastes *once*
- Read Ecclesiastes 4-12 *two times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: How does understanding the book of Ecclesiastes gives us contentment?
2. Application: What does it look like for us to live wisely given our finitude?

## **21. From Fear to Faith: Job 1-2**

**Scripture:** Overview of Job and Chapters 1-2

**Theme:** Fearing God causes us to Joyfully Submit to His Sovereignty, even without Understanding

**Objectives:**

- To be challenged by God's absolute sovereignty and to see how to respond to it
- To understand the nature of fearing and trusting God and to understand why it honors Him
- To be shown how worthy of worship God is compared to anything in this world

**Reading:**

- Quickly read/skim Job looking for its basic structure, themes and message
- Read Job 1-2 *three times*

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: Why do you think God allowed Satan to tempt Job like this? How does this reason tie in to the main purpose of the book? (1 paragraph)
2. Thought question: Think about what the book of Job teaches us about fearing God and having faith/believing in God. How are these two concepts related? Why do you think these two concepts are the two most central concepts in all Scripture conveying our part in salvation? (1-2 paragraphs)
3. What do you think the main purpose and message of the book of Job is? Why? (1 paragraph)
4. Application: What do we learn about God's sovereignty from the book of Job? How should this understanding affect how we go through all of life, especially including trials and suffering?
5. Application: Comment on why faith and fearing God honors Him and how this encourages us to live lives of fear/faith.

## **22. Futile Counsel and Debates about Right: Job 3-31**

**Scripture:** Job 3-31

**Theme:** God is Completely Sovereign and Just although Everything doesn't always work out Justly

**Objectives:**

- To challenge us in thinking we have God figured out and can know why things happen
- To give us compassion in dealing with those who are wrestling with tragedy and faith
- To show us how absolute retribution theology undermines faith

**Reading:**

- Read Job 3-31 *two times* (I suggest reading two different literal translations like ESV, HCSB, and NASB on this one)

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: In what ways was what Job said right and in what ways was what he said wrong? Did Job deserve what came upon him or not? Why or why not? Think about this! (1-2 paragraphs)
2. Thought question: What do we learn about what justice and righteousness is from this section? Think about the implications of the worldview of Job when dealing with impoverished or broken situations or cultures. (1-2 paragraphs)
3. Application: What can we learn from this passage about how God's justice and sovereignty relate? How should that affect how we counsel people?
4. Application: What can we learn from this section about how to comfort those who are in a tragedy?

## **23. Who are You?: Job 32-42**

**Scripture:** Job 32-42

**Theme:** God is Awesome in Majesty and we cannot Understand His Ways

**Objectives:**

- To fear God

**Reading:**

- Read Job 32-42 *two times*

**Questions:**

1. Application: How should fearing God properly affect how we go through trials?
  
2. Application: What affect should a true understanding of the fear of God have upon how we interact with others going through trials?

## **VI. Biblical Theology of the Old Testament**

Biblical Theology of the Old Testament is the final class in the Old Testament Module. It consists of an overview of Biblical Theology, the Psalms, and tracing key themes through the OT. Some of the major themes include the kingdom of God, God's covenant faithfulness, salvation, worship, righteousness and holiness, the Messiah, and God's judgment. This is a 2 unit class and consists of 10 lessons.



# **1. Biblical Theology of the Old Testament**

**Scripture:** The Bible

**Theme:** God's Word tells God's Story which Culminates in Christ

**Objectives:**

- To understand what Theology and Biblical Theology are
- To understand how different ways of doing Theology differ
- To understand how to do Biblical Theology

**Reading:**

- Read Section One of Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church

**Questions:**

1. Application: How is Biblical Theology practical? How does it shape our worldview and practice?

## 2. Hymns and Covenant Psalms

**Scripture:** Overview of Psalms and Psalm 1, 8, 67, 100, 103, 115, 145 (Hymns), and 50, 89, 132 (Covenant Psalms)

**Theme:** Yahweh is Worthy to be Praised because of Who He is

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the nature and style of Hebrew poetry
- To understand the various genres of Psalms, and what characterizes each of them
- To meditate on God's nature and thus to stir our hearts to worship Him for who He is
- To see how music, emotions, feelings, and our hearts are tied together

### **Reading:**

- Read "Patterns for Life: Structure, Genre, and Theology in Psalms" at: <http://www.crivoice.org/psalmgenre.html>
- Look at "Psalm Types" at: <http://www.crivoice.org/psalmtypes.html>
- Skim through Psalms noting the different types of Psalms
- Read Psalm 1, 8, 67, 100, 103, 115, 145, 50, 89, and 132 *twice* each

### **Questions:**

1. What are the purposes of the Psalms? How do their settings fit into that purpose? (1 paragraph)
2. Application: What do we learn from these psalms about what we should worship God for?
3. Application: What do we learn from psalms about the interplay between music, theology, emotions, and worship?

### **3. Royal Psalms**

**Scripture:** Psalm 2, 45, 46, 47, 72, 96, 97, 98, and 110

**Theme:** Praise Yahweh because He Reigns and will Reign

**Objectives:**

- To fear and trust Yahweh, the King of the universe, who reigns over all in His sovereignty
- To anticipate and long for Israel's coming king who will reign in righteousness over earth

**Reading:**

- Read Psalm 2, 45, 46, 47, 72, 96, 97, 98, and 110 *twice* each

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What is the relationship between Yahweh's current reign and His future reign? Comment on the concept of Yahweh's universal kingdom and His mediatorial kingdom.
  
2. Application: What responses should we have to Yahweh's current and coming reign?

#### **4. Laments, Imprecations, and Penitential Psalms**

**Scripture:** Psalm 22, 40, 42, 86, 90, 139 (Laments), 35, 58, 79, 94 (Imprecations), and 32, 51 (Penitential Psalms).

**Theme:** We call out to Yahweh in our Sin and Distress and He Hears us

**Objectives:**

- To learn how to comfort and encourage our own hearts and the hearts of others
- To better understand the concepts of righteousness and vindication
- To be challenged in our humility and need for daily repentance

**Reading:**

- Read Psalm 22, 40, 42, 86, 90, 139, 35, 58, 79, 94, 32, and 51 *two times* each

**Questions:**

1. Application: What do we learn from the ups and downs of the emotions of the laments, and how does that help us to think properly ourselves and to encourage others who are down?
2. Application: What do we learn about longing for God's justice from the Imprecatory Psalms, and how can this help us when we are dealing with the injustices of a fallen and broken world?
3. Application: What do we learn about our sin and how to respond to it from the Penitential Psalms?

## **5. Torah, Thanksgiving & Salvation History Psalms**

**Scripture:** Psalm 19, 119 (Torah Psalms), 23, 27, 34, 138 (Thanksgiving Psalms), and 105, 106, 135, 136 (Salvation History Psalms)

**Theme:** Give Thanks to Yahweh for what He has Revealed and what He has Done

**Objectives:**

- To see God's faithful loyal love revealed over and over and to have great gratitude for it

**Reading:**

- Read Psalm 19, 119, 23, 27, 34, 138, 105, 106, 135, and 136 *twice* each

**Questions:**

1. Thought question: What do we learn about worship from the Psalms as a whole? How do the songs we sing in church compare to the Psalms? (1 paragraph)
2. Application: What do we learn from these psalms about gratitude and what we should be meditating on and thinking about if we want to be thankful?

## 6. Kingdom through Covenant

**Scripture:** The Old Testament

**Theme:** Yahweh will Sovereignly bring His Kingdom through Covenant Relationship with His People because of His Faithfulness

**Objectives:**

- To see how God's Rule in heaven relates to His Rule on earth
- To understand how the various OT Covenants relate to each other
- To see the big picture of what God was accomplishing in the OT

**Reading:**

- Selected Passages listed in the questions.

**Questions:**

1. Define and explain the relationship between God's universal rule and His rule on earth (1 paragraph).
2. How does humanity and our created purpose fit into God's kingship and rule (1 paragraph)?
3. What do the prophets predict concerning God's kingdom? How do these predictions relate and bring together humanity's purpose and God's rule (1 paragraph)?
4. How do God's universal rule, His rule on earth, His creation of humanity and our purpose, and the future coming of God's kingdom all relate together to form a cohesive picture of the Kingdom of God (1 paragraph)?
5. What do we learn about covenants in general from these passages? What kind of covenants are there in Scripture (1-2 paragraphs)?
6. Summarize the Abrahamic, Mosaic, David, and New Covenants. How are they similar, and how are they different from one another? How do they all relate to each other (1-2 paragraphs)?
7. How is God's plan worked out through the Biblical Covenants and what is highlighted through this plan (1-2 paragraphs)?

## **7. Right Relationship with God**

**Scripture:** The Old Testament

**Theme:** God is Righteous and the Only Way to be in Right Relationship with Him is to Humbly Believe in Him for Salvation

**Objectives:**

- To understand the nature of righteousness and justice as character of God and men
- To understand the relational aspect of righteousness and how righteousness comes from right relationship with God
- To see the connection between faith, salvation, and righteousness, and how salvation comes from humble trust in God and God alone

**Reading:**

- Selected Passages listed in the questions

**Questions:**

1. What characterizes righteousness? What does it look like for people to be righteous (1 paragraph)?
2. What is the connection between righteousness and humility and compassion (1 paragraph)?
3. How can people be righteous according to these verses (1 paragraph)?
4. What is the connection between faith and waiting? Why is faith at the heart of salvation (1 paragraph)?
5. Why is humility at the core of belief and faith (1 paragraph)?
6. What is the connection between Yahweh's salvation and His righteousness (1 paragraph)?
7. What is the nature of God's salvation and why is it connected to faith (1 paragraph)?

## 8. Worshiping the Unique God

**Scripture:** The Old Testament

**Theme:** God is Holy, so those who Serve Him must be Sanctified by Sacrifice and thus are Blessed by God and a Blessing to others

**Objectives:**

- To be awed at the holiness of God
- To see the source of and God's design in blessing
- To understand in the priesthood God design for coming close to Him and passing that on to others
- To see the importance of penal substitutionary atonement, but also the need for transformed hearts and not merely external obedience

**Reading:**

- Selected Passages listed in the questions

**Questions:**

1. What is the connection between holiness and purity (1 paragraph)?
2. Why is God to be treated holy according to these verses (1 paragraph)?
3. How are the different types of blessing related to each other? In other words, how is God's blessing of people, peoples' blessing of God, and the priests' blessing of the people related and what does this teach about God (1 paragraph)?
4. Explain God's plan to bless the world and the function of 'priesthood' within that plan (1 paragraph)?
5. Describe all the different aspects of the roles of priests and how this paints a picture of their function and purpose (1 paragraph)?
6. Explain the importance of penal substitutionary atonement in the Old Testament system (1 paragraph).
7. Yet despite the importance of sacrifice in God's system, what does God that relativizes their importance and what does He say about what really pleases Him (1 paragraph)?



## 9. God is Near

**Scripture:** The Old Testament

**Theme:** God is Immanent in History and Works through His Angel and His Spirit and ultimately, His Messiah to Come and Dwell with His people and Make all things right on His Day

**Objectives:**

- To see God's immanence and involvement throughout the Old Testament
- To yearn for God's presence as the central blessing from which all other blessings flow
- To see the need for God's Spirit to empower and to feel our helplessness apart from Him
- To grow in hope for the Messiah to come and make all things right
- To increase our fear of Yahweh's awesome power and to be in awe of His judgment

**Reading:**

- Selected Passages listed in the questions

**Questions:**

1. What does God's presence with His people signify (1 paragraph)?
2. What does the Angel of Yahweh do or signify in the passages where He appears (1 paragraph)?
3. What does God's Spirit do in the Old Testament, and what does this teach us about His work and role (1 paragraph)?
4. What does the Old Testament teach us about our status without God and our need for Him to work (1 paragraph)?
5. What characterizes the coming of the Messiah and what should this instill within us (1 paragraph)?
6. What will Yahweh's Day be like when it comes? What should our response to this be (1 paragraph)?

## **10. Spitting in God's Face**

**Scripture:** The Old Testament

**Theme:** Sin Doubts God's Goodness and Refuses to Trust His Word and that Disbelief and Perspective Spreads and Affects those around us and Justly Receives God's Righteous Wrath as a Result

**Objectives:**

- To understand the inherent authority of God's Word and our need to trust God and His goodness
- To see the heinousness of sin and how it is ultimately rebellion
- To understand the nature of sin as deceit and how the truth is what fights sin
- To understand the corporate nature and affects of sin and the nature of culture's affect
- To feel the weight of God's jealousy for His glory and to be in awe of His righteous wrath

**Reading:**

- Selected Passages listed in the questions

**Questions:**

1. Why does God's Word have authority, and how is this authority connected with His goodness (1 paragraph)?
2. What is the nature of sin as doubt, and how is sin connected with the idea of autonomy (1 paragraph)?
3. How is sin connected to our desires, and how are these desires connected to our perspective (1 paragraph)?
4. How does one person's sin affect others and why does God view sin from a corporate perspective (1 paragraph)?
5. How do we come to grips with the topic of God's wrath? What would cause us to see it as righteous and good and what prevents us from seeing it that way (1 paragraph)?