Helpful Facts

• The word “old” (as in, Old Testament) is not meant to communicate something that is outdated, archaic, and irrelevant to our lives today. The phrases “Old Testament” and “New Testament” were first used by the early church father Origen (185–254), and it was meant to show the differences between the “Old Covenant” and the “New Covenant”. Prior to this designation, the Jews and early church would have only known what we refer to as the Old Testament as the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, or the Scriptures. It’s important to note that the word “new” means renewed or fulfilled. Therefore, the New Testament should not be seen as a separate work of God, detached from His works in the Old Testament. Rather, the New Testament should be seen as the fulfillment of God’s work in the Old Testament.


• The New Testament has roughly 300 explicit Old Testament quotations, and upwards of 4,000 Old Testament allusions.

• The Old Testament was the Bible that Jesus read, believed, memorized, and taught because the New Testament had not been written yet.

Breakdown of the Bible

The Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
  • Pentateuch means “one book in five parts”

  • Written by Moses roughly 1,400 years before the birth of Jesus

  • Composed of three literary styles: narrative, poetry, and law

  • The laws (numbering 611 to 613 depending on how you count them) account for 68.5 percent of the entire Pentateuch

History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)

  • Written over a period of roughly a millennium from Joshua (written around 1400 BC) to Esther (written around 450 BC)
Wisdom (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)

- Predates the Greeks (e.g., Epimenides, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle) as the first and greatest philosophy, probing deep existential issues such as the meaning of life (Ecclesiastes), the problem of suffering (Job), the nature of wisdom (Proverbs), love and sexual pleasure (Song of Songs), and worship (Psalms)
- Intensely practical, personal, reflective, experiential, and honest

Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel)

- Generally older and longer than the minor prophets

Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

- Generally, shorter and more narrowly focused than the major prophets

Storyline Of The Old Testament

Act 1: Creation — Kingdom Established (Genesis 1-2)

Act 2: Fall — Kingdom Lost (Genesis 3)

Act 3: Redemption Initiated — Kingdom Regained (Genesis — Malachi)

Scene 1: Darkness Spreads & God Responds (Genesis 3-11)

- Adam & Eve Banished —> God Sends A Promise
- Violence & Evil Spread —> God Sends A Flood
- Tower of Babel Erected —> God Scatters The Peoples

Scene 2: God's Plan — Choosing A People (Genesis 12-50)

- Abraham
  - God’s plan has two steps: (1) Bless Abraham by making him into a great nation. That nation will be given a land and God will bless them. (2) God will then extend that blessing to the rest of the world through His people
  - Isaac —> Jacob —> Joseph
Scene 3: The Exodus (Exodus 1-40)

• Freed From Slavery
  • 10 Plagues

• Formed As A People
  • 10 Laws

• The Building of the Tabernacle

Scene 4: Wilderness Wanderings (Leviticus - Deuteronomy)

• Leviticus — Laws for sacrifices and offerings, priestly duties, dietary restrictions, purity, feasts, etc, all designed to teach the people of Israel how to live in communion with a holy God

• Numbers — Recounts the 40 year journey that should have taken two weeks. As a result of Israel’s rebellion against God and desire to return to Egypt (rather than enter into the Promised Land), God forced the people to wander around the wilderness until the rebellious generation died out

• Deuteronomy — Moses teaches people how to live in the Promised Land, but dies before entering in

Scene 5: Entering the Land (Joshua - Ruth)

• Joshua — God keeps His promises as Joshua leads the people of Israel into the Promised Land. God gives the people of Israel victory of the land and Joshua divides the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Book ends with Joshua pleading with Israel to remain faithful to God

• Judges — Israel disobeys and rebels against God. Judges is a cyclical story: Israel turns away from God and succumbs to the Canaanite pagan worship and lifestyle. In turn, God allows the Canaanite and neighboring peoples to rule over and oppress them until Israel cries out to God for help. God graciously responds by raising up Judges (military leaders) to rescue them. This process repeats over and over and over again.

  • Judges Include: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Sampson

Scene 6: Kings & Prophets (1 Samuel - 2 Chronicles; Major Prophets; Minor Prophets)

• Samuel — Samuel is the last of the judges (who interestingly serves as a priest and prophet as well). The nation of Israel continues to decline, the ark of the covenant is captured by the Philistines, and the people of Israel beg for a king so that they can be like all of the surrounding nations
• **King Saul** — God uses Samuel to appoint King Saul to rule over His people. Eventually, God rejects Saul as king (due to his sinfulness) and Samuel anoints young David as king

• **King David** — Saul dies and David assumes the throne in Saul’s place. David serves God as a faithful king, defeating Israel’s pagan neighbors, enforcing God’s law, and moving the tabernacle to Jerusalem

• **King Solomon** — David’s son, Solomon, assumes the throne and builds the temple as a more permanent dwelling place for God. Despite Solomon being one of the most incredible men to have ever lived (brilliant, wise, wealthy beyond belief, powerful, etc), he eventually falls into gross sin and begins to worship the false gods of his pagan wives. Ecclesiastes is his story of repentance, as an old and miserable man who sought joy in all of the wrong places

• **The Kingdoms Divided** — When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam (who had a horrible reputation as an oppressive leader) assumed the throne. As soon as Rehoboam became king, the people of Israel broke away from “the house of David” to avoid oppression. The “northern kingdom”, consisting of ten tribes, became known as Israel and the “southern kingdom”, consisting of two tribes (Judah and Benjamin), became known as “Judah”. From this point forward, each kingdom has their own kings (as recorded in 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles)

• **Downward Spiral Into Continued Rebellion** — Rather than being a light to the dark nations, God’s people continue in sin and rebellion. God raises up Elijah and Elisha to call His people back to covenant faithfulness. If God’s people will repent of sin and return to Him, He will be gracious with them and work for their good. But He warns His people that if they continue to live in sin, God will judge them by sending them into exile

**Scene 7: Exile & Return** (2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther; Major Prophets; Minor Prophets)

• **Assyria Destroys The Northern Kingdom (721 BC)** — Sadly, God’s warnings of exile fall on deaf ears and the people fail to return to Him in repentance. God raises up Assyria (the ruling empire of the day) and allows them to attack and destroy the northern kingdom, causing the northern kingdom to be scattered throughout the Assyrian empire

• **Babylon Destroys The Southern Kingdom & The Temple (586 BC)** — The king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) attacks Jerusalem and completely destroys both the temple and the city. God’s people are taken into captivity and this brings about the darkest time in Israel’s history: king, temple, and land are all gone.

• **The Exiles Slowly Return & Rebuild** — After a long period of exile, the way is opened for God’s people to return home to Jerusalem. Some return home, but most do not. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, both the city of Jerusalem and the temple are rebuilt.

• **God’s People Resettle & Wait** — Although Jerusalem and the Temple are rebuilt at this time, God’s people are just a small shadow of what they once were. They begin to resettle in the land and eagerly long for the day when God will bring His kingdom once again. As the Old
Testament comes to an end, God’s people have incurred a rough history of sin and faithlessness. Nevertheless, hope stays alive because God has made promises.

Scene 8: Intermission

- **400 Years Of Silence** — During the Old Testament and the New Testament, there is a period of 400 years of complete silence from God. This period is referred to as the “intertestamental period”. The people of Israel wait for God to bring about His kingdom in the face of intense continued oppression from the Persians, Greeks, Syrians, and Romans. This served to stir the hearts of God’s people for the coming of the kingdom all the more. How will God’s kingdom come? Who will bring it? What will it be like? These are the questions that burned within the hearts of God’s people. But one thing is for sure: God’s kingdom was coming…and so was God THE King!

How The Old Testament Points To Jesus

1. **Prophetic Promises**

   - Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah promised that Jesus’ mother would be a virgin who would conceive by a miracle.

   - Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Micah promised that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

   - Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Hosea promised that Jesus’ family would flee as refugees to Egypt to save his young life.

   - Four hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Malachi promised that Jesus would enter the temple. Since the temple was destroyed in AD 70, this prophecy could not be fulfilled anytime after AD 70.

   - Five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Zechariah promised that Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.

   - One thousand years before the birth of Jesus, David promised that lots would be cast for Jesus’ clothing.

   - One thousand years before the birth of Jesus (and hundreds of years before the invention of crucifixion), David promised that Jesus would be crucified.

   - Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah promised that Jesus would die and be buried in a rich man’s tomb.

   - One thousand years before the birth of Jesus, David promised that Jesus would resurrect from death; seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah also promised that Jesus would resurrect from death.
2. **Christophonies** — Appearances Jesus makes before His birth

- Walking with Abraham
- Wrestling with Jacob
- Appearing to Moses
- Joining Daniel in the fiery furnace
- Calling Isaiah into ministry
- The “Angel [Messenger] of the Lord”
- Etc

3. **Types & Shadows** — Representative figures, institutions, or events that point to and foreshadow Jesus

4. **Titles**

- The Son of Man
- The Suffering Servant
- First and Last
- Light
- Rock
- Shepherd
- Redeemer
- Savior
- Lord of Glory
- Etc

**Jesus In Each Book Of The Old Testament**

**Genesis**

- Messiah would be born of the seed of a woman (Gen 3:15, Luke 1:34-35)
- Messiah would be a king in the line of Judah (Gen 49:10, John 1:49)
- Typified in the person of Melchizedek (Gen 14:18)
- The life of Isaac - the sacrificed son (Gen 22)
- The life of Joseph - the rejected brother (Gen 37)

**Exodus**

- Typified in the life of Moses - the deliverer
- The Passover Lamb (Ex 12, John 1:29,36)
- The Manna from Heaven (Ex 16, John 6)
- The Rock struck at Horeb (Ex 17, 1 Cor 10:4)
- The Tabernacle (Gen 25-30)
Leviticus

- Typified in the sacrifices and offerings (Lev 1-7)
- In the Jewish festivals (Passover, Atonement, Lev 16, 23)
- In the scapegoat (Lev 16:7-9)
- In the person and duties of the High Priest (Lev 16)

Numbers

- Messiah would be a King (Num 24:17)
- Typified in the bronze serpent (Num 21:8-9)
- The Water from the Rock (Num 20)

Deuteronomy

- Messiah will be a prophet (Deut 18:15-19, John 6:14)
- Messiah would be worshipped by angels (Deut 32:43, Luke 2:13-14)
- Typified in the cities of refuge (Deut 4:41)

Joshua

- Typified in the person of Joshua (our leader into the promised land)
- In the Promised Land
- In the Commander of the Army (Josh 5:13-15)

Judges

- Typified in the Judges (for He is true Judge of the living and the dead)

Ruth

- Messiah would be a descendant of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:12-17)
- Typified in the life of Boaz - The Kinsman Redeemer (Ruth 2:1)

1 & 2 Samuel

- Messiah exalted by God with power (1 Sam 2:10, Matt 28:18)
- Messiah would be a descendant of David (2 Sam 7:12-16, Matt 1:1)
- Messiah would be the 'Rock' (2 Sam 23:2-3, 1 Cor 10:4)
- Typified in the life of David - The King in Exile (1 Sam 22)
- The life of Jonathon - the faithful friend (1 Sam 18:1-4)

1 & 2 Kings

- Typified in the life of Solomon (the wise and powerful reign)
- In the life and miracles of the prophet Elisha (multiplying bread 2 Kings 4:42, healing leper 2 Kings 5)
1 & 2 Chronicles

- Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah (1 Chron 5:2, Luke 3:23-32)
- Typified in Solomon's temple
- In the Wisdom of Solomon (2 Chron 9:22)

Ezra

- Typified in person of Zerubbabel, the rebuilder of the temple (Ezra 4)

Nehemiah

- Typified in the person of Nehemiah, the rebuilder of the walls of salvation

Esther

- Typified in the person of Mordecai

Job

- Typified in the sufferings of Job and the blessings that would follow

Psalms

- Messiah would be the Son of God (Ps 2:7, 12, Matt 17:5)
- Messiah would be resurrected (Ps 16:8-10, Acts 13:30-37)
- Messiah would be Lord, seated at the right hand of God (Ps 110:1, 5, 1 Pet 3:21-22)
- Messiah would be in the line of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4, Heb 6:17-20)
- Messiah would be the 'stone' rejected by the Jews (Ps 118:22, Matt 21:42-43)
- *Key Messianic Psalms*: Chapters 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 69, 89, 109, 110, 118

Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

- Messiah would be from everlasting (Prov 8:22-23, John 17:5)
- Messiah would be the Son of God (Prov 30:4, Matt 3:16-17)
- Typified in the Wisdom of God (Prov 8:22-31)

Song of Songs

- Typified in the Bride’s love for, and marriage to, the bride

Isaiah

- Messiah would be born of a virgin (Is 7:14, Luke 1:34-35)
- Messiah would be Immanuel "God with us" (Is 7:14, Matt 1:21-23)
- Messiah would be God and Man (Is 9:6, John 10:30)
- Messiah would have the 7-fold Spirit upon Him (Is 11:1-2, Matt 3:16-17)
• Messiah would heal the blind, lame, deaf (Is 35:5-6, Mark 10:51-52)
• Messiah would be proceeded by a forerunner (Is 40:3, Luke 1:17)
• Messiah would be a light to the gentiles (Is 42:6, John 8:12)
• Messiah would be despised by the Jewish nation (Is 49:7, John 10:20, Matt 27:23)
• Messiah would be whipped and beaten (Is 50:6, Matt 26:67, 27:26)
• Messiah would die as a guilt offering for sin (Is 53:10, John 18:11)
• Messiah would be resurrected and live forever (Is 53:10, Mark 16:16)

Jeremiah & Lamentations

• Messiah would be God (Jer 23:6, John 13:13)
• Messiah would be a righteous Branch (Jer 23:5)
• Messiah would be our righteousness (Jer 23:6, 1 Cor 1:30)

Ezekiel

• Messiah would be a descendant of David (Ez 34:23-24, Matt 1:1)

Daniel

• Messiah would be 'a son of man' given an everlasting kingdom (Dan 7:13-14, Luke 1:31-34)
• Messiah would come 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan 9:25, John 12:12-23)
• Messiah would be killed (Dan 9:26, Matt 27:35)
• Revealed as the 'stone' (and His kingdom) that smashes the kingdoms of the world (Dan 2:34,44)
• Typified in the 4th man in the fiery furnace - one like 'the son of gods' (Dan 3:25)

Hosea

• Typified in Hosea's faithfulness to his adulterous wife (Hos 3)

Joel

• Messiah will offer salvation to all mankind (Joel 2:32, Rom 10:12-13)
• Messiah would baptize people with the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32)

Amos

• God would darken the day at noon during Messiah's death (Amos 8:9, Matt 27:45-46)

Obadiah

• The Mighty Savior

Jonah

• Typified in Jonah being 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish (Jon 1:17, Matt 12:40)
Micah

- Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2, Matt 2:1-2)
- Messiah would be from everlasting (Mic 5:2, Rev:1-8)

Nahum

- The Avenger of God's Elect

Habakkuk

- Messiah would come from Teman at His return, full of glory (Hab 3:3)
- Typified in the life of Habakkuk (his intercession and prayer for his people)

Zephaniah

- The Restorer of the Remnant

Haggai

- Messiah would visit the 2nd temple (Hag 2:6-9, Luke 2:27-32)

Zechariah

- Messiah would be Priest and King (Zech 6:12-13, Heb 8:1)
- Messiah would be ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech 9:9, Matt 21:6-9)
- Messiah would be God (Zech 11:12-13, John 12:45)
- Messiah would be pierced (Zech 12:10, John 19:34-37)

Malachi

- Messiah would appear at the temple (Mal 3:1, Mark 11:15-16)
- Messiah's forerunner would come in the spirit of Elijah (Mat 4:5, Matt 3:1-2)