

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

A TWO-PART OVERVIEW

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PART ONE OF TWO

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

JOSHUA

JUDGES

1 & 2 SAMUEL

1 & 2 KINGS

1 & 2 CHRONICLES

EZRA

NEHEMIAH



ESTHER

JOB

# **PART I**

GENESIS - JOB



# GENESIS 1-11

God and the World

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

The first part of Genesis describes humanity's downward spiral into sin, but it also offers a future hope of restoration and redemption.



## QUESTIONS

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

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Why do you think God gave us freedom of choice?

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What causes us to rebel against God?

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God continues to give humans the chance to do the right thing. What does that say about his character?

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# GENESIS 12-50

God & Abraham's Family

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

The second part of Genesis traces God's covenant faithfulness to the family of Abraham, showing God's faithfulness despite their repeated failures.



## QUESTIONS

What blessing(s) have you received from God even though you've messed up?

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God gave Jacob the new name Israel.

What new name does God want to give to you?

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What evil thing(s) have you seen God turn to good?

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# EXODUS 1-18

Exodus From Egypt

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

In the first part of Exodus, God frees the enslaved people of Israel through his servants Moses and Aaron with an epic showdown between good and evil.



## QUESTIONS

What things do you see the world calls good that God would call evil?

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How have you seen God protect or redeem someone in your life?

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For some people, having a comfortable life is their highest priority. If you're really honest with yourself, would you rather be comfortable and enslaved or uncomfortable and free?

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# EXODUS 19-40

Covenant at Mt. Sinai

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

God leads the Israelites from Egypt to Mount Sinai where he establishes the covenant with them through a set of commandments.



## QUESTIONS

What promise have you made to God that has been difficult to keep?

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Have you felt God's presence in your life?  
How would you describe it?

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How would you describe God's character?

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Is it hard for you to reconcile God's mercy with his justice?

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# LEVITICUS

The Holiness Code

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

In the book of Leviticus, God establishes the moral and purity laws that serve to set Israel apart from other nations.



## QUESTIONS

What makes holiness so important to God?

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Does moral purity still matter today or is it an outdated concept?

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In what way(s) are obedience to God and love for God connected?

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# NUMBERS

Travels in the Wilderness

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

The Israelites continue to rebel and are made to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Only their children will enter the land. Will they ever learn?



## QUESTIONS

What makes God's justice such an important part of his character?

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What does God's faithfulness to his covenant promise in the face of rebellion say about his character?

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Has God ever given you what you asked for, then you regretted asking for it?

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What does Numbers show us about our desire for comfort over obedience to God?

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# DEUTERONOMY

A Call to Faithfulness

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

The next generation of Israel finds new hope and a fresh start as an aging Moses gives a final message before the people enter the promised land.



## QUESTIONS

How can a holy God be reconciled to rebellious people?

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What does it mean for you to love the Lord with all your heart/soul/might?

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How have you experienced God's blessings when you worship & obey him?

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Through the Shema, Moses tells the Israelites that love is a decision, not an emotion. How does that align with your personal definition of love?

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# JOSHUA

The Promised Land

**AUTHOR: JOSHUA**



## OVERVIEW

The book of Joshua details Israel's arrival in the promised land and serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the terms of the covenant.



## QUESTIONS

What battle(s) are you fighting on your own that you need to give to God?

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How have you experienced God's blessing because you are faithful to him?

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What does the way Israel gained victory at Jericho tell us about how God fights battles for us?

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# JUDGES

Rebellion, Redemption, & Restoration

**AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, & GAD**



## OVERVIEW

The first part of Genesis describes humanity's downward spiral into sin, but it also offers a future hope of restoration and redemption.



## QUESTIONS

What does Judges show us about the dangers of adopting cultural practices instead of following biblical direction?

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What does this book show us about God's desire to redeem people to himself?

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How has God shown you underserved grace?

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# RUTH

Ruin to Redemption

**AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, & GAD**



## OVERVIEW

The book of Ruth illustrates how God works through ordinary people. Her God uses a non-Israelite woman to bring about his promise to David.



## QUESTIONS

How do you experience God being involved in the day-to-day joys & hardships of your life?

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Why is loyalty an important characteristic in our walk of faith?

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What does the book of Ruth show us about how God healing brokenness in our lives?

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# 1 SAMUEL

A Tale of Two Kings

**AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, & GAD**



## OVERVIEW

The book of 1 Samuel outlines the fall of King Saul and David's rise to the throne as a humble servant of God.



## QUESTIONS

Why is humility such an important characteristic of our faith?

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What characteristic(s) of Saul do you see in yourself?

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What characteristic(s) of David do you see in yourself?

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How can we use David's example of trusting God during difficult times in our own lives?

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# 2 SAMUEL

Broken & Beloved

**AUTHOR: SAMUEL, NATHAN, & GAD**



## OVERVIEW

Explore the life of King David, specifically his reign as king and his downward spiral of sin and self-destruction.



## QUESTIONS

How easy or hard is it for you to forgive/pray for your enemies?

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What does the story of David tell us about the consequences of our good and bad decisions?

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David is called 'a man after God's own heart. How can that be true given David's moral failures?

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# 1 & 2 KINGS

Solomon's Reign

**AUTHOR: JEREMIAH**



## OVERVIEW

Explore the history of Israel's kings from Solomon to their eventual exile. Israel continues to rebel, yet hope remains for the coming Messiah.



## QUESTIONS

Why was it so important that Solomon asked God for wisdom?

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Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. How do you see this play out in Solomon's reign as king?

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# 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

Prophetic Hopes

**AUTHOR: EZRA**



## OVERVIEW

1 & 2 Chronicles summarizes the Hebrew Bible with key highlights that emphasize God's love for his chosen people.



## QUESTIONS

We often focus on what is wrong with people. Why are stories that focus on what is good in people important in our relationship with God?

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How can looking back to what God has done in your life give you hope for the future?

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# EZRA-NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding

**AUTHOR: EZRA**



## OVERVIEW

In Ezra-Nehemiah, we see the people return to their homeland after exile and attempt to rebuild the temple and set right their covenant with God.



## QUESTIONS

How has God prompted you to make significant change in your life?

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What opposition have you encountered when making the change?

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# ESTHER

God at Work

**AUTHOR: UNKNOWN**



## OVERVIEW

Though God is never mentioned, the book of Esther is filled with examples of God at work behind the scenes for the benefit of his beloved people.



## QUESTIONS

How has God come through for you even when it seemed like he was absent from your life?

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How has that helped you trust him when things aren't going well?

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# JOB

A Story of Suffering

**AUTHOR: MOSES**



## OVERVIEW

The book of Job questions suffering and God's justice. God's response is surprising, pointing to his control over chaos and ultimate goodness.



## QUESTIONS

Why do you think God allows good people to suffer?

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Why is it important that God is just?

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Why do you think suffering is part of our life in this world?

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# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

We'd love to know what you thought of the class! Scan the QR code or visit [dtvchurch.org/old-testament](https://dtvchurch.org/old-testament) to leave us feedback!



*Thank you!*

