

EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT TEST ANSWER KEY

Prepared by
Dr. Randall McElwain



Lesson 1

Introduction to the Old Testament

(1) What does the word "canon" mean in reference to the Bible?

A rule or standard for determining which writings are the inspired Word of God.

(2) List three standards used in establishing the Old Testament canon.

- The author was gifted as a prophet.
- The book was addressed to all generations.
- The message did not conflict with earlier revelation.

(3) List the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible.

- The Law
- The Prophets
- The Writings

(4) List the five divisions of the Christian Old Testament.

- Pentateuch
- Historical Books
- Poetry and Wisdom
- Major Prophets
- Minor Prophets

(5) What does the term "divine inspiration" mean?

"God-breathed"

(6) What do the terms "inerrant" and "infallible" mean?

- Inerrant means without error.
- Infallible means that it cannot fail.

(7) How do the Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrate the textual integrity of the Old Testament?

They show that the Old Testament was copied with a high degree of accuracy through hundreds of years.

(8) List three ways in which the Old Testament speaks to us today.

- It teaches of the majesty and holiness of God.
- It teaches about man's sin and need for a redeemer.
- It teaches of God's plan to create a holy people who are set apart as his special possession.

(9) Write Psalm 19:7-11 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 2

Genesis: In the Beginning

(1) What does the Hebrew word *Torah* mean?

“To teach” or “The Law”

(2) How is Jesus presented in each of the books of the Pentateuch?

- Genesis: Second Adam
- Exodus: Passover Lamb
- Leviticus: Perfect Sacrifice
- Numbers: Brazen Serpent
- Deuteronomy: Coming Prophet

(3) List four Old Testament themes introduced in the Pentateuch.

- Sovereignty of God
- Sinfulness of Man
- God’s plan for salvation
- Holiness

(4) What is the theme of Genesis?

“In the beginning”

(5) List the two major sections of Genesis.

- Primeval history (1-11)
- Patriarchal history (12-50)

(6) List the four major events of Genesis 1-11.

- Creation
- The Fall
- The Flood
- The Tower of Babel

(7) List the four major characters of Genesis 12-50.

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

(8) In one sentence each, summarize the three aspects of the covenant with Abraham.

- Genesis 12: God will make Abraham's descendants a blessing to all nations.
- Genesis 15: God puts himself under a blood oath of everlasting covenant.
- Genesis 17: Circumcision is the sign of faith in the covenant.

(9) List three things that Genesis teaches about creation.

- God created the world out of nothing.
- There is one sovereign God.
- Man is created in the image of God.

(10) List three ways in which Genesis speaks to the contemporary church.

- Human life is valuable.
- Man is responsible to care for our world.
- The church has a mandate for evangelism and discipleship.

(11) Write Genesis 3:15 and 12:3 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 3

Exodus–Deuteronomy

The Beginnings of National Israel

(1) What is the most likely date for Israel’s exodus from Egypt?

1446 B.C.

(2) List the theme for each book.

- Exodus: Redemption and Relationship
- Leviticus: Holiness
- Numbers: Consequences of Disobedience
- Deuteronomy: Renewal of the Covenant

(3) List the two major sections of Exodus.

- Redemption from Egypt (1-15)
- Relationship with Jehovah (16-40)

(4) List the four events in Exodus that portray Israel’s redemption from Egypt.

- Birth and call of Moses
- Ten plagues
- Passover
- Crossing of the Red Sea

(5) List the two events in Exodus that mark the establishment of relationship between Jehovah and Israel.

- Giving of the Ten Commandments
- Building of the Tabernacle

(6) Identify each of the offerings from Leviticus.

- **Grain Offering:** a gift offering that accompanies another offering
- **Burnt Offering:** the primary offering of the Old Testament
- **Trespass or Guilt Offering:** addresses violations that require restitution
- **Sin Offering:** atones for unintentional violations of the law
- **Peace Offering:** celebrates fellowship between the worshiper and God

(7) The **Holiness Code** of Leviticus 17-27 taught Israel how to live in a manner that exemplifies holiness in daily life.

(8) List the four steps for applying Old Testament law today.

- Read the Old Testament law.
- Find the principle taught or the aspect of God's character revealed.
- Look for changes in application made by Christ's coming.
- Determine the modern practice based on the Old Testament law.

(9) List the three major sections of Numbers.

- Israel at Sinai
- Israel in the Desert
- Israel on the Plains of Moab

(10) Moses' three speeches in Deuteronomy are...

- Historical: What God has done
- Legal: What God requires
- Prophetic: What God will do

(11) Write Exodus 3:14, Leviticus 20:7-8, and Deuteronomy 6:4-5 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 4

Joshua–Ruth

Pictures of Faithfulness and Unfaithfulness

(1) What is the name of the historical books in the Hebrew Bible?

The Former Prophets

(2) Define “theocracy.”

Direct rule by God

(3) List the theme for each book:

- Joshua: The Conquest of Canaan
- Judges: Apostasy in Israel
- Ruth: Faithfulness in an Age of Apostasy

(4) List the two major sections of Joshua.

- The conquest of Canaan
- The settlement of Canaan

(5) What is the main purpose of the Book of Joshua?

To show God’s faithfulness to Israel when they were faithful to him

(6) What was the purpose of the Cities of Refuge?

To protect a person who accidentally killed someone

(7) List four principles to be considered when studying Yahweh War in Joshua.

- Yahweh War reflects God’s justice.
- Yahweh War reflects God’s sovereignty.
- Yahweh War reflects God’s holiness.
- Yahweh War reflects God’s love.

(8) What is the main purpose of Judges?

To show the results of Israel’s apostasy

(9) What are the four steps of the cycles of apostasy and deliverance in Judges?

- Sin
- War as judgment
- Repentance
- Deliverance

(10) Define "levirate marriage."

Marriage by a near relative to a deceased man's widow for the purpose of carrying on the name and inheritance of the first husband.

(11) Write Joshua 1:8-9 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 5

Samuel–Chronicles

The Rise and Decline of Israel’s Monarchy

(1) List the theme for each book:

- 1 Samuel: The beginning of Israel’s monarchy
- 2 Samuel: The reign of King David
- 1 & 2 Kings: The failure of Israel’s kings
- 1 & 2 Chronicles: There is hope.

(2) List three events early in Saul’s reign that show his failure to be the king God desired.

- He took Samuel’s priestly role.
- He made a rash oath that nearly resulted in Jonathan’s death.
- He disobeyed God’s command to destroy completely the Amalekites.

(3) List the five promises of the Davidic covenant.

- God will provide a secure dwelling for Israel.
- God will raise up David’s son to build the temple.
- God will establish David’s kingdom forever.
- God will establish a father-son relationship with David’s descendants.
- God’s mercy will not depart from David’s line.

(4) List four principles from David’s sin that should guide a believer who falls into sin.

- We should confess our sin.
- We should confess the seriousness of our sin.
- We should seek and believe that we will receive God’s forgiveness.
- We should understand the long term cost of our sin.

(5) 1 & 2 Kings cover which years?

971-561 B.C.

(6) After the division of Israel, which tribes remained loyal to the Davidic king?

Judah and Benjamin

(7) How are kings evaluated in 1 and 2 Kings?

Their faithfulness to God

(8) Contrast the content of Chronicles and Kings regarding the kings of Judah.

- Kings asks, "Did the king walk in David's path?"
- Chronicles asks, "Was the king faithful to temple worship?"

(9) Why is the reign of Solomon important for Chronicles?

He built the temple.

(10) Contrast the content of Chronicles and Kings regarding Manasseh.

- Kings shows that Manasseh was the worst of Judah's kings.
- Chronicles tells about Manasseh's repentance in captivity.

(11) Write 1 Kings 9:4-7 and 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 6

Ezra–Esther

Books of the Restoration

(1) List the dates for the primary events of the restoration period.

- First return led by Zerubbabel: **538 BC**
- Completion of the temple: **516 BC**
- Events of Esther: **483-473 BC**
- Second return led by Ezra: **458 BC**
- Nehemiah returns: **444 BC**

(2) List the theme for each book.

- Ezra: Return from exile
- Nehemiah: Rebuilding the wall
- Esther: God is in control

(3) List two similarities between the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Any two:

- Both have the same historical setting.
- Both relate returns to Jerusalem under Artaxerxes I of Persia.
- Both include rosters of the Jewish people.
- Nehemiah 7-13 summarizes the reforms of both Ezra and Nehemiah.

(4) The **Persian** empire allowed conquered nations to remain in their homeland.

(5) **Haggai** and **Zechariah** are called the “temple prophets” because they encouraged the rebuilding of the temple.

(6) Why was intermarriage between the Jews and their neighbors a serious issue in Ezra and Nehemiah?

- Jerusalem’s neighbors were unbelievers.
- Persia was syncretistic.

(7) Which Minor Prophet addresses the same issues as Nehemiah?

Malachi

(8) List three leadership principles from Nehemiah.

Any three:

- Spiritual leaders must be people of vision.
- Spiritual leaders must plan carefully.
- Spiritual leaders must be people of courage.
- Spiritual leaders have a spirit of service, not a spirit of entitlement.
- Spiritual leaders know the importance of prayer.
- Spiritual leaders adapt to the needs of each situation.

(9) List three major lessons taught in Esther.

- The sovereignty of God
- The importance of faithfulness
- The folly of wickedness

(10) The Jewish holiday linked to the book of Esther is **Purim**.

(11) Write Nehemiah 2:17 and Esther 4:14 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 7

Job and Psalms: Hebrew Poetry

(1) Define the three types of Hebrew parallelism.

- Synonymous parallelism: the second line reinforces the first line with similar words.
- Antithetic parallelism: the first line is contrasted in the second line.
- Synthetic parallelism: the second line adds to the thought of the first line.

(2) Define acrostic poetry.

Each verse begins with a succeeding letter of the alphabet.

(3) What is the primary theme of the book of Job?

A search for God

(4) What are the three main points in the argument of Job's friends?

- Suffering comes as punishment or correction for sin.
- God is a just God.
- Therefore, Job must be guilty of some sin for which God is punishing him.

(5) What are the topics of Job's speeches in Job 28-31?

- Job 28 is a speech on wisdom.
- Job 29 is Job's portrait of his life before the events of the prologue.
- Job 30 is Job's portrait of his suffering.
- Job 31 is Job's testimony to his innocence.

(6) What are three types of information found in the titles of individual psalms?

- Author
- Historical setting
- Musical and liturgical instructions

(7) What are the four elements contained in most psalms of lament?

- Description of the complaint
- Petition to God
- Statement of confidence in God
- Praise to God

(8) List three principles for understanding the psalms of imprecation.

- They are based on the principle of sowing and reaping.
- The enemies of Israel are ultimately enemies of God.
- The psalmists do not take matters into their own hands.

(9) What is the relationship between royal and messianic psalms?

Many of the royal psalms describe a universal rule that was never fulfilled in Israel's history. These are fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

(10) Write Psalm 119:1-8 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 8

Proverbs–Song of Songs

Hebrew Wisdom

(1) According to John Calvin, true wisdom consists of what two things?

- Knowledge of God
- Knowledge of ourselves

(2) List two of the four characteristics of a proverb given in this lesson.

Any two:

- A proverb states a general principle.
- A proverb is based on life experience.
- A proverb is not a promise; it is a general observation about life.
- A proverb is not a command.

(3) What is the most common type of proverb in Collection 1 (Proverbs 1-9)?

Discourse proverbs

(4) List four of the seven questions given in this lesson for interpreting Proverbs.

Any four:

- Does this proverb point towards wisdom or towards folly?
- What does the second half of the proverb add to the first half?
- What is the source of wisdom in this proverb?
- How does this proverb apply to my situation?
- Are there other verses in Proverbs that relate to the topic I am studying?
- Do other books of the Bible address the topic I am studying?
- Is there a biblical character that illustrates the proverb I am studying?

(5) What is the primary difference between the “simple” and the “fool” in Proverbs?

The simple is teachable, but the fool despises wisdom and instruction.

(6) What is the primary theme of Ecclesiastes?

A search for the meaning of life

(7) What are the two motifs that are traced through Ecclesiastes?

- Vanity
- Joy

(8) What are two ways to interpret the Song of Songs?

- Allegory
- Poetic

(9) Write Proverbs 1:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 9

Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel

(1) What phrase shows that the prophets were bringing God's Word, not their own message?

"Thus says the Lord"

(2) The use of the name "**seer**" to describe the prophets shows that God revealed future truths to his prophets.

(3) List three themes that appear throughout the prophetic books.

- Faithfulness to covenant
- The day of the Lord
- The coming of Messiah

(4) The day of the Lord includes three aspects. What are they?

- A time of judgment on unbelievers
- A time of cleansing of God's people
- A time of salvation for those who are faithful

(5) Isaiah ministered during the reign of what four kings of Judah?

- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manasseh

(6) List two purposes for the book of Isaiah.

- Warn Judah of coming judgment
- Comfort Judah with the promise of salvation

(7) Who is the remnant in Isaiah?

Those who are faithful to God in spite of the apostasy of the nation as a whole

(8) What name of God is used in Isaiah to show God's holiness and God's sovereignty?

The Holy One of Israel

(9) List three reasons to accept Isaiah as the author of the entire Book of Isaiah.

- Isaiah 1:1 names Isaiah as the author.
- All Hebrew copies of Isaiah show the book as one book.
- The New Testament writers treat Isaiah as the author of the entire book.

(10) List two images from Isaiah used in the New Testament.

Any two:

- John the Baptist as the voice crying in the wilderness
- The virgin birth of Jesus
- Jesus' use of parables
- Jesus' ministry to the Gentiles
- The conversion of the nations

(11) Write Isaiah 9:6-7 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 10

Jeremiah and Lamentations

The Weeping Prophet

(1) Why is Jeremiah called “the Weeping Prophet”?

His sorrow over the sin of God’s people and the destruction of God’s city

(2) What was Jeremiah’s family background?

His father was a priest from Anathoth.

(3) List the dates for the three groups of captives taken into exile. For the first two groups, name one prophet carried into exile.

- 605 B.C., Daniel
- 597 B.C., Ezekiel
- 586 B.C.

(4) What are the primary purposes of Jeremiah and Lamentations?

- Warn Judah of coming judgment
- Record the destruction of Jerusalem

(5) What is a “Prophetic Lawsuit”?

The accusation by the prophets that Israel has broken her covenant with God

(6) What are “Jeremiah’s confessions”?

Prayers in which Jeremiah complains to God about the stubbornness of his listeners

(7) What is the “Book of Comfort” in Jeremiah?

Chapters that promise that God will restore Judah to the land

(8) What poetic form is used in four of the five chapters of Lamentations?

Acrostic poetry

(9) Write Lamentations 3:21-24 from memory.
(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 11

Ezekiel and Daniel: Prophets in Exile

(1) What is the meaning of the name "Ezekiel"?

"God has strengthened."

(2) What is the purpose of the Book of Ezekiel?

To bring a message of hope – God has not given up on His people.

(3) What is Ezekiel's parallel to Jeremiah's Temple Sermon?

The departure of God's glory from the Temple (Ezekiel 10-11)

(4) List five options for interpreting Ezekiel's vision of a new temple.

- The promise of the physical rebuilding of the temple after Israel returned to Jerusalem
- A picture of the earthly millennium
- A picture of God's work in the church
- A metaphor for God's presence among his people in the new heavens and new earth
- A vision with both literal and symbolic elements

(5) Ezekiel was taken to Babylon in **597** B.C.

Daniel was taken to Babylon in **605** B.C.

(6) What three themes are central to the book of Daniel?

- God's sovereignty over human history
- The pride of humankind
- The ultimate victory of God's people

(7) What two languages are used in the Book of Daniel?

Hebrew and Aramaic

(8) In traditional interpretation, which empire is represented by each of these images?

- A lion with eagle's wings: **Babylon**
- A bear: **Medo-Persia**
- A male goat with one great horn: **Greece**
- Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay: **Rome**
- A stone that becomes a great mountain: **The Kingdom of God**

(9) Which biblical books are primarily or partly composed of apocalyptic writing?

- Daniel and Revelation are apocalyptic books
- Parts of Ezekiel and Zechariah are apocalyptic

(10) Which New Testament book quotes Ezekiel and Daniel most frequently?

Revelation

(11) Write Ezekiel 36:25-27 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 12

Minor Prophets 1: Hosea, Joel, Amos

(1) What are the Minor Prophets called in the Hebrew Bible?

The Book of the Twelve

(2) What is the difference between the Major Prophets and Minor Prophets?

The Minor Prophets are much smaller books

(3) Describe the economic and spiritual conditions of the Northern Kingdom during 8th century B.C.

Economic prosperity and spiritual apostasy

(4) What is the primary purpose for Hosea?

To confront Israel with their spiritual adultery

(5) What do the names of each of Hosea's children prophesy to Israel?

- Jezreel – the valley where Assyria will defeat Israel
- Lo-Ruhamah – No Mercy
- Lo-Ammi – Not My People

(6) In the Old Testament, what is the meaning of the word "know"?

"Know" is a relational term in the Old Testament. To know means to experience.

(7) What is the primary theme of Joel?

The day of the Lord

(8) In Joel, what natural disaster is a prophecy of coming judgment?

A locust plague

(9) According to the New Testament, when is Joel's prophecy of a coming spiritual awakening fulfilled?

On the Day of Pentecost

(10) What is the purpose of the Book of Amos?

To prophesy God's judgment on Israel because of her unrighteous behavior – both towards God and towards her fellowman

(11) List the five visions of judgment in Amos and give their meaning.

- A locust plague meant destruction for Israel.
- A fire meant destruction for Israel.
- A plumb line showed that Israel was crooked.
- A basket of ripe fruit showed that Israel was ripe for immediate judgment.
- God standing beside the altar meant that judgment was certain.

(12) Write Hosea 10:12, Joel 2:13, and Amos 5:24 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 13

Minor Prophets 2: Prophets to the Nations

(1) What is the purpose for the Book of Obadiah?

To prophesy the destruction of Edom because of her cruelty to Judah during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem

(2) What is the theme of the Book of Jonah?

God's grace to all people

(3) List two ways in which the Book of Jonah shows God's sovereignty.

Any two:

- God sent a great wind which threatened the ship.
- God prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah.
- God prepared a gourd to provide shelter for Jonah.
- God prepared a worm to destroy the gourd.

(4) What are the two lessons taught in Jonah?

A lesson in obedience and a lesson in compassion

(5) According to Micah, what three characteristics sum up the demands of the law?

- Justice
- Mercy
- A humble walk with God

(6) What prophecy of the birth of Jesus is given in Micah?

He will be born in Bethlehem.

(7) Who was the audience for the Book of Nahum?

Nineveh

(8) List Habakkuk's two questions and God's responses.

Q: Why does wicked Judah prosper?

A: Babylon will judge Judah.

Q: How can God use Babylon to judge Judah?

A: It will happen as I say. But the righteous will live by his faith.

(9) What is the primary theme of Zephaniah?

The day of the Lord

(10) What are the five steps suggested for interpreting Old Testament prophecy?

- Their Town: What was the original message?
- The River: What are the differences between their world and our world?
- The Bridge: What is the principle behind the original message?
- The Map: How is the principle seen in the rest of Scripture?
- Our Town: How is the principle applied in today's world?

(11) Write Micah 6:8, Nahum 1:7-8, and Habakkuk 3:2 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

Lesson 14

Minor Prophets 3: Prophets after the Exile

(1) What three spiritual problems were addressed by the post-exilic prophets?

- The temple had not been rebuilt.
- Marriage with unbelieving Gentiles led to religious syncretism.
- Many Jews failed to observe Sabbath.

(2) What is the date for Haggai and Zechariah?

520 B.C.

(3) Haggai brought four messages. List the topic for each of the messages.

- Priorities
- Discouragement
- Disobedience
- Fear

(4) What is the theme of Zechariah?

The Restoration of God's Kingdom

(5) List two messianic prophecies found in Zechariah.

Any two:

- The righteous Branch
- The King lowly and riding on a donkey
- The Shepherd rejected and sold for thirty shekels of silver
- The One who is pierced
- The coming Judge

(6) Why do we believe that Malachi preached between 475 and 425 B.C.?

He addresses the same sins as Ezra and Nehemiah.

(7) List the three parts of each of God's "disputations" in Malachi.

- God makes a statement regarding Judah's behavior.
- The people respond with a question.
- God replies to the question.

(8) Write Haggai 2:7-9 and Malachi 3:1 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)