

EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

TEST ANSWER KEY

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LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. What two things does the word *canon* mean in reference to the Bible?
 - The rule or standard for determining which writings are the inspired Word of God.
 - An official list of the books that are recognized as holy scripture.
2. List three standards used in establishing the Old Testament canon.
 - The book was written by a person who was gifted as a prophet.
 - The book was addressed to all generations.
 - The message of the book did not conflict with earlier biblical revelation.
3. List the three sections of the Hebrew Bible.
 - The Law (*Torah*)
 - The Prophets
 - The Writings
4. List the five sections of the Protestant Old Testament.
 - The Pentateuch
 - Historical Books
 - Poetry and Wisdom
 - The Major Prophets
 - The Minor Prophets
5. What does the doctrine of divine inspiration teach?

The doctrine of divine inspiration teaches that God breathed his words into the minds of the human authors, and they wrote as God inspired them.
6. The Bible is the Word of God. How does that affect its accuracy and trustworthiness?

Because it is the Word of God, the Bible is inerrant (without error) and infallible (cannot fail).
7. Why are the Dead Sea Scrolls valuable for checking the accuracy of more recent copies?

They are approximately 1,000 years older than later available copies.

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

- It teaches of the majesty and holiness of God.
- It teaches of our 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

1. *Torah* is usually translated into what word?

Law

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

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

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

- The sovereignty of God
- The sinfulness of humanity
- God's plan for salvation
- Holiness

4. What is the theme of Genesis?

Beginnings

5. List the two major sections of Genesis. Include the references for the sections.

- Primeval History (Genesis 1–11)
- Patriarchal History (Genesis 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 most important people in Genesis 12–50.

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

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

- God promised to make Abraham's descendants a blessing to all nations.
- God put himself under an oath, pledging his everlasting faithfulness to Abraham.
- God gave the sign of circumcision by which Abraham and his descendants would demonstrate their faith in the covenant.

9. List three truths about creation that oppose false teachings.

- God created the world out of nothing.
- There is one sovereign God.
- All people are created in the image of God.

10. List three truths Genesis teaches today's church.

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

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

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 3

EXODUS–DEUTERONOMY

1. What is the most likely date for Israel's exodus from Egypt?

1446 B.C.

2. List the theme of each of the four books discussed in this lesson.

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

3. List the two major sections of Exodus. Include the references for the sections.

- Redemption from Egypt (Exodus 1–15)
- Relationship with Yahweh (Exodus 16–40)

4. List the four events in Exodus that portray Israel's redemption from Egypt.

- The miraculous birth and call of Moses
- The 10 plagues
- The Passover
- The crossing of the Red Sea

5. What were the two symbols that marked the relationship between Yahweh and Israel, and what did each symbol provide?

- The Ten Commandments provided a covenant structure for the relationship.
- The Tabernacle provided a visual symbol of God's presence among his people.

6. Name and summarize the five sacrifices described in Leviticus.

- Burnt offering: the primary Old Testament offering
- Grain offering: a gift offering that often accompanied a burnt offering or peace offering
- Peace offering: celebrated fellowship between God and the worshipper
- Sin offering: given to atone for unintentional violations of the law or for failing to do something that was required by the law
- Trespass or guilt offering: dealt with violations of the law, particularly those that required restitution and restoration of property

7. What is the purpose of the holiness code in Leviticus?

The purpose of the holiness code is to call Israel to exemplify holiness in every area of 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 principle from the Old Testament law.

9. List the three major sections of Numbers. Include the references for the sections.

- Israel at Sinai (Numbers 1:1–10:10)
- Israel in the Desert (Numbers 10:11–21:35)
- Israel on the Plains of Moab (Numbers 22:1–36:13)

10. What three kinds of speeches does Moses give in Deuteronomy, and what is the subject of each?

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

11. What two principles are the foundation of the covenant?

- The fear of God
- The love of God

12. Write Exodus 3:14, Leviticus 20:7–8, and Deuteronomy 6:4–5 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 4

JOSHUA-RUTH

1. In the Hebrew Bible, which four Historical Books are called Former Prophets?

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings

2. Define *theocracy*.

A government in which the people are under the direct rule of God

3. List the theme of each of the three books discussed in this lesson.

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

4. What is the main purpose of the book of Joshua?

The main purpose of the book of Joshua is to show that God is faithful to Israel when they are faithful to him.

5. List the two major sections of Joshua. Include the references for the sections.

- The Conquest of Canaan (Joshua 1–12)
- The Settlement of Canaan (Joshua 13–24)

6. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?

The cities of refuge provided protection for a person who had 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 over the earth.
- Yahweh war reflects God's holiness.
- Yahweh war reflects God's love.

8. What is the purpose of the book of Judges?

The purpose of the book of Judges is 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. Write Joshua 1:8–9 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 5

SAMUEL-CHRONICLES

1. List the four themes of the books discussed in this lesson.

- 1 Samuel: The Beginning of Israel's Monarchy
- 2 Samuel: The Reign of King David
- Kings: The Failure of Israel's Kings
- Chronicles: A Message of Hope

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

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

3. List the five promises of God's covenant with David.

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

5. 1 and 2 Kings record events that happened during what years?

971–561 B.C.

6. After the division of the kingdom of Israel, which tribes remained loyal to Rehoboam and the Davidic line?

Judah and Benjamin

7. How are the kings evaluated in 1 and 2 Kings?

In Kings, each king is evaluated on the basis of his faithfulness to God.

8. Samuel and Kings answers what question about each king? Chronicles answers what question about each king?

- Samuel/Kings: Was the king's heart wholly true to the LORD?
- Chronicles: Was the king faithful to Temple worship?

9. Why is the reign of Solomon important for Chronicles?

The reign of Solomon is important to the chronicler because Solomon built the Temple.

10. Contrast what Kings and Chronicles record about Manasseh.

- Kings shows Manasseh as the worst of Judah's kings, the one whose sin made exile inevitable.
- Chronicles tells us that while Manasseh was in captivity, he repented.

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

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 6

EZRA-ESTHER

1. List the dates for the primary events of the restoration period.
 - First return—led by Zerubbabel: 538 B.C.
 - Completion of the Temple: 516 B.C.
 - God spares the Jews in Persia: 483–473 B.C.
 - Second return—led by Ezra: 458 B.C.
 - Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem: 444 B.C.
2. List two similarities between the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. (Any two)
 - They have the same historical setting.
 - Both describe returns to Jerusalem during the reign of Artaxerxes I of Persia.
 - Both include lists of the Jewish people.
 - Both record religious and social reforms among the returned exiles.
3. List the theme of each of the three books discussed in this lesson.
 - Ezra: Return from Exile
 - Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Walls
 - Esther: God Is in Control
4. Which empire allowed conquered nations to remain in their homelands?

Persia
5. Which two prophets persuaded the people to resume the Temple rebuilding project?
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
6. For what two reasons was intermarriage a snare to the restoration community?
 - Jerusalem was surrounded by unbelievers.
 - Syncretism was common.
7. Which prophet addresses some of 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 must have a spirit of service, not a spirit of entitlement.
- Spiritual leaders must know the importance of prayer.
- Spiritual leaders must adapt to the needs of each situation.

9. What Jewish holiday is based on the events in the book of Esther?

Purim

10. List three important themes in the book of Esther.

- The Sovereignty of God
- The Importance of Faithfulness
- The Folly of Wickedness

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

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 7

JOB AND PSALMS

1. List the three ways parallelism is used in Hebrew poetry.

- To present a single idea in two different ways
- To show the difference between two things
- To express one idea, then add more detail

2. Explain acrostic poetry in one sentence.

In acrostic poetry, each stanza or verse begins with a succeeding letter of the alphabet.

3. What is the theme 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? List the chapter beside each topic.

- Wisdom (Job 28)
- Job's past (Job 29)
- Job's suffering (Job 30)
- Job's integrity (Job 31)

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

- Name of the author
- Historical setting
- Musical and liturgical instructions

7. What four elements are included in most psalms of lament?

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

8. List three foundational principles of 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 purpose of messianic psalms?

Messianic psalms point ahead to the person and life of the Messiah.

10. Write Psalm 119:1–8 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 8

PROVERBS–SONG OF SONGS

1. According to John Calvin, true wisdom consists of which two things?

- Knowledge of God
- Knowledge of ourselves

2. What four things should you remember when you read proverbs?

- A proverb states a general principle that has many applications.
- 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 form of proverb in Collection 1 (Proverbs 1–9)?

The discourse proverb

4. List four questions one should ask when reading a proverb. (Any four)

- Does this proverb point toward wisdom or toward 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?
- What other verses in Proverbs relate to the topic I am studying?
- What other books of the Bible address the same topic?
- Was someone in the Bible an illustration of this proverb?

5. What is the primary difference between the simple and the fool?

Teachability. Fools despise wisdom and instruction, but the simple will listen.

6. What are the two motifs that are traced through Ecclesiastes?

- Vanity
- Joy

7. What is the theme of Ecclesiastes?

A Search for the Meaning of Life

8. What are two types of interpretation for the Song of Songs?

- Allegorical interpretation
- Poetic interpretation

9. Write Proverbs 1:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 9

ISAIAH

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

"Thus says the LORD"

2. List three themes that appear throughout the prophetic books.

- Faithfulness to the Covenant
- The Day of the LORD
- The Coming of the Messiah

3. The day of the LORD will be a time of what three things?

- Judgment on unbelievers
- Cleansing of God's people
- Salvation for those who are faithful

4. List two purposes for the book of Isaiah.

- To warn Judah of coming judgment
- To promise Judah's coming salvation

5. Isaiah ministered during the reign of which four kings of Judah?

- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manasseh

6. Who is the remnant in the book of Isaiah?

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

7. What name of God is used in Isaiah to show God's holiness and sovereignty?

The Holy One of Israel

8. List three reasons to accept Isaiah as the author of the entire book of Isaiah.

- Isaiah 1:1 names Isaiah, son of Amoz, as the author.
- All early Hebrew copies of Isaiah show the book as one book.
- The New Testament writers refer to Isaiah as the author of the entire book.

9. Name two fulfillments of Isaiah's prophecies that are named in the New Testament.
(Any two)

- John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord.
- Jesus, Immanuel, was born of a virgin.
- Jesus used parables because of the people's lack of understanding.
- Jesus ministered to the Gentiles.
- The nations who were not seeking God find him and praise him with his people.

10. Write Isaiah 9:6–7 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 10

JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS

1. What two things did “The Weeping Prophet” lament?

- The sin of God’s people
- The destruction of God’s city

2. What are the primary purposes of Jeremiah and Lamentations?

- To warn Judah of coming judgment
- To record the destruction of Jerusalem

3. What was Jeremiah’s family background?

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, a priest from Anathoth.

4. 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.

5. Why is Jeremiah 11–20 called “Jeremiah’s Confessions”?

This section includes prayers in which Jeremiah complains to God about the stubbornness of his listeners.

6. Why is Jeremiah 30–33 called “The Book of Comfort”?

In these chapters Jeremiah tells his listeners that God will restore Judah to the land.

7. The prophets often point to the Law of Moses to show that Israel has broken the terms of her covenant with God. What is this presentation called?

The prophetic lawsuit

8. Chapters 1–4 of Lamentations are each arranged in what poetic form?

An *acrostic*

9. Write Lamentations 3:21–24 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 11

EZEKIEL AND DANIEL

1. What years were Daniel and Ezekiel taken to Babylon?

- Daniel: 605 B.C.
- Ezekiel: 597 B.C.

2. What is the meaning of the name *Ezekiel*?

“God has strengthened.”

3. What is the message of hope in the book of Ezekiel?

God has not given up on his people.

4. Ezekiel watched as God’s glory left the Temple (Ezekiel 10–11). To what is this parallel?

Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon (Jeremiah 7) with its message of judgment on the Temple

5. List five interpretations for Ezekiel’s vision of a new Temple.

- A promise that the Temple would be rebuilt after the exiles returned to Jerusalem
- A picture of the earthly millennium
- A picture of God’s work through the church today
- A metaphor for God’s presence among his people in the new heavens and new earth
- A prophecy containing both literal and symbolic elements

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

- The Sovereignty of God
- The Pride of Humankind
- The Ultimate Victory of God’s People

7. What two languages are used in the book of Daniel?

- Aramaic
- Hebrew

8. In traditional interpretation of the image in Daniel 2, which empire is represented by each of these?

- Head of fine gold: Babylon
- Chest and arms of silver: Medo-Persia
- Belly and thighs of bronze: Greece
- Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay: Rome
- A stone that becomes a great mountain: The Kingdom of God

9. Which New Testament book alludes to Ezekiel most frequently?

Revelation

10. Which biblical books are primarily or partly composed of apocalyptic writing?

Daniel, Revelation, and parts of Ezekiel and Zechariah

11. Write Ezekiel 36:25–27 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 12

HOSEA-AMOS

1. What are the Minor Prophets called in the Hebrew Bible?

The Book of the Twelve

2. Why are the last 12 books of the Old Testament called Minor Prophets?

Minor refers to the size of the books.

3. What is the purpose of the book of Hosea?

To confront Israel with her spiritual adultery

4. What was the spiritual condition of the Northern Kingdom during the economically prosperous reign of King Jeroboam II?

Israel was apostate; the people of the Northern Kingdom worshipped Baal alongside Yahweh.

5. List the names of each of Hosea's children and what their names mean.

- Jezreel – the valley where Assyria will defeat Israel
- Loruhamah – “No Mercy”
- Loammi – “Not My People”

6. In the Hebrew Old Testament, what does it mean to know someone?

To know someone means to have an experiential relationship with him or her.

7. What is the theme of Joel?

The Day of the LORD

8. In Joel, what natural disaster is a metaphor for a future day of judgment?

A terrible locust plague

9. According to the New Testament, when was Joel's prophecy of a coming spiritual awakening fulfilled?

At Pentecost

10. What is the purpose of the book of Amos?

To prophesy God's judgment on Israel because of her unrighteous behavior towards God and others

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

- A locust plague: God's judgment on Israel
- A fire: Destruction for Israel
- A plumb line: Israel was crooked.
- A basket of ripe fruit: Israel was ripe for immediate judgment.
- God standing beside the altar: Judgment was certain.

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

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 13

OBADIAH-ZEPHANIAH

1. What is the purpose of 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 Jonah?

God's Mercy to All People

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

- God sent a great wind.
- God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.
- God prepared a plant to provide shelter for Jonah.
- God prepared a worm to destroy the plant.

4. What are the two lessons taught in Jonah?

- A lesson in obedience
- A lesson in compassion

5. Micah prophesied that a ruler in Israel would come from what town?

Bethlehem Ephrathah

6. According to Micah, what three characteristics sum up the demands of the law?

- Justice
- Kindness
- A humble walk with God

7. Who was the audience for the book of Nahum?

Nineveh (capital city of Assyria)

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

Question 1: Why does wicked Judah prosper?

Response 1: God tells Habakkuk that he is raising up the Chaldeans to judge Judah.

Question 2: How can God use Babylon to judge Judah?

Response 2: God gives Habakkuk a vision which shows that judgment is certain and will happen just as he has promised.

9. What is the theme of Zephaniah?

The Day of the LORD

10. What is the five part model for interpretation of biblical text?

- Their Town: What was the original message?
- The River: What differences separate our world from the world of the original audience?
- 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

HAGGAI-MALACHI

1. What three spiritual challenges were addressed by the post-exilic prophets?
 - The Temple had not been rebuilt.
 - Marriage to unbelieving Gentiles led to religious syncretism (the blending of religions).
 - Many Jews failed to observe the Sabbath.
2. What is the date for Haggai and Zechariah?

520 B.C.
3. List the topics for each of Haggai's four 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 humble king riding on a donkey
 - The shepherd who was rejected and sold for 30 pieces 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 addressed many of the sins confronted in Ezra and Nehemiah.
7. List the three parts of each of the arguments 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.)