

How to Study the Bible
(Lesson 5)

Introduction:

1. This lesson is the first of 2 based on "How to Study the Old Testament."
2. Studying the Old Testament may be challenging; however, it is beneficial in that:
 - a. it helps us to develop faith in Jesus as the Son of God (John 5:39)
 - b. it is a source of instruction and hope (Romans 15:4)
 - c. it illustrates many valuable moral lessons (1 Corinthians 10:1-11)
 - d. it helps us understand matters addressed in the New Testament (Hebrews 10:1)
 - e. it provides encouragement from the lives of faithful men and women (Hebrews 12:1).

Discussion:

- I. A BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY IS ESSENTIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT
 - A. The 39 books of the Old Testament begin with Creation and cover God's dealings with men, especially the Jewish nation, until about 400 BC.
 - B. The gist of Old Testament history can be learned from 11 books:
 1. Genesis: Creation, early civilization, Abraham and his family chosen, Jacob in Egypt
 2. Exodus: Children of Israel left Egypt, the law of Moses given at Sinai
 3. Numbers: Journey toward Canaan, 40-year period of wandering
 4. Deuteronomy (ch.34): Moses died, Joshua succeeded Moses as leader of Israel
 5. Joshua: Conquest and settlement of Canaan
 6. Judges: The rule of the judges between Joshua and Saul
 7. 1 Samuel: Israel's last 2 judges, the reign of Saul as Israel's first king
 8. 2 Samuel: The reign of David
 9. 1 Kings: The reign of Solomon, the division of Israel into 2 kingdoms
 10. 2 Kings: The 2 kingdoms and their captivities
 11. Ezra: 2 groups of Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, the temple was rebuilt
- II. APPROXIMATE DATES FOR IMPORTANT OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE AND EVENTS
 - A. Adam: the Creation
 - B. The Flood: 2400 BC
 - C. Abraham: 2000 BC
 - D. Jacob: 1900 BC
 - E. Joseph: 1800 BC
 - F. Moses: 1400 BC
 - G. The Exodus: 1400 BC
 - H. Samuel: 1100 BC
 - I. Saul: 1053 BC
 - J. David: 1013 BC
 - K. Solomon: 973 BC
 - L. Division of the Kingdom: 933 BC
 - M. Captivity of Israel: 721 BC
 - N. Judah Conquered by Babylon: 606 BC
 - O. Jehoiachin's Captivity: 597 BC
 - P. Destruction of Jerusalem: 586 BC
 - Q. Return from Captivity: 536 BC
 - R. Temple Rebuilt: 520 BC
 - S. Ezra Goes to Jerusalem: 457 BC
 - T. Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall: 444 BC