

Understand and Study the Bible
Session 4: Understand and Study the Old Testament

Principles and Process

- *Principle:* Always remember where you are in the big story of the Bible!
- *Principle:* As you read and study, always ask how the passage points toward Jesus!
- *Process:*
 1. First and foremost, apply the process of reading carefully in context.
 2. Determine what response the passage called for at that time.
 3. Seek the Christ connection.

Helpful Correspondences for Making the Christ Connection

(from *How to Preach & Teach the Old Testament for All Its Worth* by Christopher J.H. Wright)

<u>Old Testament Reality</u>	<u>Link to Christ</u>
Events	
Creation	Jesus is the Word of God through whom all things were created.
Exodus	Jesus is the one who defeats all oppressing powers and liberates people from slavery.
Gift of Land	Jesus is our inheritance and grants “rest” from enemies.
Anointing of King David	Jesus is the anointed messianic King, son of David.
Return from Exile	Jesus brings forgiveness, restoration to God, and a new covenant.
Persons	
Adam	Jesus is the perfect image of God.
Noah	Jesus rescues from judgment.
Abraham	Jesus lived in perfect faith and obedience.
Melchizedek/Aaron	Jesus is the perfect High Priest.
Moses	Jesus is the liberator of His people and the mediator of the new covenant.
Joshua	Jesus (the Greek form of Joshua) is the Savior and leader of His people.
David and Solomon	Jesus is God’s anointed King.
Esther	Jesus is the one who saved His people at the risk/cost of His own life.

Institutions	
Passover	Jesus is the sacrificial lamb whose blood protects from death.
Temple, Priesthood, Sacrifices	Jesus is the “place” through whom we have perfect atonement, forgiveness, and access into God’s presence.
Jubilee	Jesus brings release and restoration for those enslaved.

Old Testament History Cheat Sheet

Time Period	General Situation	Key Stuff
2166 BC – 1805 BC	Patriarchs	Leaders: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
1805 BC – 1446 BC	Slavery in Egypt	The Bible is silent on this period
Late 1400s BC	Exodus	Leaders: Moses Events: Covenant Law given at Sinai, Tabernacle constructed, 40 years in the Wilderness
Early 1300s BC	Land	Leaders: Joshua Events: Conquest and settlement of the tribes
1300s BC – 1050 BC	Judges	Leaders: Various judges, Samuel (the last judge) Events: Bad stuff!
~1050 BC – 931 BC	United Kingdom	Kings: Saul, David, Solomon Prophets: Nathan Events: Temple built
931 BC – 800s BC	Divided Kingdom - Israel (North) - Judah (South)	Kings (Israel): Jeroboam I, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz Kings (Judah): Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, Joash Prophets (Israel): Elijah, Elisha
700s BC	Divided Kingdom	Kings (Israel): Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Menahem, Hoshea Kings (Judah): Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz Prophets (Israel): Hosea, Amos Prophets (Judah): Isaiah, Micah Events: Israel (North) destroyed in 722 BC
600s BC	Judah Alone	Kings: Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim Prophets: Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah
500s BC	Exile	Kings: Jehoiachin, Zedekiah Prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Zephaniah Events: Judah (South) falls in 586 BC, exile in Babylon, return from exile begins in 538 BC
400s BC	Post-Exile	Leaders: Ezra, Nehemiah Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi Events: Persian rule