

Adult Education Winter 2018 – Marks of Maturity

CLASS 2 – JANUARY 28: BIBLICAL SURVEY – OLD TESTAMENT

I. Review of Basic Theological Concepts

A. Theology (study of God): Trinity (God in three persons), Christ (fully man, fully God), Incarnation (God “made flesh”), Man (image of God, but corrupted by Sin), Revelation (knowledge of God).

B. Christ’s Work: Substitutionary atonement (forgiving of sin by the cross), Justification (removal of guilt/penalty of sin, imputation of righteousness), Sanctification (process of God’s work in us).

C. God’s Work in the World: Providence (God’s intervention), Eschatological (of the “last times” & Second Coming of Christ), Evangelical (focus: Bible, Cross, Conversion, Action).

II. What is the Bible?

A. What does the Bible say about itself?: 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:20-21, Rev. 22:18-19, Jn. 20:30-31

B. What are the contents?: 66 books, 40+ inspired authors, written over 2000 yrs. on 3 continents!

1. **Old Testament:** 39 Books in Hebrew / **New Testament:** 27 Books in Greek

2. **Many books, one story:** These books tell a story about God and our relationship to him.

III. Frameworks for Understanding Scripture

A. What is being communicated?: Overarching Narrative: A Drama in Four Acts

- **Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation:** a story about God and our relationship to him.

B. How is it being communicated?: Genre affects our interpretation

1. **Genres:** *Scripture includes many genres of writing: narrative, poetry, prophecy, history, apocalypse, letter, song, allegory, and teaching. (Hebrew: Teaching, Prophets, Writings)*

2. **Old Testament:** Law, Historical Writings, Wisdom & Poetry, “Major” & “Minor” Prophets.

3. **New Testament:** Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation

C. When is it being communicated?: Historical Context affects our interpretation

1. **When was it written? (C-F-R-C timeline; before/after major events, such as Exodus or Exile?)**

2. **CASKET EMPTY:** Creation, Abraham, Sinai, Kings, Exile, Temple, Expectations, Messiah, Pentecost, Teaching, Yet-to-come.

IV. Major Themes for Understanding Scripture: Kingdom → Covenant → Canon (slides)

A. Kingdom: *“God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule and blessing.”* (Goldsworthy)

Covenant: *“It is in the kingdom he is establishing that God’s people can finally enjoy all the blessings of the covenant.”* (Roberts) Ancient covenants help us understand the “covenant of works” (Adam) and the “covenants of grace” (Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, New Covenant).

B. Canon: This context (covenants within the coming kingdom) helps us understand the canon!

V. What does it say? What did it mean then? What does it mean now?

- What does it say about the **Kingdom?** And **Creation, Fall, Redemption, or Consummation?**
- What is the **Historical Context?** In which **Covenant** does it occur (and when is it written)?
- Under the **Spirit’s Inspiration**, what did the **Author** intend to say *then*? Does it point to **Christ**?
- What **Adjustments** (Epochal, Cultural, Personal) do I need to make to apply this text?

VI. Summaries: overviewbible.com / the140bible.com / minimumbible.com / biblesummary.info

(overviewbible.com: *Law*, *Historical Writings*, *Wisdom & Poetry*, “*Major*” and “*Minor*” Prophets)

Genesis: Genesis answers two big questions: “How did God’s relationship with the world begin?” and “Where did the nation of Israel come from?”

Exodus: God saves Israel from slavery in Egypt, and then enters into a special relationship with them.

Leviticus: God’s instructions for how to worship Him.

Numbers: Israel fails to trust and obey God, and wanders in the wilderness for 40 years.

Deuteronomy: Moses gives Israel instructions (a recap of the laws in Exodus–Numbers) for how to love and obey God in the Promised Land.

Joshua: Joshua (Israel’s new leader) leads Israel to conquer the Promised land, then parcels out territories to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Judges: Israel enters a cycle of turning from God, falling captive to oppressive nations, calling to God, and being rescued by leaders (judges) God sends.

Ruth: Two widows lose everything, and find hope in Israel; leads to the birth of the future King David.

1 Samuel: Israel demands a king, he disappoints.

2 Samuel: David, a man after God’s own heart, becomes king of Israel.

1 Kings: The kingdom of Israel has a time of peace and prosperity under King Solomon, but afterward splits, and both lines of kings turn away from God.

2 Kings: Both kingdoms ignore God and his prophets, until they fall captive to other empires.

1 Chronicles: This is a brief history of Israel from Adam to David, culminating with David commissioning the temple of God in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles: David’s son Solomon builds temple; after centuries of rejecting God, Babylonians take southern Israelites captive and destroy the temple.

Ezra: The Israelites rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, and a scribe named Ezra teaches the people to once again obey God’s laws.

Nehemiah: The city of Jerusalem is in bad shape, so Nehemiah rebuilds the wall around the city.

Esther: Someone hatches a genocidal plot to make Israel extinct; Esther ask the emperor to help.

Job: Satan attacks a righteous man; Job and friends argue about why terrible things are happen to him.

Psalms: A collection of 150 songs that Israel sang to God (and each other); like a hymnal for Israelites.

Proverbs: A collection of sayings written to help people make wise decisions that bring justice.

Ecclesiastes: A philosophical exploration of the meaning of life (surprisingly nihilistic tone).

Song of Solomon (Song of Songs): A love song (or collection) celebrating love, desire, and marriage.

Isaiah: God sends Isaiah (prophet) to warn Israel of future judgment and to tell them about a coming king and servant who will “bear the sins of many.”

Jeremiah: God sends a prophet to warn Israel about the coming Babylonian captivity, but the people don’t take the news very well.

Lamentations: A collection of dirges lamenting the fall of Jerusalem after the Babylonian attacks.

Ezekiel: God chooses a man to speak for Him to Israel, to tell them of their error and teach justice.

Daniel: Daniel becomes a high-ranking wise man in the Babylonian and Persian empires, and has prophetic visions concerning Israel’s future.

Hosea: Hosea is told to marry a prostitute who leaves him, and he must bring her back: a picture of God’s relationship with Israel.

Joel: God sends a plague of locusts to Judge Israel; his judgment on surrounding nations is coming, too.

Amos: A shepherd named Amos preaches against the injustice of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Obadiah: Obadiah warns neighboring nation they will be judged for plundering Jerusalem.

Jonah: A disobedient prophet runs from God, is swallowed by a great fish, and then preaches God’s message to the city of Nineveh.

Micah: Micah confronts the leaders of Israel and Judah regarding their injustice, and prophecies that one day the Lord himself will rule in perfect justice.

Nahum: Nahum foretells of God’s judgment on Nineveh, the capital of Assyria.

Habakkuk: Habakkuk pleads with God to stop the injustice/violence in Judah; he is surprised that God will use even more violent Babylonians to do so.

Zephaniah: God warns he will judge Israel and nations; he will restore them in peace and justice.

Haggai: The people have abandoned the restoring of God’s temple, so Haggai takes them to task.

Zechariah: Calls Israel to return to God; prophetic visions show what’s happening behind the scenes.

Malachi: God has been faithful to Israel, but they continue to live disconnected from him—so God sends Malachi to call them out.