

( BEGINNING THE STUDY )  
ORDER OF STUDY

( Literary Aspects of the Study )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How might reading it in the new sequence affect your understanding of the Old Testament?

*A: The new sequence reading offers me many advantages of learning. For example, the Hebrew Bible's sequence shows what happened to Israel, why it happened, and how believers responded to both. By surveying the Old Testament in this order, the ways history, theology, and faith work together in Scripture become evident.*

2. How does focusing on the Old Testament's literary aspects change your attitude about its contents?

*A: Focusing on the Old Testament's literary aspects is very helpful to me. As a new student, I can learn and know some basic facts about the material, characters, plot, theme, symbols, prose, and poetry.*

3. What are your basic assumptions about studying the Old Testament?

*A: My basic assumptions about studying the Old Testament will lead me to further analysis and greater insight. Most importantly, if learning the basics of the Old Testament helps me to enjoy the text, a lifelong love the Bible may result.*

( PART I THE PENTATEUCH )  
LESSON 1  
GENESIS  
( The Need and the Promise of Salvation )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does being made in God's image affect your relationship to God?

How does it affect your image of yourself?

*A: Being made in God's image, unlike other land animals, my soul seeks for God, wants to worship and to have intimacy with Him. Since I was born in a sinful nature, no longer have a free intimacy with God, until I've received Jesus Christ, His only Son, to be my Lord and my savior. This is how it does affect my image of myself.*

2. Do the curses placed on Adam and Eve apply to today? If so, how?

*A: Yes, the women bear children in pain. She desires her husband, even him rules over her. The man must grow his food by hard labor, frustration will accompany his labor.*

3. How do God's promises to Abraham impact the rest of the Bible?

*A: Abraham become the father of a great nation. God will bless those who bless Abraham, He will curse those who curse him. God gives Abraham a promised land to his offspring. Finally, God sends His only son, Jesus Christ, to the world as a savior.*

4. What does God's choice of Jacob say about God's character?

*A: Jacob is not a perfect man. He can lie and deceive. He even tries to bargain with God. More importantly, however, he is a man who changes. Finally, Jacob's life proves that God's purposes are worked out through all types of people. If God can work through Jacob, then He can also use many other imperfect people.*

5. Describe Joseph's personality. Is he too good to be true? Where his brothers at least partially justified in their treatment of Joseph?

*A: Joseph is a man of faith, honest, and pride. According to the records of his life, he is not too good to be true. Joseph is the son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife. Therefore, he is Jacob's favorite son and receives a special coat from his father. The gift, and his telling of the dreams cause his brothers hate him, cast him into the pit, and sell him into slavery.*

LESSON 2  
EXODUS-LEVITICUS  
( God Gives the Covenant )

Questions of Reflection:

1. Why do you think God allowed Israel to remain enslaved for so long?

*A: I think that God allowed Israel, Abraham's heirs, to multiply in Egypt. The growth of Abraham's heirs makes Pharaoh nervous and decides to enslave the Jews.*

2. Does God favor the oppressed of the world? If so, how?

*A: Yes, He does. Where there is an oppression, there His greatest love and power can be revealed.*

3. Using Leviticus as a guide, define holiness. What are some ways we can demonstrate holiness today?

*A: The holiness can be defined as "special", "unique", and "set apart" for God's purposes. The today holiness can be demonstrated as if one lives his life according to God's way, will, and purposes.*

4. What value do the long descriptions of tabernacle building and ritual requirements in Exodus and Leviticus have for modern believers?

*A: The long description of tabernacle building and ritual requirement is Exodus and Leviticus have little value to modern believers. They only tell today believers what God had done to His people, and what His people responded to Him in the past. After Jesus Christ came into this world, died on the cross and provided salvation for believers, they no longer need the tabernacle and ritual as those people did in the Old Testament.*

LESSON 3  
NUMBERS-DEUTERONOMY  
( The Struggle for Land )

Questions of Reflection:

1. How does Israel's decision not to attack Canaan alter their future?

Do we make similar life-changing decisions?

*A: They could not enter the promise land at the first time. The whole heir, covenant, and land process has been suspended for forty years.*

*Yes, we many times make similar life-changing decisions, do not obey God and acting against His will.*

2. Was God's punishment of Mosses too harsh? Why or why not?

*A: Yes, after delivering, leading, and interceding he was not allowed to enter the promised land, but died in the desert.*

3. How does the covenant demonstrate God's kindness?

*A: The Lord continued blessing, showing His kindness to Israel, even sometimes they were stubborn and rebellious.*

4. Was the covenant difficult to understand? Was it hard to keep?

*A: The covenant was understandable. It was not too hard to keep, few Israelites failed to grasp what the covenant required.*

5. What role did love play in Israel's covenant relationship with God?

*A: When Israel agreed to serve the Lord, they were promised great blessing. Israel believed their God alone ruled all history and thereby chose them as a special people. Israel alone believed God called people a relationship based on mutual love and respect.*

( PART 2 THE FORMER PROPHETS )  
LESSON 4  
JOSHUA  
( God Gives the Land )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does the conquest of Canaan fulfill God's promises to Abraham?

*A: Canaan is the land that God promised to give to Abraham and his descendants. Therefore, the conquest of Canaan fulfilled God's promises.*

2. What leadership characteristics does Joshua exhibit?

*A: Joshua could have natural fears, but he overcame them to win the great victories. Joshua is both warrior and spiritual leader, he set an example for his followers. Regardless of what others decided, he said, he and his family will serve God.*

3. Is Israel's conquest strategy too harsh?

*A: No, the Israel's conquest strategy is not too harsh. During the battle to seize Canaan, they spared many lives, and marched through many cities without attacking.*

4. What is the importance of Joshua's distribution of the land to the tribes?

*A: The importance of Joshua's distribution of the land to the tribes is Israel has to displace all small towns, and settle in their proper places. In addition, their obligation is to help other tribes.*

LESSON 5  
JUDGE  
( Chaos in the Promised Land )

Questions for Reflection:

1. What positive lessons can we learn from a chaotic era like that of the judges?

*A: To please God, we should not do what is right in our own eyes as "In those days Israel had no king.*

2. In what ways are the judges role models for us?

*A: It illustrates the consequences of lawlessness and poor leadership. At other times leaders do not serve God wholeheartedly. We should learn these lessons from them, so we can improve our leadership and wholeheartedly serve our Lord.*

3. Is life as repetitious and cyclical as Judges portrays its period of history?

*A: Yes, disobedience, rebellion, and punishment of Israel recur repeatedly in the period of history.*

Chapter 6  
1 and 2 Samuel

( A Kingdom in the Promised Land )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How do you explain God's choice and ultimate refection of Saul?

*A: Saul is named king three times, once in private and twice in public.*

*In private, Samuel pours oil on Saul's head and declares him God's annoyed leader.*

*The first public announcement of God's choice reveals Saul's shyness. Saul has hidden himself among the baggages. The second public confirmation of Saul's authority comes after his initial success in battle.*

2. If you had been living in Samuel's day, would you have favored kingship as the political system for Israel? Why?

*A: Yes, I would have favored kingship. The organizational structure of kingdom could bring economic and military stability to the country at that period.*

3. In what ways is David a man after God's own heart?

*A: David conquers Jerusalem, defeats the philistines, and brings the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. These demonstrate his righteous commitment. David confess and repent when he commit sin against God.*

4. How do you explain God's wrath against Israel in 2 Samuel 24?

*A: : For some unstated reason, God becomes angry with Israel, therefore He "Incited David against them," by ordering him to take a national census. After the census is taken, thousands of people die in a plague. David admits his sin and asked God to punish him instead of people. So, this odd punishment stops with no explanation.*

Chapter 7  
1 and 2 Kings  
( Losing the Land )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Explain several ways that Solomon's activities break the Sinai covenant.  
*A: Solomon has several hundred wives from idol worship countries. He no longer serves God alone, but serves other gods.*
2. Why is idolatry such a serious offense in Kings?  
*A: Because the king himself serves several gods. He become a role model to his people.*
3. Describe the importance of the prophets' work in Israel's history.  
*A: The prophets remind Israel of their covenant obligation. They stand against the kings who dishonor God and mislead the people. The prophet preach repentance to a sinful nation-Israel.*
4. List the three most significant Kings in Israel's history and explain why you think they are important. Do your choices agree with the author of 1 and 2 Kings?  
*A: 1. King Saul, Israel's first king. He satisfied Israel's desire for a king.  
2. King David, never committed idolatry. He united the nation.  
3. King Solomon, a wisest and wealthy king. He built the temple.*
5. Do you consider 1 and 2 Kings depressing books? Do they find any redeeming value in Israel's history?  
*A: Yes, 1 and 2 Kings are depressing books. Yes, God made new promise to David. In the midst of loosing the land, Israel receives a pledge of an eternal kingdom ( 2 Sam 7:1-17 )*

Chapter 8  
Isaiah  
( Prophet of Sin and Salvation )

Questions for Reflection:

1. What parts of Isaiah's preaching are meant to encourage the people?

*A: Isaiah's preaching are meant to encourage the people in Isaiah 40-55.*

2. What do you learn about Jesus' life and work from Isaiah?

*A: From Isaiah, I learn the prophecy of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*

3. What does Isaiah teach about God's sovereignty?

*A: God is holy, purity and greatness. He punishes the stubborn or disobediences, restore and pardon the repentance.*

Chapter 9  
Jeremiah  
( Prophet of Sin and Punishment )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How do Jeremiah's historical circumstances affect the content of his preaching?

*A: Jeremiah's reluctance to be a prophet becomes apparent. Because of youth and inexperience, he feels he can not preach.*

2. Examine Jeremiah's conversations with God in 11:18-12:6; 15:10-21; 17:14-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-18. What do you learn about prayer from Jereminah's experiences? What do you learn about the function of a prophet?

*A: Jeremiah depends on God's power and guidance. He prays on specific. His prayer is specific, which is related to the situation and problem he is facing. As a prophet, he is trying to help the people turn away from their sin and live godly way. He also bring cases to the Lord through his prayer.*

3. What does Jeremiah 31:31-34 mean when it speaks of a new covenant?

*A: God will have to change His people from inside out, putting His new law into their hearts through His Holy spirit.*

Chapter 10  
Ezekiel

( Prophet of Restoration and Hope )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How would Ezekiel's messages encourage the people of his day?

*A: All nations will discover God's identity. Then all the world, not just only Israel, will experience restoration.*

2. What does Ezekiel 18 say to modern parents?

*A: The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.*

3. What hope does Ezekiel give you?

*A: God will provide such a place for all who trust in Him. Those who obey God will dwell in a new Jerusalem, a place where God lives with His people.*

Chapter 11  
The Book of the Twelve  
( Partners in Prophecy )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How do the ethical teachings found in Amos and Hosea apply to today?  
*A: The people today have committed sin against God, and against one another as in those days of Amos and Hosea.*
  
2. What does Hosea's marriage experience teach about God's nature, the prophet's job description, and marriage?  
*A: God uses Hosea's marriage to illustrate Israel's sin. Hosea's marriage explains Israel's action for they have committed adultery with other gods.*
  
3. How does Joel characterize God? How do you respond to a God like this?  
*A: God of love and forgiveness, despite of Israel's sin. I must faithfully confess, repent, and obey Him.*
  
4. Describe Obadiah's vision of the day of the Lord and of the Kingdom of God.  
*A: The day of the Lord is near. As you have done it will be done to you; your dead will return upon your own head.*
  
5. Does it matter if Jonah is a fictional book?  
*A: Yes, it does. To me, God words must contain the truth. If Jona is a fiction book, it should not be considered scripture.*
  
6. Compare Isaiah 2:1-4 with Micah 4:1-5. What does this teach you about the nature of prophecy?  
*A: In the last day, the temple will be rebuilt. People from many nations will come to Jerusalem to worship God. Peace and love will result.*
  
7. Is Nahum's attitude about Assyria's defeat improper?  
*A: Nahum's attitude about Assyria's defeat is proper, because many nations have experienced Assyria's cruelty. And we should recognize God's victory over this nation's sin.*
  
8. What does Habakkuk's experience on the watchtower teach about the nature of prophecy and faith?  
*A: God remains in control of the whole earth. The wicked never escape. All nations who build empires by blood shed, and idolatry will perish. The just should live by faith. Only faith will sustain the faithful in tough times.*

9. In what way may Zephaniah have surprised Israel with his words about the foreign nations?

*A: Zephaniah offers some hope to Israel. By emphasizing the remnant, Zephaniah shows that punishment can lead to hope.*

10. Why do Haggai and Zechariah emphasize rebuilding the temple so strongly? Do you think they have misplaced priorities?

*A: The people have not rebuilt the temple, so the disasters occur. Yes, God should be the first priority in their lives.*

11. Explain the differences between Malachi's view of God's covenant and the view of the people he addressed.

*A: God still desires friendship with a holy people. Israel will receive God's blessing if they will keep their covenant with Him. The people have robbed God by withholding their tithes and offering. They also speak against God by saying that God bless the wicked. The wicked seem always get rich.*

Chapter 12  
Psalms  
( How to Worship )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Does understanding the various types of psalms help you use them today?

*A: Yes, it does very helpful to me. I can use them in my daily life according to the events I am facing.*

2. How does understanding the structure of the Book of Psalms help you know more about its teachings?

*A: It helps me to understand how to apply certain type of Psam to a certain situation of my daily walk with the Lord.*

3. In what way does the entire Book of Psalms help you become a person of blessing rather than one' who is wicked?

*A: Psalms provides instruction, rebuke, and encouragement. Psalms defines, inspires, and safeguards worship. Psalms principles nurture my relationship with God, and true respectful. Therefore, I consider myself as a person of blessing.*

4. Summarize lessons you learn from Psalms about worship.

*A: Worship must be durable to be authentic, maintaining faithfulness to God under extreme pressure. Worship will not happen by accident; it must be taught to each generation. Worship is to praise the sovereign God, to encourage to come before God with joy and thanksgiving. Worship is to confess our sin and enjoying God's forgiveness.*

Chapter 13  
Job  
( How to Struggle with Doubt )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Using Job as a basis, explain why you think God allows people to suffer. Does all suffering have purpose and meaning?

*A: God allows people to suffer for some reasons; to test their faith, to warn their sin, and to rebuke their disobedience, but not necessary. Some of suffering have purpose and meaning, but not all.*

2. Are Job's friends correct in any of their statements?

*A: Yes, some of Job's friends' statements are corrected. Job demonstrates suffering may result from sin but does not necessarily do so.*

Chapter 14  
Proverbs  
( How to Develop Wisdom )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Define wisdom.

*A: Wisdom can be defined as "the way of understanding." Fearing God, for example, "is the beginning of wisdom."*

2. How does knowing the definition of proverb help you interpret the book?

*A: Knowing the definition of proverb helps me interpret how the book is divided into sections, and segments. What is the main purpose of each section, and the major emphases in different segments.*

3. Compare the teaching about wealth in Job and Proverbs. Briefly describe your own view of the value of wealth.

*A: In Job, earthly wealth can be destructed in any moment. In Proverbs, it is easy to love wealthy, but it is difficult to be kind to those who cannot repay a kindness. In my view of the value of wealth, it is good to be a wealthy but it should not be an excessive wealthy. Instead of setting my mind on the wealth on earth, I have to focus on the eternal wealth in the heaven by seeking the Lord's will and walking with Him closely.*

Chapter 15  
Ruth  
( How to Survive Personal Difficulties )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Does Ruth compromise her integrity when she visits Boaz at the threshing floor?

*A: Yes, she does. She asked Boaz to spread his covering over her. Although Boaz is a "kinsman redeemer," Ruth should visit him in a different time with different manner.*

2. What does Ruth teach us about God's covenant with David?

*A: God not only blesses Ruth with present security, He also gives Ruth permanent prominence in Israel's history. God used Ruth to help produce David and his eternal kingdom.*

Chapter 16  
Song of Songs  
( How to Enjoy Love )

Questions for Reflection:

1. What is the best way to interpret Song of Songs?

*A: Song of Songs is the celebration of love.*

2. How would the author of the Song of Songs define love?

*A: The exult of two lovers in one another, express their appreciation for their own beloveds. Love must be expressed verbally as well as physically. Lovers should enjoy praising one another a prelude to sexually fulfillment.*

Chapter 17  
Ecclesiastes  
( How to Search for Meaning in Life )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Explain how Ecclesiastes and Lamentations contribute to a Christian world view.

*A: Ecclesiastes and Lamentations offer a realistic view of life. Pressure, riches and power are meaningless. Only God can give life lasting meaning.*

2. How does a view of vanity and death contribute to a positive view of joyous life for Ecclesiastes?

*A: Everything in life is vain, empty, nothing, absurd. To enjoy life, remember that life is futile, remember God before it too late, fear God and keep the commandments. Whoever accepts this advice will live carefully and thoughtfully.*

Chapter 18  
Lamentation  
( How to Mourn National Tragedies )

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does it help you to interpret Lamentations to know that the author used an acrostic form of poetry?

*A: The author writes first four poems in an acrostic style, following the Hebrew alphabet, one letter for each stanza. For example, in chapter 1, 2, 3, and 4.*

2. According to Lamentations, where is God while His people suffer?

*A: God is always with them. Since they have sinned, they have suffered for what they have done.*

Chapter 19  
Esther  
( How to Survive in Exile )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why should a book like Esther be in the Bible? How does its obvious lack of theological emphases affect your answer?

*A: May be two reasons seem logical why should the book of Esther considered scripture. First, Esther describe how Purim, a permanent Israelite festival, was instituted. Purim celebrates Israel's victory over their enemies. Second, Esther demonstrates the terror of exile. Esther may not be an extremely spiritual book, obvious lack of theological emphases, but it's very realistic.*

2. Is Esther a model for modern women to follow?

*A: Yes, Esther is a model for modern women to follow. Esther saved people by maintaining personal integrity, remaining loyal to family, and working for justice.*

Chapter 20  
Daniel  
( How to Maintain Distinctive Faith in Exile )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Explain how Daniel's date and authorship does or does not affect its value as Scripture.

*A: Daniel is one of the most controversial books in Scripture. First, scholars debate its authorship. No author mentioned in chapter 1-6, but contains many first-person account by Daniel in chapter 7-12. Second, commentators do not agree on Daniel's date. The books' event are easy to fix. Daniel goes into exile in 605 B.C. and lives there until about 536 B.C. In addition, Daniel's vision describe events long after his death ( chapter 7-12 ).*

2. Does the Book of Daniel aid us in establishing ethical standards?

*A: Yes, it does. Daniel and his friends are exiled to Babylon in 605 B.C. There they live by God's standard. Therefore, the book of Daniel aids us in establishing ethical standard.*

Chapter 21  
Ezra-Nehemiah  
( How to Rebuild a Nation )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Discuss Ezra and Nehemiah's leadership traits and styles. Which one do you think should be imitated?

*A: Nehemiah is a courageous and strong leader. He has a great ability to lead people. For example, to rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Ezra, on the other hand, is a great priest, he is a very strong spiritual leader. I think I should imitate on both of them. A good leader should have these characters, courageous and spirituality.*

2. What does reading Ezra and Nehemiah contribute to your spiritual life?

*A: Reading Ezra and Nehemiah inspires and helps me to overcome my fear of leading people. I have learned and gained courageous from reading these two books, it also nurtures my spiritual life.*

Chapter 22  
1 and 2 Chronicles  
( How to View the Past )

Questions for Reflection:

1. Describe Chronicles' view of history. How valid is it?

*A: The past can be viewed in many ways. It can be looked upon with regret over missed opportunity, lost cause, and broken dream. It also can be viewed as a picture of story. It is valid, God always works toward restoration and hope. When we begin to accept this concept, we begin to grasp Chronicle's purpose.*

2. How are Chronicles and Kings similar? How are they different?

How does your answer contribute to the understanding of the nature of the Bible?

*A: Chronicles and Kings tell several of the same stories. The differences between Chronicles and Kings can also be identified. The writer of Kings portrays Israel as a flawed nation at best, while the Chronicles' author claims that Israel is a good nation gone bad.*

*This answer should offer to the understanding of the nature of the Bible. Chronicles deals with Jerusalem's destruction, it encourages all who can to rebuild the land and recapture the glory of the past. Kings presents a dazzling array of characters and events while analyzing hundred of year of history.*