

Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT **God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.**

Day 16: Moses' Writings

Scripture Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Insight: Moses is generally accepted as the human writer of the first five books of the Old Testament, often referred to as the Pentateuch or Law. According to the historical Biblical perspective, these books cover approximately the first 2,500 years of human existence, more than the entire remainder of the Old Testament. Many of the references to "Scripture" throughout the Bible have these books in immediate view. So, why is it authoritative? This passage describes the direct communication between God and Moses, which accounts for the majority of the material. Imagine the privilege and implications of this relationship! God chose to speak directly to men like Moses in the Old Testament era, so His desires would be unmistakable. The culture also placed supreme emphasis on oral traditions and written documents that preserved their historical heritage. These sources of information enabled Moses to perform the human aspect of a divinely inspired activity, which provides answers to some of the most difficult questions of life.

Reflection:

Why does the process of compilation matter?

What emotions do you think Moses experienced when speaking with God?

How can material written by humans be considered divine?

What would you list as life's ultimate questions?

Principle: God offers the ultimate answers for life.



Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT **God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.**

Day 17: Historical Writings

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 8:1-10

Insight: Much of the Old Testament is historical in nature, which allows for proper appreciation of what has happened in the past as well as lessons from which to learn. The material varies from the struggles and victories of God's people to political changes and developments. Overall, the purpose of the historical writings is to trace God's sovereign control over the events of humanity and see the results of obeying or disobeying Him. This passage presents a critical event in Israel's history. God desired to rule His people, yet His human leaders reflected the sin of the land and the result was chaos. God's people looked at the other nations of the earth and decided a king would be the solution to their social evils. Samuel was God's prophet and led the nation, so he took exception to their demand, but they were rejecting God, not Samuel. The people were warned about the new problems they would face, but remained unaffected. God patiently let His people learn for themselves that only He satisfies.

Reflection:

Why is history relevant or important to us?

What are the consequences of rebelling against God's rule?

Why would having a king only compound the problems of God's people?

What does history teach us about ourselves and God?

Principle: God's patience with humanity is evidenced throughout history.



Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.

Day 18: Poetic Writings

Scripture Reading: Psalm 146

Insight: Poetry is a significant part of the Old Testament, although the Hebrew forms differ quite substantially from English poetry. The largest compilation of Hebrew poetry is found in the Psalms, but sections of poetry are scattered throughout many other books. Poetry is used to as a language tool to heighten the emphasis on the message and was often put to music. King David is one of the primary Old Testament poets and his writings focus on praising God while anticipating the coming Messiah. In this passage, David opens his heart in praise to God as the only object worthy of his trust and hope. God deserves praise for creating the world around us, the heavens we observe, and the wonder of humankind. God preserves and reveals truth. God lovingly protects and provides for those who obey Him. God deserves all the praise we as humans can give and His rule will extend endlessly into the future. David fittingly uses Hebrew poetry to emphasize the praise that God deserves for His past, present, and future acts.

Reflection:

What are some of the contemporary uses of poetry?

Why would poetry be a significant contributor to God's Word?

Where in life does is God's blessing seen?

How did David communicate the extent of God's control?

Principle: Poetry highlights God's unmatched greatness.



Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT **God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.**

Day 19: Wisdom Writings

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 19:20-29

Insight: Five books of the Old Testament are generally recognized as wisdom literature, aptly illustrated throughout Proverbs. David's son Solomon is considered the wisest man of all time from both a Biblical and historical perspective and wrote much of the wisdom literature including today's passage. David Neelman, Founder and CEO of Jet Blue said, "Solomon gives us the master keys to success, wealth, and happiness... No wonder the wisest man who ever lived, also became the richest!" Wisdom literature is based on God's timeless truth, which transcends human understanding and ensures success in God's eyes. Many of these principles have become universal essentials for business and relationships. This passage presents some simple truths such as the futility of being lazy and demise of a disobedient child. Yet, this passage also reiterates that true wisdom is found only in the council and fear of God. Wisdom literature presents many timeless principles that please God.

Reflection:

Why is wisdom literature so widely accepted?

What kind of universal principles for life do you accept?

How is wisdom measured?

What does fear of the Lord mean to you?

Principle: Wisdom writings provide insight on God's plan for success.



Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.

Day 20: Prophetic Writings

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36:22-28

Insight: Most of the Old Testament books contain some prophecy and almost half of them are dedicated to foretelling God's dealings with His people. The Old Testament inherently refers to God's Old Covenant agreement with His people; namely, demonstrating faith through keeping God's Law. The Old Covenant cemented the character and demands of God into the understanding of humanity, proving man's inability to please God. Prophets were God's instruments to foretell future events, such as judgment for disobedience and the hope of a coming Savior. This passage establishes God's expectation that His people properly represent His holy name, thus the explicit and unique demands throughout the Old Testament. God's dealings with humanity demonstrate His love for humankind and His demand of holiness. Through His prophet, God speaks of a time when the superficial demands of the Law will be replaced with the internal motivation of His Spirit. God uses prophecy to inspire His people.

Reflection:

What role does future hope play in everyday actions?

Why did God use men to foretell the future?

Why is representing God's holiness so important for His people?

How does God's revelation of the future demand a choice?

Principle: God's prophecy provides motivation for proper living.



Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT
God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.

Additional Study

Israel obtains their promised land after Moses' death: Joshua 1:5-6

.....

Israel is led by judges: Judges 2:16-18

.....

Kings begin to rule (Saul, David, Solomon): I Samuel 10:23-24; I Kings 1:37

.....

The kingdom is divided into Israel and Judah: I Kings 14:30

.....

The kingdoms are taken captive: II Kings 17:23; I Chronicles 9:1

.....

God's eternal promise of deliverance: Genesis 3:15

.....

The message of the future Deliverer: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

.....

The line of the promised Deliverer: Jeremiah 23:5-6

.....

The Deliverer will be born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14

.....

**Week (4) DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT
God reveals Himself through the Old Testament.**

Personal Journal

What are some of the important contributions to the Old Testament?

What are my major questions regarding the Old Testament?

Why did God's plan seem to unfold slowly rather than immediately?

What important lessons does God reveal about Himself in the Old Testament?

How does humanity measure up throughout the historical record?

Why is God patient with humankind's continued failures?

"GOD'S WORD IS ETERNALLY TRUE"

