

Biblical Studies Program  
Overview of Old Testament History  
August 2012  
Lesson One

Periods of Old Testament History

- I. The story of God's people in the Old Testament covers a period of thousands of years; this can be subdivided into smaller periods:
  - A. Pre-patriarchal Period (Creation to ca. 2100 B.C.) – Genesis 1:1-11:26
  - B. Patriarchal Period (ca. 2100 to 1800 B.C.) – Genesis 11:27-50:26
  - C. Egyptian and Exodus Period (ca. 1800 to 1406 B.C.) – Exodus through Deuteronomy
  - D. Conquest Period (ca. 1406 to 1367 B.C.) – Joshua through Judges 3:8
  - E. Period of the Judges (ca. 1367 to 1050 B.C.) – Judges 3:9 to 1 Samuel 10:1
  - F. Period of the United Kingdom (ca. 1050 to 931 B.C.) – 1 Samuel 10:1 to 1 Kings 12:15
  - G. Period of the Divided Kingdom (931 to 722 B.C.) – 1 Kings 12:16 to 2 Kings 17:41
  - H. The Kingdom of Judah Alone (722 to 586 B.C.) – 2 Kings 18:1-25:26
  - I. The Exilic and Post-Exilic Period (586 to ca. 420 B.C.) – 2 Kings 25:27; Ezra; Nehemiah
  
- II. The other books of the Old Testament shed valuable light on historical conditions during these periods
  - A. The Book of Chronicles (which begins with Adam) is a parallel history of the entire period from Saul to Cyrus (1050 to 530 B.C.) written sometime between the sixth through the fourth centuries B.C., after the return of the Jewish people from exile in Babylon
  - B. Books such as Ruth, Esther, and Lamentations, along with the prophetic books, contain historical sections
  - C. Even the poetic and wisdom books help us to understand Israel's history by reflecting the philosophical, cultural, and theological conditions of the times in which they were written
  
- III. Old Testament Individuals Mentioned in Hebrews 11
  - A. Abel                    11:4                    Genesis 4
  - B. Enoch                    11:5                    Genesis 5:18-24
  - C. Noah                    11:7                    Genesis 5:29-10:32

D.	Abraham	11:8-19	Genesis 12-25; etc
E.	Sarah	11:11	Genesis 12-23; Isaiah 51:2
F.	Isaac	11:17-20	Genesis 17-35; etc
G.	Jacob	11:21	Genesis 25-50; etc
H.	Joseph	11:21-22	Genesis 37-50; etc
I.	Moses	11:23-28	Ex 2:10 and throughout the Pentateuch
J.	Rahab	11:31	Joshua 2:1, 3; 6:17-25
K.	Gideon	11:32	Judges 6-8
L.	Barak	11:32	Judges 4-5
M.	Samson	11:32	Judges 13-16
N.	Jephthah	11:32	Judges 11-12; 1 Samuel 12:11
O.	David	11:32	Ruth 4; 1-2 Samuel; etc
P.	Samuel	11:32	1 Samuel; 1 Chronicles 6; 9; 11; 26; 2 Chronicles 35:18

#### IV. The Creation and Primeval History (1:1-11:26)

##### A. God's creation and ordering of heaven and earth (1:1-2:3)

Gen 1:1 - *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"*

Gen 1:26,27 - *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

##### B. Earth's first people (2:4-4:26)

1. The man and woman in the sanctuary of Eden (2:4-25)
2. The couple rebels against God (3:1-24)

Genesis 3:15 - *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

##### 3. Adam and Eve's sons (4:1-26)

##### C. Adam's descendants (5:1-6:8)

1. The family line from Adam to Noah (5:1-32)
2. The wickedness of humanity (6:1-8)

##### D. Noah's descendants (6:9-9:29)

1. Noah and the flood (6:9-9:19)
2. The cursing of Canaan (9:20-29)

##### E. The descendants of Noah's sons (10:1-11:9)

1. The clans, languages, lands, and nations (10:1-32)
2. The Tower of Babel (11:1-9)

##### F. Shem's descendants (11:10-26)