

MAKING SENSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Understanding **Time Frames**, “**AGES**” and/or **Dispensations** helps to put things into **Perspective**.

First, we need to understand the whole Old Testament in the **LIGHT** (or through the **LENS**) of the writings of the New Testament (Matthew thru Revelation). We need to understand this, especially in the **LIGHT** of the Teachings (Doctrine) of the Apostles (Acts 2:42) which is found within the New Testament books of **Romans through Jude** (the Doctrine of the Apostles). The **Whole Counsel of God** (Acts 20:27).

The Four Gospels are set in the **historical context** of the Regime of the Old Covenant of Moses (or given through Moses → the Mosaic Covenant of Israel). Jesus, the Messiah of Israel was introducing the concepts and foundations of the “coming” New Covenant, in which He is the **KING** of God’s Kingdom (i.e. “The Gospel of the Kingdom of God”). Two parts: (1) an earthly spreading & recruiting (2) The Future Heavenly Kingdom

The New Covenant **did not come** to Earth **UNTIL** the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, when the Day of Pentecost had fully come (or became **completely** fulfilled). From that Day, that Day of Pentecost **until** the **Rapture** of the Church is the **Time** or **Age of the New Covenant** in Christ, the **Age of Grace, the Church Age**.

The Book of Acts covers the Transition from the OLD Covenant to the New Covenant of the Church Age, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God ... spreading the Gospel **from** the **JEW**s to the Gentiles ... and then the Gentiles to the End of the Earth. The **Jews** are the **FIRST** recipients of the Gospel, the first people to have a group of people who are Born Again in the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16). Then the **Samaritans** are next. After them, Cornelius’ Household in Acts 10-11. From there the Gospel spreads to more and more Gentile population centers through the agency of Jewish/Israeli Apostles (Peter and then mostly Paul the Apostle). **The BIBLE, from COVER to COVER, is completely written by ISRAELI Authors** (Romans 3:2; Deut. 18:15-19)

The Teaching of the Apostles → Romans through Jude. Rock Solid Biblical Doctrine to the Churches.

The Book of Revelation → Prophecy, that includes the Church Age (Revelation 1-3) and the End of the Age, Rapture, The Great Tribulation, Great White Throne Judgment ... and finally the Coming Age of the New Heavens, the New Earth and the New Jerusalem, etc. (all for, us, who are New Creations in Christ Jesus [2 Cor. 5:17])

To understand various **SIGNIFICANCES** of the OLD TESTAMENT, its historical writings, its prophetic writings, its writings about **LAW** and **SIN**, etc... it is very **needful** to seek to understand the New Testament Writings, **first**. When a person is reading the New Testament and a reference to the Old Testament is encountered, pause, and then go back to that section of the Old Testament and read it in its larger context to get the understanding of what is being taught in the New Testament regarding that Old Testament quote and/or reference. Continue to do this until God give you His accurate understand what is going on (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16 – 4:4; 1 Corinthians 10).

Following a **routine** of **Reading through the Old Testament** is also **needful**. Please, read Genesis through Malachi using some very accurate English Translations (the best, most accurate are NASB, NKJV, ESV, HCSB).

Understanding the **OVERALL** Narrative of the Old Testament and its Message(s) it reveals, enables us see God’s Redemptive Hand in all of History:

The 7 “C”s of God’s Story:

1. **Creation** (Genesis 1-2)
2. **Corruption** (our Fall into Sin and subsequent corruption by sin → Genesis 3 and onward)
3. **Catastrophe** (the World-Wide Global Flood during Noah’s time → Genesis 6-8)
4. **Confusion** (Tower of Babel – Languages, People Groups → Genesis 10:1 - 11:9)
which led to God **dividing** humanity (weakening us) and seeking to conquer us with His **Redemption**:
 - a. **Covenant** with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [Israel] (Genesis 11:10 – 50:26)
 - b. **Covenant** of God with the Nation of Israel [**Mosaic Covenant**] (Exodus thru Joshua)
(this set up a People through whom His Messiah/Savior would come to bring His Salvation to the lost world)
5. **Christ** – The **Messiah of Israel**, the Redeemer, the **Savior of the World**
6. **Cross** – **Finished** WORK of Redemption: the Crucifixion, Death, Burial **and** Resurrection of Jesus Christ
7. **Consummation** – The “End Times” **Summing Up** of all things (e.g.: as seen in the Book of Revelation)

(for more on this go to <http://answersingenesis.org/bible-history/seven-cs-of-history>)

OLD TESTAMENT – BRIEF OVERVIEW...

Creation → It was a **perfect** Creation of God. It **was** very Good... **no DEATH before** Adam and Eve sinned (Romans 5:12) The rest of the Old and New Testaments view all of Genesis, including chapters 1 thru 11 as accurate history, as written, direct history from God to Moses. Creation by God → Genesis 1 through 2.

The Doctrines of Creation, Personhood, Work/Responsibility, Purpose for Life and Marriage are found here.

Corruption → The **Main Problem** of Mankind, for all humans, is our SIN, our SIN Nature (Gen. 3; Rom. 1:18-8:39) We are a **Condemned** Human Race, under God's Wrath and Holy Judgment (John 3:18-20; 3:36).

Catastrophe → **The World-Wide Global Flood** – It really happened, as written, **because** of massive unrepented, world-wide sin, that continued **unabated**, because humans **crossed the line with Demons** (fallen angels, “the sons of God” → Gen. 6:1-7) → God's Pronouncement of Judgment, **but** also of Grace (Genesis 6:8).

Confusion → **After the Flood** → **The Tower of Babel** (Babylon) Incident → The 3 sons of Noah multiplied their descendants, some of them **travelled westward** (from the east) from where the Ark landed to the valley of Shinar (modern-day Iraq, in the valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, near modern-day Bagdad) → Genesis 10 is the “**table of contents**” for what happened in **Genesis 11:1-9**. The **result** of what happened in Genesis 11:1-9 is what we see enumerated in **Genesis 10** → the 70 distinct people groups, which are divided according to their “languages”. Genesis 10 is, also, called the **Table of Nations** – 70 distinct socio-linguistic-ethnic people groups (i.e.: “peoples, nations, tongues and tribes”). They, also, took their idolatrous worship of false gods & goddesses with them as they spread all over the world. **We**, today, are their descendants. This is why people have different skin tones, different looking faces and body styles, etc. This is why there were **70** Elders of Israel, since Israel was to be a “**Kingdom of Priests**” unto God on behalf of the Gentile Nations (Exodus 19:6).

The narratives for **Covenant of God** with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob → Genesis 11:10 through Genesis 50:26 → **Preparing** a People through whom the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the World would come.

This led to **God's Holy Covenant with the Nation of Israel THROUGH Moses. (Exodus through Joshua)**

→ **To Protect & Prosper** the People through whom the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the World would come.

Time of the Judges (“every person did what was right in his own eyes”) → Judges 2:10-23; 17:6; 21:25

A generation **after** Joshua and his fellow leaders died, they turned away from God and worshipped the **Baals** and **Ashothoreths** (Judges 2:13). These types of gods and goddesses are commonly found throughout the world, and spread **from** the Tower of Babylon to wherever humans travelled, afterward. **These were a SNARE for Israel.**

Ba'al → (god of **commerce/money** [from **NIMROD**]) [he is aka] **BEL, Osiris, Apollo, Saturn, Cronos, Uranus, Odin, Wodin**
Ashtoreth (goddess of “**sexualities**”) [wife of Ba'al] (**the Queen of Heaven** → Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25)

→ [in other cultures, she is aka] → **Ashera, Astarte, Artemis, Isis, Aphrodite/Venus, Ishtar, Oestra, & Easter**

Tammuz → (1st born, virgin born son of Ba'al & Ashtoreth – Ezek. 8:14) [he is aka] **Mithra / Mitras, Zeus, Thor, Horus**
Ba'al, Ashorteth, & Tammuz (his birthday Dec. 25th) → the ancient **unholy family** of gods and goddesses. In Egypt, they were known as **Osiris, Isis, & Horus**. This is a **corruption** of the prophecy found in **Genesis 3:15**.

The **AGE** of the **Kingdom of Israel UNTIL** the **Assyrian Deportation** (721 B.C.) & the **Babylonian Captivity** (586 B.C.)

1. **Saul** (books that cover king Saul and King David → 1st and 2nd Samuel / 1st Chronicles)
2. **David** (the beginning of the Davidic Kingdom of Israel – the beginning of the “Golden Age” of Israel)
3. **Solomon** [For Solomon and onward → 1st and 2nd Kings / 1st and 2nd Chronicles]
4. **Divided Kingdom** (→ Northern 10 Tribes of ISRAEL, and the Southern 3 Tribes of Judah)
 - a. **Rehoboam**, son of Solomon – started as King over all of Israel (all 12 tribes) but because of his stubborn stupidity, the kingdom was divided. He was left with the southern Kingdom of the House of Judah (i.e. the Jews) – the Southern Kingdom consisted, mostly, the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi. Some good kings, some revivals toward God. **Ended** with the **Babylonian Captivity**.
The Jews would never lose their Identity as Jews
 - b. **Jeroboam** – (the **Northern 10 Tribes**, first official King) started ruling over the Kingdom of the Northern 10 Tribes of Israel. **Never, ever called Jews**, would **not** have ever considered themselves Jews. They are called Israel, the House of Israel, the Kingdom of the House of Israel, Ephraim, & Joseph. **Ended with the DEPORTATION by Assyria** (2 Kings 16 & 17 → especially **2 Kings 17:20-33**) They were given a **Certificate of Divorce** (Jeremiah 3:1-8) and considered **as** Gentiles. Certain Prophecies regarding their descendants **returning** in the Last Days are **still yet** to be fulfilled (Hosea 1 & 2; Ezek. 23; 37). After deportation they would **NOT** remember who they were (**lose their identity** - Hosea 1 & 2) but would someday return to their “**resurrected**” Husband and be called the **Sons of the Living God**. **Samaritans** are foreigners the Assyrians put into their land (**not** Israelis - 2 Kings 17:24-41 - worship of Yahweh **and** other gods - a **mixture** of religions [compare John 4])
5. **Babylonian Captivity** → Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi