

# Old Testament Survey

Introduction and Instruction

Part 1: The Law

Part 2: The Historical Books

Part 3: The Poetical Books

Part 4: The Major and Minor Prophets



# Introduction to Old Testament Survey

There are, of course, a number of ways one may approach the study of the Bible: *Synthetic*—an overview of the Bible as a whole to provide a grasp of the overall message, *Analytical*—the process of viewing the Bible verse by verse to get an in depth understanding, *Topical or Doctrinal*—a study of the Bible according to its many topics and doctrines, and *Typical*—a study of the many pictures or types found in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, that portray the truth of the New Testament. The *synthetic* or *overview* approach is extremely helpful for the beginning student or for those who have never undertaken such a study. Through the *synthetic* approach, we are not only able to grasp the big picture or see the whole forest, but such an overview will help in understanding the details later on in one's study of the Bible.

We are calling this a *short survey* because this study is more of a nutshell approach to the books of the Old and New Testaments. The goal is to give the reader key terms, verses, themes or purposes of each of the books along with a brief description of the content.[1](#)

# Comparing the Old and New Testaments

The Bible may be divided into eight basic sections: four for the Old Testament and four for the New, but it should be noted that in each of these, Christ is the hope and underlying theme of all the books of the Bible. On several occasions, Christ claimed that He is the theme of all of Scripture:

1. In [Matthew 5:17](#) He said, “I have come not to abolish them (the Scriptures) but to fulfill them.”
2. When walking with the disciples on the Emmaus road, Luke tells us that, “... beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”
3. Later that evening, the Lord spoke to ten of the disciples and regarding that, Luke tells us in [Luke 24:44-47](#), “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”
4. In [John 5:39](#) and 40, when in dialogue with the Jews, Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.”

In addition, in [Revelation 19:10](#) we are told that “the testimony of Jesus (about Jesus) is the spirit of prophecy.” In other words, the very nature and purpose of prophecy, and all of Scripture for that matter, is to reveal Jesus

Christ. Obviously, due to the fall and need of man, Christ is the theme of both the Old and New Testaments for it is only through Him that we can have both eternal life and life abundantly ([John 10:10](#)).

### **Old Testament (four-fold division)**

Law—the  
*Foundation*  
for Christ

Preparation  
&  
Foundation

The Old Testament in its four-fold division lays the foundation for the coming of the Messiah Savior anticipating Him as Prophet, Priest, and King and as the suffering Savior who must die for man's sin before He reigns.

History—  
*Preparation*  
for Christ

Poetry—  
*Aspiration* for  
Christ

Prophecy—  
*Expectation* of  
Christ

### **New Testament (four-fold division)**

Gospels

Manifestation

**Tells the story of the coming of the long-anticipated Savior and His person and work.**

<b>Acts</b>	Propagation	Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Acts proclaims the message of the Savior who has come.
<b>Epistles</b>	Explanation & Application	Develops the full significance of the person and work of Christ and how this should impact the walk of the Christian as Christ's ambassador in the world.
<b>Revelation</b>	Consummation	Anticipates the end time events and the return of the Lord, His end time reign, and the eternal state.

# **Old Testament Survey Instructions**

To complete the following lessons please read the following materiel and then fill out the work sheets that follow. There are no videos for this section the answers are all in the reading material.

