

## **OT SURVEY Seminar: Seven Periods of OT History**

### **Developed by Bob Yung**

A study of the entire Old Testament timeline can easily be digested in seven lessons. To use such an outline requires “big picture” analysis and presentation. Time will permit only a limited amount of detail. Therefore it is best to put primary emphasis on telling the story, pointing out some lessons along the way. This outline is focused on the historical timeline (Pentateuch and books of history), integrating the wisdom literature and prophets into the storyline.

The headings are not precise or all-inclusive, but are designed to make the “story” easy to remember.

The texts that belong to each “period” are noted.

Also noted are major elements of the storyline, the most important personalities, and possible lessons.

### **Creation**

Text: Genesis 1-11

Creation: Adam and Eve

Sin stories: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Tower of Babel

Timeline: creation to ~2000 B.C.

Lessons: God, creation, human nature, sin, obedience

### **Fathers (Patriarchs)**

Texts: Genesis 12-50, Job

Patriarchs: Abraham’s family

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Timeline: ~2000 B.C. to 1446 B.C.

Lessons: God, purpose/plan/promise, protection, sin, providence

### **The Exodus**

Text: Exodus-Deuteronomy

Moses

Timeline: 1446 B.C. to ~1400 B.C.

Lessons: who is God, choosing and identity of God’s people, deliverance, protection and provision, obedience

### **Joshua-Judges**

Text: Joshua-Judges-Ruth

Joshua, conquest and division of land

Judges, informal/regional leaders, lack of leadership

Ruth: Lineage/genealogy

Timeline: ~1400 B.C. to 1050 B.C.

Lessons: promises fulfilled, obedience, leadership problems and issues, genealogy

### **United Kingdom**

Texts: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-12 (1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles)

[Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon]

End of Samuel's judgeship, Saul, David, Solomon

Timeline: 1050 B.C. to 930 B.C.

Lessons: obedience, relationship with God, God's guidance, Messianic promise

### **Divided Kingdom**

1 Kings 13ff; 2 Kings (2 Chronicles)

[Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah]

Kingdom divides: Rehoboam, Jeroboam

Timeline: 930 B.C. to 586 B.C.

Northern kingdom (Israel) falls in 721 B.C.

Southern Kingdom (Judah) falls in 586 B.C., Babylonian exile begins

Lessons: disobedience, punishment, human pride, ritualism

### **Exile and Return**

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

[Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel; Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi]

Timeline: 586 B.C. to ~400 B.C.

Lessons: God is faithful, renewed commitment, God guides/protects/provides