

# The Old Testament, Part 1

July 28, 2024

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled "The Old Testament Part One." Thank you to Mike, Dave, and Don for being part of the video. The scripture reading is Romans 15:5 to 13. Happy birthday this week to Dorothy, Ed, and Len.

## Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Welcome to our service this morning. I'm happy you're here. As we've mentioned before, we're going to be a little low tech over the next few weeks, so as you can see, there's nothing to see. Just me. But I did put the numbers up this week, so we know what's coming. We can prepare ahead. I do have a couple of announcements this morning. I want to wish John a happy birthday tomorrow.

(Applause) And we have an additional birthday that we will touch on at kid's singing time because he's not here yet. So we don't want to miss it. Oh look, there comes the birthday boy. Hello birthday boy. Oh, he's gone now. Well, we tried. Hi, John. Hi, David. Happy birthday. How old are you? How old are you about to be? 11. Congratulations. (Applause) 11. Yep. Pretty good. So our Wednesday night Bible study is going to be on hold until the month of August. We will begin again on the 7th of August. So we're going to take a short break and then get back to it. I'd invite you to stand as we open our time together in prayer this morning.

Lord, it is good to be in your presence with your people. We thank you for your church gathered all around the world this morning in many different locations and many different conditions. We are mindful of those who are meeting in secret for their bravery. We thank you for their adherence to your word and their sharing of your love against all odds. We are motivated and inspired, God, that you empower them. We ask your protection on them as they are in danger for your word, for your sake.

Lord, we thank you that we are able to meet here this morning to raise our voices in song, to lift up prayers to you and to know that you are here with us. We thank you for Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, the conduit by which we can come to you. We thank you for your spirit that lives within each of us that shows in the fruits of our love and joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We thank you that we have the understanding of your love through that indwelling spirit. As we raise our voices now in song, we pray that this time together would be pleasing to you. It's in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

## Communion

The Old Testament does a good job of foreshadowing, and you'll see in our little stories, kind of, I add a little to it. But basically, the gist of the story is from the Bible. It's true. But some-- we talk about it in the morning Bible class. We're talking about how Egypt ended up in-- Israel ended up in Egypt. And I'm going to kind of continue that.

So it's been 430 years, and Israel has turned into, as God promised, a great nation. But in that time, Pharaohs have come up and come and gone, and Joseph has been long forgotten. And did not know all that Joseph did when he was made ruler by the Pharaoh, made back 430 years ago.

And so things have changed. The nation has become a bunch of servants and slaves. And back then, it wasn't pleasant to be a servant or slave. And they were beaten with whips and chains. They were commissioned to build the pyramids, the bricks of the pyramids, and other things that they had to do.

So in their misery, anyone wonders if this person has been-- actually, some of the Israelites, they lived Israelites, the Hebrew nation, they lived long enough. They saw this fellow before. He actually grew up as an Egyptian. And some people probably had an Egyptian name. He was educated in the Egyptian education. He could speak their language. He knew their rules. And he knew the regulations. And he knew the customs. Yet he was rescued by a Pharaoh's daughter out of a river and taken to nurse and raised as her own son. And so grew up in the palaces and the prestige and the power that Egypt had because he was rescued in the right way in the household, according to God, of course, being Moses. But a lot of these Hebrew nations, they didn't really know who Moses was. Because probably the life of those slaves, they weren't very healthy because they went through so much in slaves. Someone survived. I'm guessing that that's probably how hard life was for the slave.

But some weird and wonderful things and awful things have been happening in Egypt lately. They call them the plagues. And they saw and heard about how the river was turned to blood. And the land came full of frogs. And one time, there were gnats and locusts. And they're destroying the crops. And things were just not really things just happening. And the Hebrew nation, a lot of Hebrews, were just trying to figure out. And Moses was trying to get the people, convinced them that God had called him to lead them. So some of them were not sure. Some of them had the faith that God was finally listening to their cries and their prayers in all these years. They felt abandoned in Egypt. Maybe God was finally stepping out and sending a savior, a leader. And that person was Moses. Some people weren't probably, I'm sure, even in Jesus' time, they doubt it.

So Moses gave instructions to the leaders in Egypt, but the known leaders among the people that the Hebrews respected among their own people. He said, OK, the big one's coming. God's going to rescue us. And we're going to get out of here. But it's going to take one more awful plague. And that plague, the death angel is going to come by. And we're going to take the firstborn from the firstborn of the livestock, every livestock, to the firstborn of every household.

And of course, that's scary. So Moses says, but because we are God's people, we have to follow this one instruction. Each take a lamb, slaughter it, and take the blood of that lamb and put it on your doorposts and the frames of your house so that when the death angel passes by and sees the blood of the lamb on those posts and frames, he'll pass over. And you won't lose your firstborn. Wow. So the word passes out. Sure, Jews were very scared and not sure. Some people didn't know if that was really going to happen.

But many didn't. And I'm just guessing that there were conversations going on. I love my son. I have three sons. And I'm going to do that because I love my sons. And I'm going to do what Moses commanded us to do because I don't want nothing to happen to them. And there was another one that might say that, well, I love my son. But I don't know if he goes. And I'm not sure if he goes, Satan or not. But yet when he pushed against the shelf, both and all took the blood of that lamb, the slaughter, and put the blood on the doorposts and the lamb.

You guys are probably seeing a foreshadowing in the picture. But you get the picture. But which one of those two Jews do you think lost their firstborn because they lacked faith and the other one had strong faith? Well, the answer is neither because they both-- it didn't depend upon their faith and how strong and weak it was. It depended upon the blood of the lamb that they took the time to put on their doorposts and frames. And their firstborns were saved. They couldn't save much for the Egyptian right up to the Pharaoh. They lost their firstborn. And it was a sad day for Egypt all throughout the land.

Point being is Jesus died for each one of us. We know that. It's by his wounds that we are healed. It's by his blood that we are saved. You know all those old songs that, you know, have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Have you been washed in the blood of the lamb? Go read those songs in your hymn books again because they're powerful. We are saved by the blood of the lamb.

If you haven't put the pie to the blood of the lamb in your own lives, you need to do that. Save yourselves. You can't save yourselves, but you can by the blood of the lamb. And no matter how strong or weak we may think we may be and how feeble we may feel we are in God's side, when God sees the blood of the lamb and on each one of us, the death angel passes over. And we get to go live with God. And that's what the whole communion thing is about, celebrating that we have been washed in the blood of the lamb. Thank God that he has taken away our sins, sins that we cannot atone for, but Christ did by what? Yet we were sinners, Romans 5 and 8. Christ died for us.

So let's think about that in our lives, whether we're Christian, 47 years like me, or as, you know, 50, 60, or one year. The message is still powerful and still, and it will be powerful till the day you die. And then we have victory with God in heaven. Let's go to God in prayer at this time.

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for the blood of the lamb, the blood of your son, the lamb, who came to this world, who sacrificed himself to save each one of us. Help us never to take it for granted. Help us to live our lives worthy of the calling and thankfulness and the grace that we were received. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

## Reading

### Romans 15:5-13

If you would like to follow along, the scripture reading this morning is taken from Romans chapter 15, starting at verse 5. Romans 15, starting at verse 5.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Jesus Christ, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs, so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy as it is written. Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles. I will sing praise hymns to your name. Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples." And again, Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations, the Gentiles will hope in Him." And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Sermon

## The Old Testament, Part 1

Morning, everyone. Last Sunday, we looked at a particular scripture from each New Testament book, 27 books in the New Testament. And today, I want to notice a particular scripture from each book in the Old Testament. Now, there are 39 Old Testament books. So today, we're going to look at 20 books. And then next week, we'll look at the last 19 books. Now, this can be done by anyone. There's so many scriptures that we can look at. So it was just my choice to look at a variety of these scriptures. And I must tell you how much I enjoyed doing this, looking at it and going through the Old Testament books. And I don't know how many hours I read during the week. But I'd forgotten some of these wonderful stories that were really true and always true. And some of them I could recall, and they still fascinate me. So I'll quit talking and just share some of these scriptures.

So in Genesis, chapter 1, which scripture would you use? Well, multiple scriptures could be used in any of these. I just talked about or wrote this down the beginning of everything. And it says in Genesis 1, 1 through 5, in the beginning, God created. Now, what did he create? The heavens and the earth. Now, the earth was formless and empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God-- so interesting how it's worded-- the Spirit of God was hovering over the water, and God said, let there be light. And when God says, let there be light, what do you think is going to happen? There's going to be light. And there was morning there, and then there was evening, and that was the first day. I read it, and then it just grabbed me. Think about everything that this is actually saying. Try to put yourself-- talking to myself-- put yourself in that. What would it be like? What would the noise be like? It would be just an incredible experience. But it's not just Genesis. There's so much more. And again, I suggest that if you ever wanted to do this, there are multiple ways, lots of scriptures that you could notice this.

So I want to move on to Exodus. Again, so many scriptures that we could be using. In chapter 6, verses 2 through 8, God said to Moses-- so I had to stop right there. God said-- did he whisper in his ear? Was it loud noise?

I don't know. But God said to Moses, now you will see what I will do with Pharaoh. And in the name of the mighty hand, he will let Israel go. Because my mighty hand will drive them out of this country. And God also said to Moses, I am the Lord. Can you hear that? I am the Lord. Why? "The Lord's prayer is flung instances of this prophecy, Background. Adam and Adam, to Isaac and to Jacob as God almighty, but by my name, the Lord." What's God's name? The Lord, or God, or the Creator, And then verse seven, he says this, "I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land that I swore to you with uplifted hand to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord."

So again, when you go through these books, you can look at them and you could choose so many of these scriptures. I probably, I don't know how many years we could preach the same sermon, only looking at different scriptures. So what do you choose when you go to the book of Leviticus? Okay, let's face it, how many of us read Leviticus? Well, it's pretty incredible, not boring at all. In fact, some of the books that I thought, well, I'm not so sure that there's much there, it just blows

my mind. So Leviticus chapter 20, verses six through eight, and it's somewhat scary. God said, "I will set my face against the person "who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself "by following them, and I will cut him off from his people. "So, consecrate yourselves and be holy "because I am the Lord your God." "Keep my decrees and follow them. "I am the Lord who makes you holy." Powerful.

And then again, when was the last time you couldn't sleep so you chose to read the book of Numbers? Not very often, but really interesting. Numbers chapter 14, verses eight and nine. And Moses said, "If the Lord is pleased with us, "he will lead us into the land, a land flowing with milk," what do you think that comes next? Milk and honey. "And will give it to us, only do not rebel against the Lord, "and don't be afraid of the people of the land "because we will swallow them up. "Their protection has gone, but the Lord is with us, "and don't be afraid of them."

So, looking back in those days, right back from the beginning, thousands and thousands and thousands and years ago, interesting. And what I like about this, as I've said, choose any of these scriptures, and any of your own scriptures. You could make a sermon every week for a long time, and it's really interesting.

So, we go to this book called Deuteronomy, again, when was the last time you read the book of Deuteronomy, but interesting. There, you saw how the Lord your God carried you. As a father carries his son all the way you went until you reached this place.

I must confess I was a bit emotional when I read that, because our children are grown. But I remember my son, Brian, and that he'd be fussy and so forth. So, what does a father do? Picks him up and carries him. And this is what the scripture's saying.

There you saw the Holy Lord carried you. As a father carries his son all the way you went until you reached this place. In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God, who went ahead of you on your journey in fire by night and in a cloud by the day to search all places for you to camp and show you the way that you should go. And when the Lord heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore, not a man from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your fathers, except Caleb and Jephunneh. They will see it and will give them his descendants. The land will be available for him, his feet on this land, because he followed the Lord God almighty for all of us.

So then Joshua, and Joshua is a fascinating book. It's a wonderful book and it just explodes in great victory. Listen to this, Joshua chapter one, six through nine. Be strong and courageous because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to your forefathers. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you'll be prosperous and successful. And then he says, have I not commanded you? Yes, Lord, you have commanded us. So what do we do now? Here's what he says, be strong, be courageous. Don't be terrified. Do not be discouraged for the Lord your God, listen to this, will be with you wherever you go. Still true today.

You know, we drove to church building today. He was with us. We're gonna drive back. He'll be with us. Tomorrow we're gonna do what we do. He's gonna be with us. Tonight, you're gonna go to bed, you're gonna sleep. He's gonna be with us. You may even get up in the middle of the night, he's gonna be with us. He's with us every minute of the day. So it's pretty good, I think, to pray. If God's with us every moment of the day, we need to check in with him every once in a while in the day. It's profound. And to me, it's so interesting that these Old Testament scriptures are really connected in relationships with God.

So here's this also cool story in Judges, a wonderful prophetess by the name of Deborah. It says, "The wife of Lapidoth was leading Israel "at the time." Not very often that you hear of a lady, a woman, leading Israel, but she was. Deborah the prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was leading Israel at the time. And she held court under the palm of Deborah between Rama and the Israelites came to Deborah to have their disputes decided by her. Such an interesting woman, and we don't know that much more about it, but what a powerful woman she was. And God's hand was upon her.

And then the lovely story of Ruth. How many remember this story? Ruth, Naomi said, "Don't urge me to leave you "or turn back from you." And these words, "Where you go, I will go. "Where you stay, I will stay. "Your people will be my people. "Your God will be, help me, my God. "Where you die, I will die. "And there I'll be buried. "May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, "if anything but death separates us." This wonderful relationship with these two women who were very successful in their time and difficulties as well.

So now we go to 1 Samuel and then 2 Samuel. 1 Samuel 2, it says, "Then Hannah prayed and said, "My heart rejoices in the Lord. "In the Lord, my horn is lifted high. "My mouth boasts over my enemies, "for I delight in your deliverance, O Lord. "There is no one holy like the Lord. "There is no one beside you. "There is no rock like our God."

Continuing with that, in 2 Samuel, it says, "David again brought together out of Israel, chosen men." Listen to this, "30,000 chosen men. "He and all his men set out from Bala of Judah "to bring up from there the ark, "which is called by the name." The name, it's the ark. Not Noah's ark, but the ark that carried the Ten Commandments and so forth. "Called by the name, the name of the Lord Almighty, "who was enthroned between the cherubim "that are on the ark. "They set the ark of God on a new cart, "brought it from the house of Abinadab, "which was on the hill. "David and the whole house of Israel "were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, "and they were celebrating with songs, with harps, "with layers, with tambourines, "systems, and cymbals. "They were celebrating the Lord." How wonderful is that?

And then we come to the kings. Wow, there are a lot of kings in the Old Testament. First Kings chapter two, verses one through three. "When the time came near for David to die, "he gave a charge to Solomon his son. "He said, I am about to go the way of all the earth. "So be strong, show yourself a man "and observe what the Lord your God requires. "Walk in God's ways and keep his decree and commands, "his laws and requirements, as written in the law of Moses, "so that you may prosper in all you do, wherever you go."

Then we go to second Kings, and this is interesting. 50 men, 50 men of the company of the prophets went and stood a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had been. Had

stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it. The water, guess what happened? Divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. So interesting.

And then the chronicles. It's an interesting word, chronicle. Chronicles of your life, and you'll record a story about it. First Chronicles chapter 13, it says this. "David conferred with each of his officers, "the commanders, the commanders of thousands, "commanders of hundreds, and he said "to the whole assembly of Israel, "if it seems right to you, "and if it's the will of the Lord our God, "let us send word far and wide to the rest of our brothers "throughout the territories of Israel, "and also the priests and Levites who are with them "in their towns and pasture lands, "to come and join us." And then something unique. Let us bring the ark, not Noah's ark, the ark of the covenant. Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul. That's why they got so messed up. The whole assembly agreed to do this, because for all the people, they said, "This is right." They got it.

And then Second Chronicles seven, such a wonderful scripture. "The Lord appeared to Solomon at night." I picture that. "And said," God speaking, "I've heard your prayer, "and I've chosen this place for myself, "as a temple for sacrifices." Then you could probably quote this too. "If my people who are called by my name "will humble themselves and pray and seek my face "and turn from their wicked ways, "then I will hear them from heaven, "and I will forgive their sins, "and I will heal their land. "I have chosen and consecrated this temple "that my name may be there forever. "My eyes and my heart will always be there." It's true for us. God is with us every second of the day. Even here today, God's presence. We should all be bowing, but we know he's here. I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you.

Question, when was the last time you read the book of Ezra? Me neither. So, Ezra says this. "When the builders laid the foundation "of the temple of the Lord, "the priests in their vestments and with trumpets "and the Levites with symbols," very noisy, "took their places to praise the Lord "as prescribed by David, the king of Israel." David loved music. You can remember that from your scripture readings. He loved music and he passed it down. David passed down this wonderful music generation after generation after generation. It says, "With praise and thanksgiving, "they sang to the Lord. "He is good, his love to Israel endures forever." And then it says, "No one could distinguish "the sound of the shouts of joy "from the sound of weeping "because the people made so much noise "and the sound was heard from far away. "Their weeping wasn't a sad weeping, "it was a celebration of weeping, "of God's beautiful love for them and vice versa."

And then we come to this very interesting book, the book of Nehemiah. The words of Nehemiah in the month of Kislev, in the 20th year while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hananiah, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile and also about Jerusalem, what's happening there? Those who survived the exile are back in the province and in great trouble and disgrace because the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire. And when I heard these things, I sat down and I wept. For some days, I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said, "Oh Lord God of heaven, "the great and awesome God who keeps this covenant of love "with those who love him and obey his commands, "let your ear be attentive and your eyes open "to hear the prayer your servant is praying "before you day and night for your servants, "the people of

Israel." I confess the sins of we Israelites, including myself, and my father's house have committed against you. But if you return to me, God says, and obey my commands, even then, if your exiled people are the farthest horizon, I will gather them and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my name. I return to God.

And then the book of Esther, a couple of sections here, chapter two and chapter eight. Now there was in the citadel of Susa, a Jew by the tribe of Benjamin named Mordecai, who had been carried into exile, again from Jerusalem, by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah. This girl was lovely in form, in features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. Then in chapter six, that night, the king could not sleep. So he ordered the book of Chronicles, the record of his reign to be brought to him to read. King's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves. The killing annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children. And then in chapter nine, the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them observe the days of joy because of the salvation of the Jewish nation. Wonderful, wonderful story. These are just little highlights going through.

How about the book of Job? Difficult. The patience of Job, sometimes you hear someone say that. See, Satan believed that a wonderful man by the name of Job would curse God if Job was tested severely, and Job was tested severely. Job lost everything, but he never lost his faith. He didn't understand why all these terrible things were happening, but he would not blame God. His friends tried to help, but they were, quotation, "Miserable comforters." So then in chapter 42, here's what Job said. He said to the Lord, "Lord, I know that you can do all things. No plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, who is this that obscures my counsel? But the Lord blessed Job as he blessed his friends."

Okay, so now we go to the book of Psalms. What do you choose? I chose this. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores, help me, my soul. Guides me in the paths of righteousness for his namesake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For you are with me. You rod and your staff comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." And then there's an amen there.

And then lastly, the book of Proverbs. I went through this book several times. And this is what I came up with, and it's very brief. And then I'll be finished and thank you for your patience. Proverbs 18 and 10. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe.

So we'll pick it up again next Sunday, and we'll begin with the book of Ecclesiastes. I have so enjoyed doing this, and I thank you for your patience.

## Closing

Let's close our time together in a word of prayer.



Lord, we thank you for your word, both in the printed Bible that we have, but in the person of Jesus who was with you before the beginning, who is with us now and grants us an abundant life. We thank you for his presence here with us as our brother, and for the way he makes for us to understand you and to come to you when we need you or when we don't need you all the time. We never don't need you God. We thank you for your Church gathered. Thank you for your believers singly and in groups. We ask that as we go into our week, we could give just a tiny glimmer of your light into our community. Thank you for this time. In Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

Have a good week everybody.

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