

SCRIPTURE TRACK

Week 3 Notes (Answers)

Why do we read the Bible?

1. To discover how God revealed himself to us.
2. To learn how God's plan of redemption works.
3. To figure out how to live.

Recommended Resource: How to Read the Bible for all its Worth - Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart. Zondervan, 2014.

Key Things to Understand About the OT: (each of these are different slides)

1. 77% of the Bible is found in the Old Testament.
2. OT history is religious history, redemptive history, and is therefore selective history.
3. OT history has been and continues to be confirmed archaeologically. You can trust what you read!

"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition." W. Albright, Archaeology and the Religion Of Israel, p. 176

Recommended Resource - Walter Kaiser - The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.

4. The OT points to a coming Messiah who would deliver the people.
5. If you are a Christian, the OT is your spiritual history.

²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29

6. Jesus gave us a quick outline of the OT in Luke 24:44:

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Section One: LAW

Key Things to Know about the Law of Moses:

1. The first five books of the OT are customarily called the Torah and are often referred to as one book. Only four of the 39 OT books contain the Law - Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

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⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

2. The Old Testament law is a covenant.

3. The Old Testament is no longer directly binding on God's people, unless it is somehow restated or reinforced in the New Testament.

¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Romans 6:14-15

4. So, What does/did the OT Law do?

1. It reveals our sin.
2. It protected Israel and allowed them to experience God's blessing.
3. It provided examples of how to behave.

Bottom Line: "What God demands in His Law He provides in His Gospel."

Section Two: PROPHETS

Key Things to Know about the Prophets (and the History Books):

1. Many of the Bible's most famous characters are found in this section.

- "Prophets" also included what we call the "history" books of the OT
 - Joshua through Nehemiah, plus:
 - 4 MAJOR PROPHETS - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
 - 12 MINOR PROPHETS - last 12 books of the OT

2. Role of the prophets: to be spokespersons for God to the people. In other words, prophets were covenant enforcement mediators to Israel.

- Prophets to the people:
 - Keep the covenants → blessing from God
 - Rebel against the covenants → punishment from God

3. What did the prophets talk about?

- They were mostly prophets to their day, not our day.
- Less than 2% of OT prophecy is "Messianic," referring to foretelling of Jesus.
- Less than 5% of the OT describes the New Covenant age.

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- Less than 1% of the OT concerns events that are yet to come (apocalyptic).
Fee and Stuart, P. 166.

Bottom Line on the History/Prophets: “What God wants from Israel is the same he wants of us. The Prophets serve constantly as reminders to us of God’s determination to enforce his covenant.”

Section Three: Psalms

Key Things to Know about the “Psalms”:

1. They are comprised of the poetry and wisdom books. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Poetry: Psalms, Song of Solomon

Psalms: Much of the Bible is full of words from God to people. The Psalms are mostly written to God from people.

3 Basic Benefits to the Psalms:

1. A Guide for us to Worship God.
2. They help us relate honestly to God.
3. They show us the importance of reflection on what God has done for us.

Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Job deals with questions like:

- *How can a good God allow righteous people to suffer?*
- *Why doesn't God stop human suffering if he is in control of all things?*
- *How should I relate to God in the face of injustice?*
- *Why does God call people to endure suffering, not go around it?*

Proverbs: Keys to living a godly life. Not legal guarantees from God.

Ecclesiastes: Cynical wisdom that ultimately lands in a good place:

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*¹⁴ *For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.* Eccl. 12:13-14

Multiply Questions:

1. What was your take-away from this week's study?
2. Who will you share that with?