

# Introduction to the Old Testament

## Preview Sheet

The Old Testament is composed of 46 individual books filling hundreds of pages. How can we internalize its content in two hours? Obviously, the answer is that we can't. But we can initiate this lifelong process of understanding the Old Testament in such a way that it no longer will seem so overwhelming and can become an indispensable tool in our spiritual arsenal of God's word.

This class serves as an introduction to and overview of the history and literature of Ancient Israel- specifically the Journey of God's Chosen People. Learners explore the methods of Old Testament scholarship and use these to study the origins and evolution of the Jewish faith (in context and word) from Genesis, the Exodus and the Sinai Covenant up to and including the Second Temple Period just prior to the time of Jesus. We will study the Hebrew Bible from both an historical and theological perspective and learn about the evolution of the religious and cultural worlds of Ancient Israel over the centuries. In particular, we will spend time looking at the major and minor feasts of Judaism that are still celebrated today exploring what they these feasts meant in Biblical times.

Your tasks before class:

1. As you prepare for this initial class on the Bible, please spend some quality time reflecting on these three questions:

How important has the Bible been to your spiritual development?

How do you relate, in general, to the Old Testament?

List three areas / problems which make reading and understanding the Old Testament difficult for you.

2. Bring your Bible to class.

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