

Course : A Survey of the Old Testament

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Introduction

In my Christian life i –sadly enough- have met many brothers and sister who have total lack of interest for the Old Testament. For me, this is hard to understand. I believe and have experienced that the New Testament can never be understood if you don't know what lies beneath it: the Old Testament. It contains all the basics of the gospel, including the promise of Salvation, the coming of our Lord and Saviour: Jesus Christ.

The books of the Old Testament were written by various writers over a very long period: most scholars think Moses started compiling the book of Genesis and the writing of Exodus to Deutoronomy around 1440 B.C.. Deutoronomy was finished by another writer, probably Joshua (compare Deut 34, it describes Moses death and burial). The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, was probably written around 400 B.C. So the total time span is around a thousand years!

The Books of Moses

Creation

It's obvious Moses didn't write the Genesis account, or at least large parts of it, all by himself; he *collected* existing writings and probably also some "oral traditions", edited and organized them. Especially since he wasn't present and so he wasn't an eye-witness! He had to be relying on other sources.

It is a known fact that, for example, in Egypt (where Moses was educated!), Nineveh, Babylon, Syria and many other countries large libraries were found with written history; now still available in many museums all over the world. Many of these written tablets and books confirm the Biblical stories. Moses was aware of these sources and used them. Probably the Israelites had their own written documents of history also – the ancient Hebrews knew how to read and write (Abraham originally came from a civilisation that had one of the largest tablet-libraries).

This doesn't mean that the Genesis account is just a collection of non-inspired writings, a contrary! Moses, under the Lords guidance, compiled and wrote an accurate report of all that was and still is important for every believer! It is important to note, however, that a lot of the information we find in the book of Genesis, for example Noah's story, is also found –an thus confirmed- outside the Bible!

The Bible answers one important question people have asked troughout the centuries: "why is there life, what's the meaning of life?". Genesis tells us God created the world and all there is including the human race "after His image" and that it pleased Him. It was a good creation; in His likeness and to honor Him.

I believe that trough creation God wanted to create a world that was to show "the manifold wisdom of God" ^{Ephesians 3:9-11} – a mystery that had long been hidden but it is now again made visible trough the church.



The Bible answers the question:
where do we originate from?

The first chapters of Genesis – creation, fall of man, redeemer – are therefore the most important chapters of the Bible since it is "the Gospel in a nutshell"!

The fall of man

Because of the fall of man it was impossible for God to continue a relationship with man. After the fall of man the relationship with God was seriously disturbed and because of that Adam and Eve were forced to leave Paradise. But instead of turning to God, Genesis shows us mankind was turning against God. Therefore, He needed to judge mankind for it's continuing sin. As any righteous judge would need to do.

The Flood

One reason many people reject the Bible are the many "miraculous" stories that we read. A man, in his unbelief or wish to reject the Bible says: "that can never have happened". Or, sometimes: "This is too cruel to be true, if God is Love then why does He punish people? Why does He allow suffering?"

There's a huge amount of evidence, also from modern science, for a global catastrophe: in libraries, through excavations, through the ethnology and the earth itself. For example, the finds of mammoths and other animals who have undigested food in their stomach or were even still having food in their mouth! Creationists link this to the Flood but scientists explain (sometimes) this by pointing to "earlier" global catastrophes - eg a meteorite impact which caused the dinosaurs to extinct. Strangely enough other species were not extinct because of this disaster(s)? Why didn't other animals die? This is often not included in the theories about the extinction of the dinosaurs ... and in doing such the theories must be considered very unreliable. The only logical explanation is and can be found in the Bible: the flood!

The Bible teaches us that the flood -the worldwide judgements of God- was survived by Noah, his sons and their wives: a total of 8 persons. They had many descendants, generations, whom they told about what happened and so the generations after them were hearing from first-hand witnesses. So it's absolutely clear why this "flood-story" is known all over the world! Therefore it's no surprise that virtually all nations in this world, in about 270 varieties ⁱ⁾ and according to some even more than 300 ⁱⁱ⁾, know about the flood – even without knowing about the Bible! These stories broadly all agree.

Drs. Holbrink – a Christian scientist from the Netherlands- wrote in his book "Moderne Wetenschap en de Bijbel" (Modern Science and the Bible, page 138):

"The Grand Canyon in Arizona shows that the layers of the earth are in perfect horizontal layers [...] about 1500 meters of layers. There's no trace of erosion between the layers. That should be the case if all layers were formed millions of years ago. The only explanation for such a perfect and regular sedimentation is a rapid deposition by water – the Grand Canyon must have been formed in only a few months by rapidly flowing water since a river can only create such deep and sharp bends when the soil is soft".

On page 146 he writes:

"The Biblical stories of the Flood are no inventions that are taken from the myths and legends of neighboring countries and peoples. Also, the stories of the Babylonians and Sumerians are not older than the stories of Israel. The descriptions are all about the same, true, event"

If we, as Christians, can prove –and it is proven by many Christian scientists- that the story of the Flood is true, if we can prove the many historical facts in God's Word.. why –if all these stories are true- would the story of the creation not be true? Why doesn't modern man accept this truth? In my opinion it's because if they do accept that God is the Creator, they have only one choice: to believe and accept Him!

Since the French revolution this is, for most people, unacceptable. As Voltaire (1694-1778) said: "Ni Dieu, ni maître" (No God, no Master!). Voltaire wanted to hand over the ruling power to the people by copying the English model (parliament) but forgot that in England people did know God and the parliament was, in general, a Christian parliament ⁱⁱⁱ⁾! With people whom knew who their God and master was and therefore knew to whom they were accountable! This historical error, however, still seems to be the mantra of modern man: "Ni Dieu, ni maître".

God is Love?

Why, many ask, did God punish the world so hard? The answer to this is in fact rather simple: Yes, God is Love. But He's also the Righteous, Divine, Judge. If I ask people: "What would you do to a man who killed your child?" the answer would, in most cases be: "Kill him with my bare hands!". We consider this just and would not blame him if he did! That's why, in many countries, murderers are sentenced to death or at least to a lifetime sentence in jail.

Why then, I ask, is it not just if God would judge you if you kill someone else or sin against other people? If you rape his wife or daughter, steal his belongings, make war,.. Why should God accept all this? Is it just, would it

be justifiable, if God would let all unjust people go "off the hook" because "God is Love"? ***Is that really love?*** Wouldn't you be filled with anger if your child was hurt (or worse) and scream against Him: "He hurt my baby, why do You let him go off the hook – that's unfair!".

We all want justice to be done. But why don't we want our Creator to judge ***us?*** Because we all know we can't be justified. We all stand before our Creator and have no excuses whatsoever for our rebellion and sin... we know we are all guilty and stand before Him empty handed.

Anne Graham Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter, appeared via satellite on CBS' The Early Show on September 13, 2001. She discussed with Jane Clayson the role God played in the events of September 11, among other topics. Clayson asked: "if God is good, how could God let this happen?". Anne Graham's answer was:

"I would say also for several years now Americans in a sense have shaken their fist at God and said, God, we want you out of our schools, our government, our business, we want you out of our marketplace. And God, who is a gentleman, has just quietly backed out of our national and political life, our public life. Removing his hand of blessing and protection. We need to turn to God first of all and say, God, we're sorry we have treated you this way and we invite you now to come into our national life. We put our trust in you. We have our trust in God on our coins, we need to practice it." – BrakeTheChain.org, Nov. 15, 2001 ^{iv}).

Isn't that exactly what we, as people do? We blame God for problems we've created ourselves. We blame God that He "didn't protect us", that He "didn't bless us". We blame him for wars, terrorist attacks, financial crises worldwide and our personal lives. We blame Him for illness and personal problems. But what's the bottom line? We broke the covenant once made and tried to be "equal".

I hear people say: "How can i be blamed for something Adam or Eve did?". The answer is, again, simple. Every day we repeat their sin. As long as we don't want God to be our Father, as long as we reject Him, we repeat their sin. As long as we repeat Voltaire's words! Day after day we repeat Genesis 3:5,6 – we want to be our own judge and we want to decide for ourselves what is "good" and what is "evil". We don't accept a God telling us, as humans, what is good or evil. That's the tragedy of man, and it is shown in the first chapters of the Bible. As the preacher said: "there is no new thing under the sun" (Preacher 1:9, ASV)

Covenants

God made a covenant with Noah, and in Noah he made a covenant with all people: never again would there be a 'water-judgement' ^{Gen. 9:8-13}. In fact it's the second covenant since there was one with Adam before ^{Gen. 2:15-17}. The difference between them is that the covenant with Adam was a conditional one – a covenant broken by Adam and all living souls on this world after him (see before); with Noah and his offspring it was unconditional. It could not be broken by man and therefore it is still valid. See the table below:

ADAM	NOAH
<i>Conditional covenant</i>	<i>Unconditional covenant</i>
Promise based on a law	Promise based on grace
God asks obedience	God does not ask anything in return

The fact that after the Flood there was never again a world-wide flood proves that

1. God keeps his promise! Never has He changed his mind nor broke his promises!
2. The Bible is reliable and true – if such a "controversial" part is true (the covenant is still in it's place!) all should be considered true. That is why, in my opinion, it is so important that we, as Christians, are able to defend and proof the Biblical truths (apologetics).

Abraham

After the Flood and the covenant with Noah we see that mankind went back to their sins and rebellion. Within a few generations! God chooses a man, Abraham, to be the father of a new family or tribes, the chosen people: Israël. It is important to note that Israël wasn't chosen because they were such a "great nation". In fact, God's Word shows otherwise.

Psalm 87 says:

"7 That they might set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep his commandments, 8 And might not be as their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that set not their heart aright, And whose spirit was not stedfast with God."

In Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed:

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Because thou hast obeyed my voice."
(Gen. 22:18, ASV).

Not because God made another, new, covenant with all nations but because out of Israel would come the Redeemer: Christ Jesus! Israel's purpose was to keep God's Word, "guard it", so that at the given point in history Christ would come and fulfill the law and the promises made in the Old Testament ^{Gen 3:15}.

Although Abraham made his mistakes, he was a believer and had a close walk with God. According to Hebrews 11 he believed that God could even deliver his son Isaac from death and he was looking "for the city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is God" ^{Hebr. 11:10}.

Abraham was elected by God to become the father of many nations but most important: the father of the chosen people because of his faith and obedience. The covenant with Abraham was also an unconditional covenant; God gave a promise and the promise was fulfilled.

The chosen people: Israel

If we watch the history of the children of Jakob, Israel, we would –as humans- have been discouraged. After they migrated to Egypt they could have easily assimilated with the people of Egypt and have disappeared from the face of the earth as did many families, tribes and nations. However, this didn't happen. One might ask "why?".

Before Jakob went to Egypt –with his children and grandchildren- he was given this promise by the Lord:

"I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes." (Gen. 46:3-4, ASV).

God protected them and kept them separated. The only way for a nation to prevent assimilation when living in a strange country. How? Because He gave Joseph the wisdom to relocate the family in Goshen as shepherds: "for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians" ^{Gen. 46:34}.

Apart from that we see very detailed descriptions of, for example, Jacob's blessings (Genesis 49). I believe this detail cannot be preserved by oral tradition. So there must have been at least some written records (see before, under "Creation").

After 400 years the people of Israel were led out of Egypt. The book of Exodus tells us in full detail how God liberated them from the oppression by Egypt. It also shows that in only 400 years the people of Israel had become a big and powerful nation; from a small family-tribe the nation grew to well over 600,000 people according to Numbers. It's no wonder the pharaoh was afraid of this large nation!



If we look at the modern times this is easy to understand; in Holland, for example, there are one million Muslims. That's about 1/16th of the total number of residents. This is very frightening for many and this is fertile soil for hatred and discrimination. The same happened to the people of Israel; they were forced to do heavy labour (slavery), their children were taken away from them.. If God hadn't liberated them at that point, they would have surely disappeared from the earth as a nation.

Some –including so-called theologians!- say it's impossible that the Israelites had become such a large nation. First of all, they say, the desert cannot support such a large group of people. Second, they say, there is no proof that they ever traveled through the desert and thirdly they claim it was only a small family-tribe and the story of Exodus was simply made up later.

Let's start by "looking at the numbers". We know Jacob and his 11 sons (Joseph already living in Egypt) went to Egypt with his children and grandchildren. The total number is not exactly known but we know that Jacob, his sons and grandchildren went there and they were a family of at least 75 people.

Assuming they all had 5 children, and there were 10 generations after them (one generation every 40 years) it's easy to calculate that after 400 years they could have easily reached the number of well over 600,000.

Of course not every family had 5 children, and many died in the slavery-period, because of rough and difficult living conditions and all,.. but the maths show it's possible! In fact there could have **millions** of Israëlites!

Generation	Multiplied by 5
Jacob's family	= 75
After 40 yrs	75 * 5 = 375
After 80 yrs	375 * 5 = 1,875
After 120 yrs	... 9,375
After 160 yrs	... 46,875
After 200 yrs	... 234,375
After 240 yrs	... 1,171,875
After 280 yrs	... 5,859,375
After 320 yrs	... 29,296,875
After 360 yrs	... 146,484,375
After 400 yrs	... 732,421,875

There's also an other argument to prove that Israël was indeed a large nation. The surrounding countries (Edom, Moab) had a densed population (proven by several excavations) around the time Israël left Egypt. How could they have lost their wars against Israël if Israël were only a small familiy-tribe? And how could Israël have taken 32,000 captives? ^{v)}). Also, there is more than enough historical evidence that the Israëlites had taken over several cities in Canaan ^{vi)}). They could not have done so, in such a short period, if they were only a small family tribe!

Now the next question we need to answer is: did they really live in the desert? Is there any proof? Is there even any proof they ever lived in Goshen? Many critics say there should have been at least some pootery to be found in Goshen that could be related to the Isaëlites. The question is: why? Why would people living in a country use different pottery than the other people living there? For example: do people from Indonesia, living in the Netherlands, use different plates, pottery? No they don't! Why should the Israëlites have used different pottery than the pottery already available when they arrived? ^{vii)}).



The potters wheel, ancient Egyptian technique

Could such a huge nation survive in the desert? According to Halley's Bible Handbook (pg 146, 147) the well at Kadesh was large and could have supported many people. Apart from that God gave them food. As Halley says: "It's easier to believe them exactly as it is recorded than it is to believe the strange and fancyfull theories invented to discredit them".

In fact there were two wells. And here the critics come again and say: "But there are no traces of any **Israëli civilication** in the desert!", pointing, again, to missing bowls, plates, platters and so on. Well, the answer is the same as the Goshen story: "They used the **Egyptian materials and style**, since they were used to that". It had been their culture for over 400 years! A well known fact is that troughout the Sinaï desert this Egyptian pottery **can** be found..

So, are there no traces of Israëli people living in the Sinaï desert? I'd say there are **loads** of them but if you don't want to relate any of them to Israël, and close your eyes for the facts, you will never see the proof. There's also something else we need to remember. Deut. 8 vers 4 tells us: "Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.". Before we, as "modern humans" could even ask the question "why are there no traces of ..." it was answered by the Lord God Himself! They did not need to make clothes. They did not need to make shoes. They didn't need to cultivate the oasis for food. They didn't build houses since they lived in tents.. and so on.

Finally, there's another argument from Egypt itself that proves the existence of the people of Israel: the "Merneptah"-stele, now in the Cairo Museum. It can be dated around 1212-1202 BC:

"Israel is laid waste, its seed is not." - Here we have the earliest mention of Israel outside the Bible and the only mention of Israel in Egyptian records." (..) The word "Israel" here is written in Egyptian with the determinative for people rather than land (ANET 1969, 378 note 18). This implies that Israel did not have a king or kingdom at this time. This would be the time of the judges. The text also implies that Israel was as strong as the other cities mentioned, and not just a small tribe. The south to north order of the three city-states may provide a general location for Israel. ^{viii)}

The stele proves, again, the Biblical truths and effectively denies the critic's theory's. Israël could have never occupied Canaan if they were only a small family tribe..

Did Moses made it up?

Some say the whole Exodus story was made up. Although it can be easily proven this isn't true at all, i'd say if Moses ever made it up –or someone else under his name- it would have never ended up in the Bible. He probably would have been expelled from the country or at least labeled him "mentally ill"!

The Old Testament is "the official history writing" of Israël. Why on earth would a nation, a country, make up such a history? Including laws, spirutal lessons, etc., etc.? If the writer(s) would have invented the whole story, no one, not even the people of Israël themselves, would have allowed it to end up in the official history writings of their nation!

Think about it: would Americans have allowed the Vietnam war to be made up and be part of their official history? Would they have allowed historians to fabricate the declaration of independence? Would the Germans have allowed the World War II to be made up and be a disgrace to their history?

There are many stories in the Old Testament that are, in fact, a disgrace to the Jews. No country or nation would allow this in their history-books if it weren't true and "a known fact" by others..

The Desert

Wandering trough the desert God made them a strong nation. Moses gave the people laws, sometimes with the help of others like the priest-king Jethro – his father in law. They were trained in warfare – skills they would need when they would conquer Canaan. They were organised (law, judges and overseers were appointed).

It was there in the desert that God made his covenant with Israël – a conditional covenant. The nation was build up to be a spiritual nation. They willingly entered into a covenant with God although they could have, or should have, known was impossible to keep. The Law, wich condemns every human on this earth since it's Holy. No human beeing can live up to the Holy standards of God except God Himself – that's why only Jesus could fulfill the Law!

Leviticus ("pertaining to Levites") provides instruction and the laws – it contains the system of laws administered by the Priests and Levites; the period of Numbers (the wandering trough the desert) was to prepare the nation to enter the promised land. It also shows why the generation (except Joshua and Caleb) that left Egypt wasn't allowed to enter the land: because they believed the 10 spies that were telling lies and didn't trust God! The name of numbers relates to the fact that the people of Israël were counted twice. Deuteronomy, the last book of Moses, is a collection of his speeches to the people of Israël before they entered the promised land. He reminds them about the law, that they should fear God and in doing so would be blessed - in the promised land. He stressed the importance of the Word of God:

"thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:5-7, ASV)

The five books of Moses, also called Torah (learnings) or Pentateuch (Greek, five), are the most important books for the Jewish people. These books are "the entirety of Judaism's founding legal and ethical religious texts [...] It is commonly believed within Judaism that had Israel been faithful to the God of Israel, the rest of the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible would have been unnecessary. Much of the rest of the Hebrew Bible concerns God's warnings and calling His people back to Himself. Thus the first five books are seen as unique and sufficient as the complete revelation from God, while the remainder of the Tanakh deals with Man's departure disobeying the Torah." ^{ix)}. If we look at –for example- the Falasha's from Ethiopia or the Samaritans still living

in Israël these days we see that the Falasha's and the Samaritans also "keep the law". Based on the law-keeping, the Falasha's were considered "Jews" by the Israëli Rabbinate. The Samaritans are not, because they are mixed with others.

Now, did Israël only need the five books of Moses if they would have kept the Law? I believe this would not have been possible. If that were true they would have been a 'perfect', even sinless, nation! If that would be true there would have been no need for Christ to come! Here we see the lack of spiritual insight the (modern) Israëli rabbi's have. As long as they keep believing that they can be saved "by law" they will never open up their eyes for Grace. We should not condemn them for this, instead we should be grieving like the Apostel Paul
Romans 9:2,3; 11:11-24

The historical importance of the books of Moses

I have spent a lot of time trying to proof at least some historical facts in the books of Moses. The reason for this is that i believe we need to prove them! If we can proof, and we can!, most of the historical facts in the books of Moses, there is no reason to doubt the spiritual facts. They walk hand-in-hand. If one is true, the other is. If one is not true, the other isn't true either!

The promised Land

After wandering trough the desert for 40 years, the people of Israël took over the promised land. Most of the time by force. The book of Joshua provides an overview of the military campaigns. In the days of Joshua the Israëlites worshipped and obeyed the Lord ^{Joshua 24:31}. When Joshua died, Israël hadn't conquered the country completely yet.

We see that in Judges the tribe of Judah, the house of Jospheh, Benjamin, Manasse and the other tribes go to war and took control of large parts of Canaan. We also see the first problems arise: Benjamin couldn't defeat the Jebusites:

"The Jebusites live with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this very day". ^{Judges 1:33}

The Jebusites were, according to 1 Chr. 11:4 the original inhabitants of the land. Israël was orderd to "*utterly annihilate*" them ^{Deu. 20:17}, together with the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites and Hivites – it was commanded by the Lord.

Since Israël did not do so, they were influenced badly by the other inhabitants of the land and started worshipping the gods of the land – this continued troughout the history of Israël; reason why they were brought into the power of pagan countries. After they turned back to the Lord, they were set free by the Lord. This was a continuing story al trough the history of Israël – from the Judges to Malachi we see the warnings against idolatry.

After the Judges-period we see, in Samuël's books, that Israël wanted a king – like the nations around them. Despite the fact Samuël warns them ^{1 Sam. 8:10-18} that a king would take more than give, they still wanted to be "like all the other nations" ^{1 Sam. 8:20}. Thus, rejecting the Lord God as their King!

Here we see what happens if a man, or a nation, rejects te Lord: the Lord tells them: "accept the consequences". It is well known what happens after that: Saul becomes king, a king who was an idolater:

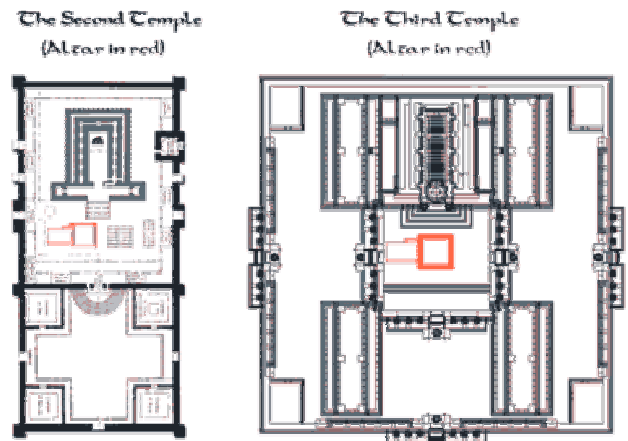
"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king" (1 Samuel 15:23, NASB)

Because of that the house of Saul was rejected and David was made king. The throne of David would be forever ^{1 Chr. 17:11-15}. We know now, that this eternal kingdom is the kingdom of God. I personally believe, if i read 1 Chron. 17:16-27 that David understood the true meaning also: that his house, his dynasty, would bring forth the Messiah. Reading trough 1 Chron. 13 to 17 i have no doubt David was not only a remarkable king but also a remarkable servant of the Lord, with prophetic gifts. But not only that; unlike many of the prophets who didn't understand the words they were given by the Lord ^{1 Peter 1:10} David did understand the fuller, deeper, meaning!

From Samuël to the 2nd book of Chronicles is a period of 600 years. We see Israël fall in to the hands of Assur and Judah taken captive by the Babylonians. The history of Israël and Judah could have ended there. No nation would have survived – but the Jewish nation did! The only reason for this, as far as i can see, is because the Lord made a covenant with Abraham; the Lord kept His promise. Not the people!

They turned back to the Lord and returned after seventy years, Judah, Benjamin and some from the other tribes "all of Israel" – at least Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasse came back from the exile. Ezra tells us there were 53,000 who returned (three returns, totalling well over 53,000) to Israel. A small nation was left.. But a nation that was brought back to the Lord and served Him!

Under the leadership of Haggai and Zechariah they rebuild the temple. The second Temple was only small. After 332 years the second Temple was removed and rebuilt by Herod. Herod's Temple took eight years to build and stood for 80 years, then was destroyed by Rome (see images at the right ^x).



Ezekiel 11 tells us that the Glory of the Lord, the Shekinah, left the 1st Temple – and we see no record in the Old Testament that He ever returned. He came into the Temple after Solomon build it ^{2 Chr. 7:1,2}.

Ezekiel 11 says "The glory of the Lord rose up from within the city and stopped over the mountain east of it.". Zechariah 14:4 tells us this is the Mount of Olives, opposite the temple – and Ezekiel says, as does Zechariah that the Lord will return there. Now, Ezekiel says that the Lord God stopped at the mountain. It is, in my opinion, obvious now why the Lord Jesus went to the Mount of Olives so often ^{Luke 22:39}. And it is from that place the Lord will come and judge the nations.

Conclusion

I know that this survey doesn't even come close to a *full* survey of the Old Testament. It's easy to repeat the facts, dates, stories and characters that are mentioned. I've chosen a different approach.

When i read the Old Testament i read it with "new testament eyes"- i read about the covenants made with Israel and how the Lord promised to keep them – they will not be broken by the Lord and Israel will be restored; how he promises to return to his people, Israel. How the Old Testament includes the plan of salvation we read about and see fulfilled in the New Testament. The promise of the Messiah coming for Israel and the nations. The lessons we can learn (moral lessons, spiritual lessons).

Why, people sometimes ask, has all this about Israel been written? What's the use of it? In my opinion the most important reason is: to Glorify the Lord. To show that "not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished" ^{Matthew 5:18}. I hope that with this survey I contributed something in answering this question.

Resources

- A Survey of the Old Testament, Bible University, www.bibleuniversity.ca;
- Internet Bijbel Cursus, Introductie OT, D.T. (Rudy) Brinkman (*Internet Bible Course, introduction to the Old Testament*) <http://internetbijbelcursus.nl/>
- Bible
 - ASV-edition, online at www.biblija.net
 - Scofield Study Bible (KJV) 1917-edition
 - Ryrie Study Bible (NASB)
 - NBG 1951 (Dutch)
- Moderne Wetenschap en de Bijbel, Drs. Ben Holbrink, University of Amsterdam
- Halley's Bible Handbook, Zondervan Publishing
- Several websites (see endnotes).

Endnotes

ⁱ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, part 2, page 319

ⁱⁱ Moderne Wetenschap en de Bijbel, Drs. Ben Holbrink (University of Amsterdam, Free Univerity)

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.xs4all.nl/~kiel0/franse_revolutie.htm

^{iv} <http://www.breakthechain.org/exclusives/annegraham.html>

^v <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midian>

^{vi} See, for example: <http://www.crivoice.org/exodusdate.html>

^{vii} See: “Archaeology and the Exodus”, <http://www.aish.com/ci/sam/48938472.html>

^{viii} <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a015.html>,

<http://www.bibleandscience.com/archaeology/exodus.htm>

^{ix} <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentateuch>

^x Febuary 2007, the Jewish Magazine