

Today's lecture is "An Introduction to the Old Testament." /In this subject, an Introduction to the Old Testament, we will be studying an outline of the entire Old Testament. /The purpose is to learn how to study and how to look at the 39 books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi.

/In this lecture series "An Introduction to the Old Testament," we will be looking at everything that is related to the Old Testament. /We will be studying the details of each book and how to understand them, starting with Genesis and ending with Malachi. /We will look at the background, history, culture, geography, and other things that will help us understand the Old Testament books.

/Today, we will first take a look at how the Old Testament is structured and how the books are classified. /The Old Testament begins with the Pentateuch, which consists of the first five books of the Bible. /The Pentateuch is God's words recorded by Moses.

/The first book is the first book of the Old Testament, Genesis. /Then comes Exodus, /Leviticus, /Numbers, /and then Deuteronomy. /The first part of the Old Testament begins with the Pentateuch. /The Historical Books make up the second category of books in the Old Testament.

/The Historical Books come after the Pentateuch, beginning with Joshua and Judges and ending with Esther. /It is the section of the Old Testament from Joshua /to Esther. /The third category is the Prophetic Books.

/The Prophetic Books are from Isaiah to Malachi. /The Prophetic Books are divided into two groups, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets. /The books are called the Major Prophets because they are lengthier.

/The books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel /make up the Major Prophets. There are twelve books that belong to the Minor Prophets.

/They are the books from Hosea to Malachi. /The Minor Prophets are God's prophecies that are shorter in length, hence the name Minor Prophets. /Now we will discuss the last category of books of the Old Testament.

/They are the Poetic and Wisdom Books. /The Poetic Books refers to the book of Psalms. /The Wisdom Books are Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. /If we look at the Old Testament, we see these categories.

/The Old Testament begins with the Pentateuch, then the Historical Books, Prophetic Books, and the Poetic and Wisdom Books. /The first section is the Pentateuch, which starts off with Genesis, the book that narrates the creation of the world.

/Genesis describes God's creation of the universe. /Exodus is about God calling Israel his people and the process by which he delivers the Israelites from Egypt.

/The Pentateuch, written by God through Moses, covers the creation of the world and the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. /Leviticus is about how the Israelites, who have been saved from Egypt, should serve God.

/Numbers portrays the life of the Israelites in the wilderness after their exodus but before their entrance into the land of Canaan. /Deuteronomy is about Moses' request to the Israelites before his death and before the Israelites enter the land of Canaan, and it also is about the Law that God gives to the Israelites.

/Simply put, the Pentateuch is God's word given through Moses about the creation of the world, how human beings were created, how God called the Israelites, and how God delivered them from Egypt.

/Furthermore, it explains how the delivered people behaved before they entered the land that God had promised them, and it shows how God is to be worshiped.

/Thus the Pentateuch is the word of God that was given to the Israelites a long time ago. However, God also gave the five books to us, who look forward to Jesus' second coming and believe in his promise.

/God gave us the Pentateuch so that we who believe in Jesus and are saved know how to serve God on this earth before we enter the new heaven and new earth that he is going to give to us.

/The Historical Books cover Israel's history, how Israel entered the Promised Land and conquered Canaan and how Israel eventually perished. The books also include Israel's life in captivity and its return.

/The book of Joshua is about how Israel conquers the land of Canaan, as God promised, and how the people settle down. /The book of Samuel shows us how the Israelites demanded a monarchy and how they received it.

/We see how the people lived under a monarchy, and how they betray God and how they are brought to perish. /But the Historical Books do not end with Israel's downfall.

/God brings the people back from captivity, and the Historical Books come to an end with the portrayal of God's work of restoration. /What are the Major and Minor Prophets about? /They are about the prophets sent from God who live through history with the kings and people of Israel.

/These are the books of the Bible, given through the prophets, in which God warns the Israelites of their sin and judges them. Thus the Historical Books and Prophetic Books are closely connected.

/What are the Poetic and Wisdom Books, the final books of the Old Testament, about?
/They are about the relationship between the people of Israel and God. /The books depict the conflicts, anger, and joy of living as people of faith.

/In this introduction to the Old Testament, we will look into the Pentateuch, the Historical and Prophetic Books, and the Poetic and Wisdom Books, and we will learn about the perspectives we should take when studying these books.

/An important purpose of this introduction to the Old Testament is to discover how the Old Testament Bible is connected to Jesus and how it portrays Jesus.

/We will now learn about how we should understand the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Prophetic Books, and the Poetic and Wisdom Books and which direction we need to take in order for us to properly understand them.

/First, the Pentateuch has a different name. /It is called the books of the Law or in Hebrew, Torah. /Torah means “teaching” or “the law.” /The central ideas of the Pentateuch are God’s commands, God’s law, and God’s teachings. This is an important characteristic.

/In order for us to understand the Pentateuch, we need to learn how to understand the Torah, which is frequently mentioned in the five books. /The laws make up a significant portion of the text from Exodus 19 through Numbers and up to Deuteronomy 26.

/To understand the Law, we must study and observe the Pentateuch. /The Five Books consistently show us in detail the main interests of the Bible.

/The Bible reveals to us God’s interests. /In Genesis, we first discover God’s purpose for creating the world. /Why did God create the world, and why did he create people?

/Concerning creation, God’s creation of man is the most important. /By creating human beings, God desired to share a relationship with man and to be with man. /He created the universe and all of creation up to day 6, and he rested on the 7th day, seeing that all was good. God wanted to share a relationship with human beings.

/To be in this relationship with man, God created humans in his own image and granted them a special position. /Read the message from Genesis 1:26-27.

/Genesis 1:26 says, “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

/Verse 27 reads, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

/Verse 28 says, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

/God especially wanted to be with man and share a relationship with him. /He wanted to bless humans and to see them multiply. /Above all else, God gave man a special mission.

/Genesis 1:26-27 say, “In God’s image.” This tells us the relationship that God shares with humans, and it also reveals the calling that he has given to man. / “Image” means some kind of “form.” It is a form that takes the place of something else.

/The image is the form of God. What does it mean when it says man was created in the image of God? /Does God have a visible form? /No. He does not.

/But the Bible tells us that God made man in his image. /Because God is not visible, it is important to see what this “image” is.

/In the past, there were kings. /These kings ruled over the people. /Some kings made objects of themselves and had the people worship these objects.

/God also spoke. /Because he created the entire world, he is the true King. /God’s image refers to his kingship. /Furthermore, people are spiritual beings that resemble God. God created people’s spirits.

/He created man, and he gave them the mission to rule as kings. /In this aspect, humans are very special beings. /We have the right to rule, something that no other creation has. We have received the right to rule in God’s place.

/God created humans and he shares a relationship with them. He also gave these humans the mission to rule over the world he created. /There is one thing that man cannot rule.

/That one thing is God, the Creator of mankind, the true King. /God gave man one command to let them know their place. /The command is found in Genesis 2:16-17. /God placed man in the Garden of Eden and gave him one command.

/Verse 16 says, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

/Man holds the right to rule in place of God. However, he is in a special place where he has to serve God and keep his commands.

/To let man know this fact, to remind him of his position and where he stands, God commanded man to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. /God did not make humans like robots.

/The Bible shows us that God found humans to be worthy. People are worthy, but they can only live if they treat God as someone who is worthy. /God said that if people do not obey him, they will surely die.

/What does this mean? God is treating people with respect. /Humans could either eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and die, or they can not eat of the fruit and enjoy eternal blessings by serving God alone.

/God gave man the choice. /He wanted them to make the right choice—he wanted people to be with him, to enjoy eternal blessings. /To assist Adam in fulfilling his calling, God created a wife for Adam.

/Genesis 2:18 says, “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

/When it says, “It is not good that the man should be alone,” it does not mean that it is not good for a person to stay unmarried. /If someone is called to be unmarried, if God desires it, then it is okay for him or her to live like that.

/We must understand this phrase from the viewpoint of man being given a mission from God. /Adam alone could not reign over the world, rule over the Garden, and manage everything, so he needed a helper.

/God brought the animals to Adam and brought him to the realization that he needed a partner. /Bringing Adam to understand that he needed a wife, God took Adam’s rib and created Eve as Adam’s wife.

/Therefore Adam’s wife is not a subordinate woman. /God gave her to Adam as his wife, a partner to carry out the mission from God. /God treats mankind with a special respect. He created the family so that people would carry out their mission.

/Genesis 2:22 says, “And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.” /The significant thing here is that God brought the woman to the man and had them get married.

/Now we will summarize what we have learned. /God created man as a special being, blessing him, conversing with him, sharing a relationship with him, giving him a mission, and granting him a wife and family.

/To carry out our mission, to fulfill the will God has given us, we must marry. /God shared a special relationship with man, blessing him and sharing with him, and he desired to live happily in Eden with him.

/But then a problem occurred. /God respected man as a being. /He gave him the option to obey God or to refuse to obey him.

/In Genesis 3, we see that man made the wrong decision. /Adam's wife, Eve, tempted by the serpent, ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and shared it with her husband.

/Thus their happy lives with God ended up in separation from God. /They came to die as God said they would. /They were kicked out of the Garden of Eden.

/The two could no longer live happy lives as a married couple. /The reason is they both tried to control each other. /Adam worked hard, but he did not gain much.

/However, this was not the end. There is something to be thankful for. /In Genesis 3:15, God gives a message of hope and blessing.

/ "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

/God is saying he will defeat Satan, the one who, through the serpent, caused man to disobey God. /God expresses his plan to once again share a relationship with humans and live closely with them.

/Through the woman's offspring, God will make this happen. /The woman's offspring is Jesus. /Through Jesus, God will call the people of the world to him. /This is the gospel.

/God will execute this plan. /In that sense, the entire Old Testament is a message hoping for the coming of the woman's offspring, who is Jesus Christ the Savior. /This is God's plan of salvation, to send his Son to bless humanity and restore a relationship with mankind.

/Thus the Old Testament is about Christ's work of redemption.

/We will skip the 2nd lecture on "An Introduction to the Old Testament."

/Thank you.