

New Christian: What Do I Need to Know About The Old Testament ?

THE OLD

TESTAMENT BIBLE

(The Only Bible At The Time of the Christian Apostles)

Charles Pinkney, 2024

If you are a new Christian you may not fully understand the importance of the Old Testament Bible. At least that was my case. I was terribly ignorant about how the Christian faith came forth out of the Jewish election and covenant with God. As Paul describes our debt to Judaism, we were a wild olive branch that was grafted in to the root of the Natural root of Israel. (*Romans 11:17*)

The typical Bible we see today contains 66 books of which 39 are found in the Old Testament. We understand that the Old Testament (OT, or Hebrew Tanakh) is comprised of 4 categories of writing:

1. The Law (Pentateuch or the 5 books of Moses*);

The first book of Genesis has a special place of importance in the word of God as it is the fountain head of first principles and beginnings. It is the book of "first mentions." Genesis establishes important "typologies" that carry through the entire Bible.*

2. The historical books;

3. The poetic and wisdom books, including the Psalms*, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes;

4. The prophets. The books of the prophets include both the major and the minor prophets. Every prophet spoke with 100% accuracy in that which they spoke as the mind and purposes of God. To fail to do so would be punishable by death. The major prophets wrote greater numbers of chapters but the minor prophets covered events that included the scope of time from contemporary events to the end of the age.

3.* *It is clear that Psalms were also prophetic as Jesus stated that he must fulfill all things written in the law, the prophets and the psalms.*

It is a giant step to go from a Bible illiterate to a believer. You may call it a leap of faith because only through God's grace is this possible. This transition is a journey from blindness to sight and from having only *natural understanding* to possessing what can be called a *renewed or God-focused mind*. "*The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it?*" says the prophet in *Jeremiah 17:9*. That is a profound question to be answered. Only those who have been graced by the power of God can say they know it.

When I first became a Christian I began slowly to grow in the knowledge of the Bible. Before this I had no interest, no knowledge, nor any trust in the veracity and importance of the Bible. Owing to the church experiences I was exposed to prior to being born again, I had only an inkling of the importance of the Bible's Old Testament. These churches held "Reformed Theology" doctrine.

I was familiar with the Bible "stories" told in Sunday school but these, I thought were tales for kids and not to be taken seriously. We had the Garden of Eden story; The Noah and the ark story; The David and Goliath story; The Moses and the Israelites and Egypt story. The Hebrew children in the fiery furnace story, and the familiar Daniel and the lion's den story. These were great stories but how should any grownup regard these?

I thought that the New Testament is for Christians. There was not much to be drawn from the Old Testament books. I questioned if they had relevance at all to the Christian religion today. I even wrote to a well known ministry to address the question, "What is the importance of the Old Testament?" I received no answer to my question.

I had no idea then, that the O. T. is a deep well of knowledge pertaining to the plan of God and the place and destiny of humanity on this planet. God saw in the beginning the need for a plan of redemption on behalf of fallible and fallen humanity. The Almighty foresaw an angelic rebellion and the fall of His human creation. He before creation "in the beginning" had foreseen the need and the solution of how to redeem the world and regain perfection, again. The plan was to have a "new Adam" who would be a "redeemer" whose purpose was to restore a fallen humanity. This plan was to be enabled by a particular "set-apart" people who would be the vehicle of bringing forth the redeemer and through an "elect people and nation" His glory would be restored and the adversary would be judged and removed from his stronghold upon humanity. (*Daniel 9:24-27*)

The Almighty Creator God saw from the beginning in countless ages past what would transpire to his creation on earth. God exists outside of time and space and supernaturally sees the end from the beginning. This includes the destinies of you and me and our time and place in this world! Now that is a marvelous thing and something to think about!

See this proof text; A God outside of time!

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”: (Isaiah 46:9-10)

The Bible Which Jesus and the Disciples Knew

We should be aware that in the days of Jesus and his disciples and apostles the only bible available was the Old Testament. This was the source used to validate the covenants and promises of God concerning the prophesied Messiah. The Old Covenant scripture contain the Mosaic writings, the Pentateuch; the history of God’s elect people; the Psalms and the prophetic writings. The “New Testament” addition was made a part of the “Canon of Scriptures” only after the fourth century ad. (325 ad)

The purposes and claims of Jesus could be fully validated in the books of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. The Old Testament contained numerous pre-incarnational appearances of Yeshua, Jesus. These were times when Jehovah (JHVH) physically manifested to Abraham, Moses Joshua, Jacob and others. Such appearances are known as Theophanies. In such appearances he is often referred to as “*the Angel of the Lord.*” In Joshua he is identified as the Captain of the Lord’s Armies or the Lord of Hosts.

Certainly the Old Testament (The Hebrew Tenakh) is not an easy subject but it effectively foresees the world from the beginning to the end of the age through the declarations of the prophets. The prophets had to be 100% perfect to make God's purposes and plans known. The depth of cohesiveness or consistency throughout the OT is amazing, yes, miraculous. It bears witness to the divine authorship and its symbolic depiction of the person of Messiah in every book of the Bible.

The Book of Genesis

The book of Genesis is an exceptional and deeply challenging document. It is called the book of beginnings. It begins with the creation story but maybe it would be better stated as the recreation story. The universe is formed, the earth is formed and all life is formed by God upon the earth. But in the second verse of Genesis Chapter 1 we find the mysterious mention of a world in disruption and disorder, ***formless and void*** is taken from the Hebrew as a chaotic formlessness as though the world is being restored from a prior act of disruption. First man is told to *replenish the earth*. This is also hinting at civilizations lost in antiquity past.

Science has long clashed with theologians over the concept of creationism and whether the creation was an old long term time line or whether it was a literal 6 day

creation. Christian science authorities differ as well but such matters do not impact faith and fundamentals of salvation in the Lord Jesus.

The Garden and The Fall of Adam and Eve

It is a certainty that God created the first humans in this earth age. He created them perfect. He set them in a pristine garden paradise and made them to have dominion over all manner of life on earth. In this garden there was a tree whose fruit if eaten would result in calamity. It would test the obedience of the man and woman. Meanwhile, another supernatural being has found access to the garden. He is a rebel and an enemy of God, *the tempter*. This being is described as being reptilian. How did this once, anointed, perfection of beauty become a reptilian? This remains is an untold story. How did he come into the picture to disrupt God's purposes and what is the backstory of his previous existence is never fully explained and open to conjecture. Through the ages we have come to know him by many names including *Satan* and *the Adversary*.

The World Is Entirely Devastated by The Fall

The aftermath of the fall was devastating and world changing. It destroyed the humanity's dominion and Satan became the default "god of this world." Adam's sin brought the sentence of death upon the human race. The fall destroyed the entire biosphere and ecosystems of the planet. We are living with that aftermath even to the present day. Entropy ensued, lives were shortened, disease and distress entered the lives of humans. The animal kingdom became dangerous.

All Born Under the Race of Adam Inherit Adam's Sin Nature

Those born of the Adamic line were born with a *fallen nature* or "*in sin*" according to the image and frailty of fallen Adam. Being born *having a sin nature* is the fate of every person born since the fall in Genesis 3. The entire world fell into the domination of Satan as Adam surrendered his dominion to as *the god of this world*. Satan thus becomes the acting god of this world.

God Addresses Satan and Outlines His Plan of Redeeming the World

(Genesis 3:14) And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

(Genesis 3:15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The above text is the statement that describes the adversarial conflict between good and evil and the ultimate outcome of a Messiah who would arrive in the fullness of time who would redeem fallen humanity. The passage is called the *proto evangelium*.

Or the first mention of the gospel of redemption in the bible. It speaks of a “seed war” between Satan’s seed and the woman’s seed, which is a state only possible by virtue of a virgin birth. The genealogical line of the human seed would have to be pure and undefiled. This seed would need to be free from any non human mixture or Adam’s defiled sin nature. Any admixture or impurity would destroy God’s pure line to produce the Messiah.

This is the reason that the flood came to destroy a population upon the earth. (Genesis 6-7) All flesh on earth had become corrupted before the time of the flood. The DNA, genetic code had become corrupted not only among the human population but even the animals through the genetic games engaged in by the *fallen ones*. action described in the following.

Genesis Chapter 6: The Incursion of Fallen Angels

In Genesis chapter 6 we are told of Sons of God being introduced to the human population. Watchers were angels who had the ability to manifest in human likeness. (*See the Account of Angels in Genesis 19*) They possessed supernatural, heavenly knowledge and power. These watchers “left their first estate” as Jude describes them. The details of the action and the names of these entities are found in the Book of Enoch. The actions of these 200 watchers upon the earth were wrong and unlawful. They took wives (forcefully) and procreated with them. Their offspring were demigods, great men of myth and legend. These no doubt produced the images and mythologies of Greek, Roman and other national mythologies. Many of these creatures were incredibly gigantic in stature and it can be argued that they left traces of their powers and technology to be seen in various places on earth.

The information described in Genesis 6 is brief and lacks detail.

(Genesis 6:1) And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, (Genesis 6:2) That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. (Genesis 6:3) And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:4) There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

In pre-Christian times extra canonical Hebrew writings were familiar and extant up to the time of Christ. Among these documents were; The Book of Enoch; The Book of Jasher; The Book of Giants. Fragments of these were found in a number of the caves of Qumran, the location of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Dr. Ken Johnson, of Bible Facts Ministries is an authority on many of the ancient books that have been found. Dr. Johnson has translated and transcribed studies on

Enoch and Jasher and others from the Qumran Essene collections.
(www.biblefacts.org)

Most information on the angelic incursion is detailed in The Book of Enoch which was in wide circulation during the second temple age in Israel. Passages from the Book of Enoch were quoted in Jude's short epistle: Speaking of the sins of the watchers: *(Jude 1:13) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

(Jude 1:14) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, (Jude 1:15) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 1:16) These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaking great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

We see that Angels can be manifested in human form as they were described again in Genesis Chapter 19 when they visited Abraham and later visited Lot to rescue him from Sodom.

The Book of Genesis Leads us Into the Time of the Patriarchs

The days of Noah and the Days of Lot are mentioned by Jesus as an example of the depravity and rebellion in the days *in which we now live*. We are witnessing the coming end of the age that Jesus spoke about in detail. (See Matthew 24; Luke 21; and Mark 13) We could say so much about the details that are encompassed by this statement. 2nd Peter reminds us that the world that was in Noah's day was destroyed by water and the present world is reserved for destruction by fire. Now that is serious global warming!

Genesis Abraham's Two Sons and The Typology of Joseph, Son of Jacob

There were two sons born to Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac. After Abraham received the promise that he would be the father of many nations. It appeared from all the natural evidence that he could never father a child through his bride Sarah for reason of her advanced age. So Sarah persuaded Abraham to fulfill the promise through her Egyptian servant Hagar. The child of the bond servant was named Ishmael. It was God's plan that Sarah should bare a child miraculously, against all odds in her advanced years. When it finally came to pass a child born and he was called Isaac. It was Isaac who was the child of the promise.

We will quickly skip past many details of the lineage of the "father of faith" Abraham. The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob. As a test of faith Abraham was told to sacrifice his only son on Mount Mariah. At the last moment God

provided a lamb to fulfill the sacrifice. In later centuries, Jesus was crucified as God's substitutionary lamb on that very mountain.

Jacob persevered in a wrestling match with God and was awarded with a new name, Israel. ([Genesis 32](#)) The sons of Israel are referred to as the twelve tribes. Each tribe was named after a son of Jacob. Among the last two sons of Jacob were the favored two Joseph and Benjamin. They were the sons of the most loved wife, Rachel.

Jacob's 11th Son, Joseph Stands As An Amazing "ante-type" Of The Messiah Jesus

Joseph is a very special story in the history of Israel and its traditions. Theologian Arthur Pink (1886-1952) noted a hundred or more similarities of Joseph to the Messiah, Jesus.

The son of Jacob's more beloved Rachel, Joseph was favored by Jacob and given a token robe that made his brothers envious. Moreover Joseph was inclined to have revelatory dreams that portrayed himself as being exalted above his brethren. The brothers decided to rid themselves of the annoyance and took him into the desert to be killed. The plan evolved when a caravan traveling to Egypt came by and rather than merely killing their brother, they sold Joseph to become a slave. The brothers had stripped off the beautiful coat and covered it with blood from a lamb and used that as evidence that a wild beast had killed him.

Through many dangers and trials and snares, Joseph survived prison and false allegations and terrible hardship to be recommended to the Pharaoh of Egypt as a diviner of dreams. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream in which he foresaw the future seven-year rise of abundance and seven-years of famine. Joseph was promoted to become chief administrator next only to the king in authority. He steered Egypt through that great famine. When the famine was at the worst Jacob's sons came to request food in Egypt which had abundance due to Joseph's wise counsel. The story of Joseph's reunion and reconciliation to his brothers and his father is among the most dramatic and touching in the Bible. There are dozens of parallels of the life of Joseph and the Life of Yeshua Jesus. The typology is rich. What the brothers meant for evil God used for good.

Moses The Lawgiver, The promised Deliverer From Egyptian Bondage

The book of Exodus introduces us to the typology of the World. Pharaoh exemplifies *the god of this world*. He is an unrelenting taskmaster. He holds all of the people in bondage until they are delivered from his powers. He blinds the eyes of all who are not redeemed from his dominion.

The ten plagues of Egypt were used to demonstrate God's power over the natural world. The last plague finally brought the release of the Israelites from captivity but those even after being freed from bondage were still stiff-neck and

obstinate, a stiff-necked people who grumble and complain and who quickly lose faith in the God who miraculously delivered them with great signs and provision.

Numbers to Deuteronomy; The Delayed Journey to the Promise Land

The journey in the wilderness was destined for Canaan across the Jordan River. Moses sent some leaders, one from each of the 12 tribes, to spy out the land. They returned with an example of the great richness and abundance of Canaan but ten of the leaders brought forth *an evil report*. The inhabitants were giants and impossible to overcome. (*Recall Genesis 6.*) Only two of the spies were full of faith and saw with God's eyes. The faith-filled two declared that no matter how impossible it might seem, they were well able to take the land. These two *heroes of faith* were Joshua and Caleb.

God was wroth with the lack of faith by those who denied his ability to do to the giants what he did to the Egyptians. As punishment God would send them on a march around and around the desert but never able to reach their destination.

Moses leadership was met with challenges and defiance throughout this part of the wilderness. The Israelites found themselves in skirmishes with some of the inhabitants of the land but with God's help were victorious over the armies of two famous kings who were giants in stature. Sihon king of the Amorites and Og, king of Bashan.

Jewish Law and Upheld Traditions

The Jewish ordinances of The Law and memorial festivals (*Moedim – Levitus 23*) that were instigated in the ancient historic past by the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Moses, portray future events to be fulfilled by the Son of the Highest who will in the fullness of time finally redeem the people of Israel.

Meanwhile throughout the epochs of time "*the adversary*" who had usurped rulership over the planet after Adam's fall, has continually resisted the divine plan of redemption through stealth and cunning. The adversary is a spirit being who is called by many names; Satan, Lucifer, The evil one, The god of this world, the Prince of the power of the air among others. He tempted Jesus in the wilderness as he sought to disrupt God's plan to restore the planet.

The things which I include in this brief OT study are but a sketch. These are compiled for beginners. I will not go into particular historical epochs (*dispensations*) or the stories of the many heroes and heroines of the faith spoken of later in Hebrews chapter 11. The historical periods going back to creation and the garden of God, are populated by individuals who were empowered (anointed) by JHVH and whose calling it was to keep His covenant people, Israel, from turning aside to idolatry, genetic

defilement and judgment. The prophets foretold that the people of God would rise and fall into disobedience then go into captivity.

Yet, in the fullness of time, God's chosen seed would be born according to dozens of prophetic promises who would be born. He would be announced as the "Lamb of God" as proclaimed by the last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist. Jeshua, Jesus was born to be the ransom for sin. He would extend his arms to gather in the nations (the gentiles). Jesus was that *Kinsman redeemer* (Book of Ruth) (*Ruth 2 v20*) who would call forth a special people for himself and eventually rule over a people called out for his pleasure. (The church or *ekklesia* are His called out ones.) Throughout the generations an adversary is continually at work to hinder and destroy God's plan. As of this hour, Satan is still making preparation for his own kingdom to arise and rule.

As it turns out the Old Testament Bible or **First Covenant** is rich in revelation and prophecy that provides insight into history "*His-Story*" which includes:

1. How God created the world, finally man and woman; and what caused their "fall;"
2. How Lucifer (the shining one) usurped man's dominion and became "*the god of this world;*"
3. How God revealed his eternal plan to provide a redeemer from the seed of a woman; (*Gen. 3:15, the proto evangelium*) and fulfill the promise of a kingdom on the earth; "*I will put **enmity** Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*"
4. How Satan has an allotted time and will eventually be defeated along with his minions;
5. How Satan's character is vanity (pride). He is a liar, a thief, a killer and a destroyer.
6. How Satan's kingdom and its influence produced a depraved world that brought forth judgment in the time of Noah and later Lot in Abraham's day.
7. How Satan is constantly engaged in an effort to thwart God's plan of producing a redeemer, (*the woman's seed, the messiah*) who is promised to reign;
8. How God established a righteous line (*through Abraham*) from which the promised messiah would come;
9. How the descendants of Abraham (*the patriarchs*) were thwarted by Satan's forces continuously through the centuries;
10. How Abraham was given a **land of promise**. It was to be an eternal possession;
11. How the land of promise (**Canaan**) was occupied by giants and beings who practiced idolatry and demonic worship; These also had a bloodline that was corrupted by intermixture with fallen angels. (Gen. 6)
12. How these lands once conquered by the Israelites were meant to be sustained in righteousness;
13. How God raised up holy prophets who spoke words of correction and spoke of things to come as God directed their speech by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach Ha Kodesh*);

14. How Moses led the Jews out of captivity in Egypt with signs and wonders and was later given the commandments and sacrifices needed to continue under the blessings of JHVH;
15. How all the books of the O.T. (*the Tenakh*) point to Jesus the Messiah; the books of Moses, all of the prophets and the Psalms. (*Luke 24:27 & Luke 24:44*);
16. How Israel became a kingdom about 1000 BC and anointed King David who prefigures the righteous king who will rule in the Messianic Kingdom;
17. How Israel was taken into captivity by other empires when they failed to continue JHVH's laws;
18. How prophets spoke of a time of future judgment when all the unrighteous will answer for their idolatry, blasphemy, and sorceries. This time of judgment is called the "Day of the Lord" a time when Satan's head will be crushed and evil will be vanquished. Jesus is the one who will destroy the enemy wielding his own "*terrible swift sword*;"
19. How John the Baptist was the last O.T. prophet. John came in the Spirit and Power of Eliajah the prophet. He was the forerunner who declared the coming of Messiah and to "*make straight the way*."
20. How Jesus' earthly ministry was only to the Jews. (*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*) He presented proofs of his divinity and messiah-ship but was not received by the religious authorities.
21. How at the *birth of the church age*, God's covenant was extended beyond the Israel and the Jews. The "good news" of the gospel was to go to all the nations (gentiles.) Non Jews were allowed to be grafted into the vine of Israel, becoming fellow heirs along with the Jews.

From Judges to The Kings of Israel

Before Israel was ruled by a king. Israel was ruled by a succession of Judges. Following the leadership of Joshua Israel advanced into the regions of Canaan to possess the land promised to Abraham. There was ongoing confrontation by the pagan tribes living there. There were Midianites, Hivites, Malechites, Zidonians, and multiple tribes of Philistines and others. All of these were nations practiced all matters of abominable demonic worship and who were in some way intermingled with the admixture of non human DNA. God was intently focused on maintaining the purity of the hereditary line of his people Israel. It was to provide for a pure messianic line.

At a time following the period of the Judges the people thought it wise to have a king to rule over them like the other nations. Saul, son of Kish, was the tallest and most manly candidate. Samuel, with some reservation, anointed him king.

Saul's reign was spent defending Israel from the Phillistines. Here is where the tale of Goliath of Gath comes in. Goliath is a Phillistine giant having 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot. He is the champion who challenges the Israelites and taunts them for 40 days to send out their best warrior to contend man to man.

Goliath is confident and mocks the armies of Saul. Israel has no man who is willing to take on the challenge. David the shepherd, tending the flock of Jesse of Bethlehem hears that Israel is being taunted by a heathen giant, and says to himself. I am willing to confront this enemy of God. He was good using the tools of a shepherd. It is a good story and brings the youthful shepherd into notoriety. He valiantly slays the giant and beheads him with Goliath's own sword.

During Saul's life following David's triumph, Saul's ego can not tolerate the attention that David is getting from the people. Saul is dealing with a mental disorder in which he requires David's soothing songs on a harp to bring him peace. David is anointed and full of faith and the presence of God is with him. Though Saul threatens his life in jealousy and madness David never lifts a hand against him because Saul is God's anointed. Samuel the prophet anoints David as the next King of Israel and he rules Israel for 40 years. David's life is full of challenges and some moral failures. David was a man of war and is called "a man after God's own heart." There was rivalry between his sons and strife among members of David's family and wives. David is surrounded by a faithful cohort of valiant warriors, his mighty men of valor.

During the Kingdom age of Israel we see the people of Israel constantly facing threats from foreign nations that seek to bring God's people to ruin. The psalmist David was a King, a warrior and a worshiper. He was the prophet Samuel's God-selected choice of leader over the young kingdom in the era of about 1000 BC.

Solomon one of David's sons by his wife Bathsheba, succeeded David as King. David had at least 19 named sons by his 8 named wives. He also had children with his concubines that are not named. It was Solomon who would build the first temple as the place where God would manifest and where worship ordinances were followed. God manifested to Solomon in a dream in which Solomon was asked what he should like to receive from the Lord. (1 Kings 3:5) The thing Solomon requested was wisdom to rule this vast people of whom he was given charge. This answer was so pleasing to Jehovah that he granted much more, wisdom, wealth and glory beyond measure.

The Richness of the Psalms

The Psalms written and sung by David are a testament of his heart of faith and love for the presence of God. His writings express in powerful way, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is written that he *beheld the Lord ever before him*.

David's psalms are filled with praise of a vast description among them are many foretelling all manner of Messianic times to come. According to Christ Jesus, he was called into this world to fulfill everything written in the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms. David was a true worshiper. His heart overflowed passionately in thanksgiving and extolling the greatness of God. There is no doubt that David possessed the Holy Spirit in a measure that present religion can not imagine. When the church was born at Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell upon the 120 in the upper room

were filled to ecstasy and overflowing they began to prophesy. The Holy Spirit baptism brings us close to the level of intimacy with God that David the psalmist and warrior-king knew.

The Psalms are so rich in portraying God's love and Power and His faithfulness it is absolutely essential to make note and understand this treasure of Old Testament writing.

Poetry of the Psalms and the Wisdom Writing

In the intimacy of God's presence we transcend the manner of normal thought and expression. We can call this "inspired expression." It enhances the manner of communication or performance giving us thought patterns that are flavored by Godly inspiration. If God is powering the mind then subject matter flows from the breath of God. It is God-Breathed as the Holy Bible is described.

Solomon was gifted with Wisdom. He's called the wisest man who ever lived. He recorded his wise sayings which resonate with truth and a practical application of living in this world with Godly perspective and purpose. God is the author of wisdom.

Solomon also authored additional writing. The Song of Songs, or the Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. Solomon's fame and wealth bought him renown but it also brought him a departure from faith and regret. Solomon's many wife from ungodly nations provided a foothold for the ungodly pagan world to intrude on God's plan to continue on a righteous course. "A little leaven, leavens the lump." as the saying goes. Now dark spiritual forces entered to corrupt and divide God's kingdom. The sons of Solomon had the wealth and power but they had no wisdom and turned aside from the godly path.

The Prophetic Voice Throughout the Old Covenant

The prophet speaks for God. He must be anointed to speak for God. This anointing allows God to address the people directly with regard to matters confronting them at any given time such as, "Shall we go out to battle against the Philistines?" The prophetic voice guided the judges and the kings. There were some notable prophets and some less notable ones. There were also false prophets following the division of Israel into the Northern Tribes and the Southern tribes. During the reign of the so called evil kings they employed their own favored prophets who prophesy good things and never God's true message of warning or correction. The false prophets were possessed by "a lying spirit." True prophets were required by the law to be 100 per cent without fail. To prophesy a false message was a matter punishable by death. When the people were taken in idolatry and disobedience the manner of correction was to send them plagues or being overtaken by other nations.

Prophets Foretold the Destruction of Israel, Judah and Their Captivity

The kingdoms were divided after the reign of Solomon's son Rehoboam. For more than 200 years the kings that followed Solomon degenerated further and further into evil and idolatry. The northern ten tribes went into captivity to the Assyrians in 722 BC. During and prior to the reign of many kings of the north, the voices of God's righteous prophets continued to be heard. Among the God's prophets were Jehu, Micaiah, Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Jonah, Hosea and Micah. The kings of Assyria who vanquished the kingdoms of the north included Shalmaneser, Tiglath-Pileser III and Shalmaneser V, and later Sargon II and Sennacherib. These accounts are recorded in the OT books of the Kings and the Chronicles which historically account for the rising and falling of the tribes of Israel and their failing to follow the God of Israel.

Moses, Micah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah and Isaiah all prophesied that Judah, the southern kingdom would bear the consequences of failing to keep the sabbaths. Jeremiah was abused and imprisoned by the king of Judah. The Babylonian empire at that time was under King Nebuchadnezzar. Jerusalem was plundered and the temple destroyed in the Babylonian invasion. Judah would be taken captive for 70. Many prisoners were taken to Babylon in 586 BC including Daniel and other Hebrew youth to be named later in the book of Daniel the prophet. These were all used as servants in Babylon. Jehoiakim was the king who refused to listen to and heed the voice of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was abused and treated shamefully and then thrown into a dungeon.

For the remainder of the Old Testament we encounter a thorough accounting of all manners that pertained to then and future declarations of God. All of which have or will soon come to pass.

Messianic Prophecies and the Future Church Age and Final Restored Kingdom

I found 178 specific messianic prophecies which were fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. You can read this detail list at:

<https://www.messianic.org/prophecy/a-comprehensive-list-of-messianic-prophecies>

Some of these are found in the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Hosea, Zechariah, Habakkuk, Psalms and Proverbs. They were foretold by Moses as well.

The Book of Daniel the prophet has among its prophetic visions and visitations very specific foretelling of the end of days, also called end of the age. Beginning in Chapter 2 the King of Babylon has a dream that portrays all the major kingdoms and times in the then present and later future of the world. A statue portrays the various kingdom ages from Babylon to Persia to Greek to Roman and to the end of times depicted as ten toes made up of iron intermixed with potter's clay. In those days a

stone made without hands strikes the feet of the statue causing it to turn to dust and form into a great mountain. This depicts a final imperishable kingdom which is yet to come. It points to the Messianic kingdom where Christ rules from Jerusalem and the restoration of world that was lost to Adam. Amillennialists and reformed theologians do not accept this prophesied final world kingdom since they hold to the notion that prophecy has been fulfilled already and the church is presently the agency of Christ's rule on earth. They also teach that the present state of Israel is no more favored than any other nation and has no particular prophetic role since the church has assumed the place of Israel in prophecy.

Probably the most astonishing of Old Testament prophecies is the prophecy of the 70 weeks of Daniel. In Daniel chapter 9 version 24 to 27. An angel explains in detail the exact number of days and years there will be before the Messiah of Israel appears and what his role will be. The matters addressed deal with the Jewish people (Daniel 9:24). He will be introduced to the people of Jerusalem on a specific day. That day is calculated from the going forth by the decree of Artaxerxes in 445 BC. (as meticulously calculated by Sir Robert Anderson in his work "The Coming Prince.")

With all the calculations and the day counting Jesus was to enter Jerusalem on one specific day. Jesus was "cut off" at the end of the 69th week. Daniel (9-26). This leaves one week a "seven" unfulfilled. The correct interpretation of Scripture is that final 7 years will be fulfilled by the Jews and Israel. The church age has been an undefined period of times awaiting the gathering of the Gentiles and the end or fullness of the gentiles when all who are written in the book of life have been gathered in. The final 7th week returns to focus again to the people of Israel to whom Jesus made his final descriptions of the end of the age to his disciples in the 24th Chapter of Matthew, the 13th chapter Mark and the 21st chapter of Luke. All of this is addressed to the Jews who Jesus infers will be back in their land, will have a new temple and will be offering temple worship and sacrifices once again.

The epistles of the New Testament bring a new prophetic focus into view. These are written to the people who have been redeemed in the new covenant of grace and who are now living during *the church age*. Peter, Paul and John the apostles establish the nature of the Gospel of Salvation and Grace. They speak about the fullness of a redeemed life and living as *new creations in Christ*. Among their epistles we are led to the end of the church age and the coming time of Jacob's trouble when Israel is back in the land and God refocuses entirely on restoring his chosen people through a time of great trouble. *A time of Tribulation such as the world has never seen. (Matthew 24:21)*

I had not intended to go so deeply into the nature and depth of the Old Testament, although cursory. But to eliminate any part of it would leave so many questions unanswered. To draw this treatise to an end I will state again that the Old and New Testament are inextricably linked. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.