

AN OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

Pursuing the Promises

Version 4





5 Bible Studies

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The Squeeze Option - fit the five studies into three sessions

If you are constrained for some reason and are unable to do the studies over five sessions then they can be squashed into 3 weeks. However, it would be much better to do them over five sessions. Do the following to achieve the squeeze option:

 Only discuss the questions marked with a dark hand when you are together as a group. Only doing those questions should hopefully allow you to get through two studies in the one small church session. The third session only involves doing Study 5 so there's some extra time to catch up or further explore ideas.

 If you are able when at home to do the questions with the small hollow hand then you will get a much better overview and things will connect together more. Also by doing these questions you will touch on *every book* of the Old Testament and learn something about where that book fits into the big picture.

Of course, it would still be best to do *all* the questions. It is all very relevant. You will miss some significant things by only doing the marked questions. If possible you could perhaps work through the additional questions for your quiet times or set aside some time one weekend.

Group Session

First Session:

Second Session:

Third Session:

Pursuing the Promises Study

OT1 The promises are made
OT2 A great nation is formed

OT3 The land is given
OT4 Blessings for the nations

OT5 Blowing up the promises

The History of Israel

in the land ← → out of land

Genesis

Abraham & his descendants promised ...

1. a great nation
2. land
3. be blessing to nations

Jacob (Israel) - has 12 sons (tribes)

Promise
1
focus

Exodus

Egypt 12 tribes of Israel enslaved

Moses Leads the 12 tribes out of slavery

Leviticus
Numbers

Deuteronomy

The tribes wander in the desert

Promise
2
focus

Joshua

Joshua Leads the 12 tribes
into the promised land

Judges & Ruth

Judges They keep saving Israel

1 & 2 Samuel

David The great saviour king

Promise
3
focus

1 & 2 Kings

Solomon The wise king

The 12 tribes of Israel divide
- the northern tribes are called Israel!
- the southern are Judah and Benjamin

The
prophets
expand
the
promises

Isaiah

The Northern tribes (Israel) are no more
- dispersed among the nations.

Jeremiah

The Southern tribes (Judah)
are taken to Babylon
in 2 different groups

Ezekiel

The Southern tribes (Judah)
return to the land.

Ezra

Nehemiah

PURSUING THE PROMISES • STUDY 1

The promises are made

1. Read Genesis 12:1-7. What are the promises to Abraham (=Abram) with regard to ...

(1) descendants?

(2) land?

(3) blessing?

2. What is the technical term for God initiating his promises to Abraham?

Genesis 15:18

Genesis 17:3-5

3. How are each of the three promises similar to God's original plan for creation (Gen 1:28)?

4. What happened to humanity between God's original intention and Abraham?

Gen 3:17

Gen 6:5-6, 17-18

Gen 8:17-21

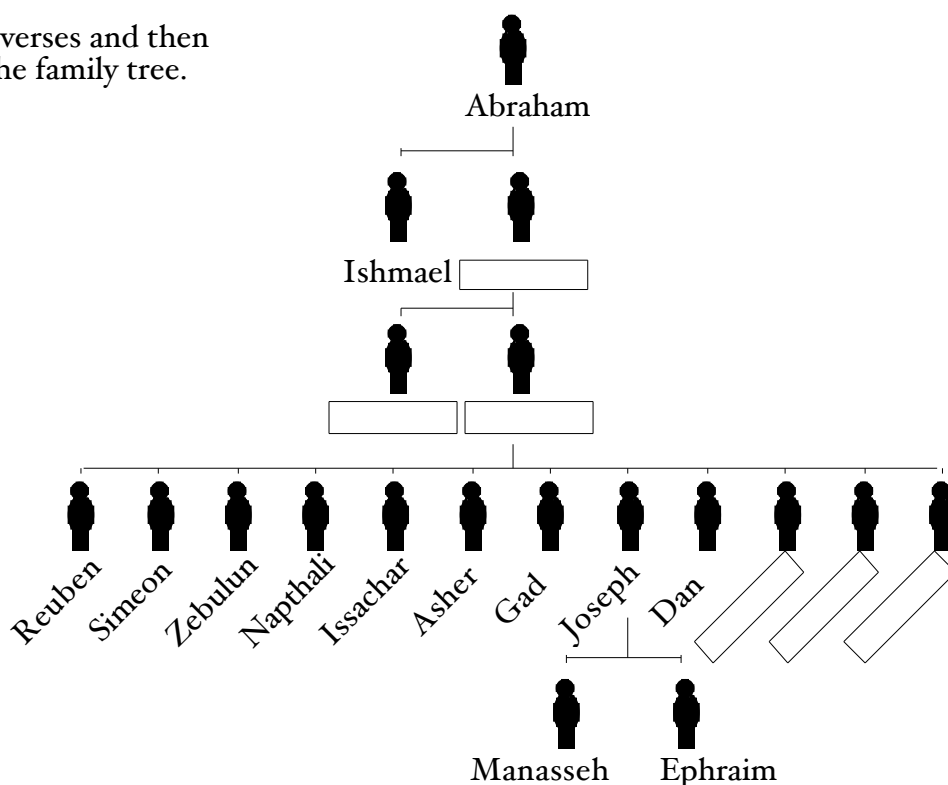
5. Look up the following verses and then fill in the 6 blanks on the family tree.

Genesis 21:1-5



Genesis 25:19-26

Genesis 35:10

Genesis 35:21-26



6. Which of the three promises are reinforced?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	To who?	Some Details:
Genesis 15:5-7,18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
 Genesis 26:2-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
 Genesis 28:10,14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

A. PROMISES

How is the *fulfilment* of God's three promises to Abraham looking by the end of Genesis?

B. SIN

What effect did sin have on things?

Christ's kingdom fulfilled

Let's look at some of the direct connections to Christ's Kingdom:

1. Which part of the promises to Abraham were a taste, 'in advance', of the gospel of Jesus?
Galatians 3:6-9
2. What comfort, example and encouragement can we take from Abraham when we find it hard to trust God's promises? Romans 4:18-25

C. SO FAR?

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

- PRAY**

 - Pray that we would trust God's promises to us, as Abraham did. We know far more than he did!
 - Praise God for his initiative & plan in solving the problem of sin that extends to every nation.
 - Ask God to help you understand any things that don't yet make sense.
 - Thank and praise God for new things you have learnt or have been reminded of.

Becoming a great people

I. Quick questions from last week:

What were the three promises to Abraham?
If God blessed the world when he made it how did it end up cursed?
What's the Bible's technical term for making promises to form a contract?
Who was the dude with 12 sons?
Name a son or two from the twelve:
Who were Abraham's son and grandson?
Harder: Did Abraham hear the gospel?



2. Read Exodus 1:1-10,22. In what ways do we see God keeping his promises?

3. Be brief. Describe anything you can remember about the life of Moses:



4. Israel followed the 'exit' signs out of Egypt. This 'exodus' (exiting) was a defining moment for Israel as a nation. Why?

Exodus 6:6-9
Exodus 14:21,29-31

5. Read Exodus 19:3-9. Now that God has saved Israel, how will their job description help fulfil the promises God has made to Abraham?

6. What do these *books* contribute to the history of God's people awaiting his promises?

Exodus (20:1-3; 25:8-9, 26:1, 27:9)

Leviticus (11:44-45)



Numbers (14:1-4,20-23 & 32:13)

Deuteronomy (1:3)

7. What did the laws God gave the nation of Israel have to do with the promises to Abraham?

Deuteronomy 4:5-8

Deuteronomy 28:1-3,15-16

8. Briefly. How do each of the following point forward to Jesus?

i. Saved from slavery (redeemed/bought).



ii. The tabernacle:
Re-read Exodus 25:8-9



iii. Sacrifices for sin.
Read Leviticus 5:17-19



iv. The job of Moses.
Read Deuteronomy 18:15-16 (Moses is speaking) & Deuteronomy 34:10-12.

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

A. PROMISES

How is the fulfilment of God's three promises to Abraham looking now?

B. SIN

What effect did sin have on things?

Christ's kingdom fulfilled

Let's look at some of the direct connections to Christ's Kingdom:

1. What is the connection between doing good works and being saved, for Israel and for us?
Eph 2:8-10
2. Jesus is our high priest. How is the way he deals with sin different to other high priests?
Hebrews 7:26-28
3. Jesus perfectly fulfills all the roles/positions listed. Which ones have we seen in shadow-form?
 - Prophet - speaks for God.
 - Priest - offers sacrifice for sin.
 - King - God rules his people through him.
 - Wise man - provides God's insight.
 - Saviour figure - rescues people for God.

C. SO FAR?

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
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- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
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- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

PRAY

- Praise God his kindness in saving us when we did not deserve it and for dealing fully with sin.
- Ask God to help us live as his saved people, being eager to do what is good.
- Ask God to help you understand things that don't yet make sense.
- Thank and praise God for new things you have learnt and been reminded of.

PURSUING THE PROMISES • STUDY 3

Receiving the land

1. Quick questions from before:

- What were the three promises to Abraham & his descendants?
- By the end of the book of Deuteronomy (last week) which promises were fulfilled?
- What were some ways that other nations were to be blessed through Israel (Promise 3)?
- The book of 'Numbers' describes Israel wandering in the desert for how long and why?
- How are the following fulfilled in Jesus?
 - sacrifice of a lamb/goat
 - the tabernacle
 - the exodus from Egypt
 - the job of Moses
- Which came first for Israel & us: being saved or living God's way?



2. Use Joshua 1:1-6.

Who was Joshua?

Which of God's three promises does the book of **Joshua** focus on?

3. According to Moses, why will Israel enter the promised land?

Deuteronomy 7:7-10



Deuteronomy 9:1,4-6



4. How were God's actions for Israel also helping to fulfil the third promise?

Joshua 4:21-24

5. Look at the headings in your Bible for chapters 13 to 19. What are these sections about?



6. Israel had been wandering in the desert, but the promised land meant for them: **r** _ _ _ !

Read Joshua 1:12-15.



7. Read Joshua 23:1-2,9-16 and answer:

Have we seen the fulfilment of *every particular one* of God's promises?

Have we seen the *full potential or completion* of each of the promises? (23:12-13 & 17:12-13)



8. The book of **Judges** is series of cycles. Read Judges 2:10-11,14,16-17 & summarise the cycle:



9. *Quick.* The book of **Ruth** is about a non-Israelite coming to accept the God of Israel (1:16). Amongst other things it sounds like the third promise being worked out.

According to Ruth 1:1, where does this book fit into the history of Israel?

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

A. PROMISES

How is the fulfilment of God's three promises to Abraham looking now?

B. SIN

How has sin affected the fulfilment of the promises?

Christ's kingdom fulfilled

Let's look at some of the direct connections to Christ's Kingdom:

1. What is the lesson for us from Israel's eventual entry into the land, the place of rest?

Hebrews 3:12-13,18, 4:1-2,8-9.

Hebrews 11:8, 13-16

2. Jesus perfectly fulfills all the roles/positions listed. Which ones have we seen in shadow-form?

- Prophet - speaks for God.
- Priest - offers sacrifice for sin.
- King - God rules his people through him.
- Wise man - provides God's insight.
- Saviour figure - rescues people for God.

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- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

PRAY

- Praise God: all who are weary and burdened can go to Jesus and "I will give you rest" Matt 11:28.
- Pray that we will encourage each other and not fall short of 'the rest' / 'inheritance' in heaven.
- Ask God to help you understand things that don't yet make sense.
- Thank and praise God for new things you have learnt and been reminded of.

PURSUING THE PROMISES • STUDY 4

Blessing the nations

1. Make sure you do these questions quickly!

- What were the three promises to Abraham & his descendants?
- By the end of the book of Deuteronomy which promises were fulfilled?
- By the end of the book of Joshua which promises were fulfilled?
- What are some ways that the OT links with Christ's kingdom?

2. The book of **1 Samuel** describes the life of the last 'judge', whose name was, you guessed it, Samuel! This judge was also a prophet. He was used by God in establishing 'kings' to rule Israel. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9 & 8:19-22.

Why did Israel end up with kings ruling over them?

What did God think of all this?

They reject God as king because they want a human king. How is Jesus the solution?



3. Saul failed as Israel's first king. What happened before David became the new king?

1 Samuel 13:13-14 (to Saul), 1 Samuel 16:1, 13

1 Samuel 17:45,48-50 & 18:6-9 & 27:1



4. David becomes the king in the book **2 Samuel**. David wants to build a temple for God. Read this crucial passage: 2 Samuel 7:4-6,10-16.

What will the temple replace and who will build it?

Whose 'house' (dynasty) & kingdom will be established for ever? see verses 11,12,13&16

5. David goes off the rails but God still gives him a Son as king, just as he promised. How?

2 Samuel 11:2-5, 12:13-15,19,24-25.

6. Solomon becomes king in the book **1 Kings**. How will Israel now bring blessing to the nations because of Solomon?

1 Kings 4:29-34 & 10:1,6-9

1 Kings 6:1, 8:6,9-12, 8:22,25-29, 8:41-43

(see Mark 11:15-17)

7. Take note of the other books associated with this era:

- **Psalms:** Many Psalms are associated with David. (see the headings on Psalm 18 & 51)
Other Psalms were written at other times.
- The 'Wisdom books' are linked to wise Solomon or the wisdom of 'the fear of the Lord'.
 - Proverbs:** Wise sayings of Solomon and others. (see Prov 1:1&7)
 - Ecclesiastes:** Explores the limits of wealth and wisdom. (see 1:1 & 12:13)
 - Song of Songs:** A raunchy love song mentioning Solomon. (see 1:1)
 - Job:** Job suffers and we see his 'wise' response (see 28:28).
- **1 and 2 Chronicles:** a shorter version of the history of the kings of Israel.

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

A. PROMISES

How is the fulfilment of God's three promises to Abraham looking now?

B. SIN

What effect did sin have on things?

Christ's kingdom fulfilled

Let's look at some of the direct connections to Christ's Kingdom:

1. How does Jesus fulfil the things we have seen in this study:

Luke 24:44

Matthew 12:42, 1 Corinthians 1:30

John 2:18-22, Revelation 21:22-24

2. Jesus perfectly fulfils all the roles/positions listed. Which ones have we seen in shadow-form?

- Prophet - speaks for God.
- Priest - offers sacrifice for sin.
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- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

PRAY

- Praise God for our perfect and righteous and wise King, Jesus who will put right all injustices.
- Pray that we will take the blessing of Jesus to the nations, including folks we live & work with.
- Ask God to help you understand things that don't yet make sense.
- Thank and praise God for new things you have learnt and been reminded of.

Blowing up the promises

1. Let's look back briefly. Make sure you do these questions quickly!

- What were the three promises to Abraham & his descendants?
- What are some ways that the OT links with Christ's kingdom?

Area:

1. Blessing to the nations
2. Saved/redeemed
3. Tabernacle
4. Sacrifices for sin
5. The job of Moses
6. The land of 'rest'
7. The job of the Judges.
8. The promises to king David
9. The wisdom of Solomon
10. The temple


Link to Christ's kingdom:

- Why was the reign of Solomon the high point in Israel's history as a nation?

 2. The book of **1 Kings** tells us of the climax for Israel during Solomon's reign. However, it also tells us of the end to that climax - the collapse, when the promises seem to blow up/apart!

Read 1 Kings 11:1-4 What went wrong?

Read 1 Kings 11:26-33. Why did the 10 Northern tribes split off and follow Jeroboam?

 3. The rest of the book **1 Kings** and **2 Kings** explains the wickedness of the kings of Judah and the wickedness of the kings of Israel ('Israel'/Ephraim' now refers to the 10 north tribes).

Read 2 Kings 17:5-8. What happened to Israel (the North; capital Samaria) and why?

Read 2 Kings 17:12-14. What role did the prophets play?

Read 2 Kings 25:8-12. What happened to Judah (capital Jerusalem) & the temple?

 4. A few books describe events during the period of the exile and after some Jews return:

Daniel (saved from lions): shows God to be in control even in a foreign land.

Esther (Queen & vile Haman's plot): shows God's control without mentioning Him.

Ezra: Some exiled Jews (from Judah) return & the man Ezra oversees the *temple* rebuilt.

Nehemiah: The man who oversees the rebuilding of *Jerusalem's walls*.

5. The rest of the OT was written by **prophets**. They blow up (amplify/expand) the promises!! Sin has been the problem all through Israel's history and through all human history. What does God promise through the three **big** prophets in light of human sin?

Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-4, 49:5-6, 53:6,11-12, 66:22-24.
 Jeremiah 17:9, 31:31-34.
 Ezekiel 36:25-27.

6. The rest of the books are called 'minor prophets' (except Lamentations). In order, they are:

Before Assyria takes Israel:
 - *Israel to be judged but hope too.*

- 1 **Hosea**
- 3 **Amos**
- 6 **Micah**

With Babylon taking Judah:
 - *Judah to be judged, but hope too.*

- 7 **Nahum**
- 8 **Habakkuk**
- 9 **Zephaniah**

After exile to Babylon:
 - *Look to the future & the messiah.*

- 10 **Haggai**
- 11 **Zechariah**
- 12 **Malachi**

The place in the bible of other books not positioned by date:

- **Lamentations**
- 2 **Joel**
- 4 **Obadiah**
- 5 **Jonah**

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

A. PROMISES

How is the fulfilment of God's three promises to Abraham looking now?

B. SIN

What effect did sin have on things?

Christ's kingdom fulfilled

Let's look at some of the direct connections to Christ's Kingdom:

1. What does Jesus think Israel's history and the rest of the Old Testament is all about?
 Luke 24:25-27, 44, 45-48
2. According to 1 Peter 1:10-12, who was the Old Testament written for?
3. Jesus perfectly fulfills all the roles/positions listed. Which ones have we seen in shadow-form?
 - Prophet - speaks for God.
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- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

PRAY

- Praise God that Jesus paid for our sin as promised and sent his Spirit who transforms our hearts.
- Praise God for the OT 'that can make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ' (2 Tim 3:15)
- Ask God to help you understand things that don't yet make sense.
- Thank and praise God for new things you have learnt and been reminded of.