

# **BITH101 INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose for this course is to help students to be aware of the major issues raised in the careful study of the Old Testament in the modern world. In order to better understand the material in the Old Testament, it is important to know the historical background, context, time period being addressed, authorship, and issues that are considered. For many of these questions, there are different points of view suggested by different scholars. It is important to know why scholars differ and to be able to explain this for our lessons or Bible studies.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Students should be able to outline and explain the major viewpoints on introductory issues of the various Old Testament books. These would include authorship, date, historical background, and message of each book.
- Students should be able to trace the development of the different views and methods of approaching the Old Testament. How did these positions arise, and how did the various groups come to their present positions on these issues.
- Students should be familiar with representative scholars from the various modern views toward the Old Testament. Who are the major people involved in the rise of these issues, and who are the major people today?
- Students should be able to apply the general principles of introduction to the understanding of particular books. We do not want to leave this material in the ancient past. How is it important in ministry, in teaching, preaching and working with others today?

The basis of all of the teaching of Jesus, Paul and all of the other apostles was the Old Testament Scriptures. The reason that a great deal of the church is immature today in its development is because of a weak understanding of the Old Testament. By ignoring the Old Testament, people have sought to build their theology on an inadequate foundation.

### **WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?**

If the truth be known, most of us are much better acquainted with the New Testament than we are with the Old Testament. For one thing, the New Testament is a lot smaller than the Old Testament.

If you open your Bible to Matthew 1 and look to see what is left (not counting any index or maps), then you will quickly see that the majority of the Bible is within the Old Testament.

But is it necessary? Couldn't we get along quite nicely if we all merely hold to the New Testament? I want to suggest several reasons why a study of the Old Testament is important:

1. The Old Testament is Foundational.
2. The Old Testament is Practical.
3. The Old Testament Presents Christ.
4. The Old Testament was Written for Us.

Finally, when we have seen the message of the original narrative and then have seen it through the eyes of the original author and recipients, we will be ready to also see that there is a message here for us.

**Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:**

Lesson 1: Introduction

Lesson 2: Old Testament Survey

Lesson 3: Exodus Through Deuteronomy

Lesson 4: The Book of Joshua

Lesson 5: Samuel Through Chronicles

Lesson 6: Overview of Ezra

Lesson 7: The Book of Job

Lesson 8: Proverbs

Lesson 9: Major Prophets

Lesson 10: The Minor Prophets