

# Old Testament Survey: 1

## Introduction

### **Our View of the Old Testament** - Jigsaw Puzzles

- Jigsaw puzzles can be very hard work
  - hundreds of small pieces
  - confusing and frustrating
- This is the way a lot of Christians feel about the Old Testament
  - knowing lots of small individual pieces – Noah's ark, Daniel in the lions etc.
  - not sure how they all fit together, or if they even do.
  - this leads us to view the Old Testament as a confusing part of the Bible which we do our best to avoid.

Matthew 5. 17-18

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”

destroy – dissolve or do away with  
fulfil (vs17) – *pleroo* – to verify, perfect, complete  
fulfilled (v18) – *ginomai* – to bring to pass fully

Jesus did not come to do away with the Old Testament – His coming was to bring it to pass, to fulfil it and perfect it.

Paul writes that the Old Testament is there as an example to us – to teach us and gives us hope.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” Romans 15.4

### **Our Approach to Study**

In this survey of the Old Testament we are going to look at the major themes and events and fit them together to try and take the confusion out of it

The way we will approach this will be like taking a scenic flight in a small plane over a spectacular landscape or like staying on the hop-on hop-off tourist buses – we will see the main features but not be able to 'get off' and explore in detail.

Study at home – read, meditate. This will give understanding and revelation of what it contains and how it fits together.

## The Making of the Old Testament

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..” 2 Timothy 3.16

- The Old Testament has one author – God.
  - approx 30 different writers – of these some were prophets, priests, kings, sages, scribes, women and still there were others.
  - The Scriptures were penned down by these writers over a period of about 1200-1400 years as the Holy Spirit moved on them.
  
- The Old Testament was continually used, quoted and referred to by Jesus and the apostles e.g. Paul and Peter
  - The Old Testament books were the only Scriptures they had
  - Paul mentions that the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise to salvation (through faith in Jesus) (2 Timothy 3.15) - he was referring to the Old Testament which points us to Jesus
  
- There are 39 books in the Old Testament (*+27 in the New Testament making a total of 66*)
  - The Law – 5 books  
Genesis to Deuteronomy
  
  - The History books – 12 books  
Joshua to Esther
  
  - The Wisdom/Poetry books – 5 books  
Job to Song of Solomon
  
  - The Prophets – 17 books
    - *Major Prophets – 5 books*  
Isaiah to Daniel
  
    - *Minor Prophets – 12 books*  
Hosea to Malachi