

The Gospel in the Old Testament



Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Summer 2019

The Gospel in the Old Testament

*And the scripture,
foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith,
preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,
“In thee shall all nations be blessed.”
Galatians 3:8*

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Introduction

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). This is the mandate of the Christian Church given by Jesus Christ Himself. We are to proclaim justification by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Jesus has come and died as a sacrifice for sins. He was raised from the dead and has ascended to the right hand of the Father where He is making intercession for us. He is coming again to receive us to Himself and reign eternally on the earth. All of this is good news to sinners who can be forgiven and at peace with God eternally through the LORD Jesus Christ.

Because the life of Jesus Christ is presented in the New Testament, and because His apostles set forth the truth of the Gospel so clearly in their epistles, it might be thought that the Gospel is a new innovation introduced in the New Testament era. Nothing could be further from the truth. While it is true that the Gospel is most explicit in the New Testament, it is an essential part of the Old Testament message as well. Old Testament saints, like New Testament saints, had to be justified by faith in Christ. They had to know their sins and the wrath of God. They had to know their inability to save themselves. They had to know that God is gracious and merciful to save. And they did.

It is true that the Gospel in the Old Testament is often revealed in figures and types rather than explicit statements. It was the glory of God to limit the extent of the revelation until Christ should come, but the fundamentals of the Gospel are found in the Old Testament. It contains all the essentials of the coming Messiah and His work of redemption in promises, types, and metaphors. In fact, the Old Testament revelation is essential to a more complete understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as presented in the New Testament. The Old Testament is the foundation of the Gospel.

In Luke 24, the resurrected Jesus met two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. For the moment, their eyes were restrained from

recognizing Him. They told Him they were perplexed at the recent events in Jerusalem in which Jesus, Whom they understood to be the Redeemer of Israel, had been killed by the Jews. They were even more puzzled by reports from certain women followers of Jesus who had visited the tomb that morning that He was alive from the dead. Jesus said to them, *“O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?”* (Luke 24:25-26). What they had just seen and could not comprehend was truth which was presented long ago by the Old Testament prophets. Then Jesus did a wonderful thing. He began with Moses and the Prophets and expounded from all the Old Testament Scriptures the things concerning Himself. All was there, but they had not seen it.

In the study course outlined in this booklet, we will search the Old Testament Scriptures for the good news of salvation by Jesus Christ. We will confine our study to some of the foundational passages in the progressive revelation of the Gospel in the Old Testament. This is not to imply that these are the only texts, as all of the Old Testament teaches about Christ (John 5:39). The texts chosen, however, are fundamental. We will begin with the creation account. It is necessary to begin with an understanding of God the Creator. His power and sovereignty are essential starting points. The story moves on to the fall of man and his dreadful moral dilemma – dead in sins and accursed of God. In the lessons that follow, we will see the development of the plan of redemption and deal with the fundamentals of the Gospel: grace, election, regeneration, justification by faith, substitutionary atonement, resurrection, and the eternal kingdom. All of these are Old Testament truths. In all of these lessons, Christ is pre-eminent.

It is to be hoped that this study will lead us to a greater understanding of the Gospel and a larger appreciation of the unity of the Bible in the revelation of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Schedule

June 2, 2019	Lesson 1: The Creator of Heaven and Earth Genesis 1
June 9, 2019	Lesson 2: You Shall Surely Die! Genesis 2-3
June 16, 2019	Lesson 3: Grace in the Eyes of the LORD Genesis 6-9
June 23, 2019	Lesson 4: The Gospel Preached to Abraham Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; Galatians 3:8
June 30, 2019	Lesson 5: The LORD Will Provide Genesis 22
July 7, 2019	Lesson 6: Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:20-34; 27:1-40
July 14, 2019	Lesson 7: The Passover Lamb Exodus 11-12
July 21, 2019	Lesson 8: The Old Covenant Exodus 19, 24
July 28, 2019	Lesson 9: A King and a Kingdom 2 Samuel 7
August 4, 2019	Lesson 10: An Offering for Sin Isaiah 52:13-53:12
August 11, 2019	Lesson 11: The New Covenant Jeremiah 31
August 18, 2019	Lesson 12: The Valley of Dry Bones Ezekiel 36:22-37:14
August 25, 2019	Lesson 13: The Just Shall Live by Faith Habakkuk 1-3

Scripture Memorization

Genesis 1:27-28

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

28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:
and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air,
and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

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.

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the LORD;
and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Job 19:25-26

25. For I know *that* my redeemer liveth,
and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth;
26. And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Psalms 32:1-2

1. Blessed *is he* whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2. Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity,
and in whose spirit *there* is no guile.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up
is not upright in him:
but the just shall live by his faith.

O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth

Samuel Medley, 1789

Arr. from Mozart by Lowell Mazon, 1836

1. O could I speak the match - less worth,
 2. I'd sing the pre - cious blood he spilt,
 3. I'd sing the char - ac - ters he bears,
 4. Well, the de - light - ful day will come

O could I sound the glo - ries forth Which in my Sav - iour shine,
 My ran - som from the dread - ful guilt Of sin, and wrath Di - vine:
 And all the forms of love he wears, Ex - alt - ed on his throne:
 When my dear Lord will bring me home, And I shall see his face;

I'd soar, and touch the heav'n - ly strings, And vie with Ga - briel while he sings
 I'd sing his glo - rious right - eous - ness, In which all - per - fect, heav'n - ly dress
 In loft - iest songs of sweet - est praise, I would to ev - er - last - ing days
 Then with my Sav - iour, Broth - er, Friend, A blest e - ter - ni - ty I'll spend,

In notes al - most di - vine, In notes al - most di - vine.
 My soul shall ev - er shine, My soul shall ev - er shine.
 Make all his glo - ries known, Make all his glo - ries known.
 Tri - um - phant in his grace, Tri - um - phant in his grace. A - men.

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Lesson 1: The Creator of Heaven and Earth

Genesis 1

Memory: Genesis 1:27

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." In six days, all that is came to be by the Word of the LORD. Man, the apex of God's creation, was made in the image of God and given the duty to rule over God's creation. God saw that everything that He had made was very good.*

1. What happened on each of the six days of creation?

first day

second day

third day

fourth day

fifth day

sixth day

2. What is unique about the creation of man?

3. What instructions did God give to man?

4. What was God's assessment of His creation?

Lesson 2: You Shall Surely Die! Genesis 2-3

MEMORY: Genesis 1:28 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: After creation, God placed the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden. He told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned that disobedience would bring certain death. Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate the forbidden fruit. Judgment came swiftly and God evicted them from the Garden. Graciously, He promised a future deliverance from the curse through the Seed of the woman.

1. How did God create man?
2. What did God do with the man He had created?
3. What instructions did God give man?
4. What is taught about the creation of woman?
5. How did the serpent tempt the woman?
6. Why did Adam and Eve eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
7. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit?
8. What did God do for His fallen creatures?
9. What does this text teach about the salvation of God?

Lesson 3: Grace in the Eyes of the LORD Genesis 6-9

MEMORY: Genesis 3:15 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was very great. He determined to destroy man whom He had created. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8). God commanded him to build an ark by which God would preserve His creation. Noah obeyed. When God sent the flood on the earth, Noah, his family, and representatives of all animal life were saved. After the flood, God sent Noah and his refugees out of the ark to replenish the earth. Noah built an altar to the LORD. The LORD made a covenant with Noah and his offspring, all living things, and the earth.

1. What was the condition of man upon the earth in the days of Noah?
2. Why did the LORD tell Noah to build an ark?
3. After He told Noah to build the ark, what did the LORD tell Noah He would do?
4. Who went into the ark?
5. What happened after the LORD shut the door of the ark?
6. What happened after the flood had continued for 150 days?
7. How did Noah know when it was safe to leave the ark?
8. How did the LORD respond to the sacrifice Noah made?
9. What was the covenant that God established with Noah and his descendants?

Lesson 4: The Gospel Preached to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-21; Galatians 3:8

MEMORY: Genesis 6:8 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: The LORD promised Abram that he would be blessed and a blessing for all the families of the earth in a new land. When Abram arrived in Canaan, the LORD promised the land to him and his posterity. Abram remained childless. The LORD appeared again to Abram and promised that he would have a son. Abram believed in the LORD and was accounted righteous. By solemn ritual, the LORD confirmed the promise.

Genesis 12:1-9

1. What promises did the LORD make to Abram?
2. What did the LORD tell Abram after he arrived in Canaan?

Genesis 15:1-21

3. What did the LORD tell Abram, and how did Abram respond?
4. How did the LORD answer Abram's question about an heir?
5. How was Abram accounted righteous?
6. What did Abram do with the animals the LORD told him to bring?
7. What did the LORD tell Abram about future events for his posterity?
8. What covenant did the LORD make with Abram?

Galatians 3:8

9. How did Paul describe the Gospel, and how is that an appropriate description of the Gospel?

Lesson 5: The LORD Will Provide Genesis 22

MEMORY: Isaiah 15:6 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: The LORD tested Abraham's faith by commanding him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham immediately obeyed. As Abraham was about to kill his son, the Angel of the LORD appeared and stopped him. Abraham had shown that he truly feared God. After Abraham offered a substitute ram which he found nearby, he named the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide. Because Abraham obeyed God's voice, the LORD would bring great blessing through him.

1. What did God tell Abraham to do?
2. How did Abraham respond to the word of God?
3. What did Abraham do when he came in sight of the mountain in Moriah?
4. What did Isaac ask his father, and how did Abraham answer him?
5. What did Abraham do when he got to the place of which God told him?
6. What did the Angel of the LORD tell Abraham?
7. What did Abraham do after his son was spared?
8. What did the Angel of the LORD tell Abraham when he came the second time?
9. What significance does the writer of Hebrews give to this story (Hebrews 11:17-19)?

Lesson 6: Jacob and Esau
Genesis 25:20-34; 27:1-40

MEMORY: Job 19:25 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *While Rebekah was pregnant, the LORD told her that she would bear twins and "the older would serve the younger." She gave birth to Esau and then Jacob. When they were grown, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew. Later, when Isaac attempted to designate Esau as his heir and heir of the blessing of Abraham, Jacob deceived his father and received the blessing instead of Esau.*

Genesis 25:20-34

1. Why did Rebekah inquire of the LORD, and what did He tell her?

2. What happened at the birth of the twins?

3. Why did Esau give his birthright to Jacob?

Genesis 27:1-40

4. What did Isaac tell Esau?

5. What did Rebekah tell Jacob?

6. What did Jacob do?

7. What did Isaac do when Jacob came before him?

8. How did Isaac respond when he discovered that he had been deceived by Jacob, and what was his response to Esau's tearful plea?

9. What lesson did Paul teach about salvation from this story? (See Romans 9:9-16)

Lesson 7: The Passover Lamb

Exodus 11-12

MEMORY: Job 19:26 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *The LORD told Moses that He would deliver His people by a tenth plague upon Egypt. At midnight, He would kill all the firstborn of Egypt. To be delivered from this plague, each family of Israel was to kill a lamb and place its blood upon the door posts of their houses. When the LORD came through the land and saw the blood, He would pass over that house and spare its firstborn. The children of Israel were taught to remember this deliverance by an annual celebration of the Passover feast.*

1. What new plague did the LORD announce through Moses?
2. What was each household to do to prepare for this plague?
3. What would be the effect of these preparations?
4. What memorial did the LORD command them to observe and when?
5. How were the people to observe this memorial?
6. What explanation was to be given to the children?
7. What happened in Egypt on that first Passover night?
8. What happened to the children of Israel?
9. What does this text teach about the salvation of God?

Lesson 8: The Old Covenant

Exodus 19, 24

MEMORY: Psalm 32:1 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *The LORD entered into a relationship with the nation Israel in which they would be His people above all people, if they would keep His covenant. This they promised to do. The LORD then came upon Mount Sinai in a terrifying appearance. Moses offered the sacrifice of the old covenant and then went into the mountain with the seventy elders to see God. Moses alone went before the glory of the LORD to receive the Law on tablets of stone.*

Exodus 19

1. What did the LORD tell Moses to tell the children of Israel?
2. How did the people respond to this revelation of the LORD'S purpose?
3. What did the LORD tell the people to do after Moses brought their answer to Him?
4. What happened as the people stood with Moses at the base of the mountain?

Exodus 24

5. What did the LORD tell Moses, and how did the people respond?
6. What did Moses do to establish the covenant between the LORD and the children of Israel?
7. What happened when Moses went with the elders onto the mountain?
8. Why did Moses go on up to the mountain with Joshua?
9. What was the view of the children of Israel from the base of the mountain?

Lesson 9: A King and a Kingdom 2 Samuel 7

MEMORY: Psalm 32:2 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *David intended to build a house for the LORD. In response, the LORD said that He would build a house for David. The throne of David would be established forever. It would be David's son who would build a house for the LORD. David gave thanks to the LORD for this great blessing.*

1. What did David tell Nathan, and how did Nathan answer him?
2. What did the LORD tell Nathan about David's plan to build a house for Him?
3. What did the LORD remind David about what He had done for him?
4. What did the LORD say He would do for the nation Israel?
5. What did the LORD say He would do for the house of David?
6. What did the LORD say about David's son?
7. How did David praise the LORD?
8. What requests did David make in his prayer?
9. Why did David pray?

Lesson 10: An Offering for Sin Isaiah 52:13-53:12

MEMORY: Isaiah 53:6 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: The prophet of the LORD brought an astonishing message. He spoke of a coming Servant of the LORD. Although high and lifted up, He would be despised and rejected of men. Although sinless, He would be an offering for sin. But it would be for our sins and not His Own. God Himself would execute the sentence of death. By this act of righteousness, the good pleasure of the LORD would prevail and those for whom His Servant died would be justified.

1. What is so astonishing about the Servant of the LORD?
2. What is the appearance of the Servant among men?
3. What happened to this Servant of the LORD?
4. Why is the Servant treated in this way?
5. How is the Servant like a lamb?
6. How is His death described?
7. How is the LORD affected by what happens to His Servant?
8. What is the result of the death of the Servant?
9. What does this text teach about the salvation of God?

Lesson 11: The New Covenant Jeremiah 31

MEMORY: Habakkuk 2:4 and review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: *The LORD loves Israel with an everlasting love. Therefore, He will bring them back from their dispersion throughout the world into their own land. He will forgive their sins and secure their salvation by a New Covenant. He will put His Law in their hearts so they will all know Him.*

1. Why will the LORD be the God of all the families of Israel and they His people?
2. Why did the LORD call for songs of gladness and praise?
3. What did the LORD announce to the nations?
4. Why was there weeping in Ramah, and why should it cease?
5. What did the LORD say about Ephraim?
6. What did the LORD say would happen in the land of Judah?
7. What did the LORD say He would do for the house of Israel and the house of Judah?
8. What is the New Covenant, and why is it called a "new" covenant?
9. How did the LORD describe the certainty of Israel's future existence?

Lesson 12: The Valley of Dry Bones Ezekiel 36:22-37:14

MEMORY: review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: The LORD promised that the time will come when He will regather the disobedient nation of Israel and return them to their own land. There the LORD will change their hearts, putting His Spirit within them, so that they will obey Him. The LORD illustrated the restoration of Israel by having Ezekiel preach to a valley filled with dry bones. Through the preaching of the Word, the bones became living people.

1. Why will the LORD act on behalf of Israel?
2. What will the LORD do to cause Israel to obey Him?
3. What changes will the LORD bring about regarding the land of Israel?
4. What will the neighboring nations conclude?
5. What else will the LORD allow the house of Israel to ask of Him?
6. Where did the LORD take Ezekiel, what did He ask him, and what did He tell him to do?
7. What happened as Ezekiel prophesied to the dry bones?
8. What did the LORD say was the meaning of this illustration?
9. What does this text teach about the salvation of God?

Lesson 13: The Just Shall Live by Faith Habakkuk 1-3

MEMORY: review

Hymn: "O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

SUMMARY: Habakkuk was distressed that God had done nothing about the sinfulness of Judah. But when God revealed that He was about to judge Judah by the Babylonians, Habakkuk was stunned. Judah was wicked, but Babylon was far worse. How could the eternal, holy God make use of such an evil instrument? God's answer: "The just shall live by faith." God would judge the wickedness of the Chaldeans in due time. Deliverance will come, but the godly must wait for it. Habakkuk remembered how God had gone forth in glory and majesty to bring salvation to His people in a previous age. He called upon God to revive this work. Meanwhile, Habakkuk would rejoice in the God of His salvation.

1. What was Habakkuk's complaint to God?
2. How did God answer Habakkuk?
3. Why was Habakkuk bothered by this answer from God?
4. How did God respond to Habakkuk's concern, and what is the meaning of this answer?
5. What five sins did the LORD pronounce judgment upon?
6. What did Habakkuk ask God to do in his prayer?
7. What did Habakkuk remember about the LORD in his prayer?
8. What was Habakkuk's conclusion about this entire matter?
9. How is Habakkuk 2:4 used in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 11:38?