

Sermon, November 27, 2011
“The Old Testament – Herald of Christ”, Genesis 1:1-4; Malachi 4:2-6
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

<u>Pentateuch</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Poetry/Wisdom</u>	<u>Major Prophets</u>	<u>Minor Prophets</u>
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	1 Kings			Micah
	2 Kings			Nahum
	1 Chronicles			Habbakuk
	2 Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra			Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah
	Esther			Malachi

The Old Testament reveals God, his people, and the Messiah to come.

1. The Old Testament is a book of origins.

- The OT answers the question, “How did we get here?”
- The OT answers the question, “Is there a God?”
- The OT answers the question, “Where did we come from?”
- The OT answers the question, “Why is there evil in the world?”
- The OT answers the question, “What is sin?”
- The OT answers the question, “How do we restore our relationship to God?”

2. The Old Testament tells the history of God and His people.

- ? to 2000 BC Genesis 1-11
- 2000-1700 BC Genesis 12-50
- 1700-1450 BC Exodus-Deuteronomy
- 1450-1100 BC Joshua-1 Samuel 7
- 1100-600 BC 1 Samuel 8-2 Chronicles
- 500-400 BC Ezra-Nehemiah

3. The Old Testament reveals God’s dealing with ordinary people.

- God reveals Himself to shepherds, businessmen, princes, stonemasons, farmers, kings, prostitutes, priests, young, old, women, men...
- Some did extraordinary God given tasks with very ordinary human concerns and faults, while others were idolatrous and continued to practice evil.

4. The Old Testament lays down the Law, His Word.

- God reveals to His people what it takes to stand in front of a holy God in righteousness.
- God’s justice is always right.
- Obedience is blessed; disobedience (sin) is punished.
- The heart of the Law is:
Deuteronomy 6:5-6; Psalm 119:105

5. The Old Testament shows God at work in the lives of His people, longing for a restored relationship.

- God consistently reveals His lovingkindness and forgiveness toward His people.
- **Joshua 1:9, Proverbs 3:5, 2 Chronicles 9:8, Hosea 11:4, Habakkuk 3:18-19, Nehemiah 9:17**

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6. The Old Testament reveals God’s appeal to turn from sin, repent, turn back to God.

- **Isaiah 45:22; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ezekiel 18:30**

7. The Old Testament points to the Messiah who would come to restore hearts to the Father.

Throughout the Old Testament the coming of Messiah is revealed. Genesis 3:15

Salvation comes through faith in God: Genesis 15:6

Various foreshadowings and types of Christ:

- Noah, Melchizedek, The Passover lamb, Moses, The manna in the wilderness, Boaz, David, The Temple and the sacrificial system...

Many prophecies of Christ to come:

- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)
- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23) as a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16), of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14), and of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1)
- Herod killing the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
- Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)
- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)
- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)
- Preached good news (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)
- Performed miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)
- Cleansed the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)
- Ministered in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)
- Entered Jerusalem as a king on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9)
- First presented Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25; Matthew 21:4-11)
- Rejected by Jews (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7)
- Died a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving: rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48), betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18), sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15), silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14), being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31), beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26), spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30), piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31), being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38), praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34), piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34), given gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36), no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36), buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60), casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).
- Rose from the dead! (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Ascended into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)
- Sat down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

Conclusion:

- The foundation of our faith is strengthened by the history of God and His people.
- The heart of God is full of compassion, love, forgiveness, and restoration.

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