



SESSION 2: The Old Testament

I. A REPEATED CYCLE

- A. God **initiates** a relationship with people.
- B. God makes promises (**covenants**) to show how his plan of redemption will unfold.
- C. People sin against God and face consequences.
- D. People ask God for forgiveness.
- E. God restores the relationship.

II. KEY PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- A. Genesis 1–11 lays the foundation for the rest of the Bible by demonstrating people’s natural tendency to **resist** God. Examples include:

1. Adam & Eve

- Though Adam and Eve began in a perfect relationship with God and each other, they damaged all of humanity’s relationships with God and one another.
- God introduces the idea that he will one day restore order by crushing evil.

2. The Flood

- The story of Noah describes God’s plan to give humanity a fresh start.
- Even with new beginnings, people turn away from God.

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3. Tower of Babel

- People's inclination is to try to replace God's name with **their own**.
- In his mercy, God sometimes thwarts the plans of people.

B. Genesis 12–50 describes how God works through one family to begin to reconcile himself with people.

1. God promised to use Abraham to bless the rest of the world. This is known as the **Abrahamic Covenant**.
2. Isaac, Abraham's son, became the keeper of God's covenant with his father.
3. God renamed Isaac's son Jacob "Israel," and Israel became the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jacob's Sons (Birth Order):	12 Tribes of Israel
Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon
Levi	-
Judah	Judah*
Isaachar	Isaachar
Zebulun	Zebulun
Dan	Dan
Naphtali	Naphtali
Gad	Gad
Asher	Asher
Joseph	Ephraim, Manasseh (sons of Joseph)
Benjamin	Benjamin*

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4. Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, helped rescue the nation of Israel from famine by bringing them to Egypt.

5. After about **400 years** of living in Egypt, the Israelites were forced into slavery.

C. Exodus through Song of Solomon include:

1. Israel's journey from slavery to freedom

- Key characters: Moses, Joshua
- Key events: the ten plagues, parting of the Red Sea, Mosaic Covenant

2. Stories of Israel's judges and kings

- Key characters: judges, Saul, David, Solomon
- Key events: Davidic Covenant, Solomon's temple built

3. Israel's demise

- Key characters: Jeroboam, Rehoboam
- Key events: Israel splits and is conquered and exiled; temple is destroyed

D. Israel through Malachi highlight prophecies:

1. Prophecies warning Israel of God's impending judgement.
2. Prophecies of hope, promising restoration

	Northern Kingdom	Southern Kingdom
Name:	Israel (or Ephraim)	Judah
Capital:	Shechem then Samaria	Jerusalem
First King:	Jeroboam	Rehoboam
# of Tribes:	10	2*
Conquered by:	Assyria (722 BC)	Babylon (586 BC)