

A HERITAGE OF TRUTH

THEME ELEVEN: God's Plans Past and Present

Truth #5

QUESTION

What is the message of the Old Testament?

ANSWER

God prepared the world for the coming Messiah by choosing a people for His own glory.

MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 13:11

I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to Me, declares the LORD, that they might be for Me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen. ESV

SUGGESTED HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

FURTHER STUDY

The Structure of the Old Testament

<u>Section</u>	<u>Books</u>	<u>Need</u>
Pentateuch	Genesis-Deuteronomy	A perfect priest and a perfect sacrifice
History	Joshua-Esther	A perfect king
[Poetry	Job-Song of Solomon	Description of the perfect king]
Prophets	Isaiah-Malachi	A perfect prophet

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament are full of stories, prophecies, proverbs, songs, and many other different types of literature. But at its core, all of those books are carrying along a single storyline: the plan of God to bless the world through the promised Messiah. It is easy to forget this when you are reading a small section of Scripture. This week's study aims to help you keep the big picture in view.
- There are four basic sections of the Old Testament: Pentateuch, History, Poetry, and Prophets. Besides the section of poetry (which describes what the Messiah will be like), the other three sections identify humanity's great needs, as the chart shows. Think through the five books of the Pentateuch. How do they set forth our need to have a perfect priest? How do they demonstrate our need to have a perfect sacrifice? What have we done that makes a sacrifice necessary? Try to think of specific verses in the Pentateuch to answer these questions.
- Consider the long line of leaders and kings from Joshua through Esther. Name some of the best kings of Israel or Judah. What were their good qualities? Were any of them perfect? In what ways did they reveal that they were sinners? How did their failures actually increase the anticipation for the perfect king who would come?
- The main subject of the prophetic writings is not end-times events, but Christ. How do the prophets prepare God's people for the coming Messiah? Take time to read some of the shorter (often called minor) prophets and look for ways that the authors reveal Christ. Take time to rejoice that the Messiah has come.

A Heritage of Truth is a set of 120 studies designed to assist our entire congregation—and our families in particular—to explore the ways and works of God so that they grow up into Christ, worship God and enjoy Him forever. Questions and answers are provided by Kids4Truth (www.kids4truth.org).