He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

Lesson Guide

LESSON EIGHT

MODERN APPLICATION & OLD TESTAMENT EPOCHS



Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

Before you watch the lesson

- o **Prepare** Complete any recommended readings.
- Schedule viewing The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.

• While you are watching the lesson

- Take notes The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
- Record comments and questions As you watch the video, you may
 have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the
 margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share
 these with the group following the viewing session.
- Pause/replay portions of the lesson You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.

After you watch the lesson

- Complete Review Questions Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
- Answer/discuss Application Questions Application Questions are
 questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology,
 and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written
 assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it
 is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

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I.	Introd	luction (1110-7111
1.	III U UU	iucuvii y	10.40

When it comes to applying the Old Testament to our day, we should never return to the past, but we should also never forget the past.

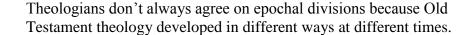
II. Epochal Divisions (1:58)

Significant theological changes are the basis for identifying epochal divisions.

Each epoch is a period of time characterized by substantial and long-lasting transitions in Old Testament theology.

A. Variety (3:36)

Theologians have found different ways to divide the history recorded in the Old Testament.



B. Outline (8:09)

A popular way to divide history into epochal divisions is by associating each epoch with one of God's covenants.

Six major divine covenants in the Old Testament:

- Adam (Genesis 1-3; Hosea 6:7)
- Noah (Genesis 6:18; 9:9-17).
- Abraham (Genesis 15:18; 17:2)
- Moses (Exodus 19-24; Numbers 25:13)

•	David	(2 Samuel	l 7; Psal	lm 89,	132)
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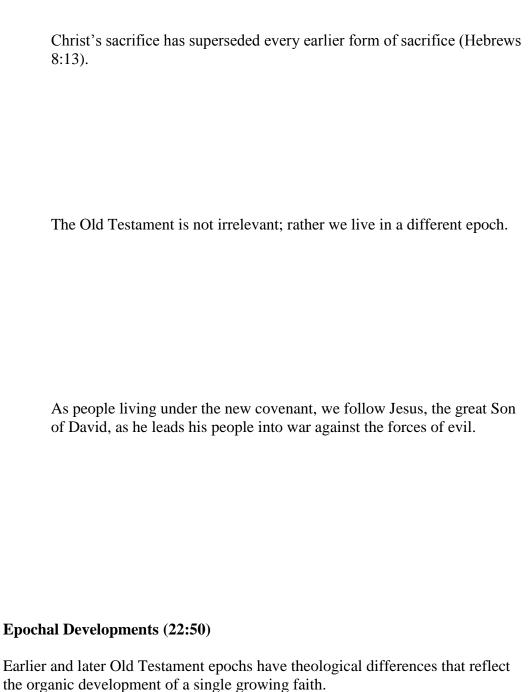
• New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31; Isaiah 54:10; Ezekiel 34:25; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-12)

These covenants represent times when God moved mightily in history, and they introduced long-lasting theological emphases.

C. Implications (13:40)

The divisions of the Old Testament make it clear that God wanted his people to apply theological themes in different ways at different times.

Once God commanded a new way for sacrifice in worship, he expected his people never to return to the old ways.



III.

Α.	Characters	(24:00
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Throughout Scripture the same two characters, God and Satan, are
engaged in the great conflict between good and evil.

The forces of good are led by God, the supreme Creator-King.

The forces of evil are led by the creature Satan who resists the spread of God's glory.

B. Storyline (30:45)

The storyline of Scripture is a unified, all-encompassing narrative of how God is spreading his glory in order to obtain endless praise.

Major "chapters" in the Bible's story	N	Jajor	"chapters"	in th	ne Bible	's story
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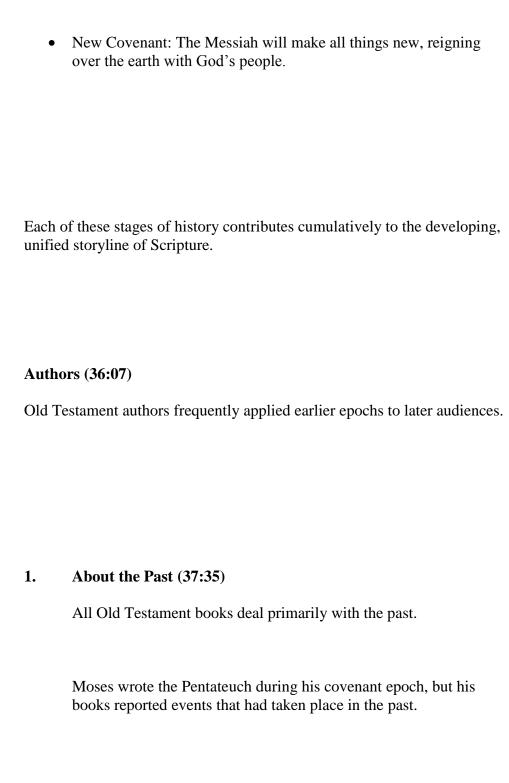
•	Adam: Adam and Eve were to expand the boundaries of God's
	holy garden by filling and subduing the earth.

• Noah: Human beings were to oppose corruption as they filled and subdued the earth.

• Abraham: Abraham's family was to lead humanity into conflict with Satan and his followers.

• Moses: God established Israel and moved them to spread his kingdom throughout the earth.

• David: David's dynasty would rule over God's people and lead them into further conflict with the nations that served Satan.



C.

2.

Old Testament books written during David's covenant epoch also
took their audiences into the past.
For the Present (40:05)
Authors of Scripture wrote for their own contemporary audiences.
Biblical authors wrote about the past in ways that built bridges to
the lives of their original audiences.
Modern Christians need to connect biblical writings about the past to ourselves.

D. Connections (44:43)

1. Backgrounds (45:31)

Old Testament authors showed the relevance of the past by explaining the background of their audiences' current experiences.

Biblical authors used backgrounds in ways that revealed God's approval or disapproval of historical figures.

2. Models (48:40)

Old Testament authors presented models for their original audiences to imitate or reject.

Example: battle for Jericho (positive model)

Example: battle of Ai (negative model)
The connections that the author of Joshua drew to his audience can help modern Christians determine details for our own situations.
Anticipations (54:45) Biblical writers frequently pointed out how events from the past were very similar to the situations their audiences faced.
Foreshadowing: An author presents earlier details of a story in ways that anticipate later details.

3.

In modern application our task is to extend the bridges built by biblical writers for their original audience to our modern lives.

IV. Conclusion (57:49)

Review Questions

1.	Describe various ways theologians have divided Old Testament history and explain the reasons for this diversity.
2.	List and explain the major divine covenants in the Old Testament.

3.	What are some key reasons why New Testament believers should never apply the
	Scriptures as if they live in earlier periods of history? Include some biblical examples
	with your answer.

4. Describe the two main characters behind the Old Testament epochal developments. Who are they, what are their main purposes, and how are they working to accomplish their goals?

Review Questions 18

7. What types of connections did biblical authors draw between the past and the present, and how should modern audiences respond to these connections?

Application Questions

- 1. How does knowledge of the epochal divisions of the Old Testament affect your understanding of Old Testament theology?
- 2. Abraham believed God's covenant promise and remained faithful to God. What are some specific ways you can demonstrate faithfulness to God in your present circumstances?
- 3. How can you apply the teachings of the Old Testament to your life without living as if you were in the past?
- 4. Scripture is essentially the story of the spiritual conflict between God and Satan. How should this reality influence the way we approach the Bible?
- 5. What are some of the challenges you have encountered when interpreting the teachings of the Old Testament? How did you deal with these challenges?
- 6. Should we *always* take into account the Bible's single, unified storyline when we interpret the Bible? Why or why not? Cite some examples to support your position.
- 7. How are the principles of the Old Testament guiding you in your present ministry and circumstances?
- 8. Does knowing the circumstances and struggles of people in the Old Testament help you when you face difficulties in your own life? Explain your answer.
- 9. How can concentrating on what God did in the past help you apply the Scriptures to your present circumstances?
- 10. What ministries are you currently engaged in, and how are you helping others connect the Old Testament writings to our modern world?
- 11. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?