

# **Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together**

## **Understanding the History in the Christian Scriptures Lesson #4**

### **Introduction**

- I. The key to understanding the history in the Old Testament is understanding the covenants.
  - A. The last lesson explained the meaning of the Bible's title, The Old and New Testaments.
    - 1. The word "testament" is related to the word "covenant."
    - 2. The titles, The Old and New Testaments means The Old and New Covenants.
    - 2. We learned these covenants can be summed up in the verse "**I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.**" (Leviticus 26:12)
  - B. We looked at three covenants in the Old Testament.
    - 1. The Abrahamic Covenant, Mosaic Covenant and the New Covenant
    - 2. In this lesson we will also look at the Noahic and Davidic Covenants.
- II. This lesson will be about how the history of the Hebrew people in the Old Testament is the history of these covenants being fulfilled.
  - A. We will follow the history story line with our Old Testament History Chart.
  - B. We will notice how the history follows the fulfillment of the covenants.
- III. The history in the Old Testament is depicted on our Old Testament History chart.
  - A. The nine sections of this lesson's outline correspond with the nine sections on the Old Testament History chart.
  - B. The nine sections of this lesson's outline also correspond with the nine sections of the Old Testament Overview chart

### **Body**

#### **I. Beginnings - The Prologue (Genesis 1-11. Before Israel)**

- A. Creation
  - 1. God created everything good. **(1. Genesis 1:31)**
  - 2. God made humans in His image and gave them dominion over the animals. **(2. Genesis 1:27-28)**
  - 3. God warned humans about the knowledge of good and evil. **(3. Genesis 2:8-9; 16-17)**
- B. The Fall of the human race
  - 1. Adam and Eve - Sin entered the human race
    - a. The great war between good and evil **(4. Genesis 3:14-15)**
    - b. The seed of the woman will crush the serpent. **(5. 1 John 3:8)**

2. Cain and Able - The first murder
3. Noah and the flood - Human violence (**6. Gen 6:11-13**)
  - a. The Noahic Covenant (**7. Genesis 8:21; Genesis 9:8-13**)
  - b. The rainbow was a promise of salvation from the power of evil.
4. Tower of Babel - The human race scattered

## **II. The Founding of Israel – Genesis 12 (The history of Israel begins)**

- A. God worked through one man to make a people who would follow Him - Abraham
  1. The Abrahamic Covenant
    - a. Promised greatness, a nation and blessings (**8. Genesis 12:1-3**)
    - b. Promised the Land of Canaan (**9. Genesis 17:7-9**)
  2. Purpose: To teach his children the way of the LORD (**10. Genesis 18:17-19**)
- B. Abraham's family:
  1. Son Isaac and grandson Jacob
  2. Jacob's name changed to Israel.
  3. Jacob's 12 sons became the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
  4. Jacob's son Joseph went to Egypt and the whole family followed.

## **III. Exodus**

- A. The people of Israel became slaves in Egypt.
  1. God appeared to Moses and proclaimed Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (**11. Exodus 3:1-6**)
  2. God sent Moses to free Israel from Egypt. (**12. Exodus 3:7-10**)
  3. God's purpose was to show the world He is God and Israel is His people. (**13. Exodus 9:13-16**)
- B. Israel exited Egypt
  1. Establishment of the nation of Israel
  2. Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant

## **IV. Wilderness**

- A. While Israel traveled through the wilderness to the Promised Land, they received the Mosaic Covenant Law which had 3 parts:
  1. The Ten Commandments
  2. The religious system - the Tabernacle and sacrifices
  3. The social system - the civil law and the sabbath and festivals
- B. The Mosaic Covenant included blessings for loyalty to God and curses for disloyalty. (**14. Leviticus 26:3-45**)
  1. Blessings and the Promised Land for keeping The Covenant
  2. Curses and exile from the Promised Land for breaking The Covenant
  3. Renewed blessings and return from exile for returning to The Covenant (**15. Deuteronomy 30:1-5**)

C. Israel broke the Covenant

1. Made a golden calf to worship instead of God
2. Refused to go into the Promised Land when they arrived
3. God made them wander for 40 years in the wilderness.

**V. Possession of Canaan**

A. Entered the Promised Land of Canaan (Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants fulfilled)

B. Reason for conquering the land – To drive out nations because they were evil  
**(16. Leviticus 18:24-28)**

C. Rahab of Jericho - God showed the nations that He is God. **(17. Joshua 2:8-11)**

**VI. Judges**

A. After settling in the Promised Land, Israel experienced a cycle of covenant blessings and curses.

1. Israel kept The Covenant and received blessings.
2. Israel broke The Covenant and received curses.

B. God raised up judges: Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Samuel **(18. Judges 2:11-22)**

C. Theocracy – God was Israel’s leader. **(19. Judges 8:22-23)**

**VII. Kingdom**

A. Israel asked for a king – did not want God for their leader **(20. 1 Samuel 8:4-7)**

B. The first kings were Saul, David and Solomon

1. Saul was the first king but was removed by God because of unfaithfulness
2. David was the second king and followed God faithfully
  - a. David wanted to build a house for God in Jerusalem the capital
  - b. God said David’s son would build the house, but God would build the house of David as an everlasting dynasty.
  - c. The Davidic Covenant **(21. 2 Samuel 7:16-17)**

C. Solomon, the son of David,

1. Solomon built the Temple in the capital city of Jerusalem.  
**(22. 2 Chronicles 3:1; 2 Chronicles 7:11-22)**
2. Solomon did not keep The Covenant **(23. I Kings 11:4-13)**

**VII. Kingdom Divided into Israel and Judah**

A. Israel in the north

1. Israel broke The Covenant by building a golden calf as a national religion and also worshipping Baal.
2. God sent Israel prophets to call them back to The Covenant. - Elijah and Elisha
3. Israel was exiled to Assyria. **(24. 2 Kings 17:6-23)**

#### B. Judah in the south

1. Judah of the line of David - God keeps His Covenant with David.
2. Judah broke The Covenant though God sent them prophets to call them back. **(25. Jeremiah 11:6-8)**
3. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed, and Judah was exiled to Babylon away from the Promised Land. **(26. 2 Chronicles 36:15-20)**

### VIII. Exile

- A. God protected Judah during their exile in Babylon.
  1. Daniel arose to honor in Babylon.
  2. Esther became queen and rescued her people from destruction.
  3. God showed the nations He is God. **(27. Daniel 4:37; Daniel 6:25-27)**
- B. Judah repented and turned back to The Covenant while in exile. **(28. Jeremiah 29:10-14; Daniel 9:1-17)**

### IX. Return

- A. God kept The Covenant to return His people back to the promised land.
- B. King Cyrus decreed the return of the people of God to Jerusalem. **(29. Ezra 1:1-3)**
- C. God's people returned to their Promised Land and rebuilt the temple and Jerusalem. **(30. Ezra 2:1; Ezra 6:15-16; Nehemiah 6:15-16)**

### Conclusion

I. The title of our lesson series is - Connections: How the Old and New Testaments fit together, and we have learned that Jesus Christ, our Messiah, is the connection.

#### A. In Review:

1. The first lesson, titled Understanding the Christian Scriptures, explained how the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, who the New Testament claims is Jesus Christ.
  2. The second lesson, titled Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures explained how historical events recorded in the Old Testament foreshadowed Jesus Christ told of in the New Testament.
  3. The third lesson, titled Understanding the Titles of the Christian Scriptures. explained how the covenants presented in the Old Testament explained God's relationship with Israel and prepares us for our relationship with Jesus Christ explained in the New Testament.
- B. This last lesson, titled Understanding the History in the Christian Scriptures, explained how The Covenants God made with Israel were fulfilled in their history, as described in the Old Testament.

1. The evidence this provides for the faithfulness of God, gives us confidence that the promises made to us about Jesus Christ, as described in the New Testament, will also be fulfilled.
2. All these covenants, and the whole Bible, can be summed up in the verse: **“I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.” (Leviticus 26:12)**
3. God is still fulfilling His Covenants with Israel and with us who believe that Jesus is the Christ. Let us rejoice. **(31. Luke 1:68-79)**

C. Prayer of thanksgiving

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### **Scriptures to Read During the Lesson**

**(1. Genesis 1:31)** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed [it was] very good. . . . (NKJV)

**(2. Genesis 1:27-28)** So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."(NKJV)

**(3. Genesis 2:8-17)** The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . . The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (NASB)

**(4. Genesis 3:14-15)** So the LORD God said to the serpent, ". . . I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (NIV)

**(5. 1 John 3:8)** . . . The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. (NASB)

**(6. Genesis 6:11-13)** Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. (NIV)

**(7. Genesis 8:21; Genesis 9:8-13)**

[Genesis 8:21] The LORD . . . said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. (NIV)

[Genesis 9:8-13] Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (NIV)

**(8. Genesis 12:1-3)** The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (NIV)

**(9. Genesis 17:7-9)** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. (NIV)

**10. Genesis 18:17-19)** Then the LORD said, ". . . Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." (NIV)

**(11. Exodus 3:1-6)** Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law. . . . The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. . . . God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said . . . "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (NASB)

**(12. Exodus 3:7-10)** The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt . . . . So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite . . . . Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." (NASB)

**(13. Exodus 9:13-16)** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. . . . But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. (NASB)

**(14. Leviticus 26:3-45)** " If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and

you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove wild beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. . . . " I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. . . . I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. . . . " But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will bring on you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and sap your strength. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you. . . . " If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me, I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over. And I will bring the sword on you to avenge the breaking of the covenant. . . . I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will devour you. . . . " But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors--their unfaithfulness and their hostility toward me . . . I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.' " These are the decrees, the laws and the regulations that the LORD established at Mount Sinai between himself and the Israelites through Moses. (NIV)

**(15. Deuteronomy 30:1-5)** "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call [them] to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. "The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. (NASB)

**(16. Leviticus 18:24-28)** " Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. . . . for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you. (NIV)

**(17. Joshua 2:8-11)** Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the

LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. (NIV)

**(18. Judges 2:11-22)** Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. . . . Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did." (NIV)

**(19. Judges 8:22-23)** The Israelites said to Gideon, "Rule over us--you, your son and your grandson--because you have saved us from the hand of Midian." But Gideon told them, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you." (NIV)

**(20. 1 Samuel 8:4-7)** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. (NKJV)

**(21. 2 Samuel 7:8-16)** "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says . . . LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "NIV)

**(22. 2 Chronicles 3:1; 2 Chronicles 7:11-22)**

[2 Chronicles 3:1] Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah . . . (NIV)

[2 Chronicles 7:11] When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD . . . the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. "As for you, if you walk before me faithfully as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to rule over Israel.' "But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them-- that is why he brought all this disaster on them.' "(NIV)

**(23. I Kings 11:1-13)** King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women . . . He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. . . . So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." (NIV)

**(24. 2 Kings 17:6-23)** In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. . . . All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods . . . . The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets." But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. . . . So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left . . . until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria . . . (NIV)

**(25. Jeremiah 11:6-8)** The LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: 'Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them. From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, "Obey me." But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.' "(NIV)

**(26. 2 Chronicles 36:15-20)** The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. . . . They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. (NIV)

**(27. Daniel 4:37; Daniel 6:25-27)**

[Daniel 4:37] "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride." (NASB)

[Daniel 6:25-27] Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." (NIV)

**(28. Jeremiah 29:10-14; Daniel 9:1-17)**

[Jeremiah 29:10-14] This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."(NIV)

[Daniel 9:1-17] In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes, . . . who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom--in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. . . . I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we

have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. . . . All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. . . . Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. . . . "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. (NIV)

**(29. Ezra 1:1-3)** In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. (NIV)

**(30. Ezra 2:1; Ezra 6:15-16; Nehemiah 6:15-16)**

[Ezra 2:1] Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town, (NIV)

[Ezra 6:15-16 NIV] The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. Then the people of Israel--the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles--celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. (NIV)

[Nehemiah 6:15-16] So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. (NIV)

**(31. Luke 1:68-79)** "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant--the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. . . . Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." (NLT)

# **Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together**

## **Understanding the History in the Christian Scriptures Lesson #4**

### **Suggested Readings:**

#### **Beginnings - Prologue**

Gen 2:1-3:24

Rom 5:12-6:14

I Corinthians 15:1

#### **Founding of Israel**

Gen 15:1-21; Gen 17:1-27

Rom 4:1-25; Gal 3:6-9

#### **Exodus**

Gen 15:13-16

Ex 1:1-14; 3:1-10; 15:1-21

Ex 11 and 12; Luke 22:1-20

#### **Wilderness**

Ex 19:1-20:26

Ex 24:1-18; Ex 32:1-34:35

Lev 26:1-46

Deuteronomy 4-7

Deuteronomy 28-34

Matthew 5:17-7:28; Gal 3:6-25

#### **Conquest of Canaan**

Joshua 1:1-11; Joshua 23-24

#### **Judges**

Judges 2:1-23

#### **Kingdom**

I Samuel 8:1-22; I Samuel 10:1-19; I Samuel 15:1-34 (Numbers 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 25:17-20); I Samuel 16:1-13; I Chronicles 17; 2 Chronicles 6:1-7:22; I Kings 11:1-43

##### **North / Israel –**

I Kings 12; 2 Kings 17:1-23

##### **South / Judah –**

Jeremiah 29:10-14; 2 Chronicles 33:1-20; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

#### **Exile**

Daniel 1:1 and 6:28; Daniel 9:1-19; Esther 2:17

#### **Return**

2 Chronicles 36: 22-23; Ezra 1:1-11 and 6:13-16

Nehemiah 1:1-2:9 and 6:15

Zechariah 8:1-8 (Zechariah was a prophet among the returned exiles while they rebuilt the Temple.)