

The Background of the Old Testament

I. Introduction

- Fundamental Unity of the Bible (despite 66 Books)
- Relationship between the OT and the NT

UNITY of the Bible

- a. Augustine -
“...the Old Testament revealed in the New, the New veiled in the Old...”
- b. W. Graham Scroggie -
“The New is in the Old contained, and the Old is in the New explained.”
“The Old gathers 'round Sinai, and the New 'round Calvary.”
"Without the New Covenant, the Old is a start that has no finish; and without the old, the New is a finish that has no start."
(All from Know Your Bible by W. Graham Scroggie)
- c. (J. Sidlow Baxter)
 - Old Testament - Anticipation of Christ
 - Gospels - Manifestation of Christ
 - Acts - Proclamation of Christ
 - Epistles - Explanation of Christ
 - Revelation - Consummation of Christ

II. The Straight Line

A. The Beginnings

- From Adam to Terah (19 Generations)
- Seth (cont. the Godly line after Cain and Abel)
- Enoch (fiery preacher, translated)
- Methusaleh (969 years)
- Noah (Preacher of Righteousness, type of Christ)
- Terah (father of Abraham)

B. The Patriarchs

- Abraham
- Isaac (not Ishmael)
- Jacob (not Esau)
- Joseph (rejected by his people, used by God to *save* his people, used by God to *bless* his people)

C. The Exodus and the Wilderness

- Moses

D. The Conquest

- Joshua (central, Southern, and Northern Campaigns)

E. The Period of the Judges

- After initial success of Joshua and the Elders there was failure to abide by terms of the Mosaic Law

F. The Monarchy

- Saul (willful King, choice of the people, failure in God's eyes)
- David (servant king, chosen by God, "a man after My own heart")
- Solomon (great King, Moral failure, built the Temple)

III. The Divided Line

A. The Divided Kingdom

- North (10 Tribes)
- South (2 Tribes)

B. The Age of the Prophets

- View as a gracious call to heed the terms of the Mosaic Law and Covenant and the warning and promise of Deut. 27-28 "Curses and Blessings")
- "spokesmen" for God (hence they wield "the Prophetic Voice of God")
- cf both *forth*-telling and *fore*-telling
- *nabhi* means "spokesman (hence, *neviim*= prophets)
- Fundamental contention of the prophets was: "Don't Blame me" and " God told you so"
- Pre-Exilic
- Exilic
- Post-Exilic

C. The Discipline of God's People

1. The Demise of the North

- The demise of the North in 722 BC by the Assyrians

2. The Exile of the South

- Demise of the South in 605 BC by the Babylonians

IV. The Straight Line (*continues*)

A. The Return from Exile

- 538 BC by Zerubbabel under Cyrus the Persian (Ezra 1-6)
- 450 BC by Ezra under Persian Artaxerxes (Ezra 7-10)
- 444 BC by Nehemiah under Persian Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1-13)

B. The Rebuilding of the Temple

- Begun in 538 BC
- Work resumes in 520 BC
- Work completed in 515 BC

C. The Prophetic Voice Continues

- Post- Exilic Voices (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

V. Silence

- Marks off the Curse which hung over the Old Testament faithful and sets off the Blessing which awaited the New testament believers