

**PLAYBOOK FOR LIFE: Old Testament**

February 10 &amp; 13, 2022

**PART ONE: OLD TESTAMENT STORIES**

The Old Testament is 77% of scripture, and more than 40% of Old Testament is story.

Plot: The tale of a God who is out to get back what rightfully belongs to Him.

Consider: *How does this narrative fit into God's story? How does this narrative fit into my story?*

**Three Levels of an Old Testament Story:**

1. Top: God's universal story. Genesis 1-3 humanity sins, creation falls, the world cries out for salvation; the rest of scripture tells the rest of the story.
2. Middle: Israel's story. Call of Abraham through restoration of God's people after exile.
3. Bottom: Individual's story. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samson, Ruth, Samuel, David and list goes on!

Discover the Author's Intended Meaning (AIM)

**Seven Questions to Ask When Reading an Old Testament Story:**

1. What kind of story? Journey, birth, judgment, romance, underdog...
2. Where is the setting of this story? Location...
3. What do we know about the main characters? Physical description, personality, etc.
4. What do the characters say? Nearly 50% of OT story is dialogue.
5. Are there repeated words or phrases?
6. Is irony present? Incongruences?
7. How does the story connect to its context? Context is king!

**PART TWO: OLD TESTAMENT LAW**

Legal portions of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Consider: *Can the Old Testament law still speak today? Yes! As New Testament believers, how can we read the Old Testament Law texts accurately and apply them appropriately?*

**Two Principles for Reading Old Testament Law Texts:**

1. Remember the original audience. Israel!
  - Gift, not a burden.
  - Compass, not a map.
2. Remember the theological purpose.
  - Window... (a) What does this command tell me about the Person who gave it? (b) What clues does this command give me about what He believes to be true and important?
  - Mirror... the law makes us aware of our deep moral failure.
  - Picture... the law forms an outline of what Jesus would look like someday.

**PART THREE: OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS**

17 books, Isaiah through Malachi, almost 20% of scripture.

Consider: *Why do we often avoid the prophets?*

**Two Reasons to Read the Old Testament Prophets:**

1. The prophets deal with some of humanity's biggest questions.
2. The prophets offer us some of God's most personal answers. Perhaps if God kept a journal.

**Six Principles for Reading the Old Testament Prophets:**

1. Reconstruct the setting. 760—460BC, civil war, invasion, exile
2. Remember the task. Prophets were called to enforce OT Law.
3. Pay attention to the person.
4. Understand the themes.
  - "You're guilty"* of idolatry, social injustice, and religious hypocrisy.
  - "Judgment is coming."*
  - "There is still hope!"*
5. Understand the perspective. Now, later, much later, much much later.
6. Understand the metaphors and symbolic language. The prophets mostly wrote in Hebrew poetry.

**TAKEAWAY: Study the Playbook and help serve others.**

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