

# What Is the Story of the Old Testament | Bible Basics for Youth #4

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The Old Testament (OT) describes human history from the beginning of time until Jesus' arrival on earth, from God's perspective. We hope that you will read the OT for yourself, and in order to help you, here are some of the major points that you will encounter as you go through this section of the Bible.

## How does the Bible start?

The Bible teaches that God is eternal, but everything else is created. At some point, God began creating everything by the power of his word.

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

In one moment there was nothing but God, and then in the next moment things began to exist. Creation demonstrates to us the power and glory of God. And this also teaches us that the universe is not random, but was created by a personal God for a specific purpose. This purpose is explained to us in the next point.

## Why did God create people?

God made humans to be connected to him and connected to each other. God made us in His own image- a unique distinction that only human beings have.

**Genesis 1:27-28** *So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."*

Humans were put on earth to take care of God's creation, and reflect His image. Sadly, sin changed everything. The first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned and wrecked the perfect relationship that humanity experienced with God. Thankfully, God wasn't done with humanity. Many years later God called a man named Abraham to begin his plan to rescue the world.

## What are the big 3 promises to Abraham?

In **Genesis 12**, we find one of the most important passages in the entire Bible. In these verses, God begins to explain to Abraham (and us) how He will save the world.

**Genesis 12:1-3** *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation.... All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

God was going to save the world through the line of this man Abraham. And as the OT unfolds, we see how God begins to fulfill this three-fold promise. He turns Abraham's descendants into a mighty nation called Israel and gives them their own land where they can dwell.

## How do the Israelites fit in?

Sadly, Israel did not follow God's law and honor him. Instead, they went into a period of spiritual decline that repeated itself in every generation.

***Judges 2:12** They abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the Lord.*

As a nation, Israel wasn't going to be able to save the world. Sin was too big of a problem in the human heart. Humanity needed a savior, and fortunately, this was always part of God's plan.

## Where is Jesus in all of this?

Remember the third part of the promise to Abraham? God promised a future blessing. He would save the whole world through a descendant of Abraham. As the years went on God explained that this savior would also be his eternal king. Unfortunately, Israel continued in their sin and were taken away in exile from their homeland. When some of them finally returned to their homeland, God reminded them of His promise of a coming savior-king, the Messiah.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Watch the video together or invite someone to summarize the topic.
2. What is your initial reaction to this video? Do you disagree with any of it? What jumped out at you?
3. Read [Genesis 1:1](#). What does this verse teach us about our universe? How does this contradict the claims of naturalism?
4. Read [Genesis 1:27-28](#). What do these verses teach us about our purpose here on the earth? What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
5. What were the three promises that God made to Abraham? How did God begin to fulfill these promises in the OT?
6. Why can't people overcome their own sinfulness? Describe a time when you tried to overcome some sort of personal weakness or sin on your own and failed. What caused your failure?
7. Write a personal action step based on this conversation.