

# Kingdom, Covenants & Canon of the Old Testament

## *Study Questions for Lesson 1: Why Study the Old Testament*

1. Name and describe two causes that create a sense of distance between us and the Old Testament.
2. Describe three kinds of distance we commonly find between us and the Old Testament.
3. Explain the relationship between Jesus' teaching and the teaching of the Old Testament.
4. How does Paul's teaching affirm the ongoing value of the Old Testament?
5. What should we learn from the teachings of Jesus and Paul about the relevance of the Old Testament in the modern world?
6. Describe the significant challenge do we face as we try to understand and apply the Old Testament to our lives.
7. Describe the connections that make it possible for us to apply the teachings of the Old Testament in our contemporary world.
8. Describe three significant developments that took place between the period of the Old Testament and period of the New Testament.

### Application Questions

1. Think of a time when the Old Testament was perplexing to you. What contributed to your initial confusion?
2. How would you respond to someone who said, "Jesus' teaching on such things as murder, adultery and love for enemies contradicts the teachings of the Old Testament"?
3. In the Sermon on the Mount, why did Jesus keep contrasting what was *said* versus what was *written*? In what ways might modern Christians be tempted to make errors like those that Jesus refuted?
4. What benefits come from acknowledging God's unchanging nature as you study the Old Testament?
5. Why is it helpful to recall that people in both the Old Testament and the New Testament lived in the same world?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

### *Study Questions for Lesson 2: The Kingdom of God*

1. Describe the Old Testament's teaching on God's complete and unchanging sovereignty.
2. In what ways does the Bible speak of God's kingdom developing?
3. Describe how the primeval history first established the place of God's kingdom.
4. Describe God's intended role for people in the establishment and preparation of God's kingdom.
5. Briefly sketch the progress of God's kingdom during the primeval period.
6. What was the place of the kingdom during the days of ancient Israel?
7. How did the people of ancient Israel establish and prepare God's kingdom?
8. Describe the progress of God's kingdom during the time of ancient Israel.
9. What does the New Testament say about the place of God's kingdom?
10. How does the New Testament describe the people of the kingdom of God?
11. What is the New Testament's teaching about the progression of God's kingdom.

### **Application Questions**

1. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 6:9-10 when he taught his disciples to pray "your kingdom come"?
2. When God created the earth, he judged it to be good. And after humanity's fall into sin, God established a long-term strategy for redeeming the earth from its fallen state. In light of God's program for redemption, how should Christians view the earth?
3. In God's kingdom strategy, people are his chosen instruments by which he is preparing the earth to become his kingdom. What implications does this have for your interactions with others? What does it imply about the significance of individual service to God?
4. What kind of kingdom is God establishing? When God's kingdom is manifested on earth as it is now manifested in heaven, what will life on earth be like?
5. What is the connection between the gospel and the kingdom of God? How does knowing this connection enrich your understanding of the gospel?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

### *Study Questions for Lesson 3: Divine Covenants*

1. What recent archaeological discoveries can help us understand biblical covenants?
2. What insights can recent archaeological discoveries give us into biblical covenants?
3. How did the universal covenants move God's kingdom purposes forward?
4. How did the national covenants move God's kingdom purposes forward?
5. How does the new covenant move God's kingdom purposes forward?
6. How are covenant dynamics expressed in the universal covenants?
7. How are covenant dynamics expressed in Israel's national covenants?
8. How are covenant dynamics expressed in the new covenant?
9. Describe the divisions of humanity within all types of divine covenants.
10. How are the dynamics of covenants applied to these different groups of people?

### **Application Questions**

1. How is your personal relationship with God shaped by the three central features of covenants? In what ways do these three features highlight important aspects of your relationship to God?
2. In this study, we have seen that all covenants are dependent upon the grace and mercy of God. Why is it significant to recall this fundamental element of covenants as we the requirement of loyal obedience, and the consequences due to loyalty and disloyalty?
3. All biblical covenants contained consequences of blessing and cursing. What are some ways you can see this dynamic at work in the modern world? In your church? In your own life?
4. How should the understanding that there are three types of people in the world impact the way you view other members of the church? How should it impact your understanding of church membership? Does it have any impact on your understanding of baptism and the Lord's Supper?
5. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

### *Study Questions for Lesson 4: Canon*

1. How is the use of the Canon as a mirror justified by the character of Scripture and biblical example?
2. Describe the three common focuses thematic analysis often has.
3. How does the character of Scripture and the biblical example provide a basis for using the Canon as a window?
4. How do synchronic snapshots and diachronic traces function? Why are they useful?
5. How do the character of Scripture and biblical examples provide the basis for viewing the Canon as a picture?
6. Describe the value of a three-fold focus on the writer, audience and document in literary analysis.

### **Application Questions**

1. Describe a situation in which you might appropriate thematic analysis to gain guidance and insight for a personal concern.
2. Have you ever found it difficult to believe the historical events of the Bible? Why should Christians believe the supernatural events of the Old Testament?
3. How does understanding the diachronic trace of biblical events enrich your understanding of Scripture?
4. Give an example of how knowing the writer's intentions can help you understand Scripture better.
5. In literary analysis, how can you avoid the fallacies regarding the writer, the audience, and the document?
6. In what ways is the Bible like any other book? In what ways is it different? How should these similarities and differences affect the way read it?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?