

**An Introduction to the Old Testament**  
**Class 1: Getting Oriented**  
2025-2026  
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**I. Welcome!**

**II. Getting Oriented to...the Class**

A. Syllabus

**III. Getting Oriented to...the Old Testament**

A. Open to...*your Table of Contents*

**IV. Getting Oriented to...Why We Bother**

A. Matthew 1:1 – *Who is Jesus again?*

B. Matthew 1:2–17 – A history that leads directly to Jesus.

C. Matthew 1:18–25 – OT prophecies fulfilled in Jesus.

D. Jeremiah 31:31–34 – A new covenant promised. Luke 22:20 – The new covenant inaugurated.

E. And more besides...

**V. The Testaments: To Understand the New, We Must Understand the Old. To Understand the Old, We Must Understand the New.**

**VI. What We Find There**

A. God!

Ultimately, the Bible is first and foremost a revelation of God. It is his Word to all humanity and especially his people. It is “breathed out by God” (2 Tim 3:16) and not merely the words of its human authors. There’s no suspense about this. From the first two sentences, this becomes crystal-clear:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Gen 1:1-2)

B. History—the history of...us!

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:9–10)

C. Commandments—a rule of life, wisdom for living

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” (Exod 20:12)

D. Poetry—putting words to our feelings

“Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” (Ps 10:1)

E. Promises and Prophecies—made to us, about Christ and the future

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Josh 1:8)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isa 9:6–7)

## VII. Conclusion

The NT authors were keenly aware that its message was a fulfillment of the OT and that the OT was the foundation of all they had to say. Their message is undecipherable without the OT, a riddle that is unsolvable. You can’t understand Jesus without the OT; you can’t understand the OT without Jesus. The OT without the NT is a question without an answer, a sign pointing ahead to a place no one’s ever visited. The NT without the OT is the answer to a question that was never asked.

## VIII. Next Time...