

**Sermon, November 27, 2011**  
***“The Old Testament – Herald of Christ”, Genesis 1:1-4; Malachi 4:2-6***  
**Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy**

<b><u>Pentateuch</u></b>	<b><u>History</u></b>	<b><u>Poetry/Wisdom</u></b>	<b><u>Major Prophets</u></b>	<b><u>Minor Prophets</u></b>
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	1 Kings			Micah
	2 Kings			Nahum
	1 Chronicles			Habbakuk
	2 Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra			Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah
	Esther			Malachi

*The Old Testament reveals God, his people, and the Messiah to come.*

**1. The Old Testament is a book of origins.**

- The OT answers the question, “How did we get here?”
- The OT answers the question, “Is there a God?”
- The OT answers the question, “Where did we come from?”
- The OT answers the question, “Why is there evil in the world?”
- The OT answers the question, “What is sin?”
- The OT answers the question, “How do we restore our relationship to God?”

**2. The Old Testament tells the history of God and His people.**

- ? to 2000 BC            Genesis 1-11
- 2000-1700 BC        Genesis 12-50
- 1700-1450 BC        Exodus-Deuteronomy
- 1450-1100 BC        Joshua-1 Samuel 7
- 1100-600 BC         1 Samuel 8-2 Chronicles
- 500-400 BC            Ezra-Nehemiah

**3. The Old Testament reveals God’s dealing with ordinary people.**

- God reveals Himself to shepherds, businessmen, princes, stonecutters, farmers, kings, prostitutes, priests, young, old, women, men...
- Some did extraordinary God given tasks with very ordinary human concerns and faults, while others were idolatrous and continued to practice evil.

**4. The Old Testament lays down the Law, His Word.**

- God reveals to His people what it takes to stand in front of a holy God in righteousness.
- God’s justice is always right.
- Obedience is blessed; disobedience (sin) is punished.
- The heart of the Law is:  
**Deuteronomy 6:5-6; Psalm 119:105**

**5. The Old Testament shows God at work in the lives of His people, longing for a restored relationship.**

- God consistently reveals His lovingkindness and forgiveness toward His people.
- **Joshua 1:9, Proverbs 3:5, 2 Chronicles 9:8, Hosea 11:4, Habakkuk 3:18-19, Nehemiah 9:17**

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**6. The Old Testament reveals God’s appeal to turn from sin, repent, turn back to God.**

- **Isaiah 45:22; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ezekiel 18:30**

**7. The Old Testament points to the Messiah who would come to restore hearts to the Father.**

Throughout the Old Testament the coming of Messiah is revealed. Genesis 3:15

Salvation comes through faith in God: Genesis 15:6

Various foreshadowings and types of Christ:

- Noah, Melchizedek, The Passover lamb, Moses, The manna in the wilderness, Boaz, David, The Temple and the sacrificial system...

Many prophecies of Christ to come:

- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)
- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23) as a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16), of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14), and of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1)
- Herod killing the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
- Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)
- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)
- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)
- Preached good news (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)
- Performed miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)
- Cleansed the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)
- Ministered in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)
- Entered Jerusalem as a king on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9)
- First presented Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25; Matthew 21:4-11)
- Rejected by Jews (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7)
- Died a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving: rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48), betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18), sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15), silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14), being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31), beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26), spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30), piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31), being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38), praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34), piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34), given gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36), no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36), buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60), casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).
- Rose from the dead! (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Ascended into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)
- Sat down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

**Conclusion:**

- The foundation of our faith is strengthened by the history of God and His people.
- The heart of God is full of compassion, love, forgiveness, and restoration.

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