

# The Old Testament - Part 2

July 20, 2025

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. This week's message is titled, "The Old Testament, Part Two." Thank you to Dave, Barb, Gloria, and Don for being part of the service. The scripture reading is Psalm 37, verses three to seven from the New English Translation.

Happy birthday this week to Dave, Annie, Kelli, and Aiden.

## Scripture Reading

### Psalm 37:3-7 (NET)

The scripture reading this morning is from Psalm 37 3 to 7. Trust in the Lord and do what is right. Settle in the land and maintain your integrity. Then you will take delight in the Lord and he will answer your prayers. Commit your future to the Lord. Trust in him and he will act on your behalf. He will vindicate you in broad daylight and publicly defend your just cause. Wait patiently for the Lord. Wait confidently for him. Do not fret over the apparent success of a sinner, a man who carries out wicked schemes.

## Sermon

### The Old Testament - Part 2

A couple weeks ago we started a kind of a preaching series that was maybe awkward for some of us. Said, if you had the opportunity to take one scripture, just one scripture from each book of the New Testament, what would you choose? Well, try doing it and there's just so many scriptures, so, so many scriptures that all of them would be wonderful. And so then we went to the Old Testament scripture and we did the same thing. So I'm just gonna continue with that and we'll be finished this very small series. And I wanna talk about some Old Testament scriptures, part two, if you will.

And it says this in Psalms, "Praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise him with the harp and lyre. Praise him with tambourine and dancing." So it'd be kind of cool if we did all that here. Just unique, it's just in any way praise him. Any way we can praise him. Praise him with the strings and flute. Praise him with the clash of the cymbals. Praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord, praise the Lord.

You know, it's simple things. Like maybe something I saw yesterday, a bird making the way up into the tree. I don't know why I was paying attention and all of a sudden there was music coming out. This beautiful chirping. And it's like, if the bird can praise God, certainly we can. Praise is part of who we are. It's what God made for us and so that we can be part of all of this. And I suspect that heaven is overflowing with music.

So Proverbs chapter three, verses five and six, a fairly familiar verse. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And let's face it, there are times in our life that we need the Lord so badly. So trust in him. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and this may be difficult. And do not lean upon your own understanding but in all your ways, acknowledge the Lord and he will make your paths straight. We may have different opinions on what the Lord wants us to do. But the Lord will bring us back to where he wants us to go.

So in the book of Ecclesiastes, it's an interesting book. Sometimes you've heard the word ecclesiastical, having a lot to do with faith and scripture and all of those things. And chapter three, very familiar verse says this, "There is a time when the Lord is not going to be "for everything and to season "for every activity under heaven. "There is a time to be born "and there is a time to die. "There's a time to plant "and there's a time to uproot, "time to kill, time to heal." I'm gonna go back to that for just a moment. A time to kill, what do you mean a time to kill? Maybe killing negative thoughts. Maybe killing oppression. Get rid of all of those things. A time to plant, a time to uproot. There's

a time to tear down, a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather all of those stones. A time to embrace and a time to refrain. A time to keep and a time to push time away. A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to not love, hate if you will. There is a time for war and a time for peace. And we pray and we pray that there will be no more war.

And then we come to another wonderful, eclectic Old Testament scripture. I mean, let's face it. When was the last time we read the book, The Song of Songs? And it's wonderful. In chapter eight, verses six and seven, it's precious. Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm, for love is strong as death. It's jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters can't quench love. Rivers can't wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. Love is much more than material things.

And then again, a rather unique and eclectic scripture found in the book of Isaiah, chapter two, verses two through five. In the last days of the mountain, the Lord's temple will be established as the chief among the mountains. It will be raised above the hills and the nations, listen, and the nations will stream to it. Many will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob. He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths." Many of us have had wonderful Bible teachers and we so appreciate them. It's just the beginning and we continue to grow and grow. He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out from Zion in the word of the Lord from Jerusalem and to all of the earth. And then he says, "He will judge between the nations and settle all of these disputes." And I love this. "Nation will never take up sword again, nor will they ever train evermore."

And then in Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to me saying, I love this, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you as a teacher, preacher, as a prophet to the nations." And I'd like to believe, and I do believe, that this is the truth. Before we came, before we were born, God had already set us apart.

And then the book of Ezekiel, again, a very challenging book, "Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around the Lord." This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw the glory of the Lord, I fell face down, and I heard the voice of one speaking. Can you imagine hearing the voice of God? And we will. And he said, "Son of man, I'm sending you to the Israelites. They are a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me to this very day. The people I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn." And let's face it, all of us are sometimes, "but do not rebel."

And then there's this interesting scripture in the book of Daniel. "No wise man, no enchanter, no diviner can explain the king to the mystery that he's asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals all mysteries, all of them." God knows for each of us.

And then there's this interesting book. I know I'm just touching on each one just a little bit, but the book of Hosea, again, when was the last time we ever read the book of Hosea? But he says this, "For I am God. I'm not a man, the Holy One among you, and I will never come to you in wrath. I will settle in homes, and the Lord's people will be declared as one. I will ransom them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O death, is your destruction?" No, we are beyond all of that.

And then, sorry, I keep saying this, here's my favorite scripture, and then the next one will be my favorite scripture. But it says this, "I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out in my spirit in these days." But that's true for all of us, right? We have God the Father, we have God the Son, and we have God the Holy Spirit, not standing beside us, but in us, and our part is to receive them, to love them. Somehow, wouldn't it be just incredible if we could love the Lord as much as he loves us? And so we continue for that.

And then, again, when was the last time we read the book of Amos, chapter five, 14 through 16? "Seek good, not evil, "so that you may live. "Then the Lord Almighty will be with you "just as you say he is." Listen, hate, evil, love and maintain good and justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

And then, an interesting name in the Old Testament, Obadiah, very interesting name, and a very brief book. He says in verse 15, something powerful. "The day of the Lord is near "for all nations. "As you have done, it will be done to you. "Deliverers will go up to the Mount of Zion "to govern the mountains of Esau "and the kingdom will be the Lord's."

And then, the book of Jonah, which is really a very cool story, as Jonah is thrown into the water, drowning, if you will, when my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord and my prayer rose to the Lord and to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols forget the grace of God. But it could be theirs. We want God's grace and we want to share God's grace.

Okay, and then Micah, chapter four. "In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's temple "will be established as chief among the mountains. "It will be raised above the hills "and people will stream to it. "Many nations will come and say, "'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, "'the house of Jacob. "'He will teach us his ways "'so that we may walk in his paths. "'Nation will not take up sword against nation, "'nor will they ever train for war again.' "And won't that be wonderful? "No more war anywhere at any time."

And then Nahum, kind of the opposite. Not a happy camper, not a happy book. But it says, "The Lord is good, "a refuge in times of trouble. "He cares for those who trust in him, "but with an overwhelming flood, "he will make an end of Nineveh. "He will pursue his foes into darkness." And we don't want to go there. "Nothing can heal your wound. "Your injury is fatal. "Everyone hears the news about you, "claps his hands at your fall "for who has not felt your endless cruelty." A book that's not very pleasant.

But then you come to another interesting book. I think I've said this every time now, but it is interesting. When was the last time we read the book of Habakkuk? The Lord replied, "Write down the revelation "and make it plain on tablets "so that a herald may run with it. "For the revelation awaits an appointed time. "It speaks of the end and it will not prove false. "Though it linger, wait for it." See, that's where we are right now. Even though this is Old Testament, we're still part of this. Wait for it, wait for it. Because the righteous will live by, help me, faith. Verse 20. But the Lord is in his holy temple. Help me with this. Let all the earth be silent before him. Won't it be incredible when we see him face to face?

And then an interesting book, again, I keep saying it, but it really is. The book of Zephaniah, the Lord your God is with you who's mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing. And I often think about this when our babies were young and they just couldn't settle. Done everything we could, they've changed their diaper, we've fed them, they just, they won't settle. They just won't settle until finally you feel them in your arms and you hear this. (Sighs) And thank the Lord they've gone to sleep.

(Laughs) See, it's this idea of the book in the Old Testament can be so rigid, but at the same time it could be so tender and so much of today. It's so beautiful.

Shout and be glad, O daughter of Zion, for I'm coming and I will live among you, declares the Lord. Know the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. And then Malachi, but you have turned away by your own teaching and you have caused people to stumble. You have violated the covenant with Levi, says the Lord. I've caused you to be despised and humiliated before all people because you have not followed my ways, but I've shown partiality in matters of the law.

And then the Lord says, wanting him to change, the Lord does not change. It's the Lord who does not change. The Lord loves us all. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers, you've turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. So Lord says, return to me and I will return to you. God will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.

And then lastly, beautiful words. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. Won't it be wonderful to see the face of God? Amen.

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