

## **The Biblical Background to Christ's Teachings**

or

### **The Old (First) Testament: Its Relevance and Importance for the Church**

The book from which this course springs contains 365 reflections on the redemptive-historical background of Christianity. These reveal the continuity of Scripture, focusing on the stories of the Old Testament and how they anticipate the life and work of Christ. This course expands on what is found in the book. Part 1 summarizes the redemptive-historical story that Jesus would have learned in his youth. Part 2 develops some Old Testament themes that continue to be very important for Christian faith and life today. Both the reflections in the book and the accompanying lectures will prove useful to those preparing to lead Bible Studies or write sermons based on the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

## Part 1: An Overview of the Redemptive-Historical Story of the Old Testament

- A. Beginnings
  - 1. Religion and Revelation
  - 2. Primeval History
  - 3. The Patriarchs
- B. From Slavery to Freedom
  - 4. Exodus from Egypt
  - 5. The Wilderness Years
  - 6. Early Life in the Promised Land
- C. The Kingdom of Israel
  - 7. Rise of the Monarchy
  - 8. The Golden Years
  - 9. The Divided Kingdom
- D. Dissolution and Restoration
  - 10. March toward Destruction
  - 11. Exile and Return
  - 12. The Messianic Hope
- E. The Continuity of Scripture
  - 13. The Abrahamic Covenant and Its Fulfillment
  - 14. From Paradise Lost to the Eternal Temple
  - 15. God's Continuing Work with Dry Bones

## Part 2: New Testament Themes in the Old Testament

- F. The Creator/Creature Distinction
  - 16. The Sovereignty and Providence of God
  - 17. Human Freedom is Found in Dependence upon God
  - 18. Worship and the Works of Faith
- G. Rebellion against the Divine Order
  - 19. Sin and Its Consequences
  - 20. Spiritual Warfare
  - 21. The Righteous Judgment of God
- H. God's Answer for Sinful Rebellion
  - 22. The Lovingkindness of God
  - 23. Sacrifice and Atonement
  - 24. Repentance
- I. Reconciliation with God
  - 25. Understanding Grace
  - 26. Our Covenanting God
  - 27. God's Firstborn
- J. Embracing God's Priorities
  - 28. Reading and Living Scripture Well
  - 29. The Prayers of God's Servants
  - 30. Sharing God's Heart for the World
- K. Discipleship Challenges
  - 31. Suffering and Faith
  - 32. Sin and Temptation
  - 33. Unity among God's People
- L. Biblical Wisdom in Everyday Life
  - 34. Gender Relations and Marriage
  - 35. Parents and Children
  - 36. Generosity vs. Materialism