

# Old Testament Rearview

## Route 66

I got a call this week from one of our church members, and he asked what I was going to preach next. I asked him why he wanted to know. He said, "Well you just preached through the Bible and there's nothing left to preach!" I don't know about your family, but when my family travels, and when we get back home from where we've been, we take just a few moments and review our vacation. A lot of families do this. We pull the pictures out, we talk about where we went, what we did, what we saw, and what we enjoyed. A lot of times, folks in the community who knew we were gone have questions about where we went, what we did, and what we saw. When we're talking with our neighbors and family members, many times I find myself encouraging them that if they get time, they should go where our family went, because we had that great of a time. Hopefully, the community knows that we have been traveling down Route 66 and it's finished; 66 books of the Bible in 66 weeks. We are going to pause and look back on where we've been, what we saw, and what truths we learned on Route 66. I pray that we still get opportunities to share with our neighbors about this exciting journey that we took seeing the big picture of the Bible. If you remember, when we were traveling down Route 66, we saw a lot of historical markers. Some very important scriptures. We're going to read several scriptures that will just remind you of where we've been in our OT study. If I were going to title this, it would be *Route 66 OT Rearview*. We're not going to be looking out the windshield or the windows at where we are, we are going to be looking in the rearview mirror at where we've been. This journey was so epic in my mind that there's no way we could capture it in one lesson, so we're going to break it into two parts; the OT and the NT rearview.

### Scripture

Genesis 3:15

***I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."***

Genesis 12:1-3

***12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***

2 Samuel 7:12-13

***<sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.***

Psalms 22:1, 22:6-8, 22:14-18

***1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of  
my groaning?***

***6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.***

***<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;***

***<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"***

***14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.  
16 For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—  
17 I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;  
18 they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.***

Micah 5:2-5

***2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.  
5 And he shall be their peace.***

Isaiah 53:1-6

***1 He was despised and rejected by men;  
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

***4 Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.***

***5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.***

***6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.***

As you know, we had 39 stops in the OT. Each week we stopped in each of the 39 books of the OT, but as we look in the rearview mirror, there is no way we can recap 39 books. But if you will remember, in the beginning we stated that the 39 books of the OT are divided into four geographical areas. The first area we visited was Genesis – Deuteronomy, and we called those The Five Books of Moses, also referred to as the Law Books or the Pentateuch. The second section that we studied were the 12 historical books, starting with Joshua and going all the way to Esther. Then, in our English Bibles, we entered that third geographical area and that was called the Wisdom books, where we started with a man named Job and we finished with the Song of Solomon; a love song between a man and a wife in the covenant of marriage. A male and a female in God's covenant of marriage. Then we concluded our study of the OT in the mountain range of the prophetic mountain. There were 17 peaks in that mountain range. Five called major prophets and 12 called minor prophets, but we decided as we were in that section of the OT that the reason they are called minor prophets in no way does it talk about the content of the message, but the length of the message. We are going to look in the

rearview mirror and quickly remind ourselves of where we've been in those four geographical areas of the OT. We're going to try to make sure as we review and look through the rearview mirror, that we will remember the main message in that geographical area. So that if we meet someone and they ask where we've been as a church, and they ask us if we could take 15 minutes and give them the message of the OT, each one of us could do that because we've personally been there ourselves.

## **Pentateuch**

We started in Genesis and ended with Deuteronomy. I remember entering those five books of Moses and seeing a couple standing outside of their new home because of sin. When we ended that study, we saw a nation standing outside their new home because of sin. It started the study about a man and a wife named Adam and Eve, and because of sin, they literally lost their new home. Why? Because they failed to follow God's Word. It ended with a nation called Israel standing on the bank of the Jordan river looking at their new home, but in those five books, they never entered. A whole generation perished in the wickedness because they failed to follow God's Word. As we move on to our next series of study, let's not ever forget the Bible begins by telling us there is a consequence to those who do not follow God's Word. One of the consequences of sin is it can cause you to lose what you already have. And it can cause you to never receive what could be yours if you'll just follow God. Do you remember how the Bible opens? With a God who took nothing and made everything. And then he makes mankind in his image and the next thing you know, after God gave a choice to the first man and wife, we find them in the bushes hiding from God. And the God of heaven pursues them. Adam actually tries to blame God; he was doing fine until God gave him that woman. And she tried to pass the buck, too. And then we have that promise in Genesis 3:15, of a seed that is coming. When he comes, he's going to be a serpent crusher! Yes, the serpent is going to bite at his heel, but he will strike and crush the head of the serpent. Now, we know that we're looking for a seed who is coming from a woman. A little bit later on, we discovered that God narrows it down to a man named Abraham who the seed is going to come through, and when he comes, he will be a blessing to all the nations

of the earth. Then he has two sons and the Bible tells us which son is *the* son, and we find that that son has a son who has 12 sons. Now, the Bible tells us that the seed is coming not only through a woman, and not only through a man named Abraham, but through a nation called Israel. But there are 12 sons. Before he dies, the Bible tells us that when the seed comes, he will be the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The first five books of the Bible tell us He is coming! As we try to look in our rearview mirror and look back, we can't look back because when we do, we are told to look ahead; He is coming! The seed is coming.

### **The Historical Section**

In the 12 books of the Historical section, we see that conflict between the serpent and the seed continues. Do you remember how the Historical section opened? With Joshua leading the children of Israel into their new home after Moses' death and the next thing you know, Joshua dies and they have not been obedient to God's Word, so the Bible says the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. When they did evil, God would allow the neighbors to come in and oppress them and they would cry out to God, and he would raise up a deliverer in the form of a judge and that judge would reign and rule and save the people from the oppression of their neighbors. As we ended the Book of Judges, the Bible says there was no king in Israel. The people of God were not living under the authority of a leader. The Bible says everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Let's not forget that. As we look through the rearview, when there is no ultimate authority, when the authority of God is not supreme in a land, the people of the land do what's evil in the sight of God, and they actually think what they are doing is right in their own eyes. It broke your heart and it broke my heart; you knew it was coming. Five judges in the United States did evil in the sight of God. If you saw the excerpts from the judge, in his eyes it is not a day of sin, it's a day of equality for all. It's amazing how man can take what is evil in the sight of God and be right in his own eyes. Quickly, we understood that God's people needed a king, but they wanted a king like their neighbor's had, and in desiring that king, God gave them a man named Saul and God quickly took the kingdom away from him and gave him a man after his own heart - David. David had desired to

build God's house, but because of the blood on his hands, he couldn't and as he was dying, God made a promise to him that one of his offspring would build God's house. He would sit on his throne and of his kingdom, there would be no end. All of a sudden, we realized that the seed is not only coming through a woman and a man named Abraham and a nation called Israel and a tribe called Judah, but he's actually coming from a family named David. And the next thing you know, Solomon is born and you and I rejoiced as we looked out the windshield and saw that Solomon was here and would build God's house. He would sit on David's throne and his kingdom would reign eternal. When those historical books end, after Solomon's death, there's a division in the kingdom between Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and the next thing you know, the temple that Solomon built was burned to the ground. His heart was turned from God because of his many wives and his kingdom did not last. We realize that Solomon isn't the seed. As the historical books end, we're still waiting for the seed to come, but all of a sudden, there's a plot. As the Jewish nation has come back out of captivity into the land, all of a sudden there's a plot to rid the world of the Jews. That plot spoiled. There was a lady who had been born for a time like this. God used her in a mighty way. For a moment we held our breath, but not really because we knew God's Word cannot fail. The serpent crusher is coming, but for a moment it looked like if the Jews were exterminated from the planet there could not be a coming seed. God saved the day through a queen. As we ended the Historical section, we know that He is coming! The seed is coming, but he will be of the lineage of David. When we left the Historical books, we entered into the Wisdom literature.

## **Wisdom**

We started out with a man named Job. God showed us something first; if you truly worship Him, it leads to right living no matter what your circumstances are. All of a sudden, a righteous man's life was getting ready to fall apart and everyone around him would think it's because of his sin, but yet what you and I knew was it was because of the tempter. The tester of God's creation, Satan, had been granted permission by God to test Job. He thought if he could change his circumstances, Job would

curse God. Even his wife believed he should curse God, yet he didn't. The OT starts with the book of Job because true wisdom leads to wise living; living rightly before God, before your community. Have you ever wondered why it ends with the Song of Solomon; a love story between a husband and wife? Because if you are a wise man and you heed the wisdom of God and you follow God's Word, you not only live right before God and the community because you realize the worth you have that you are just one of many and part of something bigger than yourself and because you're a part of the covenant people of God you have worth and you take your part in the community, but you know where it really matters? That's at home. Between a husband and a wife. We didn't know it at the time, but we would see it later that ultimately this relationship that's been ordained by God between a man and woman in the covenant of marriage truly signifies the love God has for his people, the love his son has for his bride, and the love the bride has for the son of God. You wonder why there's an attack on marriage today? It's because that ancient conflict that started in the garden still goes on today. We ended the wisdom literature and we hiked up the mountain range of the prophets.

## **Prophetic**

We started out with the big boys; Isaiah. When we entered in to the Prophetic mountain range, they all kind of told the same story. As they took the exodus and called God's people back to a life of obedience, they suddenly began to tell Israel that He's coming! Who's coming? The seed is coming. The seed that would be born of the woman that would be from Abraham's loins, who will be Jewish, who will be from the tribe of Judah, from the lineage of David, he is coming. It's going to be he, a seed of David, who will truly build God's house. Not a physical temple in Jerusalem, but a church that will be a blessing to the nations of the world. When that message comes, he's going to take his place on David's throne and he's going to reign over his kingdom; a kingdom that will never end. A kingdom that will have a spiritual feel first. It will change our lives from the inside out. He is coming. If you remember, in those prophets, we learned four things about the coming. We learned more, but we have to remember these. Long before the Messiah would come, the prophets told



us about the uniqueness of his birth. The uniqueness of his coming. Remember what Isaiah told us? A young girl would conceive and give birth and she wouldn't be married, she'd be a virgin. You talk about a test of faith! It sounds impossible, but nothing is impossible with God. The next thing you know, we met another prophet and he told us the place of his coming. That we would actually know where he would be from; where he would be born. A little obscure place outside of Jerusalem called Bethlehem and from Bethlehem, that's where the Messiah would come. If that's not enough, do you remember when we were hiking up that prophet named Daniel, we learned that we could know when he would arrive on the planet because Daniel had figured out that the 70 years Jeremiah talked about, Israel being in captivity, actually served as a prophetic calendar of 70 years of seven. From the time the decree was given to rebuild, from the children of Israel to leave captivity and start to rebuild, in 490 years the Messiah would come and be cut off. He would die and we did the math, and it fits exactly the time of Jesus of Nazareth. If you remember, the prophets told us about his purpose for coming. He was coming to fulfill God's promise of a new covenant. God's covenant people in the OT had a relationship with God, but it was based on their faithfulness to the covenant and they couldn't keep it. In Jeremiah 31, we learned that when the seed comes, and brings a new covenant, this new covenant will not be like the former covenant. It will not be conditional in nature, but it will be unconditional in nature. Do you understand what that means? To be living on this side, under the new covenant, you and I are the people of God not based on our faithfulness to a covenant, but our inclusion as God's covenant people is based on God's faithfulness to the covenant. You know what God did, right? In order for you and I to be the people of God, to be the house of God, He made a covenant with his son. He told his son that if you'll die for the sin of mankind, I'll make them right with me based on your blood that will atone for their sin, and when you lay your life down, I'll raise it back up. Jesus died for you knowing that after he died to make an atonement for our sin, the father would raise him back up. He died believing God would honor his word. God was faithful to the covenant. Three days later, he reached down and raised his son back alive. When he did, our relationship is not based on what we do for him,

but it's based on what he's done for us in himself. In the NT, there is no conditional language. The phrases, "If you..." and "Then you will..." in the NT is, "You are my people..." and "I am your God." Do you know what else we learned? Under the new covenant, we wouldn't carry around a tablet of stone to look at, read, and be motivated by. We wouldn't look to inspiration from a rock outside of us, but we would look for inspiration from the rock that lives inside of us. God says I'm not going to put my laws on tablets of stone, but I'm going to write them on your heart and on your mind. As the new covenant people of God, we are so different from the OT covenant of people because our motivation comes from the Holy Spirit of God who lives inside us. That's why our worship of the true God truly leads to a walk before him that is holy. God said when it comes to my people, no longer will I have to teach each one his neighbor and each one his brother to know the Lord, for they shall all know me and be taught by me. So many Christians don't understand what this means. This references the OT; you could be a part of the covenant people, but you didn't have to have a relationship with God. You could be a part of the covenant people because your daddy and your granddaddy were part of the covenant people, you were kind of born into it. Therefore, there was always this need to keep teaching because there were people who weren't really in the group, they were not of the group. The NT people of God were not mixed. They were not partly regenerate and partly unregenerate. If you are truly regenerated by the spirit of God, you are part of the covenant people of God if you have not been regenerated, you are not a part of the covenant people of God. When it comes to the covenant people, we don't have to teach each other to know the Lord because we all know the Lord. The reason we are part of the people is because we know him.

## **Conclusion**

Do you know what he's going to do with our sins and our iniquities? He's going to remember them no more. Why? Because he has truly forgiven us. What the blood of the lamb on the day of atonement could not do, deal with sin, he knew that when the seed would come as the Lamb of God, not a lamb for the nation of Israel, but the lamb for the sin of the world, he

would offer an offering on the cross that would once and for all deal with what was wrong with us. Therefore, God could forgive us, completely remove our sin, cast it as far as the east is from the west, and remember our sin no more. Do you know what the theme of the OT is? He is coming! Do you remember how the book of Malachi ends? With a book of remembrance being written. Where they actually take a book and they begin to write down all the people who are being faithful to God to follow his Word. The Bible says in Malachi, "Once more there will be a distinction between the righteous and the wicked, those who serve God and those who do not."

As we look back in the rearview mirror, I pray that you and I will understand this too. We are getting ready to live in the day in the USA where there will clearly be a distinction between the righteous and the wicked and those who serve God and those who do not. Are you ready to live in that day? There was a group in Israel who was ready, and there was a group who was not, and the next thing you know, he came and they received him not. He's coming. Are you ready to live right now as the righteous among the wicked because we're God's covenant people? We can't look back; we have to keep looking ahead because even the OT says He's coming! The NT is going to tell us the same thing; He's coming! The message of the Bible is He's coming! Are you ready for His coming?