

# Old Testament Overview (OT003-512)

Australian College of Theology name: *Old Testament Overview*

## Unit Description

The Old Testament forms the background to the message of Jesus, but often we don't have a good knowledge of it. In this unit you will learn about the way that the Old Testament came together into its current form, as well as learning about the divisions of the books (Law, Prophets, Writings) and the different literary genres in order to help inform our understanding of the message of the New Testament.

## Exclusions

Prior to 2020, this unit content was delivered under the unit code OT240.

This unit may not be taken if both OT001-512 (formerly OT201) AND OT002-512 (formerly OT202) have previously be taken. It is not permitted to enrol in this unit concurrently with either OT001-512 or OT002-512.

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## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will

### A. *Know and understand:*

Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament, including its contents, structure and themes

### B. *Be able to:*

1. Outline the contents and distinctive features of selected books of the Old Testament
2. Trace the leading theological themes in the Old Testament
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on the contents and themes of the Old Testament

### C. *Be in a position to:*

1. Relate perspectives from this unit to contemporary Christian living and ministry contexts

## Content

### *Introduction*

1. Historical development of the canon (brief timeline)
2. Brief history of the ordering of the books – English vs Hebrew canon
3. Divisions of the Old Testament: Law; History – Prophets; Writings

4. Biblical-theological themes: e.g. Kingdom of God; covenant; promise; land; Temple (and city); “God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule” (Goldsworthy)
5. The Old Testament as the foundational preparation for the ensuing New Testament

The following sections will all contain thematic summaries of the books of the Old Testament, and a brief description of key biblical-theological motifs:

### ***Section A: Law (Pentateuch)***

The key themes of each major section or books of the Pentateuch are noted below:

1. Genesis 1-11
2. Genesis 12 -50
3. Exodus
4. Leviticus / Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

### ***Section B: Prophets – History***

#### ***Former Prophets (c.1400 -587BC):***

1. Joshua – Judges
2. 1 and 2 Samuel
3. 1 and 2 Kings

#### ***Latter Prophets (i.e. Prophetic books):***

1. The Book of Isaiah
2. The Book of Jeremiah
3. The Book of Ezekiel
4. The Twelve (“Minor Prophets”)

### ***Section C: Writings***

1. Poetic (or Wisdom) books: Job; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs; Lamentations
2. Narrative: Ruth; Esther
3. Prophetic-Apocalyptic: Daniel
4. Redemptive History: Ezra – Nehemiah; 1 and 2 Chronicles