# A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

## Bird's Eye View — The Ten Blocks

*An 80-Lesson Survey by Keith R. Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®*

Bird's Eye View — Block by Block

## The Survey at a Glance

| Block | Lessons | What Keith says each part covers |
|---|---|---|
| **Introduction**<br>*Preface · Introduction · Sections One and Two* | Opening | A short, 4 lesson introductory section dealing with the Bible itself, then 80 lessons of 'running survey' from Genesis to the early part of the Lord's earthly ministry. |
| **Block #1**<br>*Genesis 1:1 – 15:21* | 1–8 | From God's creation of the world unto the beginning of His creation of the nation of Israel; in Genesis God sets forth the truth regarding 5 particular beginnings. |
| **Block #2**<br>*Genesis 17 – 41* | 9–16 | From God's dealings with Abraham unto Joseph's rise in Egypt, focusing upon the outworking of God's plan and purpose in this world with Abraham and his seed. |
| **Block #3**<br>*Genesis 42 to Exodus 12* | 17–24 | From the time of Joseph's brothers being sent to Egypt to God's judging of Egypt with the 10 plagues. |
| **Block #4**<br>*Exodus 11 to Numbers 25* | 25–32 | From Israel's physical 'exodus' from Egypt to their encampment at the borders of the promised land; Lesson 28 emphasizes the contracted blessings and cursings of Leviticus 26. |
| **Block #5**<br>*Deuteronomy to the beginning of I Samuel* | 33–40 | From Israel's entrance into the land under Joshua unto the time when they deserved the second course of punishment of Leviticus 26. |
| **Block #6**<br>*I Samuel 3 to I Kings 1* | 41–48 | From the ministry of Samuel unto the death of David and the anointing of Solomon as Israel's King; the majority of the lessons deal with David. |
| **Block #7**<br>*I Kings 1 to Daniel 1* | 49–56 | From Solomon's reign as Israel's king to the time when the fifth course of punishment of Leviticus 26 was brought upon Israel. |
| **Block #8**<br>*Daniel 3 – Matthew 2* | 57–64 | Israel under the first three installments of the fifth course of punishment, and "the arrival of the fourth instalment, which is the days of the Messiah". |
| **Block #9**<br>*Matthew 2:13 – 5:16 (with Luke and John)* | 65–72 | Focuses upon the Lord's earthly ministry, when He functioned as "a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers". |
| **Block #10**<br>*Matthew 5:21 – 13:53; Luke 7* | 73–80 | The next 8 lessons in the Bible in Felt outline: the Sermon on the Mount (Lessons 73–76), then Lessons 77–80 from Matthew 8 and 13 and Luke 7. |

## The Thread — Block to Block

*As the introduction to Section Two puts it, "It is important that the 'flow of the Bible' be conveyed to the children. That they see the development, progression and sense to what God is doing."*

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| **Introduction → Block #1** | The 'running survey' starts with the book of Genesis — the book in which God describes the beginning of things. |
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| **Block #1 → Block #2** | God separated unto Himself one man, Abraham, declaring He would make of him a "great nation"; in so doing God established that His plan for the repossession of the earth would be accomplished through Israel. |
| ↓ | |
| **Block #2 → Block #3** | With Joseph established, the time had come for his position to be exercised over his family; thereby God would commence fulfilling what He told Abraham of his seed sojourning in a land not theirs. |

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| **Block #3 → Block #4** | Nine of the ten plagues were covered in the preceding lesson; with the tenth the "strength of Egypt" was broken, Egypt would desire Israel's exodus, and Israel would spoil Egypt and depart with "great substance." |
| **Block #4 → Block #5** | In Lesson 32 the LORD brought Israel up to the borders of the land, ready to go into it and begin the conquest; as Deuteronomy records, further things took place to complete Israel's readiness. |
| **Block #5 → Block #6** | Israel's rebelliousness had reached such a point of vileness that the tabernacle itself was in the hands of Satan's own men; yet God was raising up one more judge: Samuel, the final judge. |
| **Block #6 → Block #7** | Solely by His mercy and grace God postponed the deserved second course, bringing in an interlude of glorious blessing; begun under David, its remainder was provided for when David established Solomon as king. |
| **Block #7 → Block #8** | What Israel began to experience in Daniel's day with the fifth course of punishment was only the beginning: that course would be composed of 5 installments. |
| **Block #8 → Block #9** | Block #8 concluded with the Lord's birth in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant's requirement; with Israel's Messiah born, the time would come for Him to begin to function as the Law and prophets set forth. |
| **Block #9 → Block #10** | Lesson 72 taught the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount; through it the Lord began to strip away the corruptions, hypocrisies, and lies of the Pharisees, scribes and others. |

## Introduction · Opening

*A short, 4 lesson introductory section dealing with the Bible itself, then 80 lessons of 'running survey' from Genesis to the early part of the Lord's earthly ministry.*

**Intro**

### The Bible Itself and the 'Running Survey'

- The focus of this book is God's "time past" program with Israel — what God created Israel for — giving the children a backdrop in God's "now" time program and dealings with us today.
- Section One's 4 lessons teach that the Bible is the word of God and the "word of truth," what God wants you to do with the Bible, and "rightly dividing the word of truth."
- Genesis through the opening chapters of Acts set forth God's "time past" dealings; Paul's epistles, what God is doing "now"; Hebrews through Revelation, the resumption of God's program with Israel yet "to come."
- Lesson descriptions are set forth in 8 lesson blocks, each with a brief synopsis of the doctrine — a sort of 'road map' both for you and the children.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Preface S1 S2 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Introduction → Block #1:** *The 'running survey' starts with the book of Genesis — the book in which God describes the beginning of things.*

## Block #1 · Lessons 1–8

*From God's creation of the world unto the beginning of His creation of the nation of Israel; in Genesis God sets forth the truth regarding 5 particular beginnings.*

**B1**

### Genesis — 5 Particular Beginnings

- The Beginning of Man: God created man as a special creation with a particular plan and purpose to be fulfilled for God on this earth.
- Adam's sin also meant that Satan became the effectual ruler of the world; the promise of Genesis 3:15 has in view both man's salvation from sin and destroying Satan's seizure of the earth.
- The Beginning of the Nation of Israel: God set the rest of the world aside, let them "walk in their own ways," and began forming a special people for the destruction of Satan's usurped dominion on the earth.
- When God called Abraham, this present 'dispensation of Gentile grace' was kept "hid in God"; if not for God interrupting His program with Israel, we would have had to come to God through Israel.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 1 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #1 → Block #2:** *God separated unto Himself one man, Abraham, declaring He would make of him a "great nation"; in so doing God established that His plan for the repossession of the earth would be accomplished through Israel.*

## Block #2 · Lessons 9–16

*From God's dealings with Abraham unto Joseph's rise in Egypt, focusing upon the outworking of God's plan and purpose in this world with Abraham and his seed.*

**B2**

### Abraham and His Seed

- God established that His plan and purpose for the repossession of the earth would be accomplished through the nation He would make from Abraham; through Israel the "kingdom of heaven" would be established on this earth.
- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are still recording God's program and dealings with Israel, and are not describing what God is doing with us today in this 'dispensation of Gentile grace.'
- What Jacob saw in his dream will be fulfilled after this present dispensation of Gentile grace is concluded, and God resumes His program and dealings with Israel.
- What Joseph's brothers meant for evil, God overruled to accomplish His own purpose, providing for what He had said to Abraham about His people developing and multiplying in a foreign land.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 2 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #2 → Block #3:** *With Joseph established, the time had come for his position to be exercised over his family; thereby God would commence fulfilling what He told Abraham of his seed sojourning in a land not theirs.*

## Block #3 · Lessons 17–24

*From the time of Joseph's brothers being sent to Egypt to God's judging of Egypt with the 10 plagues.*

**B3**

### Israel Develops in a "Strange Land"

- Joseph's position and the famine were being used by God to provide for fulfilling His design to have the nation of Israel develop in a "strange land."
- Joseph's treatment of his brothers is focused upon as an example of righteous, God-honoring conduct: responding in grace to ill-treatment, out of 'agape' love.
- When Jacob prophesied of Israel's future, this present "dispensation of the grace of God" to us Gentiles was still a "mystery"; Jacob knew nothing of it.
- Exodus relates the second great stage in God's dealings with His nation: the 'exodus' of Israel from Egypt, as God fulfills the rest of what He had said to Abraham back in Genesis 15.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 3 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #3 → Block #4:** *Nine of the ten plagues were covered in the preceding lesson; with the tenth the "strength of Egypt" was broken, Egypt would desire Israel's exodus, and Israel would spoil Egypt and depart with "great substance."*

## Block #4 · Lessons 25–32

*From Israel's physical 'exodus' from Egypt to their encampment at the borders of the promised land; Lesson 28 emphasizes the contracted blessings and cursings of Leviticus 26.*

**B4**

### The Law Contract and Leviticus 26

- Israel was 'great' in number, but not 'great' in the LORD; they needed to realize that He and His grace is their only strength and their only hope.
- A basic grasp upon the contracted blessings and cursings, especially the 5 courses of contracted curses, goes a long way in providing an understanding and appreciation for the record of Israel's history.
- Under the Law contract Israel would be dealt with on the basis of her performance; the Law would declare that all she ever merited from God by her own conduct was His judgment and cursing.
- The punishments of Leviticus 26 outline Israel's history in advance: Israel would end up disobeying the Law and begin to experience God's punishments rather than His blessings.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 4 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #4 → Block #5:** *In Lesson 32 the LORD brought Israel up to the borders of the land, ready to go into it and begin the conquest; as Deuteronomy records, further things took place to complete Israel's readiness.*

## Block #5 · Lessons 33–40

*From Israel's entrance into the land under Joshua unto the time when they deserved the second course of punishment of Leviticus 26.*

**B5**

### Into the Land: the First Course of Punishment

- In Deuteronomy 29:1ff God had Moses make another covenant besides the Law contract, promising to be what His name "Jehovah" stands for, and to be gracious to Israel once they have gone through the Law contract's hard lessons.
- With the first course of punishment, God also raised up judges solely on the basis of His love, mercy, and grace — something the Law contract did not call for.
- Ruth: Israel needs a kinsman-redeemer, and as God's name "Jehovah" declares, that's exactly what He will become for them.
- In Samuel's childhood Eli's sons were Satan's own men, and the tabernacle of God in Israel was under their leadership.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 5 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #5 → Block #6:** *Israel's rebelliousness had reached such a point of vileness that the tabernacle itself was in the hands of Satan's own men; yet God was raising up one more judge: Samuel, the final judge.*

## Block #6 · Lessons 41–48

*From the ministry of Samuel unto the death of David and the anointing of Solomon as Israel's King; the majority of the lessons deal with David.*

**B6**

### David and the Davidic Covenant

- Samuel was God's final judge, giving His nation one more opportunity to change their minds about their disobedience and get themselves back in line with the Law contract.
- After only two years Saul began to disobey the LORD; instead of the deserved second course of punishment, God by His great mercy continued to hold off, and raised up David, a king after God's own heart.
- In the Davidic Covenant God contracts to put His "Jehovah-ness" into effect for Israel: He will come in David's line as David's son. It isn't a contract which requires Israel to do anything.
- The rich blessing under David and Solomon was not what the Law contract called for; what God was doing He was doing solely on the basis of His mercy and grace.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 6 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #6 → Block #7:** *Solely by His mercy and grace God postponed the deserved second course, bringing in an interlude of glorious blessing; begun under David, its remainder was provided for when David established Solomon as king.*

## Block #7 · Lessons 49–56

*From Solomon's reign as Israel's king to the time when the fifth course of punishment of Leviticus 26 was brought upon Israel.*

**B7**

### From the Second Course to the Commencement of the Fifth

- One reason Israel's "time past" history is so little understood and appreciated is a failure to understand the 5 courses of punishment set forth in Leviticus 26.
- Elijah was raised up by God in connection with the arrival of the second course of punishment; Elijah's miracles just about all pertained to it, as did Elisha's to the third course which followed.
- On Mount Carmel God mercifully had Elijah confront Israel with the truth; the Law contract did not call for God to do this, and He would have been completely justified to begin the next course.
- With the third course God positions Himself to begin to "walk contrary" to Israel; with the fourth, He does so in earnest; Daniel 1 testifies to the commencement of the fifth course.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 7 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #7 → Block #8:** *What Israel began to experience in Daniel's day with the fifth course of punishment was only the beginning: that course would be composed of 5 installments.*

## Block #8 · Lessons 57–64

*Israel under the first three installments of the fifth course of punishment, and "the arrival of the fourth instalment, which is the days of the Messiah".*

**B8**

### The Fifth Course — Five Installments

- The Babylonian captivity of Daniel's day was only the first instalment in the fifth course of punishment; the fifth instalment is the time during which God would completely, and for the last time, judge His nation.
- That fifth and final instalment hasn't come to pass yet: God has graciously interrupted His program with Israel at the very time when "the day of the LORD" was slated to commence.
- The second instalment is the time in which Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah lived. God was silent to Israel from the ending of the days of Malachi until He raised up John the Baptist — about 400 years.
- The program of God in the Gospel accounts is not what God is doing today; the great dispensational change comes in when the Lord Jesus Christ raises up Paul as a new apostle, as set forth in Acts 9.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 8 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #8 → Block #9:** *Block #8 concluded with the Lord's birth in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant's requirement; with Israel's Messiah born, the time would come for Him to begin to function as the Law and prophets set forth.*

## Block #9 · Lessons 65–72

*Focuses upon the Lord's earthly ministry, when He functioned as "a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers".*

**B9**

### The Lord's Earthly Ministry to Israel

- Many lesson titles convey the idea that the present dispensation of grace was then in effect; they are retained for simplicity, but each lesson presents the proper viewpoint in view of Israel's program.
- God had set forth to David that He would come to be Israel's Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King and Blesser, by becoming a man, an Israelite, in David's line.
- The basic purpose of the Lord's miracles was to confirm the reality of what the "gospel of the kingdom" was saying; today, through Paul, we are told not to expect these miracles because His program with us is different.
- With the stoning of Stephen the fifth instalment was ready to begin; instead the Lord Jesus Christ raised up Paul, and God temporarily set aside His program with Israel and brought in this present dispensation of His grace.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 9 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

↓ **Thread, Block #9 → Block #10:** *Lesson 72 taught the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount; through it the Lord began to strip away the corruptions, hypocrisies, and lies of the Pharisees, scribes and others.*

## Block #10 · Lessons 73–80

*The next 8 lessons in the Bible in Felt outline: the Sermon on the Mount (Lessons 73–76), then Lessons 77–80 from Matthew 8 and 13 and Luke 7.*

**B10**

### The Sermon on the Mount, the Parables, and the Storm

- In the sermon on the mount the Lord is not telling people how to be saved; He is teaching saved Jews in Israel's program how to live as an Israelite ought to live.
- Matthew 6:9-13 is not a model prayer for us today; the Lord is dealing with the remnant of Israel as they faced the coming of the final and climactic instalment in the fifth course of punishment.
- The healing of the centurion's servant confirms that when the Lord was here on the earth God's program with Israel was in effect, and not the dispensation of Gentile grace that He is now administering.
- The parables of Matthew 13 set forth "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven," formerly not made known issues about the climactic stage in Israel's program; they do not describe God's program with us, the church the body of Christ.

*Full detail: VSS Old Testament — Block 10 Study Overview (rev. 10/26)*

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