

Winter Series: June 2026 to August 2026
Understanding the Bible: The Old Testament

Winter Series

“The Old Testament – The Historical Books”

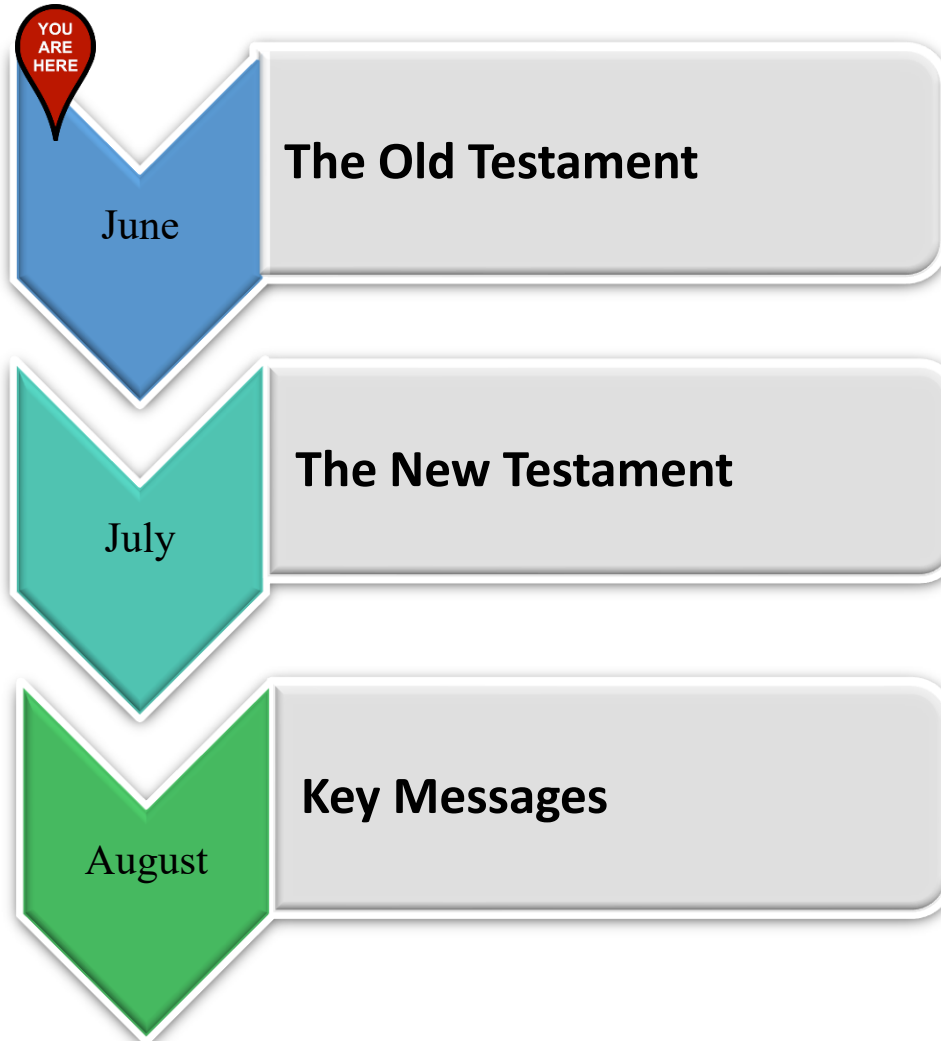
Windsor, 14th June, 2026.

Welcome to Church

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” **Joshua 24:14.**



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You Alone are Worthy

Holy Holy, Holy
Is the Lord almighty
The God who was, and is, and is
to come.
Every living creature
Give honour, thanks and glory
To him who sits forever on the
throne.

You alone are worthy
To receive all glory
And honour, thanks and power
For you created all things,
Things that owe their being
To your most generous will.

[REPEAT]

We lay our crowns before you
We bow in adoration.
We lay our crowns before you
We bow in adoration.

You alone are worthy
To receive all glory
And honour, thanks and power

You alone are worthy
To receive all glory
And honour, thanks and power
For you created all things,
Things that owe their being
To your most generous will.

Be Still

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here; come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place: he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace- no work to hard for him, in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing
loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen
One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking
voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me
life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His
reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom
(REPEAT)

Winter series 2026 – Understanding the Bible

Last week we looked at the Pentateuch:

- Introduces God as Creator
- Explains the origin of humanity
- Describes the entrance of evil and sin into the world
- Begins God's covenant relationship with Israel
- Tells the story of Israel a chosen line
- Lays the foundation for the rest of scripture
- Books include Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.



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**The Old Testament-
The Historical Books**

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” **Joshua 24:14.**

**7th
June**

- **The Pentateuch**
- From creation to the formation of Israel as God’s Chosen People

**14th
June**

- **The Historical Books**
- From a Family to a Kingdom and then a scattered nation

**21st
June**

- **Poetic and Wisdom Writings**
- Encouragement to praise and worship God for His grace and mercy

**28th
June**

- **The prophetic Books**
- Constant calls to follow God, warnings of problems for disobedience, and promises of final reconciliation

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 11: 2-4

The Historical Books

13 books spanning nearly 1000 years of history

Historical Books – from arrival in The Promised Land, through the periods of Israel as a nation, including Judah’s return from the Babylonian captivity, rising and falling in accordance with how the nation followed God

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job

| Period | Books | Approx. Dates |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Conquest | Joshua | 1400–1200 BC |
| Judges | Judges, Ruth | 1350–1050 BC |
| United Monarchy | 1–2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1–11 | 1050–930 BC |
| Divided Kingdom | 1 Kings 12–22, 2 Kings | 930–586 BC |
| Exile | End of 2 Kings | 586–538 BC |
| Return & Restoration | 1–2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther | 538–400 BC |
| Wisdom Era | Job | Patriarchal (likely) |

Who Were the Judges

- Israel in the time of the Judges
 - o occupied a loose, fragmented patchwork of tribal territories stretching roughly 250 km north–south and 80–100 km east–west, but with
 - o major gaps, foreign enclaves, and unconquered Canaanite strongholds.
- A judge (*shophet*) in ancient Israel was not primarily a courtroom official. They were:
 - o Military deliverers
 - o Regional leaders
 - o Covenant enforcers
 - o Crisis managers
 - o Charismatic (Spirit-empowered) rulers
- They were Spirit-empowered leaders whom God raised up to deliver Israel from oppression, restore justice, and call the people back to covenant faithfulness – not kings.

| Order | Name of Judge | Tribe | Notable Feature | Years of Oppression | Years of Rule |
|-------|---------------|----------|--|---------------------|---------------|
| 1st | Othniel | Judah | First judge of Israel | 8 years | 40 years |
| 2nd | Ehud | Benjamin | Assassinated Eglon, king of Moab | 18 years | 80 years |
| 3rd | Shamgar | Unknown | Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad | Not mentioned | Not mentioned |
| 4th | Deborah | Ephraim | Prophetess and leader in battle against Sisera | 20 years | 40 years |
| 5th | Gideon | Manasseh | Led 300 men to defeat the Midianites | 7 years | 40 years |
| 6th | Tola | Issachar | Judge after Abimelek, brought peace to Israel | Not mentioned | 23 years |
| 7th | Jair | Gilead | Had 30 sons and ruled 30 towns in Gilead | Not mentioned | 22 years |
| 8th | Jephthah | Gilead | Made a tragic vow after victory | 18 years | 6 years |

| Order | Name of Judge | Tribe | Notable Feature | Years of Oppression | Years of Rule |
|-------|---------------|--------------|--|---------------------|---------------|
| 9th | Ibzan | Zebulun | Had 30 sons and 30 daughters | Not mentioned | 7 years |
| 10th | Elon | Zebulun | Judged Israel during a peaceful period | Not mentioned | 10 years |
| 11th | Abdon | Ephraim | Had 40 sons and 30 grandsons | Not mentioned | 8 years |
| 12th | Samson | Dan | Known for his strength; fought against the Philistines | 40 years | 20 years |
| 13th | Eli | Levi | Priest and judge; his sons were wicked | Not mentioned | 40 years |
| 14th | Samuel | Levi/Ephraim | Last judge; anointed Saul and David as kings | Not mentioned | 5 years |

The Exile Forced Israel to Become a “People of the Book”

Before the exile:

- Worship centered on the Temple
- Identity centered on land, king, and sacrifice
- Oral tradition was primary

During the exile:

- No land
- No king
- No Temple
- No sacrifices

So, Israel turned to:

- **Scripture**
- **Memory**
- **Written tradition**
- **Synagogue-style gatherings**
- **Scribes and scholars**

The exile transformed Israel from a nation defined by geography into a nation defined by **texts**.

Exilic and post-Exilic Literature

Chronicles was compiled shortly after the exile, using exilic records

- It draws heavily on:
 - o Priestly archives
 - o Genealogical lists
 - o Temple records
 - o Royal annals

- It reinterprets history in terms of the exile of Israel as due to its unfaithfulness towards God:
 - o Focus on **David, Temple, worship, priesthood, hope**
 - o Minimizes northern kingdom
 - o Reframes history around covenant faithfulness

Joshua 24:13-16

¹³ And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

¹⁴ Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

¹⁶ And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;

Joshua 6:20

God gave them Jericho first then gave them the land one victory at a time. They soon learned that obedience was essential.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that **the wall fell down flat**, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Judges 17:6

When they took possession of the land the people were responsible for their own lives. Did they do well?

In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

28.

COVINGTON—C.M.

The musical score for 'Covington—C.M.' is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of four systems of piano accompaniment, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the bass staff.

35.—C. M.
(Judges 7/2-7)

BEHOLD, Jehovah's ensign flies,
The bearer doth invite
Your mortal bodies to become
As pitchers fill'd with light.

None need to fear the serpent's spear,
Who wish with all the heart,
Jehovah's kingdom to come here,
And evil hence depart.

Tho' Gideon's host was great and strong,
It after came to few;
But all who lapped with the tongue
Did to the battle go.

So all who learn Jehovah's will,
And do the same perform,
Will gain the day o'er death and hell,
By His Almighty arm.

2 Chronicles 6:1, 21 & 36-39.

Solomon's prayer for the restoration of those who sin and are taken into captivity

¹Then said Solomon, ... ¹⁶ Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet **so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.**

²¹ Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place [the temple]: hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive. ...

³⁶ If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and **deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;**

³⁷ Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;

³⁸ If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:

³⁹ Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

Ezra 8:2-17

The people had returned from exile and were reading the law at the feast of Tabernacles.

² And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

³ And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday ... ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

⁹ *[and he said]* This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. ...

¹² And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

¹³ And on the second day ... [*they*] found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

¹⁶ So the people went forth, and brought [*branches*], and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷ And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Acts 13:16-23

Paul's summary for most of the period we are speaking of today.

¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

¹⁷ The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

¹⁸ And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

¹⁹ And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

²⁰ And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

²¹ And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

²³ Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: ²⁴ When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

²⁵ And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

²⁶ Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

Message;

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” **Joshua 24:14.**

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The musical score consists of four systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style characteristic of Mozart's piano accompaniment for hymns.

THROUGH all the changing scenes of life,
 In trouble and in joy,
 The praise of Isr'el's God will still
 The faithful heart employ.

Of His deliverance Isr'el tells,
 Till all that are distress'd,
 From their example comfort take,
 And charm their griefs to rest.

The hosts of God encamp around
 Those number'd with the just;
 Deliv'rance He affords to all
 Who always in Him trust.

O make but trial of His truth;
 Experience will decide,
 How blest are they, and only they,
 Who in His love confide.