



The Old Testament Journey

This module will focus on the history of Israel as the People of God, from first beginnings with the call of Abraham, to the return from exile in Babylon. We will view the history as a series of steps on a journey. We will consider the development of the theme of covenant at various stages of the journey and see how God is preparing the way for the eventual arrival of the Messiah.

The style of the module is as varied as is possible and will include paired work, group discussions and activities, alongside more traditional teaching.

The course is spread over two blocks of three evenings, with a break in the middle for personal reflection and reading. There will also be preparatory reading for each of the weekly sessions.

The session themes are as follows:

- The Journey of Abraham. The call and promises - the journey towards fulfilment.
- The Journey into Egypt. The continuing story of the Patriarchs that led to the slavery of the people under Pharaoh.
- The Journey out of Egypt and into the Wilderness. The story of Moses and the Passover. The giving of the Law and the forging of a community.
- The Journey into the Promised Land. Joshua – the rule of the Judges – the beginning of the monarchy.
- The Journey into Exile. From the establishment of the monarchy to the division and ultimate destruction of the Kingdom.
- The Journey back to the Promised Land. The voices of hope and sorrow. The rebuilding of the Temple and community.

By the End of the Course participants should;

- know the outline narrative of the Old Testament
- understand the relationship between God and his people
- provide a framework for further study of the Old Testament
- be able to evaluate the importance of the Old Testament for today



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