



Old Testament Summary

In the beginning, God created the earth (Gen.1:1). This included man in His image. Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (Fall) by the prompting of Satan and were cast out of the garden. Their first child, Caan, killed his younger brother Abel, and mankind continued to struggle with evil all the way until the Flood destroyed the whole world, except Noah and his family in the ark. Before and after the Flood, God called man evil, though he was good before the Fall. There was a need for God to redeem mankind due to the sin problem, and in Genesis 3:15, there was a promise of a redeemer being born.

After the Tower of Babel (Gen. 10) and God scattering people over the earth with different languages, God called a people to himself through Abraham (Gen. 12). He became the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph was one of those who was sold by his brothers into slavery, but ended up becoming the Prime Minister of Egypt. After 400 years of slavery, Israel was delivered out of bondage by Moses in the Exodus. Israel received the law at Mt. Sinai and built a tabernacle for the Lord to dwell in with them. After wandering in the desert for 40 years, Joshua led them into the Promised Land. Israel struggled as they were led by Judges without a king, and in 1,2 Samuel, 1,2 Kings, the kingship was established. Saul was an unsuccessful king, but David improved Israel's situation. After Solomon's death in 931 B.C., the kingdom was split into Israel (10 tribes) in the North and Judah (2 tribes) in the South.

Most kings did not walk closely with the Lord, and the Northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C. Judah was deported to Babylon in 586 B.C. Both these events occurred after warnings from many prophets and fulfilled Moses



predictions in Deuteronomy. The Jews did begin to return to their land after 70 years in exile, but the kingship was not reestablished. They did rebuild the wall with Nehemiah and Ezra as leaders and eventually rebuilt the temple. Chronicles retells the story of the kings with an effort to give hope to Israel. The last three post-exilic prophets, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi pointed to a future of restoration for Israel. The promise of redemption is highlighted as Malachi ends with a forerunner who will turn the hearts of the fathers and their children. Though Israel had failed to keep God's covenant, the stage was set for Jesus, the Messianic king, to come to provide redemption for God's people. This gospel (good news) was meant to go out from Israel to all the world.