

I. Purpose of the Study

- A. **To learn who God is and what He wants to be to us through a consideration of the Old Testament**
- B. **What will we see?**
 - 1. The Majesty and Glory of God
 - 2. The Reality and Nature of sin
 - 3. The Principle of Faith – The just live by faith
 - 4. The Principle of Sacrifice – Fellowship with God is always and only on the basis of a sacrifice
 - 5. The Principle of Obedience – God’s goal in the transformation of a man is obedience to Him from a heart of love

II. Plan of the Study

- A. **To follow the storyline of the Old Testament and let the Spirit of God open up to us the lessons listed above**
- B. **What is the storyline?**
 - 1. Introduction to the problem
 - a. Man, who was created to know and love God, lost his favored position through sin
 - 2. God’s answer – Redemption
 - 3. God’s tool to bring this to pass in the Old Testament is a group of people known as the nation of Israel
- C. **Key elements of the story**
 - 1. Begins around 2100 BC when God calls out a man named Abraham
 - a. Makes a covenant to use his family to bless the whole world

Assignment:

Read Judges 13-16 and I Samuel 1-7. Samuel and Samson lived at the same time. Both were Nazarites from birth. Both were called by God to be part of the deliverance of Israel. Note the great difference in the effectiveness of their lives.

2. The Old Testament traces the history of that family and the outworking of the covenant until about 400 BC

III. Last Year we Studied the First 1000 Years of that History

- A. The covenant with Abraham and the development of the nation**
- B. God's work to change that family into a nation**
 1. Special love – God delivered them from Egypt
 2. Special privilege – God entered into a covenant at Sinai
 3. Terrible failure on Israel's part to fulfil the covenant
- C. Finished at the end of the time called the Judges with a consideration of Ruth**

IV. Initiation of the Kingdom

- A. At the darkest hour God raised up a man to serve Him - Samuel**
- B. Samuel begins a period on which the Spirit of God places a spotlight**
- C. Key transitions that Samuel is vitally involved in**
 1. Transition from the Judges to the Kingdom
 2. Transition from terrible spiritual decline to real revival
 3. Transition from priests to prophets as the key spiritual leaders in the nation