



Tents, Temples, and Palaces

Tents, Temples, and Palaces

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

by Rick C. Howard

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

4th edition

Developed in cooperation with
Global University staff

Address of the Global University office in your area:

School for Evangelism and Discipleship
Global University
1211 South Glenstone
Springfield, MO 65804
USA

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THE GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the GU Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Tents, Temples, and Palaces: A Survey of the Old Testament* is Course 2 in Unit II. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your GU instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page near the front of the study guide.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Learn About the People of God

In this course you will study the Old Testament, the first part of the Holy Bible. The Old Testament tells about the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and of His dealings with the people He chose to use as instruments through whom to bless the world.

The first unit contains an introductory lesson that will help you discover why the Old Testament is a personal message for you. You will find out interesting facts about how it has been preserved and passed on to us. In the remaining lessons of this unit learn about how God created humankind and began to make himself known to them. He called out a special people for himself and delivered them from slavery with mighty miracles. You will learn how He taught them to worship Him.

In the second unit you will become familiar with Palestine, the land God promised to His people. With the help of the maps and charts given you will learn its main characteristics. You will follow God's people as they entered this land, possessed it, and finally took their place among the nations of the world. See also the magnificence and splendor that came upon them when they lived in obedience to God.

In the third unit you will see how God's people were exiled from their land because of their disobedience to Him. It was a time of heartbreaking failure. But God continued to speak to them. He brought them back to their land and inspired them to restore and rebuild what had been destroyed. As you consider this particular time in their history you will learn valuable lessons about the importance of obedience and restoration.

This course will help you understand not only the Old Testament but the New Testament as well, for the New is the fulfillment of the Old. Your study of the history of God's people will strengthen your own knowledge of God's ways and your walk with Him.

Course Description

Tents, Temples, and Palaces gives the student an introduction to the Old Testament. It emphasizes the history of God's people, paying special attention to God's mighty acts and the prophetic words He gave concerning those acts. It deals with the sequence and meaning of the experiences of God's people. It examines their relationship to Him and their successes and failures. The student will discover many truths from the Old Testament that will help him in his understanding of the Bible, his walk with God, and his service for Him.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Explain why believers today can benefit from studying the Old Testament.
2. Describe the land of Palestine and the major events in the history of the *people of God*.
3. Appreciate the value of the different kinds of writings found in the Old Testament.
4. Apply to your life and teach to others the truths concerning God which are found in the Old Testament.

Textbooks

You will use this independent-study textbook, *Tents, Temples, and Palaces* by Rick C. Howard as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible is the only other textbook required.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to

reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.
 - d) 2 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a) The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b) The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c) All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

- 3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| . 1 a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| . 2 b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| . 2 c | Marched around Jericho | |
| . 1 d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this GU course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although GU has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your GU instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

Author of This Course

Rick C. Howard was the pastor of Peninsula Christian Center in Redwood City, California. He was ordained by the Assemblies of God in 1961. He served on the faculty of Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri, and Bethany College in Scotts Valley, California. He also served as National College Youth Representative for the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri.

In this course he wrote from much experience as an author, editor, and Bible instructor. Among the books he authored are: *The Judgment Seat of Christ*, *Strategy For Triumph*, *The Lost Formula of the Early Church*, and *Songs From Life*. He was also the writer of the GU Christian Service course entitled *Christian Maturity*. In addition, he traveled extensively in many parts of the world as a teacher and preacher.

Mr. Howard earned his B.A. degree at Grove City College in Pennsylvania and his M.A. degree in history at Memphis State University in Memphis, Tennessee.

Your GU Instructor

Your GU instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Tents, Temples, and Palaces*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this Individual Study Textbook, including supplemental audio cassettes, video cassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.



1 Unit

History of the Beginnings

Lessons

- 1 God's Ways and God's Words
- 2 History of the Human Race
- 3 History of the Chosen People
- 4 History of Faith and Worship