

**Ir-0t-01**  
**Gospel Doctrine 2010**  
**Old Testament, Lesson # 1**  
By Lenet Hadley Read

**I. Introduction** to Study of Old Testament:

**? Discussion Question:** How do you honestly feel about studying the Old Testament?

\*Briefly allow honest feelings.

**Blackboard:** Write: “The Old Testament contains powerful scriptures truly prepared for us by God.”

**II. Statement:** Though generally challenged by scholars of the world, the Old Testament was a record deliberately made by prophets for us from the beginning of man.

**? Discussion Question:** What evidences do we have the OT truly came from prophets?

**III. Answers from Scriptures**

1. P. of Gr. Pr.: Moses 2:1; Moses 6:5, 8; Abraham 1:31
  - a. Point out records were kept by many ancient prophets and later combined, as was done with the Book of Mormon.
2. Book of Mormon: 1 Nephi Ch. 3, part. v. 20.

**IV. The truth and importance of the OT shown by struggles that brought it to us.**

1. **Stories:** Select and tell true events in your own words, from “How The Bible Came to Be,” 1982 *Ensign*, January through September, such as:

- A. The prophets suffered much in writing the OT. See January 1982 *Ensign*, p. 41 or Jeremiah 20:7-9.
- B. The Latin Bible eventually could not be read by the people as their language had changed. In seeking Bibles in own language, they suffered great persecution and even death.
  - i. 1100’s, France (June 1982 *Ensign*, pp. 41- 2.)
  - ii. 1300’s, England & Germany (June 1982 *Ensign*, pp. 42-6)
  - iii. 1500’s, England (July 1982 *Ensign*, pp. 43-50)

**V: The Lord has restored many plain and precious truths once taken from the OT.**

**A. Scripture Search:** See 1 Nephi 13: 20-28. Have class members read. Point out that many “plain and precious things” were indeed lost from the Biblical records.

**B. ? Discussion Question:** Have any of those “plain and precious” things been restored?

**C. Scriptural Answer:** Through many modern scriptures revealed to Joseph Smith, many of the plain and precious truths once lost have been restored. Among them are sections from The Pearl of Great Price.

**D. Ask Class to turn to Moses 1.**

There are at least three very important truths restored in these scriptures.

1. That Moses, and all of us, truly are children of God. (Read Moses 1:1-11)
2. That Satan is real, but his influence can be overcome (Read Moses 1:12-23)
3. That God's purposes in creating man and the earth are "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Read Moses 1:39).

**Discussion Question for truth # 1.**

How does it bless us to know we truly are children of God?

After class discussion, read or have read quotation by Elder Oaks in manual.

**Discussion Question for truth # 2.**

How does it bless us knowing Satan can be resisted?

Encourage class to review Moses 1:18, 20-21. Then discuss.

Follow-up question: How can prayer strengthen us to resist temptation?

**Discussion Question for truth # 3.**

How does knowing the true purpose of God's creation bless our lives?

After some discussion, make two lists on the board. Title one, "LDS Doctrine of why the earth and man were created." Encourage until class comes up with major point --- "To bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Title the other list: "Worldly doctrines of why the earth and man were created. Have class help you list such beliefs as:

1. The belief that it has all come about by accident or chance.
2. Some believe He created earth and man so man could worship Him.
3. Some believe He created earth and man to glorify Himself.
4. Some believe that God created the earth and man because He likes stories.
5. Most don't know why

**? Discussion Question:** How does it empower us to know the true purpose behind God's great work? Should it lead us to boast? How does it manifest the great love of God?

Follow-up questions: What is immortality? What is Eternal Life?

**Supporting Quote:** Elder James E. Faust from manual

**? Discussion Question:** Does God expect us to assist Him in this great work?

Follow-up question: What are specific ways we can do so?

**Supporting Quote:** Elder Hinckley from manual.

**Testify** that the Bible is a true and powerful scripture. The Old Testament is an essential foundation to the understanding of all other scriptures. Studying it this year will truly bless the lives of all those who do so. Also, express gratitude that the Lord has revealed in these last days some of the material that was once lost from the original ancient record. These revelations, many of them restored in the Pearl of Great Price, add wonderful truths that help us understand the great purpose and works of our Father and His Son.