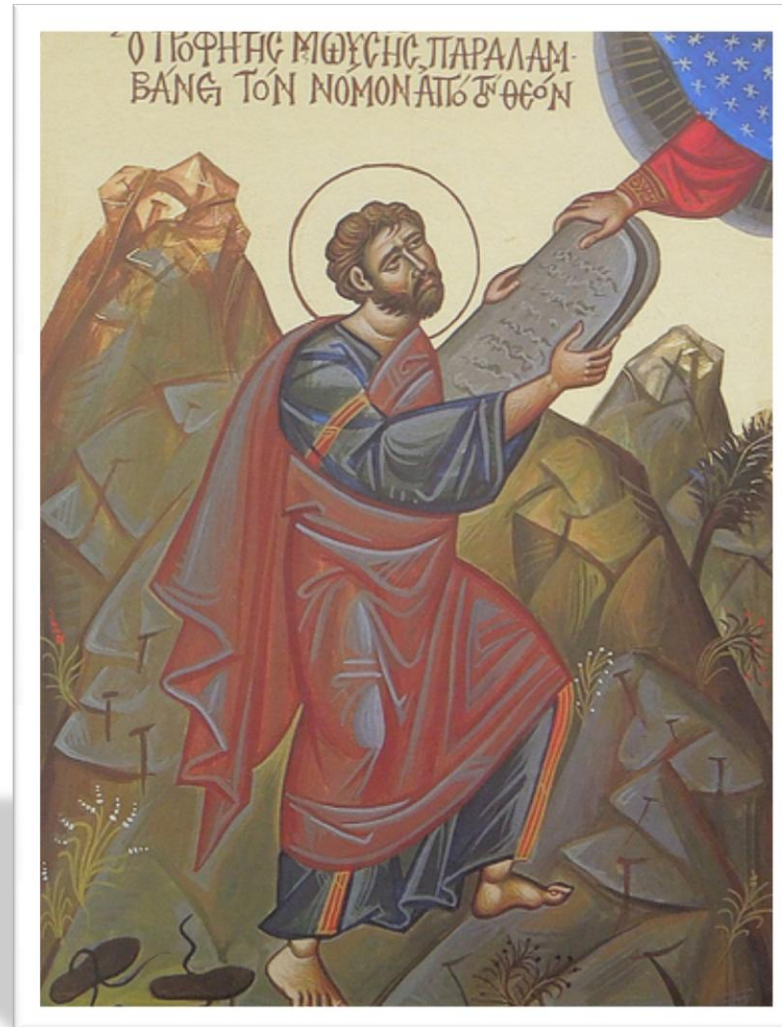


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Orthodox Reading of the Old Testament



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The Old Testament

Accounting of God's relationship to creation and mankind from the Creation– Mid 2nd Century BC.

“Testament” – Covenant ie Promise

- Noah
- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- Jeremiah

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The Old Testament - Structure

Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1Kingdoms (1Samuel)
2Kingdoms (2Samuel)
3Kingdoms (1Kings)
4Kingdoms (2Kings)
1Chronicles
2Chronicles
1Esdras
2Esdras (Ezra-Nehemiah)
Tobit
Judith
Esther
1Maccabees
2Maccabees
3Maccabees

Wisdom

Psalms
Job
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom of Solomon
Wisdom of Sirach

Prophets

Hosea
Amos
Micah
Joel
Obadiah
Jonah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Baruch
Lamentations of
Jeremiah
Epistle of Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Daniel

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Septuagint vs Masoretic

Septuagint

- Greek Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures
- 3rd Century BC – Alexandria
- Oldest complete manuscripts of the Old Testament (4th Century AD)

Masoretic Text

- Compiled by Masoretes
- 7th-10th Century AD
- Basis for most Protestant editions of the Old Testament

“There was indeed a Hebrew text-type on which the Septuagint-translation was based and which differed substantially from the received MT [Masoretic Text].”

-Menachem Cohen

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Why the Old Testament

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For Assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

(Matthew 5.17-18)



Marcion
(late 1st-mid 2nd century AD)

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How to read the Old Testament

St. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8.26-40)

St. Irenaeus – Against Heresies, Book 1.VII.1



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How to read the Old Testament

Literal

Historical Narrative

Allegorical

Metaphor

Typological

Pointing to a reality beyond itself

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Shadow – Image - Truth

“For the Law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.” (Hebrews 10.1)

“The Old Testament is the shadow, the New Testament is the image, the things to come are the truth.” (St. Maximus the Confessor)

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Hind Sight is 20/20

“Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His Glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

(Luke 24.25-27)

- Psalm 21 (LXX)

Holy Saturday

- Jonah
- Three Youths
- Exodus 13.20-15.19

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Lenten Old Testament Reading

Genesis

- Establishes the relationship between God and Man
 - Diagnosis of the problem

Proverbs

- Ethical teachings to right the wrong

Isaiah

- Proclaims Christ and His salvific healing

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