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LESSON 1: Introduction and The Abiding Glory

THINGS TO KNOW

A Brief Overview of the History of Israel

In the Introduction and The Abiding Glory: The People of Israel, Professor Hart offers a quick glimpse of the history of the nation of Israel, from its origins in the Hebrew people to its demise under the Roman Empire. It is in the history of the Hebrew people and the nation of Israel that Christianity finds its roots, so these few pages cannot provide a detailed history of those roots. Nevertheless, in these few pages we find a quick overview that provides at least a cursory history that provides a backdrop for the rest of the book.

What Constitutes Eastern and Western Civilization?

Two references Professor Hart makes in the book are to the *West* and the *East*. These are references to the two great divisions of civilization, that of Western and Eastern civilization. Western civilization is based upon the philosophy and culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and, in terms of territory, is comprised of Europe, North America, and—though they do not fall within the geographic boundaries of Europe or North America—Australia and New Zealand. One of the defining characteristics of Western civilization was expressed with great profundity in the Magna Carta, which postulates the idea that a monarch is not above the law, and that the monarchical powers have limits. This thinking became foundational to the idea of democracy, which is a fundamental tenet of Western civilization.

Christendom

Christianity is a worldwide faith, but the term Christendom applies to the church as a political, as well as spiritual, power. Christendom refers to the period of history, from about the third or fourth centuries A.D., until the beginnings of the modern period. It was during this time that the church wielded not only great spiritual power, but great political power as well. Christendom comprised most of Western civilization, and included the countries where Christianity was not only the dominant religion, but also those countries where Christianity became the official state religion.

How We Study the History of Faith

As Professor Hart notes, his book is concerned with history, but it is a history of a people with a religious faith and beliefs, which is a different kind of history to study. The history of faith, as described by some, can be called *His-story*, that is, the story of God and how He has interacted and dealt with humanity across the span of time. This study will concentrate primarily upon historical events such as names, dates, and events that are important in the history of both Christianity and civilization. It is not the study of doctrine, beliefs, or theology that are particular to any segment of Christianity, but will primarily examine how historical events have influenced doctrine, beliefs, and theology.

The Patriarchs

The Patriarchs of the Old Testament are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. These four men are the models of faith not just during the Old Testament era, but through the New Testament era and even to today. Jacob, the third Patriarch, has the distinction of becoming known as Israel (which means *he struggles with God*, Genesis 32:28), and his twelve sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Naphtali, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin—become the fathers of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

The Books of the Bible

The books that comprise the Bible are mostly uniform across the various Christian traditions, but there are some differences between Catholic and Protestant versions of the Old Testament, as listed below:

Protestant Version	Catholic Version
Genesis	Genesis
Exodus	Exodus
Leviticus	Leviticus
Numbers	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Judges
Ruth	Ruth
I Samuel	I Samuel
II Samuel	II Samuel
I Kings	I Kings
II Kings	II Kings
I Chronicles	I Chronicles
II Chronicles	II Chronicles
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
	Tobit
	Judith
Esther	Esther
	I Maccabees
	II Maccabees
Job	Job
Psalms	Psalms
Proverbs	Proverbs
Ecclesiastes	Ecclesiastes
The Song of Songs	The Song of Songs
	Wisdom
	Ecclesiasticus/Sirach
Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah	Jeremiah
Lamentations	Lamentations
	Baruch
Ezekiel	Ezekiel
Daniel	Daniel
Hosea	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obadiah	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Micah	Micah
Nahum	Nahum
Habakkuk	Habakkuk
Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Haggai	Haggai
Zechariah	Zechariah
Malachi	Malachi

Protestant Version	Catholic Version
Matthew	Matthew
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Acts
Romans	Romans
I Corinthians	I Corinthians
II Corinthians	II Corinthians
Galatians	Galatians
Ephesians	Ephesians
Philippians	Philippians
Colossians	Colossians
I Thessalonians	I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians	II Thessalonians
I Timothy	I Timothy
II Timothy	II Timothy
Titus	Titus
Philemon	Philemon
Hebrews	Hebrews
James	James
I Peter	I Peter
II Peter	II Peter
I John	I John
II John	II John
III John	III John
Jude	Jude
Revelation	Revelation

*The Orthodox churches have not universally agreed on a canon. Most accept all of the Catholic books with the addition of I Esdras and III-IV Maccabees.

QUESTIONS FROM YOUR READING

1. What does the word *Shekinah* mean?

2. What was contained within the Ark of the Covenant?

3. What are the names of the Patriarchs of Israel?

4. What is the *tetragrammaton*?

5. Who was the first king of Israel?

6. Who built the first Temple?

7. What resided in the Holy of Holies?

8. On what day did the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies?

9. What territory became known as the Promised Land?

10. The nation of Israel was separated into two kingdoms after the death of Solomon. What are the names of the two kingdoms?

11. Who conquers Judah, leading to the destruction of the Temple and the taking of the people into exile?

12. Who allowed the people to return to the land of Judah and to rebuild the Temple?

13. Who led a revolt in 168 B.C. that resulted in the establishment of an independent Jewish state?
