


LOOKING AT THE OLD TESTAMENT

Part Three

An Evangelical Programmed Text

The Books of Songs



L.M. Ammerman and J. Maritim

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Quotations in this text are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible in the American spelling. For the text, all references to God are capitalized and the common English spelling is used.

INTRODUCTION

We have prepared another survey book on the Bible for you. Looking at the Old Testament, Part 3, will teach you the songs of the people of Israel. It covers Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. This book will help you see how the people of God felt at different times. It will help you see that God understands and wants to help you. It will also give you lessons about walking with God which you can give to your people.

Again, if you want to learn well, do everything which the book says. Try to think about the answers carefully. Do not read ahead and copy the answers. The lessons are trying to help you think for yourself. Remember that this kind of teaching is called programmed instruction. You must do more than read in order to learn the lessons. Be ready to talk about the lessons in your weekly meeting. Write down any questions you have, so you can ask them in class. Write down the thoughts which you would like to share with other students. Try to fit the lessons to your life and to your church. Rejoice that many other church leaders are also learning the Bible through Theological Education by Extension.

We are thankful for the evangelical churches throughout Africa which are helping to prepare these books. Looking at the Old Testament, Part 3, was written in Kenya. After the lessons were written, they were tested by Kalenjin people in southern Kenya. Then they were rewritten to make them teach better. After that they were tested again. They were also read by other church leaders to see if they agree with their understanding of the Bible. We want to be careful that the lessons are true to God's word.

Lillie Mae Ammerman is a missionary with the World Gospel Mission and the Africa Gospel Church. She has a B.A. in Religious Education from Asbury College, and an M.A. in Education from the Eastern Kentucky University. She has been a missionary teacher in Kenya since 1947. For the past few years she has been working mostly in Theological Education by Extension.

Joseph Maritim is also with the Africa Gospel Church in Kenya. He took his training at the Kenya Highlands Bible College. He worked with Theological Education by Extension for two years. This TEE programme was one of the first to be started in Africa.

Looking at the Old Testament, Part 3, is an interesting book. It will help you to understand how God teaches His people. It will also help you understand your own Christian life. Put these lessons into your preaching so your people can learn from them. If you have questions or comments you may write to us.

Your friends in Christ,
Fred and Grace Holland
TEXT-Africa Project Editors

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is your teacher. It will teach you a lesson each day. Obey carefully what the book says just as you would obey a teacher. When the teacher tells you to take your Bible and read, you do not just look at him. You take your Bible and read. This is what you must do with this book.

In school the teacher tells the students something. He explains it carefully. Then he asks questions. When students answer well, the teacher goes on to the next teaching. This book uses the same way of teaching. First it gives you a small part of the lesson. Then it asks you a question. If you read carefully, you will be able to answer well. If you answer well it shows that you have understood. It also helps you to remember what you have read.

Usually you will be able to give the right answers. If you are not sure of the answer, read again the teaching from the last question. If you are still not sure, then write the best answer you can. Then go on. As you do the lesson you will find out if you are answering well. But it is very important that you always write your best answer before you read the next part. It will help if you use a piece of paper to cover the rest of the page as you read.

Move the paper down to the heavy line which looks like this: =====. Read the teaching and answer the question. Then move the paper down to the next heavy line. In this way you will not read the answer before you are ready for it. As you read the answer, think about it. It will correct you if you are learning wrong.

It will take you 10 weeks to finish this book. Do one lesson each day for five days of each week. Do not try to do two or three lessons in one day. The last questions for each day are the most important ones. They show what the teacher wants you to remember. We call these the objectives of the book. At the end of the week, you have learned well if you can answer these questions.

This book should be used with a discussion meeting each week. You should have a leader to help you with your problems. The leader should also help you discuss with other students what you have learned. If you have not studied the lessons before class, you will not understand what is being said.

If there is no leader to help you with these lessons, call together some of your friends. Ask them to study the lessons. Then meet together and let someone in the group lead a discussion. We believe you will like this kind of learning. When you come to the end of the book, you will be surprised how much you have learned.

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