

The Old Testament

Introduction

1. **One of the most fundamental questions which has faced theology and the church in every age and still demands an answer today is whether or not Christianity also needs an Old Testament.**
2. **Is the Old Testament to be thrown away as obsolete, or preserved and reassured as a classic and read by scholars.**
 - A. **Or perhaps just used occasionally as a change from the New Testament.**

The Value of the Bible

An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.

3. **In this morning's lesson I'll be discussing five reasons for studying the Old Testament and the importance and value of each.**

The Old Testament

1. God was its Author.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets

- A. This verse informs us that in time past God spoke to the fathers by the prophets. God was doing the speaking, making His will known to mankind.**

Paul's words refer to the Old Testament Books:

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

- 1) Since He is God, we should listen to what He has to say!**

B. We should have the attitude stated in Psalm 119:

Psalms 119:161-162 Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.

- 1) Can you imagine receiving a letter from the person that you love the most and yet never taking the time to read it? Think about that.**

2. The Old Testament contains the only complete and accurate account of the origin of this world and of mankind.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- A. Where else can you find a detailed account of the six days of creation, what was created when, or an account of God's creating Adam and Eve and the beginning of the institution of marriage?**
- B. Genesis 1 and 2 as well as Job 38-40 provide information found nowhere else.**
 - 1) From these chapters, we can know that the world was created in six literal 24-hour days some 6,000 years ago and that evolution played no part in it.**
 - 2) Let's thank God for the Old Testament Scriptures. Because when we read the Old Testament chapters, John 1 has greater meaning.**

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

3. The Old Testament describes God's nature.

A. He's eternal.

Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms....

- 1) God shows the value of the Old Testament.**

B. He's faithful.

Isaiah 44:6-8

- 1) What God foretold in the Old Testament, did happen.**

C. He's just.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

D. He's loving, merciful and kind.

Psalms 31:19 Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!

Psalms 31:21 Blessed be the LORD, For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!

- 1) God gave the world 100 years to repent in the days of Noah.**

E. He's powerful.

1 Chronicles 29:10-11

- 1) The Flood, the Tower of Babel, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of God's power.**

4. The Old Testament instructs us by its examples.**1 Corinthians 10:5-12**

A. Paul says what happened to God's people in times past should teach us a lesson.

- 1) The principles involved are timeless. By reading about the Old Testament characters mentioned in Hebrews 11, we should be encouraged and our faith strengthened.**

Romans 15:4 For **whatever things were written before were written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

- 2) They're for us to learn from.**

- 3) It instills within us a hope when we see people of old enduring afflictions yet remaining faithful.**

◆ Truly, we can learn so much from the pages of the Old Testament!

- 5. It tells of the origin of sin and the need for redemption.**
- A. Genesis 3 declares how sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden. That same chapter mentions the coming of the Seed, the Messiah.**
 - B. Much of the Old Testament foretells of this Great Deliverer and the fact that His coming was essential for man's salvation, the central element in God's plan for man's redemption.**

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 5:18-19 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so **through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men**, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

- C. Because of Christ's death on the cross, the shedding of His blood, all who so choose may be justified, and pronounced "not guilty."**
- D. What about you? Will you obey Him now? Will you be faithful until death so as to be able to receive the crown of life?**

