

Old Testament - cont.

6. Warns of Satan

The Old Testament scriptures show how Satan works to tempt mankind (Genesis 3:1ff). With Eve he used the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life and it worked (2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14). He works the same way today (Mt. 4:1ff; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Rev. 12:7ff). When we read the Old Testament, we can better understand how to resist the Devil.

7. Gives Hope

The Old Testament scriptures give us hope (Romans 15:4). We you read the Old Testament you will read about the hope of ...

- Salvation from sin (Genesis 12:3).
- God keeping his promises (Joshua 23:14; 1 Kings 8:56).
- God's power and faithfulness in taking care of his people (Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 49:7).
- God's reign and control over all mankind (Daniel 4:17,26; Psalm 2; 110).
- A life after we die (Job 19:24-27).

Old Testament - cont.

Did you know that there are approximately 1,604 New Testament citations of 1,276 different Old Testament passages? The New Testament is full of the Old Testament! As Christians today, we should place the same value on the Old Testament as the New Testament church did. The Old Testament is not binding, but it should be read and studied. - *Chris Reeves*

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Christian's Use of the Old Testament

Many people have heard that members of churches of Christ do not believe in the Old Testament. It is true that the Old Testament has been removed and is no longer a binding covenant for mankind today. The New Testament clearly teaches that (Romans 7:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:6ff; Galatians 3:24-25; Ephesians 2:14; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 7-10).

However, just because the Old Covenant is no longer a binding covenant, that does not mean that Christians today cannot benefit from the Old Testament. There are several reasons why a Christian should read and use the Old Testament with profit. Let's take a look at why a Christian should read the Old Testament.

1. Points to Christ

The Old Testament points to the coming of Jesus Christ, so it is a good idea to read the Old Testament to learn more about Jesus. The Old Testament bears witness of Christ (Luke 4:16-21; 24:27,32,44; John 1:45; 5:39-47).

The Old Testament can bring a Jew, for example, to Christ (Galatians 3:24-25). The Old Testament even

preaches about Jesus Christ (Acts 2:2ff; 8:26ff; 13:26ff; 17:2,11; 18:24-28; 28:23-24). In fact, Jesus is the main destination of all the writings in the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17; Mark 14:49; John 7:42; 19:24, 28, 36, 37; Romans 9:5; 10:4).

2. Shows the Unfolding Plan of God

Surprisingly, God's plan to save mankind begins in the Old Testament, not in the New Testament (Rom. 1:2; 16:26; Galatians 3:8; 1 Peter 1:10-12). The "gospel", or good news that a Savior is provided for the sins of mankind is actually mentioned for the first time in Genesis 3:15.

The Old Testament is like a "shadow" that points forward to the substance of Jesus Christ (Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5; 10:1). Christians today can actually view the whole plan of salvation from beginning to end when they start reading in Genesis.

3. Instructs in Salvation

According to Paul, the Old Testament scriptures can make one wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). One can read them today and learn some basic principles of salvation like the need for obedient faith.

The Old Testament scriptures are also profitable for teaching and other good things (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Did you know that the Old Testament was the "Bible" of the New Testament church?

4. Provides Examples of Righteousness

The Old Testament is full of examples of men and women who had a righteous faith (Hebrews 11). Christians today are to follow these examples (Matthew 12:41-42; Romans 4:23-25; James 5:10,17-18). And Christians are to avoid the unrighteous examples found in the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 10:6-11; Hebrews 4:11; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7,11).

5. Warns of Disobedience

The Old Testament scriptures show how God deals firmly with the disobedient (Acts 7:39; Hebrews 2:1-3; 4:1ff; 10:28-29). And since God's character remains the same (Malachi 3:6), we can know how God will deal with us by reading the Old Testament. God is both good and severe toward mankind and we would do well to remember that (Romans 11:22; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 1 John 4:8,19). - *continued*