

What is the purpose of the Old Testament?

There appears to be much confusion about what Christians call the Old Testament. Some view the Old Testament as archaic and thus having no use for the New Testament believer in Christ. Others see the God of the Old Testament as a mean ogre waiting to squish those who make mistakes. Others seen in it the life blood of the New Testament and that it is necessary to understand the Old Testament in order to understand the New Testament.

1. What does the Old Testament teach us about God?

Psalm **100:3**

Leviticus **11:44-45**

Ezekiel **18:4**

Genesis 2:7

Isaiah **45:5-7**

From the Old Testament, we know that we were created by God by the power of His word. As a result, we are accountable to Him for our actions. We know that God is Holy which implies that he is perfect in all of His ways and thoughts and just in His judgments. We know that there is one and only one God and that any thing else identified as being a god is an imposter that is to be destroyed.

2. What does the Old Testament teach us about man?

Genesis **1:26-27**; 2:7; **3:6-8**; 6:5

Proverbs **21:2**

Judges 17:6; 21:25

Isaiah **50:1-2**

Jeremiah **17:9**

Deuteronomy 12:8

Romans 5:12-14

From the Old Testament, we know that we were created by God to function according to His behavior and character. Through disobedience to God's commands, man created a separation between him and God that is called "sin". It is a barrier that man cannot overcome since God requires our nature to perfectly line up with His nature but due to Adam's sin, all carry the mark and tendency to sin. In comparison to God's Holy character, man's character is thoroughly corrupt and wicked and deserving to receive condemnation by God. By nature, man wants to do everything the way he wants to do it with little to no regard for what God wants. Every man is personally responsible before God for our thoughts and actions and that our natural separation from God is our own fault. There is no man whose natural character is acceptable to God to intervene and to be accepted by God.

3. What does the Old Testament teach us about reconciling with God?

Exodus **29:36-37**

Isaiah **53:4-11**

Leviticus **4:23**

The Old Testament teaches us that the only way to be reconciled with God is through a blood sacrifice. The sacrifice must be perfect and without blemish. Ultimately the only sacrifice that is sufficient to pay for the sinful condition of man is the Messiah sent by God in order to bring man back to Himself.

4. How does the New Testament identify its relationship with the Old Testament?

Romans **3:19-23**

Galatians **3:21-25**

According to the New Testament, the Old Testament's purpose is to expose the sinfulness of man so that he would understand that he deserves eternal condemnation and that the only way to escape the judgment is through faith in Jesus Christ.