

CLASS 1: OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

Following some opening remarks we moved into some introductory questions regarding the study of the Old Testament where we are beginning survey, as follow:

WHY ARE WE HERE THIS MORNING?

Here we briefly discussed the significance and uniqueness of such a study.

WHY SHOULD WE TEACH THIS COURSE?

Here we determined that such a study is designed to teach us about God and his grace.

WHAT SHOULD THE FOLKS EXPECT?

We assured the group that our sole purpose was to learn more about God and his redemptive purposes

SO THE REAL QUESTION IS . . .

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT? WHAT IS IT ABOUT AND WHY SHOULD WE STUDY IT?

We each provided a brief answer and then provided a brief questionnaire to be completed by each person in attendance to gain a sense of their knowledge of the subject and where might go in teaching the course.

WHAT THEN IS THE GOSPEL -- OR THE GOOD NEWS

We each provided a brief answer and discussed the proper importance of the Old Testament importance to the Gospel and how the Old Testament actually begins the story of God's intended redemption of all who would trust in him.

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STUDY AND WHAT DO YOU PERSONALLY HOPE TO GAIN/LEARN FROM THIS STUDY?

To this question our input from the attendees would hope to provide some insight.

We then provided some teaching as to why to study the Old Testament.

WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT -- BUD

1. GOD'S SELF-REVELATION

- a. GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER**
- b. EXPERIENCE HIS ATTRIBUTES**
- c. TO ADOPT A VALUE SYSTEM AND DEVELOP A WORLDVIEW**
- d. TO UNDERSTAND HOW GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO PEOPLE IN THE PAST**

2. REVEALS THE CHARACTER OF GOD

- a. SEE HIS CHARACTER MANIFEST THROUGH A LONG PERIOD OF HISTORY
- b. II PETER 3:9 DESCRIBES GOD AS HAVING PATIENCE
- c. THE OT DEMONSTRATES THAT OVER CENTURIES OF TIME
- d. SHOWS HIS CHARACTER IN ITS DEPTH AND RICHNESS

3. GOD'S DESIRE FOR A PEOPLE TO SHARE HIMSELF WITH

- a. CREATE A PEOPLE TO SHARE HIMSELF AND HAVE RELATIONSHIP
- b. THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS HIS INITIAL EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE
- c. THE REMAINDER OF THE BIBLE SHOWS GOD'S PROGRAM TO ACCOMPLISH THIS
 - i. MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH
 - ii. THE TABERNACLE
 - iii. RETURN TO THE LAND AND BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE
 - iv. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS

4. LEADS US TO UNDERSTAND JESUS

- a. THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM SACRIFICING ISAAC
- b. ALMOST 300 DIRECT REFERENCES TO JESUS

JESUS, HIMSELF, TELLS US THE OT TEACHES ABOUT HIM

"He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24:44

HOW IS THE OT CONSTRUCTED

1. NARRATIVE BOOKS – HISTORICAL

- a. GENESIS THROUGH II CHRONICLES
- b. EXILE AND RETURN – EZRA – NEHEMIAH – ESTHER

2. WISDOM LITERATURE – MIDDLE BOOKS

- a. WISDOM LITERATURE
- b. DEVOTIONAL POEMS
- c. CEREMONIAL LITERATURE
 - 1. JOB – PSALMS – PROVERBS – ECCLESIASTES
 - 2. SONG OF SONGS

3. THE PROPHETS – GOD'S COMMENTARY ON ISRAEL'S HISTORY

- a. GOD'S COMMENTARY ON ISRAEL'S HISTORY -- DISOBEDIENCE

THE GOSPEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

**GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS
EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S GRACE
SALVATION FROM JUDGMENT**

THAT MEANS

**WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD.
OUR PROBLEM IS OUR SIN AGAINST HIM.
GOD'S SOLUTION IS SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.
WE COME TO BE INCLUDED IN THAT SALVATION BY FAITH AND REPENTANCE.**

IT BEGINS WITH GOD'S GRACE

**GRACE IS NOT SOMETHING WE MERIT
GRACE BRINGS US HOPE
JUSTIFICATION IS FREELY BY GRACE -- ROMANS 3:24
ALL BECAUSE OF THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY JESUS**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

Ron then provided insight on the subject of grace and the true beginnings of the Gospel in Genesis 1-2. It is about God creating man to have fellowship with him and upon whom to shower his grace.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

- 1. THE OLD TESTAMENT MOVES SIDeways IN THAT IT NEVER PROGRESSES**
- 2. MOVES FORWARD AS A STORY OF PROMISE**
- 3. LEADS US TO LEARN ABOUT GOD**

IT'S LESS ABOUT LESSONS FOR US THAN WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT GOD

NEXT WEEK -- INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH