



“Why study the Old Testament?”

April 1, 2022

Lessons from Exodus #1

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Friday, April 1, 2022

1. The OT is the word of God and it lasts forever.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 1 Timothy 3:16.

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Isaiah 40:8.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matt 4:4.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish (overthrow, unloose) the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill (complete, carry into effect) them.” Matthew 5:17.

2. Why should New Covenant people study Old Covenant Scripture?

- a. The LORD, through human authors, “breathed” the OT.
- b. *“Blessed is the man ... (whose) delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”* Psalm 1:1-2.
- c. *“Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”* Luke 24:44.

3. A convenient way to think about the Bible: Creation, Fall and Redemption

- a. Redemption is through the Covenant (a binding agreement) of the LORD with his people:
 - i. “Party of the 1st part”: *“I will be your God and you will be my people”* if ...
 - ii. “Party of the 2nd part”: The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, *“I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless ...”* (Genesis 17:1)
“I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.”
Leviticus 11:44.
 - iii. Summary of the Covenant. *“Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.”* Jer. 7:22f

4. Redemption through the “party of the 2nd part” keeping, perfectly, all that God commands.

5. Compelling reasons to study the OT

- a. The sheer weight of material: 76% of the 30,000 Bible verses are found in the OT.
- b. In the OT we learn the answer to the three most important questions: Who is God? Who am I? what does God expect of me?

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- 6. Answering the Three Questions from Exodus.** *“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”* Exodus 15:11
- a. **God’s name.** *“Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites ... and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them? ¹⁴ God said to Moses, ‘I Am who I Am.’”* Exodus. 3:13-15
- b. **God’s attributes.**
- i. **Holiness: *kodesh*** = set-apart, consecrated, sacred. Also: without contradiction.
- *“Then (God) said, ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’”* Exodus. 3:5. *“... Majestic in holiness ...”* Exodus 15:11
- ii. **Glory (*kabod*);** from the root word for *heavy, weighty*.
- *“Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”* Ex. 40:35
- iii. **God’s other attributes summarized in Exodus 34:6-7.** *“(The LORD) passed in front of Moses and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD, a God ...*
- *Merciful ...* (not getting what one deserve).
 - *Gracious ...* (in the sense of *hearing a debtor’s cry*).
 - *Slow to anger ...* (root word = “flared nostrils”).
 - *abounding in Steadfast Love (hesed) ... and Faithfulness ...*
 - *keeping Steadfast Love (hesed) for the thousandth generation ...*
 - *Forgiving (lifting, carrying) iniquity, transgression and sin ...*
 - *but who will by no means clear (cleaned/emptied) the guilty. Justice*
- c. **God’s people.** *“Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* Exodus. 19:5-6. *“In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.”* Exodus 15:13
- d. **God’s redemption.** *“Israel is my firstborn son ... I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.”* Exodus 4:22; 6:6
- e. **God’s Law and laws.** *“Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left ...”* Joshua 1:7
- f. **God’s worship.** *‘The Lord ... has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me ...’* Exodus 7:16. *“Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.”* Exodus 19:17. *“The tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.”* Exodus 30:36
- g. **God’s mediator.** Moses mediates with pharaoh and with God. *“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.’”* Exodus. 24:12