

Why Read the Old Testament? – 5-29-15

We Christians believe in Jesus, and since the New Testament is all about Jesus, why should we go to the Old Testament? Jesus came into this world to save sinners, we're sinners, He died to save us, so we're saved and that's all there is to it. Really?

But somewhere a nagging thought asks, "Why did He save me? Does He have a reason? What is the real purpose for my being here?"

Peter answers something like this: "God chose you that you may talk all about the great deeds and character of the God who rescued you out of blackness and carried you up into the light."

What can you say about this God? If you were on a talk show and asked to talk fifteen minutes about God, could you? Do you know Him well enough to talk that long? Do you know about all the great and amazing things He has done? Can you explain how so many of His awesome actions put the spotlight on what He's like?

If Jesus is God He has been doing things since the beginning (John 1:1,2). The beginning of what God says about Jesus starts at Genesis 1:1 and keeps on going until the end of the Bible.

We should really see that the entire Old Testament tells us about God and His Son. More than 75% of the Bible is the Old Testament. As the apostles wrote the New Testament they continually depended on the Old Testament. They referred to the Old Testament at least 295 separate times.

So why not follow God along in the 4000 years of His words and works recorded in the Old Testament? He had all this written so that you might really watch Him and hear Him during the flood, in the great Exodus out of Egypt, during Israel's wilderness journey, in Joshua's conquest of Canaan, Samson's pulling Dagon's temple down, David standing on Goliath, and so many more exciting adventures.

This is the God you must trust; but how can you trust someone you don't really know? As you study the Old Testament you will understand His mind, what He likes and what He really hates. You will see that He always does what He says He

is going to do, no matter how many men and nations rise up against Him. There is old Pharaoh, going ten rounds with God until God finally chokes the life out of him and his mighty army in the Red Sea. There is the brutal Nebuchadnezzar who thought that because he had made a complete mess of Israel, he had also defeated Israel's God. No so, as he learned the hard way.

This is our God. Put your hand in the hand of the Lord. To know, trust, love, and serve Him, let Him lead you on a 4000-year trip through the Old Testament.