

What's The Deal With The Old Testament?

THE GREAT DEBATE!

Acts 15:1-35

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE O.T.?

Acts 15:19-29, Acts 13:38-39, Galatians 2:15-16, 3:1-5, 23-25, Hebrews 10:1-4

- ▶ The Old Testament does show us God's:

Character .

Heart .

Power .

Plan .

- ▶ The Old Testament does not:

Let us pick and choose.

Remove sin.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE LAWS AND COMMANDS?

Acts 15:19-29, Romans 10:9-13, John 19:30, Matthew 5:17-18, 27:50-51, Romans 3:19-28

- ▶ If it is repeated in the New Testament: obey it.

- ▶ If it is not repeated, then: ???????????

- ▶ We are now under a new contract.

Jeremiah 31:31, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 8:8, 9:15, 12:24

**“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty,
and in all things charity.”**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 9, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week's teaching on "What's The Deal With The Old Testament" was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. When you think of the Old Testament what comes to mind?

- Adventure and action
- Too old and thick to grasp
- Hard to understand
- Rich and full of variety
- Other

2. This week we heard the Old Testament reveals God's character, heart, power and plan. Which one of these do you tend to tune into more when thinking about God or reading the Bible?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Having a clear understanding of the Old Testament is important in gaining a full picture of who God is and His plan for us. King David, the Apostle Paul and Jesus can each give us a healthy perspective of the Old Testament and its laws. Read the following passages and jot down notes on each man's perspective.

David: Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 19:7-11

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.

[2] But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

[3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers. [NIV]

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
[8] The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
[9] The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The ordinances of the Lord are sure
and altogether righteous.
[10] They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.
[11] By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward. [NIV]

Paul: Romans 3:19-24, Romans 7:7

Romans 3:19-24

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20] Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

[21] But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22] This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [NIV]

Romans 7:7

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." [NIV]

Jesus: Matthew 22:34-40

Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. [35] One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: [36] "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

[37] Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." [NIV]

In what ways can these passages help you understand the Old Testament and its influence on your relationship with God?

2. One well-known place in Scripture where we see God's laws are the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. Read through these verses. Pick out at least three commands and write down how God's character, heart, power or plan is revealed in each command?

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words:

[2] "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

[3] "You shall have no other gods before me.

[4] "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. [5] You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

[7] "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

[8] "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. [11] For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

[12] "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

[13] "You shall not murder.

[14] "You shall not commit adultery.

[15] "You shall not steal.

[16] "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

[17] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." [NIV]

What catches your attention about who God is and how he relates to you? How does this affect your understanding of God?

3. We may be tempted to abuse our freedom when we hear we no longer need to follow the Old Testament laws. How do the following verses help us not fall into this trap and instead live as God calls us to live?

Galatians 5:13-15

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. [NIV]

1 Peter 2:13-17

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, [14] or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. [15] For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. [16] Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. [17] Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. [NIV]

Romans 6:22-23

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]

Which of these is most helpful for you when it comes to living out God's grace and freedom?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study what was most helpful in understanding and /or applying the content of the Old Testament to your life?

How can your Growth Group best pray for you this week?