

Old Testament Survey

Introduction to the Old Testament, Part 2

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Themes in the Old Testament

- The following themes will be explored:
 - God and His character
 - Man and his character
 - Atonement
 - Covenant

God and his character

- God the Creator
 - God created everything including the spiritual realm (Nehemiah 9:6)
 - The Old Testament testify and praise his work:
 - Psalm 33:6,9
 - Isaiah 44:24
 - Psalm 19:1-2

God and his character

- God is Holy
 - Committed to holiness and sin robs God glory and breaks his covenant with his people
 - Habakkuk 1:13
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - Proverbs 15:29
 - Isaiah 6:3

God and his character

- God is Holy
 - We see examples of what happens in the presence of God
 - Isaiah 6:4-5
 - Exodus 3:4-6

God and his character

- God is Eternal
 - Psalm 90:2, 4
 - Job 26:26
- God is Omnipotent
 - Jeremiah 32:17, 27

God and his character

- God is Omnipresent
 - Psalm 139:7-12
 - Jeremiah 32:19
- God is Forgiving
 - Psalm 86:5

God and his character

- God is merciful
 - Exodus 34:6
 - Psalm 67:1
- God is perfect
 - 1 Kings 8:27
 - Psalm 139

God and his character

- God is Judge and Righteous
 - Genesis 18:25
 - Deuteronomy 32:4
 - Exodus 20:5
 - Isaiah 11:4
 - Psalm 5:4-6

God and his character

- God is Love
 - Deuteronomy 10:18-19
 - Psalm 117:2
- This is not an exhaustive list
- God is the same in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament

Man and his character

- Man is Sinful
 - Sin is a failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature
 - Every man and woman is a sinner
 - 1 Kings 8:46
 - Psalm 14:3
 - Proverbs 20:9
 - Ecclesiastes 7:20

Man and his character

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 - Proverbs 20:9
 - Ecclesiastes 7:20
 - Psalm 58:3
 - Jeremiah 17:9

Man and his character

- Man is Rebellious
 - The following passages illustrate man's rebellion
 - Genesis 3:1-7 – Adam and Eve
 - Leviticus 10:2 – Strange Fire by Nadab and Abihu
 - Numbers 14:1-12 – Refusing to go into the Promised Land
 - Numbers 16 – The rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram
 - 1 Samuel 8 – Rejecting God as King and asking for an earthly king

Man and his character

- Man is sinful and rebellious due to the fall of Adam
- We are spiritually dead and lack the ability to please God or go to God by our own strength
- God is holy and just, unwavering in his commitment to punish sin
- Is there any hope for the sinner?

Atonement

- Atonement speaks of God's acting in human history to re-establish the original relationship between God and man by dealing with sin
- An offering of atonement enables two warring parties to be at one, or reconciled
- Man needs to make amends with God
- However, it is God who takes the initiative

Atonement

- The Nature of Atonement requires the shedding of blood
 - Leviticus 17:11
- We see sacrifices being offered from the beginning of time
 - Genesis 4:3-4
 - Genesis 22:9-14
 - Exodus 12

Atonement

- The sacrifice is performed to satisfy God's just requirements
- A sacrifice of atonement does not depend on human initiative, but rather God speaks and tells his people who to approach Him
- Sacrifices are not the only way for atonement, but it does play a central role

Atonement

- Other forms of 'atonement'
 - Isaiah 6:6-7 – the image of hot coals that purges unclean lips
 - Hosea 3:2-3 – the purchase of an offender
 - Zechariah 3:4 – the removing of filthy clothes
- The book of Leviticus discusses the sacrificial laws which introduced the notion of a penal substitute

Atonement

- Every sacrifice was to be voluntary, costly, accompanied by a confession of sin, and according to God's prescriptions
- Sacrifices would involve the shedding of blood of an unblemished animal
- Sacrifices could never satisfy the requirement or the purging of guilt

Atonement

- Atonement illustrates three points:
 - First, it shows that God is serious about holiness
 - Second, it shows that sin is serious
 - Third, atonement could be accomplished when an innocent dies in place of the guilty
- Putting hope in the sacrificial system could not save man, but rather, a change of heart was necessary

Covenants

- Covenant is a relational commitment of trust, love, and care
- It is also an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship
- Using covenants is how God communicates to us, redeems us, and guarantees us eternal life in Jesus

Covenants

- A covenant is a promise
- God's promises cannot be broken since they rest in his infinite and pure character
- Pattern of covenants follow this formula
 - Initiating party describes himself and what he has done
 - There is a list of obligations between the two (or more) parties

Covenants

- Pattern of covenants follow this formula
 - Initiating party describes himself and what he has done
 - There is a list of obligations between the two (or more) parties
 - There is dealing with rewards and punishments that govern the keeping and breaking of covenant
 - An example of this would be the Ten commandments

Covenants

- God's covenant with Noah
 - Promised would not destroy the world by flood (Genesis 9)
 - The rainbow was a sign of that covenant
- God's covenant with Abraham
 - God promised to bless his descendants and make them his own special people and would be a blessing to the rest of the world (Genesis 12:1-3)

Covenants

- The Mosaic covenant
 - Centered around God's giving his divine law to Moses on Mount Sinai
 - This is a conditional covenant, rather than unconditional
 - Promises to make Israel 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (Exodus 19:6)

Covenants

- The Davidic Covenant
 - God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah
 - Would establish a kingdom that would endure forever (2 Samuel 7:10-13)

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Christ in the Old Testament

- Outline
 - Themes in the Old Testament
 - Christ in the Old Testament
 - The Law and Sacrificial System
 - The Origins of Christ
 - The Work and Person of Christ
 - The Passion and Resurrection of Christ

Christ in the Old Testament

- The primary focus of the Old Testament is on the person and work of Christ.
- Jesus held up the Old Testament as the word of God
 - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; *I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.* I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. – **Matt 5:17-18**

Themes in the Old Testament

- God's holiness
 - God reveals Himself to be holy through self-declaration and His commands to His people
- God's dwelling with man
 - God chooses to meet with and dwell among His people in special ways (E.g., the burning bush, the pillar of cloud and fire, the ark of the covenant)

Themes in the Old Testament

- The necessity of sacrifice for atonement
 - Death is a necessary result of sin
 - Life could be substituted to bring restoration and atonement for the guilt of another

Christ in the Old Testament

- At the time of the fall God made a promise of a redeemer.
 - So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; *he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*" – **Genesis 3:14-15**

Christ in the Old Testament

- God made covenants with Abram (**Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18**), Jacob (**Genesis 28:10-14**), and David (**2 Samuel 7:12-16**) to bless the nations through one of their offspring.

Christ in the Old Testament

- Other figures that point to Christ:
 - Melchizedek (**Genesis 14:18-20**)
 - Isaac (**Genesis 22:1-19**)
 - The Passover lamb (**Exodus 12:1-3, 5-8, 40-50**)

The Law and Sacrificial System

- Law
 - The Law of Moses is a reflection and foreshadow of Christ
 - The law has no power to save, only to condemn (**Romans 5:20-21; Hebrews 7:19**)
 - The law makes us aware of our sin and the resulting penalty of death (**2 Corinthians 3:6-11**)

The Law and Sacrificial System

- Sacrifices
 - It is the blood that is of the sacrifice that makes atonement (**Leviticus 17:11**)
 - God required a perfect offering without blemish or defect
 - No amount of animals can be an equal substitute for a human nor can animal sacrifices cleanse the heart or abolish sin. Christ is the only perfect substitute (**Romans 5:1-11**)

The Law and Sacrificial System

- Priests
 - Priests were the mediators between God and people, presenting the sins of the people to God and conveying the blessings of God to the people
 - The high priest could enter into the special presence of God in the Most Holy Place once a year.
 - The Levitical priests foreshadowed the work of Christ, our perfect high priest in heaven (**Hebrews 7:11, 23-27**)

The Law and Sacrificial System

- Tabernacle
 - The tabernacle/temple signified God's presence among His people (**Exodus 40:34-38; Numbers 9:15-27**)
 - It pointed forward to Christ, the final dwelling of God with man
 - The tabernacle was only a shadow of a greater reality (**Hebrews 8:5; 9:24**)

The Origins of Christ

- **Genesis 3:15** – The seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent
- **Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18** – The descendant of Abraham will bring blessings to all nations on earth
- **Numbers 24:17** – A son of Jacob will rise up to be a great ruler
- **Isaiah 11:1-5** – The Branch of Jesse will be a righteous judge

The Origins of Christ

- **Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:15** – The righteous branch from the **house of David** will be a king
- **Micah 5:2** – The ruler will be born in Bethlehem
- **Isaiah 7:14** – There will be a virgin birth and his name will be “Immanuel”

The Work and Person of Christ

- **Isaiah 9:6-7** – “To us a child is born”, the nature of this child is revealed
- **Daniel 2:27-45** – King Nebuchadnezzar’s vision of the rock cut out of the mountain
- **Daniel 7:13-14** – Daniel’s vision of one like a “son of man”
- **Isaiah 42:1-4** – The Lord’s servant is the bringer of justice
- **Isaiah 49:1-6** – The Lord’s servant is a light to the Gentiles

The Work and Person of Christ

- **Isaiah 50:4-9** – The Lord's servant is an obedient servant
- **Psalms 110:2-4** – The king will also be a priest in the order of Melchizedek
- **Jeremiah 33:15-18** – The branch from David's line will be both a king and priest
- **Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:23-25** – God's servant will be a shepherd of His people

The Work and Person of Christ

- **Zechariah 9:9** – The king will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey
- **Psalms 118:22-23** – The Lord's chosen will be rejected by men
- **Isaiah 28:16** – The cornerstone laid by God
- **Isaiah 61:1-3** – The servant who proclaims the year of the Lord's favor

The Passion and Resurrection of Christ

- **Psalm 41:9** – Betrayal of God's servant
- **Isaiah 50:6; 52:13-53:12** – God's servant will endure physical suffering and abuse and be crushed for our sins
- **Psalm 22:15-17; Zechariah 12:10** – The servant will be pierced
- **Psalm 34:19-20** – None of the servant's bones will be broken

The Passion and Resurrection of Christ

- **Psalm 22:7-8** – The servant will be mocked and insulted
- **Psalm 22:18** – People will gamble for the servant's garments
- **Psalm 22:1** – Jesus cried out on the cross
- **Amos 8:9-10** – There will be darkness at midday
- **Psalm 16:9-10; 49:15** – The servant will rise from the dead

Conclusion

- Why are the Prophecies of Christ Relevant Today?
 - They testify to the person of Christ and are evidence to the validity of Christ's claims about Himself
 - They a reminder that God is sovereign and is able to fulfill the prophecies He makes
 - The prophecies continue to be fulfilled because Christ continues to live and His work is still being done

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