



The Old Testament

The most important statement in history comes from Genesis 1:1 in the Old Testament *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* If God did not do it then Christianity is false. Jesus, The Psalms, miracles, and faith all hinge on God being the creator. There are people that hold a view of God that is different than the Bible. They believe God is their God with different characteristics. Yet, they believe it. For the Jew and Christian, it is not that way. The Old Testament reveals the character of God. They believe the Old Testament.

God did it!

There are rumors that God is violent, angry, and unloving in the Old Testament. That it is an outdated old book. We should concentrate on the New Testament only. Yet, Jesus quotes from the old scripture constantly. He said He came to fulfil the law, not abolish it. The sermon on the mount takes sin deeper. If you believe that Jesus is love and God the Father is angry, then that will be how you see God. Yet, if you read the Old Testament, you will see the real God. A God who rescues His own. A God who made laws that protect us. The Lord of the Old Testament wants us to follow Him. Yet, it is not a command. Instead, it is a passionate plea from a loving Father in Heaven. Jesus said He came to do the will of the Old Testament Father.

The Old Testament begins with creation, yet it quickly narrows down to two humans: Adam and Eve. The first eleven chapters of the Bible cover half the Biblical timeline. So much

happens in those first eleven chapters. We have creation, the fall of humankind, the first murder, a great flood, and the separation of people into different languages. In chapter 12 of Genesis the real story begins with a man named Abram. His lineage will create the Jewish and Muslim nations. Human history will never be the same.

Genesis is the famous book. Yet, the History of the Jewish nation forms through a man named Moses. His close relationship with God creates the Law handed down by God himself. This law covers the first five books of the Bible. God wants people to lead the way. Yet, He is their God. Great men and women of the Old Testament will be raised up to lead Gods people. From Abraham to King David, we have several covenants with God. The Lord promises to be their God and make them a great nation. This lineage will eventually lead to Jesus the Christ.

There are nine historical books that follow the law. This is a vastly detailed account of the rise and fall of a nation. The Old Testament is about following and not following God. We see that sinful men are used by God for good. It is amazing that this Jewish account does not paint a pretty picture of the nation or its leaders. God's word is funny and violent. We have talking donkeys in Numbers 22 and the killing of a man with a peg by a woman in Judges 4. Epically we will see splitting seas and massive pillars of fire. The Bible has it all.

Beyond the history is a deeper look inside that history. God chose men to prophetically lead the nation. These are the major and minor prophets. Tucked in-between this is poetry. These five books are considered literary masterpieces by religious and non-religious communities. They cover deep writing and wisdom. There is even an erotic book in the Bible that depicts sex, God's love for a nation, and great literature all rolled into one. Yet, it is the prophets that are the highlight. They point to God and the coming Messiah. The Christ that will eventually be Jesus.

Yet, the Prophets are also historical. They tell us how the nation fell. How they became slaves of another nation. However, God was still at work. Much of the Old Testament is God leading His children into harm's way. Yet, God always saves the day against all odds. Great floods and armies could not destroy them. Vast rivers and seas could not stop God from rescuing His people. From famines to plagues the Lord made a way to the promised land. The Line of Jesus is filled with murders, prostitutes, and kings. There are Jews and gentiles. The Lord Jesus comes from a line of sinners. Yet, these rag tag people had faith in God. God used the ordinary to do extraordinary things.

People say this book is boring. Yet, they only see the lists of people and laws. What they miss is the story of redemption. The miracle moments. That God uses sinners to get the job done. He could have done it all himself, but that is not how God works. He wants us to be a part of the kingdom. Throughout this Ancient work is God sitting in the shadows directing traffic so to speak. Through each generation is raised up a judge, king, prophet, and the desire to win the day against impossible odds. Yet, the Bible and the Jewish nation still exist today. This mysterious God still lives in the hearts of billions all over the globe.

The New Testament points to a second part to this story. A continuation of Gods plan. Eve believed of a savior and redeemer in her bloodline. So did Abraham and King David. The New Testament is based off the Old Jewish history. Jesus quotes it constantly. Paul mentions the connections to the Old Testament over and over. So much of Christian theology depends on Levitical sacrifices. It depends on Gods promises and prophetic words. Yes, it depends on the fact that God did it. This book points to a Messiah. One who will redeem us back to God. If you do not read the Old Testament, you will miss the deep point of the New Testament.