

Q&A Sunday - June 3, 2018 - Gary Stebbins

Question: How does the OT apply to my life today?

Some people say- OT does not apply to them because “I am now under grace/not Law”.

That statement is not biblically accurate.

OT was intended by God to be used not only in the day it was written, but in our day as well.

Matthew 5:18 “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

The OT is necessary to fully understand the NT.

Jesus came into the world as the Messiah clearly prophesied throughout the OT.

NT believers- under a new covenant, a better covenant- does not mean OT has no value.

OT Law- not meant-change sinners into righteous people, but to reveal God’s righteous standard.

When Jesus came He changed how we view- OT, but He does not do away w/OT.

i.e. we do not need animal sacrifices anymore because Jesus was the final sacrifice Himself.

Jesus fulfilled some of the OT laws, others were changed through Christ, others still apply.

Many of the laws added after the giving of the 10 commandments/incident w/golden calf, do not specifically apply to us today.

However- moral laws, still apply- not as a means by which we are saved, but to show us our need for a Savior.

They provide us with a righteous standard.

The OT is still very much a part of scripture ...

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NASB95)

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

All scripture- OT/NT are profitable for our lives.

Three reasons-OT- profitable for NT believers ...

1. God has not changed

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The OT together w/the NT helps us to understand more fully the character/ways of God.

2. Through the blood of Christ many promises in the OT apply to us as NT believers.

2 Cor 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

When you read the OT, there are many promises made to God's people that are also now ours.

3. NT authors regularly quoted- OT to complete our understanding of God and His ways...

Heb 13:5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Hear the writer of Hebrews quotes from ...

Joshua 1:5 "... Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

Another example ...

Rom 12:20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

Here Paul is quoting from Proverbs ...

Proverbs 25:21–22 (NASB95)

²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

²²For you will heap burning coals on his head, And the Lord will reward you.

In Summary ...

As we read the OT in conjunction with the NT we gain a fuller knowledge of who God is.

Many of the promises made to OT believers apply to us today as well.

Interesting quote from a 4th century document called The Apostolic Constitution ...

Propose to yourself to distinguish what rules were from the law of nature, and what were added afterwards, or were such additional rules as were introduced and given in the wilderness to the Israelites after the making of the calf; for the law contains

those precepts which were spoken by the Lord God before the people fell into idolatry, and made a calf ... that is, the ten commandments. But as to those bonds which were further laid upon them after they had sinned, do not draw them upon yourself: for our Saviour came for no other reason but that He might ... abrogate or change those secondary bonds which were superadded to the rest of the law.

Jesus fulfilled many of the OT laws, others were changed through Christ, others still apply.

The OT is a rich depository of wisdom/information about God, His character, His ways.

Another interesting quote ...

For if you have a mind to read history, you have the books of the Kings; if books of wisdom or poetry, you have those of the Prophets, of Job, and the Proverbs, in which you will find greater depth of sagacity than in all the heathen poets and sophisters, because these are the words of the Lord, the only wise God. If you desire something to sing, you have the Psalms; if the origin of things, you have Genesis; if laws and statutes, you have the glorious law of the Lord God.