

OT I - Week I – Introduction of Class, Why Study the OT, Which OT, Canon Introduction

Introduction of Class

- Introduction of Self
 - I love the OT, and I want you to love the OT.
 - I love seeing the character of God in the OT, and the more I have studied it, it has been amazing how enlightening it is to understanding the NT.
 - The more I have studied the OT the better I have grasped the big picture of what God is doing in the world and that makes a huge difference as you read your NT.
- Introduction of Students
- Syllabus

I. Lecture I – Why Should we Study the OT?

Challenges that Amp up the Problem:

1) Marcion (85-160AD)

- Believed the Good God of the NT who sent Jesus into the world was different and better than and more loving than the bad, mean, wrathful, genocidal, demiurge, creator god of the OT.
- OT is of the material world, Christ messenger of the true God of the Spiritual.
- Therefore he rejected the OT.

2) Martin Luther (1483-1546AD) and Other Reformers:

- Distinction between Law and Gospel. All Scripture is either Law or Gospel.

3) Dispensationalism:

- Darby 1800-1882 draws a distinction between the scriptures and promises given to Israel (mainly OT) and those given to the church (mainly NT)

4) Andy Stanley:

- 2018 we must “unhitch” the Christian faith from Jewish scriptures. In other words wants to detach the Law of Moses from the Gospel.
- Or other cultural, modern critiques that are just like Marcion’s of old.

5) Even our terms **Old and New may cause us to stray from one to the other.**

Can you add to our list of challenges?

Question to class: Why Should we Study the OT?

- Find the answer to our question from the Bible itself.

Luke 24:44-47 “44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfill.’ 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

- What does Jesus say about the OT Here:

- First he references the whole canon of OT scripture, will return to this in a moment.
- That all of it is about him.

- It took a divine act to understand the OT scriptures as they should be understood.
- And look at all that Jesus taught from the OT, the life of Christ, death resurrection, the repentance and forgiveness of sins, and the mission of God to reconcile all nations.

Point: We should study the OT, because rightly understood, (Jesus said) it teaches us the Gospel.

6 Reasons to Study the Old Testament from the NT

Intro

-In general there are roughly 343 quotes of the OT in the NT, and roughly 2,300 allusions to the OT. And that is a conservative estimate.

-The Most quoted books are the Psalms followed by Isaiah.

Hebrews – Guthrie, Commentary on NT use of OT, 919

37 quotes of OT

40 allusions to the OT

19 cases where OT material is summarized

13 where an OT name or topic is referred to without reference to specific context.

Revelation – Most permeated NT by the OT. “Although its author seldom quotes the OT directly, allusions and echoes are found in almost every verse of the book.” Beale and McDonough Commentary of NT use of OT, 1081

-Statistics vary on its number of OT references in Revelation but the numbers given are between 226-1000. Beale and McDonough Commentary of NT use of OT, 1082

Main Point: -The NT authors saw themselves living in the fulfillment of the OT, a direct line of God’s revelation and work in the world, and so they sought to understand their times through studying the OT.

-Furthermore the NT authors wanted to establish the Gospel to Jews and pagans and to do that they had to show that Christianity was indeed the fulfillment of the OT scriptures, without this connection they had not Gospel message.

If you want to really understand the NT you need to know the OT like the back of your hand, because it is the context the NT authors were working in.

St. Augustine

To the Old Testament belongs more fear,
just as to the New Testament more delight;
nevertheless in the Old Testament the New lies hid,
and in the New Testament the Old is exposed.
(Quaestiones in Exodum) 354-430

We are going to let the NT authors be our guides on how we should think about the OT.

1) The NT tells us that the OT is inspired Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “16 All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 “20...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

γραφῆ – Greek word that is translated scripture used 50x in the NT
-Every instance refers to the OT.

Point: We should read the OT as the Word of God.

2) The NT tells us that OT teaches us about God.

Hebrews 1:1-2 “1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”

Often we blow over the law, but the fulfilled law in Christ, now still teaches us wisdom about who God is, what he is like, and what it looks like to live as his people.

Point: We should read the OT Theologically.

3) The NT assumes the OT records the real history of the world and God’s people.

-Acts 7 - Stephen’s speech

-Romans 5:12-17 “12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned–13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.”

-1 Timothy 2:11-14 “11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;”

Genealogies in Matthew 1, Luke 3:23-38

Point: We should read the OT Historically.

4) The NT tells us that the OT is given for our Example/Instruction.

2 Corinthians 10:1-11

a) -V6 “These things took place as examples for us...” V11 “These things happened to them as an example, they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.”

b) V6 Some are bad examples. “...that we might not desire evil as they did.”

c) Some are good examples – Hebrews 11 the Hall of faith all OT examples.

Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

a) Our encouragement that leads to hope.

Ex: Romans 4:22-24 – Crediting of Abraham with righteousness Genesis 15:6

Point: We should read the OT for transformation.

5) The NT points to correspondence in imagery with the OT.

-Scholars call this Typology.

-“[Since] God is completely sovereign over history, all Old Testament-era saving events, institutions, persons, offices, holidays, and ceremonies served to anticipate the final saving event, the final saving person, the final saving ceremony, etc.” –Robert L. Plummer, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*, 206

Colossians 2:16-17 “16 Therefore let no one pass judgement on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

-As one author says, “The two-dimensional history of Israel became a three-dimensional living reality as it found its climactic reenactment in the Messiah.” Robert L. Plummer, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*, 206

Hebrews 8:5 says speaking of the law and the OT cultic system “5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.”

Hebrews 10:1 “...the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities.”

Point: We should read the OT typologically.

-Have an eye for the imagery of the OT, typology, themes, motifs, images, etc.

6) The NT shows us that the OT is the Scripture of NT believers.

- a) Believed it was scripture
- b) read at gatherings for instruction and used in worship.
1 Timothy 4:13 “13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of scripture...”
- c) used as the authority to prove the veracity of the person and work of Christ.
- d) This is Jesus’ Bible.

2 Timothy 3:15 – Paul to Timothy “...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2 Peter 3:15-16 Equates Paul’s writing with other scriptures.

Point: We should read the OT as Christian Scripture.

7) The OT teaches us about Christ.

Jesus talking to disciples on Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:25-27 “25 And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

What was their response in Luke 24:32 once they realized they had been talking to Jesus? ... “32 Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Colossians 2:16-17 “16 Therefore let no one pass judgement on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

John 5:39 “39 You search the Scriptures [speaking to Jews] because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...”

John 5:46 “46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you don’t believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

Matthew 5:17 “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.”

Point: We should read the OT Christologically.

-Teaches more than just Christology, but not less.

ILL: Dot to Dot.