

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN EVANGELISM

The New Testament is clear that we are no longer under Old Testament Law (Gal 3:24-25; Col 2:14; Heb 8:7, 13). However, we should not conclude from these verses that Christians cannot gain from an understanding of its teachings. The same New Testament that assures us we are not under the Old Testament Law also reveals that there are great benefits to be gained from studying it. These benefits include:

1. Learning fundamentals about God that aid us in coming to Christ through faith – **Gal 3:24**
2. Numerous examples and instruction of what pleases and displeases God – **1 Cor 10:6, 11**
3. Development of perseverance and encouragement – **Rom 15:4**
4. Discovering the fulfillment of the Messianic Promises – **Luke 24:44-45**

WHO BENEFITS?

Short answer: everyone! But as an evangelistic tool, a survey study of the Old Testament scriptures can especially aid the following people:

1. Those with a skewed understanding of the bible because of little knowledge or appreciation of it – **Psa 119:18** – “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.”
2. Those who are in need of developing faith – **Rom 10:17** – “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
3. Those requiring endurance to travel the minefield of present-day society – **Heb 12:1** – “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. You’ll gradually get to know your prospect better as you study with him. Let this understanding be a compass for determining which stories to focus the most attention on throughout the survey
2. Always emphasize the Messianic Promises. Beginning with the promise of Gen 3:15, gradually reveal more and more of the One through whom God would redeem the world
3. The Old Testament is the most exciting book ever written. While it must be used reverentially and respectfully, it also deserves to be taught with energy and enthusiasm.
4. Remember that this is just a survey. While always emphasizing the Messianic promises and what the specific person needs, don’t get bogged down by the details. Teach the overall story. Each lesson should last no longer than 45 to 60 minutes.

OLD TESTAMENT PERIODS

1. Creation
2. The Flood
3. The Scattering of the People
4. The Patriarchs
5. The Exodus
6. The Wilderness Wanderings
7. The Conquest of the Land
8. The Judges
9. The United Kingdom
10. Poetry
11. The Divided Kingdom
12. Judah Alone
13. Captivity
14. Return From Captivity