

Why It's Important To Dig Into The Old Testament

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August 2017, the month I chose to turn to God and run in his direction. Sometime later that month, I found a local Christian store and walked into it ready to conquer the Word of the Almighty! With fresh interest in the Word, I was excited and determined! I walked out of, what would soon be, my new favourite store with a pack of gel highlighters, colourful pens and a plain black journaling Bible.

God must have been cheering me on because he had waited for this moment for 23 years and finally here, I was, approaching his throne with a smile on my face and a fierce fire in my soul.

It has now been almost 3 years since that day, and I have read through the vast majority of the Bible. I must say the Old Testament is truly something special!

I mean, we all love Jesus and he is an extremely important part of how the story ties together, but sometimes we tend to forget *why* we need Jesus. It is so much easier to embrace the New Testament with all the goodies packed inside just the first 4 books! And it's amazing to read all the wisdom filled letters from Paul, especially being in prison when he wrote 7 of those letters over the course of 3 years. Amazing!

Before I give you 3 of my favourite reasons why reading the Old Testament is so important, I want to give you a little history. I decided to begin reading the Old Testament from Genesis and work my way through; by the time I got to Deuteronomy, I dropped down to my knees in serious praise. Tears rolled down my cheeks as I prayed to God, feeling so ashamed of every little thing I'd ever done, knowing that through it all he never stopped loving me. I can truly say that was the first day my eyes were actually *opened*, and I had an understanding heart.

How appreciative I am to have a God who still loves me no matter what! A God who *knew* we would all need Jesus! A God who did not just leave us hanging out to dry on a cold day, but a God who invited us into his palace to be with him and get to know him personally through Jesus!

We must never take the Old Testament for granted and must educate ourselves through the Old Testament as to why Jesus had to come.

We understand the main points: He died for our sins, he is the way, the truth, the light, but why? Why did Jesus do what he did and why does he claim to love us so much?

So, here are my 3 reasons why reading the Old Testament is so important and why it should *NEVER* be watered down!

1. We need to get rid of our boastful attitudes and humble ourselves before the Lord. Reading the Old Testament is the perfect way to do this. (Ref. [Psalm 12:3 NIV](#))

Reading 3-4 chapters of the Old Testament daily can really transform your heart and your understanding of God's *true* love for us. Sin is just as bad now as it was back then, as it will be 1000 years from now.

You might be thinking: "*I'm not as bad as the people back in the Old Testament days.*"

And I would reply: "*Maybe not, but we're still very sinful.*"

For example; people cheat on their taxes, steal items from stores, remove discount tags and attach them to an item in their carts and think nothing about committing those kinds of sins. Lying, whether big or small is sin. There's talking about others behind their backs and mistreating others because they look or act a certain way that's different from you. We can be really mean, rude and hurtful and those are all sins in God's eyes. So, thank God we do NOT have to bring animal sacrifices every time we sin!

2. The Old Testament also teaches us on how to pray through every situation - when they didn't have Jesus as *their* example.

The Old Testament is filled with real people going through some really hard situations. These folks also did not have Jesus as their guide; they trusted in a very invincible God with mighty powers!

God knows we are going to fail; he is not condemning us for that. He wants us to learn how to fully rely on Him and not on ourselves, our pleasures or our friends. Bear your troubles at the Lord's feet. He wants to hear from you; He wants to help you!

Here's one:

Nehemiah was a perfect example of a man of prayer not just for himself but for Israel! ([Nehemiah 1:3-11](#))

Would you say you have a healthy prayer life? Would you say you have a vital connection to the Lord? He wants to know your heart not your practiced or repetitive prayers.

As Sheila Walsh puts it, "*what would you ask Jesus for if you could see Him? If He was sitting right across from you at your kitchen table, listening, inviting you to ask for anything that was on your heart, what would you ask for?*" (Praying Women by Sheila Walsh)

Putting prayer this way could really change your perspective on who you're actually praying to - an almighty God with might powers!

3. The tough books should be read to realize our sins are not far off from theirs, and this is why we need Jesus.

One of the most common sins most people don't put much thought into is their words. We might not kill people, but there are some serious consequences with the words we use; some words have driven others to suicide. Let's be real, our tongues are no laughing matter when used at a disadvantage to others! (Ref. [Psalm 52:2 NIV](#))

So, here's the thing; we might not enjoy reading *everything* in the Old Testament, but shall I remind you, the Old Testament isn't meant to make *us* feel comfortable. The Bible is a book about God and who He is! It's about God's unfailing love for His people no matter how rebellious they were, and no matter how rebellious we *still* are!

Time and time again I've heard the same reason why people avoid the Old Testament - the violence! It can be uncomfortable to read about all the murderous activities, but it *should* be



read to help everyone understand how much more they needed a Saviour just as we do now.

We see real people chasing after God's own heart, getting down on their knees and tearing their clothes in true agony, weeping out loud, begging the Lord for help. And then we see people tearing down temples and sacrificing their children to Baal just because they could. So thankfully we have two sides to one large story; two examples we should follow:

1. The Old Testament folks should be our leading example of what **NOT** to do.
2. Jesus as our PRIME example of what **to do**.

If we are always reading just one side of a good story, eventually we start overlooking what's actually good about it. Sounds a little funny right? But it's the truth!

All things aside, are *YOU* in his Word? The Lord is waiting for you to chase after His heart and get to know Him through His Word which He graciously gave to us. The Lord wants to hear from YOU!
Let's pray.

Thank you, Father, thank you for your Word!

Thank you for our beloved Saviour Jesus Christ and everything He had to endure to become our Saviour.

I pray over the wonderful women who are reading this article which You guided me to write.

I pray you give each and every one of them renewed excitement in their souls, to open up their Bibles and turn to the Old Testament and start digging into your grace and forever unfailing love and guidance.

Lord, be with each and every one of these women, guide them as they journey back with a grateful heart and open their eyes to new perspectives.

Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do!

In Jesus' name

Amen.

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Photo Credit: All photos used were provided by Sheena.

Below is a photo of Sheena with her first Bible!



