

Why study the Old Testament?

Wasn't everything fulfilled in Jesus and made new? (III Nephi 7:1-12, III Nephi 9:46-48, II Timothy 3:16-17)

The Old Testament provides for us:

Evidences that Jesus is the Messiah -

- Jesus used the Old Testament authors to show that He was the long awaited Messiah. These evidences can be wonderful tools for witnessing to the Jewish people. It also adds an immeasurable depth to our understanding of what our Savior is really like.

*“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:24-26).*

Testimonies of personal relationships with God -

- The Old Testament gives examples of how God is intimately involved in the lives of His children. It reinforces that God is our deliverer, our totally righteous & holy Creator, He is our provider & protector, our healer and giver of peace.

*“For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our King; he will save us” (Isaiah 33:22).*

Revelations of the nature of God and His design for mankind -

- He is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow. His plan of salvation is laid out in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New. Do we want to know our Jesus better? If it was vitally important that Jesus fulfill all the requirements of the law and prophets, it should be important for us to know what these laws and prophesies are and how He fulfilled them. God revealed His word to the authors of the Old Testament, this should be incentive for us to please God in searching out and studying His word. God never requires anything of us that will not bring us closer to Him.

*“And now, behold, I say unto you, This is the plan of salvation unto all men through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall come in the meridian of time. And, behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; ...all things bear record of me” (Genesis 6:65-66).*

Practical insight and answers for our current emotional, spiritual, and or physical needs -

- The scriptures are a provision and blessing from God. Topical studies are very useful in helping us to address problems or questions that occur in our daily walk with Christ.

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4)*

A basis for better understanding the New Testament and the Book of Mormon -

- The authors of the New Testament take for granted that the reader will be aware of the history and customs of their time. (i.e.: understanding about covenant practices makes the parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast much clearer (Matthew. 22:1-14). How important is it that we have on the wedding garment?

*“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and a bride adorneth herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).*

An awareness of latter day prophesy -

- Much of what is occurring today was foretold and explained in the OT. How did the wise men know where to find the baby Jesus? Because God spoke through the prophet Micah (5:2), they were able to find the Messiah. From the beginning, the resurrection has been understood through the merits of the Redeemer (Job 19:25-27). The events of today are recorded in the scriptures. A wise person watches and is ready (Matthew 24:49-51).

*“The Lord God will do nothing, until he revealeth the secret unto his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).*

Multiple witnesses of truth -

- Multiple witnesses can give us a depth of understanding by which we can eliminate errors and resolve differences in interpretation.

*“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established” (II Corinthians 13:1b).*

## Old Testament Internet Study Outline

- I. “In the Beginning” - Pre-Hebrew nation (creation --c. 1500 BC)

- A. Creation - Gospel Preached
- B. New Beginning - Noah (c. 2500)
- C. New Covenant People - Abraham (c. 2000)

- II. Becoming a Nation (c. 1500-950 BC)
  - A. Egypt and the Exodus (c. 1500-1460)
  - B. Wilderness Experience (c. 1460-1400)
  - C. The Promised Land (c. 1400-1390)
  - D. Judges (c. 1390-1050)

- III. Kingdoms (c. 1050-586)
  - A. United Kingdom (c. 1050-931)
  - B. Kingdom Divided (c. 931-722)
  - C. Kingdoms Destroyed (c. 722-586)

- IV. Captivity and Return (c. 605-4)
  - A. 70 Years in Babylon (c. 605-536)
  - B. 3 Returns (c. 538-444)
  - C. Persia, Greece, Rome
  - D. Awaiting the Messiah (c. 400 BC-4 AD)

(c. circa-approximately)

Beginning in December and continuing through March, four Internet classes will be offered that will very briefly cover this outlined material. On December 1, the first class on the Pre-Hebrew Nation will be available. The first of January, February, and March the following three topics will be covered. On the fifteenth of each of these months, the following subtopic will be presented - Covenant, Sacrifice, A Pattern Given by God, and Our Unchangeable God. I believe that these topics are important for us to understand as we study the word of God and apply it to our lives. It is my hope that at as we delve into the history of God's word that we will walk hand in hand with the Holy Spirit so that we will

not handle His word lightly. May it be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105).