

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

Read Galatians 3:1-14.

According to Galatians 3 what was the error of his readers?

According to Galatians what is the difference between an OT religion and being Christian? What is the main distinguishing feature of this difference?

How can we tell if we have made Christianity into an OT religion? What are the warning signs?

How do we correct this?

SUMMARY — FINAL ACTIVITY

Now that we have completed our short very brief Bible Overview (or OT Overview) series and remembering the summary that you made at the beginning of the Bible study, how would you summarise the story of the OT? How does this lead us to appreciate the Gospel of Jesus Christ better?

TALK NOTES

What next?

The climax of the Old Testament: Jesus the Christ



BIBLE STUDY STUDY 10 — THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE STORY SO FAR

Choose one or two persons in your group and very briefly, using your own words, sum up the story of the whole OT. As a guide: Who will you mention, what events will you highlight, and what main point will you make? Try to keep it within 5 – 8 minutes.

WHAT WE MISSED ALONG THE WAY

When the Jews came back from exile, they were relieved that God had finally brought them home again but they were saddened to see their nation in ruins. God's temple was destroyed and the nation was poor. So they began to rebuild, and it took many years to rebuild the temple, the symbol of God's presence among his people. But the nation never regained the glory it had before the exile. It was a pale shadow of the past. The same problems still existed: people were still rebellious and sinful. The OT period ended with the end of prophecy. God stopped speaking for 300 years. The Jews still waited for the promised Saviour. When Jesus came the prophecies started again. Hope was renewed.

DISCUSS

What would we lose if we only had the Gospel and the New Testament? In other words, if we did not have any of the Old Testament? Make a list.

READ HEBREW 3 — THE ONE GREATER THAN MOSES

How was Jesus compared with Moses?

- v2
- v3-6

According to v6 what are we in relation to God's household? How and why is it different between Moses and Jesus?

Why does the writer have to make this comparison between Moses and Jesus?

- Because some people still preferred to do things the Old Testament way.
- Because some people think Moses is earlier than Jesus. This makes Moses more authentic.
- Because some people think that Jesus is making drastic changes to Moses' teachings.
- Because some people just want to stick to traditions and don't like change.

What does the writer warn his readers about?

- v8-11

What does this mean?

- v12-15

Which of these principles about reading the OT are right and which are wrong? Discuss your answers.

- Some things still apply to us and some things don't apply to us depending on whether they are useful or not.
- Some things still apply to us and some things don't apply to us depending on whether God tells us or not. We need prophets to know this.
- Some things still apply and some things don't apply, depending on whether Jesus has fulfilled them or not.
- Everything still applies to us, nothing has changed.
- None of it applies to us, only the NT is relevant.
- none of the above.
- all of the above.

WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT MATTERS

Without the Old Testament, we may not understand the depth of humanity's sin and because of that we may not appreciate the high cost of Christ's sacrifice for us. It doesn't mean that Jesus' sacrifice is any less important it only means our appreciation and understanding of it may be less. God in his infinite wisdom has chosen to do it this way. The OT is equally the word of God as the NT but we apply the OT very differently from the NT. Many things in the OT do not apply to Christians because they have been fulfilled by Jesus Christ but other things are still relevant because Jesus continues to make them relevant for us. The key is knowing how Jesus makes the OT relevant for us. This involves regular study of the Bible.