

# IS JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

by Iain M. Duguid

**TO THE GROUP LEADER:** This resource is designed to help you lead others to better understand one of the “Basics of the Faith” booklets published by P&R. The numbers in brackets indicate the page number in the booklet. Below each question is an answer based on what the author presents, or advice on how to discuss the question. You have the freedom to adapt the questions to best fit your group.

A good teaching technique is to distribute the questions to the group and have them write down how they would answer BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, members can refine their answers based on their reading. As a group, members can discuss their views to affirm or modify what they wrote.

1. Where was Jesus during the history of the Old Testament? What was He doing? (5-6)  
*These will be great starter questions as they will give you a good idea of what the people in your group know or don't know about the OT, and Jesus' active involvement in it. Don't spend a lot of time here, as there is much to cover.*
2. What would you say is the #1 reason God gave us the Bible? Once you think through that, read Luke 24:25-27. Did reading this change your answer? (6-9)  
*The church needs to be clear on this: God gave us the Bible as a revelation of Who He is. This is the only way we would have a clear understanding of God and what He requires of us. This is why Jesus is so adamant His disciples come to understand the whole of the OT was written about Him. He is the thread that connects every book.*
3. From your understanding of question 2, how can you see Jesus in the Old Testament Law? (9-12)  
*It is only when we come to understand that God's Law is the representation of His character that we can understand that sin is personal. When we sin, we say to God we do not care what He thinks; we are going to ignore Him and do things our way. Old Testament law shows us a multitude of ways in which we have followed our own way rather than God's, which earns God's judgment curse upon us. When we see Jesus in the Law, we understand that what He did on the cross delivers us from the offense of our sin. This is the Gospel, which not only brings us to Christ, but lovingly leads us daily, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to grow deeper in love, thankfulness and obedience to Him.*
4. What difference does it make to look for Christ throughout the pages of the Old Testament? Or, put it this way: Daniel was a great role model, but are we to be like Daniel? (12-16)  
*Scripture never calls us to be like Daniel! To say we are to be like Daniel may be to set up moralistic standards in place of God's Standard. Although Daniel was a great man, not everything he did was intended for us to copy. Even when we should be like Daniel, we often fail, which points us back to our constant need of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit's role in sanctification (the process of making us holy) is to humble us, to make us daily more thankful for the Gospel, and gradually to mold us into the image of Jesus. (Rom.8:29) The work of the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance and a renewal of our relationship with the God Who loves us.*
5. Since Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, do we need it anymore? (16-18)  
*Jesus fulfilled *all* the OT promises, but what would we understand about what He accomplished without it? The NT writers are constantly quoting the OT to help us understand the NT.*
6. What is the purpose of studying history, not just studying biblical history, but all history? (18-24)  
*History is almost always taught as being about people, places, and dates (events). The Christian view of history is very different because God gives us His philosophy of history in Ps.110:1. This verse teaches us*

history is about what God did *in* and *through* people, places, and events. God has a plan for all history, and it is only when we study it from His view we can begin to understand why things happened.

Make sure you cover Dr. Duguid's explanation of how Jesus reveals history on pages 23-24.

7. With your answer to question 6 in mind; write how you would explain to a non-Christian how God was at work through each of the following events in the OT. (24-28)

Creation (Genesis 1-2) – God not only created man, but walked and talk with him in the perfect environment for humanity to thrive.

The Fall (Genesis 3) – Before God pronounced His punishments for sin, He offered the hope of salvation (3:14). God is able to use even human sin for His glory and our good.

God's Covenant with Abram (Genesis 17) – All the nations turned their backs on God (Gen.9), so God started over with a new nation, one from which He will show the world His mercy and love.

God's Covenant at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19-24) – For the first time, man had God's character described to them through the written Law - a law of love and not destruction. Though Israel – and we – could never keep this Law, the sacrifices as part of this Covenant always pointed forward to how God would deliver us through Jesus.

God's promise to keep His Covenant and bring His people back from captivity (Daniel 9:2) – God cannot break His Covenant promises. He will *always* be faithful to the remnant of His people.

God's promise to keep His Covenant even after 400 years of silence (Malachi 4:4-6) – God has never abandoned His people. He always kept a remnant for Himself, and He has done that throughout history.

8. What does the Bible mean when it calls Jesus the "Second Adam?" Read Romans 5:12-21. (28-30)  
In order for Jesus to go to the cross in our place, He first had to live the perfect life Adam failed to live. Jesus had to keep God's Law perfectly, the very thing Adam failed to do. The result was the opposite of the first Adam's sin: Adam's sin brought death to all of those who are in him, while the obedient life and death of Christ brings life to all those who are in Him.
9. Can you think of any of the events in Jesus' life that has parallels in Israel's history? For example: Israel is called out of Egypt and so is Jesus. (30-34)  
Dr. Duguid gives a great rundown of these parallels in this section. Spend a good deal of your time going over these. Number them in your booklet.

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

## APPLICATION

Before we came to Christ we were God enemy – the enemy of the King. (Romans 5:10) (34-37) Now, in Christ, we have peace with the King. All creation is part of His Kingdom, but only some obey the King. As His obedient servants, we have two responsibilities: the first is to reflect the image of our King by the way we live, and second, to proclaim the greatness of the King to those who live in His Kingdom but don't acknowledge Him as their King.

Therefore, how shall we then live?

- What things need to change in your life for you to be that shining example to others in the Kingdom? What can you begin to do to see this change happen?
- Who can you list as those you know who need to hear about this great King? Set up a date, this week, to meet together to share this glorious news.

## For Further Study

Dr. Duguid gives a very helpful list for further study, to which one more is added:

*Heirs of the Covenant: A Biblical Legacy of Faith for All Generations*, Susan Hunt. Great Commission Publications, 2014.

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