

Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

From material by Glenn & Ethyl Coon

Lesson 01: The Old Testament

Name: _____

Date: _____

IS THE OLD TESTAMENT OBSOLETE?

There are many who have been led to believe that the Old Testament is now obsolete; but is this really true? The Apostle Paul said this "obsolete" Old Testament, as we have heard it referred to, is not really obsolete at all. We have heard it called the "Old Bible" as contrasted with the New Testament but is that right?

Paul and Peter both state that the Old Testament was actually written with our very day in mind in fact, for our development of Christian character. So that makes it truly up-to-date.

THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITTEN FOR OUR DAY

Paul said that things written in the Old Testament were actually written for us today. He wrote: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning." And he is referring to the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament; for he continues by saying, "that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." That is found in Romans 15:4.

The statement by the Apostle Peter is even more amazing. He stated that the Old Testament writers were informed at the time of their writing, that their messages were not nearly so much for them as for us. He speaks of the Old Testament prophets and the salvation they presented. Then he adds: "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister." That is found in the First Epistle of Peter, chapter one, verses ten to twelve.

Paul makes a sweeping statement in 1 Corinthians 10:11, when he says: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Paul and Peter meant that the Old Testament prophecies are about our Lord's life and death, and they teach lessons we should learn; but it states that there are truths in the Old Testament, also, that we have not understood. These have to do with the basis of a different kind of prayer, one that claims Bible promises.

THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES OF CHRIST

The Old Testament tells us that our Lord Jesus would come to earth and die. The Old Testament also teaches that He already existed in Old Testament times. And, in fact, He is the One who made the world in the beginning of time. So that actually makes Christ the Creator—the Maker of us all.

Here are some texts that show this: John 8:58: "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." The next is 1 Corinthians 10:4. The "Rock that followed them . . . was Christ." Verses 1-4 and onward are speaking of the Israelites coming out of Egypt.

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Hebrews 11:26 says that Moses made a decision because he was “esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.”

JESUS: CREATOR OF THE WORLD

Paul, In Hebrews 1:1 and 2 wrote: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

Speaking of Christ, Paul says: “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Colossians 1:14-18.

Look at another text in Paul’s writings. It is Hebrews 1:6 to 10. It says that the Father, speaking to His Son, said: “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” And then the Father said to His Son: “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.”

Speaking of Christ, the Gospel of John says: “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” John 1:10. So Jesus came, and the people of His own nation did not receive Him. Yet He is the Maker of us all. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Christ!

Review Questions

1. For what day especially did the Old Testament prophets write? 1 Peter 1:10-12. _____
2. Their writings were especially for those living in the time of the end of the _____. 1 Cor. 10:11.
3. Before whose day did Christ say He existed? John 8:58. _____
4. Who went with God’s people in Old Testament times? 1 Cor. 10:4. _____
5. Who esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt? Heb. 11:26. _____
6. By whom did God make the worlds? Heb. 1:1, 2. _____
7. Whom does the Father state made the world in the beginning? Heb. 1:6-10. _____

Answers found on answer sheet.