

Questions About the Old Testament's Key Topics Answered

These FAQs gather Old Testament's based answers. They are meant to be clear, presenting such important matters in all aspects. Beside been factual, they carry the deeper meaning people search for.

So you can understand what the Old Testament actually teaches. Additionally, how to read it as part of the larger biblical story.

At its core, this portion of the Bible describes and explains God, humanity and their relationship. The Old Testament Scriptures are all:

- Inspired, reflecting God's wisdom and will.
- Given out of His love to His creation, according to their specific needs at different time.

The messages of God to people in sinful and mortal state have a purpose to show them their true condition. Additionally, to guide them understand and choose a new reality, they are not accustomed to.

All that God has inspired as part of the prophecies to be fulfilled in the past has been. This builds the assurance that all that is yet to come in its order will be.

Each answer is rooted in key passages, supporting each other.

People most often ask about the following Old Testament themes:

- Human creation and fall.
- Redemption and deliverance.
- Covenants and laws.
- Prophecies, and how the OT points to Jesus.

They are not an exhaustive list, but rather leading and informative.

What is the central message of the Old Testament?

The Old Testament Scriptures explain God's eternal purpose for His fallen creation. Central to it is His love and relentless efforts to bring back humanity to Himself.

Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.
Jeremiah 31:3.

God has promised a deliverance from the bondage of sin and Satan in the Garden of Eden right after the fall of our first parents. (Genesis 3:15).

This has set the stage and formed the [foundation of God's plan of redemption](#). Thus the good news of the Old Testament – the ultimate Deliverer – has been prophesied by God Himself.

He kept His promise and gave His only-begotten Son because of His love to the world. (John 3:16).

So, Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is the Gospel of the new dispensation portrayed in the Old Testament.

He said of those Scriptures:

They are they which testify of Me. John 5:39.

The Old Testament narrates a numerous instances of deliverance and redemption from earthly oppression. (Exodus 6:6; 2 Samuel 7:23; Psalm 6:23, 44:26).

They serve as a type and object lesson for the ultimate deliverance from sin through God's power and faithfulness. (Psalm 130:8).

How is a person of the old dispensation saved?

Regardless of time, anyone is saved through the merits of God's beloved Son – the world's Redeemer. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ granted by the grace of God.

It is a heavenly gift out of God's mercy and love to all who believe in His Divine Son. For the old dispensation it was through faith in the future coming Deliverer.

This knowledge of redemption was revealed to patriarchs and kept for generations.

Related: [Test Your Knowledge on Bible Redemption](#)

Jesus confirmed this in His statement about Abraham. For example:

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. John 8:56, 58.

Thus the world's redeemer Jesus Christ, the outshining of the Father's glory, is the embodiment of the Old and New Testaments. He was the Savior of humanity in the beginning of the world as He is today.

So the divine institution of the entire system of Judaism was a compacted prophecy of the gospel.

It is a light thing that Thou shouldest be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel.

I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6.

It was about this Light that John the Baptist afterwards testified, proclaiming:

- *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.* John 1:23.
- *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* John 1:29.

What are the Messianic Old Testament prophecies?

They are given by inspired writers throughout the Old Testament's dispensation. It began with the promise to Adam about the coming of the Redeemer. (Genesis 3:15).

To Abraham was given the promise that of his line the world's Savior would come. (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16).

Moses prophesied that God will raise up a Prophet like him, and unto Him people should hearken. (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18).

Additionally, the Messiah was to be of the royal line according to the OT prophecies. (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 11:1, 55:3-5; Jeremiah 23:5, 6; 33:17, 18).

The redemptive work of the Anointed One was outlined in the Old Testament Scriptures. (Isaiah 11:2, 3; 61:1-3; 42:1-4).

Christ had foretold through Isaiah, Micah and the psalmist the treatment He would receive from people. (Micah 5:1; Isaiah 50:6; Psalm 22:6-8, 17, 18; 69:8, 9, 20).

Furthermore, His suffering and death for the sin of our broken world were also foretold. (Isaiah 53:1-10).

So, the Messiah [was to give His life as an offering for sin](#). And the Lamb of God has poured out His soul unto death, bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave to His disciples a full and clear explanation of the Old Testament Scriptures about His identity.

Christ began with the first book written by Moses. He went through the inspired proof of the prophets about:

- His life and saving mission.
- Suffering, death, and resurrection.
- The fulfillment of their prophecies by all that occurred to Him. (Luke 24:27, 32).

He underlined the importance of those prophecies:

If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.
Luke 16:31.

What are the major covenants of the Old Testament?

God has made known to faithful patriarchs His plan to give a second chance to humanity. The message of salvation through the Savior who is to come was given to individuals, tribes and nations.

In Eden, God promised to Adam that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. (Genesis 3:16).

God clearly stated [His part of the covenant](#) and also for those who would accept it. A clear distinction from the world and holiness was a condition for His people.

Later on God chose Abraham, of whom He said:

Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.
Genesis 26:5.

Thus the covenant of blessing, the glorious Messianic promise, had been confirmed to Abraham. (Genesis 22:16-18). It was his obedience to God that unlocked the blessings.

The covenant made with Adam and renewed to Abraham was ratified by the death of Christ. For that reason it was called "new".

Through Moses at Sinai, God formed another covenant with His people. It was after their miraculous exodus from Egypt. He gave them His moral Law ([The Ten commandments](#)) and ceremonial instructions.

People's condition required them to learn the true:

- Character of their God and Deliverer – His love, goodness and mercy, righteousness and justice.
- Relationship to God and to each other, imitating His love.

The Scripture calls it the "old" covenant and was then ratified by the blood of a sacrifice, pointing to Jesus.

How does the Old Testament relate to the New Testament?

Old and New Testaments shed a true light on each other. Either of them is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. (Isaiah 40:5; 60:9; John 12:28).

In the Old Testament He was:

- Manifested to the patriarchs.

- Symbolized in the sacrificial service.
- Revealed by the prophets.

In the New Testament Christ is seen and understood in His:

- True representation of the Father.
- Life, atoning death, resurrection and Priestly ministry.
- Manifestation by the Holy Spirit in the believers lives.

So, [the whole Bible tells of Christ](#).

Disciples and apostles accepted Jesus upon the testimony of prophets over a period of centuries. And it was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. (Revelation 19:10; 1 Peter 1:10, 11).

So, they accepted Him as the Messiah, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies. (Isaiah chapters 7, 53, 61; Micah chapter 5).

The Christian world has a complete evidence [through both the Old and the New Testament](#). In the one, pointing to a Savior to come. And in the other, fulfilling the prophecies' condition.

So, Christ has spoken to people in both testaments. He is speaking to us still by His Spirit and His providence.

Who wrote the Old Testament's Scriptures?

God gave the first promise of redemption as spoken in Eden. Since then, everyone through whom His Spirit has worked has presented this theme with new and unfolding truth.

It has undergone development and expansion in every age. They have carried a message of God to the people of the current generation. Alternatively, many would have a future application.

For instance:

- *So I prophesied as I was commanded.* [Ezekiel 37:7](#).
- *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man. But holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* 2 Peter 1:21.

So, the old truths are all essential. The new truth is not independent of the old.

God's Word is His revelation to humanity. It is His will expressed by His inspired messengers throughout the ages.

All Old Testament writers are worth to mentioned. Some prominent figures are Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. They wrote extensively for their time as well as for the future, even the time of the end.

For example:

- *For of a truth the Lord hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.* [Jeremiah 26:15](#).

The unifying theme of Scriptures is Jesus Christ – the Divine Son of God. He is the living Word who became flesh. As fully human, He lived according to His Word.

The Bible has a deeper meaning, which His Spirit only can reveal to you. When you study the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit speaks to your mind and impresses the truth upon your heart.

For example:

- *Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6.*
- *The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him. And He will show them His covenant. Psalm 25:14.*

How relevant is the Old Testament at the modern Christian era of today (2026)?

The Word of God is an everlasting truth as God Himself. God's truth is the same in all ages. It is differently developed to meet the needs of people in various periods.

God's redemptive plan is the the key theme of the Old as well as of the New Testament.

The embodiment of the eternal Word is God's Divine Son – Jesus Christ. He enjoined His followers to teach the words He spoke in the Old and New Testaments.

They are both sacred, for they both contain the words of Christ. All communication from heaven to earth since Adam's fall has come through Him.

Jesus had imparted a knowledge of God to patriarchs, prophets, and apostles. The revelations of the Old Testament were sure unfolding of the Gospel.

Christ stated that the truths of the Old Testament are as valuable as those of the New. So, one is not complete without the other. He was humanity's redeemer in the beginning of the world as He is today.

Fulfillment of the prophecies of Christ first advent as the Messiah are the assurance of the [blessed hope of His second coming](#) as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Old Testament, the *sure word of prophecy*, is the only key to unlock the New Testament Scriptures. Moreover to show that Jesus Christ revealed in the gospel is the Son of God, the long-expected Deliverer.

Discover more:

- Full article: The Old Testament Primary Themes: God's Unchanging Character - <https://sfadventist.net/old-testament-primary-themes/>
- God's Love Gateway - <https://sfadventist.net>