

Kingdom, Covenants & Canon of the Old Testament

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

WHY STUDY THE OLD
TESTAMENT?



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Journal Questions

1. Think of a time when the Old Testament was perplexing to you. What contributed to your initial confusion?
2. How would you respond to someone who said, “Jesus’ teaching on such things as murder, adultery and love for enemies contradicts the teachings of the Old Testament”?
3. In the Sermon on the Mount, why did Jesus keep contrasting what was *said* versus what was *written*? In what ways might modern Christians be tempted to make errors like those that Jesus refuted?
4. What benefits come from acknowledging God’s unchanging nature as you study the Old Testament?
5. Why is it helpful to recall that people in both the Old Testament and the New Testament lived in the same world?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

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Journal Questions

LESSON
TWO

THE KINGDOM OF GOD



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Journal Questions

1. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 6:9-10 when he taught his disciples to pray “your kingdom come”?
2. When God created the earth, he judged it to be good. And after humanity’s fall into sin, God established a long-term strategy for redeeming the earth from its fallen state. In light of God’s program for redemption, how should Christians view the earth?
3. In God’s kingdom strategy, people are his chosen instruments by which he is preparing the earth to become his kingdom. What implications does this have for your interactions with others? What does it imply about the significance of individual service to God?
4. What kind of kingdom is God establishing? When God’s kingdom is manifested on earth as it is now manifested in heaven, what will life on earth be like?
5. What is the connection between the gospel and the kingdom of God? How does knowing this connection enrich your understanding of the gospel?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

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LESSON
THREE

DIVINE COVENANTS



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Journal Questions

1. How is your personal relationship with God shaped by the three central features of covenants? In what ways do these three features highlight important aspects of your relationship to God?
2. In this study, we have seen that all covenants are dependent upon the grace and mercy of God. Why is it significant to recall this fundamental element of covenants as we explore the requirement of loyal obedience, and the consequences due to loyalty and disloyalty?
3. All biblical covenants contained consequences of blessing and cursing. What are some ways you can see this dynamic at work in the modern world? In your church? In your own life?
4. How should the understanding that there are three types of people in the world impact the way you view other members of the church? How should it impact your understanding of church membership? Does it have any impact on your understanding of baptism and the Lord's Supper?
5. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

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Journal Questions

LESSON
FOUR

THE CANON OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT



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Journal Questions

1. Describe a situation in which you might appropriate thematic analysis to gain guidance and insight for a personal concern.
2. Have you ever found it difficult to believe the historical events of the Bible? Why should Christians believe the supernatural events of the Old Testament?
3. How does understanding the diachronic trace of biblical events enrich your understanding of Scripture?
4. Give an example of how knowing the writer's intentions can help you understand Scripture better.
5. In literary analysis, how can you avoid the fallacies regarding the writer, the audience, and the document?
6. In what ways is the Bible like any other book? In what ways is it different? How should these similarities and differences affect the way you read it?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?