



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#63)
The OLD TESTAMENT message –
God's Living Word ... for us!

FOUNDATION ↔ FULFILLMENT

The Old Testament ... the foundation for the Good News!
The Good News ... the fulfillment of the Old Testament!

Without the Old Testament, there is no foundation for anything that the New Testament says was fulfilled in Jesus!

Man-made religions may make claims about things, but:
The FACT that:

1) God <u>did</u> keep his Old Testament promises	makes all the difference!
2) Jesus <u>did</u> fulfil the Old Testament prophecies	

The book of ACTS gives us a sample of this Old Testament testimony.

(The rest of the New Testament completes the picture.)

- ✓ **More than 25 quotes** from the Old Testament.
 - Many of them are prophetic in nature; some are descriptive; some imply obligations.
- ✓ **Most focus on foundational issues** related to the Good News.
 - Other passages build on this Old Testament foundation, by explaining the issues and showing us what we must do.

★ ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ACTS, THE OLD TESTAMENT HAS AUTHORITY!! ★

OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS WE LEARN IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:

1) WE LEARN ABOUT GOD – HIS GREATNESS AND HIS HOLINESS!

★ This God is not like the fake "gods" that people have invented! ★

HE IS GREATER THAN ALL CREATION!

Heaven is my throne, and the earth my footstool.
What sort of house will you build for me? says the Lord, or what will be my resting place?
Did not my hand make all these things?
Acts 7:49-50 (CSB) – based on Isa. 66:1-2.

HE IS THE GOD OF ISRAEL'S ANCESTORS.

I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob.
Acts 7:32a (CSB) – based on Exodus 3:6.

HIS HOLINESS SHOULD INFLUENCE OUR ACTIONS AND ATTITUDE.

The Lord said to [Moses]: Take off the sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing* is holy ground.
Acts 7:33 (CSB) – based on Exodus 3:5.

* (He was standing in God's presence.)

HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look.
Acts 3:32b (CSB) – based on Exodus 3:6.

- God's *greatness* and his *holiness* are his two most fundamental characteristics. The nature of all his other characteristics (including *love*) is influenced by them.

- This is shown by many of the Old Testament quotes found in Acts. (For some of the prophecies, the fulfillment is only partial – to be completed when Jesus returns.)

OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS IN ACTS

2) WE LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE – THEIR SINFUL REBELLION AGAINST THIS GREAT GOD! (AND AGAINST JESUS.)

- ✓ **ALL PEOPLE:** THE REBELLION OF ALL PEOPLE IN GENERAL.

You [God] said ...
Why do the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot futile things?
The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers assemble together against the Lord and against his Messiah.
Acts 4:25-26 (CSB) – based on Psalm 2:1-2.

- This quote was part of the Christians' prayer, and was applied to those who killed Jesus, who were now persecuting the Christians.

✓ **THE NATION OF ISRAEL – A HISTORY OF REBELLION:**
 CHARACTERIZED BY ONGOING REBELLION* AGAINST GOD.

SCRIPTURE QUOTED TO DESCRIBE ISRAEL'S HISTORY (IN ACTS 7)
 (Stephen's reply to the Jews' false accusations.)

- God called Abraham from Mesopotamia – v. 3 (based on Genesis 12:1).
- Israel would be in Egypt for 400 years; then God would bring them back to the land – v. 6-7 (based on Genesis 15:13-14).
- Moses first rejected by his people – v. 28 (based on Exodus 2:14).
- The burning bush, with God in it – v. 32-33 (based on Exodus 3:5-6).
- Moses returns, to deliver the people – v. 34 (based on Exodus 3:7, 8, 10).
- The people choose to follow an idol – v. 40 (based on Exodus 32:1).
- Down through the centuries, Israel would be characterized by idolatry and false gods – v. 42-43 (based on Amos 5:25-27).

* (There were occasional times of repentance... but they were only temporary.)

✓ **CONSEQUENCES OF ISRAEL'S REBELLION:**

THEY WOULD DEVELOP HARDENED HEARTS. (UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THE TRUTH.)

'Go and say to my people,
 You will hear my words,
 but you will not understand;
 you will see what I do,
 but you will not perceive its meaning.

For the hearts of these people are hardened,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and they have closed their eyes—
 so their eyes cannot see,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and their hearts cannot understand,
 and they cannot turn to me
 and let me heal them.'

Acts 28:26-27 (NLT) – based on Isaiah 6:9-10.

(This was true for many in Isaiah's day... in Paul's day... and even today.)

MORE CONSEQUENCES

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THEY WERE WARNED TO NOT REJECT THE TRUTH. (OR THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE FATAL.)

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BUT

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BECAUSE THEY REJECTED THE TRUTH, GOD OFFERED SALVATION TO THE GENTILES.

"Be careful, or what the prophets said may happen to you.
 'Look, you mockers!
 Be amazed and die!
 I am going to do something in your days
 that you would not believe even if it were reported to you!' "

Acts 13:40-41 (GW) – based on Habakkuk 1:5.

For this is what the Lord has commanded us:
 I have made you *
 a light for the Gentiles
 to bring salvation
 to the ends of the earth."

Acts 13:47 (CSB) – based on Isaiah 49:6.

* ("You" is singular, referring to the Messiah. He accomplishes this objective through his people – the "Body of Christ.")

✓ **EVEN SO, THERE IS A FUTURE HOPE FOR ISRAEL:**

IN THE FUTURE, GOD WILL RESTORE ISRAEL. (THE GENTILES WILL SHARE IN THE BLESSINGS THAT FOLLOW!)

" 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent.
 Its ruins I will rebuild,
 and I will restore it,
 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,
 and all the Gentiles who bear my name,
 says the Lord, who does these things'
 that have been known for ages.

Acts 15:16-18 (NIV) – based on Amos 9:11-12 and Isaiah 45:21.

★ This prophecy is not yet completely fulfilled.

{ Acts 15 focuses on the relationship between the Old and New Covenants. (Jesus brought us into the New Covenant.) As we read in Acts 15, the ceremonial obligations of the Old Covenant are no longer required. }

OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS IN ACTS

3) WE LEARN ABOUT THE MESSIAH (JESUS) – WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE DID!

✓ **WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM:**

THE PEOPLE WOULD MISTREAT AND KILL HIM.

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.
 He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."
 Acts 8:32b-33 (NLT) – based on Isaiah 53: 7-8.

HIS CORPSE WOULD NOT DECAY; BUT WOULD COME BACK TO LIFE.

The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:...
 " 'You will not let your Holy One see decay.' "
 Acts 13:34a, 35b (NIV) – based on Psalm 16:10; see also: Acts 2:25-28 – based on Psalm 16:8-11.

✓ **DESCRIPTIONS OF WHO HE IS:**

HE IS THE "SON OF GOD" IN THE FULLEST SENSE.

"As it is written in the second Psalm:
 " 'You are my Son;
 today I have become your Father.' "
 Acts 13:33b (NIV) – based on Psalm 2:7.

HE IS THE ULTIMATE "PROPHET" THAT MOSES SPOKE ABOUT.

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. And everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be completely cut off from the people.
 Acts 3:22-23 (CSB) – based on Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19; see also Acts 7:37.

FIGURATIVELY, HE IS THE "CORNERSTONE" (= THE MOST IMPORTANT STONE IN THE WHOLE BUILDING).

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, that has become the cornerstone.
 Acts 4:11 (NET) – based on Psalm 118:22.

✓ **HIS GREATNESS:**

AS THE LIVING CHRIST (MESSIAH), HE HAS BEEN EXALTED OVER ALL.

HE IS THE ONE WHO WILL RECEIVE DAVID'S BLESSINGS.

THROUGH HIM, ABRAHAM'S BLESSINGS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLES.

"For David ... said [about Jesus],
" 'The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.' "

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
Acts 2:34-36 (NIV) – based on Psalm 110:1.

"This is stated in the Scripture that says, 'I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.' "
Acts 13:34b (NIV) – based on Isaiah 55:3.

"And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' "
Acts 3:25 (NIV) – based on Genesis 22:18; Genesis 26:4.

OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS IN ACTS

4) WE LEARN ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS – PREPARATIONS FOR PROCLAIMING IT!

★ Two things needed done to prepare the way. ★

JUDAS NEEDED TO BE REPLACED.

"For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his house become deserted, and let there be no one to live in it,' and 'Let another take his position of responsibility.' "
Acts 1:20 (NET) – based on Psalm 69:25 and 109:8.

THE HOLY SPIRIT NEEDED TO COME.

"No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
" 'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams."
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The RESULT of the coming of the Holy Spirit:
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SALVATION is now available to all!

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious
day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
Acts 2:16-21 (NIV) – based on Joel 2:28-32.

(This prophecy, or parts of it, may be fulfilled yet another time – when Jesus returns.)

OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPTS IN ACTS

5) WE LEARN ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT'S AUTHORITY – IT SHOULD INFLUENCE HOW WE LIVE!

★ Under the New Covenant, God places *within* us a desire to obey his Law (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-12 + context). ★

The following passage shows Paul's desire to do just that. It also shows the Old Testament's authority over every-day conduct and attitude.

WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY. (EVEN WHEN THE AUTHORITY IS IN THE WRONG.)

[CONTEXT: Paul spoke against someone who was violating God's Law. He did not realize it was the high priest.]
Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: 'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.' "
Acts 23:5 (NIV) – based on Exodus 22:28.

★ **THE BOOK OF ACTS SHOWS THE APOSTLE'S VIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ITS RELIABILITY!** ★

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Our attitude toward the Old Testament should parallel the apostles' attitude toward it!

→ **READ it and LEARN what it says!**

MAKE THIS YOUR MISSION!

Even under the New Covenant, it contains much for us to benefit from!

Credits

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