

Sermon Title: Why do we need to study the Old Testament?

The word old might just be the most subjective word in the entire English language.

- Depending on how much you like old things will determine how happy you are that we as a church will be studying the Old Testament this Fall

### BRC's plan for upward transformation:

2018/2019 Year 1: Bible 101: New City Catechism

2019/2020 Year 2: Bible 201/202: Fall Old Testament  
Spring New Testament

2020/2021 Year 3: History of the Church after the Bible:  
Something like denominations class

2021/2022 Year 4: Shorter topical studies, such as stewardship, marriage, parenting, evangelism, discipleship, prayer, or worship.

### Four reasons why we are studying the Old Testament:

1. The Old Testament is the only Scripture that Jesus and the early church had, and the Old Testament makes up 75% of our Bible.
  - Jesus himself quoted the Old Testament 78 times in the 4 gospels, and the Apostles quote it 209 times throughout the New Testament.
  - **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
  - An entire generation of the church only had the Old Testament as its Scriptures.
2. The OT substantially influences our understanding of key Biblical teachings.
  - We believe that all of History is God's Story, and to fully understand the end of a story you need to read the beginning for context.
  - **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- How much deeper is our understanding of God's love for us and His grace when we know how gracious God has been throughout History?

### 3. Jesus says that all of the Old Testament points to Him.

- Early on in John's gospel we hear Phillip say to Nathaniel "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

### • John 5:36-40

- Jesus knows that the Pharisees are attempting to earn eternal life and salvation through the keeping of the Law, so therefore they believe in themselves and not in God's ability to save them.
- The first prophecy about Jesus comes from Genesis 3:15, just moments after sin enters the world and the perfect utopia God set up for us was tarnished...

### 4. Jesus says that he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

- In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talks about the Law and righteousness.
- **Matthew 5:17-20**
- Jesus is teaching us here that the Old Testament is not irrelevant, even today, and that our actions still matter.

\*All small groups and studies will be learning about some aspect of the Old Testament.

\*Most groups will be reading and discussing "Bible Stories for Big People"

\*My prayer for all of you is that you to read this book and let God work on your heart as he has worked on mine.

**Challenge:** Please take a look at the insert in the bulletin this morning and choose a group to join for the next three months.

I hope that the word "old" doesn't make you cringe or feel any less cool, but instead I hope that word makes you think about God, and about how all of History is His story.

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