

## Sermon Brief, Important Cross References and Quotes, Helpful Links, Discussion Questions

May 16, 2021

Was it Not Necessary? How the Old Testament Prepares us for Jesus #3

“Israel”

Exodus 19:4-6

### Brief Sermon Brief:

I am going to give you access to two different sermon summaries. For those of you who like to be a little surprised, here's a brief sermon brief. For those of you who like a really thorough summary, here's a link to [a less brief brief](#).

1. The Old Testament is big, confusing and important.
2. We are looking at several key concepts to help you understand what the Old Testament is basically about.
  - a. **The Kingdom of God**
    - i. Genesis 1 and 2, the plan
    - ii. Genesis 3, the problem
    - iii. Genesis 3:15, the promise
  - b. **Covenants**
    - i. Genesis 6-9, the Noahic Covenant
    - ii. Genesis 12, the Abrahamic Covenant
  - c. **Israel**
    - i. How is God going to use Israel to bring blessing to the world?
    - ii. **Exodus 19:4-6** introduces us to the Mosaic Covenant
      1. And this passage is important because it explains Israel's purpose as a people and the law's purpose in that.
      2. God gives Israel a great promise based on a certain condition
    - iii. And yet of course we know, they didn't fulfill that condition.
    - iv. And so by the end of Israel's story in the book of Kings, we've got a real problem. What is it going to take to fix this? If this whole nation with all these privileges fails just like Adam did, how is God going to rescue us?
3. If you are asking those kinds of questions, you are beginning to understand what is going on in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is giving you a glimpse of God and His great salvation plan and one thing it does over and over is show you how much you need it.

### Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. John 5:46
2. “Just as an ancient king would place an image of himself in an area of his realm to show his sovereignty, God makes man in His image to represent Him in the newly created world. Yet in this case these representations of God are not lifeless statues, but living, breathing human beings. While God is the king, he created man as a king, vice-regent and mediator over the creation.”

3. "God is the great king who rules over the universe, but he has created humanity to rule as vice-regents, mini kings and queens who rule under his authority. God exercises his rule over creation through humanity as they exercise dominion over all God's made. God's purpose for humanity is to reflect his glorious beauty by filling the earth and ruling over creation as his representatives."
4. Genesis 1 and 2, Genesis 3:15, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:4-6
5. "If you look at the content of the blessings in Genesis 12:1-3 you will see it matches with the content of the curses in Genesis 3:14-19."
6. Exodus 1:7
7. "Israel was called to live as Adam and the entire human race was supposed to live - as obedient sons and servant kings - in relationship to the Lord and the entire creation. Israel was to fulfill the role of Adam by living as a kingdom of priests, to serve as God's son and representative and thus display to this poor, fallen world what it means to be truly human."
8. Leviticus 26:3-13

### Helpful Links:

1. [The DTR at Sinai](#)
2. [Abner Chou on Exodus](#)
3. [Exodus and Biblical Theology](#)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What questions did you have afterwards?
2. Obviously, we are talking about the Old Testament. What are some reasons it is important for us to understand the basic idea of the Old Testament? (There are theological reasons and practical reasons. See if you can give a bit of both.)
3. What is the Old Testament about?
4. What are the key concepts we have considered so far that help us understand the story of the Old Testament? (Hint: There are three)
5. What are the texts we have considered to help us understand the story of the Old Testament? Share the passages and then try to see if you can give a one or two sentence summary of the role they play in advancing or explaining the Old Testament storyline?
6. One important term we have considered is the word covenant. I once heard someone say that a covenant functions in Scripture almost like God's job description. God is giving us an explanation of what He is committed to doing. What are the first two covenants we considered and what do they tell us God is going to do? What are some questions we might be asking after reading about these two covenants?
7. The book of Genesis shows us God's design for the world, why the world is not that way right now, assures us God has a plan to fix it, identifies the group of people through whom that solution is going to come, and proves that God is able to accomplish that solution. What does the book of Exodus do? How does it help us move forward in understanding the story of what God's doing in the world?

8. The first eighteen chapters in Exodus are exciting. Chapters 20 on are a little more difficult for us because there is so much law. Fortunately, in chapter 19:4-6 God explains why this law is important. Read this passage together. What does it tell us about the purpose of Israel and the purpose of the law? (If you have trouble, read quote number 7 above and discuss what it means and the implications)
9. Now, we know the rest of the story. Is Israel able to fulfill its part of the covenant? In what way is what happens to Israel similar to what happened to Adam? Thinking about the story of Israel, what would you say this covenant ends up accomplishing in terms of how God is revealing the gospel bit by bit? Why is that important?
10. Ok, this is kind of a lot of information and biblical theology. But remember what's going on here is God is giving us the real story of what's going on in the universe. The world gives us its version of reality. This is God's true version of reality. And part of how we grow and move forward as Christians is coming back to God's version of reality and lining our lives up with that rather than the world's fake version of reality that it is constantly trying to get us to conform to. (Now, that's a lot of words. Do you understand what I mean by that? If not, discuss and see if you can get it.) In what ways can understanding God's true version of reality help you live your life?