

Volume 2, Day 22: Value in Both Testaments

The Old Testament is historical evidence that something more than law was needed to rescue men from their own propensity to selfishly destroy those who would get in their way. The Old Testament makes it abundantly clear that mankind needs a savior because we could never save ourselves. Further, it reveals that every man in every generation has committed sin (relationship crimes). And in it, God declares repeatedly, “You do good, I’ll be good to you. But if you do bad, I’ll make you pay a dear price.” This was God’s way for several thousand years.

It would not be possible to appreciate grace, as expressed in the New Testament, which is the by-product of unconditional love, without understanding the Old Testament governance of God. And, since all have sinned, the only fair and just way to accomplish redemption, is to make it accessible to every person. So, one valuable revelation of the Old Testament is that no one can merit their own salvation. The New Testament offers life with God by way of forgiveness and grace. The message of the New Testament is that you can do bad and get good!?!?

Salvation is provided by God, while serving justice to all, both the victims and the villains, by means of the highest price which any man can pay. He must sacrifice every bit of his pride on the altar of Christ’s sacrifice. The only thing that keeps a person from entering the kingdom of God is their insolent insistence on maintaining rebellious independence from God, just like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In other words, you cannot appreciate unconditional love without understanding the true nature of mankind as revealed in both Testaments.