

What's With the Old Testament God? | John 1:14,18 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To better understand how the God of the Old Testament and Jesus align.

Sermon Reminder: Dave continued our sermon series "Bad Ideas that Good Christians Believe" by addressing how we often want to distinguish the love and mercy of Jesus vs. the God of judgment in the Old Testament.

Icebreaker: What are your summer plans?

Discussion:

1. How have you seen people distinguish Jesus from the Old Testament God?
2. How does the New Testament (NT) see Jesus in relation to the Old Testament (OT), and how does Jesus see himself in connection with the OT?

Read:

John 1:18

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Matthew 5:17

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Luke 24:24-27 (*Jesus talking to some disciples after his resurrection*)

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he (Jesus) said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

THE **crossing** **small groups**

John 8:56-59

⁵⁶ (Jesus speaking) "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

3. Dave said: "In the OT there are dramatic events when God brings the future in to the present to affect the future." From there he described how the Exodus foreshadowed what God would do in Jesus in his first coming, but also what will be experienced more fully at this second coming.

How else does the OT foreshadow Jesus' life and ministry?

Read:

God foreshadows the great justice to come at the end of the age through many acts in the Old Testament (e.g. the plagues of the exodus, the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the destruction and exile of Jerusalem). The NT also foreshadows the great justice as well (e.g. Ananias and Sapphira from Acts 5:1-11 mentioned by Dave in his sermon, Judas' death, Herod Agrippa's death in Acts 12, the predicted destruction of Jerusalem that happened in 70AD).

4. How could it be loving of God to allow these tastes of justice?
5. How should these foreshadowings of grace and judgment shape the way we live now?
6. What are some practical ways we can better read the OT?

Sharing and Prayer:

- Have everyone share a way they would like to grow this summer.
- Have everyone pray for the person on their left in light of what they shared.