

The Bible For Grown-ups

Part 3: The Old Testament

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INTRODUCTION

The Old Testament chronicles God's redemptive, sequential activity in history. It's a fabulous, gritty, epic history of the Hebrew people in which, over and over, Israel is reminded that they are a divine means to an end. So, maybe instead of seeing the Old Testament as a spiritual guidebook or a storyline that needs to be tidied up, we should see it as something even better: the history of God preparing the world for a Savior.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 1:1. What do you think about when you read this sentence? Have you or someone you know tried to explore faith by using "In the beginning" as a starting point? What obstacles come with that approach?
2. In Genesis, Moses is not trying to explain how God created the heavens and the earth. Moses is making the case that God (not the gods) created the universe. How does this distinction change the way someone can approach reading Genesis?
3. In the beginning God decided every man, woman, and child would be born with dignity because they were made in his image. If you took this perspective on the purpose of Genesis, what would change about:
 - ☐ How you view the Bible.
 - ☐ Your faith or your willingness to explore faith.
 - ☐ How you view yourself.
 - ☐ How you see and treat others.
4. Occasionally, a prophet would speak beyond their historical context to a future day when God would do something through a nation for all nations.
 - a. Read Isaiah 53:5–11.
 - i. What is the most meaningful image to you in this passage?
5. Read Galatians 4:4–5. What does it mean that Jesus would redeem those under the law? What is different about the relationship we can have with God versus the relationship an ancient Jew could have with him?

MOVING FORWARD

Recommended Resource: Seven Days That Divide the World by John C. Lennox