

1. The Old Testament is the Word of God

Discuss while waiting to begin...

1. What is your favourite bit of the Bible? Why?
2. What do you love about the Old Testament?
3. What do you find hard about the Old Testament?

1. “All Scripture is God-breathed...” including the Old Testament!

2 Timothy 3:14-16,

- “All Scripture is God-breathed” (*theopneustos*)
- plenary verbal inspiration of Scripture.

2. In the Bible God speaks... through human authors

Acts 4:23-35

2 Peter 1:21 “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

3. Jesus treated the Old Testament as the Word of God

Matthew 19:3-6

Jesus treated each part of the OT as God’s Word

- the law (Mt 4:4, 5:18)
- from the poetry (Mk 12:10f, citing Ps 118)
- prophets (Mk 7:6)

Jesus personally submitted to the OT as the Word of God

- obedience to “what is written” (e.g. Luke 4:4,8,12)
- fulfilling what is written (e.g. Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 26:24,53-54, Mark 8:31, Luke 22:37, 24:25-27,44-46, John 5:39-40)

4. God works powerfully through His Old Testament word

Talk about the goodness of the Old Testament word of God...

1. Look at 2 Timothy 3:15. What do you need to be saved?
2. Look at 2 Timothy 3:17. How is the “man of God” equipped?
3. Look at Romans 15:4. What should the Old Testament “do” in us?
4. Look at John 5:39-40. Where do you go for eternal life?

Response: how we treat the Old Testament shows what we think about God

Psalm 119:18, “open up my eyes that I behold wondrous things out of your law.”

O make your word a swift word, passing from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the life and conversation, that as the rain returns not empty, so neither may your word, but accomplish that for which it is given. (George Herbert)