

## Overview of the OT

### 1. Interest in the OT Today

- A. Woman called re. newspaper column: “Oh, you don’t believe in the OT.”
- B. Many selectively use the OT to support personal scruples, theories:
  - 1. Tithing/instrumental music/dancing/Sabbath observance, etc.
  - 2. Inordinate interest in current events leads to misapplication of prophecy.
  - 3. First century Judaizers - Gal 4:9-11; 5:3.
- C. We must understand the nature of the OT to properly teach others on its present status, to obtain a deeper understanding of God and His interaction with men, and to fully appreciate the redemption He has provided.

### 2. The Law of Moses as a Judicial Document

- A. The Law a **curse** - Gal 3:10. Why?
  - 1. Justification by perfect obedience - 3:10b. No one justified on this basis - Gal 3:11; 2:15-16. Law did not provide independent, complete atonement for sin.
  - 2. This aspect of the Law makes it a “yoke of bondage” (Gal 5:1) and a “ministry of death/condemnation” (2 Cor 3:7, 9).
  - 3. Redeemed from curse by sacrifice of Jesus - Gal 3:13.
- B. Law a **shadow** - Heb 10:1; Col 2:16-17. The Law was only a dim outline cast by the coming substance of Christ. **Illus:** Shadow profiles vs. photographs. Why leave the *person* of Christ for His shadow?
- C. Law **nailed to the cross** - Col 2:13-14, 16-17. Fulfillment of the Law by Jesus resulted in its termination as a viable judicial document.
  - 1. Wiped out - Same word as sins “blotted out” (Ac 3:19).
  - 2. Taken out of the way - Same as “takes away sin of the world” (Jn 1:29).
  - 3. Nailed to the cross - Jesus’ death cancelled the law which was contrary to us.

### 3. A Tutor Leading to Christ

- A. Law **temporary** - Gal 3:19: *“till Seed should come.”*
- B. But the “Seed” has come - Christ (Gal 3:16). The Law was a **tutor** leading to Him - Gal 3:23-24.
  - 1. The types, shadows, prophecies and eternal principles revealed in the Law teach us of present spiritual realities. **Illus:** Magna Carta, British Museum - AD 1215, not a current viable law but teaches the foundations of constitutional law and limitation upon royal powers.
  - 2. Learn about sin, the nature of the act of disobedience - Rom 7:7, 13. **Illus:** David Goldschmidt: “You Christians talk about *sin* all the time.”
  - 3. See Paul’s admonition to Timothy - 2 Tim 3:14-15: *“from childhood ... able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
- C. The OT quotations, allusions and illustrations in the NT are uncountable; there is a unity of concept and principle without which would make our understanding of the NT incomplete.

### 4. Learning About Man and God in the OT

- A. The God of the OT is often maligned as more stern, harsh, brutal and authoritarian than the God of the NT. Such is not the case: Neh 9:16-17; Mic 6:6-8; Zech 7:4-13; 8:14-17.
- B. OT not just history but God’s direction of, intervention into the affairs of man to bless man by the introduction of redemption.
- C. OT is ancient written law of moral, spiritual integrity; an enduring law which spanned hundreds of centuries and preserved a people for God’s purposes.