

Bible Authority: Purpose Of The Old Testament – Part 2

By Michael Wright

Consider the Purpose of the Old Testament.

- A. **GENERALLY**, the Old Testament is for one's learning ([Rom.15:4](#))
- B. **SPECIFICALLY**, The purpose of the Old Testament IS:
- To Reveal sin to man ([Rom.7:7](#); [3:20](#))
 - To be a school master unto Christ ([Gal.3:19-25](#))
 - To Reveal a shadow of good things to come ([Heb.10:1-9](#))
 - For our learning ([Rom.15:4](#))
 - (WAS) for the physical Jewish Nation at Horeb ([Deut.5:1-3](#)) and never for the gentiles;
 - Even those physical Jews that wanted to remain faithful to God are under grace now and **NOT** under the old law ([Rom.6:14-15](#))
- C. To **AID** in Man's quest to understand God more fully, one might study from the Old Testament to learn that:
- God is ALL-Powerful or Omnipotent and is solely responsible for creation and life ([Gen.1:1](#); [Psalm 8:3](#); [Gen.2:7](#); [Job 12:10](#); [Isa.42:5](#))
 - God is ALL-Knowing or Omniscient and knows all about what HE has done ([Isa.40:26](#); [Psalm 139:1-6](#))
 - God is ALL-Present or Omnipresent ([Psalm 139:7-12](#)) and unlimited by time and or space ([1Kings 8:27](#))
 - God has a fierce attitude toward evil ([Ez.18:20](#))
 - God has a saving attitude toward righteousness ([Gen.6:7-9](#))
- D. But, on the contrary, if one would refer to the Old Testament for law today, they would err indeed. To pull something from the Old Testament as a binding law, will sever one's relationship with Christ or cause one to fall from Grace ([Gal.5:2-4](#)). The Bible clearly teaches that even the Jew's are no longer under the Old Law, but under grace ([Rom.6:14-15](#)), if they want to remain faithful to God.
- **Keeping the Sabbath day holy** is not mentioned in the New Testament and thus not demanded. New Testament, 1st century christians did assemble on the first day of the week (Read [Acts 20:7](#); [1Cor.16:2](#)) and 21st century christians should also; to worship God in spirit and in truth ([Jn.4:24](#)).
 - **Animal sacrifices** are not demanded, instead christians are instructed in [Romans 12:1](#) to "**present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable** (or spiritual) **service.**" As Jesus washed us of our sins with His own blood ([Rev.1:5](#)).
 - **Tithing** is not demanded, instead christians follow the New Testament example to **give**. There is no New Testament example and thus no Bible authority for **tithing** or **raising** money (such as bake sales, etc). Such would be something in **ADDITION** to New Testament **giving**, which is employed "**as God hath prospered** " ([1Cor.16:2](#)) and as one "**purposeth in his heart**" ...cheerfully ([2Cor.9:7](#)).
 - Remember, to go back to the Old Law will sever one's relationship with Christ ([Gal.5:2-4](#)).

E. Notice the chart emphasizing these principles:

GENERIC	SPECIFIC (Bible)	AID (Expedience)	ADDITION (No Bible)
For our learning (Rom.15:4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for the Jewish Nation prior to the Death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Deut.4:7-8; 5:1-3; Rom.6:14-15) • To reveal sin to man (Rom.7:7; 3:20) • To be a school master unto Christ (Gal.3:19-25) • To reveal a shadow of good things to come (Heb.10:1-9) • For our learning (Rom.15:4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from O.T. teaching regarding God's power, God's fierce anger, & regarding the creation, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to O.T. as a binding law or practice for christians today. (Gal.5:2-4; Col.2:13-16; Eph.2:13-16; Heb.8:6-9)