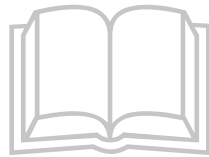


Jesus said
"Everything must be fulfilled
that is written about me in the Law of Moses,
the Prophets and the Psalms." *Luke 24:44*

HOW TO READ THE OLD TESTAMENT



For everything that was written in the past
was written to teach us, so that through
endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope. *Romans 15:4*

FEEL IT!

Truths shown in people & events not statements

The letters in the New Testament give us truths as statements and logical arguments. The stories of the Old Testament impact us with truths through seeing people interacting with each other and events.

Some of the general truths we *feel* as the action unfolds are ...

1. The character of God

- His control of events
- His mercy
- His love
- His patience
- His justice & judgement
- His saving power

2. The character of Humans

- National issues
- Society issues
- Family issues
- Individual issues
- Human dependence
- Human frailty
- The depth of sin
- The variety of sin
- The breadth of sin
- The seriousness of sin
- The consequences of sin

3. The world

- A good wonderful enjoyable creation
- A fallen corrupted creation

JESUS

As a whole it points us to the Lord Jesus Christ

A. Shadow

Gives the shape or outline of something in the New Testament. *eg. The temple is the place to meet God - Jesus is the real temple (Revelation 21:22)*

B. Prophecy

A prediction about the future. *eg. The Christ/King will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)*

C. Transformed

A practice is no longer carried out in the same way after Jesus. *eg. Circumcision is a sign of the covenant. This covenant & its sign is on the heart (Col 2:11)*

D. Overturned

A number of specific actions are no longer necessary now that Jesus has fulfilled them. *eg. Holiness/separateness was shown by avoiding some foods. Holiness is only shown in a godly life now. (Mark 7:15,19)*

E. Intensified

Some things become more intense since Jesus. *eg. Judgement was serious in the OT, so ignoring Jesus himself is worse. (Hebrews 2:2-3)*

F. Solved

The OT shows us the depth and dimensions of the corrupt human condition. The New Testament gives us the solution. *eg. human hardness of heart is seen constantly but the Holy Spirit solves the problem of how will people be obedient (Ezekiel 36:26)*

THE STORY

Stories but not as we know them

Things to consider:

1. Why tell it like that?

We might tell the story/events differently. Why?
*eg. We like to read about visual appearance (thank the TV!).
The Bible rarely worries about this unless it's vital.*

2. Conventions/Patterns in events

Similar scenes reoccur (God oversees this).
eg. barren woman finally gives birth. eg. Hannah, Elizabeth

3. Human Speech is crucial

The story is often carried along by speech between people. Much action is often seen 'on the lips' of people, not narrator. Speech is always dialogue (two people/groups interacting). We value action and we are sceptical of words.
But the Bible values words since they interpret actions.

4. Repetition

Why? - Shows it's emotionally important *eg. relish a victory*
- Gives emphasis. *eg. take note of this!!*
- Themes can come via key words. *eg. 'Saul's sword'*
- Repeated actions & contrast - builds to a climax.

5. How well do you really know the characters?

Level 1 - only their actions are described [lowest level]
Level 2 - we hear their speech to others.
Level 3 - we hear their inward speech to them self (thoughts).
Level 4 - the narrator reveals their motives or attitudes.

6. Knowledge and Ignorance

The Narrator knows all! But he withholds some things until certain stages - to achieve certain effects.