

Keswick Convention 2022

Grasping God's Masterpiece: Learning to rejoice in the Old Testament

Seminar 1: Grateful for its Scope

The Old Testament's scope impacts the whole of human history: it helps us understand the past, the present and the future as it speaks of creation, fall, redemption and the hope of the new creation. What a privilege we have when we understand the world from this perspective!

Break out discussion

What would it feel like to not know God created you?

"God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

1. The Old Testament declares our origin - God our Creator

Acts 17:22-28

Genesis 1-2

Psalms 104

Exodus 15:11

Job 38 - 41

a. The Old Testament shows us the hopelessness of forgetting our God as Creator

Jeremiah 10

b. The Old Testament calls us to fear the Lord

Jeremiah 10:6-7

c. To not Fear the Lord is foolish

Jeremiah

5:22-

25

"Those who are still afraid of men have no fear of God, and those who have fear of God have ceased to be afraid of men. All preachers of the gospel will do well to recollect this saying daily."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

d. Fear of the Lord is wonderful

2. The Old Testament explains our present

2 Kings 23:24-27

Jeremiah 8:21-22

Jeremiah 5:1

Jeremiah 9:17-19

"We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

3. The Old Testament explains God's plan of salvation

Jeremiah 29:10-14

4. The Old Testament explains our future

God's people in God's place under his rule.

Genesis 12:1-3

Jer 31:22

Jer 31:30-34

Conclusion:

What stunning promises are contained in the Old Testament: let us rejoice in its scope. It takes us from the beginning to the end of time and explains what God is doing in between. And the end is only the beginning!

For further meditation

Jer 31:7-14

Isaiah 65:17-25

Ezekiel 37:24-27

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