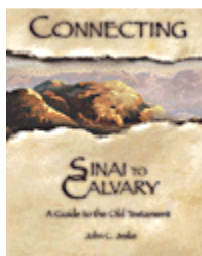


Their Faith, Our Faith

Connecting Sinai to Calvary (*A Guide to the Old Testament*)
by John C. Jeske
(Northwestern Publishing House, 195 pp., \$15.05)



How “up” are you on the 39 books of the Old Testament? How many of you even knew the Old Testament had 39 books?

See if you can answer the following:

1. What are the four main names that God calls himself and what does each one signify?
2. What two covenants did God make with Abraham and his descendants? What was the difference between the two?
3. What was the Sabbath Year? The Jubilee Year? Why were they important?
4. What is the “Principle of Substitution”, why was it necessary, and how was it reinforced in Israel’s culture?
5. What are the four blood sacrifices and which one was the only one in which the entire sacrificial victim went up in smoke?
6. What were God’s four qualifications for anyone who was to be a King of Israel?
7. Why did God discipline Israel so severely and what is the meaning for us?

In this book, Professor Jeske provides an overview (“guide”) of the entire Old Testament with special emphasis on how every book has Christ at the center. This book was written specifically for Christians to help them read the Old Testament with greater understanding. In fact, this book would be very suitable and interesting for young readers of confirmation age. Jesus is prophet, priest, and king and we need a deeper understanding of the Old Testament to fully appreciate what that means for our lives each day.

I came away from this book with a real feel for what it was like to be a descendant of Abraham over the 2000 years that are chronicled in the Old Testament books. And not just the special relationship God established with them, but what they grew and ate, what they wore, what the climate was like, how their lives were conditioned by the amount of rainfall they received each year, etc.

Professor Jeske bemoans the fact that Old Testament knowledge is fading among Christians. This is indeed unfortunate not only because all the scriptures focus on Christ, but also because there is a great deal of comfort for Christians as they understand the lengths God went to, as set forth in the Old Testament, to insure that his plan of salvation would be carried out for us. We also remember that the Old Testament was the only Bible the Israelites had at the time of Jesus. When Jesus read the Bible, He was reading the Old Testament. We understand finally that the faith of Abraham and his descendants is indeed our faith too.

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