

Faith Matters - # 16 – Why Two Testaments? – July 16

From the beginning of time, human beings have always been searching for gods. Roughly 3000 years ago, the Creator developed a school. That school was called the Hebrews. If God had called other peoples to be that school and they refused we'd never know. But Abraham did accept the call to start a family that would be a blessing to all humanity. Over the years, that family grew in number.

The Ten Commandments were part of the core teachings for them to live together. Individuals were called to be leaders, teachers, and prophets, people like, Moses, Joseph, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and many others. God wanted to create human communities that would reflect the peace and harmony of that perfect community, the Trinity.

The **Old** Testament tells of human obedience and disobedience, peace and war for over 2500 years. During those centuries, most of those leaders and prophets were killed¹, and their teachings, and warnings were rejected. Century by century the Old Testament recorded how God led humanity towards something unimaginably new.

People expected some kind of all-powerful messiah, a greater warrior. No one said it better than John Milton: "It had been a small mastery for [God] to have drawn out his legions into array, and flanked them with his thunder; therefore [God] sent foolishness to confute wisdom, weakness to bind strength, despisedness to vanquish pride"².

God could have used limitless power to overrule. Instead, God the Son, abdicated power and came among us as a person who could laugh and cry, teach and heal and restore broken people. He was born as a baby and was killed as a young man. It's no wonder that the Apostle Paul would say in the spirit of Jesus, "When I am weak, then I am strong." You see, the foolishness of God is wiser than our wisdom.

The **Old** Testament prepares us for the **New** Testament. This second testament is the story of God's revolutionary attempt through Jesus Christ to develop peaceful, generous, healing, loving, communities. We can look back at Old Testament times and learn. But we live even now in New Testament time, still following the Jesus who died and rose to restore broken humanity.

[¹ Matthew 23:31, 37; Luke 11:47-51; 13:34; Acts 7:51^f; Romans 11:3...]

[²From *The Reason of Church Government* Book II, Chapter 1]

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