

the Venues

Go Deep

Series: The Bible: What is it Good For?
“The Old Testament: The Beta Version of Christianity”
August 28, 2016

What is your favorite story in book, TV, or movie?

What word or phrase best describes your understanding of the Bible?

- a reference book.
- an answer book - Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth
- a guide book
- a story

What are the positive and negatives of your pick?

What is your impression of the Old Testament?

How was this impression formed?

Is the God of the Old Testament different from the God of the New Testament? Why or why not (Deuteronomy 7:2; Joshua 10:40; 1 Samuel 15:3)?

What part of the Old Testament is the biggest turnoff for you?

How do you explain that people have justified things like polygamy, xenophobia, racism slavery, witch hunts, crusades, devaluation of women, etc, by using the Bible?

Why wouldn't the Bible speak more clearly about the wrongness of such things?

How has the Old Testament enriched your life?

1. Where did the story come from?

Which view of how we got the Bible best describes yours?

- God tossed it down it down from heaven
- The Bible is not just about God but about how people of faith have perceived and related to God.

Do you have a favorite family story that is often told at family gatherings?

Read Genesis 6:19-20 and Genesis 7:2-3

What do you think about the view that there are two different flood stories in the Bible?

What do you think about Martin Luther and other Reformers removing certain books of the Bible and creating what is now used by Protestants?

2. What are we supposed to do with the story?

How do you handle the gory parts with children?

Do you really think we should include the Noah's Ark story in a children's book?

Here's one approach to the Old Testament: Focus on the same thing Jesus focused on.

Read Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28

What is Jesus' focus?

If the Old Testament is a record of people doing what they thought God was telling them to do, then what is Jesus telling us to do?