

Stacy's Old Testament FAVORITES

I love The Old Testament for its epic stories and what these stories teach us about God's desire to have a covenant making and covenant keeping people who are loyal and obedient to Him, so that He can protect them, guide them and bless their lives. From "In the beginning" with Adam and Eve to Noah and his ark, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with his 12 sons, Joseph who is sold into Egypt, Moses who rescues the children of Israel, Daniel and the lions den, Elijah who calls down fire from heaven—and so many more. I love the poetic prophecies of Isaiah—especially those concerning Jesus Christ, his birth, ministry, atonement and second coming.

Here are a few of my favorites ...

Genesis 3:20 Because I LOVE being a mother and I believe Eve was the most courageous of all mothers. She had the insight to take a huge risk and gave us all the opportunity of life on earth.

Genesis 9:9, 13-17 Because I LOVE color and so does God. He set a rainbow in the cloud as a reminder of His promises.

Exodus 20:6 This verse pops up in the middle of the Ten Commandments as a reminder that God, our Heavenly Father is merciful to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 4 This whole chapter rocks. Moses reminds us that we are so apt to serve and make gods of manmade things that do not see, hear or speak—but if we will seek the Lord God we will find Him. We need to take heed for ourselves and not forget the things we have witnessed. We need to teach our children to recognize the hand of God and to give thanks through obedience. LOVE it.

Joshua 4 Another whole chapter that speaks to my storytelling heart. As Joshua and the children of Israel pass through the Jordan river on dry ground, they are commanded to take up 12 stones and set them up as sign and a memorial so that when their children ask, "*What mean these stones?*" They will have the opportunity to share their experiences and faith-promoting stories. I love the idea that I can create memory "stones" with scrapbooks and family history projects in my home that give me the chance to pass on what I believe. So cool.

Joshua 24:15 is one of my most favorites ever—one that I have loved since I was a teenager even. Everyone gets to choose what to believe and who to serve, but we have great influence within our homes to teach and gently persuade children and grandchildren.

Samuel 16:7 Because we are so prone to look upon physical beauty, strength and wisdom, when what truly matters is the quality of our heart and God always looks on the heart.

Kings 8 Because this is where Solomon dedicates his temple and I love Solomon's prayer and what it can teach me about prayer and dedicating my heart. See especially verse 23, 38-43, 56-61

Kings 19:12 This verse follows the great story in chapter 18 when Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal and calls down the all-consuming fire from heaven, so it's even more significant that he is reminded how the Lord speaks to us—in a still, small voice!

Nehemiah 6:3 Because I love Nehemiah's commitment in the midst of persistent distraction, that could apply to building walls or solid marriages and families or any other great work!

Esther 4 Who doesn't love the story of Esther and the beautiful reminder that we have to come to earth with specific and unique gifts and opportunities, so that we can do a work that only we can

do—and that we must have faith—even when faced with immense opposition or risk. See verse 14-16.

Job 37-39 Just might be my MOST favorite chapters in all scripture because this is the Lord reminding Job through a series of questions that He is all knowing and all powerful and 100% trustworthy to support him in his incredible trials.

Psalms Yikes! There are so many that I love, beginning with the first (1:3). If you love the hymn, How Great Thou Art, then read 8:1-4 and think about our stewardship for the earth! The 23rd Psalm of course, but I also love 24:3-4, 37 and then perhaps my favorite of all, 46:10.

Proverbs Same thing here—too many to mention, but let's start with the oft quoted 3:5-6 and then keep on going through verse 18. As a mother I love 22:6 and of course the counsel for women in chapter 31.

Isaiah is the best! It can be tricky to understand, but there are incredible nuggets of truth and wisdom, so start with **1:10** and read through 18— and then just keep at it. Do you love Handel's Messiah? Then see **7:14, 9:6** and **53**.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Because if we just wait upon the Lord, our strength will be renewed. Do we avoid all troubles and turmoil? No, but we have a peaceful assurance that all will be well (**48:18** and **54:13-14**) and that we are never forgotten (**49:15-16**).

Isaiah 55:6-9 Requires no explanation. I just love it.

Isaiah 58 Read the whole chapter and imagine if everyone knew the peace, strength and protection that comes from observing the Sabbath day and the powerful blessings associated with regular fasting. So awesome!

Jeremiah 29:13 Because there's that "all your heart" thing again. LOVE.

Lamentations 3:22 Because there are new tender mercies everyday. Look for them and be patient (v.26)

The book and life of **Daniel** because there is so much to learn about the protection and blessings of the Lord when we are obedient— the meaning of dreams, fiery furnaces that don't burn you up and hungry lions that don't eat you!

Amos 3:7 Because I love prophets and I know that when we follow their counsel we are blessed!

Malachi 2:10 Such great questions!

Malachi 3 Because my life has been so richly blessed by living the law of tithing.

Malachi 4:5-6 Because Elijah has returned and this is happening. Hearts are turning and generations of families are being searched out, documented and eternally linked.

There of course is SO MUCH MORE, but how grateful I am for this Old Testament (or covenant) and all that I can learn from it! 📖 ❤️