

HOW DO I APPLY THE OLD TESTAMENT TO MY FAITH AND LIFE?

by
William D. Barrick, Th.D.
The Master's Seminary



The overall theme, storyline, or plot for the Old Testament:

God calls His people to display His moral character in obedience to His covenant.

1. God created mankind in His image—we bear “the image of God” (Gen 1:26, 27; 9:6).
2. By covenant relationship, believers are the people of God and He is their God (Exod 6:7; Lev 26:12; Ps 95:7; 100:3).
3. Believers in both Old and New Testaments are to reflect the moral character of their God in how they live (Eph 5:1; cp. 1 Cor 11:1).
4. The primary text regarding the moral character of God is Exodus 34:6–7: “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; . . .”

- Be _____ as God is _____ (Lev 11:44–45; 19:2; 1 Pet 1:16).
- _____ as God _____ (Hosea 3:1; John 13:34).
- Be _____ as God is _____ (Matt 5:48).
- Be _____ as God is _____ (Eph 4:32).
- _____ as God _____.
- _____ as God _____.
- _____ as God _____.

See also, 1 John 3:2.

The Big Question: *What does God require of you and of me?* Read Micah 6:6–8.

#1: I must think seriously about worship. (vv. 6–7)

How shall I approach God? (v. 6)

What is God’s delight? (v. 7a)

What shall I give? (v. 7b)

#2: I must listen carefully to what God says about how I should live. (v. 8)

That which is good. (v. 8a)

That which God requires. (v. 8b)

1. Act justly.
2. Love loyally.
3. Live humbly.

Conclusion and Implications

- I must never just go through the motions of worship—performing rituals.
- My heart attitude and true relationship to God ought to be my primary concern.
- I must make God the focal point in my life and in my worship.
- Jesus refers to Micah 6:8 in Matthew 23:23. What kind of “weight” does my spiritual life exhibit? Are my priorities in biblical order?