

10 SIMPLE WAYS

to SEEK and FIND CHRIST

in the OLD TESTAMENT

DAVID MURRAY



### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### CHAPTER 1: WHERE DID THE OLD TESTAMENT GO?

- 1. Write down some words that come into your mind when you think of the Old Testament. After you've read this book, write down a new list of words in the light of what you've learned, and compare the lists.
- 2. Which of the reasons for so little Old Testament teaching do you recognize? Can you think of any more?
- 3. When you speak of your Savior, do you use His personal name *Jesus* or His official title *Christ* more? If you use *Christ* more, what might that indicate about your spiritual life, and how will you try to change it?
- 4. What will you do to increase the ratio of Old Testament study in your life, in your family, and in your church?

# CHAPTER 2: WHAT'S THE OLD TESTAMENT ALL ABOUT?

1. What do you think the Old Testament is all about?

- 2. How would you tell your story about the role of the Old Testament in your spiritual journey?
- 3. What's hindered your study of the Old Testament? What's helped?
- 4. What gospel keys have you found? Has any one book or sermon been of particular help to you?

### CHAPTER 3: JESUS' ANSWER

- 1. What are the advantages of reading the Old Testament with the help of the New Testament? Can you think of any disadvantages?
- 2. Can you think of any other situations where knowing the ultimate goal or destination helped you understand everything else?
- 3. Which Old Testament passages or sermons have given you blessed spiritual heartburn?
- 4. When you read about Abraham's life in Genesis, can you find events that might have helped him to see Jesus' day with joy?
- 5. Where does Moses write about Jesus?
- 6. How is it possible for people to read the Scriptures in pursuit of eternal life and yet not find it?

### CHAPTER 4: PETER'S ANSWER

- 1. Where do we see evidence that the Holy Spirit was in the Old Testament prophets?
- 2. Provide examples of where the Old Testament prophets predict (a) Jesus' sufferings and (b) Jesus' glory.

- 3. Discuss or think about Wayne Grudem's idea of "acted-out prophecies" in the lives of Old Testament characters. How does this change the way you read the Old Testament?
- 4. How much do you think the prophets knew about what they were saying and writing? What help did the prophets have in understanding what they said and wrote?
- 5. Can you think of any life experiences where you really understood something only when you experienced it rather than just studied it?
- 6. What does Psalm 22 tell you about Jesus on the cross that you cannot find out from the Gospels?
- 7. What were the similarities between the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles?

### CHAPTER 5: PAUL'S ANSWER

- 1. How was a person saved in the Old Testament?
- 2. Read Romans 1–11, and make a note of the passages proving that Paul viewed Old Testament religion the same as the New Testament's religion.
- 3. Reread Galatians 3–4 from the perspective you've gained from reading this chapter. What difference does it make?
- 4. Try to remember the bondage you experienced before Jesus set you free by His grace. Why do you think the Galatians and many Christians find it so hard to rest in the freedom that Jesus gives?
- 5. Exodus 19:1–6 shows God's pattern of Redemption, then Relationship, then Rules. Why is this order important? How does the pattern help you better live the Christian life?

- 6. In what ways is the gospel of Jesus the same as the gospel of Moses? In what ways is it different?
- 7. Having read this chapter, how would you now describe the way of salvation in the Old Testament?

### CHAPTER 6: JOHN'S ANSWER

- 1. Can you think of other ways to illustrate the difference between an absolute contrast and a relative contrast?
- 2. The writer of Hebrews stated, "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them." Who was the apostle writing about? In what ways was the gospel preached to them?
- 3. Quote examples of God's giving grace in the Old Testament.
- 4. Have you confessed that like the disciples you have been foolish and "slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken"?

# CHAPTER 7: CHRIST'S PLANET: DISCOVERING IESUS IN THE CREATION

- 1. Before you read this chapter, what did you think Genesis 1–2 was all about?
- 2. This chapter focuses on how the creation was created *by* Christ. In what ways was it created *for* Him?
- 3. We saw how reading Genesis 1–2 through the eyes of the original readers, the Israelites, helps us understand why these words were written. Try to do the same with other

- narratives in Genesis, then in Exodus, and other books. How does it change the way you understand these scriptures?
- 4. In what way is creation a redemptive event?
- 5. How does understanding the original creation of the world help us understand the purpose of salvation, often presented as a new creation?
- 6. What other creatures and objects did Jesus make to teach us about Himself and His salvation?
- 7. In what ways do angels serve you as an heir of salvation?
- 8. Consider the order of creation and describe how it parallels the advance of salvation in your soul.
- 9. Explain how you experience salvation as (a) a Sabbath and (b) a marriage.
- 10. What does the Lord reveal about Himself through His creation?
- 11. In what ways do you show that you've been created by Jesus and for Jesus?

# CHAPTER 8: CHRIST'S PEOPLE: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

- 1. In what ways have you fallen into the "heroes and villains" approach to the Old Testament? What weaknesses can you see in this way of reading and teaching the Old Testament?
- 2. Sidney Greidanus gave a good example of how to view David's story in light of the bigger story of redemption. Pick another Old Testament narrative or biography, and try to draw lessons by using the same structure: (a) personal history, (b) national history, and (c) redemptive history.

- 3. How do the graces and gifts of Old Testament believers bring glory to Jesus?
- 4. Job's patience in suffering and Joseph's forgiveness of his persecuting brothers are the work of Christ's Spirit and reflect the formation of Christ's image in them. What other Old Testament characters and their graces show us Christ's work and image in them?
- 5. What new questions will you be asking when you read Old Testament books? Try it with a few books, and see what answers you get.
- 6. In what ways does seeing our sins as being against Jesus help us repent and turn from our sins?
- 7. Summarize the role of animal sacrifice in the spiritual experience of Old Testament believers.
- 8. Explain how Old Testament believers were saved by Jesus before Jesus was born, suffered, died, and rose again.
- 9. How do Old Testament believers motivate worship and imitation of Jesus?
- 10. What kind of life do Old Testament saints enjoy in heaven? How does that help us with our lives here on earth?

### CHAPTER 9: CHRIST'S PRESENCE: DISCOVERING IESUS IN HIS OLD TESTAMENT APPEARANCES

1. Some verses in the Bible tell us that no one can see God and live. How is it then that some Old Testament believers saw God and lived (for example, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, and Manoah)? Look up John 1:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; and 1 Timothy 2:5.

- How do these verses help us understand this seeming inconsistency?
- 2. How can modern believers see God and live? How does Jesus come to you today?
- 3. John Calvin said: "Holy men of old knew God only by beholding him in his Son as in a mirror (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18). When I say this, I mean that God has never manifested himself to men in any other way than through the Son, that is, his sole wisdom, light, and truth." These are strong words. The Reformer seemed to be saying that God gave no revelation except through His Son. Can you think of supporting or contrary examples? If that Reformer was right, how would that affect our understanding of Scripture, especially the Old Testament?
- 4. What parallels do you notice between the Angel of the Lord's encounter with Hagar in Genesis 16 and Jesus' encounter with the woman of Samaria in John 4?
- 5. Many of us have probably conceived of Christ's ministry in the Old Testament as occasional or exceptional, but John Walvoord says that it was clearly "common and continual." How could this perspective change how we read the Old Testament?
- 6. If the Old Testament appearances of Christ indicate His longing to be with us, how does Christ communicate that to us today?
- 7. If the Old Testament appearances of Christ created a longing in believers for His first coming, how do we cultivate and strengthen our desire and longing for His second coming?
- 8. Look up these passages that also describe appearances of

the Angel of the Lord. What do we learn about the Angel's character and role in these passages?

- Numbers 22:22–38
- Judges 2:1–3
- Judges 6:11-24
- Zechariah 1:12–21
- Joshua 5:13-15
- 9. It is common to hear the God of the Old Testament contrasted with the God of the New Testament. In what ways does the Angel of the Lord help us see that the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament?

# CHAPTER 10: CHRIST'S PRECEPTS: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW

- Why is it important to distinguish three kinds of Old Testament law?
- 2. Can you think of (a) a moral law that continues today, (b) a ceremonial law that was abolished by Jesus' death, and (c) one of Israel's civil laws that give us a helpful principle of justice for our own day?
- 3. How does the fact that the Son of God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses change the way you view them?
- 4. What can you learn about Jesus' character from reading His law?
- 5. Can you think of examples where Jesus used Old Testament law in His teaching?
- 6. What place does the law have in evangelism?
- 7. "The cross shows us not only the gospel of Jesus but also the law of Jesus." How would you explain this statement?

- 8. The Old Testament has many examples of divine judgment upon sin. What do they teach us about the final judgment?
- 9. What role does the law have in fellowshiping with Jesus?
- 10. How does the law lift up Jesus in your mind and heart?

### Chapter 11: Christ's Past: Discovering Jesus in Old Testament History

- 1. What are the similarities and differences between salvation in the Old Testament and salvation in the New Testament?
- 2. When did Christ begin to save sinners?
- 3. What's the connection between the first gospel promise in Genesis 3:15 and the first animal sacrifice in Genesis 4?
- 4. Who was the first believer to enter heaven?
- 5. How did Old Testament believers experience the Holy Spirit?
- 6. Who was the first preacher, and what was his message?
- 7. Describe Jesus' education.
- 8. What did Jesus learn from reading the Old Testament?
- 9. Read a passage of Scripture while imagining how Jesus read it and learned from it.
- 10. What are the benefits of singing Jesus' songs?
- 11. How does the humanity of Jesus help you as a Christian?

# Chapter 12: Christ's Prophets: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Prophets

1. What can we learn about God's ultimate and final prophet from the various Old Testament prophets?

- 2. Can you think of Old Testament examples of (a) a literal prophecy and (b) a symbolic prophecy? Why is this distinction important?
- 3. Give examples of the different kinds of prophetic fulfillment highlighted in this chapter.
- 4. According to the prophets, what are our mission and message to heathen nations?
- 5. How can the church learn from the prophecies addressed to Israel?
- 6. If the Old Testament prophets came to your church, what would they say?
- 7. If Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel, how does that change the way you read about Israel in the Old Testament?

### CHAPTER 13: CHRIST'S PICTURES: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TYPES

- 1. When have pictures helped you understand something complicated?
- 2. Using the definition given at the beginning of this chapter, contrast a type with an allegory.

An allegory has these main characteristics:

- It is a story, an object, a person, or an event.
- The story, object, and so on need not be true, real, or factual.
- It has a deeper and different truth than the ordinary reading of the words would suggest.

Example: (Allegory is extremely rare in Scripture. However, there are a few isolated examples.) In Judges 9:7–21 Jotham

used an allegory about trees and bushes to teach his hearers how to view Abimelech's kingship. The story he told was not true. Trees and bushes did not talk to one another or bow down to one another. The story was about a much deeper truth than talking trees. It was about the nature of true kingship. This is a classic allegory.

- 3. What helped the Israelites understand typology?
- 4. Why was typology such a suitable vehicle for teaching the Israelites?
- 5. How did God use types to save Israelites?
- 6. What kinds of resemblances are you looking for in a type?
- Take an Old Testament type, and show how the New Testament fulfillment enlarged, clarified, and heightened it.
- 8. How does the New Testament help us understand the Old Testament types?
- 9. How do the Old Testament types help us understand the New Testament?

# CHAPTER 14: CHRIST'S PROMISES: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANTS

- 1. What was your view of a covenant before reading this chapter? In what way has it changed?
- 2. Give examples from ordinary life of how we use *new* to mean both "brand-new" and "renewed."
- 3. What forms the background of every covenant God made in the Bible? How does that encourage you in your relationship with the Lord?
- 4. When has God taken the initiative in your faith journey?

- 5. How does an understanding of the Old Testament covenants help you better profit from the Lord's Supper?
- 6. Try to recall the one word that sums up each of the divine covenants, together with the accompanying signs.
- 7. Who benefited from the Old Testament covenants, and how? What does that teach you about benefiting from the new covenant sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism?
- 8. How would you sum up the essence of the biblical covenants?
- 9. What's new about the new covenant, and in what way does that affect your spiritual life?

# Chapter 15: Christ's Proverbs: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Proverbs

- 1. Read Proverbs 11, and trace each proverb to one of the Ten Commandments. What does that tell you about Proverbs?
- 2. Read Proverbs 12, and think about how each proverb describes the life and character of Jesus.
- 3. In what ways do you demonstrate the clarity of the choice between wisdom and folly in your parenting and in your witness outside the home?
- 4. Describe how Proverbs shows you your spiritual need and the sufficiency and suitability of Jesus as Savior.
- 5. Can you find any area of life not covered by Proverbs? Read through some chapters and list verses that guide us in our use of social media like Facebook.
- 6. How does Proverbs 8 change the way you read Genesis 1?

- 7. Consider some parallels and contrasts between Solomon and Jesus.
- 8. In what ways does Wisdom's "evangelism" in Proverbs 1–9 influence the way you evangelize?
- 9. Read through Proverbs, asking Jesus to show you your folly and His wisdom. List ways in which He does this.

# CHAPTER 16: CHRIST'S POETS: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT POEMS

- 1. Pick a few of the Psalms, and sing them with trinitarian tongues. Think especially of Jesus when you sing them.
- 2. What are three of the core messages of Jesus on Every Page?
- 3. In what way is our spiritual experience awaiting the second coming of Jesus the same as that of the Old Testament believers who were awaiting His first coming?
- 4. What five truths saturate the Psalms?
- 5. What Christian experiences do you find in the Psalms?
- 6. I recently heard a preacher say, "The Old Testament believers had no idea of the Trinity." How would you disprove that from Psalm 16 and Psalm 110?
- 7. In what ways can we say that Jesus is in the Psalms?
- 8. In what ways can we sing with Jesus in the Psalms? Pick a psalm, and imagine Jesus singing it during His earthly life.
- 9. What's the key to seeing the Song of Solomon as a Christ-centered book?
- 10. What skills and abilities do you need to develop to read the Song of Solomon with spiritual profit?

11. Pick a chapter from the Song of Solomon, and write down the impressions and feelings evoked.

### POSTSCRIPT: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

- 1. What have you learned about the Bible from this book?
- 2. What have you learned about Jesus from this book?
- 3. What have you learned about yourself from this book?
- 4. What are you going to change in your life and ministry as a result of reading this book?