LOVE Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

63 - Kindness

WE'VE SEEN IN THE PAST ...

(when looking at previous verses)

False teachers (and confused people)



THE BIBLE'S CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENT.

- ✓ They often treat them as "bad" or "negative" concepts that we
- ✓ Many claim they are "Old Testament concepts," that have been <u>replaced</u> by kindness and forgiveness in the New Testament.

Guess what!

False teachers (& confused people)



THE BIBLE'S CONCEPTS OF KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS.

- ✓ They often treat them as "good" or "positive" concepts that cancel
 anything the Bible may say about justice and punishment.
- Many claim they are "New Testament concepts," that aren't really a part of the Old Testament.

In reality...

of these concepts are a part of

BOTH Old and New Testaments.

LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE DIFFERENT IN THE TWO TESTAMENTS...

- \Rightarrow But GOD DID NOT CHANGE...
- ⇒ and <u>neither did the moral principles</u>.

THE <u>OLD</u> TESTAMENT IS ABOUT JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT; THE <u>NEW</u> TESTAMENT IS ABOUT KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS!

SO WE CAN IGNORE THE <u>OLD</u> TESTAMENT!



BELIEVE THE <u>BIBLE</u>, NOT THE FALSE TEACHERS!

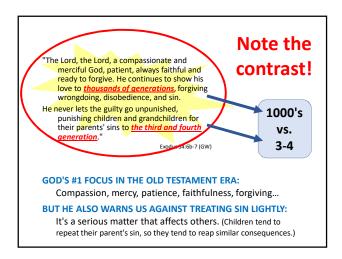
THE <u>OLD</u>
TESTAMENT IS
ALSO ABOUT
KINDNESS AND
FORGIVENESS!

HOW THE "OLD TESTAMENT GOD" DESCRIBES HIMSELF -

"The Lord, the Lord, a compassionate and merciful God, patient, always faithful and ready to forgive. He continues to show his love to thousands of generations, forgiving wrongdoing, disobedience, and sin.

He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children and grandchildren for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6b-7 (GW)



Note that the N.T. <u>also</u> warns against treating sin lightly

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 1:18; 2:8 (NIV)

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ... for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 10:31; 12:29 (NASB)

** And MANY other passages. **

We are going to look at what the "Old Testament God" told his people to do.



How did he tell them to live?

- ✓ Vengeful?
- ✓ Cruel?
- ✓ Harsh?
- ✓ Mean?
- ✓ Vindictive?

Some of those false teachers would like you to think that the "Old Testament God" was this way! This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.



✓ HE OPPOSES VENGEFUL CONDUCT

Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:18 (NLT)

Compassionate,

merciful, patient,

faithful, forgiving.

The "neighbor" in this passage obviously includes one's enemies. People don't seek revenge against friends!

[HINT!]

This Old Testament verse:

Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself.
I am the Lord.



Leviticus 19:18 (NLT)

Strongly parallels our New Testament passage:

Do not take revenge, my friends, ...
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."

Romans 12:19a, 20a (NIV)

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.



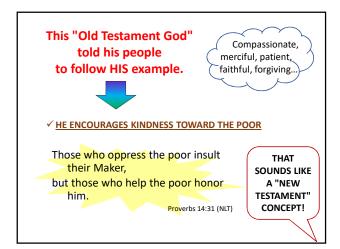
Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

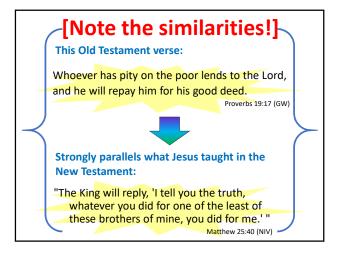
✓ HE ENCOURAGES GRACIOUS AND KIND LIVING

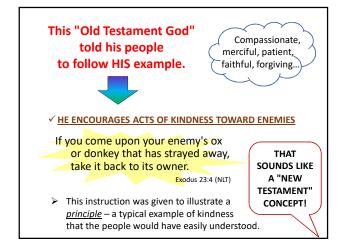
A gracious woman gets honor, ...

A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself. Proverbs 11:16a, 17 (ESV) SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

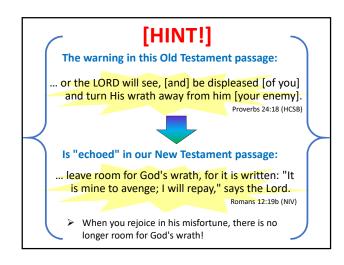
THAT

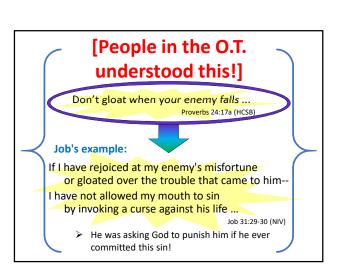












This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...



✓ ANOTHER VERSE WHERE GOD TELLS US TO BE KIND TO ENEMIES

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;

if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
A "NEW
TESTAMENT"
CONCEPT!

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)

DOES THIS O.T. PASSAGE SOUND FAMILIAR?

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)

IT SHOULD!





It is QUOTED in our New Testament passage!

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Romans 12:20 (NIV)

- Paul is telling us to follow the example and instructions of the "<u>Old</u> Testament God"
 - who happens to also be the "New Testament God"!

WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE?

Though there are <u>differences</u> in circumstances, in Old and New Testaments...

- ✓ The <u>same</u> God gave them both.
- ✓ Our moral obligations remain <u>unchanged</u>.
- ✓ Our obligation to be kind to our enemies does not contradict the need for justice; for <u>both</u> concepts are found in Scripture – in <u>both</u> Old and New Testaments!

NEXT

TIME: If a false teacher (or confused person) tells you that the Old and New Testaments promote "opposite" moral perspectives



- ✓ You will know better than to believe them.
- ✓ If they have a teachable spirit, you might be able to show them the truth!

Our obligation to be kind to our enemies is a *moral obligation*



It has <u>always</u> been a moral obligation, for <u>all</u> people at all times!

Even when pursuing <u>justice</u>, because of wrongs that have been committed. If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

The PAST obligation for all people

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)



The **PRESENT** obligation for all people

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Romans 12:20 (NIV)

Your Mission...

OUR OBLIGATION TO BE KIND IS NOT NEW!

Godly people in the past have fulfilled this obligation.

Make it your goal to follow their example!

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

Credits

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The Old and New Testaments were written for *different* circumstances.

- ✓ A focus on a *nation* (which included unsaved individuals) vs. saved *individuals*.
- ✓ Given by God *before* vs. *after* Jesus' death/resurrection.
- ✓ Different ceremonial ("religious") regulations, based on the different covenants the people were under (see below).

But they both express the *same* moral obligations and describe the *same* nature of reality. We need to accept all that God has given us!

A RANDOM COLLECTION OF <u>New</u> Testament CONCEPTS THAT ARE TAKEN DIRECTLY OUT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- God would introduce a "new covenant" to replace the "old covenant" - Jeremiah 31:31-34 → Hebrews 8:8-13; 9:15.
- We are to love God completely Deuteronomy 6:5 → Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30-33; Luke 10:27.
- We are to love our neighbors as ourselves Leviticus 19:18 →
 Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27.
- God's Word is necessary for life in its fullness ... more than food is - Deuteronomy 8:3 → Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4.
- Mercy is more important than religious activities Hosea 6:6
 → Matthew 9:13; 12:7.
- God is a consuming fire (who will destroy all who do not worship him in an acceptable way) - Deuteronomy 4:23-24 → Hebrews 12:28-29.

- We have an obligation to be holy Leviticus 19:2; 20:7 →
 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14.
- God disciplines those he loves Proverbs 3:11-12 → Hebrews 12:5b-6.
- Two or three witnesses are required before an accusation of wrongdoing can be made against someone - Deuteronomy 19:15 → Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1.
- God created male and female; marriage involves the permanent union of a man and a woman - Genesis 1:27; 2:24
 → Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9.
- Even animals deserve to be properly rewarded for work done
 Deuteronomy 25:4 → 1 Corinthians 9:9-11; 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (a principle that can be applied to more than just animals).
- God will avenge and judge Deuteronomy 32:35-36 → Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30-31.
- The righteous will live by faith Habakkuk 2:4b → Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.
- No human is naturally righteous and good Ecclesiastes 7:20;
 Psalm 14:1-3 → Romans 3:10-12.
- God opposes those who do evil, but is favorable toward those who do good - Psalm 34:12-16 → 1 Peter 3:10-12.
- Not fearing God is a characteristic of the wicked Psalm 36:1
 → Romans 3:18.
- People will "fade away" (die) like flowers of the field; God's
 Word remains forever Isaiah 40:6-8 → 1 Peter1:24-25.
- Don't put God to the test Deuteronomy 6:16 → Matthew 4:7.
- Do not commit adultery, murder, lie, steal, covet, dishonor your parents, etc. (from the 10 Commandments) Exodus 20:12-17; Deuteronomy 5:16-21 → Matthew 19:18-19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9.