

2/28/2026
Prophetic
Nugget

THE GENUINE'S LIFE EVIDENCES OUR LORD JESUS

The Older Testament Is Bedrock For The Spirit-led

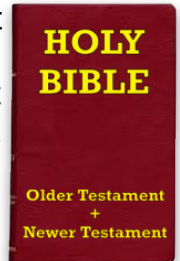
A Holy Spirit-guided & empowered way of life is promised in the New Covenant.



For the best spiritual benefit, please prayerfully discuss this Nugget with those with you on your faith pilgrimage.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

We've previously emphasized that the *genuinely* born again of today must comprehend the Older Testament just as the *genuine* of the first century understood its significance. You need to view the entire Bible as a two-act play. *If* you have just the first act, the Older Testament, then you're left incomplete because you haven't yet recognized the specific prophecies that have already been fulfilled in the coming Messiah. But *if* you rely only on the Newer Testament for your spiritual development, then you have no foundation on which to discern the nature of your own sinful depravity. Nor can you fully appreciate the real meaning of the atonement of Jesus on your behalf.



 Too many Christians today ignore the God-breathed writings that are found in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Older Testament. But if you have no understanding of the Older Testament — the Bible that Jesus used and the prophetic truths He fulfilled— then you'll lack the vital foundations which guided the faith practices of our Lord's earliest followers. It's indispensable to your spiritual walk that you view the two testaments as a continuum that's inseparably linked! Not only was the Hebrew text the bedrock for our Lord's first followers in understanding that He was indeed the prophesied Messiah. The Hebrew text which was given to them by God was their guide in establishing their faith practices. Through its undeniable truth because of WHO gave it, they could recognize that God indeed recruited and empowered specific people to do His will.

Our Lord Jesus and the Newer Testament writers cited over 300 direct quotes as well as hundreds of allusions from the Older Testament, comprising roughly one-third of the Apostolic Scripture content. And nearly every book of the Older Testament is referenced there, with Isaiah, Psalms, and Deuteronomy being the most frequent, forming a foundational element of Jesus' teachings and the apostles' writings. Keep in mind that the vast majority of our Lord's first followers were quite familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures. Thus they already knew the context surrounding a particular phrase or allusion which was quoted without needing the entire backdrop spelled out for them.

Can you articulate WHY Jesus became incarnate and died on the cross?

In asking this question, we don't mean you giving the pat answer, "He died for my sins." Your understanding as to WHY is found in the 333 prophecies in the Older Testament that pertain to our Lord's incarnation, death and resurrection! Knowing WHY from the Older Testament greatly increases your loving appreciation for the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit's presence in you, your heartfelt love for Jesus is significantly shown in your fervent commitment to apply our Lord's appropriate commands from both Testaments to your life. Putting into practice our Lord's righteous commands out of loving and obedient trust is His ongoing way of life for you to being more and more transformed into the character of Jesus.

✅ For further insight please view: Jesus In Your Home Byte 8: [Why Jesus Died](#)

The Older Testament reveals God's perspective on sin.

A key purpose of God's commands in the Older Testament was to make His people ever aware of their sins and their propensity to sin against Him, but for very specific purposes. Being both loving and holy, He intended that they keep humbling their hearts and come to Him seeking His forgiveness and restoring their relationship with Him in deferential trust and obedience. That's why God's law, His righteous instruction and commands, was intended to be a "custodian" to bring each of us to Christ: so that we might be declared righteous on the ground of trusting Him as our righteous Lord and Savior (Galatians 3:23,24). By His grace we are born of His Spirit (Romans 3:21-25) and are no longer enslaved to sin which keeps violating God's righteous ways. Rather we are free to serve God through the indwelling Spirit and to walk according to His righteous commands out of grateful love (Romans 6:17,18; 7:6).

The Older Testament clarifies the Holy Spirit's use of you.

The Hebrew text contains many examples of God *recruiting* and *empowering* individuals to do His will. (See for example: Exodus 31:3; Numbers 11:17; Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29; 1Samuel 16:13; 2Chronicles 20:14.) Of particular significance to your spiritual life and your ability to carry out your Father's will is your comprehending the nature and reality of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew Scriptures. Often referred to as the ***Spirit of God*** or ***Spirit of the LORD***, He is mentioned roughly 80 to 100 times in the Older Testament. Also, the Hebrew term *ruach* (spirit/breath) appears over 370 times in various contexts. From the creation of the physical world to empowering individuals who are acting in obedient trust to fulfill Father's will, the Holy Spirit is active throughout the Older Testament. Obedient trust and the Holy Spirit's empowerment are inseparable for the *genuine*. This means that your understanding of the divine empowerment that was given to individuals in the Older Testament increases your own appreciation for the spiritual gifts which the *genuine* have been apportioned by the Holy Spirit.



The Older Testament reveals the significance of Abraham being the father of the *genuine*.

(See Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7, 3:14)



We've previously noted that just before we left Israel, our Father commanded us to call the truths He gave us **"the Hebraic Restoration."** It was only after we started to apply these truths to our own lives that we began to fathom the significant connection that the Hebraic Restoration has with Abraham. His life clearly demonstrated ***trusting obedience***, which so pleased God that Abraham was known as His friend: *"Abraham had faith in God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God"* (James 2:23; see also 2Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8). Picture yourself among the earliest followers of Jesus when our Lord spoke of Abraham. You'd have been clearly aware of the patriarch's trusting obedience. And if you're *genuine* in Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit is present to guide and empower you to live with the same trusting obedience (and more!) as our father Abraham.

You can learn from Older Testament examples that you don't want to go on without the presence of the Spirit guiding you. Moses certainly didn't want to! *"Then Moses said to Him, 'If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?'"* (Exodus 33:15,16).

!! If you're *genuine*, you must understand the utmost importance of the indwelling Spirit in guiding and empowering your spiritual walk. Our Lord has little regard for "Christians" who merely believe that He exists. Even the demons believe that! But the *genuine* have the same trusting obedience as Abraham was commended for, and rely on the Holy Spirit for the guidance and empowerment our Lord Jesus promised you.

"Father, place me where You will receive the most glory in my life."

If this is your heart's desire, then you'll realize just how much you must depend on the Holy Spirit's spiritual gifting(s) which He apportions to you. But *if* you don't know the gift(s) apportioned to you, you'll be unable to cooperate with other *genuine* in fulfilling Father's purposes. In your ignorance you're not only violating the Spirit's way of bringing about Father's will. You're also letting others down by not being able to participate with them in your gifting(s).



It's in the Older Testament that you discern how truly awesome and sovereign God is.

Years ago Mike was given a vision by the Holy Spirit while he was driving home with a neighbor after a men's retreat. For five years in a row while we served at the retreat center, Mike went on an annual retreat with men from a local Evangelical congregation. This congregation was big on learning about the Bible and their specific creedal position. But they resisted knowing how essential the Holy Spirit is in the life of a follower of Jesus. As each retreat took place, the men grew increasingly more hostile over Mike's reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance, empowerment, and Christ-like development. On the way home from Mike's last retreat, one of the men in frustratingly asked, "What is the difference between you and the rest of us guys in the congregation?" At that very moment the Holy Spirit showed Mike a vision of that difference.

Some backdrop: Mike began following our Lord Jesus after reading through the entire Bible twice. It was by reading about God in the Older Testament that he developed an awesome regard for how mighty and sovereign He is over everything. We realize that many of you reading this weren't led to our Lord by someone teaching you the Older Testament first. Yet the Hebrew Scripture is your key source for knowing how our God describes Himself and His use of the Holy Spirit to carry out His purposes.

Big God
Lordship of Jesus

Little God
JESUS IS JUST A SAVIOR



After Mike explained the vision he was seeing to his fellow passengers, he commented, "You know I spent 10 years on active duty in the navy. In the military everyone has a designated specialty. My designation was 1310 which identified me as an aviator. But what if you repeatedly asked me, 'What did you do in the navy?' and I just obstinately replied, 'I was in the navy.' You'd realize there's something missing in my response. This is the same when you identify yourself as a "Christian" or by the denomination you belong to. That indistinct identity doesn't specifically reveal our Father's particular use of you through the gifting(s) the Holy Spirit apportions.

A few weeks later Father allowed us to leave that congregation. The Spirit then guided us to a fellowship of those who lived Spirit-led. It was such a wonderful experience to authentically fellowship with fellow 'rivers of living water' in the Spirit (John 7:38,39)!

✓ Please read Reality 24: [The Older Testament Reveals A Sovereign, Powerfully Awesome God](#)

If you live with a Big God understanding, you'll cherish the indwelling Holy Spirit working through you. It's the Holy Spirit and what He is able to accomplish through the family of Christ that is the purest identifier of those who belong to Him as *genuinely* born again. Please take to heart our Lord's own words as if He were speaking directly to you:

- ❖ *"Whoever puts his trust in Me, as the [Hebrew Scripture] says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being! Now He said this about the Spirit, Whom those who trusted in Him were to receive"* (John 7:38,39a).
- ❖ *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever trusts in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12).
- ❖ *"And these signs will accompany you who trust: in My Name you will cast out demons; you will speak in new tongues; you will pick up serpents with your hands; and if you drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt you; you will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover"* (Mark 16:17,18).
- ❖ *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses [to the people you encounter each day]"* (Acts 1:8).

Spiritual power is an essential part of the *genuine* living as our Lord's ambassadors. In [Preparing For Pentecost](#) in our series, The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation, we presented these two anecdotes:

†While we were running a retreat center years ago, a group of pastors met there each month. At one of the gatherings a pastor mentioned that he had used a spiritual gifts survey among his flock, similar to the one in our book, God's Instruments For War: [Discovering and Coordinating Spiritual Gifts as Weapons of Warfare](#). After he and the leadership reviewed the results, they found that many of the congregants weren't operating in their gifting(s). Several of those he talked with admitted they were serving in a particular capacity simply because "somebody had to do it." He told the pastors' group of the wonderful changes that had taken place in the congregation as people began to serve in the Spirit's empowerment.

†During our time at the retreat center, church leaders often came to Mike for guidance. One pastor in particular had given his congregation a spiritual gifts survey to help both the individuals and the leadership discover their gifting. The problem was, they'd distributed the survey over 3 weeks earlier and fewer than 20% had turned it back in. Mike recommended that the leadership use the congregation membership roll and prayerfully put an "X" next to the names of any about whose salvation the leaders had doubts. It was discovered that these were the very ones who hadn't filled out the spiritual gifts survey. How can people who don't have the Spirit of Jesus abiding in them fill out a questionnaire about spiritual anointing they don't have?

["Find out what pleases the Lord"](#) (Ephesians 5:10)

As with the *genuine* who first followed our Lord, we are exhorted to live in holiness and abound in love, "just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God" (1Thessalonians 4:1) By contrast, those who live to please themselves can't please God! (Romans 8:8). Let your inner person, your heart, be tested by God so that any area in which the Spirit convicts you may be transformed by His work in you. Again, what pleases God? Living as Jesus did, loving Father and obediently doing His will with a grateful heart of trust. That's why Paul and his companions prayed so earnestly and regularly for those who followed Jesus as Lord: that they would be filled with knowing and understanding His will through the indwelling Spirit so they could carry it out. That's how they (and you!) walk worthy of our Lord Jesus and fully please Him by being fruitful in every good work He sets before you (Colossians 1:9,10).