

GROUNDING: “IS GOD BIPOLAR? THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD VS. THE NEW TESTAMENT JESUS”

CONTEXT

Reading through the Bible from cover to cover could lead some to conclude that the God who showed up in the Old Testament is very different from the God who showed up in Jesus Christ. Which may lead some to ask, “Is God bipolar?” In this episode, we will discover God’s grace at work in the Old Testament and his judgment at work in the New Testament. Listen in as we talk about God’s nature and character throughout the Bible.

A Timeless Misconception

- i. For some, the Old Testament is like a slow season of our favorite show.
- ii. Misconception: God is a God of _____ in the Old Testament. God is a God of _____ in the New Testament.
- iii. Implications
 - a) Leads some to have an _____, _____ diet in the New Testament.
 - b) Leads some to dismiss the Old Testament as _____ and _____.
- iv. There is no such thing as a _____ Christian.
 - a) Early Christian church only had the Old Testament to guide its faith and practice.
 - b) The New Testament finds its roots in the Old Testament.
 - c) Jesus _____ the Old Testament as God’s Word. (John 5:39)
- v. God is _____. (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8)
- vi. St. Augustine: In the Old Testament, the New is _____; in the New Testament, the Old is _____.
- vii. Contrary to what some believe, you can find _____ in the Old Testament and _____ in the New Testament.

God’s Grace in the Old Testament

- i. God’s grace doesn’t begin in John 1, but in _____ **1**.
- ii. Wrath is not an _____ of God, but _____ is.
- iii. God’s _____ and _____ require payment for sin.
- iv. God’s requirement for payment for sin is _____. (Genesis 3:7, 21)
- v. The Old Testament reveals _____ extended to God’s people.

- a) Grace and the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-2)
 - 1) Before the _____ shows up, _____ shows up.
 - 2) God's _____ should lead to his people's _____.
- b) The Old Testament reveals that God is _____.
 - 1) God proclaims His _____ to Moses. (Exodus 34:6-7)
 - (1) Grace is how Moses really _____ God. (cf. Exodus 33:18-23)
 - (2) Hebrew word picture (Slow to anger): God has a _____/**long nose**.
 - (3) Like a marriage, God's love is a "_____."
 - 2) Jonah was _____ about God's grace. (Jonah 4:2; cf. Jonah 2:1-10; 1 Kings 19:4)
 - (1) Jonah experienced God's _____, but wished for God's _____ on others.
 - (2) Elijah prayed that he might die because of his perceived _____; Jonah prayed that he might die because of his _____.

God's Judgment in the New Testament

- i. God's judgment didn't _____ in the New Testament; it was _____ in Christ.
- ii. God's judgment was active on the _____.
 - a) Judgment is a precondition for God's salvation. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:9)
 - b) Gathering around the _____ removes us from under God's _____. (Romans 1:16-18)
 - c) Denying a God who judges _____ the Cross of its meaning.
- iii. Jesus' _____ often end with God's judgment.
 - a) Jesus will _____ the wheat and _____ the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - b) Jesus uses the Old Testament as a _____ for His coming judgment. (Matthew 24:37-39)
- iv. New Testament truth: Jesus is full of _____ but also full of _____. (John 1:14)
 - a) A Jesus full of grace and no truth, _____.
 - b) A Jesus full of truth and no grace, _____ the Gospel is meant to lift. (Matthew 11:29-30)

Conclusion

i. The Old and New Testament doesn't reveal a God who is bipolar but one who is

_____.

a) God's patience reveals God's _____. (1 Peter 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)

b) God's patience reveals his immeasurably rich _____ (Ephesians 2:4-7)