

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 15:4**.
- B. Some people feel like that studying the OT is a waste of time. But this is not true. OT is valuable and right for several reasons.
- C. Once a missionary went about establishing churches in several towns in Africa, but never came back. When another missionary came through it was said they were the "forsaken village." Many ready the OT once because it is their duty and it becomes the "forsaken covenant."
- D. Tonight is seven reasons why Christians should study the OT.

SEVEN REASONS TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- A. First, to gain wisdom and equipment for every good work.
It makes us wise unto salvation, by faith joins to NT, and we are thoroughly equipped to every good work; from end to the other (2Tim. 3:14-17).
- B. Second, it is the background of the NT.
Over 700 times the OT is quoted in the NT. Matthew, Hebrews, Romans, and Revelation are difficult without OT knowledge.
- C. Third, it points to Christ.
 - 1. Moses and the prophets speak of the days of Jesus (Ac. 3:22-24).
 - 2. The OT testifies of X (Jn. 5:39).
 - 3. Any OT book may be used in teaching someone about X (Ac. 8:35).
 - 4. The prophets spirit of X told them of X and church (1Pet. 1:10-12).
- D. Fourth, it is the only reliable history of that known time.
Skeptic Robert Ingersoll claimed there was no Hittite nation. It was later discovered just as the OT said.
- E. Fifth, to gain both good and bad examples.
 - 1. A bad example to shun is found in 1Cor. 10:1-11).
 - 2. A good example to follow is found in Hebrews 11 and James 5).
- F. Sixth, for learning and obtaining patience, comfort, and hope.
The OT was written for our learning, so that we can find encouragement and hope (Rom. 15:4).
- G. Seventh, better than an eyewitness, a light for a dark day.
The prophets always received their message from God (2Pet. 1:15-21).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Remember, there is only one subject of the entire Bible: Jesus Christ.
- B. OT study will greatly enhance one's knowledge and appreciation of NT.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.