

This young minister I mentioned who was a student in college when I was there was quite a debater, so I was thrown together with him a fair amount in preparation for debate. I remember him remarking once, People will often say I will prove this to you by an illustration. Now, he said, you don't prove anything by an illustration, you illustrate, you give an example, you make it clear to us, you don't prove it. An illustration doesn't prove anything. ^{Human nature being what it is} - / - Most people are perhaps more easily convinced of something by an illustration than they are by real evidence, but I think we should ~~be aware~~ -- be wary of that ourselves. An illustration of something does not prove things. We have to get proof/ⁱⁿ some other way, and then we can use illustrations to get the idea across to others.

So the OT is very useful as a source of illustration, for ideas gained by other ~~means~~ means, but that would not be enough/ to make it a part of the Word of God.

The ancient Greek myths and legends often make wonderful illustrations. From history ^{could} we ~~would~~ get illustrations that are very valuable to present ideas, but this is not simply just a source for illustrations that help you to understand something, to drive an idea home to people. It is part of God's Word. And therefore there must be a more important reason why the OT is in our Bibles today.

4. The OT is Important as an Account of how God intervened to keep alive ^{the} a knowledge of Himself and ~~of His people~~ to prepare the way for the fulfillment for His plan of Redemption. Here we are getting to something that is more objective, something that is foundational in our Christian understanding. Paul tells us that man puts God out of his mind. He tries to forget Him. He tells us that all of nature shows that God exists. He tells us that man can see the greatness and power of God clearly ~~revealed~~ revealed in the things that God has made, but man tries to keep from drawing the natural inferences from these facts. He puts them aside because he does not ^{want} want God interfering with his life, he wants to live ^{in accordance with} in the way that his fleshly desires lead him to incline to live. And thus man puts God out of his mind and tries to forget God and the whole world would have gone into darkness and misery and utter destruction,