

Steve Austvold                    BIBLICAL BASIS FOR OLD TESTAMENT MISSIONS  
NPD Mission Mobilizer    December 2002  
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Dear Pastors and Mission Committees,

Greetings in Christ. When it comes to the Old Testament, I believe that growing numbers of evangelical Christians are biblically illiterate. Increasingly, many Christians do not read the Old Testament and do not understand the place of the OT in modern living. The same is true with the study of OT missions. How many people in your church could quote a verse from the OT supporting a biblical basis for missions? The ideal answer would be to have them all enroll in a Perspectives course and do a study on the biblical basis for missions. Practically, this is not possible for all people, so where should we begin? How can we present missions in the OT? As I thought of this subject, I struggled with just listing a bunch of verses, or trying to give you handles so you could take this subject and develop it in your own setting. I came up with some verses and ideas for how you could implement OT missions into your program.

1. Teach an overview of OT missions in your adult fellowship class.
2. Teach or preach on the book of Genesis 1-12.
3. Lead a book study on Jonah. Write a play on the life of Jonah.
4. Lead a five week study missions study on each of the five major sections in the OT: the Pentateuch, the historical books, the Wisdom literature, the major and the minor prophets.
5. Do a word study on "nations" in the OT.
6. Highlight one missions verse from each of the OT books and print it out for your congregation to see.
7. Do a series on the life of Abraham. Dramatize his life.
8. Read books on OT missions, i.e. Mission in the Old Testament by Walter Kaiser, or God's Call to Mission by David Shenk.
9. Watch the video "EE Taou" and see how the OT was brought into the gospel story.
10. Study OT mission verses in your mission committee settings.
11. Encourage your church to read the One Year Bible starting in 2003. Each day there are portions of the Old Testament, Psalms, Proverbs, and the New Testament to read.
12. Find out why the Muslims and the Jews revere Abraham.
13. Here are a few OT references to missions to get you started: Genesis 12, Ps. 2, 96, Is. 54, Jonah.
14. What OT characters teach us mission stories?
15. For Christmas, what OT prophecies relate to the hope for the world?

Most of all we need to remember that the God of the Old Testament is the God of mission. His plan is a plan of redemption for mankind.

Ps. 96:3, "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples."

In Christ,

Steve Austvold  
EFCA International Mission