

Old testament essay

Literature



In Walton's *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, he writes, " With no revelation . .

. there was no way to know what pleased and what angered . .

. This is the plight of those who live in a world without revelation. In the end, for all of their conscientious ritual, they did not know what deity wanted" (p. 145).

Please post a 400-word response to Walton's statement. Discuss the importance of revelation to God and the biblical writers. Seek to answer questions like " Was it important for God to reveal himself to mankind? If so, in what ways has God revealed himself? How important was revelation to the prophets who often used the phrase ' Thus says the Lord? "' While sources are not required, you may support your answer from the Bible, your textbooks, or other sources as you see fit. /> I think that it was extremely important for God to reveal himself to mankind because of his desire to remain in fellowship with His creation. From the beginning God sought to have interaction with humanity, this is why He spoke to them this was the beginning of their revelation of who God is.

" The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3: 8). It is through our knowledge and revelation of God that we find out who He is and what He expects of each of us. In scripture we find God revealing himself to us. We find that our disobedience separates us from God, makes us afraid of God, make us want distance between us and God. But God who desires fellowship always

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reaches out to humanity. The Bible has plenty of examples that speak to this fact such as, “ Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59: 2). It is through God’s revelation of himself and his nature that we find our way back to him.

If we didn’t understand how we were disconnected, then we wouldn’t accept Christ to have reconnection. Our salvation and relationship are dependent on God showing us His nature. We have to understand that our God loves but He is just. He loves us but because His character is just he has to allow us to feel the consequences of our sinful nature, but His love offers redemption.

This would not make sense if he hadn’t revealed His nature to us. God revealed himself to creation in many ways. In Exodus 3: 14, God revealed his name to Moses: “ I am who I am. ” God’s name reveals that God is self-existent, self-perpetuating life. The other names of God, found throughout the Bible, offer additional insight into who and what God is. Noah a preacher who warned everyone about the flood also received revelation from God about His expectation for Humankind. Revelation of God was of significant importance to the prophets who claimed to carry messages to the people from God.

Prophets used the phrased, “ Thus says the Lord”, as a means to offer assurance to the people and convince them of whom they have received authority from to give the message. By saying, “ Thus says the Lord”, this guaranteed to the prophet that the people or audience understood that he was speaking on the behalf of a “ High Power’ and not of his own accord.

This was especially important in the Old Testament text because messages often displayed God's anger, wrath, judgment and warnings of things to come. Oftentimes, these messages were connected to promises that could not be carried out by those delivering the message, and so they had to use this phrase as their God stamp.