

Summary

This sermon explores the unity between the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing that God remains unchanged throughout both. The pastor addresses the misconception that God is different between the testaments, explaining that while there are 400 years separating them, God's character remains consistent. The message focuses on how God's promise of redemption, made in the Old Testament, is fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

The central theme revolves around the Incarnation - God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ. Using John 1:14 as the key verse, the pastor explains that Jesus is the promised Redeemer, Rescuer, and Savior who came to earth to save humanity from sin. The sermon emphasizes that Christmas celebrates God taking on human flesh and 'moving into our neighborhood' to accomplish the great work of salvation that was promised throughout the Old Testament.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to see the beautiful unity of Your story from the Old Testament to the New Testament. May we understand more deeply the incredible gift of Jesus, Your Son, who became flesh and dwelt among us. Lord, prepare our hearts to be receptive to Your truth and to encourage one another as we discuss Your Word together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one tradition or celebration from your childhood that made you feel like you were part of something special or meaningful?

Key Verses

1. John 1:14
2. Genesis 1
3. Genesis 2
4. Genesis 3
5. Malachi

Questions

1. Why do you think some people view the God of the Old Testament as different from the God of the New Testament? What evidence can you find that shows God's character remains consistent?

2. How does understanding the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments help us better appreciate the story of redemption?
3. What does it mean to you personally that 'the Word became flesh and lived among us'? How does this impact your relationship with God?
4. The pastor mentioned that Jesus came in 'the most unexpected and unassuming of ways.' Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself through the Incarnation rather than in some other dramatic way?
5. How does the concept of God 'moving into the neighborhood' change your perspective on how God relates to humanity?
6. What are some ways we can see God's love and grace in the Old Testament, and His justice and righteousness in the New Testament?
7. How does understanding that the Bible tells 'one unified story of redemption' affect the way you read and study Scripture?
8. In what ways does the promise-keeping nature of God, as demonstrated through Jesus, give you confidence in other promises God has made?

Life Application

This week, spend time reading one story from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, looking specifically for how they connect to God's plan of redemption. Consider how God's character remains consistent in both passages. Share what you discover with someone in your life who might benefit from understanding God's unchanging nature and His love demonstrated through Jesus.

Key Takeaways

1. God's character and nature remain completely consistent from the Old Testament to the New Testament - He does not change.
2. The Bible tells one unified story of redemption, with the Old Testament containing God's promises and the New Testament showing their fulfillment.
3. Jesus is the promised Redeemer, Rescuer, and Savior who was foretold in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament.
4. The Incarnation - God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ - represents God 'moving into our neighborhood' to accomplish salvation.
5. Christmas celebrates the incredible truth that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time of fellowship and study. We are amazed by the truth that You, the eternal Word of God, became flesh and came to live among us. Help us to live each day with the wonder and gratitude that comes from knowing You personally. As we go from this place, may we carry with us the joy of Your presence and the confidence that comes from Your unchanging character. Help us to share this good news with others who need to know about Your love and salvation. We pray this in the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Savior. Amen.