



Introduction

January 22, 2015

What is the Old Testament?

- Is it a BOOK?
 - *It is the Hebrew Bible, their Scriptures*
- Is it part of a BOOK?
 - *As Jesus came, we see the addition of the New Testament and together they became the Christian Scriptures.*
- Is it a collection of BOOKS?
 - *The OT is a collection of 39 books written by many over a millennium of time.*

But, through all these,

Its readers will find theology – more importantly
GOD. For Example:

- *Its discussion of origins is not about science,
It is about GOD*
- *The presentation of history with facts and
events is not primary in and of itself,
It's concern is with GOD's role.*
- *Rather than thoughts and opinion about God,
The Old Testament is GOD's presentation
of himself and his self revelation to man.*

The OT Big Story / Plotline

CREATION

FALL

FLOOD

TOWER OF BABEL

PATRIARCHS

SOJOURN

EXODUS

WILDERNESS

CONQUEST

JUDGES

UNITED KINGDOM

DIVIDED KINGDOM

EXILE

RETURN

*The
TORAH*

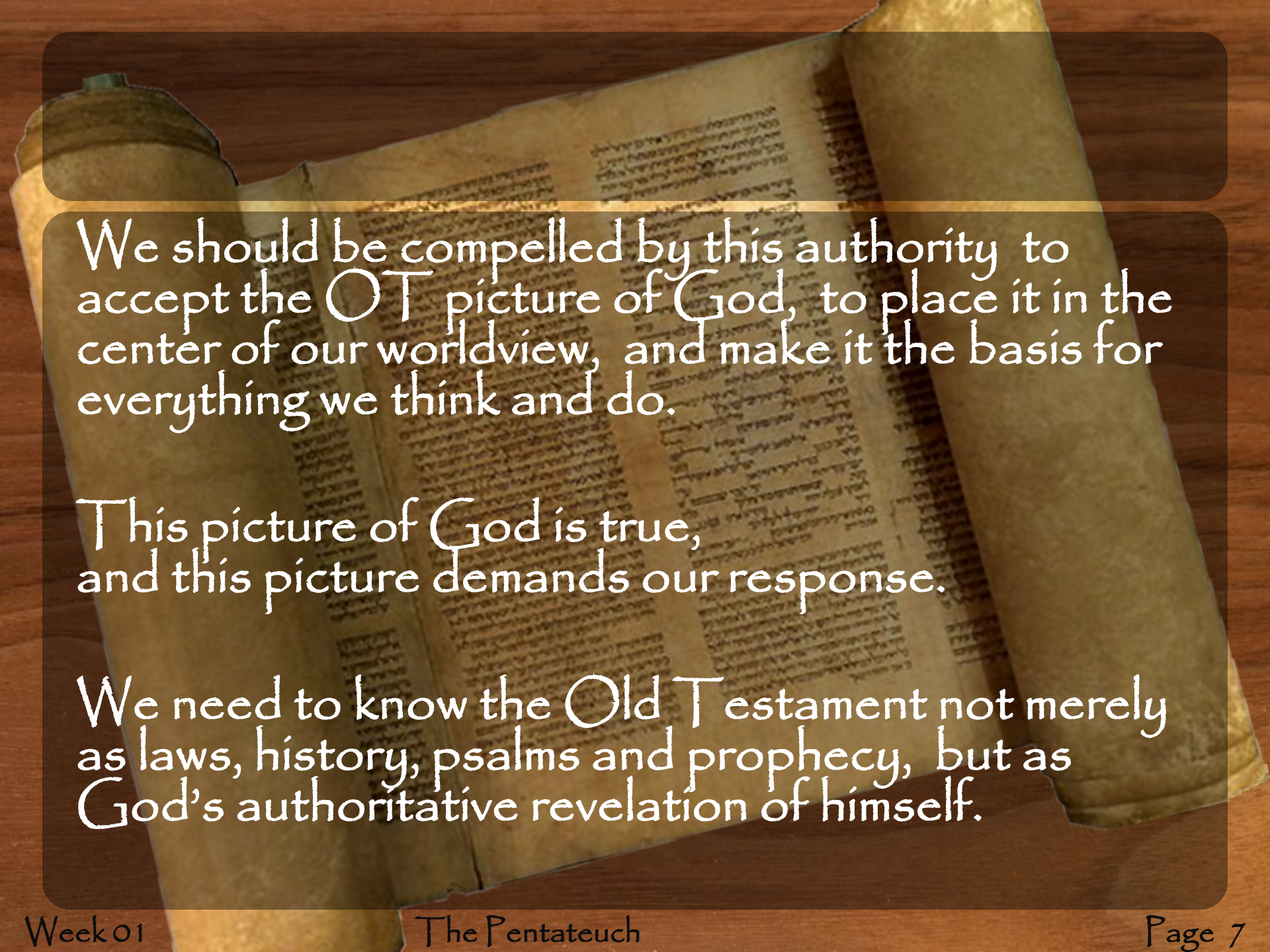
*It's
All
God's
Story*

Tapestry of 36 O&NT scenes from 1500-1550



This Demands a Reorientation:

- As revelation, we are affirming the OT as God's Story to US.
- As we accept this as God's revelation, We label it as scripture as it labels itself.
- As we accept this as God's revelation, We must accept it as authoritative.



We should be compelled by this authority to accept the OT picture of God, to place it in the center of our worldview, and make it the basis for everything we think and do.

This picture of God is true, and this picture demands our response.

We need to know the Old Testament not merely as laws, history, psalms and prophecy, but as God's authoritative revelation of himself.