

## **Old and New Testaments—Witnesses to the Continuity of God’s Purpose and Plan**

\*Just as God’s holiness and love are constant throughout Scripture, so is God’s constant mission to redeem and repair the brokenness of the world.

### **Deep Desires of God’s Heart:**

- \*Garden of Eden
- \*Prophecy of the peaceable kingdom
- \*The New Covenant
- \*Final chapter—the New Jerusalem

### **One other glimpse into God’s desires for us:**

- \*The O.T. Law—tells us how God wants life to be lived individually and communally.
- \*Shows God’s perfect will in an imperfect world.
- \*The Law endeavors to work with flawed and fallen people.
- \*The Law doesn’t pretend there are no enemies but stipulates how enemies should be treated.
- \*The Law doesn’t assume there will be no poor, no widows, no orphans but seeks to guarantee justice and mercy for all of them.
- \*The Law bears witness to God’s desire to redeem—God, who made things right in the beginning continues to want to make things right in the midst of brokenness.
- \*The justice system prescribed in the Law was the divine antidote to what was wrong in society.

### **Justice and Judgment—Distant Cousins**

1. Micah 6:8—do justice and Hosea 5:11—a warning of God’s judgment.
2. The Hebrew word is the same—it applies to the corrective action human beings are expected to take in society (justice) and it applies to the destructive retribution of God (judgment).
3. When human justice fails, divine judgment becomes necessary—this is a theme that pulses through the O.T. prophets.

### **Hebrews 12:5-6 and Revelation 3:19**

- \*Why does God discipline the people he loves?
- \*How is this discipline part of God’s overarching, loving plan for God’s people?

### **Isaiah 43:19 and Revelation 21:5**

- \*What do these verses say about our value to God?

### **The Law bears witness to God’s desire to redeem what is broken rather than discard it.**

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\*Isaiah 42:5-7 and Joel 2:32—how do these verses speak to God’s desire and plan to make everything right?

\*Galatians 3:13-14 and Romans 3:23-24—how do these verses show a continuation of God’s plan and purpose from the O.T.?