

God Restores the Broken  
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There has been a common misunderstanding among Christians and non-Christians for too long. Many feel the Old Testament portrays a God of anger, wrath, and judgment, and it is only in the New Testament that we begin to see a God of love, compassion, and mercy. I have heard people say, "I can believe in the God of the New Testament, but I cannot believe in the God of the Old Testament," as if they are two different deities!

When a person makes this statement, they are admitting their lack of knowledge of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is full of stories, prophecies, and promises that reveal God's nature to us — all of God's nature.

From beginning to end, the Old Testament promises a Messiah who will make right all that is wrong, who will bring peace to the planet, and who will restore all that has been broken by sin and rebellion. This is the God that the Old Testament tells about—a God who takes things that are broken and puts them back together again. Isaiah 65 shows us three areas of our lives where God promises to bring restoration.

*"...so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes."* Isaiah 65:15

If you have a past, a dark past, know that God can and wants to restore you.

Dear God, you are in the restoration business. Heal your broken people. Jesus, you wipe our slate clean through your death and resurrection. I am thankful you are a God who gives second chances. In Jesus' most precious name, Amen.