

Things that God Does to Fulfill His Promises to Abraham: The Father Draws

44) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45) It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— (John 6:44, ESV)

John 6:44 has posed a contentious hermeneutic dispute on the matter of God "drawing." Is this taken literally like drawing a sword or figuratively with a meaning to attract? One approach is to read several translations including the Jewish view, conduct word studies, and see how other biblical examples of God drawing literally or figuratively. Example:

1) "At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."

2) Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, 3) the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jer 31:1-3, ESV)

1) "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."

2) Thus says the LORD, "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness - Israel, when it went to find its rest." 3) The LORD appeared to him from afar, *saying*, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. (Jer 31:1-3, NASB 1995)

30:25) At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.

31:1) So says the Lord: In the wilderness, the people who had escaped the sword found favor; He [therefore] went to give Israel their resting place. 2) From long ago, the Lord appeared to me; With everlasting love have I loved you; therefore have I drawn you to Me with loving-kindness. (Jer 30:25-31:2, Jewish Bible)

Who and how does God draw people to His Son Jesus? What people does God possess?

4) 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Ex 19:4-6, ESV)

38) For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39) And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40) For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

41) So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42) They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (John 6:38-42, ESV)

44) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45) It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— (John 6:44, ESV)

25) Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26) but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29) My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30) I and the Father are one." (John 10:25-30, ESV)

28) Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29) Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." (John 6:28-29, ESV)

Carefully observe the spiritual state of these people who God drew to His Son. Carefully observe the contrast when Jesus is on earth when the New Covenant is introduced and after His resurrection when the New Covenant is in force.

25) Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27) And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28) he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29) "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30) for my eyes have seen your salvation 31) that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32) a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:25-32, ESV)

43) The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44) Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:43-45, ESV)

13) Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14) And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17) And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (Matt 16:13-17, ESV)

1) At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2) a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. 3) About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4) And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5) And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. 6) He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." (Acts 10:1-5, ESV)

30) And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing 31) and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 32) Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' 33) So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

34) So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35) but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36) As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37) you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39) And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40) but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41) not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42) And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43) To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

44) While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45) And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (Acts 10:30-45, ESV)

Question: Is it possible for one to be obedient to the Mosaic Covenant and become an Old Testament Believer today?