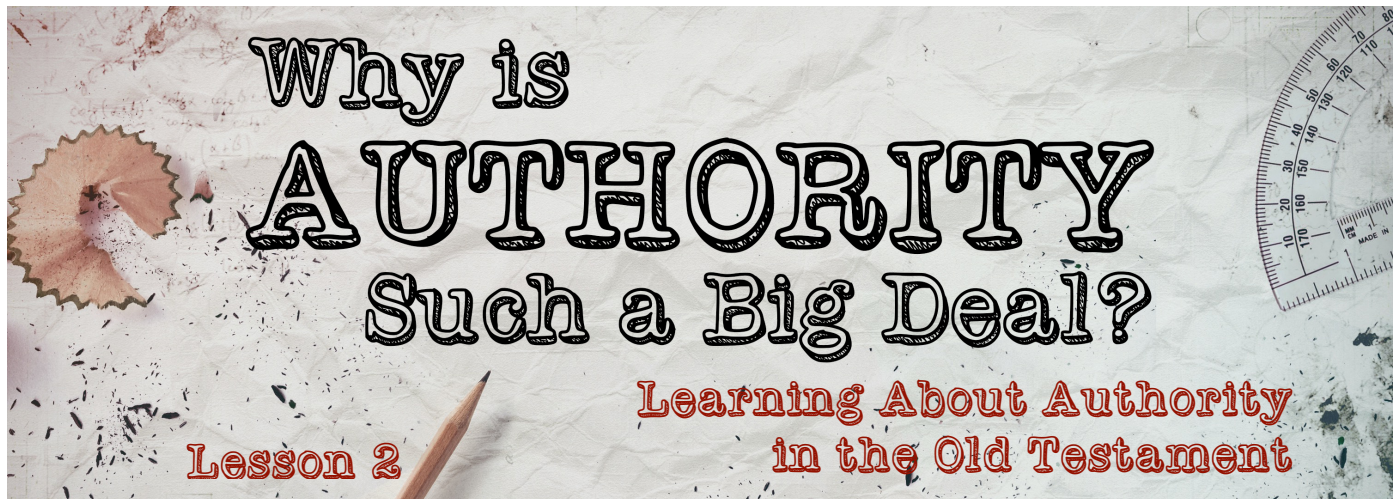




God is the ultimate standard of authority and many examples of men and women who recognized that truth have been preserved in the Old Testament “for our instruction” (Rom 15:4). For instance...

Noah, in Genesis 6:

- Was given the responsibility by God to build an ark (6:14)
- Did all that God commanded him to do (6:22)
- Was preserved by God (7:23; Heb 11:7)

Abel, in Genesis 4:

- Offered the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions as a sacrifice to God (4:4)
- Was regarded as offering “a more acceptable sacrifice” to God than Cain (Heb 11:4)
- Pleased the LORD (4:4)

Abraham, in Genesis 12:

- Was told to leave his country and go to the land that God would show him (12:1)
- Obeded, as the LORD had told him (12:4)
- Was richly blessed and powerfully used by God (Heb 11:12)

But not everyone was willing to submit themselves to God in the Old Testament.

Cain, in Genesis 4:

- Brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground (4:3)
- Did not “do well” (4:7)
- Did not enjoy the regard of God for his offering and was reproved (4:5-7)

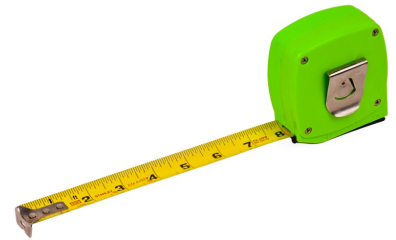
Nadab and Abihu, in Leviticus 10:

- Were assigned the task of offering sacrifices to God with “authorized” fire (Exo 30:9)
- Offered “unauthorized fire before the LORD” (Lev 10:1)
- Were consumed with fire from the LORD (10:2)

A man gathering sticks, in Numbers 15:

- Was to do no work nor kindle a fire on the Sabbath (Exo 20:10; 35:3)
- Gathered sticks on the Sabbath (Num 15:32)
- Was stoned to death by commandment of the LORD (15:35)

In each case, there was some sort of expectation defined by God. People chose to submit to God as the ultimate standard of authority, or they did not. Either way, they enjoyed or suffered the consequences of their actions in light of God’s authority. So what do we need to understand? Let’s talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is the point for disciples of Christ being made in **Romans 15:4**?

- If what “was written in former days was written for our instruction,” what “instruction” should we take away from the example of Noah (**Gen 6**)?

- What “instruction” should we take away from the example of Abel (**Gen 4**)?

- What “instruction” should we take away from the example of Abraham (**Gen 12**)?

- What “instruction” should we take away from the example of Cain (**Gen 4**)?

- What “instruction” should we take away from the example of Nadab and Abihu (**Lev 10**)?

- What “instruction” should we take away from the example of the man gathering sticks (**Num 15**)?

- It might be easy to ask, “Why would something like gathering sticks be such a big deal? Why would God react so harshly?” What sort of answer can you come up with to that good question?

- We’ve noticed a simple pattern in this lesson:
 - Expectations of God
 - Choices and actions of people
 - Consequences of those choices and actions

So what should we take away from this pattern that is repeated over and over again throughout the Old Testament? What do we need to see, understand, and apply?