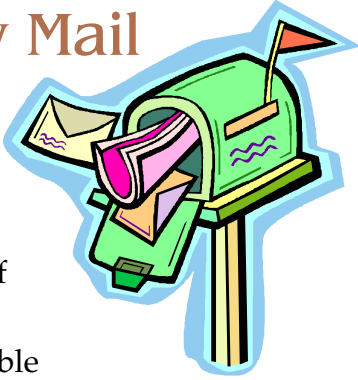


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“In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”
(Hebrews 8:13)

How to View



the Old Testament

Gene Taylor

How to View the Old Testament

God has always made His will known through His word. In previous dispensations, during the Old Testament era, He spoke through prophets (Hebrews 1:1) but in this present age He speaks exclusively through His Son, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Father has given all authority to the Son (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, since Jesus is God's only spokesman today and since He has all authority, all teaching must be "of Christ" if it is to have the proper authority behind it (See 2 John 9-11; 1 Timothy 6:3-5).

From this we must conclude that we are not to be guided today by the law of Moses or any of the other laws found in the Old Testament. The Old Law served its purpose to bring the nation of Israel to Christ (Galatians 3:24-27). Since Jesus fulfilled it (Matthew 5:17), He took it out of the way (Colossians 2:14).

Since God has never had two different laws apply to the same people at the same time, we must look to the "perfect law of liberty," the law given by Jesus (James 1:25).

No practices or doctrines of the Old Law are to be used today to justify what one does in religion. To do so causes one to be severed from Christ and to fall from the grace of God (Galatians 5:4).

Why a Change in Covenant?

The Bible tells us that the old covenant has been changed because:

- Of its weakness (Hebrews 7:18-19; 8:7-9; 9:9).
- A change of priesthood demanded a change in law (Hebrews 7:12). The covenants changed when the priesthood changed. It changed with Jesus who could not have been a priest under the Old Law for He was of the tribe of Judah while priests came from the tribe of Levi (Hebrews 7:13-14).
- The old covenant was only to serve until the "Seed" came (Genesis 22:15-18; Galatians 3:5-19). The "Seed" which was prophesied was Jesus Christ.
- It was only intended to bring the Jews to Christ (Galatians 3:24-27).

The Old Law Abolished Entirely

Some try to say the Ten Commandments were not abandoned. They make a distinction between what they call the *moral law* and the *ceremonial law*. There is no such distinction or division made in the old or new covenants. The Ten Commandments and the covenant are one and the same (See Deuteronomy 9:9-11; 10:4; Exodus 34:28).

The covenant given by God to Moses, written or engraved on stone which also included the Ten Commandments, was:

- Made old (Hebrews 8:13).
- Blotted out (Colossians 2:14).
- Done away (2 Corinthians 3:4-11).
- Abolished (Ephesians 2:13-16).

The Folly of Binding the Old Law

If we attempt to justify practices in religion today by the old covenant, we bind upon ourselves things which:

- Were a ministration of death (2 Corinthians 3:7).
- Were against those who tried to keep it (Colossians 2:14).
- Were faulty (Hebrews 8:7).
- Could not make the worshiper perfect (Hebrews 9:9).
- Cannot produce righteousness (Galatians 2:21).
- Can justify no one (Galatians 2:16; 3:11).
- Are a curse (Galatians 3:10).
- Sever one from Christ (Galatians 5:4).

Our Authority: The New Testament

The New Testament is our authority today because it contains the word of Christ (John 12:48; Hebrews 1:1-2). Since He possesses *all authority* (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23), His words provide all things necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and thoroughly furnish us to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, all is to be done in His name or by His authority (Colossians 3:17). ✠