

What about the Law? (Part 2)

How should Christians view the Law, the 10 Commandments, and the Old Testament?

REVIEW: What is the Old Testament?

Compiled from books of the Hebrew “Bible” as well as additional works not considered “canon”

The Law (Torah) comprises the first five books

The Prophets include books from inspired prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc...)

Historical accounts (Chronicles) and literature/poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, etc.)

- A nation that God chose and redeemed
- A law that God gave to that nation
- The nation’s attempts (and failures) to follow that law
- God’s promises and prophecies regarding that nation and those around it
- How individuals pursued a relationship with God

REVIEW: Is the Old Testament in force today?

- The covenant regards Israel as a distinct, holy people with a distinct law
- The 10 Commandments are inseparable from that law
- If we want to live under parts of the old covenant, we have to accept ALL of it
- Multiple laws can forbid the same thing; that doesn't make them interchangeable
- A people who were not under a covenant to God were given a NEW covenant, not like the one before

As a Christian, I have:

- A different covenant
- A different call to worship
- A different view of ritual, feast days, etc...
- A different leadership structure
- A different path to salvation

Today's lesson:

Of what use is
the law?

How did Jesus use the law?

- Jesus taught continually from the law, because he was under the law
 - He taught principles of the law of Moses (Genesis 2:24, Exodus 3:6, Hosea 6:6)
 - He quoted from the law (Deut. 8:3, 6:13)
 - He cited Old Testament characters as examples (Matt. 12:40, John 8:56-58, Mark 2:25-26)
 - He fulfilled (Psalm 78:2, Zechariah 9:9) and cited (Hosea 10:8, Isaiah 6:9-10, Daniel 9) prophecy
 - He quoted the Psalms extensively (Psalm 8:2, 118:22-23, 26, 110:1)
 - He cited Proverbs (Prov. 8:17, 25:6-7)
- “Not one iota” would pass away until all fulfilled,” Matt. 5:17-18

The apostles didn't stop using it

- Peter, John, Paul, James, Philip, Stephen all taught from the Old Testament
- Paul's letters (Romans, Galatians) quote the law to prove we are no longer under the law
- Peter and James continue to cite Old Testament passages in support of New Testament teaching
- The book of Hebrews bases its argument on applying Old Testament truths
- Revelation continually references themes from Ezekiel and Daniel

Based on Blue Letter Bible research:

Direct quotes: 302

Allusions, references: 493

Possible allusions: 138

**The New Testament refers to
the Old Testament almost a
thousand times!**

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how **from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture** is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. — **2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)**

The OT was vital to the early church

- Those teachings intended to reveal God's plan throughout history
 - Peter: The Old Testament writers "were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you." (I Peter 1:12)
- The first gospel lesson: But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel (Acts 2:15)
- Paul's continued pattern among the Jewish population, Acts 17:2-3, Also Apollos 18:28, Phillip 8:32-35

Why should we study the Old Testament?

1. Timeless moral truths

- Romans 11:32-35 “.... For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” Cited from Isaiah 40:13-14
- Romans 9:19-21 – “... Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Cited from Isaiah 29:16
- Hebrews 12:15-17, 1 Corinthians 10:6 – The dangers of weak character, citing Genesis 25:33, Exodus 32:6
- Galatians 3:11 – “The just shall live by faith,” citing Habakkuk 2:3-4

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2. Parallel concepts

- Romans 10:4-10 – the parallel of righteous by law under Moses and by faith in Christ (Deut. 30:9-16)
 - Who shall ascend to heaven for us?
 - Who shall descend to the depths?
- Hosea 13:12-15 – Paul applies in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 54-56
- “A rest still remains,” Hebrews 4:3-7, cited from Psalm 95:7-11

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3. Prophecies and fulfillment

- Hebrews 10:11-18 – Cited from Jeremiah 31:33-34
 - An imperfect priesthood and imperfect sacrifices required continually repeated offerings
 - Christ's sacrifice fulfills the promise of Jeremiah as the law never could
- Acts 15:15-17 – James cites Amos 9:11-12
- Romans 15:9 – As it is written, “I will praise you among the Gentiles,” citing 2 Samuel 22:50
- How do we know these are fulfillments? Ephesians 3:4-6, 9-10, 2 Corinthians 3:12-16
 - “How can I, except someone teach me?” Acts 8:31

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4. Analogies, deeper meaning

- Hebrews 8:1-5 – “According to the pattern” (From Exodus 25:40) – Why were patterns so important to God?
 - The selection of Isaac and Jacob: Lessons about God’s grace, fulfillment of promise over law, Romans 9:6-9, 10-13, 22-24
 - Galatians 4:30, cited from Genesis 21:10: “Cast out the bondservant.”
- Sometimes more basic principles, 1 Timothy 5:18 and 1 Corinthians 9:9, citing Deuteronomy 25:4

Why should we study the Old Testament?

The OT is vital to maintaining my strength in Christ

- Hebrews 5:7-10 – A description of Jesus' priesthood
- Ch. 5:11-6:3 – The distinction of “milk” and “meat”
- Ch. 6:4-8 – What happens with a “milk-only” diet?
- Ch. 6:11-20 – Does understanding God's promise to Abraham help us?

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul!”

Can I be a New Testament Christian without understanding the Old Testament?

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore **every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven** is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” - Matthew 13:51-52

“Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,” 1 Timothy 1:8