



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

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**"I've noticed the Bible has two sections:
the Old Testament and New Testament.
What are these, and what do they mean?"**

Chuck Northrop

There are three periods of Bible history: the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the New Testament Ages. The Patriarchal and Mosaic Ages are recorded in the Old Testament while the New Testament Age is recorded in the New Testament as the name suggests. Though the Patriarchal Age is recorded in the Old Testament, it is simply an inspired written account of historical events during the time period. Like all of the Old Testament, it was written to the nation of Israel. Basically, it lasted from creation until the receiving of the Law of Moses on Mount Sinai. The Mosaic Age began at the giving of the Mosaic code and ended with the death of Jesus. Thus, the Old Testament records two periods of Bible history but was written to those living under the Mosaic law.

The Old Testament was a covenant made with the children of Israel. Throughout the Patriarchal Age, God prophesied of a covenant He would make with the descendants of Abraham. He revealed He would make of him a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3). This is what is often referred to as the Nation-Land promise. Later, the promise was renewed to Isaac, Abraham's son through Sarah (Genesis 26:1-4), and to Jacob (Genesis 28:3-14) who was given the name Israel. Thus, the Patriarchal Age is the history of events which led to the establishment of the nation of Israel.

The Old Testament was written to descendants of Israel and was never intended for all men to follow. The first five books of the Old Testament are often referred to as the Law because it was God's law given through Moses to the children of Israel (Exodus 19:3-6). Its purpose was to govern them as a theocratic nation.

However, within the pages of the Old Testament, a new and better way was prophesied and promised. This was the New Testament Age. Thus, the Old Testament was the schoolmaster which led to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Because it leads men to Christ, it revealed Him and His kingdom through prophecy. Many of the identifying marks of Christ such as His virgin birth, birthplace, home, forerunner, and death are revealed in the Old Testament. These identifying marks clearly identified Him when He came into this world. In addition, many identifying characteristics of His kingdom are also found within the pages of the Old Testament such as the city in which the Messianic kingdom would be established, a basic time frame (i.e. during the days of the Roman Empire), and the nature of His kingdom such as its peaceable quality.

Unlike the Old Testament, the New Testament was written for all men to follow. After His death, Jesus exhorted His disciples to go "into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). After being God's chosen nation for so many years, this was hard for many of the descendants of Abraham to understand and accept. After a vision, Peter went to the Gentile Cornelius and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35).

Just as the Old Testament was God's law to Israel given through Moses, the New Testament is God's law for all men given through His Son Jesus Christ. Thus, Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15; 12:24) which came into force after His death (Hebrews 9:16-17) and took the old law out of effect (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14). Therefore, to return to the Law of Moses is to make Christ's sacrifice of no value. If a person can have forgiveness of sins without the death of Christ, then Christ suffered for no reason. Paul said, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

What does all this mean? It means we live under the New Testament and must obey its precepts and promises. Though the Old Testament still serves a purpose (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11), the New Testament "is of force" because the Testator, Jesus Christ, died (Hebrews 9:17) and established a new law — the law of Christ.

Are you living according to the law of Him who died for you? If we can help you in your obedience, please let us know. □

The Plain and Simple Truth!

Jack H. Williams

“And now why tarriest though? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” – Acts 22:16

In speaking of the passage above, Marshall Keeble stated, “A man is not saved and then baptized. A woman doesn’t wash clothes because they are already clean. I’ve seen a lot of smart women, but not that smart. She washes the clothes because they are dirty. Man is baptized because he’s dirty and needs to be cleaned.”

That statement demonstrates the simplicity of the Bible as well as the value of logical thinking in studying God’s Word. Marshall Keeble was a plain-spoken gospel preacher who used such simple illustrations and logic to teach God’s word. It is said that Marshall engaged in a debate regarding the same question of baptism’s necessity as the above statement speaks of. The following is reported to be part of the exchange during that debate:

Marshall got up, opened his Bible and read Mark 16:16: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Then he sat down.

His opponent got up and went into a long spell of explaining why Mark 16:16 didn’t mean what it said.

When it was his turn again, Keeble stood up, looked in his Bible for a moment, read the verse again then said, “Yep, it still says the same thing.” Then he sat back down.

This reminds us of another oft heard statement: “God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!” I remember years ago hearing a preacher make that statement. But before anyone could say an “amen” he said, “don’t you dare amen that statement!” He then went on to explain, “God said it and that settles it! It doesn’t matter whether I or any other man believes it — it is true because God said it.”

It is sad that the religious world doesn’t accept such clear logic when studying God’s Word.

Observations and Concerns

August 16, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are grateful you have decided to visit us today.

Praise in Psalm: “Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power” (Psalm 21:13).

Declaration of Appreciation: To God we give thanks “seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25).

Summer Series — This evening’s speaker is Jesse Dickison. He is the local preacher for the Lee and Walnut church in Sapulpa. His topic is “Blessed Is the Man That Endureth Temptation” (James 1:12).

Please check the sign up sheets in the hallway. There are several opportunities to serve, including teaching, preaching, and building cleaning.

Remember in Prayer:

- Jim Allison has a spot on his lung and will have a biopsy soon. It was good to have him with us last Sunday.
- Dan Dennis is scheduled to have his port removed August 18th at St. John’s Medical Center.
- Mary Hass had knee replacement surgery earlier this week.
- Betty Jackson, sister-in-law of Doyle and Dicie and daughter-in-law of Walter, fell recently. She is out of rehab and staying with her son.
- Mark Odell, cousin of Nelda Hudson, is at a rehab center recovering from a fall.
- Fred Phillips has been moved to a hospice center in Tulsa.

Our Gospel Meeting with Landon Rowell is September 10–14, 2023. Theme: Renewed Christians.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Aug. 16	Sunday, Aug. 20 AM
			Sunday, Aug. 20 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Hayden Praschnik
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Ross Swearingen
	Lord’s Supper		Chris Nelson
	Lesson	Jesse Dickison	Bill Dilks
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik