

THE OLD, NEW, OR BOTH?

(Galatians 3:19-25)

I. The purpose of the Old Testament.

- a. The Old Testament, or Law of Moses as it is called in Nehemiah 8:1, was to govern the lives of the Jews (Exodus 34:27).
- b. It was to govern them morally, doctrinally, but also nationally.
 - i. We have the Constitution to govern the U.S.
 - ii. They had the Law of Moses to govern them as a nation, because Israel was a theocracy, a nation governed by God.
- c. This law was only for the Jews (Deuteronomy 5:2 – made a covenant with us).
- d. Paul tells us one of the purposes of the Law was to make sin known to the Jews (Romans 7:7).
 - i. The Law made Jews aware of their sin.
 - ii. Paul said he wouldn't have known it was a sin to lust unless the Law was present to tell him.
 - iii. Notice Romans 3:20.
 - iv. If there had been no law, there would have been no sin (Romans 5:13).
- e. Also, the Law served to bring people to Christ (Galatians 3:24).
 - i. By pointing out sin, it showed the need for a Savior.
 - ii. The Law was not to serve the purpose of saving man.
 - iii. It was impossible for the sacrifices of the Law to do that (Hebrews 10:4).
- f. These verses show us that the Old Testament served two very important purposes: to make man aware of sin and to bring man to Christ.

II. The period of the Old Testament.

- a. The day that Moses came off the mount from receiving the Law, his face shone (Exodus 34:29ff).
 - i. This scared the people of Israel.
 - ii. So, every time he spoke to them, til his face appeared normal again, wore a veil over his face.
- b. But notice what Paul, by inspiration had to say about this event (2 Corinthians 3:7-13).
 - i. Three times in these verses reference is made to the Law of Moses being done away with at some point.
 - ii. The idea is that the Law of Moses was only for a certain period of time.
- c. Galatians 3:19 tells us the ending point of the Law of Moses.
 - i. It was to last til the seed came.
 - ii. Verse 16 tells us Who the seed was that was to come - Jesus.
- d. The Old Law was never intended to be permanent.
- e. Instead, it was to bring man to Christ and His ability to save (Galatians 3:24-29).

III. The promise of a New Testament

- a. The thing that many miss is that the Law of Moses, the Old Testament, was never meant to be permanent.
- b. Jeremiah 31:31ff.
 - i. Long ago, God told the Jews that there would be a new covenant, or testament, between Him and His people.
 - ii. It would be different in that, under the new covenant, there would be no more remembrance of sin.
 - iii. All the Old Testament sacrifices did was remind God's people of their sin (Hebrews 10:1-3).
- c. We know this promise was fulfilled because of what we read in Hebrews 8:6ff.
- d. Jesus talked about His relationship with the Old Law (Matthew 5:17).
 - i. Jesus said He was not simply destroying the Law.
 - ii. Instead, He fulfilling it or completing it.
 - iii. The reason He could say this is that the Law was in place to bring men to Him, He was the fulfillment of the Law.
- e. God never intended for the Old Testament to remain in place and had let the Jews know that such was the case.

IV. The performance of the change.

- a. The Old Testament was put in place to make men aware of their sin and to bring them to Christ.
- b. It was only intended to last until Christ came and the Jews had been promised that there was going to be a change.
- c. The question comes then, when was the change performed?
- d. The New Testament makes this very clear:
 - i. Colossians 2:14.
 - ii. Ephesians 2:15.
 - iii. This was done when Jesus was crucified on the cross.
- e. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and said that His blood was the blood of the New Testament and was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).
- f. The change took place at His death (Hebrews 9:16-17).
- g. The fact is that Jesus took away the first, the Old, and replaced it with the second, the New (Hebrews 10:9).
- h. The fact is, you and I have been delivered from the Old Law when we came to Christ (Romans 7:1-6).
- i. The book of Hebrews points out that there had to have been a change in covenants because we have a new:
 - i. Priesthood - from Aaron to Jesus (Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:11-14).
 - ii. Sacrifice – from continual sacrifices to the sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 10:1, 10-12).
- j. It is important to understand there was a change because it shows we can't find authority in the Old Testament.

- i.** There is a New Testament example of this.
- ii.** The apostles showed that Old Testament authority is not valid in the way they dealt with circumcision.
- iii.** There were Jewish converts who were teaching that Gentile converts needed to be circumcised.
- iv.** The apostles put an end to this idea when they stated that they had given no such commandment (Acts 15:22-29).