

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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PART 7: THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE

SECOND COVENANT

God the Father took the initiative to restore a broken relationship between humanity and Himself through Jesus Christ. Everything involved in salvation and reconciliation originates entirely from God.

The second covenant came into existence 4,149 years after Adam. It is perfect because it was established between God the Father and God the Son.

God the Father reconciled us to Himself by Christ and has given Christians the ministry of reconciliation – the duty of helping others find the same peace.

God the Son became the Messiah, reconciling humanity back to God the Father. Mankind's only participation is accepting the work of Jesus on the cross.

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Jesus is the only path to heaven and God the Father. The redemption provided by the Son of God is the only way to enter into the second covenant.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

Entering the second covenant requires a spiritual rebirth through the power of the Holy Spirit, also known as the new birth.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (John 3:3-7)



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIS LAWS

There is no higher or greater authority than Jesus and He affirmed the enduring authority of the Mosaic Law, showing that He came to complete and fulfill its purpose, not to destroy it. True righteousness honors and upholds God's commandments, reflecting their continuing moral and spiritual significance.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-19)

To fully understand what Jesus said, it is necessary to know the theological leaders of Israel at the time of Christ had divided the Old Testament into three categories.

1. The Law
2. The Prophets
3. The Writings

Jesus clearly accepted this division when He stated had not come to destroy the Mosaic Law, or the writings of the prophets, but to fulfill their intent.

The Law (Torah) consists of the first five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These contain God's commandments, the creation account, covenants, and the foundation of Israel's faith and law.

The Prophets consist of the historical and prophetic books such as Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve Minor Prophets. These record Israel's history under God's covenant, messages of warning, judgment, and hope from God's prophets.

The Writings consist of the poetic, wisdom, and additional historical books like Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ruth, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. These express worship, wisdom, and reflections on life and faith under God.

The Torah was further divided into three sections:

1. The Moral Law
2. The Practical Law
3. The Sacrificial Law

These divisions help distinguish what was fulfilled in Christ from what remains as timeless moral truth. Jesus fulfilled the Sacrificial Law when He became the perfect and final sacrifice on the cross. But according to the Son of God, the other laws are still in effect. The Mosaic Law never saved anyone, and a Christian does not keep the law to be saved, but because he is saved.

A SOLEMN REMINDER

The Godhead shows no partiality. God does not favor one nation over another, and anyone who respects the divine laws and does what is right is accepted by Him. Salvation and acceptance is open to all people, regardless of ethnicity or background, as long as they revere God and live righteously according to His will.

“Then Peter opened his mouth, 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)

“For there is no respect of persons with God.” (Romans 2:11)

The Son of God never changes. His character, truth, power, and love remain constant through all time. The Creator and God of the Old Testament continues to work in the present and will remain forever faithful.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Jesus judged the people of Israel harshly – albeit fairly – and He will judge the Christians in the same manner.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31)

It is foolhardy and downright stupid for Christians to think that they can blatantly ignore the laws given by Jesus and not face any consequences. It doesn't matter what you believe; the curse will come and judgment will be meted out if you violate the divine spiritual laws.

God affirmed through the prophet Malachi of His unchanging character and called Israel to repentance for robbing Him through their neglect of tithes and offerings. Their disobedience brought judgment, but God's mercy still invites them to return to Him.

“And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...”
(Deuteronomy 28:13-15)

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God?

Yet ye have robbed me.

But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?

In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Malachi 3:6-9)

Breaking a divine spiritual law puts the person under the curse of God. The only way to break the curse involves repentance. Ask for forgiveness, renounce the sinful action, and break the curse in Jesus' name. No demons can be cast out until you have repented and lined up with the Word of God!

SUMMARY

The Old Testament is essential for understanding the Mosaic Law because it reveals Jesus as the Creator, Lawgiver, and covenant-maker long before His incarnation.

Jesus is the God of the Old Testament who established both the physical and spiritual laws that govern creation. He gave the Mosaic Law to Israel at Sinai, not as a means of salvation, but as a covenant standard of holiness, justice, and right living.

The Old Testament shows how God progressively revealed His covenants – from Adam to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and finally Moses – each building toward the need for atonement and pointing forward to Christ.

The Mosaic Law exposes sin, defines blessings and curses, and demonstrates humanity's need for a Redeemer. While Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial aspect of the law through His death, the moral and practical dimensions still reveal God's unchanging character and expectations for His people.

The Old Testament is the foundation for understanding Jesus' mission, the seriousness of sin, and the necessity of the New Covenant. If the Mosaic Law and the Old Testament prophets were important to Jesus, how important should they be to you?

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Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?