

Looking at the Old Testament?

Introduction

- 1. Our Bible is divided into the Old Testament and New Testament.**
 - A. Today, we are under the law of Christ – the New Testament.**
 - B. What should our attitude be toward the Old Testament.**
- 2. It is helpful for us to understand some basic facts concerning the Old Testament of God.**
- 3. In this lesson we will briefly look at the following aspects of the Old Testament:**
 - A. What is the Old Testament?**
 - B. Whom did the Old Testament apply?**
 - C. When did the Old Testament apply?**
 - D. Where did the Old Testament apply?**
 - E. How did the Old Testament apply?**
 - F. Why did the Old Testament apply?**

What Is the Old Testament?

- 1. The Old Testament amounted to “commandments contained in ordinances.” It was a set of rules.**

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

- 2. Even more than that, it consisted of “the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms”, so it was law, prophecy, and poetry, among other things.**

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

- 3. When the commandments are considered, it must be understood that more than the Ten Commandments were involved.**

Deuteronomy 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' "

- 4. Christ brought “grace and truth” where the law is lacking!**

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Whom Did the Old Testament Apply To?

1. The Old Testament was addressed to the Israelites in particular.

Malachi 4:4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb **for all Israel**, With the statutes and judgments.

Psalms 78:5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And **appointed a law in Israel**, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should **make them known to their children**;

2. It applied to foreigners only if they chose to dwell in Israel.

Exodus 12:49 One law shall be for the native-born **and for the stranger who dwells among you.**"

3. Gentiles were exempt from that law and would be judged separately.

Acts 14:16 who in bygone generations **allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.**

Romans 2:14 for when Gentiles, **who do not have the law**, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

4. However, God did have expectations of Gentiles.

A. Otherwise, prophets would never have been sent to Edom or Nineveh, people who needed to repent of sin. (Book of Obadiah)

Jonah 1:1-2 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and **cry out against it**; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

5. Because the Gentiles sinned, they must have been accountable to some law from God.

A. It just wasn't the one He issued to the Israelites.

Romans 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

6. Christ now has universal authority.

A. Jews and Gentiles alike must respond to the gospel message of Christ.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth".

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

When Did the Old Testament Apply?

1. Despite the common presumption that the Old Testament begins at Genesis 1:1, it clearly did not begin until the time of Moses in the book of Exodus.

A. "It was added" means it didn't start from the beginning.

Deuteronomy 5:3 The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.

Galatians 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

**2. The Old Testament anticipated its own termination, foretelling “a New Covenant”; that is to say: TO BE CONTINUED.
Jeremiah 31:31-34**

3. The regulations under that Covenant would last only “until the time of reformation.”

Hebrews 9:9-10 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience — concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

4. Christ’s death put the final nail in the coffin of that former Covenant.

A. Whereas Christ was put to death on the cross and rose to live again, the Old Testament was put to death on the cross.

B. It now remains to the present day, never to be revived

Colossians 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

5. In the end, it will be the words of Jesus that Judges every soul.

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Where Did the Old Testament Apply?

1. **When it was applicable, it applied to the Israelites everywhere, even the captives in Babylon.**

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as was his custom since early days.**

2. **For centuries, Jerusalem was central to the Covenant of God.**

Psalm 122

3. **After Christ came, no one location would excel any other.**

John 4:20-23 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will **neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.** You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, **when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;** for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

How Did the Old Testament Apply?

1. **It applied very strictly!**
 - A. **However, today it would be worse to forsake the superior Testament of Jesus Christ.**
Hebrews 10:26-31
2. **The Old Testament applied through the instruction of parents to their children because it was specifically intended for the house of Israel.**
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

3. Although parental instruction toward their young remains important, the need to teach goes much further now than the family.

A. We must share the gospel of Christ worldwide.

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Why Did the Old Testament Apply?

1. It served to foreshadow what would be in Christ's Covenant.

Colossians 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

2. It identified sin and arranged according to a plan of righteousness, so that the need for salvation in Christ could be understood by all.

Galatians 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:23-24 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

