

Are You Heaven Bound? By David J. Riggs

It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure. You might gather about you great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a single friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life has been a marvelous success.

You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. It is the place of eternal rest (**Heb. 4:9-11**) where pain, sickness, and death will not be known (**Rev. 21:4**). It is an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away (**1 Pet. 1:4**). It is that city built by the living God (**Heb. 11:10**).

to the will of God (**Matt. 7:21**). Let His Word guide you (**2 Tim. 3:15**) and let no one beguile you or your reward (**Col. 2:18**). Overcome temptations (**James 1:12**) and suffer for His cause with rejoicing (**Matt. 5:11-12**). If you do these things, heaven will be yours someday for the God of heaven who cannot lie has promised it.

I quote a few words from some of our songs: "I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade." "I am bound for the promised land, promised land, I am bound for the promised land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've now less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Credit: oakridgechurch.com/riggs ♦

You don't have to miss heaven. Humbly submit yourself

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**
- Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**
- Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**
- Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**
- Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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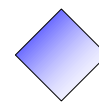


Schedule of Assembly

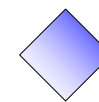
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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The Voice of Truth



March 6, 2011

The Great Day That Is Coming By Jimmy Pettigrew

There are various kinds of days. There are important personal days: birthdays, marriage, anniversaries. There are important days set forth in the Bible. The Israelites had significant days: Passover and Sabbath. The "first day of the week" is a significant day for the Christian (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**). The "Day of the Lord" is the great day that's coming! Men must prepare now for the day of the Lord. Death is not the end of life because there is a great day coming (**John 5:28-29**).

The Lord's return is a sure promise (**2 Peter 3:9; John 14:1-3**). The "day of the Lord" will come as a "thief," unexpectedly, suddenly (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10**). There are no "ifs, ands, or buts" about the Lord's second coming. When Jesus comes "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt -with fervent heat" (**2 Peter 3:10**). God, by the power of His word, brought all material things into existence (**Genesis 1:1**). When He wills His creation to cease, it shall do so! The physical heavens, at Christ's second coming, along with "...the elements..." "and "...the earth..." "will, by fire be consumed. The material universe shall be destroyed.

In view of the sure promise of Christ relative to His coming and the end of the world "what manner of persons ought ye to be?" (**2 Peter 3:11**):

- (1) People of faith (**1 Peter 1:5-9**).
- (2) Obedient people (**1 Peter 1:22-23**).
- (3) Holy people (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).
- (4) Diligent people (**2 Peter 1:10**).

The wise man wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," (**Proverbs 29:18**). Unless you know where you want to go, you are not likely to get there! We must "watch" (**Matthew 24:42**), and "be ready" (**Matthew 24:44**). ♦

ARE YOU BREAKING YOUR VOWS???

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There is a strange, peculiar and bewildering disease that is spreading among God's children today! It strikes Sunday afternoon and is cured by Thursday morning. This disease is called "LUKEWARM-NESS". This lukewarmness makes my Lord sick (**Revelation 3:16**).

We in the Lord's church are not totally committed to the Lord. Brethren, we become married to Christ when we obey the gospel. It is then that we become a part of His bride, the church (**Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2**). We then make solemn marriage vows, and they must not be broken. If we neglect these vows for just a moment we deny the Lord and "If we deny him, he also will deny us," (**2 Timothy 2:12**)

As Christians, we have solemnly promised the Lord that we will ever be faithful in all our duties as a part of the bride - we must not break these vows. But, sadly many of my brethren and sisters who would not think of breaking the vows they made to their earthly companions think very little of breaking the vows they made when they became married to Christ. Many, after making vows to the Lord, break them! HOW?

- (1) By forsaking the assembly (**Hebrews 10:25**).
- (2) By loving the things of this world (**1 John 2:15-17**).
- (3) By not seeking and saving the lost (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
- (4) By not putting the Kingdom of God first (**Matthew 6:33**).
- (5) By not adding to your faith (**2 Peter 1:5-11**).
- (6) By burying thy talent (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- (7) By not redeeming the time (**Ephesians 5:15-16**).
- (8) By not giving attendance to reading, meditating, study (**1 Timothy 4:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:15**).
- (9) By not having a saving influence (**Matthew 5:14-16**).
- (10) By not presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy to God (**Romans 12:1**).

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I know that you could think of many more ways we break our vows to our Lord. Have you faithfully kept your

"The Proper Use Of The Old Testament"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Sometimes we are asked what purpose the Old Testament Scriptures serve. Sadly, some do not see the importance of studying the Old Testament at all. Friends, there is a purpose and place and a proper use of the Old Testament Scriptures. Let us find out what it is.

The Old Testament Scriptures Are Not Binding On Us.

If what we are doing is based upon the Old Testament law, we need to rethink our practice. The Bible clearly teaches that the Old Testament law was taken away and replaced by the New Testament law. This was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34, and fulfilled after Christ died on the cross. II Corinthians 3:6-17 says this law was "done away", "abolished", and "taken away" in Christ. Ephesians 2:11-16 plainly teaches that the Jews and Gentiles are brought together in Christ under the New Testament teachings, and not the Old. The apostle Paul uses the marriage relationship to explain that the old law is gone, and we today are under a new law (Rom. 7:1-6). Further, Colossians 2:14-17 teaches that the Old Testament was nailed to the cross. The book of Hebrews, in fact, was written to show the superiority of the New Testament over the Old (Heb. 7:12-14; 9:15-17; 10:1-10).

No, we are not "bound" by the Old Testament today, and in fact, if we wish to be justified by the Old Testament, we are fallen from grace (Gal. 5:1-4). Let us make sure we are not binding something that God has not bound! Even though these Scriptures are not what we are under today, the Old Testament still produces much good in the lives of people today. For example ...

The Old Testament Scriptures Prove The Deity Of Jesus.

In a time when many deny the divinity of Jesus while upon this earth, the Old Testament points out the folly in that teaching. "The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (Jn. 1:43-45). Philip knew the Old Testament prophecies pointed to

vows? Have you been true to the Great Bridegroom? May I implore you to live true to your Lord. Christ died for us; let us serve him faithfully until the end (Revelation 2:10). ♦

Christ, and when he saw Jesus, he knew He was the fulfillment of those prophecies! Jesus said, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Lk. 24:44). Jesus also challenged the people to, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (Jn. 5:39). What Scriptures were extant at that time? Later, Peter taught Cornelius that the prophets gave witness to Jesus in Acts 10:43. Other passages to consider would be: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, and Micah 5:2 to name a few. Yes, the Old Testament declares the deity of Jesus Christ in no uncertain terms.

The Old Testament Scriptures Teach Us About Faithfulness.

Please read Hebrews 11. In this chapter, we see great faith heroes who gave up their lives, their fortunes, the praise of men, etc., in order to please God and receive that "city" God has prepared for them. We see people like Abraham, whom God said willingly offered his son as a sacrifice when he was told to offer him (Gen. 22:1-13; Heb. 11:8-19). Job as well stands out as a man of great patience during his hardship on earth (Job; Jas. 5:11). Elijah teaches us to have courage when it seems like we are the only ones serving God (I Kings 18). Noah obeyed God when the world rejected God (Gen. 6:22). These great heroes, and many more not named in this article, demonstrated faith, obedience, patience and courage. We would do ourselves a favor by reading these biographies in the Old Testament and trying to be like these faith heroes.

The Old Testament Scriptures Give Us Hope.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). The Old Testament stands out because of the comfort and hope that is provided through the words recorded there. As an example of this, consider the hope and comfort provided when we see how God keeps His promises in the

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Old Testament. For example, I Kings 8:56 says, "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."

Joshua 23:14 also stands out as a passage that shows us that God keeps His word. Let us read it together. "And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Rest assured, when God promises something, He will carry it out! There is great hope in the fact that God keeps every promise He makes.

Therefore, as we see God keeping His promises in the Old Testament, we are assured God will keep His promises today! God has not changed! (Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17; Rev. 1:8)

The Old Testament Scriptures Warn Of The Consequences Of Disobedience.

In I Corinthians 10:1-13, the apostle Paul reminds the brethren of several instances where certain people of the Old Testament were punished. Some were punished for not pleasing God (v. 5). Others for lusting and idolatry (v. 6-7). Many were punished for fornication (v. 8). The tempting of Christ brought serpents upon the people (v. 9). The people who murmured against God were also punished (v. 10). These people are just a few who stand out as examples of the punishment God will bring upon those who are disobedient (v. 11-12).

We see another occasion where Old Testament people were named as having suffered God's punishment due to their disobedience. In Jude 5-7, 11 we read several references to Old Testament people that were punished for disobedience. Please read the following carefully. "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire...Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." Hebrews 10:26-31 is another example of a New Testament passage that shows us that by looking to those who died for despising Moses' law, we will see the fate of those who refuse the law of Christ. Yes, there are consequences for disobedience! "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...?" (Heb. 2:3).

The Old Testament Scriptures Help Us Understand The New Testament.

To make this statement above is to state the obvious. Please read Luke 17:32. How will we ever understand this passage if we do not have Genesis 19 to read? When we read passages like Matthew 19:4-6 which refer to our creation, how could we comprehend these if we do not have Genesis 1-2? Luke 4:25-27 is meaningless if we do not have a knowledge of I Kings 17:9-24 and II Kings 5! The book of Hebrews can be confusing if we do not have a background in the Old Testament. In fact, the entire book of Revelation becomes difficult to comprehend if we do not have a grasp of the Old Testament. This book has no less than 200 Old Testament citations and references! It should be apparent that my point is not that one must know the Old Testament to be saved (Mk. 16:16). Yet, a knowledge of the Old Testament is essential if we are to fully appreciate and comprehend the New Testament.

Conclusion

The 4000 years of history contained in the Old Testament show us that God and His word are steadfast. We cannot afford to take God's word lightly! While the Old Testament may not be binding on us, it certainly has many lessons to teach us. Let us all learn to study and respect the Old Testament in a hope of better understanding the New Testament. Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦