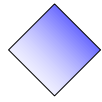


The Voice of Truth



September 29, 2013

Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part XI

By Jimmy Pettigrew

This will be the last article concerning Denominationalism verses the Bible. We will examine some of the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Adventists. As one examines Seventh-Day Adventism it becomes obvious that they espouse many doctrines which are contrary to God's Word. Perhaps the best known Adventist doctrine is that of Sabbath keeping. They believe that the Sabbath is the day on which Christians should worship. They believe a time will come when all will be enlightened on the Sabbath, and those who persist in Sunday worship will receive the mark of the beast and be damned. They sincerely believe the papacy or Roman Catholic faith corrupted Sabbath worship to Sunday worship on the first day of the week. However, Christians worshipped on Sunday and that is the teaching of the New Testament.

We first knew that the Old Testament was going to be done away because of prophecy. Notice **Jeremiah 31:31-32**, God said through Jeremiah, "*Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith Jehovah*". So there was to be a New Covenant. Then in the book of Hebrews we read that the old law was done away and **Jeremiah 31:31** is used, "*For if that first (covenant) had been faultless, then would no place have been sought for a second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, That I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers In the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt; For they continued not in my covenant, And I regarded them not, saith the Lord*" (**Heb. 8:7-9**). In **Hebrews 7:18-19**, the law, was disannulled, done away, nailed to the cross (**Col. 2:14**). That being true, we are under the New Covenant today. The old, which contains Sabbath worship, is clearly done away.

One way the Seventh-Day Adventists seek to answer all this is to claim that the ceremonial law was done away, but the moral law or the Ten Commandments were not done away. But the Bible makes no distinction between moral law and ceremonial law. Notice what Paul says, "*But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that wherein we were held; so that we serve in newness of the spirit, and not in oldness of the letter*" (**Rom. 7:6**). When Paul said we were discharged from the law, did he mean some type of "ceremonial law?" Again, notice what Paul says, "*What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Howbeit, I had not known sin, except through the law: for I had not known coveting, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet*" (**Rom. 7:7**). He says in that law he learned, the law we were discharged from in **verse 6**, "*Thou shalt not covet.*" That law on coveting, you will notice, is not part of any ceremonial law. It is one of the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20:17**) just as is keeping the Sabbath. So the law which we are discharged, is specifically the Ten Commandments. The law is done away in Christ.

Today the day in which to worship is Sunday, the first day of the week. It is the day on which Christ was raised from the death (**John 20**). It is the day which Christians met to take the Lord's Supper and commemorate the body and the blood of the Lord (**Acts 2:42; 20:7**).

These people (Seventh-Day Adventists) claim to accept the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice. But, we are told that Ellen G. White's writings "are wise, trustworthy counsels that are in harmony with scripture. Adventists believe that Mrs. White's writings are the only infallible source of Bible interpretation. "Allegedly, her writings are a lesser light that lead men to the greater light." Adventists interpret the Bible by the writings of Mrs. White. Arthur L. White the grandson, presented ways in which Ellen G. White is superior to the Bible (1978). He said: "As Seventh-Day Adventists we are uniquely fortunate in approaching

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this question. We are not left to find our way, drawing our conclusions only from writings penned 19 centuries and more ago, which have come down to us through varied transcriptions and translations. Concerning inspiration, with us is an almost contemporary matter, for we have had a prophet in our midst. What is more, rather than having in our possessions only relatively short documents or a handful of letters, as is the case with the extant records of the Bible prophets, we have the full range of Ellen G. White writings penned through a period of 70 years, embodying her published books, her 4,600 periodical articles, and her manuscripts, letters, and diaries. . . Further, she wrote in a modern language, so a large number of people today can study her writings in the original language, without needing to depend on a translation. Rarely, too, is it necessary to depend upon a transcription." Mrs. White stated concerning her writings by inspiration in the Review and Herald, June 14, 1906, "Who steadied my right hand, and made it possible for me to use a pen? It was the Lord." Without doubt she was claiming inspiration

for herself. An article in Ministry (October 1981) says, "We believe the revelation and inspiration of both the Bible and Ellen G. White's writings to be of equal quality. The superintendence of the Holy Spirit was just as careful and thorough in one case as in the other." These people claim to accept the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, RIGHT!? No person speaks for God and Christ today! We have been given "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (**Jude 3**). We do not need a "latter day" revelation.

Pre-millennialism is another doctrine of the Seventh-Day Adventism. Seventh-Day Adventism is one of the largest religious bodies in the world. They have well over two million members. We need to know their teachings, so we can expose this false doctrine.

I hope that you enjoyed these articles dealing with other faiths. I hope you learned something from them. We have a responsibility to expose and refute error (**Eph. 5:11**), wherever it is found. For this we make no apologies.♦

"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 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

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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 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

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Conclusion

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.

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: The Old Paths - 2/20/11 ♦

THINK! THINK! THINK!

Most people believe in life after death, and the majority of these believe that they are destined to enjoy the pleasures of heaven. There is, however, something that should worry those people. Hebrews 9:27 declares, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Voltaire, the noted French atheist, spent his life lecturing and writing about his disbelief in the almighty, yet is quoted as saying with his final breath, "Oh, God, if there is a God, have pity on my soul, if I have a soul." The term "judgment" as introduced in the scripture means that there is going to be a dividing of one group of people from the other. It is easy to decide that one group pleases God while the other does not please him. Therefore, those who please are separated from those who do not. Borrowed- ♦

Seven Steps to Humility (Philippians 2:1-11)

- 1. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit.
2. Count others better than yourselves.
3. Look not only to your own interests.
4. Look also to the interests of others.
5. Empty yourselves.
6. Take the form of a servant.
7. Become obedient unto death. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ♦

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

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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