
BIBLE TALK

This the question is: **What is the difference between the OT and the NT? Do they teach the same thing? Is one better than the other?**

The Bible is a book that has been divided into two halves. The first half is called the OT and the second half the NT. This division was placed in the Bible by God Himself.

2 Corinthians 3:6

6 [God] made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:14

14 [The minds of the Jews] were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

In these two passages we have the OT and the NT mentioned specifically by name. God was the one who placed this division in the Bible.

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS BETTER

According to the Bible, the NT is better than the Old. One reason for this is that the OT had faults. It was not perfect.

Hebrews 8:7

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

In other words, there was no need for God to make a NT if the OT had been good enough. The very fact that we have a NT tells us that something was wrong with the OT.

From the very beginning, God intended that the OT law should only be temporary.

Galatians 3:19

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.

The OT would last only until the "seed" should come and that "seed" was Christ (Gal. 3:16). Now that Christ has come, no man is under the OT law.

Galatians 3:24-25

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Hebrews 8:13

13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Colossians 2:14

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.

The OT came to an end when Jesus died on the cross. At the same time the NT came into force (Heb. 9:16-17). Consider the implications of this:

- 1) People living before the death of Christ were saved under a different law than we today are saved by. The thief on the cross lived under the OT law that required different things than the NT which we live under today. The NT directs sinners today to be baptized for salvation (Acts 2:38) whereas the OT did not teach this.
- 2) Under the OT the day of worship was the Sabbath day - the 7th day of the week - what we now call Saturday. If anyone worked on this day they were to be stoned to death (Num 15:31-32). We today live under the NT. The NT teaches that we worship God on the 1st day

of the week - Sunday (Acts 20:7). Furthermore, we do not stone anyone to death as under the OT.

Do you see the difference between the OT and the New? Aren't you glad we live under the New today? Back then when men sinned, they were stoned to death and did not get a second chance. Today, when we sin, God gives us a second chance. We may repent and seek forgiveness.

- 3) Under the OT instruments of music were used to praise God in worship, but under the NT we are specifically told to offer to God vocal singing (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16).

On and on we could go. The OT with its ten commandments have been done away (2 Cor 3:7-9). We do not live under any of those laws today. We live under a new and better testament.

Many, however, are not satisfied with this. They want to live under the OT. They would rather have the ten commandments than to have the NT. Listen to what the Bible says about this:

Galatians 5:3-4

3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

This passage says two things. First, if we insist on keeping part of the OT law, we are obligated to keep it all -- not just the part we like. Therefore, people who insist on being saved like the thief on the cross, or those insisting that we keep the Sabbath today are obligated to keep all the OT law. They need to explain why they do not stone violators to death as the OT teaches. They need to explain why they do not keep all the OT law.

Second, if we try to go back to the OT and live by it, then Jesus died in vain (Gal 2:21) and we are fallen from grace. Jesus came to deliver men from the OT law, and when people attempt to return to that law, they are turning their backs on what Jesus did for them.

Let us thank God that we no longer live under that OT and let us be glad that Jesus brought us a NT that is far better.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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