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Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors
“The Old Testament (Law of Moses) Is Still Binding.”
Lesson 7

INTRO:

- A.** Many people, whether they are religious or not, believe the Old Testament/Law of Moses is still binding.
1. Most folks believe the Ten Commandments are still binding.
 2. Many religious groups believe in observing the Sabbath.
 3. Some bind the Old Testament restrictions regarding the eating of certain meats.
 4. Still others practice polygamy and some use mechanical instruments of music in worship by justifying their practice on the Old Testament.
- B.** On the other hand, there are those who will accept that Jesus’ death on the cross eliminated animal sacrifices, but they cannot believe all of the Old Testament came to an end.
- C.** Just a casual knowledge of the Bible shows there is the Old Testament and the New Testament.
1. Have you ever wondered why that is?
 2. We are told in **2 Timothy 2:15** “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***”
 - a. The ASV says “...**handling aright the word of truth.**”
 3. This command certainly comes into play in answering whether or not the Old Testament is still binding today.
 4. The Old Testament covers two periods of time (dispensations or ages).
 - a. **Patriarchal Age** - Adam to Moses - God spoke directly to the patriarchs.
 - b. **Mosaical Age** - Giving of the law at Mt. Sinai to Christ - God spoke to Israel through Moses and the prophets. (**Hebrews 1:1** “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*”
 5. For the sake of our study the Old Testament is referring to the Mosaical Age and the Law of Moses.

I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

- A. The Old Testament/Law of Moses Was Not Intended To Be God’s Final Law Or Revelation To Mankind.**
1. **Deuteronomy 18:15** “*The LORD your **God will raise up for you a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. **Him you shall hear,***”
 - a. **John 5:45-47** “*Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me.** 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*”
 2. **Jeremiah 31:31-33** “*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—32 **not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt,** My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put*

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My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

- a. **Heb. 8:7-13** *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: ‘BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH—9 NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD. 10 FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 11 NONE OF THEM SHALL TEACH HIS NEIGHBOR, AND NONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’ FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. 12 FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.’ 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.”*
- b. By using the word “NEW”, the implication is that the “FIRST” has outlasted it’s usefulness!
3. **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. 24 Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.”*
- a. God never intended for the Old Testament/Law of Moses to be His final law.
- b. It was only temporary and was to last till Jesus came!
- c. The necessary conclusion is if we are no longer under a tutor, we are no longer under the Old Testament.

B. The Scriptures Tell Us WHAT Was Removed.

1. **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.”*
2. **Ephesians 2:14-16** *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 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, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”*

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- a. Christ abolished “the law of commandments contained in ordinances.”
3. **2 Corinthians 3:7-18** - “*But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. 10 For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. 11 For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious 12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds 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. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*”
 - a. In verse 6 it is stated about the apostles: “who also 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.”

C. The Scriptures Tell Us WHY It Was Removed.

1. **Hebrews 8:6-9** “*But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH—9 NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD.*”
 - a. The New Testament is better than the Old Testament because it is based on “better promises”.
 - 1) The Old Testament was built on the promise of a future remedy for sin.
 - 2) The New Testament was built on the fact that the remedy to sin had been given.
 - 3) Which Testament had the “better promise”?

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- b. The Old Testament was not "faultless".
 - 1) The fault is explained in **verse 9**: Israel "***DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT***".
 - 2) The fault was not the Old Testament but in no one keeping the law perfectly (the only exception was Christ - **1 Peter 2:22**)
 - 3) When sin was committed in the Old Testament the blood of bulls and goat could not take away sin (**Hebrews 10:4** "*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*")
 - 4) Sin was always remembered every year (**Hebrews 10:1-3** "*For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.*").
- 2. Having already read **Hebrews 10:1-4** let's also consider what's stated in **verses 9 and 10**: "*then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*"
 - a. Under the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered each year for sin which shows those sacrifices did not take away sin.
 - b. Under the New Testament, a single, perfect sacrifice (the death of Jesus) was sufficient for future sins as well as those committed under the Old Testament. **Hebrews 9:15** "*And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*"

D. The Scriptures Show Us What Must Happen For Us To Take Advantage of The New Testament.

- 1. **Romans 7:1-4** "*Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.*"

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- a. To try and put ourselves under both Testaments is to commit spiritual adultery just as a woman being married to another man while her husband lives makes her an adulteress!
- b. We can't be married to Moses **AND** to Christ!

E. The Scriptures Teach That We Cannot Keep Parts Of The Old Testament.

- 1. **Galatians 5:1-4** *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*
 - a. Whether it's circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, abstaining from certain meats, etc., all such observances severs our relationship with Christ.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. **Could Jesus be our High Priest today if the Old Testament is still binding? Prove your answer.**

Answer:

- 2. **If we are not under the Old Testament/Law of Moses, then what law are we under today? Prove your answer.**

Answer:
