

THE OLD BIBLE

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The first thirty-nine books of the Holy Bible are often referred to as the Old Testament, the Old Law, the Law of Moses, or the Old Bible. Each of these references is Scriptural and correct. The word Bible simply means "book" and because of the Holy Bible's place among other books it has become known as the Book of Books, the Bible. Since the first thirty-nine books are no longer binding upon men today they properly may be referred to as the Old Bible. "In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old" (Hebrews 8:13).

A Misunderstanding

In a *Christianity Today* Gallup Survey of Americans it was shown that 84% believe the Old Testament, specifically the ten commandments, to be valid today. This general misunderstanding in regard to the Old Law is alarming, "for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Galatians 2:21).

The Purpose Of The Law Of Moses

The purpose of the Law of Moses is stated by Paul in Galatians 3:24-25, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." The Old Law "set the stage" for the coming Christ. The work of Moses and the prophets was to prepare the world to receive Christ. "Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days" (Acts 3:24). Therefore, by his death Christ was "blotting out the handwriting of the ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (Colossians 2:14).

Our Schoolmaster

If the first testament is old, having been fulfilled in Christ, then why is it still in existence? It is still in existence. It is still the "school master to bring us unto Christ" (Galatians 2:24). It was "written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4). "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition" (I Corinthians 10:11a). Of the 84% of Americans who believe the Old Bible to still

be in force today over half cannot even identify five of the ten commandments!
How well do you know the Old Bible?

The Window To The Soul

It is important READ ALL OF GOD'S WORD. Both the Old and New Testaments will build our faith if we would just READ THEM. The Bible has been called the "window to the soul." Perhaps one reason for this is because the Bible is the powerful word of God which can actually "discern the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Through an honest and sincere study of the moral and spiritual precepts of the Bible the condition of man's soul is laid bare. And, thus, the idea of the Bible being a "window to the soul."

The Law Of The Lord

David wrote about his devotion to God's law in Psalm 19:7-14:

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

A Final Exhortation

Let me encourage us all to READ ALL OF GOD'S WORD. Following a daily Bible reading schedule is a great way to start to discipline yourself to take time to READ. Paul taught, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Timothy 4:13).