

The Old Testament cannot serve as basis for the New Testament

Torah-based religion is just an outward and ineffective liturgy

Torah-based religion is that one which is practiced outward to inward, imagining that the outer purity would transfer to the inside.

Jesus preached just the opposite, as we read in Matthew 23:26-28 ... *Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside, but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.*

Nicodemus was one of the leading religious leaders in Israel and certainly was zealous in fulfilling all the precepts of the Torah. However, Jesus told him that he would have to be born again to know the kingdom of God (John 3: 1-12).

In this way, Jesus was telling Nicodemus that he needed to reorganize his life according to the model of the true Kingdom of God, through the principles and commandments that Jesus was teaching him.

The Bible does not report the end of history, whether Nicodemus truly converted or not, but if he did not abandon the religion of appearances based on Jewish ritualism, he certainly did not experience the new birth that Jesus quoted.

The new birth was something so strange and unknown in Jewish religious culture based in the Old Testament that the religious leader Nicodemus failed to understand absolutely anything about the spiritual meaning to which Jesus referred.

Even though Nicodemus did become a disciple of Jesus, this does not mean that he understood the meaning of the new birth that Jesus had spoken to him. Even Jesus' most intimate disciples reached the end of the Master's ministry without understanding the message of his Gospel, as they were corrupted by the innocuous Old Testament liturgy.

Indeed, even after an intense "*trainee stage*" with the Master, the disciples remained intoxicated with jealousy, arrogance, lack of faith, immaturity and ignorance about the Kingdom of God. They all supposed that Jesus would forcibly take earthly power, as the Messiah which was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Because of those contrasts and paradoxes, the Gospel taught by Jesus became a counterpoint to all understanding that his disciples learned from their Jewish background, and this is very evident at the end of Jesus' ministry, since his disciples still disputed privileged positions in the future kingdom.

They even requested authorization from the Master for fire to come from heaven, in order to consume the Samaritans, as Elijah did with the prophets of Baal (Luke 9:54), what demonstrates they did not understand anything about the true principles from the kingdom of God.

Jesus' teachings were admired because they were completely different from the religiousness of the liturgies and apparitions that the Jews had in the law and in the Old Testament prophets (Mark 1:22 and 27).

The disciples of Jesus were steeped in the external religion prevailing in Jewish culture, and so they remained during the three years of discipleship, and therefore had to be detoxified from the old commandments and principles that conflicted very much with the teachings of their master.

In order to create an analogy with computer language, the disciples of Jesus had to be "*reset*" and "*reconfigured*" because their thoughts were corrupted and filled with the ineffective religiosity of the Old Testament.

Strictly speaking, the moral principles that governed the Old Testament laws and precepts were a total disaster. By saying, "*I am giving you a new commandment*" (John 13:34), Jesus set a new, much higher ethical and moral standard that the Jews in Moses' commandments never knew.

Another proof that Jesus had exclusive and personalized commandments is the fact that he said in John 14:15, "*If you love me, keep my commandments*".

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The Old Testament is like a handbook on how to get a person to become an ultra-orthodox Jew. This Machiavellian handbook teaches how to practice a religion that is only external, with a lot of liturgies but little depth.

If the Bible were limited to the Old Testament, the faithful would sacrifice animals, practice circumcision, and keep the Sabbath, as do the Jews who practice a literal Torah-based religion.

On the other hand, if someone only had the Book of John's Gospel, it would be easier to understand God's message to become a Christian than to have all the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament.

The bad examples of the Old Testament such as genocide, violence and intolerance have been used as a pretext for great injustices and hostile behavior by "*Christians*", such as crusades, inquisition, hostility to Arabs and other religions, gender discrimination and many others since Constantine.

What served as a pretext for the Crusades rather than the genocides of Midian, Moab, Philistine, Amorite, Egyptian, and Canaanite, which are common in the Old Testament?

What served the Inquisition as a pretext and inspiration rather than the destruction of the Baal prophets by Elijah?

The bad teachings of the Old Testament are very similar to the bad teachings of the Quran, since both admit revenge "*eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth*".

Does this have anything to do with the principles and teachings that Jesus gave in his New Testament gospel? Certainly not, as they are rather two opposite poles.

Let's check the facts through the fruits evidenced by each of the parties. Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:43-45 that the tree is known by its fruits. What fruits did the Old Testament produce?

Unlike the message of Jesus in his gospel, the Old Testament message only produced people with arrogance, racial prejudice, misogyny, zeal for outward religious precepts, and a propensity for revenge.

Even Peter, one of Jesus' greatest disciples, came to the end of the ministry of the Master without understanding the essence of the Gospel because he was full of the laws and teachings of the Old Testament and did not understand that the true Messiah would come with a message of peace and reconciliation, and not with political intents and military violence.

Even after the astonishing experience of Pentecost, Peter still ignored the universal essence of the Gospel of Jesus and imagined that God's plan was limited to the Jews, because he learned this since his youth when he was still in Judaism. Only after seeing the sheet with impure animals in a vision (Acts 10) did Peter began to understand God's plan and the essence of his Master's Gospel.

The events that happened in the Old Testament were done to us as opposites (antithesis), i.e. as reverse metaphors, so that we did not base our principles on what is shadow, but on what is real (Colossians 2:17 and Hebrews 8: 5, 9:24).

With regard to this change of nature, Paul mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:17 ... *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

When he said that "*old things are passed away*" and "*all things are become new*", we can extrapolate that circumcision in the foreskin of men from the old law was replaced by circumcision of the heart; the liturgical repose on Sabbath from the old law was replaced by the rest of the soul in Christ; the commandments of the old law written on stone tablets were replaced by commands written on flesh tablets in the heart, and so on.

This confirms what Hebrews 8:13 says, where the author states ... *By calling this covenant "new" he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.*

I never said that the Old Testament has no value. I just don't think it has the same value that most Christians attribute to it.

For me, the value of the Old Testament lies in the contrast of the message and the metaphors it establishes in relation to the New Testament. After all, the *shadow* also has its value.

So, for example, in Egyptian captivity, I do not believe that God was racist, preferring Jews over Egyptians. Pharaoh was a figure of the devil and his soldiers were figures of the demons that oppress human beings.

If I had read only the Old Testament, I could conclude that God has a predilection for one race over the others. However, Jesus' message in the New Testament is universal, as He repeatedly praised Gentile attitudes while disapproving bad attitudes from his Jewish compatriots.

Therefore, if in some time the Old Testament law and commandments "*tutored*" the New Testament message because of metaphors and antitheses (Galatians 3:24), today it has no meaning and has come to be considered obsolete and worthless.

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