

Law of Moses

Many people today seem to not understand that we no longer live under the Ten Commandments or another part of the Old Testament Law. Perhaps, some people do not understand that Christ's death on the cross ended the Old Testament law and places us under the New Testament only. The Old Testament is still very important and a valuable part of the Bible we can learn many lessons from, it is however, no longer in force. In fact, the New Testament and Old Testament each help us better understand the other, as well as God's overall plan. Both Testaments make up God's inspired Word. God's plan was always for the Old Law to be temporary and be eventually replaced by the New Law. In this lesson we will explore the purpose of the Old Testament.

Old Testament is important

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Even though we do not live under the Old Testament Law, it is still important to us today. Both the Old and New Testaments are God's inspired word, so are very important. We live under the New Testament today, but each Testament helps us better understand the other. We can and should learn from the Old Testament scriptures that God has given us.

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." The Old Testament provides us with many examples which we can use to help us live a life pleasing to God, even though it has given way to the New Testament.

Why the Old Testament was temporary

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "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 bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" The Old Law that applied to the children of Israel only, would one day give way to the New Law, which would be the Law of Christ which you and I, as well as, everyone else live under today.

Matthew 5: 17-18 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" The new law fulfills God's purpose for the old law. God's plan for the seed of Abraham to bring forth Jesus is the expected fulfillment of the old law which brings forth the Christian era.

Galatians 3: 6-9, 16 “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham” and **16** “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Through the seed of Abraham all people were going to be blessed because Jesus came through Abraham’s lineage. Jesus came and died for us to fulfill the purpose of the Old Testament ending that law.

Galatians 3:18-19 “For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.” The Old Testament Law was set in place, until Christ lifted it with His sacrifice on the cross. Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection put the New Testament Law in place, which we live under today.

Galatians 4: 4-7 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” When God felt the time was right, He did away with the old law and gave us Christ’s Law, which is what we live under today.

Galatians 5:1-6 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” Christ freed us from the Old Law. To continue to follow the Old Testament Law, one is ignoring what Christ did for us, and is in effect making His sacrifice as if it had no meaning, or was not necessary.

Ephesians 2:12-16 “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” The Law of Moses, (or Old Testament Law), was only for Israel. Christ’s New Testament Law is for everyone. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross opened the door of salvation for all mankind, if we are obedient to Him. If and only if we are obedient to the law of our time,

(Old Testament Law in the past, New Testament Law today), Christ's blood covers all of our sins so that we can be saved eternally.

Hebrews 10:1-4 "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." It took the blood of Christ to save us. The blood of the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament merely rolled their sins forward a year, it could not forgive them. The blood of Christ cleanses all mankind from our sins, if we are obedient.

Purpose of the Old Testament

Galatians 3:24-27 "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. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." The Old Testament Law served its purpose to bring us to Christ, but now it is no longer in effect. We can still learn from it. However, today the New Testament Law of Christ is in effect, and is what we must be obedient to if we wish to go to Heaven.

New Testament Law is Perfect

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Christ's blood that He shed on the cross for all mankind, made remission of sins possible to all that truly repent and become obedient to God. It also did away with the Old Testament Law, and established the New Testament Law. The blood of Christ was necessary for mankind to have the opportunity to be saved, and makes the New Testament Law perfect.

Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." The Old Testament Law was not able to wash away sins, but the New Testament Law will, if you obey it. The blood of Christ makes the New Law superior to the Old Law.

Hebrews 7:19 "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." The Old Law pointed to the time when Christ would come and establish the New Law, which we have today. The New Law, if we are obedient to it, washes away our sins. The Old Law was then no longer necessary, Christ did away with it on the cross. The blood of Jesus will save all those who have been obedient to God in the past, that are now in the present, and who will be in the future. All those that were faithful to God, and were obedient to His will before the time of Jesus, will be saved because of what Jesus did, just like you and I can be today if we are obedient.

Hebrews 7:22 “By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.” Today, because of Jesus, we have the opportunity to live under a superior Law and if we obey it, we will be saved. Sadly, those that do not obey the Law of Christ in the New Testament, will not be saved.

James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” The New Testament Law leads to salvation, if one is an obedient doer of it. Hearing and believing are important but not enough, one must be a doer. The New Testament Law of Christ is there for everyone, but those that are not doers of it will be lost.

Today we are under the New Testament Law not the Old Testament Law

Romans 7:1-6 “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.” The Old Law is dead, Christ both fulfilled and ended the Old Law. Today we live under the New Law that Christ established, with His sacrifice on the cross.

Romans 8:1-2 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” The New Law, that Christ established, washes away our sins completely, if we obey it. Obedience to Christ is the only path to salvation.

Colossians 2:14-17 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.” The Old Law was completely blotted out by Christ’s death on the cross. He fulfilled the Old Law, and it had served its purpose. Christ’s New Testament Law was established at the cross, and will continue until He comes again.

Hebrews 8:12-13 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” God has made a new covenant with His faithful followers, in which sins are washed away completely. The Old Law did not do that, it was not its purpose, and we are no longer under it.

Conclusion

Hopefully, this lesson has helped explain what the purpose of the Old Testament is and why it remains important, but we are no longer subject to it. Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross fulfilled the Old Testament Law and began the New Testament Law, which you and I are subject to today.