

Religious Myths vs. Bible Truths

We are all guilty of following them, like the blind following the blind and ending up in a ditch. But as we search the Word and hear by the Spirit, we uncover the real truths. It is then that we can distinguish truth from religious myth, as we do here.

The following religious myths are in no particular order of importance, but rather as His Spirit has brought them to mind, with the most current on top.

Religious Myth: The Bible is the “Old Testament” and the “New Testament”

Truth: There are two issues here.

One issue is that the Bible consists of the “Old Covenant” and the “New/Renewed Covenant”, not “testaments”. They mean different things. A “covenant” is a binding contract between two parties. A “testament” is predominantly one person’s will.

The other issue is that both covenants have something fundamentally in common. To understand their differences clearly, we must also grasp what they have in common.

The “Old Covenant” was a marriage agreement between God & Israel at Mount Sinai. The agreement was that Israel must keep the ways of God, as outlined in His commandments & laws. Then they would be His people and He would be their God; however, the people did not keep this Covenant agreement.

But God has not changed His ways or His standards. What is now different is that He has changed the terms of how the covenant is to be kept. And how is that?

Because of the atoning work of Jesus/(Yeshua), His Spirit could dwell in us so that the Covenant could be written in our minds & hearts. With His Spirit within, we can know what He wants us to do, and we can desire to do it. This is all a work of His grace, which we walk out by faith. Faith without works is dead. If we love Him, then we will keep His ways, as it says in **1John 5:3**. Since we love Him it is not too difficult to walk in His Spirit. The Covenant would be impossible to keep in our own strength apart from the Holy Spirit.

So the terms of the covenant have changed. The standard is the same, but the terms of how to meet that standard are new. In that way it is “New”, but in another sense it is “Renewed”.

Think of it this way. If a building contract is broken, such as by not keeping to a certain schedule, then the contract is replaced by another which has a different schedule; but they both relate to building the same building.

The law was never put away, although parts were prophetic types which have been fulfilled in Jesus/Yeshua. Jeremiah & Ezekiel both prophesied of this “New/Renewed Covenant” as shown here:

31. *“The day will come,” says the LORD, “when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the people of Israel and Judah. 32. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.*

33. *But this is the NEW COVENANT I will make with the people of Israel on that day...I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”* **Jeremiah 31:31-33 New Living Translation**

“19. And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their hearts of stone and give them tender hearts instead, 20. so they will obey my laws and regulations. Then they will truly be my people and I will be their God.”
Ezekiel 11:19,20 New Living Translation

“26. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.”
Ezekiel 36:26,27 New Living Translation

The **Jeremiah 31** text is quoted by Paul in **Hebrews 8:8-10**, where he also gives further explanation. Note that in all of these verses on the New Covenant that obedience to the laws of God is still required. What has changed is our spirits; so that now we can know the laws, want to keep the laws, and are well able to keep them by His Spirit. ***The laws & commandments were never discarded!*** We have the written Word which explains what is pleasing to God, but better yet, we have His Spirit to understand His Word. We flow in both the Word & in the Spirit to guide us daily. As we walk by His Spirit we begin a new adventure as the ways of our Adamic flesh nature become forgotten & no longer fulfilled. In time, by grace through faith we see the Life of Jesus/Yeshua take charge within our thoughts, words, & actions that flow out of a changed heart to heal a hurting world.

Another thing to note is that the Hebrew word for “new” in the verses above is Strong’s #2319, from the root word #2318, which means “renewed” as well as to make new...***like a failed marriage that gets RENEWED to make a NEW beginning.*** The Aramaic word also means “renewed”.

Another analogy is that an adult is the “new” form of when he or she was a child in the sense of “renewed”. Both the child and the adult are the same person, just at different stages of maturity.

And you should also know that the terms “Old Testament” & “New Testament” were first used by Marcion. Marcion built the first all-Gentile church to promote a blend of Christianity & paganism. They met on Sunday to honor the sun-god and blend with Zeus (“Ye-Zeus”). Polycarp, a disciple of John the apostle, called Marcion “the firstborn of the devil”. The reason Marcion replaced the term “covenant” with “testament” was part of his effort to divert people away from the Word, from an understanding of the Covenant, and from the Jews who knew the Word, (who would not be easily duped by the infiltrated paganism).

But if the law has not been done away with, then certain questions arise about other verses that seem to indicate otherwise. We’ll examine each of those one at a time in separate mistranslation or myth items.

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