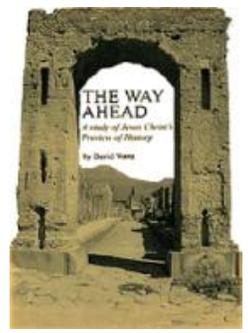
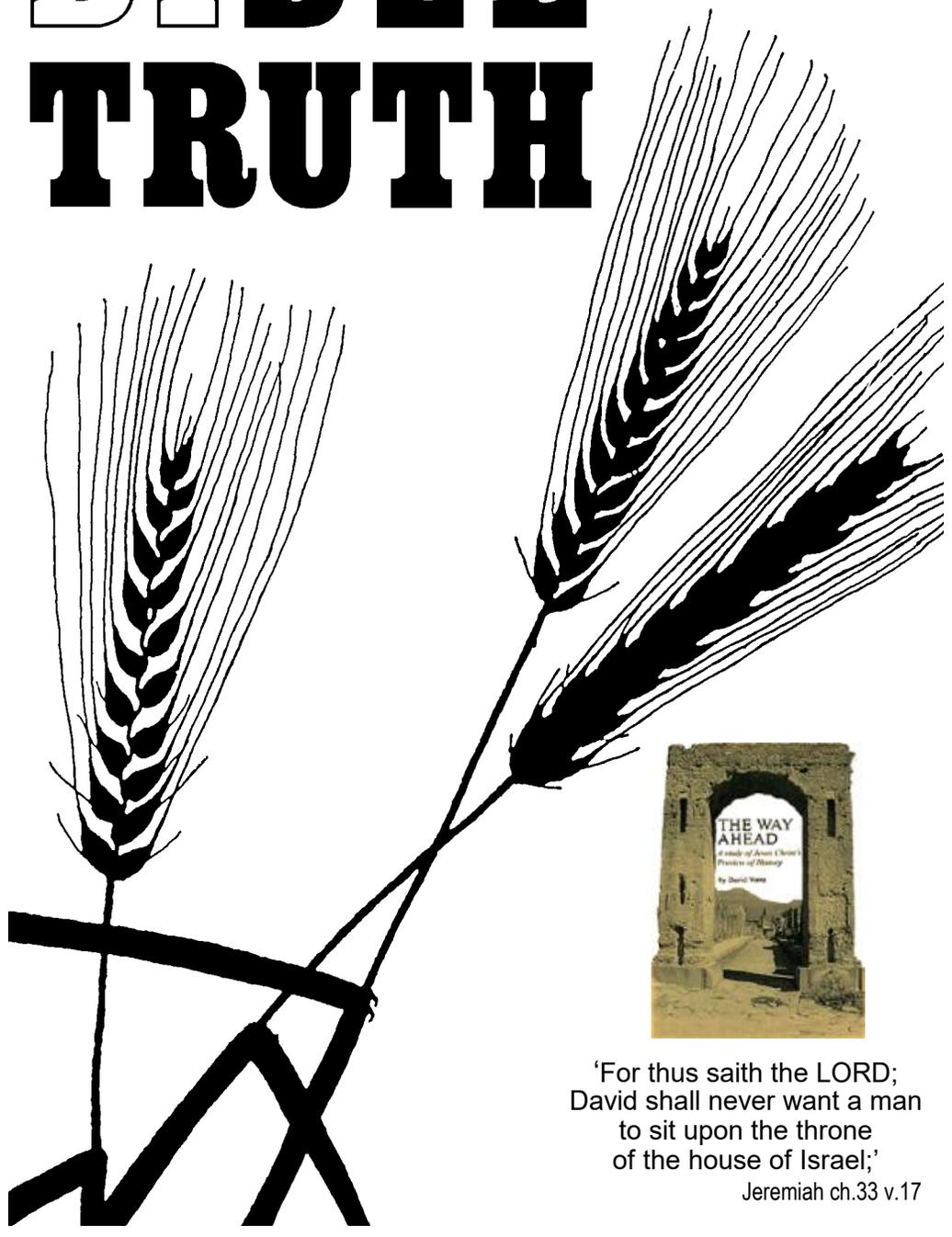


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'For thus saith the LORD;
David shall never want a man
to sit upon the throne
of the house of Israel;'

Jeremiah ch.33 v.17

Can We Discard the Old Testament?

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'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.'

2 Timothy ch.3 vv 16-17

The Bible is the most read book in print. It is the world's best seller. Therefore a man's literary knowledge and general intelligence may be gauged by his familiarity with the Book of books. This is true whether he be a friend or foe of the book.

But there are many who insist that they are believers of the Bible, students of the Bible and preachers of the Bible, and yet ignore, neglect or reject the Old Testament. The reasons presented are many and varied but they all arrive at the same result. A woeful loss of the blessings which God planned in giving to mankind that great compendium of divine truth and at the same time a woeful lack of proper equipment for the presentation of the New Testament Gospel.

For the sake of these brethren as well as the establishment of Truth in our own hearts, we do well to seriously consider the subject.

The Bible is One Book

Not two, it is the revelation of the whole plan of God from the divine counsels in eternity to the eternity when Satan, Sin, and Death shall be destroyed and Jesus shall deliver up His finished Kingdom and God shall be all in all. That revelation is symmetrical, harmonious, progressive, and consistent from Genesis to Revelation. Through it, one increasing purpose runs. To omit part of it is to break the continuity and frustrate the divine plan.

The Whole Bible is the Gift of God's Grace Toward man

It has been called God's great love letter, let down from heaven to a lost sin-cursed world. The whole gift is sixty-six books. To accept twenty-seven of those books and discard thirty-nine of them, is plainly to do despite to the grace of God.

The Whole Bible is the Gift of God's Wisdom For the Guidance and Blessing of mankind

In His divine wisdom, God considered sixty-six books necessary to tell man what He would have him know. What kind of self-sufficiency or egotism is it that would cast aside thirty-nine of the precious God-given books and either by neglect or declaration say, This is all we need? Would it not be well for such persons to stop for a moment and consider God's words.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

Isaiah ch.55 vv 8-9

Is it not possible that the Creator of man, the world and the Book might be correct when He said that 'All Scripture is profitable'?

The Old Testament was the Bible Jesus used

In effect it was the only Bible then in existence. He not only quoted it and most marvellously applied it on all occasions, but endorsed, corroborated and enforced it throughout his ministry.

Jesus called the Old Testament 'the scriptures' (Matthew ch.21 v.42). He taught the people of Nazareth,

'And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears'.

Luke ch.4 v.21

In Matthew ch.22 v.29, He told the Pharisees,

'... Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God'.

Again He told them in John ch.5 v.39,

'Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me'.

What has happened to the Bible of Jesus that any professed follower of His should seek to discard it?

The Apostles Found Abundant Use for the Old Testament

There are at least six hundred quotations from the Old Testament presented by the writers of the New Testament. They counted it an absolute necessity in order to present the truths of the New Testament. In all of their writings the Old Testament is used to validate all that they propose to present concerning the plan and grace of God. They made it the commentary and encyclopaedia to

define Jesus, authenticate His deity, His mission, His message, His work, His sacrificial death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, His exaltation, His mediatorial reign, His Kingdom, and His ultimate victory over all His foes.

Take out of the New Testament all references to the Old Testament and the whole message of the Apostles would fall flat. Jesus fulfilled and confirmed all that was written in Moses, the prophets and in the Psalms concerning Himself, thus establishing His identity as the promised Messiah. Surely a book that does that is worthy of our deepest study.

The Christian Religion can't be explained without the Old Testament

The Old Testament has been woven into all the doctrines, sermons, songs, prayers, sacraments and instructions of the church through the centuries. Following the lead of Jesus and the apostles, the early Church made continual use of the Old Testament in proclaiming the Gospel. In fact, it has been declared that the whole of the Old Testament, except a few verses, could be reconstructed from the writings of the Church fathers. In the light of this, we pause to wonder what exalted type of spiritual and intellectual Christians we have developed who can afford to publicly profess that they can do what Jesus, the Apostles, or the Church fathers found impossible; namely, proclaim Christianity without the Old Testament. How far would our theologians have got, even the greatest of them, had they discarded the Old Testament?

Throughout the New Testament Divine inspiration takes for granted that the reader is well acquainted with the Old Testament

The new Testament is presented as the sequel, the complement, the fulfilment and the confirmation of the Old Testament. To approach the new Testament without having studied the Old Testament is like going into High School without a lower school education.

The Old Testament Furnishes the Only Authentic Record of the Creation

1. Regarding the creation of the heavens and the earth, the more truthful science one learns, the more hearty is its endorsements of the divine statements concerning the genesis of the material universe.

2. With regard to the creation of man, whatever may be the hypotheses of the evolutionist, he is always unable to answer the question of the origin of life. In all his attempts to produce life spontaneously he has miserably failed. After all his research, tests and trials, the honest scientist is compelled to join with the Psalmist in the ascription of praise to God. '... with thee is the fountain of life: ... (Psalm 36 v.9). 'In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.' (Job ch.12 v.10)

The Old Testament furnishes the only authentic history of the Races of Mankind

The origin, characteristics, achievements for good or evil, and the ultimate destiny of the races - all of this is told in the Old Testament. New finds of the archaeologist are proving that the record is correct to the least detail. In fact, the Old Testament furnishes little short of a university course in anthropology, sociology, philology and all kindred subjects. As a source book for the historian it is unexcelled.

The Old Testament is the Revelation of God's Plan of Redemption

It is the only book with an authentic and reasonable solution of the origin of sin and its effect upon the race. Only through the study of the Old Testament can one become acquainted with man's primal state in Eden, the Fall, the loss of the Kingdom of God on earth and the gigantic plan of God for the salvation of men and the redemption of the nations.

Only in the Old Testament can we learn of God's cleansing of the earth with the flood, his re-establishment of the Kingdom at Sinai, and the prophetic descriptions of its character, its conquest, its victory and the gracious reign of the Prince of Peace.

The Old Testament Alone Reveals in Detail the Covenants Established by God With Our Fallen Race

Every one of those covenants are in force today, and under them men must live for weal or woe. Some are conditional, others unconditional, but under them, we are living and they constitute the fundamental of our life, individually, socially, nationally and internationally.

There are fifteen of those Covenants - and what kind of folly is it that would remain in wilful ignorance of them? How meagre the information of the man who says, 'The New Testament is the story of

the New Covenant and that is all we need to know'. There could be no New Covenant without an Old Covenant. No man can understand and appreciate the New Covenant without knowing well the conditions and penalties and the impossibilities of the Old Covenant.

Paul declares that the Old Covenant, contained in ordinances, was a 'Schoolmaster' to bring us to Christ. The man who discards the Old Testament rejects the divinely ordained schooling that God intends he should have in order to understand Jesus Christ, His mission, His message, His character, His atonement, His intercession and His reign. All of this instruction is presented by God in a series of most marvellous object lessons, found in the symbols, types and ceremonies of the Old Testament. Therein the true theologian finds his most productive material for the explanation and definition of Jesus Christ and His work. Little wonder that those who propose to discard the Old Testament have such shallow views of Jesus and present Him to the public in such an attenuated manner.

The Old Testament reveals the law of God for nations

Jesus abrogated the law contained in ordinances. At His death the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom. But the laws, statutes and judgments given at Sinai, have never been repealed. Jesus declared,

'And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail'.

Luke ch.16 v.17

'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.'

Matthew ch.5 v.18

The Ten Commandments are an expression of the Divine nature and cannot be annulled. They were given as the Law of Life for all mankind. Even after Jesus fulfilled them in our stead, they are reiterated as the Law of Life and true living for saints as well as sinners. Grace saves from the penalty of the broken law but does not abrogate or annul the Law. Grace by the indwelling Christ gives the power of the overcoming Life but the Law remains the rule of Christian conduct. To make this certain, we find each of the Ten Commandments reiterated in the New Testament.

1. '... Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,...' (Matthew ch. 4 v.10), 'God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.' (John ch.4 v.24)

2. '... my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.'
(1Corinthians ch. 10 v.14)
3. '... Swear not at all; neither by heaven;'
(Matthew ch. 5 v.34)
'... let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.'
(Matthew ch.5 v.37)
4. 'There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.' (Hebrews ch.4 vv 9-10)
5. 'Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; ... That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.'
(Ephesians ch.6 vv 1-3)
6. 'Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.'
(see 1 John ch.3 v.15)
7. '... I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.'
(Matthew ch.5 v.28)
8. 'Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.' (Ephesians ch.4 v.28)
9. 'Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.'
(Ephesians ch.4 v.25)
10. '... covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;' (Ephesians ch.5 v.3)

In the United States and Great Britain the Ten Commandments have constituted the 'common law' of the land. As at Sinai, they have their form of government in a constitution, law, statutes, and judgments.

The law, statutes and judgments recorded in the Books of Moses constitute the only true foundation of national righteousness and will be the Law of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Law of God propounded by Moses furnishes the only solution to the economic, social and political

problems which now confront the world. Therefore, the layman or minister who discards the Old Testament cannot be a really intelligent citizen, nor can he have any well defined message for the age and country in which he lives.

Even the Sermon on the Mount requires the Law of Moses to define and concrete it as a rule of national life. No man can preach in its fullness the Kingdom of God on earth and the millennial reign of Christ without the Law of Moses.

The Old Testament furnishes a marvellous description of the Kingdom

Here is presented its origin, laws, institutions, spirit, blessings, enfoldment in time and consummation. The highest flights of the prophets describe it, but nowhere is it seen clearer in detail than in the Psalms.

The Psalms not only describe Jesus in His fullness, in language unexcelled, but constitute an anatomy of the human soul and furnish the highest vehicle of prayer, praise and thanksgiving for every experience through which a human being may pass in the journey from cradle to grave. The Psalms are the songs of the ages. There has not been a decade in human history since they were written, when they have not been appropriate. They are the songs of Israel, written for Israel, and as the age expires so will they be revealed in their glory as the songs of joy and triumph with which to usher in the New Order of the Kingdom.

The Old Testament through Prophecy furnishes the pre-written history of the world

The story of Christ and Christianity was told many centuries before His advent. The rise and fall of empires, the evil forces which should be loosed in the world, their devastation of men and nations and their final annihilation, all foretold. The march of the kingly line of David down the centuries, the woes that befell God's chosen Israel (Celtic-Saxondom of today) on account of their sin, the rebuke and cleansing they must receive before they inherit the Kingdom, all are foretold for the benefit of those upon whom the ends of the world have come.

God not only deemed it wise, but made full provision through the prophets to inform us of this very day in which we live, with all that is transpiring in the world. Amidst all the stress and strain, the frenzy and perplexities of these days, God intended that His children should know and understand what is taking place.

The early Church appreciated this loving mercy of God and studied prophecy. Paul says,

‘But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. ... But ye brethren, are not in darkness. ... Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of the darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as do others ...’ .

1 Thessalonians ch.5 vv 1 & 4-6

The source of their information was the Old Testament prophets. That made them children of the light and of the day.

I wonder what kind of a letter the Apostle Paul would write to those, in the pulpit and out of it, who scoff at prophecy and discard the only source of light, while they drowse in the midst of a world on fire. Or what would Peter write to all people who, because of prejudice or indolence, ignore his admonition,

‘We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ... For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost’.

2 Peter ch.1 vv 19 & 21

The day is not far hence when the Lord Christ Himself will speak, for He says,

‘... Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. ... that those things which cannot be shaken may remain’.

Hebrews ch.12 vv 26-27

There will be a terrible time in the shaking up and rattling down of the ecclesiastical systems as well as the political ones and a host who are now scoffing and deriding will come inquiring the way into the Kingdom.

Let us reverently thank God for the Old Testament, for the knowledge of the Kingdom, the law and the prophets.
