



BIBLE TALK

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Question: Are we obligated to obey the Old Testament today?

Answer: A cursory study will show that we are not. It is so vital to “...*rightly divide the word of truth*” (2 Tim. 2:15).

The Old Testament was given to the Jewish nation as their law, but to us for learning benefits (Ex. 20:2; Rom. 15:4). It was their rule for worship and acceptable living. For nearly 1500 years, the Jews sought justification by the Law of Moses. Every man found it impossible to live it perfectly. It rebuked the violator (Gal. 3:10). It offered no forgiveness of sins (Heb. 10:4). It could not justify the sinner (Gal. 3:11). The apostle Paul called it a “*yoke of bondage*” (Gal. 5:1), and “a ministration of death” (Col. 2:14), establishing the second, or new law (Heb. 10:9) for us today.

God declared that we are to “*hear you Him*”, speaking of Jesus (Matt. 17:5). God has spoken to us through His Son (Heb. 1:1), by whom He will judge the world (Jn. 12:48). The New Testament is good news for our salvation (Rom. 1:16), providing *all things* that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3), furnishing us unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Salvation is only possible by obedience to the New Testament (Heb. 5:8-9). It was “*written for our learning*” (Rom. 15:4) to tutor all who would come to Christ where salvation could be found (Gal. 3:24-25).

It was God’s plan that the law serve only on an interim basis for He had plans for a new covenant to be given that would not be engraved in stone, but etched in the hearts of men (Jer. 31:30-34). Note that He said that it would be unlike the one given to their fathers in the wilderness. The main difference is that the new law could give forgiveness not just atonement (v. 34).

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