



***New Testament
Old Testament***

or

***Whole Testament
Christians?***

by

Alan Campbell B.A.

NEW TESTAMENT OLD TESTAMENT OR WHOLE TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS?

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INTRODUCTION

I wonder if any of my readers have ever attempted to collect a set of books or magazines, only to find that one part was missing. It was so frustrating, without that missing part the story was unintelligible, you simply could not get the grasp of it because the vital, often the fundamental part was missing.

YET, today millions of professing Christians and tens of thousands of clergy, dismiss' the Old Testament out of hand. They declare it to be of little or no importance and instead of having a Whole Testament, all sixty six books, they arrogantly and ignorantly boast of being "New Testament Christians".

In order to set the record straight, once and for all, there are some vital questions we need to consider.

1) WHAT BIBLE DID THE FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS POSSESS?

The simple answer to this very basic question is the thirty-nine books of what we today call the Old Testament. The first five books of Moses, the Pentateuch which includes the Laws, Statutes and Judgements. The Prophets, the Writings such as Psalms and Proverbs and the historical books such as Judges, Kings and Chronicles. The Lord Jesus quoted from them extensively even to the extent of saying

"If they hear not Moses and the prophets neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead".LUKE 16 V 31

During his earthly ministry the Lord Jesus often spoke of Noah, Lot, Cain, Abel, Abraham, Solomon, Elijah and Namaan as literal historical characters (see our book 'Holy Scripture - Wholly True')

Furthermore if it is to believe the great theological experts, the Four Gospels did not exist in their present form until after 60 A.D. They began to be recorded in written form, because as the original witnesses to the life and work of Jesus, and of His teachings died an accurate record had to be made for the expanding church.

The Epistles of Peter, Paul, John and Jude did not appear until well into the second half of the First Century of the Christian era and the Apocalypse or Revelation was not given to John until the time of his banishment to the Isle of Patnos in 96 A.D.

The complete Canon of the New Testament as we have it today did not come into existence until the early part of the Fourth Century A.D.

So it surely looks as if these early Christians were definitely not "New Testament" Christians as that term is used and understood today.

2) WAS THE OLD TESTAMENT SUFFICIENT, AFTER CALVARY FOR A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION?

In order to answer this question let me direct your attention to, two events recorded by Luke.

A) THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

'And behold, two of them went the same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them 'What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another as ye walk and are sad? And one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days. And he said unto them what things?

And they said unto him. Concerning Jesus of Nazareth which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he, which would have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished which were early at the sepulchre; and when they found not his body, they came saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre and found it even so as the women had said but they saw him not. Then he said unto them, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory. AND BEGINNING AT MOSES AND ALL THE PROPHETS, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself". **LUKE 24 V 13 - 27**

As these broken-hearted disciples walked on the road from Emmaus to Jerusalem, they were joined by the risen Christ, who they did not recognise, and having poured out their grief, despair and disappointment and outlined the events surrounding the crucifixion and the reported resurrection, it was time for the Lord to explain. He had no New Testament, no Gospels, no Epistles, but he dearly explained the plan of Salvation and of a suffering Messiah who would die to redeem Israel from their sins. He did this by tracing God's plan as it is clearly outlined in the Old Testament, the only Bible they had, starting with the writings of Moses (the Pentateuch or first five books), and working his way through the major and minor prophets. By the time he had finished and his glory had been manifested to them as he broke bread, they understood fully and their hearts burned within them. Their only fault Jesus said, had been in failing to understand and believe all that the OLD TESTAMENT prophets had declared.

Now let us examine.

B) THE STORY OF PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

'And the angel of the Lord spoke unto Philip, saying arise and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza which is desert. And he arose and went and behold a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace the Queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem for to worship. Was returning and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet and said understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. And the place of the Scriptures which he read was this (Isaiah 53) He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb, dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgement was taken away: and who shall declare his generation for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip and said, I pray thee of whom speaketh the prophet this, of himself or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same Scripture and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came to a certain water: and the eunuch said See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand

still; and they went down , both of them into the water, both Philip and the eunuch and he baptized him" ACTS 8 V 26 - 38

Philip at the prompting of the Holy Spirit met a God-fearing Ethiopian returning home from a visit to the Holy Temple at Jerusalem. Although he had a scroll of the prophet Isaiah, the Ethiopian had no spiritual understanding. As they journeyed along the road Philip explained to the Ethiopian that the suffering Messiah predicted in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah was none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. Using only the Old Testament prophets, Philip gave such a clear explanation of the way of salvation, that the Ethiopian not only understood the need to repent of his sins and believe in the Lord Jesus but also his need to be baptized in water, at the earliest possible moment. All of this was without the New Testament as we have it today.

Before we leave this section let us look briefly at what the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ALL SCRIPTURE, is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness.

2 TIMOTHY 3 V 14 - 16

What Scriptures was Paul referring to? The only Scripture available at that time, the Old Testament by the study of which, Paul says that young Timothy has come to a knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Now we must ask ourselves

3) DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTRADICT THE OLD TESTAMENT

There are indeed those who for their own base motives and to uphold their own theological viewpoint, would answer in the affirmative. However this is just not so. A large percentage of the Gospels and the Epistles are direct quotation from the Old Testament.

The early church could see, as can we today some three hundred Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the life of the Lord Jesus, some twenty-four of them in the space of one day (see our booklet - Twenty Four Hours in the Life of Jesus).

Without the Old Testament base and foundation we would not have such understanding.

Consider these inspired words of Paul, writing to the Corinthians:—

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1st CORINTHIANS 10 V 11

What things are being referred to by Paul? The Israelites crossing the Red Sea and their journey in the wilderness. Such a reference would be meaningless not only to the Corinthians, but even to us today, if we did not have the Old Testament.

The references in Galatians, Hebrews and other Epistles would be incomprehensible, unless they were written to dispersed and gentilised people of Israelite origin, who were well acquainted with the Old Testament Scriptures.

Even today those of us who are students of Bible Prophecy know, that it would be impossible to get a full grasp and understanding of the Book of Revelation unless we have first laid a solid foundation by studying its Old Testament forerunner the Book of Daniel,

The old saying is indeed so true:-

**“THE NEW IS IN THE OLD CONCEALED
THE OLD IS IN THE NEW REVEALED”**

This leaves us with one more question

4) IS THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT A DIFFERENT GOD, TO THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

In the last book of the Old Testament we read this wonderful declaration

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." **MALACHI 3 V 6**

There are those around today in the organised church world, who want to tell you that the Old Testament God, Yahweh/Jehovah, was in fact a harsh cruel tribal deity, an unapproachable God of vengeance whom they call the Father. They would have you believe that the New Testament God is a very different one, whom they call the Son, a weak, liberal gentle Jesus meek and mild. Some go even further robbing the Lord Jesus of His full-armed deity and presenting him merely as a prophet or good man.

Let us be very clear the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New. The Bible states that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" **2 CORINTHIANS 5 V 19**

The disciple asked Jesus:—

"Lord show us the Father and it sufficeth us" and Jesus replied "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip, he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." **JOHN 14 V 8 - 9**

Thomas said to the Saviour: "My Lord and my God." **JOHN 20 V 28**

It may suit the liberal agenda to state that Jesus never spoke about or condemned those sins which are the hallmark of these end times. It is very convenient for some to deny that He is the very one who wrote His holy law on tablets of stone, and rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom. The one whom we love, serve, worship and adore is indeed the God of Two Testaments. He is Alpha and Omega the Beginning and the Ending.

We are one people, worshipping one God who has revealed Himself to us in one book, the entire sixty-six books of both the Old and New Testaments. Concerning Him the prophet wrote that His "goings forth have been from of old from everlasting" **MICAH 5 V 12**

—whilst Paul the Apostle declared that "In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" **COLOSSIANS 2 V 9**

Unfortunately not only are there many Christians who have been deceived into thinking that the Old Testament is of lesser importance than the New; or even of no importance at all. There are those who are deliberate deceivers who propagate such ideas as part of:—

AN EVIL CONSPIRACY.

There are those evil people within Christendom today, who occupy pulpits and chairs of theology who have a hidden agenda. Simply stated it is to confuse the ordinary church members and undermine what little faith they may have left in the authority of God's Word.

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Already weak in their knowledge of the Scriptures, already confused as to their origin and identity, and the nature of the God they profess to worship, these poor deluded people, fall an easy prey to the "New Testament Christian" ploy.

This sinister conspiracy will produce a pseudo-Christian Community, devoid of Scriptural strength and power, without the holy law of God to guide them, unable to grasp the true meaning of the Gospel that Jesus preached, or of the whole counsel of God as revealed in the totality of Scripture.

They are an easy prey for those who preach the false gospel of Ecumenism, of a one world-government economy and religion. They will accept the liberal agenda purely and simply because they have rejected the **WHOLE TESTAMENT**.

CONCLUSION

Let us close our study with some timely words of advice from the Holy Scripture:-

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish (take away) aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." **DEUTERONOMY 4 V 2**

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" **PSALM 119 V 89**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" **PSALM 119 V 105**

"Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." **PSALM 119 V 129 131**

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." **PSALM 119 V 140**

"Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him" Add not unto His words, lest he reprove thee and thou be found a liar." **PROVERBS 30 V 5 - 6**

"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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." **2 TIMOTHY 3 V 16 - 17**

We rest our case, we will not divide or dilute God's precious inerrant work, we are and always will be Whole Testament Christians - People of the Book and that book God breathed or inspired from the first IN in Genesis to the last AMEN in Revelation.

**"Every promise in the Book is mine
Every chapter, every verse, every line
I am resting on His word divine
Every promise in the Book is mine."**



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