

Disintegration of the Old Because of the New?

by Bill and Karen Bishop

There is an old adage that says: The New Testament is in the Old concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New revealed. How true it is, though even those who quote this adage rarely regard the impact of it in understanding the Truth of the Bible.

The importance of patterning and layering to our Creator becomes very evident if we have eyes to see. It is carried forth throughout the compiled writings we call our Bible. The New Testament is not a stand-alone book. It is fused to that which preceded it. Dividing the New Testament from the Old is a regrettable travesty that has heavily contributed to the deception of mankind. Absolutely the coming of our Savior was a life-changer, providing a new start in many ways! To God though, it is simply an integral layer in the progressive plan of restoration. It is a step, albeit a crucial one, among many other critically important steps in the continuous process of elevating mankind from the fall in the garden to restoration back to the Father.

The Old Testament gives us the guidelines for this restoration – parameters that safeguard our walk. We live in a fallen world, where evil not only exists, but it can grossly inhibit or pervert the restoration process.

A basic universal principle of spiritual and physical reality is strongly implied throughout the Bible and even underlies the Laws of Torah. It is a principle of natural consequences. Being the backbone of God's Law, it is as fundamental as the laws of nature God put into place. Torah actually provides a hedge of protection to avert negative consequences and restore us to the Father. This universal principle of natural consequences decrees that when the hedge of protection is breached through disobedience to Torah, the door to the enemy is opened, and we are vulnerable to the resulting negative consequences.

Deuteronomy 28:15

(15) But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Ecclesiastes 10:8

(8) He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

It is vital to realize that this basic principle of consequences for disobedience to God's Law remains in place. The safeguard of following Torah did not disintegrate with the coming of the New Testament, and many Believers today are ensnared by the enemy as a result of the teaching that it did. The English translations of certain passages in Paul's epistles have prompted many seminaries to erroneously teach that God's Law is outdated, and we can ignore it in the New Testament era – that the coming of Y'shua (Jesus) put all of that behind us. Sadly, this deception has been very pervasive. Even after Y'shua's death, John clearly identifies sin as the transgression of the Law.

1 John 3:4

(4) Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Paul then says that sin will be still be judged, and although we may escape condemnation, we will be chastened.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

(27) Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

(28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

(29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

(30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

(31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

(32) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

With the coming of Y'shua, forgiveness came to the forefront. Through belief in Him, we have an advocate before the Father when we accidentally breach the hedge through sin.

1 John 2:1-3

(1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

(2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

(3) And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

As verse three of this passage says, if we say we belong to Y'shua, we should be keeping the commandments. We are to know the Law well enough to know if we have transgressed (broken) it, then confess our shortcomings so we can be restored to a righteous condition.

1 John 1:9

(9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We are then to do as Y'shua told the adulterous woman in John 8:11 – to go and sin no more. He likewise clarified to the infirmed man at the pool of Bethesda in John 5:14 that he had been made whole but must stop sinning so a worse thing wouldn't befall him.

You see, a broken hedge still allows the serpent to bite, even after Y'shua came. There is an aberrant teaching that Y'shua kept the Law so we don't have to. It misses the whole point that Y'shua came to show us the way by keeping the Law for our example. Yes, we have an advocate if we slip up, but our intent should always be to follow His example! Perfectly fulfilling the Law enabled Y'shua to be our sacrificial Lamb. It allowed Him to provide relief for mankind from the penalty of death, because our sin nature makes it impossible for us to attain to the Divine Law of God perfectly. Were it not for the sacrificial life and death of our Savior, our inability to attain to God's standard of perfection would have led to the unrelenting penalty of death – the consequence for breaking God's Law. The consequence of death that was imposed by the Law could only be reversed by the sacrifice of our Savior. By completing the mandate of perfection while He was here in human form, Y'shua freed all of mankind from that penalty of certain death, a spiritual death which would forever separate man from the Father. His accomplishment opened up the way of restoration to the Father - so we can leave death behind – so we can step out of time into the eternal state where we can be grafted into the Tree of Life to abide with the Father forever.

As our surrogate, Y'shua's achievement opens the way to life for us through belief in Him. That belief though is just the first step for the Believer. Y'shua's departure enabled the Holy Spirit to come and show us all Truth, so we can live life as we are supposed to live, and proceed upward in the restoration process.

John 16:7-8

(7) Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

(8) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of

righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:13

(13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Through belief in Y'shua, we are granted the gift of the Spirit to indwell us and lead us through the days ahead. Through the guidance of God's Spirit within, we can keep the flesh under subjection, and run the race Paul told us to run.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

(24) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

(25) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

(26) I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

(27) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul understood that even as a Believer, he had to tow the line or he should be rendered a "castaway" by God. Then he warns us that if we are seeking to strive for the mastery that this race entails, we must do it lawfully.

2 Timothy 2:5

(5) And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

That means that we must adhere to the foundational structure Father put in place back in Torah. Through Y'shua's life, sacrificial death, and resurrection we no longer have to keep it perfectly to avoid eternal spiritual death; but we must still strive to keep it, and seek His forgiveness when we fall short.

In that way Torah is still a part of the Believer's walk – still an essential ingredient in the race we are to run to break through the finish line to restoration with the Father.

Let's continue with this thought process just a bit further in the next segment called: "*The Old and New Testaments as One Continuous Work*".