

Word Bank

old (4x)
 stage
 new
 Messianic
 nations (2x)

Why do Christian Bibles include the New Testament?*Various Scriptures*

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I. The Stage Play

The book of Hebrews declares that the tabernacle was a _____, a scale model of heaven and earth, filled with props and actors. The play they performed depicted the redemption of the world, the cleansing of all creation from the guilt of sin, by the sacrificial death of the great High Priest, Jesus. And now that He has come, the stage play has run its course.

II. Why do we receive and reverence the writings of the NT?**A. Two Covenants (Heb 8 cf. Gal 4:21-31)**

The Scriptures make clear that the _____ *covenant*, the relationship God established with our fathers at Mt. Sinai, was temporary.

¹Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ²a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ³For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. ⁴For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. ⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah..." ¹³In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Heb 8)

The _____ *covenant* is *obsolete* and, in Paul's day, was *ready to vanish away* (13). Hence, even as our fathers needed a covenant document *to explain the specifics of their covenant relationship with God*, so we need a covenant document *to explain the specifics of ours*.

B. Two Glories (2 Cor 3:7-11)

The glory of Christ so far outshines *the glory of the old covenant* that it is unthinkable that God wouldn't record these events for us in Sacred Scripture.

⁷But if the ministry of death [the _____ *covenant* that could not remove our sin], written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, ⁸how will the ministry of the Spirit [the _____ *covenant* inaugurated by Christ] not be more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. (2 Cor 3:7-11)

C. Two Ages (Mt 16:18-19; Eph 2:19-22; Heb 1:1-4; 2 Pet 3:15-16)

There are *two distinct ages* in redemptive history: *the Judaic Age* and *the Messianic Age* (Heb 1:1-4). Can we imagine that God would leave us without a written revelation of the life

and teachings of His Son and the significance of His Son's labors? No! Particularly since Jesus chose twelve men to carry on His work (Mt 16:18-19 cf. Eph 2:19-22):

¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

During the _____ Age, Christ reveals His will to the churches in the writings of the NT. The writings of the apostles are Sacred Scripture.

¹⁵...consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (2 Pet 3:15-16)

III. Implications

A. Different Opportunity (Ps 2:8; Lk 24:47; Rom 1:1-5; Eph 3:1-7)

While the Word of God was largely restricted to the nation of Israel in the old covenant, in the new covenant, the Gospel is going to all the world. Paul declared, *“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all _____ for His name...”* (Rom 1:5). As God promised to Jesus, *“Ask of Me, and I will give You The _____ for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession”* (Ps 2:8). So Paul explained to the Ephesians, a largely Gentile congregation:

³... by revelation [God] made known to me the mystery... ⁵which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel... (Eph 3:3-5)

B. Different Barriers (Acts 10; 1 Cor 9:19ff; Eph 2:14-15; Col 2:16-17)

One of the ways God preserved Jewish identity during the *Judaic Age* was by erecting social barriers that separated them from their neighbors. One of the clearest signs of the *Messianic Age* is the removal of these barriers. As Paul declares (Eph 2:14-15):

¹⁴For [Jesus] Himself is our peace, who has made both [Jew & Gentile] one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace...

Jesus terminated the ceremonial regulations of the _____ covenant. As Peter declared to the Cornelius, *“God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean”* (10:28). As Paul reminded the Corinthians, *“Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters”* (1 Cor 7:19 cf. Gal 5:6).

C. Different Understanding (1 Cor 10:11; Heb 11:13,40; 1 Pet 1:10-12; 2 Pet 1:16-21)

Now that *“the ends of the ages have come”* (1 Cor 10:11), we have *“the prophetic word confirmed”* (2 Pet 1:19). Hence, we understand what the prophets could only dimly anticipate.

IV. Conclusion