

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Limits Of The Old Testament”

By Terry Wayne Benton

The Old Testament was the inspired, God-given rule of law for the nation of Israel. It was not given to all people. *"The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us"* (Deuteronomy 5:2-3).

Nehemiah spoke to God about the history of Israel: *"You came down also on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, by the hand of Moses Your servant"* (Nehemiah 9:13-14).

The Sabbath (7th day rest day) was not known to the Israelites as God's holy Sabbath until God made it known when the children of Israel got to Mount Sinai with Moses. God did not make it known to all nations. It was known only to the Israelites at this particular point in time.

Moses wrote Genesis from Mount Sinai. He wrote Genesis at that time to give knowledge of God and His plan in building the nation of Israel for the greater goal of blessing *"all nations"* (Genesis 12:1-4).

The Sabbath law was not a law for all people and was not a law even for Israel until God revealed and began enforcing it at Mount Sinai after Israel had been delivered from Egyptian bondage. It was a law for purposes of guiding and controlling Israel till the Messiah would fulfill it and take it out of the way (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:13-16).

After Jesus died on the cross, the law of Moses was fulfilled and satisfied in Jesus. The rules guiding Israel often included types or shadow forms that were *"imposed until the time of reformation"* (Hebrews 9:10). The shadow form was cast by Jesus, the substance (Colossians 2:13-16). Jesus is the substance or reality that cast the shadow forms all over the Old Testament. The Sabbath was but a shadow form of the "rest" God would give us in Christ. God was not interested in the Sabbath being a day of rest for all men for all time. He was interested in illustrating the real rest that was far more important. It was coming in Christ.

Seventh-day Baptists and Adventists are judging us by the Law of Moses, and their big issue is that they think we blindly changed the Sabbath to Sunday.

No! God tells us not to let men judge us in regard to Sabbaths (Colossians 2:13-16) because those rules were "shadows" and the substance is in Christ. We don't do the animal sacrifices, sabbaths, festivals, food and drink laws of the Old Testament because they served their purpose of leading us to the substance, Christ. After the law did the tutoring to bring us to Christ we are *"no longer under the tutor"* (Galatians 3:23-25). Now Christ has **all authority** (Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:10).

He gives us the true Sabbath rest. He gives us the true sacrifice. People are not *"handling the scriptures aright"* (II Timothy 2:15) when they try to bind Israel's law with its shadows upon us. The New Testament is the covenant we are under, and it does not bind the food laws, circumcision, sabbaths, festivals, the priesthood of Levi, etc., upon us. Confusion exists, creating the multiple denominations today because people fail to *"handle aright the word of truth."*

The only remedy is to make sure that you are careful to know the scriptures and know when men are handling the word of God deceitfully (II Corinthians 4:2). Your soul depends on it!



“Witchcraft Is Still With Us”

by Jefferson David Tant

Witchcraft has been around for a long, long time. Way back in Leviticus 19:31, Israel is warned about such: “*Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.*” The KJV refers to them as “familiar spirits” and “wizards.”

That first word “mediums” is from the Hebrew word which has the following meaning, “from the same as I (apparently through the idea of prattling a father's name); properly, a mumble, i.e. a water skin (from its hollow sound); hence a necromancer (ventriloquist, as from a jar):--bottle, familiar spirit.” The second word has the meaning, “properly, a knowing one; specifically, a conjurer; (by impl) a ghost:--wizard.”

In later centuries, warnings are still given about them, as Isaiah wrote, “*And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards, that chirp and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? on behalf of the living should they seek unto the dead?*” (Isaiah 8:19). The wicked king Manasseh even forced this on his son: “*He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking Him to anger*” (II Kings 21:6).

And we find them centuries later in the New Testament. We remember that Paul and Silas got in trouble in the city of Philippi when they confronted a young woman who was practicing sorcery. “*It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling*” (Acts 16:16). Paul drove out her evil spirit, and when her masters saw their profit was gone, they dragged Paul and Silas before the authorities and raised up a mob who caused Paul and Silas to be beaten and thrown into prison.

In my work in South Africa, I studied with a young woman who seemed to be convinced concerning the gospel, but she was afraid that if she accepted it, evil spirits would bring harm. The “sangoma” is a traditional healer, who reads bones he has cast to make decisions. In sub-Sahara Africa, there is one traditional healer for every 500 people, while there is one medical doctor for every 400,000 people. Sangomas claim they can cure any disease, including aids. In working in Jamaica, I have come across Obeah, which is “spell-casting.” I had a spell cast on me one time, but evidently, the spell-caster wasn’t very good at it, as I felt no ill effects from it.

Well, what about the United States? Witchcraft, sorcery, or whatever you want to call it, is everywhere. When driving in your car, have you ever seen a sign in front of a building that says “Palm Reading?” “Spell Casting?” “Fortune Telling?” It’s all the same. Do you subscribe to your local newspaper? If so, you probably have a column entitled “Horoscope” in it. That’s basically a form of fortune-telling.

I rarely, if ever, look at this nonsense, but out of curiosity this morning, I looked to see what was said about those born under my sign, Pisces. It read, “Fear makes hair stand on end. This is how, in primitive times, when humans were furry, fear made humans appear bigger to predators. Today, you’ll find other ways to appear big.” I’ll have to admit that I laughed. At my age, I am losing my hair, so I don’t guess enough will stand up to scare away predators. I have also gotten a bit shorter and don’t weigh as much, so that’s not going to frighten predators. Maybe if I growl loudly enough it will help.

The newspaper actually pays people to write this nonsense. Then I read the omen for Cancer: “The person spreading goodwill, common decency and a cheerful smile — that is the one advancing the true spirit of humanity.” Wow! Who would have ever thunk it? I never would have known that if someone practicing witchcraft hadn’t told me.

One of the popular posts in the newspapers a while back was Jeane Dixon (1918-1997), who appeared regularly in the newspapers with her prognostications. Among her “prophecies” which did not come to pass were

1. Russia will be the first to land a man on the moon;
2. “World War III will break out in October 1958; and
3. Walter Mondale will be the Democratic candidate for president in 1964.

As we know, none of these came true. Yes, she did make some predictions that did come true. I might take a survey of several people and make a correct prediction of who our next president might be. But that would not be because some “spirit” told me. Anyone can make an “educated guess.” Some will come to pass, while others will not.

Let us take care that we do not fall for this fantasy. It may seem harmless, but it is the work of Satan, and we have been warned about this.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14, “*When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.*”

“Hearing The Voice Of Jesus”

Lesson Text: **John 5:28-29.**

I. Jesus— The Voice Of Instruction.

Matthew 5:1-2;(Chapters 5, 6, & 7); Luke 4:1-2.

Mark 6:34; Mark 8:31-33; Matthew 28:19-20.

II. Jesus— The Voice Of Authority.

Matthew 7:28-29; Mark 1:21-22; 1:27.

Matthew 21:27-29; Matthew 28:18.

Colossians 1:16-18; Colossians 3:17.

III. Jesus— The Voice Of Invitation.

Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 9:23; Matthew 23:37-39.

Revelation 3:20; Revelation 22:16-17.

IV. Jesus— The Voice Of Discipline.

Matthew 23— Revelation 3:14-19.

V. Jesus— The Voice Of Love.

John 3:14-17; John 13:1—vs. 34-35.

Mark 10:21-22.

VI. Jesus— The Voice Of Condemnation.

John 5:22-29— Matthew 25:41.

Matthew 7:21-23.

VII. Jesus— The Voice Of Salvation.

Matthew 25:34—25:46.

Why? John 10:27-28; Mark 16:15-16.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad).

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson <i>John 5:28-29</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	<i>"Hearing The Voice Of Jesus"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Doug George

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