

*Roundtable Bible Discussion Series:*  
**How Jesus Used the Old Testament**



hosted by  
**Christadelphians of Champaign County &  
The UIUC Student Chapter of the Christadelphians**

## **Part 2: How Jesus Used Genesis & the Law of Moses**

### **1. Overall attitude toward Genesis & Law**

- a. Nothing of the law is to be abolished, rather all is to be fulfilled (Mt 5:17-19; Lk 16:16-17)
- b. He took the Genesis accounts as literally true:
  - Creation (Mt 19:3-6, quoting Gen 2:21-24)
  - Judgments of the Flood & Sodom (Lk 17:26-30; Mt 24:37-39)
  - Lives of the patriarchs & the promises made to them (Lk 13:28; Mk 12:26-27 – which also supports the account of the burning bush in Exodus)

### **2. Guidance for his own life**

- a. Overcoming temptation in wilderness (Lk 4:1-13, ref to Deut 8:3, Deut 6:13, Deut 6:16)
- b. Obedience to parents (Lk 2:51, honoring the fifth commandment – Ex 20:12)
- c. Preparation for his sacrifice (explained it to his followers later – Lk 24:25-27; he clearly understood in detail ahead of time – Mk 10:32-34)

### **3. Source of his teaching**

- a. The two great commandments: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself (Mt 22:35-40, quoting from Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18)
- b. Extension from regulation of law to deeper principles:
  - Sermon on the Mount – quotes several observances from law, shows how they must be internalized into the heart (Mt 5:21-48)
  - Woe to those whose religion is based on external regulations, and misses the “weightier matters” of the heart (Mt 23)
  - Physical or ritual uncleanness not nearly as important as uncleanness that comes out of the heart (Mk 7:1-8 & 14-23; Lk 11:37-42)
- c. The hope of resurrection
  - God tells Moses He is God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob after they are dead; Jesus says this demands their resurrection (Mk 12:18-26, ref to Ex 3:6)
  - Abraham rejoiced that he would see Messiah, requiring his resurrection (Jn 8:59; argument is made even more explicit in Heb 11:17-19, ref to Gen 22:9-14)
- d. Prophecies of his sacrifice:
  - Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah speak of his coming death, indicating the Law and the prophets foretold it (Luke 9:28-31)
  - After his resurrection, he chided the disciples for not recognizing that Moses and the prophets foretold his suffering and resurrection (Lk 24:25-27)
- e. Marriage instituted by God, intended to be life-long (Mt 19:3-9, quoting Gen 2:21-24)
- f. 9 of the 10 commandments are reinforced in one way or another (e.g.: Mk 10:17-19; Mk 7:10; keeping Sabbath is the only one not reinforced)

#### **4. Reproof for his opponents**

- a. Rebuked the Pharisees for evading the law to honor their parents, via the Corban tradition (Mk 7:9-13)
- b. Taught the proper use of the Sabbath – did not discredit it, rather used & fulfilled it, and rebuked those who only saw a ritual obligation (Mt 12:1-14)
- c. Rebuked the Sadducees for not believing in resurrection, showed the Law taught it when God called himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Mk 12:18-26, ref to Ex 3:6)
- d. Used Genesis to respond to a challenge about paying taxes – giving to God what is made in the image of God, implied rebuke for being more concerned about the money (Mt 22:15-22, ref to Gen 1:26-27)

#### **5. Conclusions:**

- a. Genesis & the Law are true and trustworthy; they are God's word, therefore they are worthy of attention. Jesus paid attention to them!
- b. They can provide guidance for our own life, as they did for Jesus: in temptation, and in our relationships with others.
- c. They teach us about the work of Jesus and the salvation he brought. It's not all on the surface, and we have to do some digging.
- d. The ways Jesus used Genesis & Law teach us how to handle the Old Testament in general. These books remain important sources of lessons in our own study. (The approaches used by Jesus are reinforced by the letter to the Hebrews, which bases much of its teaching on Genesis and the Law, and by the apostle Paul, who used Genesis and Law a great deal as a foundation for his exposition.)