

Religious Myths vs. Bible Truths

We are all guilty of following them, like the blind following the blind and ending up in a ditch. But as we hear the Spirit and search the Word we uncover the real truths. The following religious myths are in no particular order of importance, but rather as the Lord has brought them to mind, with the most current on top.

7. Religious Myth: The Bible is the “Old Testament” and the “New Testament”.

Truth: There are two issues here.

One is that Bible is made up of the “Old Covenant” and the “New/Renewed Covenant”, not “testaments”.

The other is that is both covenants have something very much in common in that both have something fundamentally in common. To understand their difference clearly, we must first grasp what they have in common.

The “Old Covenant” was a marriage agreement between God & Israel at Mount Sinai. The agreement was that Israel would keep the ways of God, as outlined in His commandments & laws. The people however could not keep this Covenant agreement.

But God has not changed His ways or His standards. What is now different is that He has changed the terms of how the covenant is to be kept. And how is that?

Because of the atoning work of Jesus/(Yeshua), His Spirit could dwell in man so that the Covenant could be written in our minds & hearts. With His Spirit within us we can know what He wants us to do, and we can desire to do it. This is all a work of His grace, which we walk out by faith. Faith without works is dead. If we love Him, then we will keep His ways, as it says in **1John 5:3**. It is not a difficult thing to do when we walk in His Spirit, but otherwise would be impossible by our strength apart from Him.

So the Covenant has changed in how it is implemented. In that way it is “New”, but in another sense it is “Renewed”. The same standard is renewed, but the terms of how to meet that standard are new. The law was never done away with, although parts were prophetic types which have been fulfilled in Jesus/Yeshua. Jeremiah & Ezekiel both prophesied of this “New/Renewed Covenant” as shown here:

31. *“The day will come,” says the LORD, “when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the people of Israel and Judah. 32. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.*

33. But this is the NEW COVENANT I will make with the people of Israel on that day...I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” **Jeremiah 31:31-33 New Living Translation**

“19. And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their hearts of stone and give them tender hearts instead, 20. so they will obey my laws and regulations. Then they will truly be my people and I will be their God.”

Ezekiel 11:19,20 New Living Translation

“26. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.”

Ezekiel 36:26,27 New Living Translation

The **Jeremiah 31** text is quoted by Paul in **Hebrews 8:8-10**, where he also gives further explanation. Note that in all of these verses on the New Covenant that obedience to the laws of God is still required. What has changed is our spirits so that now we can know the laws, want to keep the laws, and are well able to keep them by His Spirit. The laws & commandments were never done away with. We have the Word which explains what is pleasing to God, but better yet, we have His Spirit to understand His Word, both written AND in our directly to us daily. As we walk by His Spirit we begin a new adventure as the ways of our Adamic flesh nature become forgotten & no longer fulfilled. In time by grace through faith we see the Life of Jesus/Yeshua take charge within our thoughts, words, & actions that flow out of a changed heart to heal a hurting world.

Another thing to note is that the Hebrew word for “new” in the verses above is Strong’s #2319, from the root word #2318, which means “renewed” as well as to make new... like a failed marriage that gets renewed to make a new beginning. The Aramaic word means “renewed”.

And you should know that the terms “Old Testament” & “New Testament” were first used by Marcion. Marcion built the first all-Gentile church to promote a blend of Christianity & paganism. They met on Sunday to honor the sun god and blend with Zeus. Polycarp, a disciple of John called Marcion “the firstborn of the devil”. The reason Marcion replaced the term “covenant” with “testament” was to stir people away from the Word, from an understand of the Covenant, and from the Jews who knew the Word.

6. Religious Myth: Jesus was made sin for us.

Truth: Jesus was a *SIN OFFERING* for us.

The myth has its roots in a mistranslation of **2Corinthians 5:21** shown here:

“21. For he hath MADE HIM TO BE SIN for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” King James Version & many others

This mistranslation is explained in detail in our section “Bible Mistranslations”. Until you read that, know for now that the Word plainly states elsewhere in the King James Version that Jesus was a “sin offering”, as we see here in **Ephesians 5:2**:

*“2. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE to God for a sweet-smelling savour [aroma].”
KJV & many others*

He could not be made both, for the sin offering had to be without sin. The difference between being made sin and being made a sin offering is dramatic! The contradiction between these two verses in the same translation is a red flag of a possible mistranslation in one of the two verses. So which is correct? How do we find out? Well, which is in greater harmony with the rest of the Word? The contradiction is a prompt to those who are seeking more truth to see how more accurate translations read, and of course to look at the meaning of the Greek word used for “sin”. Jesus was the sinless Lamb offering to atone for our sins. (This is all laid out for quick reference in the explanation under our “Bible Mistranslations”.) When we do that research we find that it is **Ephesians 5:2** that is correct. And when we do our further exploration into this we discover that some modern translations get it right for **2Corinthians 5:21**, and most get it correct for **Ephesian 5:2**.

This sinless offering was pleasing to the Father and always will be. Sin however never was and never will be acceptable. This myth of Jesus being made sin goes hand-in-hand with “Religious Myth No. 5” below.

5. Religious Myth: The Father forsook Jesus on the cross.

Truth: The Father did not forsake the Son on the cross.

The Father's plan from the foundation of the world was to have His son be made a sin offering to bring man back to God. It was part of His plan before Adam & Eve sinned and had to leave the garden. Jesus was well aware of this plan. Jesus explained this plan several times to His disciples. Jesus was also in full agreement with this plan. This was made plain in His garden test. He would follow the Father's plan to the cross. So where does this myth of the Father forsaking Jesus on the cross come from?

It comes from a very common & popular mistranslation as shown here:

"46. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Matthew 27:46 New King James Version & most other versions

To learn more about this mistranslation, see this verse under our section called "Bible Mistranslations." But for here realize that there is one translation that reads otherwise. It is the George Lamsa Translation. In that one it is made plain that Jesus was letting it be known that this was a time when the Father's plan to redeem mankind through the Son was being fulfilled. It was why Jesus was spared from accident, fatal disease, or murder so that He could live to see the day of being on the cross.

Some may argue that the verse above is quoting **Psalm 22**, which clearly is prophetic of Jesus' death on the cross. That is a great insight and we heartily agree!...except for the first verse of **Psalm 22**, which is also a mistranslation. We go into greater detail on that point in our "Bible Mistranslations".

Religious myths are often founded upon mistranslations. Sometimes the mistranslations resulted from translators that were swayed by religious myths. To make it even more challenging, we often find that various mistranslations throughout the Word are used to lend support for each other and its resulting religious myth. What we've shown here is a classic example of that very thing.

4. Religious Myth: There are 7 Major Feast Days of the Lord.

Truth: There are 8 Major Feast Days of the Lord, and one of the ones typically mentioned is not one of the eight!

There are many “appointed Feast Days”, and there are many associated Feast Days, but only *EIGHT* of them are distinguished in the Word as distinct from all others.

They are distinguished as “*HOLY convocations*”. The others may be times of convocation or gathering together, but they are not labeled in the Word as “*HOLY convocations*”. “*HOLY*” means “set apart”, as in set apart from all the others by being extra special. One of the traditional 7-Feast Days is *NOT* included in the true list, and two are missing! Much of accurately understanding the Word requires a proper Biblical foundation of the 8-Feast Days. Missing this truth will result in missing the many patterns & prophetic types found here. See Lesson No. 4, “The Eight Feasts” for a list of them with full explanation from the Word.

3. Religious Myth: The crossing of the Red Sea was in the shallow part.

Truth: The crossing was in the deep part.

The Red Sea has two arms at the top end, with one on each side of the Sinai Peninsula. To cross the Western arm at any point would land the people in the Sinai, but the Word is clear that they came to Arabia on the other side, (**Galatians 4:25**). Both scripture & archaeological evidence show that they crossed in the middle of the Eastern arm, and at the deepest area. That is the only place to fit so many Israelites on a plain between the mountains and the sea. The late Ron Wyatt uncovered much evidence to confirm that, (www.wyattmuseum.com). I have avidly read all of his works. The Lord has used him to shift many people from religious traditions to Bible truths.

2. Religious Myth: There were 3-wise men who visited baby Jesus in the manger.

Truth: This is wrong on two points.

The Bible does not say how many wise men came, only that there were 3-types of gifts. Josephus and other sources tell us that there were many wise men, called “Magi”, and that they were accompanied by a very large number of people. And the Bible does not say that they came to a manger. They visited Mary & Joseph & Jesus at a house, not a manger. By the time they got there Jesus was a toddler up to 2-years old.

1. Religious Myth: Jesus was born on Christmas.

Truth: Perhaps he was conceived at that time or close to it, but his birth was in the fall of the year.

Stephen Jones lays it out from the word in his booklet “When was Jesus Really Born?”. Bonnie Gaunt does the same in the Appendix 1 of her book, “Time and the Bible’s Number Code”. They come up with the same date for His birth as September 29 in the year 2 B.C.

This date is highly significant for it was the 1st day of Tishri, the beginning of the 7th month of the religious year and the 1st month of the civil or agricultural year. So it was highly significant on both calendars.

It was the Feast of Trumpets for both calendars. This ushered in a new beginning in time. It was the day of the first of the four major Feasts of Tabernacles in the month of Tabernacles, the time of the final ingathering of the fruits of the harvest...the oil, wine & corn in particular. And it ushered in the New Year for the new Hebrew calendar year. It was symbolic of the ending of one time and the beginning of another. For a broad understanding of the big picture here, read Lesson 10, “The Two Works of Christ”.

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