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## **THE MOST IMPORTANT DIVISION OF THE BIBLE**

The supposition that the most important division of the Bible is that between the Old and New Testaments has often been expressed in the statement: "The Old Testament is for the Jews; the New Testament is for us." This is quite incorrect, however.

First of all, the titles Old Testament and New Testament are not accurate designations of the two sections of the Bible which they are supposed to represent.

The covenant of the law (later called the Old Covenant, or Testament) was not made until 2500 years of human history had elapsed.

*"the law was given by Moses"* (John 1:17), about 1500 B.C., as recorded in Exodus 19 and 20.

We are told concerning the period of time *"from Adam to Moses"* that there was no law (Romans 5:13,14). The law had not yet been given.

This means that there is actually not one word of the Old Testament in Genesis. Indeed, Israel did not even emerge as a nation until her deliverance from Egypt described in Exodus. If, therefore, the Old Testament is for the Jews and the New Testament for us, for whom is the book of Genesis?

As to the New Covenant; this was not made until the death of Christ: *"... he is the mediator of the new testament [covenant],"* (Hebrews 9:15).

It was in the shadow of the cross, as our Lord communed with His disciples, that He said: *"This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."* (Luke 22:20)

This means that the greater part of the four gospel records actually covers Old Testament rather than New Testament history and that our Lord and His disciples all lived under the Old Covenant at that time.

It should be noted too that both the Old and New testaments, were made with the nation Israel. But Israel was obstinate to the New Covenant and that is why Paul was raised by Jesus as the apostle of the Gentiles [=none Jews] (Acts 9:15).

The most important division in the Bible, then, is not that between the so-called Old and New Testaments.

The most important division in the Bible is that between Prophecy and the great Mystery proclaimed by the apostle Paul.

(Source: 'Things That Differ' by Cornelius R. Stam)