

TEACHING THE OLD TESTAMENT
By
HAROLD HARSTVEDT



WHO TAUGHT MOSES?

EXODUS 4:10-15

10 Moses said to the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.

11 **The LORD said**, Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?

12 Now go, **I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.**

WHO TAUGHT AARON?

EXODUS 4:10-15

13 He said, My Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.

14 The anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: **Is not Aaron the Levite your brother?** I know that he can speak well. Look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

15 **You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.**

WHO DID MOSES TEACH?

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-6

1 **O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe**, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

2 **You shall not add to the word which I command you nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**

3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.

WHO COMMANDED MOSES TO TEACH?

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-6

4 You who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

5 Surely **I have taught you statutes and judgments,** just as **the LORD my God commanded me** that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

WHO COMMANDED MOSES TO TEACH?

DEUTERONOMY 4:12-14

12 The LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.

13 He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the **Ten Commandments**. He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

14 **The LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments** that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess. (NKJ)

WHO SHOULD TEACH THE CHILDREN?

DEUTERONOMY 4:8-10

8 What great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

9 Take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And **teach them to your children and your grandchildren,**

10 Especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when **the LORD said to me,** Gather the people to Me. **I will let them hear My words,** that **they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth,** and that **they may teach their children.** (NKJ)

WHAT SHOULD THEY TEACH THE CHILDREN?

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

1 This is the commandment, and **these are the statutes and judgments** which **the LORD your God has commanded to teach you**, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,

2 That you may **fear the LORD your God**, to **keep all His statutes and His commandments** which I command you, **you and your son and your grandson**, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you-- a land flowing with milk and honey.

WHAT SHOULD THEY TEACH THE CHILDREN?

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one

5 **You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (NKJ)

WHEN SHOULD THEY TEACH THE CHILDREN?

DEUTERONOMY 11:16-19

16 Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

17 Lest the LORD'S anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

18 **You shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul,** and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

19 **You shall teach them to your children,** speaking of them when **you sit in your house,** when **you walk by the way,** when **you lie down,** and **when you rise up.** (NKJ)

WHAT DID MOSES TEACH THEM? WHEN?

DEUTERONOMY 31:9-13

10 Moses commanded them, saying: At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, **at the Feast of Tabernacles,**

11 When **all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God** in the place which He chooses, **you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.**

12 Gather the people together, **men and women and little ones,** and **the stranger who is within your gates,** that **they may hear** and that **they may learn to fear the LORD your God** and **carefully observe all the words of this law,**

13 That **their children,** who have not known it, **may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God** as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess.

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF THE LAW? WHY?

DEUTERONOMY 31:24-26

- 24 When **Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book**, when they were finished,
- 25 **Moses commanded the Levites**, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying:
- 26 **Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God**, that it may be there as a witness against you. (NKJ)

WHAT DID THE LORD TELL JOSHUA?

JOSHUA 1:6-8

6 **Be strong and of good courage**, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only **be strong and very courageous**, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

8 **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth**, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

WHAT DID JOSHUA DO AT MOUNT EBAL?

JOSHUA 8:30-35

30 Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,

31 As Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool. And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

32 There, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the Law of Moses, which he had written.

WHAT DID JOSHUA READ TO ALL ISRAEL?

JOSHUA 8:30-35

33 Then **all Israel**, with their **elders** and **officers** and **judges**, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, **the stranger as well** as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

34 Afterward **he read all the words of the law**, the blessings and the cursings, **according to all that is written in the Book of the Law**.

35 **There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.** (NKJ)

WHAT DID JOSHUA TELL THE PEOPLE? WHY?

JOSHUA 23:4-7

4 See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward.

5 The LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. You shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

6 Therefore **be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, Lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,**

7 Lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, (NKJ)

WHERE DID HILKIAH FIND THE BOOK OF THE LAW?

TO WHOM DID THEY READ IT?

2 KINGS 22:8-11

8 Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, **I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.** And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

10 Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest has given me a book. And **Shaphan read it before king Josiah.**

11 When **Josiah the king heard the words of the Book of the Law,** that he tore his clothes.

(NKJ)

(2 CHRONICLES 34:14-19)

WHAT DID JOSIAH DO?

2 KINGS 23:2-3

2 Josiah went up to the house of the LORD with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem-- the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

3 The king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant. (NKJ)

(2 CHRONICLES 34:29-32)

WHO TAUGHT FROM THE BOOK OF THE LAW?

2 CHRONICLES 17:7-9

7 In the third year of his reign **Jehoshaphat sent his leaders**, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, **to teach in the cities of Judah.**

8 And with them **he sent Levites**: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah-- the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, **the priests.**

9 **They taught in Judah**, and **had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them**; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and **taught the people.** (NKJ)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DUTIES OF THE PRIEST?

EZEKIEL 44:23-24

23 **They shall teach My people** the difference between **the holy and the unholy**, and cause them to discern between **the unclean and the clean**.

24 In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. **They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings**, and **they shall hallow My Sabbaths**. (NKJ)

HOW DID EZRA PREPARE HIMSELF TO TEACH?

EZRA 7:6-10

6 **Ezra** came up from Babylon. He **was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses**, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to **the hand of the LORD his God upon him.**

9 On the first day of the first month Ezra began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

10 **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.** (NKJ)

WHO DID EZRA TEACH?

NEHEMIAH 8:1-2

1 **All the people gathered together as one man** in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.

2 **Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding** on the first day of the seventh month.

WHAT DID EZRA READ TO THEM?

HOW DID THEY RECEIVE THE READING?

NEHEMIAH 8:3-4

3 **He read from it** in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate **from morning until midday**, before **the men and women and those who could understand**. The ears of **all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law**.

4 Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

WHAT DID THE PEOPLE DO?

WHAT DID THE LEVITES DO?

NEHEMIAH 8:5-7

5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

6 Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, Amen, Amen! while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place.

HOW DID THEY TEACH THE PEOPLE?

NEHEMIAH 8:8

8 **They read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and they helped them to understand the reading.**

HOW DID THE PEOPLE RESPOND?

NEHEMIAH 8:9

9 **Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. (NKJ)**

WHERE WILL THE LORD'S HOUSE BE?

ISAIAH 2:2

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that **the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow to it.**

WHERE WILL THE PEOPLE GO?

WHY?

ISAIAH 2:3

3 Many people shall come and say, **Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD**, to the house of the God of Jacob; **he will teach us His ways**, and **we shall walk in His paths**. For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (NKJ)

(MICAHAH 4:2)

WHO WILL COME FROM THE SEED OF JESSE?

ISAIAH 11:1-4

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and **a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, **the Spirit of wisdom and understanding**, the Spirit of counsel and might, **the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**

3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and **He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes**, nor **decide by the hearing of His ears**;

4 But **with righteousness He shall judge the poor**, and **decide with equity for the meek of the earth.** He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (NKJ)

(JEREMIAH 23:5 JEREMIAH 33:14-18)

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT THE LAW?

MATTHEW 5:17-20

17 **Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.** I did not come to destroy BUT to fulfill.

18 **Asuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.**

19 **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

20 **I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

WHAT DID JESUS SAY TO THE PHARISEES?

LUKE 16:15-17

15 He said to them, **You are those who justify yourselves before men, BUT God knows your hearts.** For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

16 **The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.**

17 **It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail. (NKJ)**

WHY MAKE A NEW COVENANT?

HEBREWS 8:7-13

7 If that First covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

8 Because 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--

9 Not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. Because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

10 This is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE “OLD” COVENANT?

HEBREWS 8:7-13

11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

12 I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

13 In 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. (NKJ)

(JEREMIAH 31:31-33)



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD COVENANT?

ROMANS 10:4

4 Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (NKJ)

COLOSSIANS 2:14

14 Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (NKJ)

WHAT WAS IT, THAT SEPERATED THEM?

EPHESIANS 2:14-16

14 Christ is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 Having 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,

16 That He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (NKJ)

WHAT DID JESUS FULFILL?

LUKE 24:44-47

44 He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**

45 **He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

46 He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47 And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (NKJ)**

