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Christians Must 'Unhitch' Old Testament From Their Faith, Says Andy Stanley

By Michael Gryboski, Christian Post Reporter | Wednesday, May 09, 2018

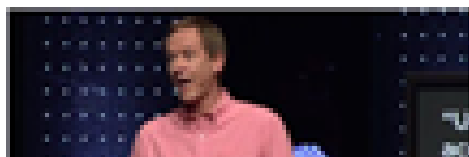
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"[First century] Church leaders unhitched the church from the worldview, value system, and regulations of the Jewish scriptures," said Stanley.

"Peter, James, Paul elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well."

Stanley argued that it had to be done for the same reason the church in Acts 15 did so, which was so that "we must not make it difficult for those Gentiles who are turning to God."



For Stanley, the difficulty lay with the Old Testament and his concern that many Christians are turning away from the faith because of certain passages in the Hebrew Bible.

Stanley argued that the early church showed that there was a need to move past the Old Testament for the sake of gentile believers and that the resurrection of Jesus was enough.



"Jesus' new covenant, His covenant with the nations, His covenant with you, His covenant with us, can stand on its own two nail-scarred resurrection feet. It does not need propping up by the Jewish scriptures," [noted Stanley](#).

"The Bible did not create Christianity. The resurrection of Jesus created and launched Christianity. Your whole house of Old Testament cards can come tumbling down. The question is did Jesus rise from the dead? And the eyewitnesses said he did." **“According to the Scriptures!”**

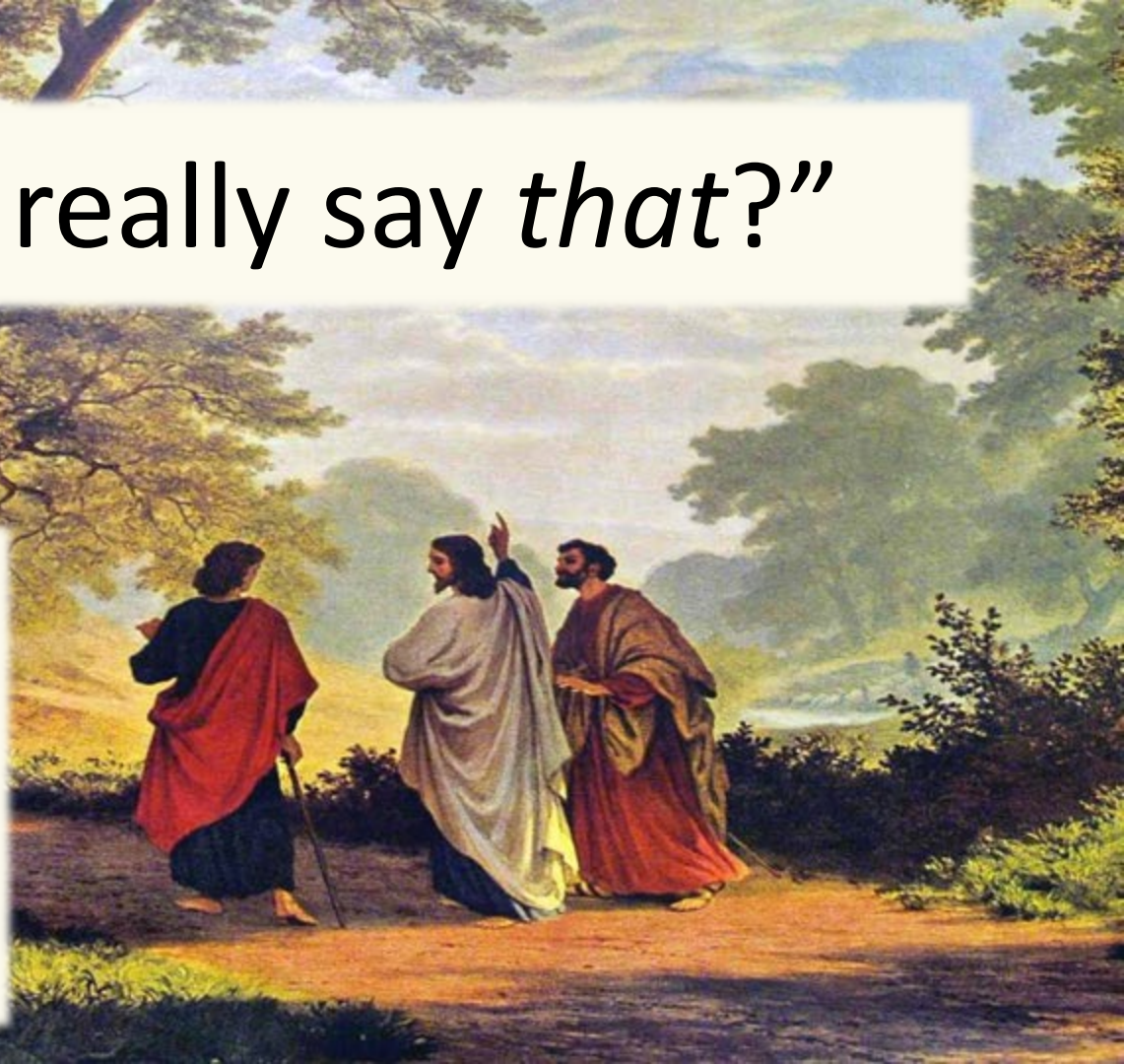
Stanley's sermon was the third part of a series titled "Aftermath," in which the pastor was trying to appeal to individuals who left Christianity over what they were taught the Bible said about certain things.

"If you were raised on a version of Christianity that relied on the Bible as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, maybe it's time for you to change your mind about Jesus,"

[stated North Point Community Church.](#)

“Did God really say *that*?”

*A Look at what
the Bible says
about Itself*





The Claim

“God spoke by the Holy Spirit,
through prophets, to men
for their good and
to point them to Christ.”

God Spoke

- The OT claims to be from God
 - “Thus says the Lord” (e.g.- Josh. 24:2; Judg. 6:8; 1 Sam. 2:27)
 - *The word of God or of the Lord* (e.g. - Ex. 19:8; Josh. 3:9; 1 Sam. 15:10)

God Spoke

- The OT claims to be from God
 - *The voice of God or of the Lord*
(e.g. – Ex. 15:26; 23:21; Deut. 4)
 - “Then God spoke all these words, saying,” (Ex. 20:1)

God Spoke

- The OT claims to be from God
 - “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.”’” (Ex. 20:22)

God Spoke

- The NT claims the OT is from God
 - “the oracles of God” (Rom. 3:1; Acts 7:38; Heb. 5:12)
 - *Oracle* – a divine utterance (cf. 2 Sam. 16:23)

God Spoke

- The NT claims the OT is from God
 - “the oracles of God” (Rom. 3:1; Acts 7:38; Heb. 5:12)
 - “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God” (1 Pet. 4:11)

God Spoke

- The NT claims the OT is from God
 - “the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” are “Scripture ... inspired by God” (2 Tim. 3:15-16)

God Spoke

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - See Matt. 15:1-9
 - “God said [Ex. 20:12 & 21:17]” =
“the commandment of God” =
“the word of God”
 - John 10:34-35

By the Holy Spirit

- In the OT
 - The Spirit -> *prophesying* (e.g. - Numb. 11:16-30; 1 Sam. 10:10)
 - Prophecy* = proclaiming what God said (sometimes predictive)

By the Holy Spirit

- In the OT
 - David: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.” (2 Sam. 23:2)

By the Holy Spirit

- In the NT
 - “...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Pet. 1:21)

By the Holy Spirit

- In the NT
 - “O Lord, it is You ... who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,...” (Acts 4:24-25)
 - See also Acts 1:16; Heb. 3:7; 10:15

By the Holy Spirit

- In the NT
 - “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, saying,…” (Acts 28:25-26)

By the Holy Spirit

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.”’”
(Mark 12:36)

By the Holy Spirit

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - Luke 4:16-21
 - “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.”
(Isa. 61:1)

Through Prophets

- In the OT
 - “I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” (Deut. 18:18)

Through Prophets

- In the OT
 - See Jer. 26:1-2; 12-15
 - “speak ... all the words that I have commanded you to speak to them”
 - “the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words”

Through Prophets

- In the NT
 - See Acts 3:17-24
 - “God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets”
 - “God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets”

Through Prophets

- In the NT
 - “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets...” (Heb. 1:1)
 - “the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets” are on par with commandments of Jesus (2 Pet. 3:2)

Through Prophets

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - Jonah the prophet – Matt. 12:39
 - Daniel the prophet – Matt. 24:15
 - Elisha the prophet – Luke 4:27
 - Prophecy of Isaiah – Matt. 13:14
 - Elijah – Luke 4:25-26

Through Prophets

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - Zechariah, the son of Berechiah – Matt. 23:35
 - Quoted Hosea 6:6 – Matt. 9:13
 - Quoted Malachi 3:1 – Matt. 11:10
 - Quoted Jeremiah 7:11 – Matt. 21:13

Through Prophets

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - Moses – John 5:45-46
 - “Moses and all the prophets” – Luke 24:25-27

To Men (Authority)

- In the OT
 - “You shall...” and “You shall not...”
(e.g. – Ex. 20:1-17)
 - Prescriptive: *Listen, hear, keep, observe, obey, walk, way, path, love, fear, etc.*

To Men (Authority)

- In the OT
 - “When they say to you, ‘Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?” (Isa. 8:19)

To Men (Authority)

- In the OT
 - “To the law and to the testimony!
If they do not speak according to
this word, it is because they have
no dawn.” (Isa. 8:20)

To Men (Authority)

- In the NT
 - Paul “reasoned with them from the Scriptures” (Acts 17:2)
 - The Bereans were “examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11)

To Men (Authority)

- In the NT
 - Apollós “was mighty in the Scriptures” and “demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ” (Acts 18:24-28)

To Men (Authority)

- In the NT
 - “whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction” (Rom. 15:4)
 - “they were written for our instruction” (1 Cor. 10:11)

To Men (Authority)

- In the NT
 - “All Scripture is ... profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16)

To Men (Authority)

- In the NT
 - “If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.” (James 2:8)

To Men (Authority)

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “It is written” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)
 - “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (4, quoting Deut. 8:3)

To Men (Authority)

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt. 7:12)

To Men (Authority)

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures...”
(Matt. 22:29)
 - “You have answered correctly”
(Luke 10:25-28)

For Their Good

- In the OT
 - “So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today.” (Deut. 6:24)

For Their Good

- In the OT
 - “be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you” -> “so that you may have success wherever you go;”
meditate -> prosperous (Josh. 1:7-8)

For Their Good

- In the OT
 - See Ps. 1
 - “He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water”
 - “And in whatever he does, he prospers”

For Their Good

- In the NT
 - “Honor your father and mother ... so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.” (Eph. 6:2-3)
 - Life & good days* (1 Pet. 3:8-11)

For Their Good

- In the NT
 - “But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, ... this man will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:25)

For Their Good

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:28)
 - “DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE” (Luke 10:28; cf. Lev. 18:5; Ezek. 20:11)

To Point Them to Christ

- In the OT
 - Sermon Series 2020!

To Point Them to Christ

- In the NT
 - Messiah would be born “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:” Matt. 2:1-7; cf. Micah 5:2)

To Point Them to Christ

- In the NT
 - “...the prophets ... who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One” (Acts 7:51-53)
 - “according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

To Point Them to Christ

- In the NT
 - Paul “reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead” (Acts 17:2)

To Point Them to Christ

- In the NT
 - Apollos “powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ” (Acts 18:28)

To Point Them to Christ

- In the NT
 - “the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15)

To Point Them to Christ

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “...and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.”
(Luke 18:31)

To Point Them to Christ

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:27)

To Point Them to Christ

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “... all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

To Point Them to Christ

- Did Jesus Agree?
 - “...The Scriptures ... testify about Me” (John 5:39)
 - “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.” (John 5:46)



The Claim

“God spoke by the Holy Spirit,
through prophets, to men
for their good and
to point them to Christ.”

So What?

- The OT is the word of God
 - The prophets believed it to be
 - The apostles believed it to be
 - Jesus believed it to be
- If you trust the NT, you should trust the OT, as well

So What?

- We cannot *unhitch* from the OT without doing serious damage to the NT and to Christianity
 - Without the OT there is no Messiah/Christ

So What?

- “All Scripture” must be taken as a whole – God’s revelation of Himself
- The further you move away from what the Bible says about God, the further you move away from the God of the Bible

Starting next week:
Jesus in the Old Testament

