

BIBLE

PARALLEL

LINES

Parallel lines Pt.1: One God

One person stands firmly on their soapbox proclaiming that the only relevant parts of the Bible are in the New Testament. Another faithful follower of God retorts that the Old Testament has everything we need. So, is there an issue? I was listening to a Leviticus broadcast and the preacher made an interesting comment. He said that some scholars didn't think that Leviticus 25-27 belonged in the Bible. It piqued my interest, so I read through it and discovered that the words of Jesus are riddled within these chapters. Then I ran a search of quotes by Jesus from Leviticus and found there was none. Yet, the wisdom of Jesus was there in chapters 25 through 27. This whole narrative led me to look closer at the words of Jesus and the words found in Leviticus. What I found were some parallel lines.

Maybe Jesus didn't quote a Leviticus verse directly (surprised) but he definitely implied the intentions found in this book of the law. This series will help you see that the Bible is connected in both testaments. I will give you a clearer picture of the lines that intersect with the Ten commandments, Leviticus, and Jesus statements found in the gospels. Gods' ancient words tell us to treat neighbors with respect. There is a thread that connects the Law of Moses to the words of Jesus. There are many other examples where Jesus embodies the character traits of His Father in heaven. Let's begin by diving into Leviticus 19.

I began this journey in Leviticus 27: however, as I read chapter 19 it became clear that Jesus had mentioned some of these thoughts of God well before chapter 27. Then it hit me that Jesus had mentioned several other thoughts in Leviticus 25 and 26 too. I did a little more research and it certainly surprised me that scholars don't seem to credit Jesus with mentioning Leviticus. I mean Jesus himself said he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Yes, Jesus quotes other books of ancient Jewish law, but Leviticus has been labeled as the granddaddy of them all. The template of our legal system comes from Leviticus. I began to form a clear picture that Jesus moral fabric is grounded within these Levitical chapters.

Mark 10:18 *““Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.”*

Jesus is also found in the desert being confronted by Satan. What does He say? Matthew 4:10 *“Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”* Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Yet, Jesus refused to elevate Himself above His Father in heaven. In Leviticus 19:4 it says *‘Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.’* God repeats this in the Old Testament over and over. Why? He claims to be their only God. Jesus says there is only one God in heaven too.

It is important to catch is the words “one God” found in Deuteronomy 6:4. Moses says *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”* Jesus said serve Him only. God does not imply that there are other Gods. Moses says God is one. Yet, in Leviticus 19 doesn't it say that God is asking them to serve Him only and no other Gods? It comes back to what you serve. Is that a person, place, or thing? What is the God you worship? The Bible does claim that there is only one God. The same God that Jesus calls His Father in heaven.

Leviticus 19 goes through the Ten Commandments. It was a reminder to the Israelites, by Moses, of who their God is. The Egyptians had many Gods. Israelites children were born into slavery of a people who did not know their God. I am sure that the God of the Israelites was passed down generation to generation. Yet, we are talking about 400 years of Slavery. Four hundred years of learning how to serve other Gods. Here we have a parallel to the ten commandments Leviticus 19:2 *“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”* This is a parallel line to Exodus 20: 2-3 *“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”* Then we find one other line leading directly to Jesus in Matthew 4: 8-10 *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*

Matthew 12:24-25 *“But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.” 25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”*

Jesus isn't directly saying there is only one God but He is! The Pharisees tried to call Jesus a servant of Satan. Yet, Jesus quickly responds by saying you can only choose one kingdom. All others must fall away by your loyalty to one God. Jesus words defended His God. The same God that these religious rulers claimed to follow. Could Jesus be secretly a follower of Satan? No! Jesus says boldly that nobody would claim to be in allegiance to one while serving another. That kingdom would be weak if it had followers like that. Jesus makes the last parallel back to the Old

Testament by claiming to be following one God and one God only: the Israelite Father in heaven.

The parallel line between the old and new testaments is that this idea of “one God” is in both

books.