

Scripture Update

St. Wilfrid's Scripture Group

January 2024



- **The Epiphany: What does it mean?**
- **Why do we have “Old” and “New” Testaments**

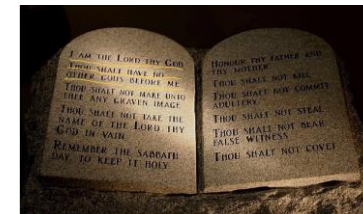
The Epiphany

The visit of the Magi or wise men from a far country to the scene of Jesus birth at Bethlehem is significant because he was recognised firstly by a small group of gentiles (non jews). Jesus' mission was to be for all people of the Earth, not just the Jews.

Matthew's gospel was written primarily for the Jews to show how he fulfilled the Messianic expectations of the Jewish writings. It would have been very new to them that gentiles were a significant part of his Mission. Matthew makes this very clear at the outset of his “Good News” or Gospel account: we are one

The Old and New Testaments

The word Testament or Covenant means a promise. The term Old Testament refers to the promise made to Moses by God (Yahweh, as he was called by the Hebrews) that they would be his people and he their God if they obeyed the commandments. The prophet Jeremiah in about 580 B.C. said that the people had gone far away from the commandments and that the covenant was ended, but God would restore it at some future date and their cold hearts of stone will be replaced by hearts of flesh, or love.



The New Testament is the restoration of the friendship between God and people with the person of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The writings of the life and Jesus and the work of his disciples is contained in the latter part of the bible and is called the New Testament or promise, which is everlasting.

Jesus' commandments in the New Testament are to love the lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might and to love your neighbour as you love yourself. Jesus says all the meaning of the old law are contained in these words.