

ANDY STANLEY or Bishop J C RYLE: Which should you believe?

The trendy and popular preacher in America, **ANDY STANLEY**, has over a number of years stirred up some controversy by things he says and by some of the company he keeps. An informative range of articles dealing with some of these matters of concern can be found on -

<https://christianresearchnetwork.org/?s=andy+stanley&submit=Search>

One particular area of controversy related to what he said concerning the **Old Testament** scriptures. This is highlighted in the article listed on the link I gave and this is the link to that specific article –

<https://albertmohler.com/2018/08/10/getting-unhitched-old-testament-andy-stanley-aims-heresy/>

(Just as a 'caveat' - this article is by Al Mohler whom I and other apologists do have issues with in a number of areas, but, in this case, his analysis is very incisive and helpful)

Another shorter but also helpful article addressing this matter can be found on this link

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/3-things-andy-stanley-got-wrong-about-the-old-testament.html>

Under this heading in the article - **2. The Old Testament isn't about Jesus.** – the following quote attributed to Andy Stanley is given –

“When the Church launched, the foundation of the faith of the early Christians was not a book (they didn't have one), it wasn't the Bible (there wasn't one), and it wasn't the Old Testament – what they called the Law and the Prophets – because that didn't tell the story of Jesus. The foundation of the early church was an event – the resurrection,”

The author of the article rightly goes on to challenge that statement under 'Point 2'.

I want now to come to the title for this short article –

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I am currently using a Daily Devotional based upon the writings of **Bishop J C RYLE** and the portion under consideration for today was **Matthew 5: 17-20** – These verses are of course a portion from **The Sermon on The Mount** and in them the Lord says –

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven”.

In the course of his comments, **Bishop J C RYLE** wrote the following –

‘Let us beware of despising the Old Testament under any pretence whatever. Let us never listen to those who bid us throw it aside as obsolete, antiquated and useless. The religion of the Old Testament is the germ of Christianity. The Old Testament is the gospel in bud. The New Testament is the gospel in full bloom. The saints in the Old Testament saw many things in a glass darkly. But they all looked by faith to the same Saviour and were led by the same Spirit as ourselves. Much infidelity begins with an ignorant contempt of the Old Testament.’

In answer to the question posed in the title of my article,
my vote most assuredly goes to **Bishop J C RYLE**.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 3rd March 2020