

X. Scriptural Relation Between the *Rig* and *Atharva Veda* and the *Bible*¹

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Old and New Testament

1. God the creator of heaven and earth: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1; cf. Ps. 121:2). “The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; the world and all that is in it, thou hast founded them” (Ps. 89:11; cf. Heb. 1:10). “I am the Lord, who made all things, who stretched out the heavens alone, who spread out the earth” (Is. 44:24; cf. 42:5; 45:12; Jer. 10:12; 51:15). “God who made the world and everything in it, ... he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:24-25; cf. Mal. 2:10). “In him all things were created, in heaven and on earth” (Col. 1:15-16; cf. Jn. 1: 3-4). Vedic: “These two world-halves have I, even as Tvashtar knowing all beings, joined and held together. I ... set the heaven firm in the seat of Order” (RV 4:42.3-4). “Who [Varuna] urged the high and mighty sky to motion, the Star of old, and spread the earth before him” (RV 7:86.1). “On him the three heavens rest and are supported, and the three earths are there in six fold order. The wise King Varuna hath made in heaven that Golden Swing [the Sun] to cover it with glory” (RV 7:87.5). “He [Hiranyagarbha] fixed and holdeth up this earth and heaven” (RV 10:121.1).

2. A formless world is immersed in darkness. “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (Gen. 1:2). Vedic: “Darkness there was: at first concealed in darkness this All was indiscriminate chaos. All that existed was void and formless” (RV 10:129.3).

3. God acted on the primordial world composed of water. “The Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2). Vedic: “What covered in, and where? And what gave shelter? Was water there, unfathomed depth of water?” (RV 10:129.1).

4. “Creation from speech: “God said, Let there be light, and there was light” (Gen. 1:3). “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made ... he spoke and it

came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth” (Ps. 33:6, 9; cf. 148:5). Vedic: “I [Vak the Goddess of Speech] bring forth the Father [heaven or sky produced from Vak] ... I hold together all existence” (RV 10:125.7-8).

5. God created heaven and earth. “God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.... And God called the firmament Heaven ... And God said, Let the dry land appear. And it was so. God called the dry land Earth” (Gen. 1:7-10). Vedic: in the *Rig Veda* the world originated from the body of the primordial giant Purusha: “The sky was fashioned from his head; Earth from his feet” (RV)

6. God establishes day and night: “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, And it was so ... he made the stars also” (Gen. 1:14-16; cf. Ps. 74:16-17). Vedic: “They [Mitra and Varuna] who have established year and month and then the day, night” (RV 7:66.11).

7. The Lord protects his devotee: “Fear not Abraham I am your shield” (Gen. 15:1). The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts” (Ps. 28:7). “Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield” (Ps. 33:20). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1). “Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you” (Ps. 55:22; cf. 1 Pet. 5:7). “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust. For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; ... Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you” (Ps. 91:2-3, 9-10; cf. Is. 41:10; 43:2). “With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can man do to me” (Ps. 118:6; cf. Heb. 13:6)? “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength” (Is. 40:29). “If God is for us, who is against us (Rom. 8:31)? “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, ... The Lord will rescue me from every evil” (2 Tim. 4:18). Vedic: “Far from me, Varuna removes all danger” (RV 2:28.6) and “May he [Varuna] vouchsafe us triply protection” (RV 8:42.2).

8. Angels: “The angels of the Lord” (Gen. 16:7, etc.). Vedic: Henry Heras S.J. mentions in the *Rig Veda* there are a class of luminous deities called angiras, which may be related to the Latin angelus=angels. The angiras are a group of beings higher than humans and less than God, who are associated with light (RV 5:8.4).

Angiras is often mentioned as a messenger and herald of God (RV 1:12.1, 8; 36.3-4; 8:19.21); and is a protector of people (RV 10:87.18-22).²

9. Omnipotence: “Is there anything too hard for the Lord? (Gen. 18:14). “I know that thou canst do all things” (Job 42:2; cf. Ps. 115:3). “By the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power” (Is. 40:26). “Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great power ... Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me” (Jer. 32:17, 27)? God “who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number” (Job. 5:9). “For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever” (Mt. 6:13). “With God all things are possible” (Mt. 19:26; cf. Mk. 10:27; 14:36; Lk. 1:37; 18:27). Not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father’s will. Even the hairs of your head are all numbered” (Mt. 10:29-30; cf. Lk. 12:7). Vedic: “He [Indra] who alone by wondrous deeds is Mighty, strong by holy works” (RV 8:1.27). “Nothing is done, even far away, without thee [Indra]” (RV 10:112.9). “The twinklings of men’s eyelids hath he [Varuna] counted. As one who plays throws dice he settles all things” (AV 4:16.5).

10. The Lord parted the seas: When Moses and the people of Israel were at the Red Sea, “The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided” (Ex. 14:21; cf. Ps. 78:13; Is. 63:12). Vedic: “Thou [Indra] for Turviti heldest still the flowing floods, the river-stream for Vayya easily to pass” (RV 4:19.6).

11. Hereditary sin: “I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me” (Ex. 20:5; cf. 34:7; Num. 14:18; Dt. 5:9; Ps. 79:8; Jer. 32:18). Vedic: “[Varuna] free us from sins committed by our fathers” (RV 7:86.5).

12. The priesthood: Discussing similarities concerning the clergy, Navalar mentioned that the Lord prescribed how Aaron and his sons could become anointed and consecrated priests (Ex. 29:1-9; 40: 9-15). Vedic: Their qualified descendants have the right to become hereditary priests (RV 9:112.1).

13. Sacrifices were performed for the purpose of atonement for sins (Lev. 4; 6:24-30; 16; 23:26-32--- RV 1:24.9, 14; 2:28.5; 5:85.7-8; SB 2:5.2.25; LM 8:105) and for receiving material benefits (RV 1:54.9; 7:32.5; 9:49.1).³

14. Bulls, rams, lambs, calves, and pigeons were offered as a gift to the Lord (Lev. 22: 17-30--- RV 1:162-63; 2:7.5), to be used for a burnt offering on the fire

altar (Lev. 1:7, 12, 17; 3:5; 6:9-13; 9:24--- RV 5:11.2; LM 3:67)

15. Omnipresence: “The Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath” (Dt. 4:39). “Whither should I go from the Spirit? Or wither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there” (Ps. 139:7-8)! “Says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth” (Jer. 23:24; cf. Is. 66:1)? Vedic: “He [Mitra-Varuna] who hath measured with his ray the boundaries of heaven and earth. And with his majesty hath filled the two worlds full” (RV 8:25.18; cf. 10:90.1; AV 4:16.4; 9:6.1). “A thousand heads hath Purusha, a thousand eyes, a thousand feet. On every side pervading earth” (RV 10:90.1; AV 19:6.1). “When two men whisper as they sit together, King Varuna knows: he as the third is present” (AV 4:16.2). “If one should flee afar beyond the heaven, King Varuna would still be round about him. Proceeding hither from the sky his envoys look, thousand-eyed, over the earth beneath them” (AV 4:16.4). “He, the all-pervasive pervades all beings within and without” (Yajur Veda 32:8).

16. Oneness: “Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is One” (Dt. 6:4; cf. Mk. 12:29; Zech. 14:9). “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God (Is. 45:5; cf. Dt. 4:35, 39; 32:39; Is. 43:10-12; 44:6; 45:22; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 12:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5). “Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? (Mal. 2:10). Vedic: “In the beginning rose Hiranyagarbha, born Only Lord of all created beings” (RV 10:121.1). “[At the beginning of creation] That One Thing, breathless, breathed by its own nature; apart from it was nothing whatsoever” (RV 10:129.2). “They have called him Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, ... The One Being sages call by many names” (RV* 1:164.46; 4:40.5).

17. Heaven and earth belong to the Lord: “To the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it” (Dt. 10:14). “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein” (Ps. 24:1; cf. 50:12; 1 Cor. 10:26). Vedic: “Thou [Indra] who exists beyond the wide firmament, ... hast made, for our help, the earth a replica of thy glory, and encompassed water and light up to the heavens” (RV* 1:52.12). “This earth, too is King Varuna’s possession, and the high heaven whose ends are far asunder” (AV 4:16.3).

18. Give to the poor: “You shall give to him freely ... for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work ... I command you. You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land” (Dt. 15:10-11).

“Blessed is he who considers the poor! The Lord delivers him in the day of trouble” (Ps. 41:1). “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deeds” (Prov. 19:17). Vedic: “The riches of the liberal never waste away, while he who will not give finds none to comfort him.... Bounteous is he who gives unto the beggar who comes to him in want of food and feeble. Success attends him” (RV 10:117.1, 3)

19. The Lord extended day into the night: “The sun stayed in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day” (Josh. 10:13). Vedic: “When thou [Indra] didst lengthen days by night (didst prolong the day into night)” (RV 4:30.3; cf. 10:138.3).

20. Horses and the sun: “The horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the Lord” (2 Kings 23:11). Vedic: “Surya [the sun] ... loosed his Horses from their station” (RV 1:115.4).⁴

21. God forgives some sins: “Seeing that thou, our God, hast punished us less than our iniquities deserved” (Ezra 9:13). “He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities” (Ps. 103:10). “Remember not against us former iniquities (Ps. 129:8). Vedic: “Do not punish us according to our sins.... What ever evil we have committed ... forgive us.... Varuna, remove from us the trespass.... Cast all these sins away like loosened fetters, and, Varuna, let us be thine own beloved” (RV 5:85.5-8; 7:88.6).

22. Eternal Law: “Walk in God’s law which was given by Moses” (Neh. 10:29). “The Law of the Lord is perfect” (Ps. 19:7). Vedic: “Thought of eternal Law removes transgressions.... Fixing eternal Law he [Indra], too upholds it” (RV 4:33.8, 19).

23. God sends rain upon the earth: “He gives rain upon the earth and sends waters upon the fields” (Job 5:10). “Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out upon the surface of the earth” (Amos 5:8; 9:6). “Your Father who is in heaven; ... sends rain” (Mt. 5:45). Vedic: “Varuna lets the big cask, opening downward, flow through the heaven and earth and air’s mid-region. There with the universe Sovran [sovereign] waters earth as the shower of rain bedews the barley” (RV 5:85.3).

24. God controls the movement of the heavenly bodies: “Who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars” (Job 9.7). “Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ... And he established them for ever and

ever; he fixed their bounds which cannot be passed” (Ps. 148:3, 6). “The Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night” (Jer. 31:35). Vedic: “Whither by day depart the constellations that shine at night, set high in heaven above us? Varuna’s holy laws remain unweakened, and through the night the Moon moves on in splendor” (RV 1:24.10).

25. There is a great deal of agreement between the story of Indra destroying Vritra to free the cosmic waters and initiate the creation of the world, and the story of the Lord slaying the water dragons Rahab and Leviathan. Both reports mention God’s power to smote, crush the head and cut into pieces the dragon or serpent. The Divine Being also acted upon the waters to create the sun and celestial bodies.⁵ According to the passages: “By his (God) power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he smote Rahab. By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent” (Job 26:12-13). “Thou didst divide the sea by thy might; thou didst break the heads of the dragons on the waters. Thou didst crush the heads of Leviathan ... Thou didst cleave open springs and brooks ... thou hast established the luminaries and the sun” (Ps. 74: 13-16). “Was it not thou that didst cut Rahab in pieces, that didst pierce the dragon” (Is. 51:9; cf. Ps. 89:9-12; Is. 27:1)? Vedic: “He [Indra] slew the Dragon [or serpent], then disclosed the waters ... Giving life to Sun and dawn and Heaven, Indra with his own great and deadly thunder smote into pieces Vritra ... crushed Indra’s foe ... Indra, who smote him with the bolt ... Thus Vritra lay with scattered limbs disserved” (RV 1:32.1, 4-7). “Indra with wondrous powers subdued the Dragon, the guileful lurker who beset the waters.... Thou torest away the head” (RV 5:30.6-7).

26. Omniscience: “For his eyes are upon the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps” (Job 34:21). “The Lord looks down from heaven, he sees all the sons of men ... and observes all of their deeds” (Ps. 33:13, 15). “He knows the secrets of the heart” (Ps. 44:21; cf. 1 Chron. 28:9). “Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether” (Ps. 139:2-4). “His understanding is beyond measure” (Ps. 147:5). “Am I a God at hand, says the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him says the Lord?” (Jer. 23:23; cf. 32:19; Job 31:4; Mt. 6:4, 8, 18; Heb. 4:12-13). “He [God] knows everything” (1 Jn. 3:20; cf. Acts 1:24). Vedic: “The mighty

ruler of these worlds beholds as though from close at hand. The man who thinks he acts by stealth: all this the God perceives and know. If a man stands or walks or moves in secret, goes to his lying-down or his uprising, What two men whisper as they sit together, King Varuna knows: he as the third is present.... All this the royal Varuna beholdeth, all between heaven and earth and all beyond them, The twinklings of men's eyelids hath he counted" (AV 4:16.1-2, 5). "Truly I [Varuna] am profound in wisdom, truly I know by nature all existing creatures.... None, self-dependent Varuna existeth wiser than thou or sager by His wisdom. Thou knowest well all these created beings" (AV 5:11.3-4).

27. God measured out the earth: "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ... Who determined its measurements-surely you know! Or who stretched a line upon it? ... Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? (Job 38:4-5, 18). Vedic: "This mighty deed of magic, of glorious Varuna the Lord Immortal, Who standing in the firmament hath meted the earth out with the Sun as with a measure" (RV 5:85.5). "Lord of all wealth, the Asura [Varuna] propped the heavens, and measured out the broad earth's wide expanses" (RV 8:42.1).

28. Evil people are shaken off the earth: "That it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? (Job 38:13). Vedic: "Those whom the earth shook off from her: When they had wronged the Brahman race they perished inconceivably" (AV 5:18.12).

29. Raindrops are stored in waterskins: "Who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens" (Job 38:37). Vedic: "Thine [Parjanya] opened water-skins draw with thee downward, ... Let the liberated streams rush forward" (RV 5:83.7-8).

30. God gives horses their prowess: "Do you give the horse his might?" (Job 39:19; 38:36). Vedic: Varuna put "vigorous speed in horses" (RV 5:85.2)

31. The person who is moral and free of evil will prosper and be happy: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the council of the wicked ... but his delight is in the law of the Lord, ... In all that he does, he prospers" (Ps. 1:1-3; cf. Jer. 17.7-8; Amos 5:14-15). Vedic: "Untouched by any evil, every mortal thrives, and, following the Law, spreads in his progeny, whom ye with your good guidance, O Adityas, lead safely through all his pain and grief to happiness" (RV 10:63.13).

32. Protection under God's wings: "Keep me as the apple of thy eye; hide me in the shadow of thy wings" (Ps. 17:8). "He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge" (Ps. 91:4). Vedic: "As the birds spread their

sheltering wings let your [the Adityas] protection cover us. We mean all shelter and defense” (RV 8:47.3).

33. The cord or fetter of death: “The cords of Sheol entangled me, the snares of death confronted me” (Ps. 18:5). Vedic: “Free me from Yama’s [the deity of death] fetter” (RV 10:97.16; AV 6:96.2; 7:112.2; 8.7.28).

34. Omnibenevolence (Goodness): “Good and upright is the Lord” (Ps. 25:8; cf. 92:15; Dt. 32:4). “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever (Ps. 100:5). “The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made” (Ps. 145:9; cf. Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; 1 Pet. 1:16). “I am the Lord who practice kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth” (Jer. 9:24). “No one is good but God alone” (Lk. 18:19; cf. Mt. 19:17; Mk. 10:18). Vedic: “Send us only what is good.... We with our hymns this day elect the general God, Lord of the good, Savitar [the sun]” (RV 5:82. 5, 7). “Our sin that sinless Varuna discovered” (RV 7:28.4).

35. Mercy to sinners: “I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sins” (Ps. 32:5). “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsake them will obtain mercy” (Prov. 28:13). “I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins” (Is. 43:25; cf. Ps. 6:1-2; 38:1; Dan. 9:4-19). “If he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity; he shall surely live” (Eze. 33:14-15). Vedic: “I ask this of thee with my prayer adoring; ... Varuna, stay thou here and be not angry; steal not out life from us ... we depreciate thine anger ... loosen the bonds of sins by us committed” (RV 1:24.11, 14). “May his [Agni] light chase our sins away” (RV 1:97.4). “Before this Varuna may we be sinless-him who shows mercy even to sinners” (RV 7:87.7; cf. 1:31.16; 2:28.5; 4:12.4; 5:85.7; 7:88.6).

36. God’s knowledge of birds: “I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine” (Ps. 50:11). “I [Agur] do not understand: the way of an eagle in the sky, ... the way of a ship on the high seas” (Prov. 30:18). Vedic: “He [Varuna] knows the path of birds that fly through the heaven, and, Sovran [sovereign] of the sea, He knows the ships that are thereon” (RV 1:25.7).

37. God’s former love of His devotees: “Will the Lord spurn for ever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises

at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious?” (Ps. 77:7-9). “Lord where is thy steadfast love of old” (Ps. 89:49). Vedic: “What has become of those ancient friendships, when without enmity we [Varuna] walked together?” (RV 7:88.5).

38. Protect people: Both angels and the Vedic devas protect people (Ps. 91:11--- RV 1:22.5).⁶

39. A shining garment: “Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment” (Ps. 104:2). Vedic: “Varuna, wearing golden mail, hath clad him in a shining robe” (RV 1:25.13).

40. God makes the water flow: “Thou makest springs gush forth in the valley; they flow between the hills” (Ps. 104:10). Vedic: Varuna “led the watery floods of rivers onward. The mares [i. e., swift rivers] as in a race, speed on in order. He made great channels for the days to follow” (RV 7:87.1).

41. God controls the sun: “Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons: the sun knows its time for setting (Ps. 104:19). “He makes his sun rise” (Mt. 5:45). Vedic: “Varuna cut a pathway out for Surya [the sun]” (RV 7:87.1).

42. Work begins at sunrise: “When the sun rises, they [young lions] get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening” (Ps. 104:22-23). Vedic: “Men, verily, inspirited by Surya [the sun] speed to their aims and do the work assigned to them.... We serve you, O Mitra-Varuna, when the sun hath risen” (RV 7:63.4-5).

43. The Divine Being controls the waters and wind: “He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed” (Ps. 107:29). Vedic: “Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm” (Mt. 8:27; cf. Mk. 4:39; Lk. 8:24). Vedic: “Even the waters bend them to his [Savitar the sun deity] service: even the wind rests in the circling region [of his orbit” (RV 2:38.2).

44. Wisdom as feminine: “Does not wisdom (Hokmah) call, does not understanding raise her voice” (Prov. 1:1). “For wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her” (Prov. 1:11). “Though I knew not that she [wisdom, Sophia] was the mother of them.” (Wisd. 7:12; cf. Ch. 6-7). “He himself created her [Wisdom]” (Sir. 1:9). Vedic: “When uttering words which no one comprehended, Vak [Goddess of wisdom and speech], Queen of Gods, the Gladdener was seated” (RV 8:89.10). “I [Vak] make the man I love exceedingly mighty, make him a sage, a Rishi” (RV 10:125.5).

45. The sea is not full: “All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again” (Eccl. 1:7). Vedic: “Whereby with all their flood, the lucid rivers fill not one sea wherein they pour their waters” (RV 5:85.6).

46. Humans live a hundred years: “For the child shall die a hundred years old” (Is. 65:20). Vedic: “A hundred autumns stand before us, O ye Gods, within whose space ye bring our bodies to decay” (RV 1:89.9). “A hundred autumns may we see that bright Eye, God-ordained [Mitra-Varuna], arise: A hundred autumns may we live” (RV 7:66.16; cf. 2:33.2).

47. None escape the Lord’s wrath: “What are left of them I will slay with the sword; not one of them shall flee away, not one of them shall escape” (Amos 9:1). Vedic: “Those fatal snares of thine which stand extended, threefold, ... May they all catch the man who tells a falsehood, ... Varuna, snare him with a hundred nooses! Man’s watcher! let not him who lies escape thee” (AV 4:16.6-7).

48. Religious Pluralism: My name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts” (Mal. 1:11). Vedic: “To what is One [Supreme Spirit], sages give many a title: they call it Agni, Yama, Matarisvan” (RV 1:164.46).

49. The third heaven: “Those men took me thence, and led me up to the third heaven” (Enoch 8:1). Vedic: “[Soma] make me immortal in that realm where movement is accordant to wish, in the third region, the third heaven of heavens” (RV* 9:113.9). “The lowest is the Watery heaven, Pilumati the middle most; the third and highest, that wherein the Fathers dwell, is called Pra-dyaus” (AV 18:2.48; cf. 4.3; 9:5.1, 8).

New Testament

1. The immortal joyful heavenly state: “The righteous into eternal life” (Mt. 25:46; cf. Rom. 2:7; Gal. 6:8). “I saw the Lord always before me ... therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced ... thou wilt make me full of gladness with thy presence” (Acts 2:25-26, 28). “For the kingdom of God does not mean food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17). Vedic: “Make me immortal in that realm where happiness and transports; where joys and felicities combine, and longing wishes are fulfilled” (RV 9:113.11).

2. Luminous: “His appearance was like lightning” (Mt. 28:3; cf. 2 Cor. 11:14). The word deva is etymologically derived from the root Sanskrit word “div” meaning “to shine.” It is a cognate of the Greek word theos, the Latin word deus and English word deity.⁷

3. Water removes sin: “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:5; cf. Eph. 5:26). “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). Vedic: “Whatever sin is found in me, whatever evil I have wrought, if I have lied or falsely sworn, Waters, remove it far from me” (RV 1:23.22; 10:9.8).

4. We hear but do not know the spirits movement: “The wind [Spirit] blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes” (Jn. 3:8). Vedic: “The Deities’ vital spirit, this God [Vayu] moves ever as his will inclines him. His voice is heard, his shape is viewless. Let us adore the Wind with our oblation” (RV 10:168.4).

5. Attain to eternal life: “This is eternal life, that they know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent” (Jn. 17:3). Vedic: “Desireless, immortal, self-existent, contented with the essence, lacking nothing, Free from the fear of death, is he who knoweth that Soul courageous, youthful, undecaying” (AV 10:8.44).

6. A new body in heaven: “So it is with the resurrection of the dead.... It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable” (1 Cor. 15:42, 44, 50). Vedic: “Leave sin and evil, seek anew thy dwelling, and bright with glory wear another body” (RV 10:14.8). “Uniting with a body be thou welcome, dear to the Gods in their sublimest birthplace” (RV 10:56.1).

7. The Church: “The grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia” (2 Cor. 8:1). “Through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known” (Eph. 3:10). “Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ... we are members of his body” (Eph. 5:23, 25, 30). “The household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). Vedic: “Assemble, speak together: let your minds be all of one accord ... The place is common, common the assembly, common the mind, so be their thought united.... be your minds of one accord” (RV 10:191.2-4; cf. AV 6:64).

References

¹ These lists were created from old notes. It is possible some of them were acquired from sources I have forgotten.

² Henry Heras, “The Devil in Indian Scriptures,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bombay* 27 (1952), pp. 214-22.

³ Jose Thachil, *The Vedic and the Christian Concept of Sacrifice* (Kerala, India: Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, 1985), pp. 324, 329-30, 335-36, 346-47.

⁴ Theodor Gaster, *Myth, legend, and Custom in the Old Testament* (New York: Harper & Row, 1969), pp. 524-25.

⁵ Alexander Heidel, *The Gilgamesh Epic and Old Testament Parallels* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973), pp. 102-14; K. M. Munshi, ed., *The Glory That Was Gurjaradesa* (Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1943), pp. 76-78.

⁶ For the Christian view see: Augustus Strong, *Systematic Theology* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1907-09, 1976), pp. 443-54; and the relation to the Devas see Heras (1952), pp. 214-41.

⁷ Ernest Klein, *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language* (New York: Elsevier Publishing, 1971), pp. 198, 207-08. Klein refers to Sanskrit as Old Indian (OI.).