

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EFFICACY OF THE SPOKEN WORD IN
THE OLD TESTAMENT AND AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

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ABSTRACT

A critical examination into the life of many Christians revealed that many people are suffering from the evil effect of spoken word either from Parents, Diviners, or Prophets. It was on this premise that researcher examined the power of spoken word on the life of contemporary Christians while negative spoken word easily manifested in the life of person to whom it was spoken but the effect of the positive spoken word did not manifest instantly. It was amazing therefore that in some cases, Christians doubted the efficacy of God's word when such words were communicated to them as such they continued living a sinful life thus rendering such words (God's word) ineffective. In-order to achieve this, the researcher conducted interview with African Traditional Religionists in different locations of the town (Ogbomoso). Other pieces of information were from library studies such as Books, Internet, Journals and Internet Consultations. Likewise, the researcher made use of comparative analysis as well as historical-analytical methods to affirm this study result. The findings of this research revealed that the spoken word of God through God, Angel and the Prophets is supreme and powerful to neutralize every spoken word by any diviner. This researcher then recommended that Parents should exercise caution while speaking to their children while children in turn should learn to obey their parents. Christians should also be acquitted with the word of God on daily basis. Above all, more efforts should be made to convince unbelievers beyond all reasonable doubts that the spoken word of God is more powerful than any other spoken word they might have reverence for.

CONCLUSION

As we cannot rule out the effectiveness of various forms of curses and covenant in our traditional setting, we have observed that every spoken word is powerful when renders traditionally, spiritually and Biblically. The fact still remains, whatever the situations, that the Biblical spoken word has supernatural effect over every spoken word once the conditions for its effectiveness can be met. Holy is the Lord God and His word; so must the person who wants to apply the Word of God be in order to experience the effectiveness of the Word.

Many people are in bondage in terms of curse and covenants. There is the need for such people to know and accept that they are under a curse or a covenant. Next, they need to seek salvation from God through His servants, those that God has given the grace to minister deliverance to people and to apply his all powerful Word in breaking any satanic bondage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bible says:

“In the beginning was the word and the word was God with it everything was created...”¹³¹ The quotation above shows the Biblical proof of the efficacy of the spoken word of God and it supports what is in the Old Testament.

¹³¹ 1 John 1:1 (NIV)

The researcher has been able to carry out a comparative analysis of the spoken word of God in the Old Testament and spoken words of African Traditionalists. In the African Traditional religion, it is true that curses and covenants of whatever forms have great adverse effects on people's lives. They are the spoken words of the African traditionalist. Nevertheless, the spoken word of God is above all of them.

Findings have shown that people experience problems such as barrenness, poverty, misfortune and the like simply because they are under the curses of Parents, forefathers, home towns, lovers, etc. or that they have, either deliberately or ignorantly, contracted one form of covenant or the other. In order to eliminate completely, or at least reduce, the problems posed by curses and covenants which emanate through the spoken word, the following recommendations are suggested:

- i. Parents should be cautioned in the use of abusive word on their children as these are likely to affect the children at the peak of their successes.
- ii. Children should learn to obey and respect their parents, elders and every man of God.
- iii. People should think about the generation to come in everything they do.
- iv. Individuals should avoid disappointing one another. There is no need to make a vow that one cannot fulfill.
- v. We need to get acquainted with the word of God on daily basis devotionally, meditatively and prayerfully.
- vi. We should live for God in all our endeavors, remembering that He can direct every step of our lives.

- vii. The less privileged people should be accorded with due respect because they are created in the image of God and not to be mocked in order to incur curses from God.
- viii. It is high time we preached salvation messages with all the seriousness it deserves in our services at our church services.
- ix. It is high time ministers of the gospel rose to the occasion and teach the present and incoming generations the sources of curses of affliction and their consequences and the need to take precaution.
- x. Above all, more effort should be made to convince unbelievers beyond all reasonable doubts that the spoken word of God is more powerful than any other spoken word they might have reverence for.