

Appendix

Additional Indian and Biblical Parallel Scriptural Quotations¹

In *Old Testament* Order (Genesis to Isaiah)

God the creator. Indian: “If I [Lord Krishna] should cease to work, these worlds would perish” (BG 3:24). Old Testament: “In the beginning God created the heavens and earth” (Gen. 1:1; cf. Ps. 33: 6, 9; 148:5). New Testament: “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).

Group or collective karma. Indian: “Drought, flood and plague” come upon a people because of the immoral actions of the king Mahabharata (12:90.36; 91.6).² Old Testament: Numerous examples are given in the *Old Testament* a community suffering, resulting from the sins of some of its members. Adam and Eve’s transgression is a noteworthy example of the entire human race being punished for the actions of only two people (Gen. 3). Other examples include: the flood resulted from the collective sins of the people of the earth (Gen. 6:11-13); the Lord said He would not destroy Sodom if there were ten righteous people living in the city (Gen. 18:32); punishment for a collective guilt was inflicted on the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18-19), the Canaanites (Dt. 9:5), tribes of Benjamin (Judg. 19-20) and the Israelites themselves (Is. 1:2-9; Jer. 2); the violent acts of revenge committed by Simeon and Levi were the partial cause of the dispersion of their tribe throughout Israel (Gen. 34:25-31; 49:5-7); God brought about a plague because of the sins of the people (Num. 25:1-9); Yahweh said that a community will receive a blessing if its members obey His commandments and a curse if they disobey it (Dt. 11:26-28); catastrophes inflicted upon the people of Israel were brought about by God’s punishment for their collective unfaithfulness to His covenant (Dt. 28:15-46; Josh. 24:19-20; Judg. 2:11-15; 2 Kings 17:7-18); Joshua’s army suffered a loss as a consequence of Achan violating the ban by laying his hands on the property of the enemy (Josh. 7; 22:20); King David’s adultery followed by a murder was responsible for the continual warfare and violence of his royal line (2 Sam. 12:7-14); a famine ensued for three years due to the sins of Saul (2 Sam. 21:1); King David’s wrong doings were responsible for a plague (2 Sam. 24); Israel was defeated in war and a drought occurred because some of its citizens sinned against God (1 Kings 8:33-35); and God said He would

spare and forgive Jerusalem if He could find one just and truthful man dwelling there (Jer. 5:1; Eze. 22:30).³

Hereditary sin. Indian: “[Varuna] free us from sins committed by our fathers” (RV 7:86.5). “If the punishment falls not on the offender himself, it falls on his sons, if not on the sons, on his grandsons” (LM 4:173). Old Testament: “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).

Confession of sin. Indian: “By confession, by repentance ... a sinner is freed from guilt ... In proportion as a man who has done wrong, himself confesses it, even so far he is freed from guilt” (LM 11:228-29; cf. 83-84, 123). “He who has committed a sin and has repented, is freed from that sin, but he is purified only by resolution of ceasing to sin” (LM 11:231). Old Testament: “When a man is guilty in any of these, he shall confess the sin he has committed” (Lev. 5:5; cf. Neh. 9:3). “I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sins” (Ps. 32:5; cf. Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9). New Testament: “Confess your sins to one another, that you may be healed” (Jam. 5:16; cf. Mt. 3:6; Acts 19:18).

Avoid contact with ghosts. Indian: “Men in whom *tamas* [dullness] prevails, worship ghosts and disembodied spirits” (BG 17:4). Old Testament: “Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them” (Lev. 19:31; cf. 20:6, 27).

Heaven and earth belong to the Lord. Indian: “This earth too is King Varuna’s possession, and the high heaven whose ends are far asunder” (AV 4:16.3). Old Testament: “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).

Give to the poor. Indian: “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; cf. LM 4:234; cf. 3:95; 4:228-33). Old Testament: “You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land” (Dt. 15:11; cf. Ps. 41:1; 112:9; Prov. 19:17; 21:13; Is. 58:7-11; Dan. 4:27).

Religious scriptures are maintained by the priests. Indian: “To Brahmanas [the Brahmin caste] he [the Lord] assigned teaching and studying the *Vedas* ... The very birth of a Brahmana is an eternal incarnation of the sacred law; for he is born to

fulfill the sacred law ... for the protection of the treasury of the law” (LM 1:88, 98-99; cf. 1:97, 100-08; 10:1-3, 74-76). Old Testament: “He shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, from that which is in charge of the Levitical priests” (Dt. 17:18).

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

Horses and the sun. Indian: “Surya [the sun deity] ... hath loosed his Horses from their station” (RV 1:115.4). Old Testament: “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).

Scripture and the law. Indian: “Thought of eternal Law [Rta] removes transgressions.... Fixing eternal Law he [Indra] too upholds it” (RV 4:23.8, 19; cf. 1:1:8). Old Testament: “Walk in God’s law which was given by Moses” (Neh. 10:29). “The Law of the Lord is perfect” (Ps. 19:7). .

God sends rain upon the earth. Indian: “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). “I [Krishna] hold back and send forth rain” (BG 9:19). Old Testament: “He gives rain upon the earth and sends waters upon the fields” (Job 5:10; cf. Mt. 5:45). “Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out upon the surface of the earth” (Amos 5:8; 9:6).

God measured out the earth. Indian: “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). Old Testament: “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)?

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

Raindrops are stored in waterskins. Indian: “Thine [Parjanya] opened water-

skins draw with thee downward ... Let the liberated streams rush forward” (RV 5:83.7-8). Old Testament: “Who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens” (Job 38:37).

God gives horses their prowess. Indian: Varuna put “vigorous speed in horses” (RV 5:85.2). “Do you give the horse his might?” (Job 39:19).

The person who is moral and free from evil will prosper and be happy. Indian: “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). Old Testament: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel 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).

The cord or fetter of death. Indian: “Free me from Yama’s [the deity of death] fetter” (RV 10:97.16; AV 6:96.2; 7:112.2; 8.7.28). “By knowing Him one cuts asunder the fetters of death” (Svet. Up. 4:15) Old Testament: “The cords of Sheol entangled me, the snares of death confronted me” (Ps. 18:5).

Horse analogy. Indian: “As a charioteer holds back his restive horses, so does a persevering aspirant hold back his mind” (Svet. Up.* 2:9, p. 192; cf. Kat. Up. 1:3.5-6; LM 2:88). Old Testament: “Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not keep you” (Ps. 32:9).

Criticism of religious sacrifice: Indian: “Frail indeed are those rafts of sacrifices, conducted by eighteen persons.... Ignorant fools, regarding sacrifices ... as the highest, do not know any higher good” (Mun. Up. 1:2.7, 10). “They are full of worldly desires ... They teach elaborate rituals which are supposed to obtain pleasure and power for those who perform them” (BG* 2:43, p. 45). Old Testament: “For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased” (Ps. 51:16; cf. 40:6; 1 Sam. 15:22; Is. 1:11-15; Hos. 6:6; Amos 5:21-23; Mic. 6:6-8; Heb. 10:5-9). New Testament: “I desire mercy and not sacrifice” (Mt. 9:13; 12:7; Mk. 12:33).

God establishes day and night. Indian: “They [Mitra and Varuna] who have established year and month and then the day, night” (RV 7:66.11). Old Testament: “Thine is the day, thine also the night; thou hast established the luminaries and the sun” (Ps. 74:16; cf. Gen. 1:14).

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

God makes the water flow. Indian: 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). Old Testament: “Thou makest springs gush forth in the valley; they flow between the hills” (Ps. 104:10).

God controls the sun. Indian: “Varuna cut a pathway out for Surya [the sun deity]” (RV 7:87.1). “I [Krishna] am the heat of the sun” (BG* 9:19, p. 105). Old Testament: “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).

Work begins at sunrise. Indian: “Men, verily, inspired 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). Old Testament: “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).

The Divine Being controls the waters and wind. Indian. “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). Old Testament: “He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed” (Ps. 107:29). New Testament: “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).

Accept misfortune and trust in the Lord. Indian: “Even-minded in pain and pleasure, who is forbearing, ever content ... possessed of firm conviction, and who has consecrated his mind and understanding to Me—dear to Me is the one who is thus devoted to Me” (BG 12:13-14). Old Testament: “He is not afraid of evil tidings; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord” (Ps. 112:7).

God is incorporeal. Indian: “He is neither gross nor fine, neither short nor long, neither hot nor cold, neither light nor dark ... He is without taste or smell, without eyes, ears, speech, mind, vigor, breath, mouth; he is without measure; he is without inside or outside” (Br. Up.* 3:8.8; p. 160; cf. Mait. Up. 4:6). Old Testament: “If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there” (Ps. 139:8)! New Testament: “God is Spirit” (Jn. 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17).

God controls the movement of the heavenly bodies. Indian: “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). Old Testament: “Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!... And he established them forever 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; cf. Job 9.7).

Religious sacrifice brings prosperity. Indian: “With sacrifice shall you nourish the gods; and may the gods nourish you. Thus nourishing one another, you will obtain the Highest Good. Nourished by the sacrifice, the gods will bestow on you the enjoyments that you desire (BG 3:11-12). Old Testament: “Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty” (Prov. 3:9-10).

Sorrow is the result of a false life style. Indian: “Enjoyments that arise from contact with objects are only sources of pain ... and the wise find no delight in them” (BG 5:22). Old Testament: “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Even in laughter the heart is sad, and the end of joy is grief” (Prov. 14:12-13).

Refrain from indolence. Indian: “Never give way to laziness” (BG* 2:47, p. 46). “Action is superior to inaction. And even the bare maintenance of your body will not be possible if you remain inactive” (BG 3:8). Old Testament: “Slothfulness casts into deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger” (Prov. 19:15; cf. 6:9, 11). New Testament: “You ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you ... If any one will not work, let him not eat” (2 Thes. 3:7, 10; cf. 1 Thes. 4:11-12; cf. Rom. 12:11).

A king should rule justly. Indian: “The highest duty of a Kshatriya is to protect his subjects, for the king ... is bound to discharge that duty” (LM 7:144). “That king indeed is ever worthy of honour who ensures the safety of his subjects” (LM 8:3-03; cf. 7:20; 8:304-07, 302; 11:21-23). Old Testament: “By justice a king gives stability to his land” (Prov. 29:4; cf. 2 Sam. 23:3-4).

The sea is not full. Indian: “Whereby with all their flood, the lucid rivers fill not one sea wherein they pour their waters” (RV 5:85.6). Old Testament: “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).

Mistaking evil for good. Indian: “When the conscience is so thickly wrapped in ignorance that it mistakes wrong for right and sees everything distorted” (BG* 18:32, p. 165). Old Testament: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (Is. 5:20).

Humans live a hundred years. Indian: “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). Old Testament: “For the child shall die a hundred years old” (Is. 65:20).

In New Testament Order

Specific Virtues. Indian: The virtues include, “humility, modesty, non-violence, forbearance, and uprightousness; service to the teacher, purity” (BG 13:7). New Testament: “Blessed are the meek ... those who hunger and thirst after righteousness ... the merciful ... the pure in heart ... the peacemakers” (Mt. 5:5-9).

Ostentation. Indian: “That sacrifice is performed in expectation of reward and for the sake of ostentation-know that to be the nature of rajas [egocentric ambition]” (BG 17:12). New Testament: “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them” (Mt. 6:1; cf. 6:2-5). “They do all their deeds to be seen by men” (Mt. 23:5).

Seek God and your needs will be supplied. Indian: “If a man will worship me, and meditate upon me ... I shall supply all his needs, and protect his possessions from loss” (BG* 9:22, p. 106). New Testament: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Mt. 6:33, KJV; cf. Ps. 37:4; Lk. 12:31).

Discretion in teaching the doctrine. Indian: “Let the truth of Brahman be taught only to those who obey his law, who are devoted to him, and who are pure in heart. To the impure let it never be taught” (Mun. Up.* 3:2.10, p. 69; cf. Br. Up. 6:3.12; Ch. Up. 3:11.6; Mait. Up. 6:29). “You must never tell this holy truth to anyone who lacks self-control and devotion, or who despises his teacher and mocks at me” (BG* 18:67, p. 173; cf. Svet. Up. 6:22). New Testament: “Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you” (Mt. 7:6).

All classes of people can be saved-liberated. Indian: “Even those who belong to the lower castes ... can reach the highest spiritual realization, if they take refuge in me” (BG* 9:32, p. 109). New Testament: “The tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of heaven before you” (Mt. 21:31). “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28; cf. Rom. 10:12).

Persevere. Indian: “Though he be ever so much tired by repeated failures, let him begin his operation again and again; for fortune greatly favors the man who strenuously exerts himself in his undertakings” (LM 9:300). New Testament: “He

who endures to the end will be saved” (Mk. 13:13; cf. Heb. 3:14). “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap” (Gal. 6:9).

Nonbelievers will be condemned. Indian: “The ignorant, the faithless, the doubter goes to his destruction” (BG* 4:40, p. 67; cf. 3:32). New Testament: “He who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk. 16:16).

Don’t look back. Indian: “Those journeying to heaven do not look back; they ascend the heaven” (SB 9:2.3.27). New Testament: “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk. 9:62).

Offerings of the poor. Indian: “Whosoever offers Me, with devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water-that I accept, the pious offering of the pure in heart” (BG 9:26). New Testament: “A poor widow put in two copper coins. And he [Jesus] said, ‘Truly I tell you this poor widow has put in more than all of them’” (Lk. 21:2-3; cf. Mk. 12:42-43).

Specific vices. Indian: “Men of demonic nature [are] ... self-honored, haughty, filled with pride and the intoxication of wealth ... Possessed of egotism, power, and pride, and also of lust and wrath, these people, envious by nature ... These cruel haters, these evil-doers, these vilest of men” (BG 16:7, 17-19). New Testament: “They are filled with all manners of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity ... haughty, boastful, inventors of evil” (Rom. 1:29-30).

Strife. Indian: “The knowledge that is rajas knows nothing but difference: many souls in many creatures, all various, each apart from his fellow” (BG* 18:21, p. 163). New Testament: “Where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal” (1 Cor. 3:3, KJ)?

Discipline the body. Indian: He “who has conquered the body and subdued his senses” (BG 5:7). New Testament: “I discipline by body and bring it into subjection” (1 Cor. 9:27, KJV).

Not saved by good works alone. Indian: “Ignorant fools, regarding sacrifices and humanitarian works as the highest, do not know any higher good. Having enjoyed their reward on the heights of [a lower] heaven, gained by good works, they enter again this world or a lower one” (Mun. Up. 1:2.10). “Brahman is not grasped ... by penance or good works” (Mun. Up. 3:1.8). New Testament: “A man is not justified by works of the law” (Gal. 2:16).

They will return in the future to create a righteous world. Indian: “When the practices taught of the *Vedas* and the institutes of law shall nearly have ceased ... a portion of that Divine being who exists of his own spiritual nature in the character

of Brahma ... shall descend upon earth ... He will destroy all the Mlechchhas [barbarians] and thieves, and all whose minds are devoted to iniquity. He will then re-establish righteousness upon earth and the minds of those who live at the end of the Kali age shall be awakened” (VP 4:24; cf. MB, Vana Parva 3:189-90). New Testament: “The heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved into fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). “The coming of the day of God ... we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:12-13). “The armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations ... I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Rev. 19:14-15; 21:1).

Endnotes

¹ A good source for comparative *Rig Veda-Bible* quotations is Adolf Kaegi, *The Rigveda* (Boston: Ginn and Co., 1886).

² E. Washburn Hopkins, “Modifications of the Karma Doctrine,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 38 (1906), pp. 586-87.

³ William McDonald, ed., *The New Catholic Encyclopedia* (18 vols.; New York: McGraw Hill, 1967), XII, pp. 429-31.