

Mariah's miracle continues! A fund raiser was held at the River Cats baseball game last night, the 9th of June. Mariah's brother, Casey, threw out the first pitch and was even chosen to smash his dad with whipped cream. I wanted to do that!

Mariah is doing very well. A slight, but not unusual, sign of rejection has been dictated. The doctors say this is a normal occurrence.

Good news for Tatianna, as well! She has the new heart and attended a function with Mariah at Stanford Hospital.

So, don't we all know that, "God is good, all the time?" Amen!

GOOD

NEWS LETTER

Number 271 June 10, 2009

G-D

"But ye are come unto mount Zion...To the general assembly and church of the firstborn...And to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant..."

Hebrews 12:22, 23,24.

There is a huge difference between living under the Old - as opposed to living in the New Testament. One major factor is in man's approach to God.

Under the Old, scribes held God's name in such high reverence that it was never uttered and, when transcribed, painstaking methods were employed.

In earlier times, we are told that scribes wiped the old ink from the writing instrument then, re-dipped the pen before transcribing the name of God.

Often, a new pen was chosen before writing God's name. And, after transcribing the name of the Almighty, the scribe replaced the instrument before continuing.

Today, Jewish writers transcribe God's name by omitting the letter "O" and replacing it with a hyphen. Thus, God is written as "G-D."

GOD IS YET, AS HOLY! The difference lies in His approachability. In the Old, no one dared talk to God. No one could!

God was untouchable. He resided in a mountain "that burned with fire" (He 12:18). As it burned, it was a fearful, black and gloomy sight. The strong winds of the mountain swirled, tempestuously (He. 12:18). And, Israel focused on that mountain with heavy concern.

When God was to speak, He was announced by a startling sound of a trumpet that frightened all of Israel. So much so, that they "begged (entreated & requested) that no further word would be spoken" (V 19).

No wonder the Jews were afraid of God. His name meant holiness. And, since they were not holy, His name scared them away. His holiness kept them away.

At the base of the mountain, near to God, did not carry the peaceful meeting that we have today. With His name beyond them, God's words were beyond them, too. They could not endure the commandments given from that mountain.

No one escaped God's presence. It effected everything within Israel. "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned and thrust through with a dart" (V 20).

It was a terrible sight, causing shepherds to priests and all leaders to fear. This is the vision of God's majesty in the Old Covenant. It caused Moses to exclaim, "I exceedingly fear and quake" (V 22).

ON THE OTHER HAND, WITHIN THE NEW COVENANT - our position has wonderfully changed.

While, the Book of Hebrews is chucked full of warnings, its examples are insightful and instructive. It shows us just how great a difference there is between the two testaments/covenants.

When we look/view and study the New Covenant, we see the church gathered, just as Israel was; but, not unto a fearful Mountain. We have set aside the physical. Our assembly is in Mount Zion, in spirit, where the peaceful dwelling of the firstborn ones are watched over by "angels attending" (V 22).

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? JESUS, OF COURSE.

The New Covenant has a new mediator, Jesus. It has better blood, netting better results. New Covenant blood speaks of better things than any other blood offered in the Old (V 24); whether, Abel or all the blood of animals.

Under the Old, death was necessary, but it was without appeasement. Abel died unjustly but, he died, nevertheless. Jesus speaks of living. It is better!

After, Abel died and his blood shed, his life was gone. In contrast, what glorious justification we have in the New. Jesus died for Abel and all mankind, giving us hope to look beyond this life, because Jesus rose from the dead.

His blood, the blood of Jesus, speaks to us, yet. It tells us what the difference is between the Old and New. His blood reveals a better approach to God; as well as, a better dwelling place for all who look to Him.

Our positioning is better! Because of its eternal offering for sin - a once-for-all offering, it is far superior.

We will raise, to be sure! And, in the blood of Jesus, we have a place for our raised bodies to live within. Jesus has secured a city for us.

"SEE THAT YE REFUSE NOT HIM THAT SPEAKETH" (V 25)

Notice! This is all important. His blood still speaks. Don't refuse its positive directives.

While God, at one time, shook the earth (He. 10:26), we learn that the blood of Jesus takes the "shaking" a step further. His blood speaks about God shaking heaven, also.

However, if we have any glory in the things within the New, it's in Hebrews 10:27. Here, it's not in the shaking, but the fact that His blood speaks of the better things after the shaking is over. His blood secures those eternal things for us.

In His blood of the New Covenant, we have awaiting for us in the Resurrection, those remaining **"things which cannot be shaken."**

Today, meeting with God is so much better than what was offered to Moses and the Israelites. Today, we are able to approach God through His Son, Jesus. Soon, our meeting with God will be a face-to-face assemblage (I Cor. 13:12).

BLESSINGS OF THE NEW ARE MUCH BETTER. MUCH BETTER!

Our mediation is **better** (He. 1:4), giving us a **better covenant** (He. 7:22). Our possession is **better** in its make-up. It is an **abiding one** (He. 10:34).

Finally, the time is soon when those of the Old Covenant may join with those of the New.

Then, their approach will be as ours. No longer will they serve a hyphenated God; but, will address God, the Father in the same fullness as we address God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.