

THE OLD AND NEW-SOME COMPARISONS

After years of study, one becomes aware that there are two grand divisions in the Bible. There's the Old and, then, there's the New Testament.

While God's word is divided in two divisions, it is clear that God has only one plan. And Jesus explained it in His Sermon on the Mount: - "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will done on earth as it is in heaven," Matthew 6:10.

We can vividly see the **PLAN** in the Garden of Eden. There the Kingdom is set forth in the **FOUR** elements: 1) The King; 2) A Law; 3) A Territory; and 4) Constituents (Adam & Eve).

Of course, the Fall removed the kingdom from man's grasp. That's one reason we pray for it to come. Although, Israel served as God's people, the nation held a "kingdom idea" for brief periods of time only.

Saul, the first king of Israel was just as the first man, Adam. He was rejected. And, the life of David shows us how glorious God reign will be. Yet shortly, after two generations, the kingdom was torn apart and split into two divisions.

NOW, NOTICE THE CROSS BETWEEN THE TWO DIVISIONS

First, the cross, the object that Jesus hung upon, may not have been a cross as we see on buildings or around necks. Nevertheless, He died there, on the tree. In our place Jesus became man's representative. He is man's crossroad to the Father and His plan.

Jesus is the **CROSSROAD** between the Old and New, between God and man, and between the flesh and the spirit. We come into the New through Him, are reconciled to the Father through Him, and our spirits are released from the flesh by His death. We are complete in Him.

Thus, looking total picture, we know that Adam failed because of sin. Israel missed the Kingdom because of sin. And, all men have "sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 2:23.

When we see a cross in principle, the sin problem is solved and we are changed, according to 2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

The Bible reveals to us what occurred at the cross. In short, we died to sin and became alive to God. The transaction is by faith and, by faith alone. What man was incapable of doing in the Old, or in the New, was fulfilled by Jesus on the cross.

At the Cross (road) man was slain, buried and raised from defeat into victory over death, hell and the grave" (1st Cor. 15:54-57). "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of

sin is the law; but thanks be unto God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the plan, we see Israel removed from the world (Egypt), serving as a type of God's redemption that Jesus would accomplish. Israel did fleshly things; things which can never reconcile mankind back to God.

Even the mandatory "**circumcision**," in order to inherit the Promised Land and all promises, was a type of the cross. In Christ, this circumcision removed the entire body (See Col. 2:11).

Without question, the major difference in the grand division is that the Old was physical, while the New is spiritually based. Yet the plan remains the same. God removed Israel from the world (Egypt); but, required that She physically walk on a long journey before finally entering the promised land of Canaan.

But this is not the way the spiritual side operates. At the crossroad of the "New," believers are taken out of the world, just as those of the "Old," but enjoy the blessing of being "**raised up with Him, and seated...in the heavenlies**," Ephesians 2:6.

The "New" participants have a walk to do too, but it's a spiritual walk. "New" covenant people learn concepts of spiritual truth. We walk just as hard but, in most cases, never leave our physical position, at all.

And, here in the "difference between the Old and the New, we have to understand that many did not inherit the promised land because of sin.

We don't hear much about it, but the Bible warns that many saved people may also "**fall after the same example of unbelief**" (Heb 4:11). We must fear lest, "**while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it**," Hebrews 4:1.

God's plan remains the same in both testaments. Only the participants in the "Old" were required to do things, while in the "New," our requirement is that we believe on what has been done for us in Jesus, the Christ.

The difference is not what is done physically, but it's how the spirit of man receives what was done in Christ and transmitted to us by the Holy Spirit.

A list of comparisons is great to see. One of them lies in sin, itself. If one sinned in the Old, blood was required to appease. And blood is also required in the New; not only as the saving factor, but also for our walk.

We can't minimize the walk, either. It is, spiritually speaking, the salvation of our life according to I John 1:7, "**but if we walk in the light...His blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness**. For us today, the requirements are the same as in the "Old." We are to trim off the old wick so that our light may shine, daily.