



Redemption Through the Scriptures

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#2 The Purpose for Redemption

God was not content to merely create an army of workers; He restored us as intimate friends with Him forever, so that we could engage in all sorts of projects together. The Old and New covenants demonstrate God's purposes.

* After the curtain fell

Glory I _____ I _____

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8).

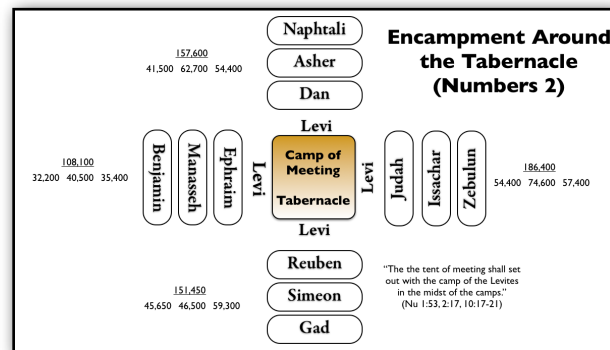
- "LORD God _____ in the _____"
- What was normal was lost. "The _____ and his wife _____ themselves from the presence of the Lord God."

* Closer and closer

The tension: How can a holy God get closer to a sinful people without His wrath breaking out and destroying them? God's love was in tension with His holy wrath.

"Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed" (Deuteronomy 16:16).

- "_____ times a year all _____ shall appear before the Lord your God."
- The Old Testament has two meanings: (1) The OT of the _____, and the _____ covenant.



* The Mosaic Covenant

The Ten Commandments is the most well-known part of the old Mosaic covenant.

"1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 'You shall have no other gods before Me' (Exodus 20:1-3).

- "I am the _____ your God." God claims a special relationship with these people. He, Yahweh (same as Jehovah) attaches Himself to these people.
- "You shall have no other _____ before Me." The Lord requires an exclusive relationship.
- God formed a special and purposed _____ with His people through this covenant.

* A call to belonging

"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel" (Exodus 19:4-6).

- "Brought you to _____"
- "Be my own _____"
- "You shall be to Me a kingdom of _____ and a holy nation."

* Weaknesses of the Old Covenant and need for change

"This may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children but the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:24-26 ESV).

- Note Paul's summary of the two covenants.
- Old: _____ on _____ of Arabia represents the _____ covenant with her children of slavery.
- New: Sarah on Mt. Zion of Jerusalem represents the _____ covenant with her children of _____.

* Looking for a new covenant

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

- What is it that God wants in His relationship with His people? “But this is the covenant which _____ will make...”
- “I will put _____ within them, and on their _____ I will write it.
- “I will be _____ God, and they shall be _____ people.”

* What improvements do we find in the New Covenant? (Hebrews 8:8-12)

In the box to the right fill in from each verse how the new covenant will be better.

8:8 “I will establish a new covenant”
8:9
8:10
8:11
8:12

“9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and I did not care for them, says the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more” (Heb 8:8-12).

* Reaching God’s goals (John 15)

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5).

- Intimate Fellowship: “_____ in Me, and _____ in you.”
- Joint projects: “He who _____ in Me, and _____ in him, he bears much _____.”
- Note there are two main purposes: Intimate fellowship (friendship) and joint projects born out of intimacy.
- Marriage (Eph 5:31-33)
- Final Goal (Rev 21:1-8)

“Christ did not die to make good works merely possible or to produce a half-hearted pursuit. He died to produce in us a passion for good deeds. Christian purity is not the mere avoidance of evil, but the pursuit of good.” — John Piper, Passion of Jesus Christ” — http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/25423.John_Piper

Conclusion

Man has seriously misunderstood the God of the Old Testament as a malicious, evil spirit who cares for no one, while seeing Jesus as the gentle image of God's love. How different this is from what the scriptures teach! From the original garden to today and into eternity, we see God pleading with man to stay close to Him and find a life full of fruitfulness instead of pain and suffering. It is unfortunate that many do not trust God and His plan to draw His people nearer to Himself.

Reflection questions:

- What kind of fruit might appear from being close to God? Give at least three possible fruits?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, would you say your relationship with God is close, 1 being distant and 10 being very close. Briefly explain. It might help to think of your whole life – perhaps going up and down.
- If someone suggests that the God of the Old Testament is mean and unpleasant, how will you answer that person?