

Hebrews 9.15-28

The Epiphanies of Jesus

We Come to Beautiful Church > Decorated for Advent Celebration

Rich TRADITIONS used to REMIND Us of God / Salvation

Traditions USEFUL if Stirs up LIVING FAITH

Christian FAITH 2000 yrs old – Foundation of Ancient Hebrews

Celebration & Ceremony part of our FAITH even before Jesus' Birth

OT records COVENANT Ceremonies – God's people RENEW Promise

Deut 27 & Joshua 8 Ceremony 2 hills in Samaria – Mts. Ebal & Gerizim

Half of 12 Tribes stood on Mt. EBAL – read Curses for Disobedience

CURSED – Idolator – people shouted 'Amen!' – Adulterer

Murder – False Testimony – Moving Boundary Stone – Amen & Amen

Final words from Throng on Mt. Ebal > recorded Deuteronomy 27.26

“Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’”

Other 6 Tribes of ISRAEL on Mt. Gerizim – Shouted BLESSINGS

Simple Formula of COVENANT in Time of MOSES

Want Cursing? – DISOBEY! --- Want BLESSING? OBEY!

Throng on Mt. Gerizim – Wonderful PROMISES for Obedient

Victory in Battle – Fruitful Harvests – Children & Grandchildren

“The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways.”

Deuteronomy 28.9

As Step into Hebrews 9 > We have Problem > We God's Covenant People

Blessings CONDITIONED on Obedience? Cursing for DISOBEDIENCE?

We've READ rest of OT – Not Good – Steady Decline, Rebellion

Last Sentence of OT in our Arrangement of Books is...

GOD says “lest I come and strike the land with a curse” Malachi 4.6

1. Covenant

Established (2. Christ's Epiphany)

a. Mediator

v. 15a Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance,

Mediator of New Covenant / Receive Promised Eternal Inheritance

MEDIATOR //BRIDGE: Spans Gap, Stands Between, Unites Together

He DIED for our CURSE / His OBEDIENCE source of our Blessings

He FULFILLED all CONDITIONS of Conditional OLD Covenant

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2.5,6

Paul in 1 Timothy 2 – Jesus is MEDIATOR & RANSOM/Redeems

He qualifies as our MEDIATOR because he has Paid our RANSOM

Pray thru THIS High Priest – Not Pastors, Priests, Popes, Professors

b. Redeemer

v. 15b since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant

Death Redeems from Transgressions from First Covenant

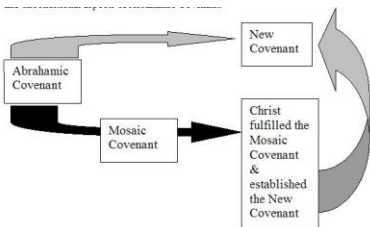
DELIVERANCE from BONDAGE in Egypt came with DUTIES

God gave DETAILED, NATIONAL Law to Guide Million+ People

SLAVES called Sons & Daughters of YAHWEH – How to Walk w/ Him

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, *“All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.”* Exodus 24.3,4

God’s COVENANT Added NEW Features thru Redemptive HISTORY



God told ABE “I will DO it”

MOSES Adds Law > Tells People “Y’ALL gotta DO it”

God UNTIES GORDIAN Knot: a NEW COVENANT...X FULFILLS!

X Righteousness provides OBEDIENCE – Death pays PENALTY

c. Testator - person who has died and has left a will.

v. 16,17 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

Greek word Covenant SAME word for WILL / Word Play of AUTHOR

Covenant Ratified in Blood / Will comes in Effect thru DEATH

Jesus is MEDIATOR, RANSOM, and TESTATOR

This VERSE Reason we talk of OLD & NEW Testaments

His DEATH opens the Great Benefits of his WILL

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.  
Romans 6.10

#### d. Blood

vs. 22,23, Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Many CHURCHES Chosen to OMIT word Blood from their Message  
CRUDE & Messy – Makes GOD Sound MEAN, Threatening – Scary  
Exceedingly SCARY stand GUILTY before Holy God

God defines His RELATIONSHIP with People as a COVENANT

Covenant of MOSES lasted about 1000 years > Millions of Sacrifices

Old Covenant rested on SEA of BLOOD >> Gallons & Gallons

During PASSOVER Trench Dug from Temple down KIDRON Valley

PLUMBING System for ENDLESS FLOW of Sacrificial ANIMAL Blood

Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar...And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Exodus 24.5-8

//YELLOW TAPE > Crime Scene, Danger, Proof of Guilt/Evidence

God's Yellow Tape – Real Criminal Caught / True Justice Served

All that STENCH and STAIN and STRUGGLE had ONE Message

***Sin brings Death! – Sin brings Death! – Sin brings Death!***

Became CONSTANT Reminders to People SIN Never Fully FORGIVEN!

## 2. Christ's Epiphany

January 6 - EPIPHANY – Greek word for APPEARANCE, Reveal

Jesus APPEARED to GENTILES > WISE MEN – word HERE & Titus

#### a. Appeared to Sacrifice

vs. 25, 26 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Jesus APPEARS to Deal w Sin: Mediator, Ransom, Testator > BLOOD  
 OT Believer REALIZED Sacrifices TEMPORARY – Gotta Come BACK  
 NOBODY who offered Animal Sacrifice that ENDED Problem w/God  
 At BEST a HELLO KITTY BAND-AID on Metastasizing CANCER

ACT of FAITH in God who PROMISED to Forgive Sins One Day  
 Old Covenant Animal Sacrifice // BANK CHECK written for PAYMENT  
 Bank Check ONLY GOOD when MONEY is IN the BANK  
 Jesus DEATH: Ransom, Deposit, Full Payment – Stands behind Checks

OT Priest in TABERNACLE > Dress Rehearsal for Real Thing  
 Jewish High Priest was “Stand In” for Star > FINAL GREAT High Priest  
 JESUS is REAL – Temple, Priesthood, Sacrifices > On Earth COPIES

#### b. Appears by His Spirit

v. 24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

In God’s Time > Christ Jesus took over the role of High Priest  
 Pinnacle of History > NOW in Presence of God on our Behalf  
 How do we know Jesus is Enthroned? > Day of PENTECOST

From Heaven the Exalted X poured out Spirit of God

John “I am going to my Father...and We will send the Spirit”

Every GIFT He gives is to GLORIFY Himself > Not US  
 Jesus Ascended to BUILD Church > Accomplished in Spirit’s Power  
 NOT to be PERSONAL POCKET DOG --- Blessing GENIE to RUB  
 Not Speak in Tongues, Bark Dogs, Roll Aisles > GO on MISSION

USA church – Not Sending as Many M’s – Short-Term?! LIFETIME!  
 Jesus ON MOVE – Going to Ends of Earth – Not GOING, Left BEHIND  
 BLESSINGS Given to US so that we can GIVE THEM AWAY!

#### c. Appears to Save

vs. 27,28 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Christ came First to Bear Sins > coming back again to Bring Salvation  
 We die to FACE Judgment / He died to FORGIVE thru JUDGMENT  
 This is IT! – This LIFE is your Opportunity – Life Not Dress Rehearsal  
 No Reincarnation to Come Back and Try and Get it RIGHT  
 ONE Lifetime to FIND and FOLLOW Jesus  
 Either JESUS Pays the PENALTY for SIN – Or YOU Do > HELL!

Whoever believes in him is not condemned John 3.18

We live in THREE time Zones – 3 Epiphanies of Christ

Appeared on Earth -- Taught / Lived / Died / Rose

Appears in Heaven – Praying for You, Sends Spirit, Builds Church

When CRY Out to GOD He is at Right Hand of Father HEARING You

Will Appear Final Day – If He DIED for you, He will DELIVER You

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Micah  
 7.18,19

There is a fountain filled with blood  
 Drawn from Immanuel's veins  
 And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
 Lose all their guilty stains  
 William Cowper, 1772

Hebrews 9:<sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup>For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. <sup>23</sup>Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly

things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup>For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, <sup>26</sup>for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.