

RESTING IN JESUS

“A New Covenant”

BY: PHILLIP HAYES

"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)" [Hebrews 3:7-11]

And now verses 18 & 19, *"And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*

Many strive to keep the seventh day Saturday or the first day of the week Sunday as a day in which they rest. They believe they are fulfilling the fourth commandment that was written on tablets of stone in Old Testament times. This is not the rest I am alluding to. There is a promised rest (a Sabbath) that many have not entered.

There is a place in God you can attain unto whereas you will find perfect peace and faith in the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ; a place of rest for our spirits and souls. This "Sabbath" I am writing about is only found by

acknowledging that Jesus has fully performed all God's requirements for us.

Many want the promises of God to manifest in their lives. They love God! They go to church. They pay tithes and give offerings. They look forward to a day His promises will be bestowed upon them by a prophecy or a supernatural visitation. Some look expectantly for the "man of God" to give them a word and then everything they need from God will suddenly be manifested in their lives. They read their Bibles where God has given many, many promises ranging from healing and deliverance to prosperity; yet they are sick and deeply in debt. They do hope for God's promises to be bestowed upon them, but most never see the promises fulfilled in their own lives. Why?

I believe it is because they are looking for God to fulfill His Word for them, and it just doesn't happen that way! The truth is, you are the one that can cause God's Word to be fulfilled in your life. You must mix His Word with YOUR FAITH! (See Hebrews 4:2).

The writer of Hebrews is revealing why God's promises failed to be manifested in the children of Israel that were in the wilderness. God's rest was there for every one of them, yet they didn't enter in. Hebrews chapter three, verse nineteen tells us why, "*they could not enter in because of unbelief.*"

The Holy Ghost is speaking to us today as He did to the children in the wilderness! "*Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice . . .*" Don't harden your hearts as the children in the wilderness did, for they failed to know God's ways! There is also a rest for us to enter into. This is the rest I want to share with you.

I think most of you would agree that the Old Testament is a shadow of things to come. "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which*

are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”
[Colossians 2:16-17]

To further prove that the “shadow” Paul is referring to is the Old Testament consider Hebrews 10:1, *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”* Therefore, we can conclude that the “shadow” Paul mentioned is defined as Old Testament sacrifices and laws including meats, drinks, holydays, new moons and the Sabbath days.

Many Christians refuse to believe Jesus established a radical entirely new religion by His supreme sacrifice on the Cross. Some keep the Old Testament feasts and many are beginning to embrace modern Jewish traditions thinking that prayer shawls, skull caps, and such will bring them closer to God. As hard as it is for me to believe, some actually believe that the blowing of a Ram’s horn (Sofar) before a service will actually bring the Holy Spirit into a service. This is a dangerous deception! Born again Christians are God’s covenant people, not those in Judaism or modern Israel.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and

I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. [Hebrews 8:6-13]

Clearly, a New Covenant was mediated by Jesus Christ and it was sealed by His Own Blood. (See Hebrews 12:24; 8:8; 8:13). Christians are not under any laws of the Old Covenant.

Allow me to add one more scripture that should prove to anyone that the Old Covenant was the Ten Commandments: "*And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.*" [Exodus 34:27-28] And he wrote upon the tablets the words of the covenant, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Hebrews chapter nine describes the first *covenant* as having ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. There was a tabernacle made. In the tabernacle was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant. (See Hebrews 9:1-4) AND THE TABLES OF THE COVENANT! That's The Ten Commandments!

Some think that the Ten Commandments are still in effect and only the dietary and sacrificial laws were done

away with. But wait, the scriptures are in fact including the Ten Commandments with the law being abolished!

I know some find this hard to believe and try to keep the Ten Commandments and the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament as their religious duty to God. This is a tragic mistake! Jesus said, *"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it"* [Luke 16:16]. (Also see *Matthew 11:13*).

When the law is mentioned in scripture it is always believed to include the first five books of the Bible, which includes the Ten Commandments, the Law, and Ordinances.

To further prove that "The Law" Jesus is referring to includes the Ten Commandments consider this: *"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you . . ."* [Matthew 5: 27-28]. Jesus is referring to the Ten Commandments! Jesus was changing the Law! *"But I say unto you!"* Also see Matthew 5: 21, 22.

The Law and the Prophets were for a specific time. According to Jesus the ministry of the Law and the Prophets ended when John began to declare the Kingdom of God. The writer of Hebrews said it this way in chapter one verses one and two, *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."*

I know people get angry with me when I tell them there is no such ministry as an Old Testament prophet, but it is true. According to what we have just read, God does not speak by the law or the prophets any longer. He speaks by His Son!

Not only did God discontinue the law and the prophets, He also eliminated the Old Testament priesthood

as well. There was a specific reason for this. Hebrews chapter seven, verses eleven and twelve tells us the reason: *"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."*

Jesus did not come to reform Judaism and enable us to keep all the laws and ordinances found in the Old Covenant. He came with a revolutionary New Covenant altogether! I have preached this thousands of times! Hebrews chapter seven, verses eighteen and nineteen also reflects this: *"For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."* Disannulling means to cancel or put away. The law was cancelled because it was weak and unprofitable, as it did not bring perfection.

This is also confirmed in these verses: *"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."* [Ephesians 2:15-16]

Notice, "the law" is singular that was abolished, not laws. There was just "one law" the Jews call the Torah and it was abolished by Jesus. The Bible does not teach, nor do the Jews regard that there are two laws, one ceremonial and the other the Ten Commandments. Within the Torah, there are ceremonial commands, commands dealing with diet, dress, tithe, disease, and moral commands. To the Jews there is but one law, "the Torah", and it is all equally holy and binding. There are 613 commandments in the Torah!

Christians are not under the Old Testament Law!

- *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. [Romans 6:14]*
- *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. [Romans 6:15]*
- *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. [Galatians 5:18]*

Don't be ignorant my friends! *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."* [Romans 19:3-4]

You cannot be saved by the law. Neither can you be perfected by the law! There is only one way you can be saved, and only one way you can be perfected!

Open your heart my friend! Many of you are trying to save yourselves by your works. I plead with you to enter into God's true Sabbath! Romans chapter three, verses nineteen through twenty-eight reveals this same truth: *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this*

time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

How is man justified? We are justified freely by God's Grace by faith without the deeds (works, labor) of the law. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" [Romans 6:14].* Thank God for the Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all our sins!

This is the true Sabbath! To rest continually by faith in the completed work of Christ.

God ended His work of creation and rested the seventh day. The Sabbath is a picture (a shadow) that God has provided everything for man. This is why I say, "I'm resting in Jesus"! I am complete in Him! You can't add anything to something that is complete! *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."* [Colossians 2:9-10]

Jesus told me to not let my heart be troubled. He said don't worry about tomorrow; what you will eat or what you will wear. He said God takes care of the flowers and birds and God was going to take care of me. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. He has given me rest!

Listen friends, put your trust in Jesus! He said He would never leave you nor forsake you. At times, His promises overwhelm me and they should you. When it all sinks in, then and only then, will you be able to rest in Jesus! This is the True Sabbath! This is what God wanted to give the children in the wilderness. This is the rest He wants all His children to enter into. A Sabbath of rest for that most precious part of you: *your spirit and soul*. This is THE PLACE where all the promises of God are manifested!