



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem
** Knights of Malta **

December
2020

Chancellor's Update

The Jewish Dilemma

Each year we try to leave the December issue for Jesus Christ. Our recent discussions with younger people have shown us their lack of biblical knowledge. So, we present some research on this topic for their benefit:

Completion of the Old Covenant

Covenant of the Circumcision Acts 7.8

And he (God) gave him (Abraham) the covenant of the circumcision, and so he begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

The Promise Fulfilled Acts 13.32-33

So, we now bring you the good news that the promise made to our fathers, God has fulfilled to our children, in raising up Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, **Thou art my son, this day I have begotten thee.**

The New Covenant Hebrews 8.8-13

Behold, days are coming...when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers...I will put my laws into their mind, and upon their hearts I will write them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people...Now in saying "a new covenant", he has made obsolete the former one; and that which is obsolete and has grown old is near its end.

The New Covenant Hebrews 9.15

And this is why he is mediator of a new covenant...they who have been called may receive eternal inheritance according to the promise.

The Promise to Abraham Romans 4.13-17

For not through the Law but through the justice of faith was the promise made to Abraham and to his posterity that he should be heir of the world...those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

Circumcision and the New Law Romans 2.25-29

Circumcision, indeed, profits if thou keep the Law, but if thou be a transgressor of the Law, thy circumcision has become uncircumcision...He is not a Jew who is so outwardly...but he is a Jew who is so inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart.

God and justifying Romans 3.30

For there is but one God who will justify the circumcised by faith, and the uncircumcised through the same faith.

New Covenant Matthew 26.28

All of you drink of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is being shed for many unto the forgiveness of sins.

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Abrogation Mark 15.38

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Consummation of the Law Romans 10.4

For Christ is the consummation of the Law unto justice for everyone who believes.

Fulfillment Romans 8.3-4

By sending his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin-offering, he has condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us.

The Gentiles receive the Promise Galatians 3.14

That the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, that through faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

The Law no longer necessary Galatians 3.28-29

There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are the offspring of Abraham, heirs according to promise.

Not to destroy, but fulfill Matthew 5.17-19

Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Law of Moses / Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ John 1.17

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Other comments from a Biblical Scholar

1. A good one is Matthew 21: 33-46, the parable of the vine dressers in Christ's own words, especially v.43: "The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruits." Their spiritual inheritance will be taken away and given to the Gentiles, (Temple veil rent, etc.), and they will be physically destroyed (by Roman military in AD 69-70) when the temple was leveled, ending all animal sacrifice, a sine-qua-non, of their identity, etc.).
2. Cf. also the parable of the cursed fig tree (Mt 21: 18-22, etc.). It has leaves but no fruit. To quote one commentary: "Symbolically this signifies that Christ had the right to expect of Israel at least the imperfect justice of the Old Law even though it was not yet time for the full perfection of the New Law. Israel was cursed and died spiritually at the time of Christ's crucifixion, although for a while it still bore the appearance of spiritual life before it withered completely at the destruction of Jerusalem.
3. Another good one is Romans 9: 6-9, where the true seed of Abraham is shown to be spiritual and not of the flesh. Your friend has to resolve in her mind who a "Jew" or "Israelite" is today, who the "chosen people" are. These terms can be defined and are defined in many ways by everyone, including these who call themselves thus.

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