

Outside In

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November 13, 2022

What sets the New Covenant apart from the Old? How does the new replace and fulfill the Old?

The Old Covenant was the type (prophecy) of what was to come. What is the archetype (fulfillment)? Strange as it may sound: a body!

Outside

Last week we looked at the day of atonement sacrifices. These were done every year as a cleansing event for the sacred space and for a “covering” of the sin of the people. But it did not remove their sinfulness. It was external in nature, but insufficient for the changing of the heart.

"For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer." Heb 8:3 (NKJV)

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME.

Heb 10:6 IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN YOU HAD NO PLEASURE.

Heb 10:7 THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME—IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME—TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.' "

Heb 10:8 Previously saying, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING, BURNT OFFERINGS, AND OFFERINGS FOR SIN YOU DID NOT DESIRE, NOR HAD PLEASURE IN THEM" (which are offered according to the law),

Heb 10:9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

The “outside” was never God’s real intent. Does it make sense to me why He put them through all that when it was only temporary and not really the plan? Not really! I have no idea the “why” of it all. Hopefully I can get some face time in eternity to work through that one!

“A body you have prepared”

Again, more puzzling things.

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; **My ears You have opened.** Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require." (Psa 40:6, NKJV)

The translators of the Septuagint apparently understood “my ears you have opened” to be a figure of speech for the creation of Adam’s body out of the “dust of the earth,” the idea likely being that God needed to “open his ears” in the formation process. The writer of Hebrews accepts the Septuagint rendering and uses it to make his point regarding the body of Jesus.

There are other minor variations that the writer of Hebrews inserted in his rendering of the text to fit either his linguistic or theological preferences. We won’t look at those. The point being that the writers of the NT took freedoms to alter the text or use it in ways that doesn’t fit our hermeneutical rules! It has been said that Paul would have failed hermeneutics!

"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission." Heb 9:22 (NKJV)

Without a body, Jesus would not have had blood to shed for the redemption of humanity.

Why this approach? Again, it is difficult to make definitive statements! But it was the plan put in place before the world was created. "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**" (Rev 13:8, NKJV). Before, since, or from the foundation of the world appears 10 times in the NT.

Before they began the creation process, they knew where this was going and what the solution was going to be. It was not plan B, as some have suggested. The human race was worth the body of the Son being crucified so that we could become like Him!

"And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING (Gk. Psuche, soul)." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." (1Co 15:45, NKJV)

"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man." (1Co 15:49, NKJV)

While Adam, and we as the race of Adam, are amazing, Jesus is superior. Jesus had to become a body, a human like us, so that He could give His life (psuche) that we might become like Him, a spiritual being.

As far as we know, no other being created prior to Adam was like him with a physical body which was even able to die. It appears that the angels and the other spiritual beings were only spiritual in nature, and unable to procreate. The unique characteristics of humanity made them vulnerable to unique difficulties, and unique opportunities.

Jesus became like us with a mortal body so that He could redeem us to become an immortal/eternal spiritual being which could live forever as a peer to Jesus, the eternal Son of God.

Outside in

The "outside" provided the access to the "inside" for our glorification.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2Co 5:17, NKJV)

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2Co 5:21, NKJV)

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself confirms to our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 8:17 **and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer together with him so that we may also be glorified together with him.

"And those whom he predestined, these he also called, and those whom he called, these he also justified, and those whom he justified, these he also glorified." (Rom 8:30, LEB)

"For the eagerly expecting creation awaits eagerly the revelation of the sons of God." (Rom 8:19, LEB)