

GOD AND CHANGE

Text: Malachi 3:6

INTRO: Our text tells us that God does not change. He is eternal. He does not grow old. He is unchangeable in His power, knowledge, and nature. But there are some matters in which God does change and has changed. If that were not the case, it would be useless to pray, and it would be fruitless for sinners to repent.

I. GOD HAS CHANGED HIS ESTIMATION OF MEN AND NATIONS – WHEN THEY CHANGED.

A. At creation, Gen 1:31, Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

B. But 10 generations later, Gen 6:5-6, Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, & He was grieved in His heart.

C. The same principle is true in God's dealings with the nations, Jer 18:7-10, The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build & to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.

II. GOD CHANGED HIS COVENANT WITH ISRAEL.

A. It was NEVER intended to be an eternal covenant, but its blessings for Israel could have been perpetual.

Gal 3:24-25, 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Gal 3:19, What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

- B. That old covenant was completely abolished because Judah and Israel broke it, & God promised a new covenant, which was established with a new Israel – a spiritual Israel.

Jer 31:31-34, "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel & with the house of Judah--not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, tho I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, & write it on their hearts; & I will be their God, & they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, & every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

III. GOD CHANGED THE FORMS OF WORSHIP UNDER THIS NEW COVENANT.

- A. Animal sacrifice is forever gone, Heb 10:11-14, And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

B. Old Testament holy days, food restrictions, etc. are gone forever, Col 2:13-16, And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths...

C. The special race and special place are no longer valid, John 4:24.

D. Burning of incense, mechanical instruments of music, the special Levitical priesthood & other Jewish things too numerous to mention are not a part of God's new covenant with His new spiritual Israel.

IV. **ALONG WITH THE CHANGE OF COVENANT, CAME ALSO A CHANGE OF MEDIATORS.**

Heb 9:14-15, How much more shall the blood of Christ, who thru the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 1:1-2, God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

CONCLUSION: Our God does not change, with regard to His power, His knowledge or His nature. But He listens to our prayers, and He may change the course of history because of them. He observes our behavior, He extends or withholds His fellowship accordingly. He rejoices when we repent, because it makes a difference. If we obey His gospel & serve Him faithfully, it will make an eternal difference.

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