

THE TRANSITION PERIOD

Text: Luke 16:16

INTRO: Tho we recognize that the change from the O.T. to the new took place on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection, 30 A.D., we need to take note that many things were done previous to that time, and after that time to make this change of law work smoothly. In this lesson, we will study the most outstanding 100 years period the world has ever known, from 4 B.C. to 96 A.D.

I. THE WORK OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

A. A matter of prophecy.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isa 40:3). MT 3:3.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great & dreadful day of the Lord. (Mal 4:5).

But I say to you that Elijah has come already & they did not know him, but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of man is about to suffer at their hands. Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. (MT 17:12-13).

B. He preached the kingdom--that it was at hand, MT 3:2.

C. John's baptism.

1. Not a part of Moses' system, but part of the counsel of God, Luke 7:30.

2. Neither was it part of the N.T., for it later became invalid. Acts 19:1-5.

D. John did his work well. MT 11:11.

E. John did not work miracles, JN 10:41. He died before the kingdom was established, MT 11:11; 16:18.

F. What John promised was fulfilled-30 A.D.-with the establishment of the kingdom in Jerusalem. Ax 2; MT 3:11.

II. THE PERSONAL MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST.

A. Christ's teachings are summed up in the sermon on the mount, Matthew, chapters 5-7.

1. His teachings are not in violation of the Law of Moses. He came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. MT 5:17

2. His teachings did show that the Law was not God's final revelation.

B. Like John, Christ preached that the kingdom was at hand, Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:5.

C. He often instructed His apostles during His personal ministry NOT to tell folks He was the Christ, MT 16:20; 17:9

D. He chose 12 men & commissioned them to preach.

1. Their message: the kingdom is at hand, MT 10:7

2. They were, at that time, limited. Do not go into the way of the Gentiles & do not enter a city of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (MT 10:5-6).

3. Later this commission was given to 70 others, LK 10

E. At the end of His ministry, He gave His apostles the Great Commission, but ordered them to wait in Jerusalem for power from on high before putting the command into action, MT 28:18-20; MK 16:15-16.

READ LUKE 24:45-49

III. MISC. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE TRANSITION.

A. Revelation & inspiration. God had been silent for nearly 400 years, 397 B.C. to 4 B.C.

1. Then by an angel, by dreams, by direct revelation, He spoke to Mary, Joseph, Anna, Simeon & Zacharias, MT 1:20; LK 1:13, 28; 2:26, 36

2. John B & Christ began their ministries about 6 mo. apart, approximately 26 A.D.
3. The N.T. apostles & prophets were inspired to preach all truth & put it into writing between 30-96 AD
 - a. N.T. first spoken, then put into writing between 42-96 AD.
 - b. The earthly ministry of Jesus, 26-30 AD is recorded in MT, MK, LK, & JN. The period from the birth of Christ till His resurrection covers almost 34 years.
 - c. The next period of 34 years is covered by the book of Acts. During this 34 year period all the N.T. books were written except 1 & 2 Tim, Titus & the writings of John.
 - d. According to history, 1 Tim & Titus were written in 67 AD & 2 Tim in 68. Shortly afterward, Paul was executed by Nero.
 - e. The destruction of Jerusalem by Roman armies occurred in 70 AD & seems to be a turning point in the relationship between Christianity & Judaism.
 - f. It is generally believed that John wrote his account of the gospel, his epistles & the book of Rev after the destruction of Jerusalem near the end of the 1st century.
 - g. Truths during this time were revealed a part at a time as needed & later put into written form from 30-96 AD.
1 Cor 13:9, 12; Gal. 5:21, etc.

- B. During the transitional period, miracles were worked to fulfill the O.T. & to confirm the revelations that were being made known. MT 9:6; JN 3:2; Heb 2:3-4; JN 20:30-31; MK 16:20
1. Birth of Christ, 4 BC
 2. Christ's ministry of miracles, 26-30 AD
 3. Miracles of apostles & prophets, 30AD to all N.T. confirmed.
 - a. Spiritual gifts were to cease when God's revelations were complete, 1 Cor 13:8-13
 - b. The last recorded miracles, Ax 28:3-9, 62 AD
 - c. John wrote late in the 1st century as if miracles were a thing of the past, JN 20:30-31
- C. The relationship between Jews & Gentiles.
1. Jesus' personal ministry was to Jews only, MT 15:24
 2. Under the limited com., apostles went only to Jews, Matt. 10:5-6.
 3. Even after the establishment of the kingdom, the apostles went to Jews only until 41 AD, Acts 10
 4. From the conversion of Cornelius till at least 62 AD the gospel was preached to the Jews first, then to Gentiles, Ax 13:46; Rom 1:16; Ax 20:28
- D. The influence of Judaism in other matters.
1. James speaks of "your synagogue" JS 2:2, 45 AD
 2. MT's account of the gospel is obviously addressed primarily to a Jewish audience, c. 42 AD.
 3. The Gentiles of Syria & Cilicia were commanded to abstain from things strangled & from blood because of the influence of Moses' law, 50 AD, Acts 15:20-21.
 4. Paul had Timothy circumcised, Acts 16:3, 51 AD
 5. Paul involved himself in Jewish vows, 54 AD, Acts

18:18. Again, 58 AD, Acts 21:23 (involved sacrifice).

NOTE: We suggest the Law of Moses was still the civil law for Jews until the destruction of Jerusalem.

- a. It was not only a spiritual law, but also a civil law. It remained a civil law till the nation was dispersed in 70 AD.
- b. Pilate had recognized the Law of Moses as a civil law for the Jews, JN 18:31.
- c. The Jewish priests had authority over the Jews, even outside Jerusalem. They sent Saul of Tarsus to Damascus, Syria, to arrest Jewish Christians there Ax 9:1-2.

E. The destruction of Jerusalem seems to be a key turning point. John, the only writer to write after the destruction, gives indication that the influence of Judaism had greatly declined before the end of the 1st century. In fact, he uses the term "Jew" to refer to the leaders rather than to the common people. Matt., Mark & Luke use the word "Jew" as opposed to Gentiles & Samaritans. John uses it as opposed to Christ & His followers.

Springhill, LA, March 17, 1974

La Porte, TX, November 2, 1975

La Porte, TX, September 30, 1979

College Park, Deer Park, TX, December 13, 1979 (preacher meeting)

Exton, PA, November 18, 1984

Exton, PA, July 31, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 2, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 4, 1998