

KEENER THOUGHTS

January, 2012

THREE TABERNACLES OR ONLY ONE

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here **three tabernacles**; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. **And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.** And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. **But I say unto you, That Elias is come already,** and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. (Mat 16:28 - 17:13)

If you will read the Gospel of Matthew, considering the chronology of events, and the small amount of time which our Lord has been on the scene, at this point in time, you will understand that even the twelve apostles were yet in the process of getting acquainted with Him. (Mat 16:13-28) Relatively little time had lapsed, since Mat 3:17, for them to gain acquaintance with Him, and especially to understand the

purpose of His present Kingdom. They were common men, and as such, at this point in time, had the common man's knowledge of the Law and the Profits, that is the Old Testament, but they were about to be given supernatural revelation of the **New Testament**, by the Testator Himself.

Today, we often hear casual statements about the "Judeo - Christian" religious system. This, though an oxy-moron, is tolerated, and accepted as credible, because of our common foundation of, and in, the Old Testament of the Bible. Because of the many elements of ethical unity, the dynamic differences, not contradictions, but differences, in the Old and New Testaments, are often ignored, even though they are many and great. Judaism, then and now, does not confess or believe that Jesus of Nazareth was (IS) The Christ, as Peter confessed, nor do they confess or believe that what Christians call the "New Testament" is part of the Bible, or that it is, in any sense, the inspired word of God. Since this belief in the New Testament is the sum and substance of the Christian Faith, it is extremely important that we fully understand the differences, and do not confuse or inter-mingle them. To do so is to agree with Peter's suggestion of three tabernacles, and to ignore the divine revelation of **"No man but Jesus only,"** as well as to ignore the voice of God the Father, which said, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."** Please do not think this means I am despising the Jew. I whole heartedly join Paul in his Statement of Rom. 10:1-2, *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."*

The New Testament does not contradict the Old Testament. The New Covenant fully obeys the old, and fulfills it. Every demand that God revealed through Moses on Mount Sinai, He fulfilled in Christ on Mount Calvary. Perhaps this truth is stated more clearly in Ro. 8:3-4, than any other place in Scripture. *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

The Law could never do this, or assist in the doing of it. The law could only reveal the demand, and the penalty for violation or failure. The old covenant was after this fashion. *"For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them."* (Ro. 10:5) The law was weak because it speaks only to the flesh, and *"they that are in the flesh can not please God."* (Rom 8:8) Conversely, that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit, and only those who are born of the Spirit of Christ, or by the Holy Spirit, and thus, walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, can either perceive or enter into the Kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

Let us not embrace Peter's suggestion of three tabernacles, nor should we try to live partly in one, and partly in another, for God has no pleasure in that. Rather, let us dwell in the true tabernacle and in Him alone. That tabernacle is Christ, and all the others were nothing but figures of the true. *"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."* (Heb. 8:13) Let us not seek sanctuary in that which has vanished away, which thing it did at the death and resurrection of Christ, but in that which abides eternal in the heavens.

Hear the declaration of the believer's eternal state, and the sum of the whole matter: *"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," (That is to say, **offered once never to be repeated**) "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I*

will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” (Heb. 10:7-17)

This is a prophecy fulfilled, and yet to be fulfilled. May God give us good understanding!

--FLK