



### Transition from One Dispensation to Another Accomplished though Progressive Revelation; There's Always a Pivot, Rom 11:4; Present Fulfillment of Elijah's Fears

- 17- The Bible clearly states that the first job of the believer is to grow in grace and this requires a very serious approach to the only source of knowledge provided to us by God for the fulfillment of this mandate.
- 18- That source is the Bible and its message contains God's directive will for the believer in the dispensation in which he lives.
- 19- When a particular generation transcends one or more dispensations then God provides those believers time to assimilate the alterations of divine policies brought about by this change.
- 20- For example, during the Incarnation, our Lord was very patient in explaining His purpose and His mission regarding Plan *A*, His millennial kingdom. Most of the Israelites who lived in Judea rejected His message.
- 21- The way they decided to deal with His message was to discredit Him. Thus the Pharisees and scribes, et al., hounded the Lord with technical questions about Mosaic Law and the oral tradition. Our Lord was perfect in His management of these attacks.
- 22- Nevertheless, there were those who were able to make the transition and believed in the Lord's presentation of Plan *B*. These individuals moved into the Church Age as believers but with only sparse knowledge of the spiritual life of the new dispensation.
- 23- Over a period of approximately 65 years God revealed the details of that spiritual life through the writers of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. During that time there was a transition from the ritual plan of God practiced in the dispensation of Israel and the Incarnation to the power plan of God for the Church Age through the process of progressive revelation.
- 24- The book of Acts must therefore be understood as a history which documents this transition away from an emphasis on rituals over to an emphasis on the reality that is behind these rituals.
- 25- The rituals of Jewish spiritual life were designed to teach (1) the problem of sin and its judgment by means of the coming Messiah, (2) salvation from sin by faith in the coming Messiah, and (3) postsalvation sin management through certain sacrifices that emphasized confession and forgiveness based on the work of the coming Messiah.
- 26- Once the New Testament canon was complete all ritual ceased with the exception of the Eucharist. The focus of the believer is now directed toward the Bible as his lone source of information for learning the plan of God and his place in it:

**2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed [ God exhales divine thought which is called revelation and the writer inhales the information which is called inspiration ], and becomes beneficial for teaching doctrine, for reproof [ rebound ], correction [ concepts of disciple designed to motivate recovery from carnality and reversionism ] for training in righteousness [ spiritual growth ];**

**v. 17 - in order that the man of God may be mature having been equipped for the production of every good work.**



- 27- Elijah is right. Jezebel and her underlings had indeed “forsaken the covenant, torn down the altars, and killed the prophets” (1 Kings 19:14). This is typical of satanic assaults that occur within client nations. The intent is to discredit or eliminate the communicators while destroying the means of proper worship.
- 28- In a much less obvious way, we are experiencing these same assaults in our society today.
- 29- The forsaking of the Scripture, the defilement of the altars, and the “killing” of the communicators are far more sophisticated than in the ninth century B.C. but the results are potentially the same.
- 30- Failure to teach the Bible is to forsake the Word of God. Failure to use the pulpit of the local church to communicate the precise message of God to man is a defilement of that pulpit. To discredit those who make honest attempts to avoid both is a metaphorical killing of these pastors. If the pastor can be discredited then his message can be ignored.
- 31- Elijah was frustrated by these things and it led him to assume that he constituted a one-man Pivot:

**Romans 11:3** - “Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars. In fact, I alone am left and they seek my life.”

**v. 4** - But what is the divine response to him? (1 Kings 19:18) “I have kept for myself a Pivot, 7,000 honorable men, who because of their maturity have not bowed a knee to Baal.”

- 1- Elijah became preoccupied with disaster and this outside adversity became internal stress. Notice that the administration of Ahab and Jezebel attacked the Word of God and those who communicated it.
- 2- By killing the prophets they silenced those who revealed divine policy and by destroying the altars they prevented the priesthood from performing the rituals that communicated that policy.
- 3- The anti-Christian trends ascendant in our nation today may cause you to allow this outside adversity to cause internal stress. They should not.
- 4- The purpose of *Clanking Chains* is to help you identify these trends but not be distracted by them. The solution is your personal advance to Mount *Plinima*.
- 5- Notice that the divine response was that the Northern Kingdom enjoyed the residence of 7,000 honorable men who formed its Pivot. And Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot.
- 6- We have studied the demise of Ahab and Jezebel in our studies of the kings. But Elijah, although a prophet himself, was blinded by fear and therefore could not discern the divine viewpoint of the situation.
- 7- Distracted by disaster, Elijah was neutralized by disaster. He had the plenipotentiary authority of a prophet but under stress he misused it and ordered the priests of Baal executed in 1 Kings 18:40.