

Have you ever found it hard to harmonize or explain the actions of God in the Old Testament with the actions of God in the New Testament?

1Sa 15:3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

Mat 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The nature of God has two sides – kindness and severity.

Rom 11:22 Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

We do not have the same players, the same rules
nor the same goals in the two covenants.

God chose Abraham.

Gen 12:2-3 And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you and make your name great, so
that you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those
who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will
curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall
be blessed.”

Under the Old Testament, there was a promise to Abraham's descendants – you were born into that covenant as physical descendants of Abraham.

God told Abraham's descendants that they had to obey in order to receive the physical blessings of that covenant.

Exo 15:26 saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

They were protected by the Law of Moses from the diseases so prevalent in the world. There is no New Testament equivalent for our kingdom is not of this world.

The Catholic church, the other denominations do not understand and they look to earthly kingdoms and salvation from earthly hunger and sickness that they might have life on earth.

During the middle ages, the Kings of Europe carried a “holy relic” to guide them in their battle – they prayed to their saints to protect them and finally their faith was completely destroyed by their wars against each other.

The millennial theories of men continue this search for an earthly kingdom in spite of Jesus' words to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world"

Rom 9:4-5 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. (5) To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 9:27-28 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, (28) for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”

God punished this physical kingdom often, just as He had the Israelites go to war to preserve Israel.

Isa 14:21-22 Prepare slaughter for his sons because of the guilt of their fathers, lest they rise and possess the earth, and fill the face of the world with cities.” (22) “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity,” declares the LORD.

The purpose of Israel is found in God's statement to Abraham, "and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gal 3:24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

Rom 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Their's was a physical kingdom, based on earthly promises of a land given to them – but ours is a spiritual kingdom – not of this earth.

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Luk 17:20-21 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, (21) nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

“the reign of God is within you”

God's eternal purpose was not an earthly kingdom.
Eph 3:11 This was according to the eternal purpose
that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

It was an eternal kingdom – a spiritual family –
given to all peoples of the world.

Mat 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching
them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the
age.”

God's punishments in the Old Testament consisted of defeats in war, captivities -- Egypt, Babylon, Assyria.

Their deliverance was from captivity – Egypt, Babylon, Assyria.

Our deliverance is not earthly but heavenly -- Mat 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Php 3:19-21 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (20) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1Pe 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being
built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to
God through Jesus Christ.

Heb 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Our enemies are spiritual.

Mat 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Our deliverance is not from our physical enemies
but our spiritual inheritance in heaven.

1Co 15:50-53 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

1Co 15:57-58 But thanks be to God, who gives us
the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (58)
Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast,
immovable, always abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in
vain.

Are you a part of the family that knows no end?

God's eternal purpose is for you.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

His wish for you is eternal life – what stops you from receiving this gift?

Only you can make the decision to follow Jesus and not your desires.

1Ti 2:4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'