

God's Unchanging Plan

GOD'S CHANGING PLAN?

Does God change? No! God does not change. He is the same in that He has always and always will be a God of love. His character is based on that principal. He does not hate us at any given time. He does, however, hate the things that we choose to do that causes our eternal death. He gives us the option of choosing either eternal death or eternal life.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

God is talking about both physical and eternal life and death. If we choose to live according to His instructions we will not only inherit God's promises that lead to eternal life but we will be blessed in this physical life as well. All good things come from God. That doesn't mean that He keeps us from reaping the penalties we choose from making wrong decisions. Just as any good parent, who loves his child, will administer discipline for the benefit of the child, God also administers discipline for our benefit in hopes that we will make changes in our lives.

But does God make changes in His plan? Yes, and No. He has an overall plan that will not change. He works toward the end result of Rev. 21 and 22 where the end results in a wonderful future where all things are made new. We can rely on that happening. Even though God does not change He does make changes along the way in regard to mankind's responses to Him. In spite of some beliefs that God is limited to certain time schedules, He nowhere makes that clear in any of His word.

His decisions are made as a result of the decisions of mankind as we find based on the many decisions He made throughout Biblical history in response to choices made by Israel. A good example: 1 Chronicles 21:15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, it is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Even before the great flood God made changes to His first age of people. His original purpose was for Adam and Eve to live forever, or at least until they rebelled against Him. He gave them the option of living as long as they obeyed His law of life. When they made the choice of death; and most of their descendents made the same choice, He made a very sad decision to destroy all but the one family of Noah. Gen. 6:5-8. This ended the first age of mankind and began the second age. That didn't change God's overall plan. He knew that He could resurrect all of these people and give them a chance to learn from their wrong choices and start over again during their time of judgment. This was a change but still on course for the overall plan.

During the second age of mankind God worked with one family who were the descendents of Abraham's grandson Jacob (later named Israel). He picked this one

family, giving them the responsibility of setting an example of righteousness to the rest of the nations.

Amos 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

He rose up Moses to deliver to Israel the rules and regulations that they were to abide by known as “the ten commandments”, along with many other detailed instructions, such as cleanliness, diet, and rules regarding personal relationships.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

This second age of mankind was the age of the law. God promised Israel Abundant blessings if they followed His instructions. He made it possible for their Sins to be forgiven by sacrificial laws administered by selected men to serve as priests. However, Israel only kept the law during part of their history. Most of the time they rebelled and forgot God’s laws. God worked with them for a very long time allowing them to suffer the consequence of their sins. Age two finally ended with the next step in God’s plan within age three. Again God is making changes but not changing Himself or His plans.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Eze. 20:19 I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; 20 And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my Sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name’s sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my Sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers’ idols.

25 Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD. God didn’t break His covenant with Israel; they broke the covenant with Him. In His love He devised a plan to forgive them and make a new covenant with them.

The new covenant would also do away with some of the laws that had been made with Israel. There was to be no more sacrifices of animals, no more priesthood, and no more circumcision. The physical works were to be changed to a righteous attitude. Again God made changes.

Age three is known as the age of grace.

This is a better covenant with mankind because it would include not only Israel but the whole world. God was not changing the righteousness of His holy Ten Commandments, which had to do with attitude, but with the physical works only.

No longer could anyone claim to be righteous due to his works alone. He must combine a righteous attitude with his works of love toward God and man. To fulfill the physical works that pictured a Savior the Father sent His son to fulfill all the prophecies that referred to Yeshua during the previous two ages.

Mat. 5:17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

It is clear from other scriptures that Christ was not talking about laws relating to physical works, but to His spiritual laws that had to do with attitude.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The Pharisees were keeping the physical laws just as Paul said he had kept all those physical laws perfectly, so it was not their works that was lacking; they did not have the perfect attitude that God wants us to develop.

Luke 6:40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. {that...: or, shall be perfected as his master} John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

This was the change that was being made with God's people. The attitude had to change. Christ explains it: Mt. 5:27 ¶ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

This would be breaking one of the ten spiritual laws found in Ex.20:14. To "lust" means to covet, to desire something that is unlawful to have. Christ was making spiritual laws even more mandatory. This was another change.

Some things that involved a right and wrong attitude were not changed unless they were no longer needful such as people who live in the cities that have modern sewage no longer need to take a shovel out to cover their feces. Many of the laws for ancient Israel were based on their living conditions and keeping separate from the Gentile

nations. God made clear His laws were to prevent Israel from adopting the pagan worship of other nations. However, the principals are still there.

The problem some people have is with the connection to the term “forever” or “forever” which is different than the word “eternally”. Some of God’s attitude laws are to be kept eternally. Other laws and situations that are stated “forever” means until certain other things are ended or fulfilled, or a death occurs.. Many scriptures can be found that God says will happen for ever only happened until the end of certain conditions or specific time events are fulfilled. There was a specified time (during the second age) when Israel was to only worship in Jerusalem (where God placed His name). But that was to change when Christ fulfilled His sacrifice and begin the third age of grace. The woman at the well knew that Israel had been required to worship in Jerusalem. Christ explained the change that would be made.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

During this age, the age of grace, no one is required to worship in Jerusalem. There has even been a drastic change in Israel; Gentiles can now also become spiritual Israelites by accepting Christ as the son of God. That is the mystery that Paul explains in Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this :, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. {blindness: or, hardness} Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

So we see how that “forever” is not without an end. In this case it lasted until the age of grace came into play with the sacrifice of Christ.

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