The Book Of Hebrews
Background Information Continued
Bible Study - By Pastor Charles A. Hall - January 13, 2022

In order to understand and comprehend the epistle of Hebrews which encourages believers and followers of Jesus Christ who fulfilled the new covenant by His death and resurrection which brought hope (light) to the gentiles. We must first understand the context and meaning of the original covenant God made with the people of Israel through His servant Abraham. We also need to understand Judaism the basis of the original covenant and how it related and differ from Christianity, which is the basic for the new covenant. The original covenant between God and Israel can be found in the writing of Moses in Genesis. This new covenant was established by Jesus Christ which was anticipated by Jeremiah and confirmed in Luke.

- Genesis 12:1-3 (The original covenant between God and Israel)
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 (New Covenant anticipated in the writing of Jeremiah)
- Luke 22:20 (New Covenant based on the Good News of Jesus Christ confirmed)

The covenant that God entered into with Abraham on behalf of Israel, future Israel, and also on behalf of the Gentile nation, is reflected in Moses writing in the book of Genesis. God commissioned Israel and anointed them with His Spirit to be a blessing and a (light) to the Gentile nation. As a result of Israel's failure , it was Jesus Christ who performed His Father's perfect will in this regard. Jesus work of redemption and Justice included bringing judgement on sinners which is confirmed in the gospel of Matthew, and in the book of Revelation.

- Isaiah 42:5-6 (Israel was called to be a light to the Gentiles Nation)
- Matthew 12:25-31 (Jesus' Judgement)
- Revelations 19:11 (Jesus' righteous judgement)

The details of the covenant was given by God unto his chosen nation of Israel at Mount Sinai after God brought them out of Egypt. God told the Israelites through His spokesman Moses that if they would obey His voice and keep His covenant that they would be a peculiar treasure unto Him.

- Exodus 19:3-6 (God's covenant for His chosen people)

Jesus famous sermon of the Mount is considered by some Christian scholars to be the proclamation of the New Covenant moral belief found in the fifth chapter of the gospel of Matthew.

- Matthew 5:1-12. (Jesus' proclamation of the moral conduct of the New Covenant)

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Basic definition of Judaism and how it relates to Christianity:

Christianity is rooted in Second Temple Judaism, but the two religions diverged or strayed in the first centuries of the Christian Era. Christianity emphasizes correct belief (or orthodoxy), focusing on the New Covenant as mediated through Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. Judaism places emphasis on correct conduct (or orthopraxy), focusing on the Mosaic covenant, as recorded in the Torah (first 5 chapter of the Hebrew law Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) and Talmud (The body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law 2 book written by rabbis Mishnah and Gamara believed to be oral laws about certain matter given by Moses and passed down).

Christians generally believe in individual salvation from sin through receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, the Son of God. Jews believe in individual and collective participation in an eternal dialogue with God through tradition, rituals, prayers and ethical actions. Christianity generally believes in a Triune God, one person of whom became human. Judaism emphasizes the Oneness of God and rejects the Christian concept of God in human form.

Orthodoxy is most simply defined as “right belief” which consist of authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice. Orthodoxy is held with great important on the protestant-Christian church and other branches of Christianity such as Catholicism.

Orthopraxy is defined as “right practice” yet this idea of practice is not about practicing right doctrine. Rather, when orthopraxy talks about practice it is talking about gospel living, instead of focusing solely on saying and doing the right things, one should focus on the holistic message of the gospel, which is to love God and love other.

Orthodoxy and orthopraxy are not meant to stand alone. When one places all emphasis on orthodoxy, servitude becomes a false idol; and when all emphasis is on orthopraxy, the body of Christ and important practices such as communion can more easily be lost. However, when a balance of both is reach, believers are able to look at the world with more love.