

The Time Element In Scripture

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How many Scriptural problems would be solved and how many seeming contradictions explained, if we were more careful to note the time element, emphasized so strongly in the Word of God.

In Romans we learn that sin entered the human race by Adam...

Romans 5:12 KJV *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”*

Then later the law entered...

Romans 5:20 KJV *“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”*

But still later the Apostle Paul arose to say...

Romans 5:21 KJV *“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”*

Early in man’s history blood sacrifices were required for acceptance with God...

Genesis 4:4 KJV *“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering”*

Hebrews 11:4 KJV *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh”*

Later circumcision and the Law...

Genesis 17:14 KJV *“And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant”*

Exodus 19:5 KJV *“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine”*

And still later, repentance and water baptism...

Mark 1:4 KJV *“John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins”*

Acts 2:38 KJV *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”*

But not until the Apostle Paul do we learn of salvation “a free gift” by grace through faith alone, on the basis of Christ’s finished, all-sufficient work of redemption.

This is why the Apostle Paul refers in...

Galatians 3:23 KJV *“But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed”*

To “the faith which should afterward be revealed” This is why he declares that our Lord “gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”, and adds: “whereunto I am ordained a preacher and an apostle”

1st Timothy 2:6-7 KJV “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. 7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity”

It is only as we recognize the time element in Scripture that we see the difference between “the kingdom of heaven” (Israel) and “the Body of Christ,” (the Gentiles)

between “the gospel of the kingdom” and “the gospel of the grace of God,” between the “dispensation of law” and “the dispensation of the grace of God.”

A comparison of...

Romans 3:21 KJV “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets”

Romans 3:26 KJV “To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus”

Shows how this time element is emphasized in Scripture. After discussing the function of the Law in...

Romans 3:19-20 KJV “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin”

The Apostle Paul declares in Rom 3:21 “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...”

Then, in Rom 3:26 he states that it is God’s purpose: “To declare, I say, at this time His [Christ’s] righteousness; that He [God] might be just and the Justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.”