

# THE ADVANTAGES CHRIST PRESENTS

By Keith Greer

As we study the Old Testament, we often discuss shadows, types, and antitypes. Many of the Old-Testament Bible characters and events prepared people for the coming of a Redeemer. Listen to the Hebrews writer as he alludes to this: “by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.” {Hebrews 7:22} Let us examine some of the advantages presented to us because we are in Christ.

**Kept by the Law, which led men to Christ.** “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the Law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the Law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” {Galatians 3:23-25} One of the Old Law’s primary purposes was to lead sinners to Christ. The Law served a purpose by regulating God’s people who lived under it; but it was a temporary law. It endured only UNTIL faith came. How did God send that faith? By His Son— “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” {Galatians 4:4,5}

**Moses gave the Law; Jesus gave the Gospel.** “For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” {John 1:17} Moses, the great lawgiver, received the Law from God on Mount Sinai {Deuteronomy 6:44,45}. Moses’ Law – a national law – guided and instructed the nation of Israel. Jesus gave the universal gospel. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” {Matthew 28:19,20} Why is the gospel better than the Old Law? For one thing, the gospel brought salvation to all men. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” {Romans 1:16}

**Till the Seed came; then nailed to the cross.** “What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.” {Galatians 3:19} As previously discussed, the law served specific purposes. One of these purposes was to lead to the fulfillment of the seed promise. Remember, God promised Abraham that through him, “all of the families of the earth would be blessed” {Genesis 12:3}. The law was fleeting – not enduring; it ended. “Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” {Colossians 2:14} The Old Law was nailed to the cross; Christ’s death ended that law and placed all men under a new law – His law.

**Animal blood—Christ’s blood.** “Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.” {Hebrews

9:18-20} Under Moses' Law, God demanded sacrifices of animals and their blood for atonement and forgiveness. But, they could not provide true remission of sins. {Galatians 2:21}. Christ's blood did. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." {Ephesians 1:7} At the point of Christ's death, man had a remedy for his sin problem. When one goes back to the account of man's fall from grace, in the Garden of Eden, sin made reconciliation necessary. Fellowship between God and man had been broken by sin. How would it be restored? God had a plan and that plan was "shadowed" in the Old Testament and made a reality in the New Testament. (continued on next page)\*\*\*