O CLAP YOUR HANDS, ALL PEOPLES; SHOUT TO GOD WITH THE VOICE OF JOY



Alayna Wilson, Caleb Wilson, Emma Schaefer, and Braden Miller Winners of the upper division Bible Bowl 2018 from the 48th St. Church of Christ Billings, MT

"And you do not have [the Father's] word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent." John 5:38



This Wednesday, April 11th – 7:00 p.m. – Teachings about Prayer and Fasting – Phil Sutton



Question of the week:

God spoke through Moses in the book of Deuteronomy, and said that He would send "extraordinary plagues" and miserable and chronic sicknesses and all the diseases of Egypt upon Israel. Why?

Last week's question: In the gospel according to Luke, when Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him, who did Jesus say His real family is? Answer: "Those who hear the word of God and do it" (Luke 8:21).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School — 106 Morning Assembly — 137 Evening Assembly — 59 Wednesday Night (4/4) — 77 **Butte Lord's Day** — 20 Great Falls Lord's Day — 51,95



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

What is Fading Away

The Old Covenant, with its ten core commandments being thundered from Sinai, seemed on the surface to be very permanent. But with more information coming through the succeeding revelation from God in the writings of the New Covenant, it becomes clear that the Old was designed from the beginning to be temporary. "There is a setting aside of the former commandment...," said Hebrews' author, "for the Law made nothing perfect" (Hebrews 7:18,19). The Law, with its statutes, ordinances, and commandments, was necessary because it was the means by which God showed Israel its sinfulness and hence its need for a Savior. It also contained the prophecies, foreshadows, and types so critical in establishing the truthfulness of God's coming to earth as a

Man—to die by crucifixion as the sacrifice, to be raised from the dead and viewed by witnesses, and to ascend to glory as High Priest and King. But from the beginning, the Law was designed to fade away.

- Veil over what was fading away "Moses," avers Paul, "used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away" (2 Corinthians 3:13). It was the glory shining in Moses' face that was fading away, the glory by which Moses delivered the Law to the Sons of Israel. But that fading glory signaled that what was delivered through that glory was also temporary rather than permanent. Hence God was communicating from the beginning of the Mosaic covenant that it was a temporary covenant, and that it was designed from the beginning to be replaced by a superior covenant. But it takes these statements from the inspired apostle Paul to begin to understand that.
- Minds hardened The Jews, as anticipated by God, had a very difficult time process-

ing that their beloved Law and customs were only a temporary feature until Christ could come and bring His covenant into fruition. God had clearly laid the groundwork for the coming of the covenant of Christ in the writings of the Old Testament, and also had indicated that the vast bulk of the Hebrews would reject the teachings concerning Christ and His covenant. "But their minds were hardened," comments Paul, "for until this very day at the reading of

The saint now participates in the unfading, eternal covenant.

the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ" (2 Corinthians 3:14). The unconverted Jew could not see what the Old Testament was pointing at, and his inner man was thus blinded off to seeing Christ in glory. Only if he were to begin to understand that Jesus was indeed the revelation of God to man, and that immersion into Him was absolutely necessary for the forgiveness of his sins and for the reception of the indwelling Spirit, would that veil be removed. Then his mind would no longer be hardened.

Veil over their hearts — It has been well said that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Hence, once a person begins to understand the New Testament writings and how they bring the truthfulness of the testimony concerning Jesus to the fore, he can begin increasingly to understand how the types, foreshadows, and prophesies clearly point to Jesus the Messiah and His kingdom (the church). But a refusal to believe what the scripture says about Jesus results in a deliberate blindness. "But to this day," comments Paul on this very subject, "whenever Moses [the Old Testament writings] is read, a veil lies over their heart" (2 Corinthians 3:15). They are blinded off to the teachings of the New Covenant, which explains Christ and "Christ in you."

The good news is that "whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." Whenever a person turns to the Lord in immersion, his inner man beholds the glory of the Lord, and he now participates in the unfading, permanent, eternal covenant. With the veil now removed, he can see what God has always wanted His children to see.