

35 CHANGES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH AGE

#1-5 are the most significant

1. The main message shifts from Moses to Jesus, especially His Resurrection. The Messiah has come!
Resurrection Acts = 10X epistles = 16X
Raised Acts = 29X epistles = 13X
2. The Holy Spirit plays major role in the life of the believer in the local church.
* The holy Spirit indwells, baptizes, seals, fills, empowers, illuminates, & guides.
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com *blogs listed alphabetically*
[Holy Spirit's 35 Ministries](#)
3. The Church universal begins on Pentecost, 50 days after Resurrection. It was not predicted in the OT.
* The Church came into existence as the Body of Christ, Eph 1.22,25
* The Church is a mystery: a truth NOT revealed (*in the OT*) until the proper time, Eph 3.3-6.
- Church = "one new man" Gal 3.28 Eph 2.14-18
Bible definition of a "mystery"
Eph 3:9 "the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God."
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com
[Mysteries in the NT](#), 17X
* 22 epistles are written to the churches and distributed widely in 25 years.
* 40 known churches are planted during the book of Acts.
* Churches are planted from Ireland to India to Africa in first 4 centuries.
* the local church is God's new vehicle, setting Israel aside until the Trib period. Then Israel will assume some major role.
- 3 groups are now officially recognized by God: Jew, Gentile, + Church of God (*i.e. believers*).
I Cor 10.32
4. Miracles become a confirming sign for God's shift in venue from the nation of Israel to the Church Age.
* There were four (4) clusters of miracles, twice in the Old Testament and now twice in the New.
#1 Moses, a dozen
#2 Elijah & Elisha, two dozen
#3 Jesus, three dozen recorded (*thousands?*) 12 sent out, Mark 6 70 sent out, Luke 10
#4 Apostles & deacons, 30 recorded (*hundreds?*)
+ All miracles recorded in the book of Acts were performed by elders or deacons.
* Miracles are now done in the name of a dead man claimed to be alive.
* "Name of Jesus" mentioned 7X in Acts 3, healing of lame man.
5. Spiritual leadership changes from priests and rabbis to Elders & Deacons.
* There were over a dozen mandates of character.
* Elders and deacons are to have only one wife.
* They are not required to fill the priests' role.
* They could volunteer for the job of elder I Tim 3.1.
* Pay the pastor. No more Temple taxes for priestly wages. I Tim 5.17,18 Gal 6.6 I Cor 9.14
6. Spiritual gifts are divinely given to every believer evidently at the moment of salvation. These are not human talents but divine ministry "niches" for every believer. Gifts not usually recognizable until teen years. *pjm*
* Gifts are to be honed. I Tim 4.14 "neglect not"
* It seems that gifts may have morphed over one's lifetime.
* Naming one's gift was not as important as using it. Few individuals' gifts are named.
* There is no "list." There are 5 lists and none of them are the same. Rom 12, I Cor 12 (2X), Eph 4, I Pet 4.
* All miraculous gifts disappear by the second century A.D.
* Personal service in the local church is new idea for the Jewish believers.
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com
[Spiritual Gift: finding it, using it](#)
[Phil's List of 45 Spiritual Gifts NOT mentioned in the Bible](#), (*tongue in cheek*).
* It is my observation and opinion that 50% of the people in our churches have the gift of helps.
7. Baptism & communion are begun as the ordinances of the Church. This is not the same as John the Baptist's baptism in the Old Testament era of the Gospels. Baptism today is in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and signified the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
8. Congregational meetings begin in homes. There had been no Mosaic Bible study system established in the Torah, but during the 400 "silent years," before the birth of the Messiah, both the rabbinic system as well as the synagogue were invented without divine fiat but both were blessed by God in the New Testament era.
* Fellowship is a new concept for the Jewish believers. It is unique for the local church.
* Eating together as a group of believers is expected even though abused in I Cor 11.
9. The body of believers, though originally primarily Jewish, became increasingly Gentile.
* Jew & Gentile believers equal in God's sight, Col 3.11, Gal 3.28. this is a NT mystery.
* Circumcision no longer a mandate.

10. New Scripture was added to the OT canon. It took 275 years to canonize the 27 books of the NT, although Eusebius had identified these 27 by A.D. 180.
11. The Temple tithe and federal tithes are supplanted by the principle of generosity to be used in local churches.
Tithing Replaced by Generosity in the NT
12. The Great Commission is given to the Church universal, Matt 28.19,20 Acts 1.8
* OT evangelism was rather passive. Barnabas = 1st missionary sent from Jerusalem, Acts 11.22
13. The promise of the coming Kingdom is put on hold after the rejection of the king by the Jewish nation.
* Kingdom was mentioned 8X in the book of Acts.
14. Shunning became part of the local churches' experience. I Cor 5
15. Divorce was forbidden from earliest days (*Garden of Eden, Matt 19.8*). The nation of Israel had been given changes by Moses' strict divorce rules (*Deut 22 & 24*). Then the Church's epistles changed the rules again and limited divorcees to, "remain unmarried or be reconciled," (*I Cor 7.11*).
* Death for unfaithfulness discontinued.
16. Prophets' roles were seemingly shifted somewhat to first century Apostles.
9 More Apostles, 8 NT Prophets, & 5 Prophetesses
* Death for false teachers (and prophets) discontinued.
17. Salvation in the NT & OT is by faith alone, Gen 15.6. New Testament saints understand more details.
18. Jesus is the Word, the embodiment of Scripture. This is not the picture of God in the OT.
* Jesus is the New Covenant, Heb 12.24. He is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant (*Testament*), Eph 1.3.
* Jesus is the Passover lamb, John 1.29.
* The Messiah is clearly identified as Jesus, the Christ (*the anointed One*), John 4.25,26.
* Jesus is better than 17 people & OT institutions in the book of Hebrews: sacrifices, Law, altar, & Tabernacle.
Hebrews: Jesus Compared to 17 Things
* The universal Church is the Bride of Christ, II Cor 11.2, Eph 5.27.
* The Church has incarnate deity as a human example.
19. Personal prayer is recorded more commonly in the book of Acts (*as well as Paul's letters*) than in the life of the OT believers.
Paul's Prayers for His Churches (in 27 chapters of his epistles)
Prayer, 22X in the book of Acts
20. OT was sacrifice and atonement-centered covering
* NT shows Jesus Himself as the sacrifice.
21. Israel had an ethnic identity, entirely different from the NT Church.
* The local NT congregation is multi-cultural by the 2nd century.
22. The NT is a higher law than the Mosaic Law. It does not replace, but it embellishes and fulfills.
* Grace is a much stiffer standard than law. It is perhaps abused more often.
* 3 facets (*artificial nomenclature*) a. Ceremonial, b. Civil, c. Moral
23. Since the Mosaic Law has been fulfilled in Jesus, the Sabbath is no longer binding.
* I believe the Sabbath was remembered as God's day of rest from the first week in the Garden of Eden.
* Some NT believers meet every day of the week.
24. The Temple is obsolete, veil is torn, building torn down (*A.D. 70*). No more legitimate sacrifices.
* 3 Jerusalem-based feasts discontinued.
* Whole legal system of impromptu courts discontinued. Access to the Holy of Holies, Mark 15.37-39
* Cities of Refuge discontinued.
* Wars of theocracy discontinued.
* 7 national feasts discontinued.
25. The expectation for the NT believer is the Rapture of the Church, not the coming Kingdom.
26. All believers become priests, Heb 13.15, I Pet 2.9, Rev 1.6.
27. God is clearly recognized by believers as triune: creation, resurrection, baptism, holiness, deity, etc.
28. Circumcision is of the heart in the NT, Col 2.11, Phil 3.3.
29. In the NT believers are commonly called God's children and sons of God. They are saved.
* In the OT Jews were corporately called God's children whether they were saved or not.
30. Jesus made all foods acceptable to eat. "Kill and eat. . . I have never eaten anything. . .unclean. What God hath cleansed, that call not thou (unclean)," Acts 10.13-15.
31. New Testament laws of love supersede Mosaic Law.
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com
600 NT laws: Love God & Love Your Neighbor.
32. Expected arrival of false prophets embedding themselves in local churches, wolves in sheep's clothing.
33. Church Age believers are "in Christ," Phil 3.9. Christ is also "in us." Col 1.27.
34. Okay for Jewish believers to go into Gentile homes and even eat with them, Acts 10.28.
Gentiles no longer considered unclean, Acts 10.28
35. The Holy Spirit "came on" Gentile believers, Acts 10.44.