

The (Qualitatively) New Creation

The Judaisers came into the first century church and were saying this and saying that, bringing the Community under the bondage of the Law – the very thing they had been set free from in Messiah.

I was looking at 2 Cor 5:17, which in the KJV says “new creature.” *New* is #2537 and *creature* is #2937 in the Greek. The universe will someday be a “new creation” just as our mortal bodies will someday be transformed. It means *qualitatively* new.¹ It won’t be replaced by another earth altogether.

1 Cor 15:52 speaks of bodies that can die being transformed into bodies that can never die. They will be recognizable just as our Master Yahshua was. People could recognize Him from before, even though He now possessed an eternal body. Planets and stars in the eighth day will be eternal. They will be made new, eternal, and immortal like our bodies. Then they will never be destroyed or burnt up. That is what “new creature” means in 2 Cor 5:17. Old things pass away and all things become new. Our old life passes away. What we did in the past is forgiven. It is no longer remembered, but forgiven by our Father.

Heb 1:12 speaks of how the world, the planets, the universe will be changed. The word *changed* there means *transformed*, renewed into something that won’t wear out.

2 Cor 5:17 addresses the sum total, in the spiritual sense, that can be renewed. The old man I used to be is not who I am anymore. The old man has passed away, and the new man has come to fulfill the cause we were created for. We are coming back to the eternal purpose that our Father created each one of us for. Each one of us makes a difference to our Father’s purpose. At one time it made no difference whether we were breathing air or not. We were no different from the horses next door as far as our

¹ #2537 means *new*, especially in respect to freshness; #2937 is the original formation (properly, the act; by implication, the thing, literally or figuratively); building, creation, creature.

Father's eternal purpose is concerned. They are not doing anything useful; they are without cause or purpose, just using up resources. More than likely they shouldn't be propagated in number. What would horses do? They are no longer welcome on the streets in the cities and the towns.

The Qualitatively New, Imperishable Universe

Rev 21:1 speaks about a qualitatively new universe. The word *new* is a translation of the Greek word #2537 and means a qualitative transformation, not a duplication or replacement. When we were baptized we didn't disappear. However, we are being renewed, transformed by the Spirit that came to dwell in us. There are two different ways the word *new* is used — numerically or qualitatively. *Numerically* refers to a total replacement. *Qualitatively* means that the old is transformed — that which was held under the bondage of the law, which is corruption. The old nature is dealt with until we walk completely in the “newness of the Spirit.”

Those under the law are accursed. Since Messiah came we are delivered from the bondage of the law. It is by the Spirit and by His grace that we fulfill the righteous requirements of the law (Rom 8:4-6). Only the new man can do this.

The universe will be made imperishable, and we also will have imperishable bodies. In Rev 19:20, the beast and the false prophet were cast alive into the lake of fire. Obviously they had imperishable bodies, since they were cast alive into the lake of fire. Our Father gave them imperishable bodies right there. A thousand years later, Satan and his angels will be cast alive into the lake of fire, so it seems like our Father will give them imperishable bodies too (Rev 20:10). It doesn't literally say that, but they would have to be given imperishable bodies, or else they would just be annihilated and would not be tormented night and day, forever and ever, as the verse says.

The nations are raised to stand before the Son of God at the second resurrection judgment in imperishable bodies. From there they will go on either to the joys of the

second life or the torment of the second death. But everything will be changed, renewed, qualitatively – all things will become new. We are changed into His likeness, every day of our lives, more and more so. By one degree to another we are changed more and more into His likeness:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Sovereign, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Sovereign. (2 Cor 3:18)

It is the work done by Him. That is the enduring process. We have to endure through every day in the Body of Messiah so that we arrive at the place where we are so much like Him that he says, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Then we can rule in the next age. You can see in 1 Cor 15:51-52 the new bodies that we will have are qualitatively different from the old. It is very important that we understand that. We will be known as who we are – obviously recognizable. *Transformed* means changed in quality or nature; the fallen condition is converted into a new creation:

Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Old things have been renewed. When you go back to your old friends they say, “Wow, you are not the same person anymore.” They will recognize and remark upon it.

Like the Judaisers of Old

Therefore, if we have been forgiven of our past, let no one go beneath the blood to tell us that we are not forgiven for a particular sin that we are forgiven for. You know a tree by its fruit. If you see no fruit coming forth, you know that person has not been forgiven for his sins. He is still under the law, and under the curse of the law. If you are under the law, your guilt will remain forever, for there is no way the law can take away sins.

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who

does them shall live by them.” Messiah has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”). (Gal 3:10-13)

He became a curse for us. We are no longer under the curse. The Judaisers tried to bring people back under the law, saying things like, “If you are not under the circumcision of Moses, than you can’t be saved.”

Gal 6:15 — Paul said circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing.

Anything not done in Messiah is worthless. A new creation is what counts, a new being.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Messiah is all and in all. (Col 3:9-11)

We are freed from what held us in bondage. Our old life, outside of Messiah, is not counted anymore. Our new life is what counts. 1 Cor 7:12-16 speaks about a couple who comes here, and one is saved and the other is not. For example, if the husband is saved and the wife is not saved, she is able to stay here in the Community with him, as long as she is doing all the things that bring peace and don’t bring trouble. But if he or she leaves, the faithful one is no longer bound. He or she is not under bondage, no longer bound. The words “not under bondage” mean no longer bound by law.²

In the world the Law of Moses does not bind you. It applies not at all, whatsoever, in the world. It has no application outside of Israel. Being in the world means you are not bound under that covenant. Messiah breaks all former covenants. You are a new being. If a former covenant comes into Messiah, as in the situation where a couple is married before and both the husband and wife come in, that is wonderful. For some couples, we have acknowledged their marriages to confirm them. They want to come in and be married, which is fine, but we don’t need another ceremony.

² *Bondage* (KJV) in 1 Cor 7:15 is #1402, and means to make a slave of, reduce to bondage.

We will have a lot of divorced people coming into the Community, because so many people are divorced in the world. They can't be held under that bondage. We went to one community one time that was totally under the law. If you were married in the world and were divorced, then when you come into their body with a new wife they make you divorce her and go back and remarry your first wife.

They are totally under the law. They are unreasonable, without freedom, since all they have known is the law and they are trying to please God in that way. They are cursed in the sense of being under the law. They don't see that believers are brand new creatures. Whatever we have done wrong in the past we try make amends as best as we can. We can't do everything, but we do what we can. If we hurt someone, etc., stole from them, we would try to make up for the damage we caused.

There are people who, if they came into the Body, would try to put people under the law, like the Judaisers of old. They would tell us that we had to be circumcised. But our circumcision is of Abraham and not of Moses. We are of Rom 4:9-12 and that is why our children (or even adults) are circumcised. It was many years before Abraham came to the point that he could actually have the sign of the covenant. It was many years after what God promised Abraham in Genesis 15. We don't go back to Moses, but to Abraham, who is our father in that sense.

The people described in Gal 3:10 never found freedom in Messiah, but they condemn others, for they are under that same influence as the Judaisers. Gal 6:16 – We are called to peace. Some people have never come to rest in Messiah, for they are under the law. They have never been crucified in Messiah and become a brand new creature, as in Gal 6:16 or even 1 Cor 7:15. It says we have peace and have come to rest. We are not held under the bondage of the law. We are a new creation. In that case we can remarry in the Body. This is especially clear if the other person broke the covenant in the world.

Being under the bondage of the law causes stress. I know that there are going to be a lot of Jews who are saved. It is true that many Jews saved today will not be under

the law, as they were more atheists than anything else, but there will be a lot of Jews saved who are under the law. If they are, it will be very difficult for them. We are now under His grace and only by His Spirit can we carry out the instructions of our Father. There are a lot of movements that are under the law, who try to do this in the flesh, but they cannot.

Torah means instruction. It is our Father's instruction to His people. We can tell Him, "We are so thankful that You are giving us this instruction." It puts it under a whole new frame of mind of being instruction for which we are thankful and not bondage we are tormented under. Paul said the law is good. The law does not rule us, but we are ruled by the Spirit in order that we can carry out the instructions of our Father. But many others are not under the Spirit, but the law, and it is bondage to them, and they place everyone else under the law, condemning them, too, as they are condemned.

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Messiah. (Gal 6:12)

It is a compelling thing. You have to be under the Law of Moses, they say (Acts 15:1). Circumcision for us is not from the Law of Moses, but it is from Abraham, given four hundred and thirty years before the law was given at Mount Sinai. A Judaiser is someone who brings people back under what our Father delivered them from. That is what it says of them in Rev 2:9 and 3:9, that they are synagogues of the evil one, always trying to bring people under bondage.

Kepha – I have seen the Jews depart from the Scriptures and make their own man-made laws, which are worse.

Yes, the Talmud is regarded higher than God's law.

Remember, circumcision is not of Moses but of Abraham:

Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. (Jn 7:22)

This could be a complicated thing. We are trying to untangle a complicated thing here. A person could be set free from mistakes made in his old life. You are not held under bondage in that case. If a person has been married and divorced in the world, and then has come to be truly saved, what should he do about that? Is he a new creature or not? Have old things passed away or not? A lot of people want to hold you to bondage. They want to hold you to things because they have never been released from bondage to the laws themselves. They are not forgiven and will hardly let you come into the Community. I am thankful we are saved.

We have to know our Master Yahshua to know and understand these things. We can't understand like the Judaisers, for they were natural men, devoid of the Spirit. They were devoid of Him because they had never been forgiven.

Ha-êmeq – It is amazing the blindness that comes over people through the evil one. You started out by explaining what *new* is. So people say, “Yes, I can understand that. But... what is a new creature?” Because of the stress they are under because of the law, the torment, they think it can't possibly cover marriage. It must mean something else, for “Then you are breaking the law.”

To some people all things becoming new is good news. In the first century some Gentiles had promised all kinds of things to the goddess Diana and wondered, “Am I still under them?” No, we tell them, you are free and you are new. That is really good news. We can be done with that other person and become new. Yahshua is not a liar; He makes us new. People look at us and say, “You are so different. You are new.”

Then you walk around thankful, bearing fruit, thankful, happy, joyful, and cheerful in your new walk. But others are under that stress and they are not joyful. It was so good how you said about the blessing of peace in Messiah. “Wow, I can be new. The distress is gone!”

Dodavah – It reminded me of when we took a walk yesterday and this man saw us skipping and happy and he said, “There are the happy people,” and I said, “Yes, that's who we are.”

This one lady stopped and told us, “I see you walk by here a lot. What are you all about?” and we had an opportunity to tell her. It was nice. On our walk together, Amidah and I saw that if we keep the lines of

communication open then we would be free and happy. Yesterday while we were shopping we met someone who lived in another community. She wore clothes like we did. We exchanged phone numbers and she asked us if she could buy a pair of pants from us. I told her I would make her one.

Then we went to Henry's and we ended up meeting a woman we met at an "Other Ones" show. I told her the next time I came I would bring her a paper. I was very encouraged that people are drawn to us. I know it is not our new appearance, but that qualitatively new thing in us that people recognize.

Our neighbor said, "I am a Christian," and she said, "I think I am as modestly dressed as you," and I explained that we not only want to dress modestly but to belong to a special people. She asked us about going to college and I said, we only do what is on our hearts, and we don't want to go to college.

Can you sell your soul to Belial? Yes, you can.

Kepha – I love verses like we talked about today, about 2 Cor 5:17, about being a new creation. He gives us a new identity. That was one of the things I despised in Christianity, that no one had a new identity. You would ask them about themselves, and they would say, "I am just a poor old sinner saved by grace." I would get so mad about that. I would say, "That is not what the Scriptures say," and they would say, "Well, that is how it is." When I started to hear that, I started to move out of Christianity.

Amen. That is a good testimony.

The Transformation that Comes to our Children

The time comes when our children start being transformed by receiving the Holy Spirit. If you do not come to the place where you want to receive His Spirit, then you grow up and you never really change. If you do, you can grow up into Messiah and become like Him. Our children are wonderful, aren't they? They give you their attention when you speak. They are wise virgins. One of the greatest things a wise virgin does is receive oil, which he does by hearing. Faith comes by hearing. A child has to hear his parents. Your imma could just say, "Rebecca," and you turn around real quick and obey her. Your abba says "Levi!" and you instantly respond, don't you? *(Levi smiled and nodded his head in agreement.)*