

Apostolic confessions

There are a few more apostolic confessions of faith I'd love to add here, that is apart from those previously addressed.

The ascent of Jesus and His promised return on the clouds of heaven (Acts 1) was something the apostles of Jesus had witnessed and which they had carried forth wherever the gospel was planted. Paul gave us a graphic illustration of the "second" coming of Jesus and he, very interestingly, relates it to an Old Testament message, namely that Jesus/Yeshua will return "with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God"(1 Thes. 4.13+). And this apostle retained His Jerusalem links right to the end of his ministry implying then that Paul's message (his confessionals concerning the risen Jesus/Yeshua) did not differ in the least from the other apostles' version. His reference to the "archangel" neatly dovetails with the Commander of the armies of heaven (Joshua's encounter with the El Sar), and the "trumpet" indeed with the shofar that was sounded on Rosh Hashana (New Year). Jesus' second coming, i.e. on the clouds of heaven (Acts 1) - in comparison with His first coming in the flesh - will then indeed be like the dawn of a new era for both the Jewish and the Gentile believers in Mashiach (=the Christ).

The resurrection of the dead was clearly a salient confessional for the New Covenant followers of Jesus/Yeshua and luckily we again have the meticulous Paul who has, once again, seen to it that a record of what we can expect concerning this outstanding (future) event, was kept (1 Cor. 15). The apostles therefore did not propagate the reincarnation - our souls merely pass on at death, living blissfully and eternally as we have it via the Nirvana propagators. There will then indeed be a physical resurrection (as propagated by Job) and a new life in God's revealed Kingdom on earth will then begin with Jesus/Christ virtually among us (Rev. 22).

There will be a day of judgment when the secret thoughts of man will be revealed (1 Cor. 4.5; Rev. 20.11+) and when those who have heard the gospel, even from a distance, will have to give account of what they have done with the gospel (the message in all its facets) the Son of God has planted on earth.

The apostolic confessionals promoted spiritual growth, dedication to the Son of God and especially Salvation in and through one Lord and one Saviour (1 Cor. 15.1-2; Acts 4.12; Eph. 4.5)

The apostolic confessionals hinged on faith in the Name of Yeshua/Jesus, the New Covenantal Name (Phil. 2; Eph. 1; 1 Cor. 6.11; Col. 3.17). In accordance with their message, both the Jewish and the Gentile believers were obliged to bow the knee in this Name and to seal their message in this Name, acknowledging "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus" (Eph. 1.17).

Confession of sin (cleansing and purging of the soul) was then promoted by the apostles, just as Torah prescriptions upholds this foundational Truth, namely to walk in the fear of the Lord, full knowing that nothing can and will escape the omnipresent God's sharp observance. The apostle James left us a record of this apostolic practice (Ja. 5.16) and so did the apostle John (1 Jn 1.7-9) along with the apostle Peter (1 Pet. 2).

There was then indeed one gospel given to both the Jewish and the Gentile believers and these gospel prescriptions are the confessionals we still must adhere: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism!"(Eph. 4.5). The wall of separation was then pulled down once and for all when Jesus was lifted on the Cross of Calvary!

Ester Blomerus

www.housealtarnetwork.com

April 5 2014