

## THE CHURCH IS STARTED: 30 CHANGES TAKE PLACE

One sacrifice shifted God's M.O. for winning the world.

*Listed in no special order.*

1. The **Holy Spirit** takes permanent residence in every believer. John 14.16-17 Rom 5.5 Eph 1.13  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com 69 Irreversible Changes at Salvation*
2. No more **Atonement** sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem were necessary after the crucifixion.  
**Christ fulfilled** the Law of Moses so no more Temple sacrifices. Matt 5.17,18 Romans 6.15
3. Salvation is **still by faith** in the Atonement which God provided when the Serpent's head would be crushed and the woman's boy child would be wounded on the Cross. Genesis 3.15  
The part which changed in the Church Age was that now the people would realize that **Jesus was the One Who** "bare our sins in His own body" and defeated the Serpent. I Pet 2.24
4. **Tithing is replaced in the church**, superseded by generosity.  
"cheerful giver" II Cor 9.7 II Cor 8.2 ff  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com Tithing Replaced by Generosity*  
Tithing may be sacrificial giving for the average family but it's not for the millionaire.  
All **federal tithes ended**: Temple taxes, poll taxes, firstfruits, harvest, firstborn, etc.
5. No more Kosher **food bans**, Acts 10.9-16 Romans 14.15,20-23
6. The Old Testament priesthood gives way to the **priesthood of all believers**, a kingdom of priests  
I Peter 2.5,7,9
7. **Priestly mediation ended as the veil** of the Temple was torn from top to bottom and believers were given free access into the Holy of Holies. This was finalized with the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.  
\* All the genealogical records of the Jews were lost with the destruction of the Temple.
8. **Elders supplanted** the teaching rabbis becoming pastors of local churches. Pastors could be self appointed (I Tim 3.1), or appointed by other elders (Titus 1.5).
9. Local church **elders** replace (?) some of the OT priestly duties.  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com Pastor's Duties, (one page)*
10. **Spiritual gifts** are given to all believers.  
Rom 12.6-8 I Cor 12.8-10 28-30 Eph 4.11 I Pet 4.10,11  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com Phil's List of 45 Spiritual Gifts not Mentioned in the Bible, (tongue in cheek, but serious)*
11. No more (*artificial*) divisions of Mosaic laws:
  - a) ceremonial Temple ritual laws, sacrifices, Temple tax, plus feast days, and priestly clothing
  - b) moral laws like the 10 Commandments, rather they were intensified  
\* thought of anger = murder, lust = adultery greed = idolatry  
\* Except for the Sabbath, most of the 10 Commandments are looked upon by most religions as good community standards.
  - c) civil laws for the nation of Israel only: circumcision, stoning, cities of refuge, cleanliness taboos on leprosy, goring by an ox, violations to be judged by impromptu juries, ostracizing Gentiles, farming rules (reaping, planting, fallow fields), inheritances & firstborn, marriage.
12. Mandated annual **pilgrimages to Jerusalem abolished**, by default.
13. **Evangelism** is no longer passive toward Gentiles seeking to honor the God of the Israelites, now it is the MO of the NT believer to seek the lost and make disciples of all nations. Matt 28.19,20 Luke 19.10
14. The **office of prophet ceased**. 8 prophets & 5 prophetesses in the NT, book of Acts & Luke.  
None in the 2nd century.  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com Nine More NT Apostles & 8 Prophets, & 5 prophetesses*
15. David's earthly (*eternal*) **kingly line stopped** and Jesus was declared the King of the World. The national kingdom is postponed until the king returns in splendor at the Battle of Armageddon (*Rev 19*) to set up His Millennial Kingdom.  
The local church becomes God's new instrument replacing the nation of Israel (*temporarily*). The nation to be resumed during the Millennium. Jerusalem also seems to be central in the Tribulation.
16. The **nation of Israel ended** as a political entity and was seemingly swallowed up as a precinct of the Roman Empire with no real authority except that which was granted to Jewish people by Rome. Not as a direct result of the crucifixion.
17. The **office of deacon** was also begun. I Tim 3.8
18. **Jerusalem** as the central spiritual headquarters seemed to wane. It was not replaced.
19. The focus of the **believers' message** to the world became eternal life and heaven supplanting the Hebrew expectation of the coming Kingdom.

20. **Monogamy becomes the moral standard** for the Church especially for the elders, although polygamy was never specifically declared to be a sin in either the OT or NT. I Tim 3.2 Titus 1.6
21. No special days were ever inaugurated by God for worship even in the OT, but certainly the Sabbath was a day to cease from occupational business. Col 2.16  
Rom 14.5,6 “let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.”  
Regular **weekly gatherings** slowly began meeting on the first day of the week.  
Collection of monetary gifts were now to be gathered “on the first day of the week.” I Corinthians 16.3.  
\* Some of the first collections were for other congregations in financial need, I Cor 16.1-3.  
\* Paying the pastor was also inaugurated, I Tim 5.17,18  
Paul often met in synagogues on the Hebrew Sabbath as he traveled, as an accommodation.
22. Without any New Testament command, the early Christians **began corporate worship on Sundays** merely in celebration of the Resurrection. *pjm*  
By the middle of the second century Sunday gathering became well known though not universal, but especially in Alexandria and Rome by 130 A.D.  
About 300 A.D. Sunday worship became quite **common**.
23. Although there were no specified congregational meetings mandated in the OT, the synagogue was invented. During the 400-year period just before the incarnation of Christ, both rabbis and synagogues came into existence.  
There had been **no Sabbath gatherings** for worship in the OT. Mostly worship seemed to be incumbent upon the family (*Deut 6.6,7*). The intertestamental period began the practice of a) weekly Sabbath sermons, b) public reading of the Scriptures, as well as c) formal education primarily for the boys. d) Singing had begun at the first Temple and seems to have continued in the synagogues.  
**All four of these above Jewish practices continued into the Church Age congregations** of believers.  
e) Collecting an offering was added to church gatherings as per I Cor 16.1-3  
Rom 14:5,6 “One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be **fully persuaded in his own mind**. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it.”
24. Organized **persecution** of believers continued into the Church Age and seems to have escalated beyond that found in the nation of Israel. It is addressed multiple times in the NT writings.  
John 16.2 persecutors will think they “do service to God.”
25. **Church discipline began** apart from OT laws. Rules were given by God to the churches for shunning and removing believers from fellowship in local congregations, I Cor 5.11.
26. **Missionaries** were sent out from local churches. First Barnabas was sent out from Jerusalem to Antioch. Barnabas and Saul were later sent out from Antioch. Paul traveled with at least 26 companions at different times. Timothy and Titus and others were also commissioned.  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com **26+ Traveling Companions of Paul***  
*see also, PhilMyersBlog.com **Paul’s Church Plants + 20 more**, (one page with map)*
27. **Miracles** had already been sent to the world as a sign of Moses’ **authority**, and later as confirmation of several prophets’ authority. This ability was sparingly used.  
Now, at the start of the universal Church the apostles and deacons received this same power and authority. Some church members were also given the spiritual gifts of healing, languages, and miracles. All of these supernatural gifts disappeared during the first century and there was no record of their use at all in the 2nd century or later.
28. The baby congregations’ worship had begun in synagogues though it seems, it soon shifted mostly to **house churches**. Col 4.15
29. NT saints have been promised they will reign and rule with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom, Rev 3.21 5.10 20.4.
30. The 12 disciples become the apostles (*sent ones*) who were specifically appointed to “go ye.” Acts 1.8  
These **became the elders** of the Jerusalem churches although their “scattering” is not recorded in the book of Acts. There are many tales of their exploits in non-biblical history: Turkey, Italy, Spain, India, Syria, and Persia. Much of the Roman Empire was touched by Christianity.
31. Further **Scripture** came through seven New Testament writers.
32. The first **Church Council** convened in Jerusalem to discuss doctrinal matters, Acts 15. Other councils followed in the centuries to come.
33. **Communion**, based on the Passover meal, and water **baptism** became the two ordinances of all churches.
34. **Laying on hands** by the elders was accepted as a common practice when ordaining elders, I Tim 4.14  
II Tim 1.6
35. **Baptism shifts** from John the Baptist’s call to follow Jesus, to **baptism of the apostles and the Church** to be baptized in Jesus’ name (Father, Spirit, Jesus): a picture of being baptized, (dipped, plunged) into the body of believers, the Church universal.