



John Calvin's *Institutes in the Christian Religion* (1541)

A PPA Seminar: Fall 2017

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Study 11: Chapter Seven: The Similarity and Difference between the Old and New Testaments / Read pgs. 429-462

“For Jesus Christ promises His believers today no other Heavenly Kingdom than the one in which they will rest along with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matt. 8:11).” “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad (John 8:56).”

Prayer: “Almighty God, since you have deigned in your mercy to gather us to your church, and to enclose us within the boundaries of your word...grant that we may continue contented in this obedience to you...May we cleave to Christ...who has joined us to Himself forever. Amen.”

Scripture Reading: Job 19:25-27; Matthew 8:10-12; Luke 1:54-55, 72-73; 24:25-27, 44-48; Galatians 3:24-4:6; Hebrews 1:1-2; 11:9-10, 13-16

1. Why did Calvin think it was important to include this chapter? What were some of his specific concerns that he needed to address? How is this chapter immensely relevant for us today as Reformed folks? [pgs. 429-432]
2. Briefly, how is the covenant in the Old and New Testaments essentially the same? How is it different? [pgs. 430-32]
3. What are the three important points Calvin makes to prove that the Old Testament is essentially the same as the New Testament? [pg. 430-449]
 - i. _____:
 - ii. _____:
 - iii. _____:
4. Articulate in your own words using Scripture how the Gospel is the same in both testaments. How are the sacraments in both testaments Gospel signs? Give as many Scripture references as possible. [pgs. 432-34]

5. Were Old Testament believers to receive only an earthly inheritance and blessing? Why, or why not? Give Scriptural support, and pick three of the Old Testament saints that Calvin uses as examples to explain your answer. [pgs. 436-448]

6. What is Calvin’s helpful interpretation “key” to better understand Old Testament passages, particularly in the prophets? What specific illustration does he use? How might this help you to interpret all of the Old Testament as you read and study it? [pgs. 446-49]

7. List and briefly define the four (or five!) main differences between the Old and New Testaments that Calvin lists? [pgs. 449-462]
 - i. _____:
 - ii. _____:
 - iii. _____:
 - iv. _____:
 - v. _____:

8. What is typology? Or as Calvin describes them as “images” or “shadows”? Give an example of this. How might this help you in your interpretation of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament? [pgs. 453-56]

9. Compare and Contrast Moses and Christ from your reading. What is particularly meant by the contrast between the “letter” and the “Spirit”? What does this teach you? [pg. 456-60]

10. Thoughtful Meditation/To Ponder: Calvin begins to use the term “covenant” more frequently in this chapter. A) From your reading, how would you define “covenant” and what would become more fully known and developed as “Covenant Theology”? B) Would it be fair to say that modern Dispensationalists are eschatological heirs of the Anabaptists? Why, or Why not?

11. Thoughtful Meditation/To Ponder: A) What are the dangers of *overemphasizing the unity* of the covenants? What are the dangers of *underemphasizing the unity*? B) How is Holy Scripture progressive in nature (cf. Gal. 3:21-4:6; Heb. 1:1-2) from your study of this chapter? How might you illustrate the progressive nature of Scripture from your study?