

# EXPLORING APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

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*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

1 Tim. 4:16

## THE UNITING FORCE OF THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE

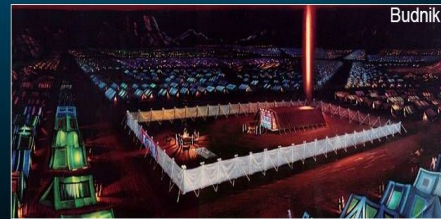
### Lesson Focus

Understanding the doctrinal connection between OT and NT.

- The Apostles' doctrine links both the Old and New covenants by way of fulfillment.
- The Old covenant planted the seed, and the New covenant, i.e. the Gospel, watered it.
- There are no contradictions between the Old and New Covenants.
- Acts of the Apostles demonstrate the practical application of the Gospel.

### Exodus 25:8-9

"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup> According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it."



**Hebrews 9:23** Therefore *it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;*

Guiding Statements for this lesson

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Total obedience to the plan of salvation is a requirement by God in order to obtain salvation. God warned His servant, Moses, when He gave him the instruction to make the Tabernacle, to do according to the pattern He gave him. There is a pattern given for salvation that we must follow.

## CONCURRENCE BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS \*

- ◆ The apostles did not preach, teach, or believe in a trinity.
- ◆ The only resources the apostles had were Jesus and the Torah (Genesis—Malachi).
- ◆ The New Testament reveals that which was hidden in the Old.

Old Testament		Apostolic Believers		
Isaiah 42:5-7	↔	Creator	↔	John 1:1-14
Genesis 35:11	↔	Almighty	↔	Revelation 1:8
Jeremiah 10:10	↔	True God	↔	1 John 5:20-21
Isaiah 43:11	↔	Saviour	↔	Luke 2:11
Isaiah 9:5-7	↔	Father	↔	I Cor. 8:6
Malachi 2:10	↔	One God	↔	1 Cor. 8:6-7

- ◆ The apostles did not mention God as three distinct persons.
- ◆ Jesus is not a member of a triune godhead (Col. 2:9).
- ◆ The Godhead is in Jesus, not Jesus in the Godhead.
- ◆ The number “3” is never used to describe God as He is always just “One!”
- ◆ Since the basis of the Apostles’ Doctrine is the Law, Prophets, and Psalms, agreement must exist between the two sources on the identity of God. (Read Lk. 24:44 & Acts 28:23).

## CONCLUSION: GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

1. It is a proven fact that God is a God of order. Creation testifies loud and clear that He is not only a God of order, but also a God of principle and discipline. It shows that He has a plan and He works His plan.
2. He is not a God who operates on impulse and reacts because of a crisis. He knows what He wants, when and how.
3. Salvation is not an after-thought; it was a part of God’s plan before the foundation of the world. The church was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world. Read: 2 Thess. 2:13, *“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
4. *God’s choosing is contingent upon our “belief [and practise] of the truth” and our “sanctification;” it is therefore **not** automatic.*

\*Dr. Trevor Neil