

Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; breat forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son; for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So the, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled w again with the hoke of bondage."

The is not a contrast between the OT and the NT. The OT is not bondage and the NT freedom. The OT is not a god of wrath and the NT a god of mercy. The God of the whole Bible is the same God. The differnce is clearly stated in the verses we have already looked at in Col. 2:17 where the Lord (Paul) says , "Which are a shadow of things to come but the body is oc Christ". What was the purpose of the ceremonies of the oT? It was to look forward to what God was going to do. God had not explained in any fulness. Even the disciples had no real comprehension that Christ must die for their sins, and that He must be raised from the dead. It was His desire that they should have this. In fact He called them fools and slow of heart for not recognizing these things from the Scripture. Yet they did not sense it. There was a great deal that the OT saints did not understand. But as every one who has ever been saved has been saved by faith, they were saved by faith looking forward to what God was going to do in order to make atonement for their sins. All the ceremonies of the OT -- the Passover, God would have delivered the people out of Egypt just by striking down Pharaoh's force and bringing them out, but instead of that He had the observance of the Passover night. All the Israelites were sinners. They deserved punishment far worde than any oppression the Egyptians were giving them. God chose that before they were taken out of Egypt they should observe the precise ceremony that He gave in killing a lamb without == not a bone of which was to be broken, and puttingg the blood upon the lintel of the precise door post. Otherwise the firstborn would be killed. Then He ordered that this/day was to be remembered through all their years as a remberance of what God had done in deliverang