

- c. Isaiah
- d. Jeremiah

E. Conclusion

Every believer, in a practical sense, had a sphere of service to honor the Lord. The challenge was to be faithful in the acknowledgement that God was faithful to them. The key to spiritual well being in this case was to know what God wanted one to do and then to do it. Serving at any level is a happy privilege and it is our spiritual joy to see that it was always that way and, until Jesus comes, will continue to be that way.

IV. Men and Women Serving God in the New Testament

A. A feeble attempt to explain a complicating factor

The terms "Old Testament" and "New Testament" are general terms and not time distinctions. The Old Testament generally tracks out the history of Israel as God's covenanted people. It is a national body with a spiritual corps. The New Testament presents the history and development of a covenanted people that is non-ethnic and for which national status is virtually meaningless. The character of the four Gospels binds the two segments together and some of the Old Testament practices are seen as being concluded and the replacing New Testament practices are being developed. (Priesthood is a good example. In the Old Testament only the Levites are priests...in the New Testament all believers are priests) The book of Acts completes the transition and the Epistles of the New Testament outline the the character and development of the church. From this material we derive the principles and practices that are essentially "churchy". Of course, all of the Scriptures are important for us but we no longer sacrifice animals, for example, since Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Therefore the foundational principles for the "church" are taken from the New Testament teaching while we find that moral values and integrity are unchanged from age to age or institution to institution. The Gospels are in between these two bodies and will reflect the fulfillment of the Old and the anticipation of the New. If this does not make sense to you, think of how hard it is for me to try to write it out! I will leave some space for further notes...just in case we try to get some elucidating information.