

The Superiority of the Gospel

Wherein lies the superiority of the gospel over the Law? In one aspect, at least, it lies in the strong emphasis which the gospel puts upon *restoration*.

The Law was not wholly without this element. Men watched the working of divine principles, and were led into ways of righteousness.

They heard the voices of the prophets crying and compassion over their waywardness and came back to the Father's house. But always the essential affinity of the Old Testament was between Law and Punishment. That is the motif of the Song of Moses.

In the Song of the Lamb, Love and Restoration are the two affinities and give the central theme. The Law says: "I will punish you for what you did."

The gospel says: "I will restore you to what you were before you did it. I will restore you to the ideal which lies buried somewhere in your heart, but which, for the moment, you forget."

Before the Law we stand in fear. Before the gospel we feel something which is like rain after a drought, which restores life's desert to what it was meant to be—a garden that rejoices and blossoms as the rose.

(Preaching the Apocalypse by Daniel Russell, New York: The Abingdon Press, 1935, 194-195, Paragraph Structure Modified)