

Because of what we were (not simply because of what we did) we were under God's great anger (His wrath).

3. Ezekiel 36:26-27 -- (NASB) "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." This speaks of what God is going to do for the nation of Israel in the last days. But it also appears to show what God does today in giving human beings a new nature in regeneration.

4. II Peter 1:4 -- "through whom have been given to us promises, precious and great, in order that through these you may become sharers in the divine nature, (γένησθε θείας κοινωνοὶ φύσεως) having escaped the decay that is in the world by desire." The goal that Peter sets before his readers is that of becoming like God, in that they may realize a progressive conformation of their natures to God's own nature. What God is, they may become, through God's precious and great promises.

At this point a clarification should be made. A nature is a substance with a set of attributes or characteristics. A man's nature is the whole complex of attributes that make up the man. Therefore when we speak of a new nature we do not mean that all of his attributes are discarded and that he is given an entirely new set of attributes. In such a case, he would no longer have the same identity he would not be the same person! And yet in some sense the attributes of one who has a new nature are new. What we mean, then, by a new nature is that a man's nature (what he is) is new in some important sense.

5. Colossians 3:9 -- "Do not be speaking falsely to one another, having put off the old man with his practices(πεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ)."

The old man would appear to be the old life before regeneration, including the old characteristics and old behaviors. Although we have once and for all put off the old life, we still find rudiments of it clinging to us; and we find it necessary to struggle with some of our old ways. Sin is still very much with us!

6. Titus 3:5 -- "Not by works in righteousness which we did, but according to His mercy He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (ἀνακαίνωσεν πνεύματος ἁγίου)." The Holy Spirit renews or renovates man's spiritual nature; i.e., He renews what a person is spiritually and morally.

Taking these scriptures into account, the following summary statement of the new nature would appear to be warranted:

The new nature is that aspect of regeneration in which the moral and spiritual attributes of man's nature are initially and progressively renewed, and the direction of man's conduct is changed from an active disposition toward sin to an active disposition toward righteousness.

Regeneration is presented in the scriptures under four key aspects: a new birth, a new life, a new creation, and a new nature. Upon analysis, it would appear that a further refinement suggests