

**The Old is
Gone,
The New
Has Come.**



*The Old Covenant is mankind
reaching up to God.
The New Covenant is God
reaching down to us.*

Introduction

This eBook explains the differences between the Old and New Covenants. In a nutshell, the Old Covenant's laws and sacrifices could not make anyone righteous; in God's eyes, so God had to bring in something better. The New Covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ, brought greater glory to God than the Old, and now we have access to God. We have unending grace, forgiveness and a victorious new life in our wonderful Saviour.

After studying the differences between the Covenants, I gained a deeper understanding of the entire Bible, particularly the plan of God for humanity. This is by no means an exhaustive or in-depth study but rather an overall look designed to spark your interest in God's Word and encourage you to conduct your research.

Much love
Colleen

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From Faith to Faith

In The Old Testament, We See An Incomplete Picture of God.

The only way we can know anything about God is through the Bible. Yet, we get stuck on the contradictions. For example, in Numbers 15:3-35, God commands death by stoning for picking up sticks on the Sabbath, leading some people to think that it is impossible to know what God is like. Well, that's not true. We can know God. How? Through a better understanding of His Word. I want you to know that the Word of God does not contradict itself when interpreted correctly. In the Old Testament, we see an incomplete picture of God. Therefore, we must understand the Old Testament in light of the New Testament.

Not everything that happens is what God wants to happen because He has given humanity free will. We know that Adam and Eve messed up His original plan. But God had a master plan for restoring the world to Himself. But temporary arrangements had to be made to keep things flowing until the time was right for a Saviour (Galatians 4:4). The

Old Testament is an unfolding of the plan of salvation. All the sacrificial types of the Old Covenant pointed to the Son of God as the substitute sacrifice for all sins.

Jesus was God's master plan. Jesus is the exact representation of God, thereby revealing God's true nature. He came to fulfil the Law and seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

Hebrews 1:1-4

“Long ago, God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.”

Since Pentecost, God speaks through His Son, who brought a far better revelation of His Father than that of the prophets. In fact, Jesus is the message. Under the Covenant, God spoke through His prophets. Jeremiah, one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, prophesied about the future Covenant of Grace, which would be revealed to Israel at the time of their conversion, along with the blessings that would be available to them. Ezekiel, an exile who ministered to Israel for 23 years between 595 and 573 B.C., was also one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, prophesying about the future Covenant of Grace.

Jeremiah 32:38–39 NLT

"They will be my people, and I will be their God. And I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants."

Ezekiel 36:26–27

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender,

responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

The Foundation Of A Covenant

The foundation of a covenant rests on the ideal that each party will be faithful to their part. Unfaithfulness on either side breaks the covenant. This is how it was with the Old Covenant. God said to Israel through Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Jeremiah 7:23

"Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!"

Jeremiah 11:4

"I said to your ancestors when I brought them out of the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt, "If you obey me and do whatever I command you, then you will be my people, and I will be your God."

These two passages clearly contain the essence of the Old Covenant—Israel's

obedience. When Israel disobeyed, the Covenant was broken. The Mosaic Covenant was filled with many 'ifs', which became the terms of the Covenant. Under this Covenant, Israel could only obtain the promises by fulfilling the works of the Law. The Old Covenant or the Mosaic Covenant said, "Do and therefore live." In comparison, the New Covenant says, "receive life and therefore live."

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that the New Covenant was far better than the Old.

Hebrews 8:6–10

"But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises. If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. But when God found fault with the people, he said: "The day is coming, says the LORD,

when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD. But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

If We Grasp This, The Rest Of The Bible Makes Sense.

Based on the foundational definition of 'covenant', the New Covenant could be of no profit unless provisions were made for securing obedience. There was no problem with God's part in the Covenant, but Israel under the Old Covenant did not have the victory, ability, grace or power to overcome sin. Disobedience was inevitable. So, if the New Covenant was to be a better, everlasting Covenant, never to be broken, it must have sufficient provision to enable the Covenant people to obey. That provision is found in the Blood of the New Covenant of Grace and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Someone say, "Hallelujah!"

Provision has been made in a way no human thought could imagine or devise. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). Not only God's faithfulness but man's as well. And there is no other way than by God Himself. If we grasp this, the rest of the Bible makes sense. Oh, what a Saviour!

The Everlasting New Covenant God Made With Us Depends On God.

It confounds all human understanding of what a covenant means to such an extent that from the time of Galatians, people have been unable to see and believe what the New Covenant brings. They have the concept that human faithfulness and obedience have always been a significant factor in covenant-keeping and, thereby, seemingly impossible to maintain because a life of absolute obedience was deemed incapable of being achieved. However, many have never realised how the Holy Spirit reveals all things, even what "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." A life under the New Covenant of Grace.

See what God says in Jeremiah about His everlasting Covenant.

Jeremiah 32:40

"And I will make an everlasting covenant

with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me."

God said, "I will" three times here. Through it all, God will be unchangeably faithful. The second part of the verse, "I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me." So, God's Covenant people will also be unchangeably faithful to the Covenant; God declared—"they will not depart from Me." How can this be? Because God would make them clean by washing away all sin forever, giving them a new heart, taking the cold, stony, stubborn heart, and giving a tender heart that is responsive to Him. Pouring out the Holy Spirit so that all will follow His decrees and be careful to obey His regulations. Someone say, "Hallelujah!"

There is nothing in the Old Covenant to compare with this. Instead, we find the people making and worshipping a golden calf and the breaking of the stones on which the Ten Commandments were written. We read in Deuteronomy 5:29 that God lamented the

waywardness of His chosen people. "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

In Deuteronomy 30:6 NLT, we see a promise of a new time that would come when God would give them a new heart, "The LORD your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!" Even so, they rejected the Messiah.

The Differences Between the Covenants.

The Old Covenant was dependent on man's faithfulness. God would keep the covenant with them if they kept His commands. We can see here that God's faithfulness availed little if Israel did not keep it. The one big difference between the Covenants is the Mediator. John 1:17 says, "For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."

The New Covenant brings the cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit who brings forth the fruits of the righteousness Jesus gained for us, a new heart filled with His love and His law, grace to cling to Him and not depart, a new life in Him, and a purpose to do His will.

Hebrews 9:18–20 NLT

“That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal. For after Moses had read each of God’s commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with

water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you."

Blood lies at the root of both covenants. The difference between the two is the blood of beasts and the blood of the Lamb of God. Matthew 26:28 Jesus said, "For this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."

The Old Covenant Was A Blood Covenant.

Death and sprinkling of blood were the penalty for sin. Exodus 24:8 says, "Then Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people, declaring, "Look, this blood confirms the covenant the LORD has made with you." There could be no atonement without death and the spilling of blood for the penalty of sin. God said, "I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with

the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible” (Leviticus 17:11). No bloodshed meant no forgiveness.

All this was a type and shadow of what was to become a reality one day. The Son of God took on flesh and blood and then died and shed that blood as the blood of the New Covenant.

Hebrews 9:15 NLT

“That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.”

Jesus is the Mediator of a New Covenant by death. He paid for the sins of those under the Old Covenant. Every sacrifice for sin made in faith under the Mosaic Covenant was an IOU cashed in at the cross.

Ephesians 1:7 tells us that Jesus paid for all our sins as well. “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.”

Not only has He forgiven us all our sins, but He has also blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), which was not available to Old Covenant believers.

The New Covenant Deals With The Heart of Man.

I hope that you grasp this powerful, essential, and glorious truth: The New Covenant reveals God’s true nature. It takes our stone-cold hearts, filled with the Law, and makes us temples of the Living God (1 Corinthians 6:19) filled with the Holy Spirit, who causes us to walk in His statutes. We have a new heart that is in perfect harmony with God, and He ensures we are able to keep our part of the Covenant (Ezekiel 11:19). And God does it; His promise of "I will" has not diminished, changed or been revoked. “So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God (Romans 5:11).

Romans 7:6

“But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:9

“If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God!”

We Have God's Ability, His Holy Spirit, And Faith to Keep Us Faithful To His Covenant.

Zechariah 4:6

“So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah had a vision of the golden lampstand and two olive trees (Zechariah 4:1–6). The lampstand speaks of Christ; the lamps with the oil in them speak of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Light of the world. The two olive trees speak of natural Israel and the Church. The temple would be rebuilt, not by human energy or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord.

It is the Spirit of God that God that causes us to walk faithfully in all His ways. It has nothing to do with our ability, cleverness, self-righteousness or sense of duty. It is by the Holy Spirit and God's amazing grace gained for us by the Lord Jesus at Calvary. We have God's ability and faith to keep us faithful to His Covenant. Old Covenant believers did not have the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament prophet Joel prophesied about 835 years before Jesus came that God would pour out His Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28). This prophecy was fulfilled at the Feast of Pentecost after Jesus returned to heaven, having secured our salvation. The Holy Spirit came into the hearts of the disciples, and they went out and boldly preached the Gospel of the Kingdom so that others could partake of the victory Jesus won for them.

Acts 2:16–18

“No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all

people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.’

Before this, the disciples could not fully trust God. They were afraid and lacked courage and, to a certain degree, humility. With the infilling for the Holy Spirit, the believers experienced the presence of God consciously all the time. Romans 14:17 says, “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” The coming of the Messiah and the Spirit upon all flesh was unattainable under the Old Covenant.

A Weakness of Israel Under The Old Covenant

A weakness of Israel under the Old Covenant was that they limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember their life under a Covenant of Grace before the Law was given.

Psalm 78:41–43

"Again and again, they tested God's patience and provoked the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember his power and how he rescued them from their enemies. They did not remember his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders on the plain of Zoan."

Today, we must remember that the New Covenant provides victory over every plot of the enemy, over sin, and it provides the power not to continue in sin, which the Old Covenant could not give. Romans 6:14 says, "Sin is no longer

your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace."

Romans 6:18—20 NLT

"Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right."

1 Peter 1:18–19

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."

Believers under the New Covenant have been rescued from the slavery of sin under the law, and ransomed from an empty life by the blood of the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

An Illustration Of The Differences Between The Two Covenants

The Galatians were not standing fast in the freedom and knowledge that had once been theirs. Let's not fall for the same illusion. We are to "make sure that we stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law" (Galatians 5:1). Paul gives an illustration of why the Galatians were deceived and thus returned to the practice of the Mosaic Law and customs. Paul uses the example of Hagar and Sarah. It is a brilliant illustration of the two Covenants.

Galatians 4:21-24

“Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his

freeborn wife. The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise. These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law. But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother."

Ishmael, the firstborn son of Abraham was born of human effort. Isaac, the second son was born by the power of the Spirit. We, like Isaac, are the children of the promise, the children of the free woman, not the children of the slave woman.

Galatians 4:30 says

"But what do the Scriptures say about that? "Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the inheritance with the free woman's son."

Law and grace cannot be mixed; the Old and the New Covenants cannot be mixed. It is impossible to inherit God's blessings by our efforts. Paul called this kind of sentiment 'false teaching', "This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! (Galatians 5:9).

Wine Skins

Jesus said in Mark 2:22

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins."

Jesus was referring to the mixture of the two Covenants. The new wine represents the New Covenant of Grace, and the old wineskins represent the Old Covenant of Law. Old wineskins are hard, brittle, and inflexible. That's the Law inflexible. And when you pour the new wine of grace into the old wineskin of Law, you lose both because the wineskin is ruined, and the new wine spills and is ruined.

You Cannot Mix Grace With Law.

You cannot teach that grace is good, but it must be balanced with the Law. The Judaizers of NT time taught the Galatian church The Ten Commandments and told them they had to be circumcised. But Paul would not allow it. He told them they were preaching a false Gospel. Our justification and salvation are entirely a work of His Grace. It is not a mixture of works and grace. You cannot add anything to grace because it is free; it cannot be earned. You cannot depend on keeping the Law to deserve blessing. God hates mixture. In the New Covenant, God does not want us to be blessed when we obey the Law and cursed when we fail. Grace is undeserved and unearned favour from God.

The liberty the Holy Spirit gives makes us free indeed, but the Galatians who were Christians proved by their fruits, their walk if you like, they were of the Old Covenant and went back into the bondage of slavery to the Law. What does this mean for us? We must stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

The Difference In The Covenants From The Letter To The Galatians

We can clearly see the difference in the Covenants by studying the letter to the Galatians. In Chapter 3:2, Paul wrote, “Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.”

They believed by observing the Law (works), they could save themselves. NOT! It is all by faith.

- 1.The Law and its works are contrasted with faith in Jesus (Galatians 2:16)
- 2.The flesh and religion are contrasted with the flesh crucified (Galatians 2:20).
- 3.The inability to walk in freedom contrasted with the power and ability of the indwelling Lord and the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:1).

One More Look At What God Has Done For Us

Ezekiel 36:25–27

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

I trust you can see the difference in the Covenants and enjoy reading the following text.

The Ten Commandments

God declared His Covenant to the Israelites. He wrote Ten Commandments on two stone tablets and commanded all Israel to keep them. Deuteronomy 4:13 says, “He proclaimed his covenant—the Ten Commandments—which he commanded you to keep, and which he wrote on two stone tablets.” The Old Covenant could not make anyone perfect, and it was conditional on Israel keeping the Law.

Deuteronomy 7:12

“If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors.”

Israel, under the Old Covenant of Law, always had the opportunity to do its part and thereby prove what they could do, but they failed repeatedly. So, God had to bring something better. The New Covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ, brought greater glory to God than the Old. But under the New Covenant, we rely on what God has done (Hebrews 8:6,7; 8:13; 7:22).

Have You Ever Wondered Why God Gave Them the Ten Commandments? Especially after 2,500 years of no Law?

The giving of the Law, which included the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws, as well as the Ten Commandments, was never God's desire. If it had been, He would have communicated it to Adam and Eve in the Garden right after they sinned.

Imagine for a minute what it would have been like if they knew what their sin would do to the human race. God wanted to operate in love toward His image bearers, so He did not impute sin to them by giving them the Law (Romans 5:13). God gave humanity free will. He never wanted humanity to obey His perfect standard or face punishment.

Romans 5:13 tells us that "yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break." The reason God waited 2500 years before giving the Law to Moses is

because of His goodness. It is the goodness of God that leads to a changed mind. God wanted them to love Him because of His love for them.

Let Me Explain Why God Gave The Israelites The Ten Commandments.

When God liberated the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He did not do so because they had kept the Ten Commandments. After all, the Big Ten had not been given yet. The children of Israel came out of Egypt by the Blood of the Lamb. God performed great signs and wonders and set them free to worship Him, and Israel failed to honour God. They murmured and complained. When the Egyptian army came thundering at them, they cried out, "Have you taken us to die in the wilderness because there are no graves in Egypt?" What was God's response? He parted the waters of the Red Sea, and they crossed over on dry land to the other side. But the complaining

continued over and over. Numbers 22 tells us that Israel provoked God ten times despite their promise to obey. And whenever they complained, God responded with demonstrations of His favour and goodness.

At Marah, they complained about the bitter waters. What was God's response?—He made bitter waters sweet. They cried out against Moses when they were hungry. What was God's response?—He rained down bread from heaven. Then, there was no water, and they cried out against Moses again. What was God's response?—He brought water out of a rock.

Israel, at this time, was under the Abrahamic Covenant, which was a Covenant of Grace. During this period, the blessings they received were not dependent on their obedience or works. They were completely dependent on God's goodness and His faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant. God said to Abraham in Genesis 12 notice, "I will." This is a crucial aspect of the Covenant of Grace.

Genesis 12:2–3

"I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Back to Mount Sinai.

Then, Something Tragic Happened At The Foot of Mount Sinai.

Exodus 19:1–8

"Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai. Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. THE LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: 'You have seen what I

did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my Covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel." So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." So Moses brought the people's answer back to the LORD."

God reminded them of His Grace and goodness towards them even though they did not deserve it. He said, 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.' And verse 8 tells us that "All the people responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." They forgot about God's blessings and undeserved grace toward them. They forgot about how

God miraculously rescued them. It sounds like pride to me. If they had said, "We will do what you say, God, but we are conscious of our weakness and need your Grace to do so." Things might have been different. Some Bible Commentators suggest that in the original Hebrew text, this is a statement of pride.

In other words, they were saying, "God, stop blessing us based on your grace and goodness and what you will do for us! Start blessing us based on our obedience." It was Israel's arrogant self-confidence that provoked God to impose terms upon them. In doing this, Israel as a nation showed their ignorance of God's righteousness and, for 1500 years, tried to establish their own righteousness by the Law.

So, they switched Covenants from the Abrahamic to the Sinaitic Covenant, which was based on the Law. All this time, God was with them and demonstrated His goodness toward them, and they continued to complain. The moment pride dominated them God had to change His way. He told

Moses to instruct the people not to go near the mountain for "Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death."

Why Do You Think God Had to Change From His Ways Of Grace?

It was because the people wanted to be judged based on their performance. They wanted to demonstrate their strength and how good they thought they were and entered into a covenant based on their obedience. This is what we call self-righteousness. In the very next chapter, God gave them the Ten Commandments. From then on, God had to bless, curse, or punish them based on His Laws. He would bless them if they obeyed all His Commandments, but they were cursed if they failed to do so. What the people did not understand was that they had to obey all of the Ten Commandments perfectly. Because if they failed in one, they would be guilty of all.

James 2:10 NLT,

"For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws."

The Israelites placed themselves under the Law and failed immediately. They broke the First Commandment – "You shall have no other gods before me." They made a golden calf and worshipped it as their God. Sad... Yeah?

The Ten Commandments, or the Law, were meant to reveal our sins and bring us to despair, leading us to realise that by our own efforts, we can never save ourselves. We need a Saviour. 1 Corinthians 15:56b says, "The law gives sin its power."

When You Read The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, Count The Number of Times It Says, "You Shall Not."

Exodus 20:1-14 NKJV

"And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your Son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. "Honor your Father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

9 Times + 2 you shall have no other Gods, you shall do no work

The “I Wills of God.”

Compare this with the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:8-12 NIV. How many 'I wills'?

"But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the Covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my Covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the Covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest For I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember their sins no more. By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear."

The Old Covenant is based on "you shall not", "you shall not", "you shall not", 9-11 times. While the New Covenant of Grace is the Lord saying "I will...", "I will...", "I will...", "I will...", 6/7 times. The emphasis of the Old Covenant of Law is on you performing. While the emphasis of the New Covenant of Grace is on God Himself performing!

God Will Do Everything On Our Behalf

He will do everything on our behalf. But we have to accept it. In fact, Jesus has already done it. He has established His people. He has put His laws in our minds. He has written them on our hearts. He is our God; we are His people. We all know Him from the least to the greatest. He has forgiven our wickedness and will not remember our sins. He has made the Old Covenant obsolete. Christianity today is "done, done, done", not "do, do, do!" Please understand me; there are always things we have to do, and we all have responsibilities. I am talking about working for your salvation. Your salvation is a gift that you can't work for.

From Sinai onwards, every time the children of Israel murmured and complained, many of them would die. Before Sinai—NONE died. After/Sinai—the moment they murmured they died.

When God gave the Law on Mount Sinai, it was on the First Pentecost, precisely 50 days from the Passover, when the Lord delivered them from slavery. The Ten Commandments were given, and 3000 men died (Exodus 32:28). In the New Testament.

When the Day of Pentecost had come, God poured out His Spirit upon all flesh, and 3,000 people were saved (Acts 2:41). Before Sinai, every failure brought a fresh demonstration of God's Grace and goodness. But now they were under the Covenant of Law; sin had to be punished with death. Their blessings and provisions no longer depended on God's goodness, faithfulness and grace. It now depended on their perfect performance and obedience, and every failure and sin would result in judgement and punishment.

The Israelites' journey from Egypt to Sinai was a picture of pure grace. It was not dependent on their goodness but His goodness and not on their faithfulness but on His faithfulness. Before the Law was given, they were under grace, and nobody was punished even when they failed. But immediately after the Law was given, nobody was spared when they failed.

THE NEW COVENANT

Jesus came to establish the New Covenant of Grace, and under this New Covenant, He wrote His Law on our hearts, not on cold, hard tablets of stone.

Jesus Himself defined this New Covenant for us at the Last Supper when He said, "This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." We must understand here that God never intended to mend the fallen Adamic race; He came to change it completely and begin a whole new humanity in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Under the Old Covenant of Moses, if the children of Israel obeyed the "big ten", they would be blessed. If they failed, they would be punished and cursed because they had failed to keep the terms of their Covenant. It was a covenant that depended on their ability to keep the Law, and they could not. The good news is that you and I are no longer under the requirements of the Old Covenant. We are under the New Covenant, and in this Covenant, we are blessed because Jesus is good, and He made us good and accepted us by washing away all our sins with His blood. It is all about Jesus! God now judges us based on His goodness, not ours. Not by the handwriting on stone the requirements of the Law

Can you see the difference? This is the Good News!

The Cross of Jesus Made A Difference: It Affected The Whole World.

In the New Covenant, God says—I will remember their sins no more. What happened? THE CROSS. Grace and Truth have done what the Law could not do. Someone say, “Hallelujah!”

There is nothing wrong with the Law. Paul wrote in Romans 7:12 NLT, "But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good." The Law is holy, and the commandment is just and good, but it has no power to make you holy, just, and good. No amount of law-keeping can make you holy; only the Blood of Jesus can do that.

The Ten Commandments Are Good; They Are From God Himself

They expose your sin, and that is all it can do. They cannot cover, cleanse or remove sins. Only the cross, the blood of the Lamb, takes away the sin of the world as far as the East is from the West. God gave the Law for one purpose, and that is for the world to have knowledge of sin and recognise their need for a Saviour. Without the Law, there would be no sin.

The Law was given to bring man to an end in himself so that in his despair, he would see his need for a Saviour. Because of the Law, no one can say they are not a sinner, and no one can say that they don't need Jesus. That is the purpose of the Law. It was not designed to make you godly; it was designed to expose your ungodliness.

Law is deserved favour—when you obey the commandments perfectly, you will be blessed. The Law is about what you must do.

Grace is undeserved favour—Jesus obeyed God perfectly, and you will be blessed by believing in Him. Grace is all about what Jesus has done. Remember, grace came by Jesus, and the Law was given through Moses (John 1:17).

John 1:17

"For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."

We Must Divide The Whole Truth Rightly And Rightly Divide The Covenants.

We must divide the Covenants correctly. 2 Timothy 2:15 ESV says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." God dealt with humanity differently in the Old Covenant, but in the New Covenant, the basis of salvation always remains the same. Man is saved only by believing in the atoning death of Christ. All Scripture is God-inspired and beneficial, but all Scripture also needs to be studied and read in the light of the cross. We all need to learn to rightly divide the covenants in order to stand firm in the truth when someone quotes chapter and verse from the Old Testament meant to convince you that God will punish you for your sins. You will know that all the righteous requirements of the Law are fulfilled in your life through Jesus. You will know what Romans 8:3 says, "The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of

our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body, God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins."

You will pick the lie that says God gave you sickness and disease to teach you character and humility. You will know what Matthew 8:16-17 says, "That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."

The Veil Is a Picture Of The Law of Moses

The Bible says that when Jesus yielded up His spirit, the veil of the temple was "torn in two from top to bottom." Once the Law was removed, man was made righteous by faith in Jesus' blood and the way into the Holy of Holies was opened! Jesus did not come to bring us more laws; He came to bring us abundant life through His Grace.

The Goodness of God

When we yield to sin, we open a door for the enemy to come in. You don't want that I'm sure. The enemy will make your life miserable if we invite him in. We are to resist the devil, and he will flee from us.

When people receive the good news of the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, they do not want to run off and live in sin. The woman who was caught in adultery. After her encounter with Jesus, the Person of Grace and truth. Do you think she could go back and carry on as before? Didn't Jesus say to her, "I do not condemn you, Go and sin no more!"

After people receive the gift of grace and have an encounter with the Person of Grace and Truth—Jesus Christ—they will realise all that He has blessed them with, including forgiveness, and an understanding of what Jesus did for them on the cross. And They did nothing to deserve it, nothing to earn it, nothing to merit it and then sin loses its appeal. That is the goodness of God that leads to a change of mind (repentance). It is the Gospel of Grace.

The Bible says, in 1 Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness and sin not." Rejoice; grace has done what the Law could not do. The Old Covenant could not make anyone righteous in God's sight, so God had to bring in something better. The New Covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ, brought greater glory to God than the Old. The Lord Jesus paid for our sins (see 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23). The payment He made is infinitely greater than our sin.

Key

God's grace works best when we stop striving to keep the Law and stop looking at ourselves and the things we think we have to do to be right with God and simply look to Him. We can know the Law inside out and yet be miles and miles away from God. Under the Law, all you will have is religion, not a relationship with God. But God is after a relationship with us, one that is dependent on His goodness and His goodness alone.

Summary

The primary blessing of the New Covenant is salvation, a new heart, and the indwelling Holy Spirit, which the Old Covenant could not give. We have access to the Most Holy Place, which was previously denied to the ordinary believer under the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 2:2–3 says,

“For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?”

The New Covenant Offers The Following Benefits In Contrast To The Old Covenant.

Forgiveness, cleansing and remission of the penalty of sins (Acts 10:43; 13:36–39; Colossians 2:13; Colossians 3:14; Ephesians 1:7). The Old Covenant covered sins; it could not make the penitent clean (Hebrews 9:9; 10:22).

Justification—We are declared righteous before God (Romans 5:1; 3:24–26). Under the Mosaic Covenant (Law) none could be justified (Romans 3:19–20; Acts 15:8–11).

New Life—the miracle of new birth by which we call God “Father ” (John 3:1–5, 1 Peter 1:23). None could be born again under the Old Covenant.

Assurance—The witness of the Holy Spirit confirming the Word of God (Hebrews 6:11). The Old Covenant believers never had that blessed assurance.

Sanctification—We’re set apart to the Lord for His service (John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24; Ephesians 5:26). Old Covenant believers did not experience the blessing of being made holy.

Adoption—We are sons and daughters in the family of God (Romans 8:15, 23; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:14–14 and Jesus is the Firstborn among many (Romans 8:29). The Old Covenant believers never experienced sonship.

Grace and access to the throne of God——Hebrews 4:16 “So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” We come freely not out of obligation as the Old Covenant believers did. God's throne is a throne of grace. Formerly a throne of judgment, it is now a mercy seat, a throne of grace.

The Holy Spirit and His gifts——for the edification of the Church(Romans 12:3–8).

Hebrews 10:20

“By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”

From Faith to Faith

We proceed forward from grace to grace, from glory to glory, so that we may live from faith to faith. First, the blade (faith is beginning), then the ear (faith is growing), and then the full corn in the ear (faith perfected) (Mark 4:28). Paul speaks of the Law of Faith, and he speaks of going from Faith to Faith.

Romans 3:27–28

“Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.”

The cross demonstrated that God found fault with the Old Covenant. He rescued us by establishing a New Covenant through His Son, Jesus. Nobody could be justified or made righteous by the Law. Only the blood of His Son could justify and make us righteous. In all of Israel's 1,500 years under the Covenant of Law, not a single person was made righteous. We are under the New Covenant of Grace.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans 3:10, 19–20

As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one... Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.”

The law was designed to show us how sinful we are. The works of the Law cannot justify us. We need a Saviour for that. Thank God we have the Saviour, Redeemer—The Lamb of God.

