

The New Covenant, A New Relationship

Why is there a need for a new covenant?

God's original covenant with Israel:

The covenant was conditional.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6) And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Israel promised they would keep the covenant.

Exodus 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.

Israel broke the covenant.

The covenant represented a relationship. Without that intimate relationship they could not fulfill their promises.

Jeremiah 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

God's promise of a new covenant with the house of Israel:

God realizing that without that intimate relationship, Israel could not keep His covenant.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God promised Israel He would give them a heart to know Him, bringing them into a intimate relationship.

Jeremiah 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

The new covenant is based on better promises.

The new covenant is a better covenant established upon better promises, the promises of One that cannot lie and can do what He has promised, to write His law on our hearts and in our minds. Man without the divine connection with Christ can never keep the covenant. There would be no need of a new covenant if man had been willing to do his part of the covenant, to recognize his great need of the One who could empower him to keep the covenant.

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8) For finding fault with them [Israel's promises], He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13) In that He saith, A new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

What law did God promise to write in their hearts?

Jeremiah would have correctly understood the law to which God referred was the law of ten commandments. It would be the same law Israel was under, but written in a different place. It would not be written in a stony heart but in a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26) A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27) And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

The new covenant promise was that God would write His laws "in their hearts" and put His spirit within them, and the result would be that they would "keep my judgments, and do them" out of love instead of an outward show of obedience in order to be saved.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.

God's covenant promise could then be realized and He could "take away their sins."

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Is the new covenant for the Gentiles as well as with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah?

Some claim that Israel was under the old covenant but since Christ came, now we the Gentiles are under the new covenant and don't need to keep the law because we are under grace. Shouldn't that cause us to question

why that claim can be made, seeing that the new covenant was a promise to Israel and not to the Gentiles? Are the Gentiles saved a different way than Israel?

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29) But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

The Scriptures state that we are saved by grace. Does that include both Jew and Gentile?

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Are just those that are under the New Testament [covenant] saved by grace? The Scriptures also state that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Did it only abound after Christ?

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Was there sin in the Old Testament times?

Romans 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

What do these Scriptures mean, “after those days?”

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Is it time related or relationship related? Much confusion has developed over the misunderstanding of the phrase, “after those days.” Was God waiting for a specific time or was He waiting until man finally realizes that without God the new covenant promise of a new relationship where the law is written in our heart producing obedience through “the law of faith” could not be realized.

Functionally “After those days” does not refer to the change from the Old to New Testament, but to the time when a person comes to the conclusion that the promised new birth cannot be realized by “the law of works” but by “the law of faith.”

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Jude 24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Why the need for a new covenant?

It is not until we that one realizes that "with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? 26) But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

When we have the faith of Abraham, we will be "fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform."

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

The sole purpose of the new covenant is to bring us to the place where we can say with Paul:

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Because the "new covenant" or "everlasting covenant" is based on a new relationship and not time related, those who were faithful in the Old Testament era also had a "new covenant" relationship with Christ.

The "new covenant" is in fact the "everlasting covenant:"

Notice how the parallel verses below confirm that the blood of Christ identifies the new covenant and the everlasting as one and the same covenant.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrew 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

There is only One who can make an everlasting covenant to save man from sin and give him "the promise of eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The covenant was originally with Christ, the promised seed:

God had foreknowledge that man without realizing the need of the Divine connection could never keep the covenant and so the promise that was made to Abraham and his seed, specifically referred to Christ. It is through Christ that "all the families of the earth be blessed." Christ was the only One who could reveal the character of the Father and the immutability of the law and win man back to fidelity to God. It isn't the law that needed changing, it is man.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 17) And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. 18) For if

the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

If the promised inheritance can be realized by the "works of the law," then there is no need of a promise (or covenant).

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Hebrews 2:16 For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on him the seed of Abraham. 17) Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18) For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.

Finally God has a Man who has perfectly reproduced His character.

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; 3) Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Christ is the new Adam

Where Adam failed, Christ was victorious!

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of Him that was to come.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Christ is the new Israel:

Where Israel failed, Christ was victorious!

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon Him: He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2) He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3) A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4) He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law. 5) Thus saith God the LORD, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: 6) I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7) To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

The everlasting covenant will finally be fulfilled! It is only **in Christ** that we too can be victorious and thus vindicate God by revealing His character.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Matthew 24:3 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience [endurance] of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

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