

WHAT IS THE **NEW** **COVENANT?** AND WHY IT MATTERS

Learn What the Difference is Between the Old and
New Testaments, and What That Means For You





Thanks for
getting this
book.

Just a quick reminder:

There are so many things to learn about the Bible and your relationship with God. On our site, newcovenantway.com, we have tons of free resources and articles, as well as more books to help you do even more effective Bible study!

Feel free to CLICK THE BUTTON below anytime to go to our free resources page, and get whatever you'd like! We're always updating it, so keep checking it!

[FREE RESOURCES](#)

You're about to learn a lot.

We started New Covenant Way to help people learn their Bible and grow in their relationship with God. But we didn't just want to "do more study." We felt that it was important to teach the Bible from a "New Covenant" perspective, so that people can truly understand what the Bible is saying.

What does that mean? Well, there are plenty of beliefs out there about biblical topics and God. Everyone has a theory and a scripture for why they believe what they believe. So, we don't need more Bible study and more scriptures. What we need are scriptures that are interpreted correctly.

We need to learn HOW to study the Bible and WHY certain beliefs about the Bible make sense, and why some don't. **And all of this starts with a healthy knowledge of the New Covenant that Christ died to give us, and what that means for you and I.** As you read this book, we challenge you to just be open to it. Don't take our word for it, but study for yourself and never stop asking questions!

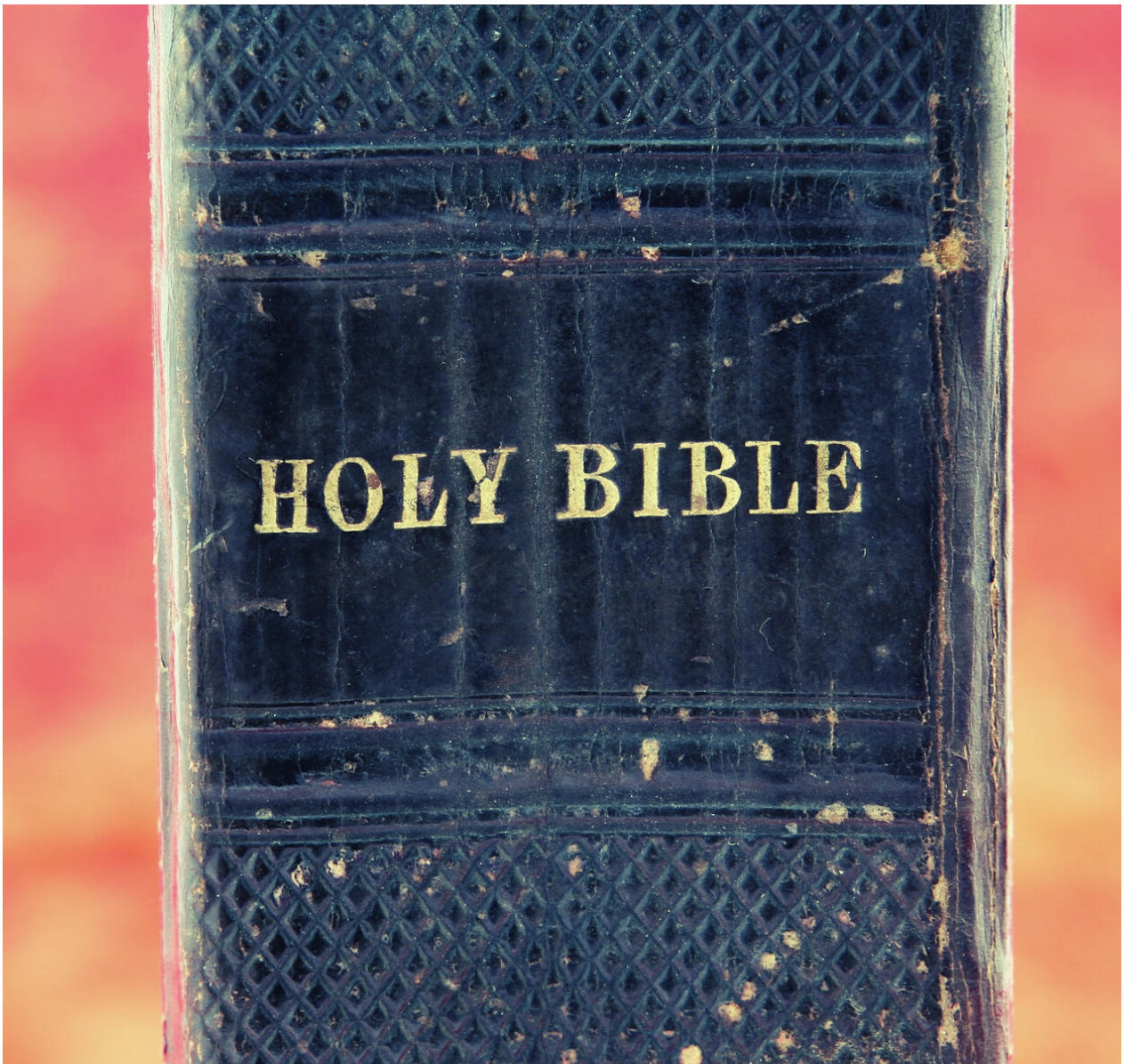
INTRO

1

Most Christians have heard of the word “New Testament”. They know this word because they know of the Old Testament and the New Testament in their Bibles. As we all know, the New Testament in our Bibles begins with the book of Matthew.

So, if you flip to the book of Matthew and just go one page back, you’ll see the words “**New Testament**” in big, bold letters. While we’re comfortable with our knowledge of this New Testament, **most of us just see it as a part in our Bibles** that begins with the story of Jesus.

However, **one phrase that Christians don’t use as much is the phrase “New Covenant”**. What exactly does that mean? Is it the same thing as the “New Testament”?



FACT: Some people DO know of the New Covenant.

They think of it as the period of time that we're all under now, after Jesus died. However, many people just don't know **what it means** to be under a New Covenant in Christ. They're unaware of what this covenant entails, what it means for us, and what benefits it puts right in our hands.

As we're going to find out in this book, **a misunderstanding and lack of knowledge of this New Covenant** is the reason for most of the division within the church and the misinterpretation of various scriptures in the Bible. That's why I believe that understanding the New Covenant should be at the core of our beliefs. A healthy knowledge of it will stem out into all of our other beliefs, helping us to have biblically correct teaching, which will lead to biblically correct living.

So before we go further, **try to engrave this in your head and keep it at the forefront of everything else you learn:**

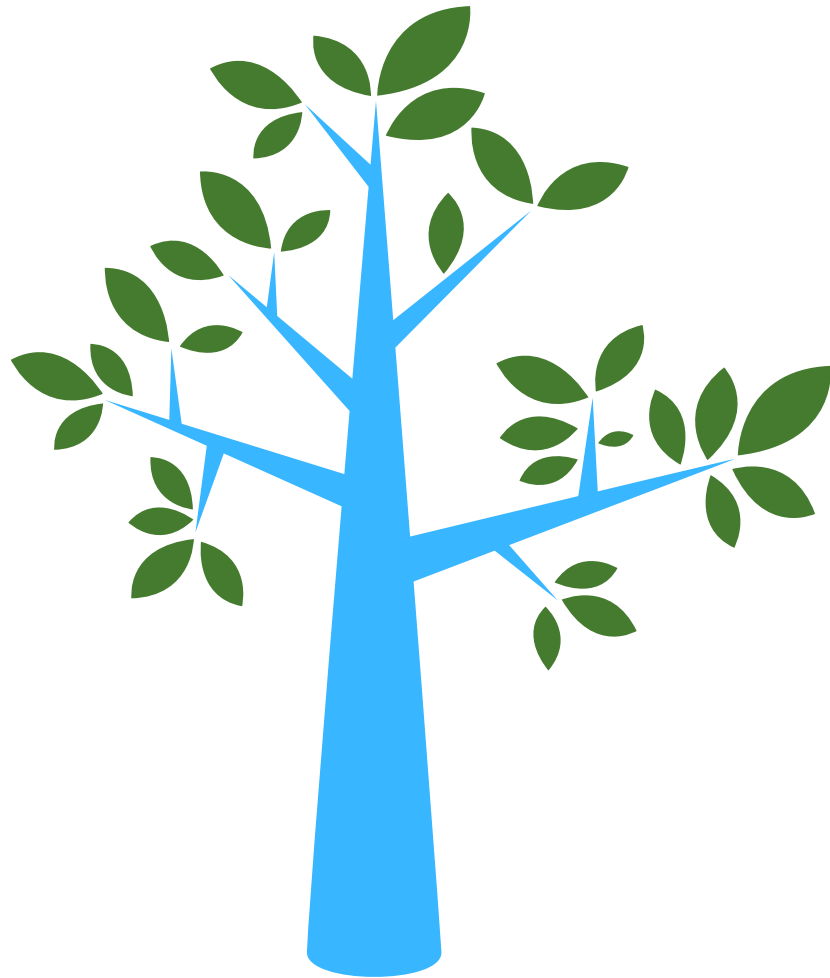
"Learning what **the New Covenant** is and what **it means** for me is very, very important."

That's what this book is all about. Understanding it and what it means for us. We're going to look at how we got this New Covenant, what role we play in it, where we've come from, and what covenants existed in the past before we got this new one.

At the end of this book you're going to know all of this, and you're going to be better equipped to learn other topics in the Bible as well. So let's dive right in!

What is the New Covenant?

Find out! 



basic definition:

New Covenant

The New Covenant is the period of time and the contract that we Christians are under today, brought into effect by the death of Jesus that gives us unique benefits through grace, including salvation.

Before the New Covenant came, God’s people (the Israelites) were under an Old Covenant. We’ll talk more about that in a second. But during this Old Covenant, prophets would speak and declare that a New Covenant was coming. **Prophets are people who speak what God is wanting to tell the people, or they declare things that are coming in the future.** So, these Old Testament prophets would say that some time in the future, this Old Covenant would pass away, and a new one would come in. Let’s look at a scripture about this.

Jeremiah 31:31-32

“Look, the days are coming”—this is the Lord’s declaration—“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt—my covenant that they broke even though I am their master”—the Lord’s declaration.

So, the prophet Jeremiah lived under the Old Covenant. And he’s prophesying here and saying that God is going to make a New Covenant with Israel. **He clearly says that this new covenant will not be anything like the Old Covenant,** when he led the people out of Egypt. Again, we’ll talk more about the Old Covenant in just a moment, but for now, just **see that this Old Covenant began with the children of Israel when he led them out of Egypt.** This is when Moses told Pharaoh to “let my people go.” As we’ll see, God took them out of Egyptian slavery, and they wandered in the wilderness for a little while. There, he made this old, Mosaic covenant with them.

Now that you have a brief background, let's read on:

Jeremiah 31:33-34

“Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the Lord’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them”—this is the Lord’s declaration. “For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.

So, he’s kind of making a contrast here between the Old and New Covenant. The Old Covenant was an “outward” covenant of laws, **but this New Covenant would mean that God’s divine teaching would be “within” the people and written on their hearts.** He then says that He’s going to be their God, and everyone would know God. What this actually means is that God’s salvation and presence would now be available to ALL people, not just the Jews.

But the last part of this scripture is probably the most important characteristic of this prophesied New Covenant. It says that God would forgive iniquity and remember their sin no more.

CAN YOU JUST FATHOM HOW HUGE THAT PROMISE IS?

Can you imagine how awesome it must have been for a Jew living in the Old Covenant to hear that sins would be forgiven completely, and God would **NEVER** hold them accountable for it again? This is the main clause of the New Covenant: that God would forgive sin and never hold it against people again. This is something that people under that Old Covenant would never be able to experience.

But wait. What exactly was this Old Covenant, and why does it sound so different and worse than this new one? Let's talk about the Old Covenant for just a bit.

In the book of Genesis, you'll find that **most of it is a story about a man named Abraham.** He was the father of the Jewish people, and it all began with him.

Had a son

God told him that he was going to make a great people out of him. Abraham had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son named Jacob.

Jacob's name was eventually changed to Israel, and he had 12 sons. **Thus, these 12 sons were known as the "children of Israel" – Israel's 12 sons.**

A nation

From them, all the race of the Jewish people came.



At the end of Genesis, Israel, his 12 sons, and all their families go to live in Egypt. Israel dies and leaves his family there in Egypt to live. The Israelites begin to multiply greatly and prosper in the land of Egypt, so the Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) turns them all into slaves, because he fears that they would become too great and overthrow the Egyptians. This is where the story of Moses picks up in the book of Exodus.

To make a long story short, **God tells Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and take them into the land that he promised to give to Abraham** – the Promise Land. We all know the great story of where God parted the Red Sea so the Jews could go through it and escape the Egyptians. And after they escaped into the wilderness to begin their journey towards the Promise Land, this is when the Old Covenant was first given.

God first mentions making a covenant with the people in Exodus 19:3-6:

Exodus 19:3-6

Moses went up the mountain to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain: “This is what you must say to the house of Jacob and explain to the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.”

Check out how God wanted them to be:

- his “own possession” out of all people on the Earth
- a “kingdom of priests”
- a “holy nation”

THIS is the covenant that God WANTED to establish with the Israelites. With this great covenant, everyone would be a special flower and have a unique access to God.



You see, **covenants were big back in those days**. That's why you hear a lot of things in the Old Testament about people "swearing oaths" to one another. These are covenants, or contracts, that they made with each other. Sometimes, the covenants that they made with each other were so severe and important, **they would literally call death on themselves if they failed to keep their end of the bargain**. Their word was important, and it was all they had. Sometimes, people would make a covenant with themselves, and say things like, "*May God strike me down if I don't do this or do that.*" Death was often the consequence for not keeping your part of the covenant you made with someone else.

Let's rewind for just a second and look at the covenant God made with Abraham when he first told him that he would make a great nation out of him. Then, we'll come back to this covenant with the children of Israel.

In Genesis 15, God gives Abraham a Vision

"Lord God, what can you give me, since I am childless..."

God promised him a child

He told him to count the stars

"Your offspring will be that numerous."

Abraham believed

Look what Abraham told God:

Genesis 15:8-16

But he said, "Lord God, how can I know that I will possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." So he brought all these to him, cut them in half, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him. Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain: Your offspring will be resident aliens for four hundred years in a land that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed. However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

In order to show Abraham that He wasn't playing, God told him to get some animals. Abraham cuts them in half and sets the halves apart from each other. Why on Earth would he do such a gross thing?



This was actually a common practice for people to do in those days when making a covenant with each other. They would slice animals in half, and the two people would walk in the middle of the pieces to seal their covenant. This was to symbolize that if they didn't keep their part of the covenant, the same thing would happen to them – they would be destroyed.

God goes on to tell Abraham that he WAS going to give him lots of descendants and people, but they would first be oppressed. And this happened in Egypt when they were enslaved, as you already learned. However, God promises to bring them out and fulfill his promise to Abraham.

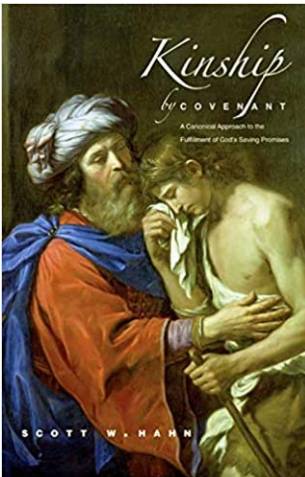
So, let's see what happens next with this covenant that God is making with Abraham:

Genesis 15:17-21

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River: the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hethites, Perizzites, Rephaim, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

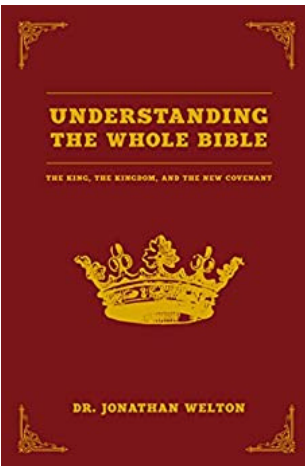
Remember, what was Abraham doing while this was going on? **Sleeping!** So, two things walked through the divided animals. What this signifies is that God was making this covenant with Abraham, but **he was only holding himself accountable**. Notice how Abraham did NOT pass through the animals – only God did. God was saying to Abraham that He was going to do all of this for him, and if He didn't fulfill his promise, He would be destroyed. Now, we know that this isn't physically possible, because God cannot die. But he was doing it to show Abraham that He was serious about the covenant and would indeed bring it to pass.

What's most unique about this covenant is that Abraham did not have to fulfill any obligations of his own. It was kind of a covenant that God was making with Himself – if He didn't bless Abraham, He was threatening death on Himself.



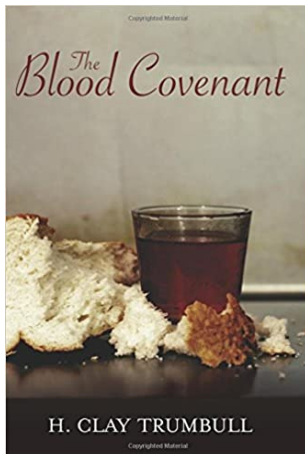
Covenants, or contracts, were big in those days.

MANY COVENANTS



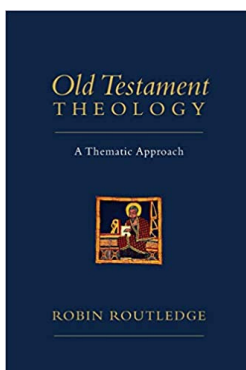
There were also different kinds of covenants, just like there are different kinds of contracts that we have today.

DIFFERENT KINDS



What are our contracts like today? Some are harsher, and some are easier. Some benefit us, and some do us wrong.

GOOD AND BAD



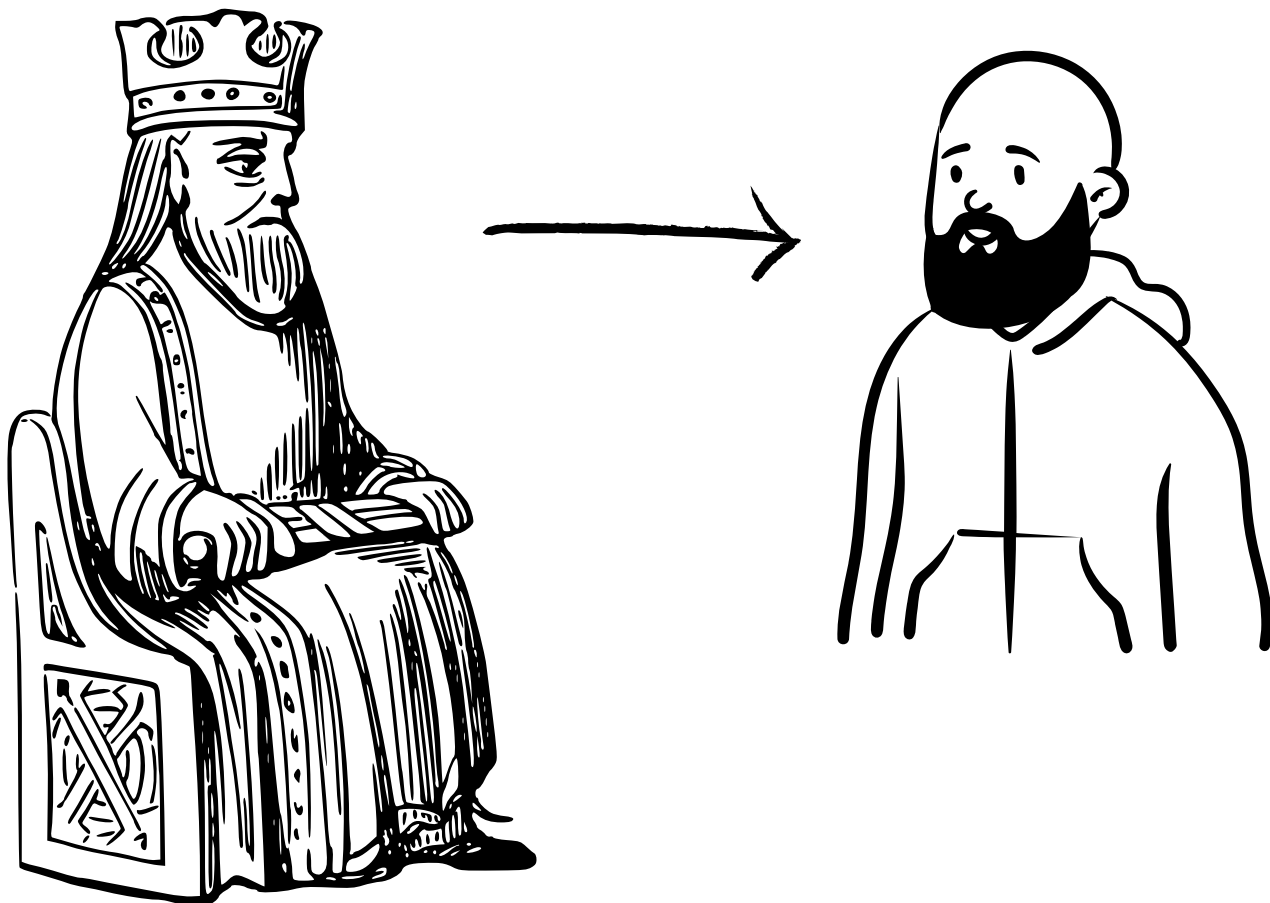
This kind of covenant that Abraham was coming into with God was called a "Grant Covenant."

GRANT

basic definition:

Grant Covenant

A contract made between a greater and a lesser person, like a king and a normal guy. The greater person makes all the sacrifices and has to do literally everything. The lesser person only needs to receive what is being done for him.



This was pretty much the best kind of covenant to be under. **And this is the kind of covenant that God wanted the children of Israel to continue in going forward.** God wanted them to be his priests, and He wanted a relationship with them. But as we'll see, they actually didn't receive this grant covenant from God. **Why not?**

The book of Deuteronomy actually contains the same story that happened in Exodus 19, when God appeared to the people and wanted to enter into a grant covenant. Deuteronomy 5 tells us why they did not take this good covenant from God:

Deuteronomy 5:25-27

But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us and we will die if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer. For who out of all humanity has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the fire, as we have, and lived? Go near and listen to everything the Lord our God says. Then you can tell us everything the Lord our God tells you; we will listen and obey.'

The people did not want to draw near to God, but instead were afraid. They simply told Moses to go near to God himself, and deliver to them any commandments that God would give. It appears that they were rejecting the offer that God wanted for them, and God expresses how he feels about that in the next verse:

Deuteronomy 5:28-29

“The Lord heard your words when you spoke to me. He said to me, ‘I have heard the words that these people have spoken to you. Everything they have said is right. **If only they had such a heart to fear me and keep all my commands always,** so that they and their children would prosper forever.



You can see that God is troubled by their decision to stay away from Him. He expresses his eager desire when he says, “If only they had such a heart to fear me.” God is saying, "If only these people would draw near



to me, so that I can prosper them forever.” So, **instead of God and the Israelites coming into a grant covenant,** they entered into something called a "kinship covenant."

What's a "Kinship Covenant"?



definition:

Kinship covenant – a contract where two parties would enter into an agreement. Both parties would be equal and would have rules to obey, otherwise they would break the covenant.

So instead of them coming under a grant covenant with God, **they came under this kinship covenant.** God has his end of the bargain to fulfill, and the Jews had theirs. God's job was to bless the people and fulfill all his promises to them. His priority was to give them the land and many descendants. As for the Israelites, their job was to obey all of the commandments in the law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments. There were many laws that they had to obey in order for God to bless them.

also good to know

When a kinship covenant was made, it was common for both parties to write these rules down, and each party would be given a copy. **That's one of the main reasons that they had the Ten Commandments.** They weren't just stones given to the people to look pretty and tell them what God expects from them. They were actually contracts listing the rules of their kinship covenant.

These Ten Commandment tablets were actually just that – copies, or replicas of one another. People commonly think of the two stone tablets with the laws 1-5 written on one, and 6-10 written on the other one. **But the Bible says in Exodus 32:15 that “they were inscribed on both sides—inscribed front and back.” So one tablet had all of the commandments, 1-10, written on the front and back.** Probably 1-5 on the front, and 6-10 on the back. The other tablet was just a copy of the that one. Again, both parties in a kinship covenant had to have a copy of their rules. Since God did not physically take his copy of their covenant, He told Moses to keep both tablets and put them in something called the ark of the covenant.

This is how the story of the Old Covenant was given. Many times, whenever you see the word “law” in the Bible, it’s referring to this Old Covenant. You might see other words and phrases used to describe it such as:

The law of Moses, the Mosaic Covenant, the Old Covenant, the law

Entering into this kinship covenant with God was not a great idea, but the Israelites were stubborn and afraid of God. They believed that they could do all that God required of them, but their hearts were actually very far from God.

Before the law was given, God NEVER dealt with people like this. Before Exodus 20, God dealt with people with a “grant covenant” mentality. He wanted to bless people and have a relationship with them. It was like this for close to 3000 years until the law was given to the Jews. This law of Moses would last for approximately 1300 years, until Jesus came.

Before this law was given, God dealt with the Israelites differently in the wilderness. In Exodus 15-17, it tells many stories of how the people complained about their wandering in the wilderness.

They grumbled and complained, but God NEVER judged them for it. Instead, he provided for them. When they complained about water, God gave them water. But AFTER the law was given, God dealt with them very differently, because now they were under a covenant that required complete obedience.

The same kind of things happened in the book of Numbers. The Israelites would complain, fear, and desire to go back to Egypt, but this time, God would judge them. Plagues would hit them and many people would die.

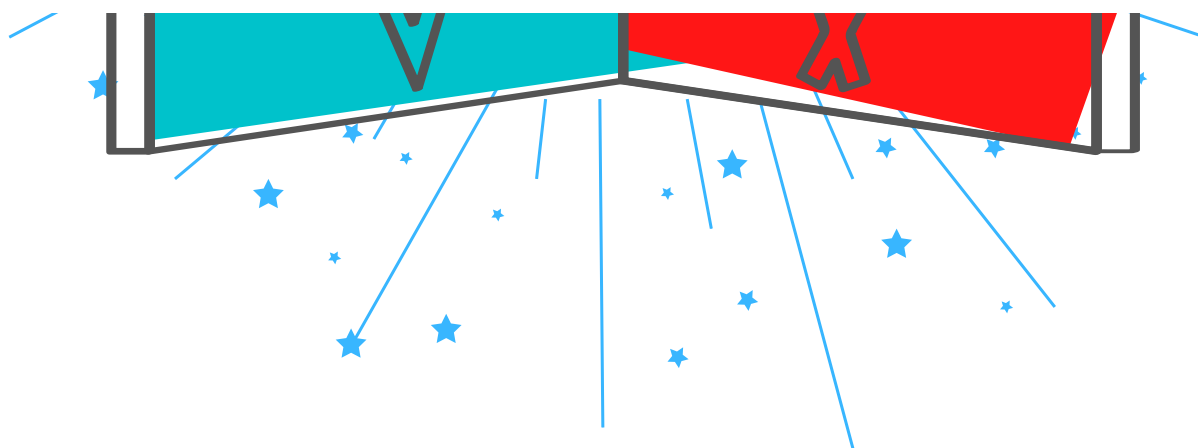
Why? **Because it was the obligations of their covenant with God.** If they didn’t obey Him and follow the rules, they would be judged for breaking their end of the bargain. So, the majority of the Old Testament in your Bible is a story of how the Jews lived under the Old Covenant, which was a kinship covenant that the Israelites could never fully keep. **It’s the story of them keeping the law for a bit, and then failing.**



So, now that we have

A BACK STORY

... we can circle back into the New Covenant. **Remember how the prophecies were given that a NEW covenant was coming during the Old Covenant?** The main thing that made this New Covenant so amazing was that all sin would be forgiven, and never held against the people again.



But who brought in this New Covenant, and when?

All through the Old Testament, **there are various prophecies given that a New Covenant was coming**, and that a savior would be born to sacrifice himself for the sins of the people. His sacrifice of his body would be the atonement for all sin. Of course, we know that this was Jesus.

An atonement is a payment for a wrongdoing. In other words, if someone does something wrong, they or someone else can “atone” for that wrongdoing by making some type of payment or sacrifice in order to make things right again.

One prophecy about Jesus is in **Psalm 40:6-7**:

Psalm 40:6-7

You do not delight in sacrifice and offering; you open my ears to listen. You do not ask for a whole burnt offering or a sin offering. Then I said, “See, I have come; **in the scroll it is written about me**. I delight to do your will, my God, and your instruction is deep within me.”

This was hundreds of years before Jesus even showed up, but we know that Jesus was the one who brought this New Covenant with him, because it’s recorded all throughout the Bible. His whole reason for being born was to be sacrificed for us so that he can bring in this New Covenant that we enjoy today.

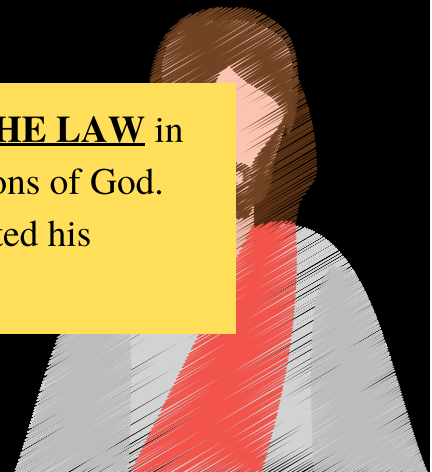
Galatians 4:4-5

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

NOTICE HOW IT SAYS:

When the time had come, **Jesus was born UNDER THE LAW** in order to redeem people so that they can become true sons of God. So, it’s important to know that Jesus lived and conducted his ministry while under the law.

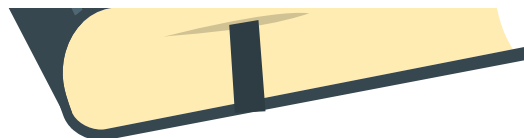
See why this is important!





Why is this important to know? Because it tells us that although the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are New Testament books in our Bibles, they really aren't *New Covenant* books, because the events happened during the Old Covenant. So remember this:

"New Testament" does not necessarily equal "New Covenant".



The other main reason to know this is because Jesus often said, taught, and did things that pertained to the Law of Moses. He literally told some people to obey the Law of Moses and keep the 10 Commandments. **However, there are shreds of New-Covenant-style teaching and deeds in his ministry that he did in order to show that a better, new covenant was fixing to come on the scene.** His main goal was to die in order to bring in this New Covenant, but his other important goal was to preach to people that the “kingdom of God” was coming, and that God is a God that wants to deal with people based on grace.

So, Jesus was born and operated under the law, but his death was supposed to bring in a New Covenant that would be better than the old one. As we're going to find out in a second, **his blood being shed was what ushered in this covenant.** For example, we all know about the Holy Communion. Some people know it as the Eucharist. This is where people eat bread and drink wine or grape juice in order to show respect for and remember the sacrifice of Jesus. The bread represents his body that was beat for us, and the wine represents his blood that was spilt for us:

Matthew 26:26-28

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take and eat it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.



Many people kind of blindly and quickly partake of this stuff at church, **but they really fail to see exactly what it represents.** Notice how he said that the wine is the “blood of the covenant”. The blood of Jesus had to be shed in order for this New Covenant to happen. So whenever we take the communion, we're not just remembering that he died for us; we're remembering that his blood brought in the New Covenant, and all its benefits.

Hebrews is a great book to learn more about these things, guys. Right now, **we're talking about WHO brought in this New Covenant**, and Hebrews 9 gives us a better picture of this:

Hebrews 9:6-8

With these things prepared like this, the priests enter the first room repeatedly, performing their ministry. But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, **and never without blood**, which he offers for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was making it clear that the way into the most holy place had not yet been disclosed while the first tabernacle was still standing.

High priest of Israel:

The most important priest. He had special responsibilities. The most important one was going into the most holy place once a year to offer an animal for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 9 starts by talking about things that were included in the Old Covenant, like the tabernacle and the Ten Commandments. The tabernacle was like a giant, portable tent that the Israelites set up in the wilderness. They set it up to have a place where God could literally live, and so they could have a holy place to offer animal sacrifices. For now, just know that **there were three parts of the tabernacle in the Old Covenant – the outer court, the inner court, and then the most holy place**. The most holy place was a little room in the tabernacle that nobody could go into, except the High Priest, and he could only do that once a year.

So in these scriptures, it's saying that there was this one day out of the entire year, called the Day of Atonement, where the High Priest would go into an offer an animal for the sins of the people. After he did this, the people would be cleansed of their sin for a whole year. But verse 8 seems to be stressing the significance that only the High Priest could go inside the most holy place. It says that a "way" had not yet been made for all people to come near to God. Hebrews goes on to say:

Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?



Christ showed up on the scene as a new High Priest who would bring in an entirely new covenant. By dying on the cross, **he symbolically “went into the most holy place”** and made a way for all people to draw near to God. And if you read the story of Jesus’ death on the cross, this kind of literally happened. The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, the giant veil that was hanging in the temple that separated the temple from the most holy place tore.

This was a giant veil that some accounts say was thicker than the palm of a man’s hand, and just think – it supernaturally tore, symbolizing that **the way to God was now open**. All people could draw near to Him with confidence. There was no more separation.

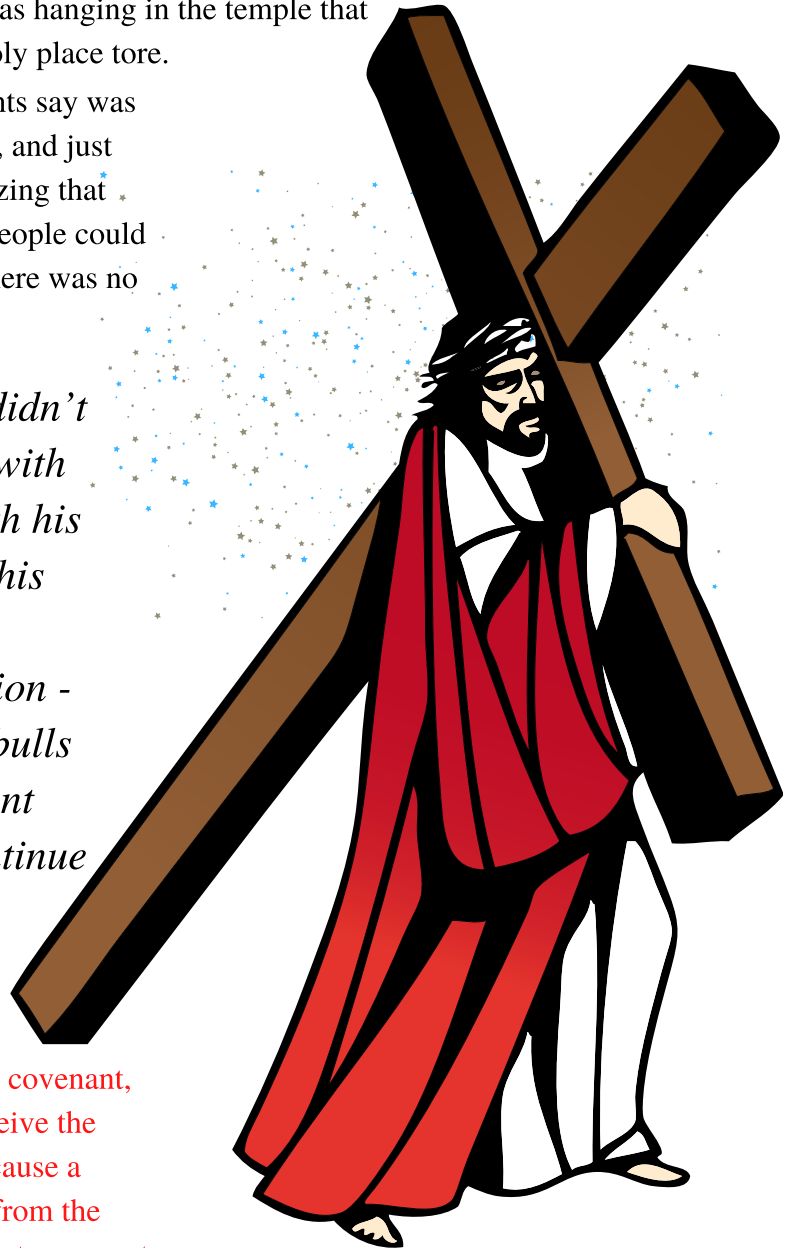
But if very clearly says: he didn’t go into this most holy place with the blood of animals, but with his own blood. The shedding of his own blood brought “eternal redemption” and sanctification - something that the blood of bulls and goats in the Old Covenant could never do. But let’s continue reading:

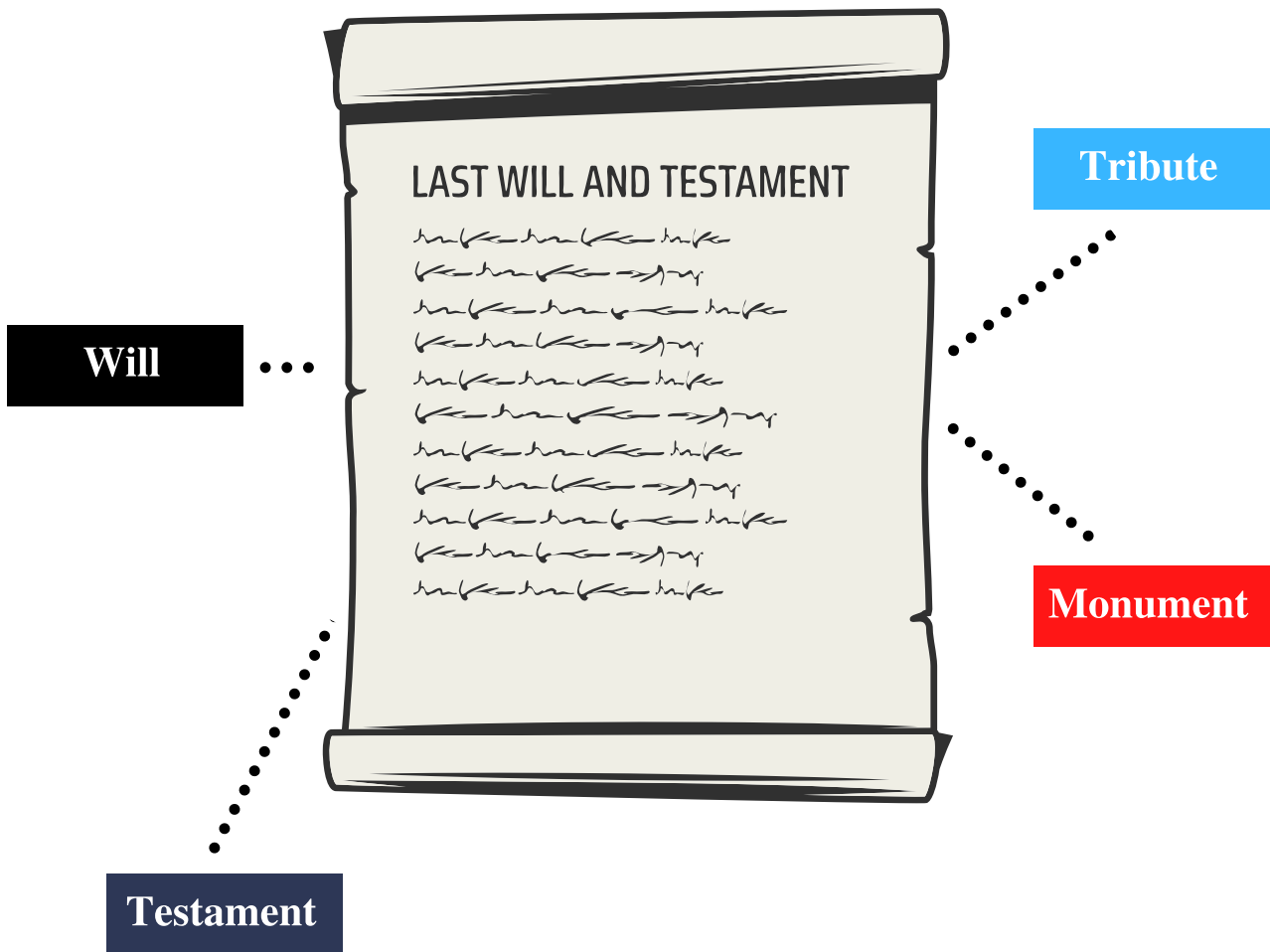
Hebrews 9:15-17

Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Where a will exists, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will is valid only when people die, since it is never in effect while the one who made it is living.

So there you have it. Jesus is the mediator and the bringer of the New Covenant. Notice how it explains **that whenever there is a will, in order for that will to be put into affect, the one who made the will has to die**. Have you ever heard of the phrase “last will and testament”?





Testament - a desire of someone for things to be a certain way that goes into effect after that person dies.

So, this answers the question of WHEN the New Covenant came into effect. **It officially happened the moment Jesus died on the cross.** Again, it's important to know this because some people are confused and think that the New COVENANT began with the beginning of the New TESTAMENT in their Bible with Matthew 1:1. But it actually started right when Jesus died, because this New Covenant was the will of Jesus when he died.

Also, notice:

1. A "death" took place for redemption of sins under the Old Covenant
2. Every time the people wanted to get cleared from their sins, an animal had to die
3. This is what happened when the High Priest went in the Most Holy Place
4. Blood had to be spilled in order for forgiveness to come and a covenant to be made

God's economy was always through blood. A transaction had to take place under the Old Covenant. The people had to offer the blood of animals as payment, and then God would give them forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:18-22

That is why even the first covenant was inaugurated with blood. For when every command had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll itself and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you. In the same way, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the articles of worship with blood. According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.



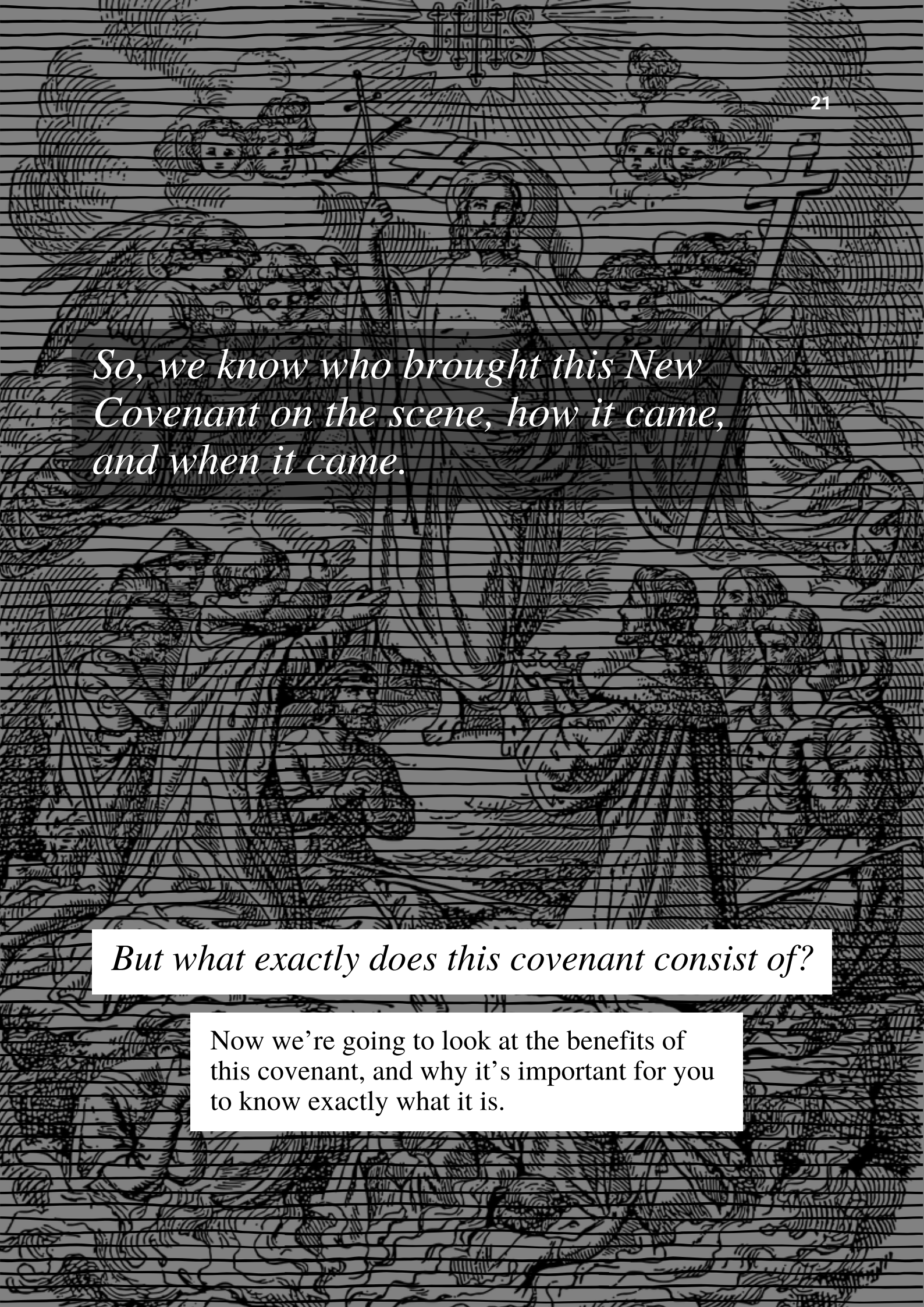
Notice how he points out that Moses said in [Exodus 24:8](#) that the blood that they shed from the animals was the blood of their Old Covenant. That sounds a lot like what Jesus said in the communion – “**This is MY blood of the covenant.**” What covenant? The old one? No! **It was his blood of the New Covenant that was shed to usher it in.** Forgiveness could only come through spilled blood. This is God's economy, so he sent his son Jesus to spill his blood to bring eternal forgiveness.

The remaining verses in [Hebrews 9:23-28](#) and [Hebrews 10](#) go on to say more about this, and you can read it in your spare time. One important thing to point out is that they say that **Christ offered himself ONE time**, as opposed to doing it once a year like the High Priest did with animals in the Old Covenant. You see, his sacrifice was so powerful that it only had to be done ONE time in order to bring ETERNAL forgiveness to all people. **Blood doesn't have to be spilled again for your sin** – God's own blood was already spilled, and it was enough to cleanse you and bring in this New Covenant.

Hebrews 10:9-10

He takes away the first to establish the second. By this **will**, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

SUMMARY: By dying on the cross, **he removed the Old Covenant and brought in the new one.** From this, we have been sanctified and made right once for all time. This is great news! So to sum up where we're at so far, the New Covenant was brought into the scene by Jesus, and he did it by dying on the cross for us.



So, we know who brought this New Covenant on the scene, how it came, and when it came.

But what exactly does this covenant consist of?

Now we're going to look at the benefits of this covenant, and why it's important for you to know exactly what it is.

The first and most important aspect to understand about this covenant is also it's greatest benefit.

And this is that all of **our sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus**. Under the Old Covenant, sins were NOT forgiven and needed to be atoned for once a year. The Israelites were judged every time they broke a law, and sometimes the penalties were very harsh. But God would not forgive their sins until they made atonement for them, either by an individual offering that they would do on any day, or on the Day of Atonement.

In the New Covenant, **Jesus died one time, and this was enough to forgive ALL sin throughout all time**. In other words, God has already forgiven the world of their sins. Each and every person is a forgiven person in God's eyes because of the blood of Jesus, otherwise, the book of Hebrews would be lying when it tells us that **he died once for sin, cannot die again, and it was enough to bring forgiveness**. Now, a statement like this usually ruffles a lot of people's religious feathers, because they think that what I'm saying is that everyone is ALREADY saved and right with God. But that's not the case. **Everyone is forgiven through this New Covenant, but not everyone is saved** – there's a big difference. Salvation and righteousness comes when we RECEIVE what God has done for us. The Bible says it this way: **“God has reconciled the world to Himself. Now YOU be reconciled to God.”**

2 Corinthians 5 says it this way:

That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, “Be reconciled to God.”

notice how it says:

God is NOT counting men's sins against them. That means that he's not holding them against us. If He *was*, that would mean that he hasn't forgiven us. But He has, and forgiveness is exactly what makes the New Covenant so much better.

Acts 13:38-39

Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers and sisters, that through this man forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you. Everyone who believes is justified through him from everything that you could not be justified from through the law of Moses.

Through this New Covenant:

- forgiveness of sins was preached
- believing = justification
- could not get this in the old one

You can become righteous and enter into that forgiveness when you simply believe in Jesus.

You might have also heard that **we're now saved by grace through faith**. This is true, and it's another main aspect of the New Covenant.

John 1:16-17

Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

what is grace?

"Grace" is unearned favor with God.

Under the Old Covenant, the law was given through Moses, and this was not based on grace. It was all based on their performance. If they did well and obeyed the law, they would be blessed. If they did not, they would be cursed and punished. They had to fulfill their end of the agreement with God. But when Jesus came, **he brought grace, which is unearned favor and acceptance with God**. That means that we didn't do anything ourselves to earn his love and acceptance. Just like a Christmas gift, it was given to us simply because we are loved.



To put it simply, grace IS the New Covenant, and more people should be talking about it. The book of Titus actually says that this grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and live good, godly lives. Because when we know how much we're loved and forgiven, it will cause us to want to please God more with our lives. But many people don't understand that grace is not just an aspect of the New Covenant, it practically IS the New Covenant!

Another word we use in place of “New Covenant” is the word “Gospel”.

The New Covenant is the Gospel, and the Gospel is the New Covenant.

In simple terms, the word “Gospel” just means “good news”. So whenever you say that you’re preaching the “Gospel”, what you’re saying is that you’re preaching the good news of Jesus - **that he forgave us of our sins to make us righteous**, which is an act of grace. The Bible even links the Gospel with grace:

Acts 20:24

But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.

Notice how he calls it the “gospel of God’s grace”. So, we could say it’s the “good news about God’s grace.” The great thing about this New Covenant is that it’s a covenant of grace – favor given to us from God based on nothing we’ve done.

The New Covenant also gives us righteousness:

Romans 5:17

If by the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Righteousness is just being “right” with God. When this scripture talks about “one man’s trespass”, that’s referring to Adam, the first man in Genesis. When Adam ate of the fruit, he disobeyed God, and this threw humanity into sin and death. It broke the relationship that God originally had with mankind.

This passage in Romans is explaining that Jesus came to undo what Adam had done; it calls Jesus the second Adam. While Adam destroyed our relationship with God, **Jesus restored it by dying on the cross for us.** The scripture goes on to say that if we receive the overflow of grace and the “gift of righteousness”, we’ll reign in life. It says that this righteousness is a gift, which means that **we cannot earn it with our good works.** We can’t be “right” with God based on how much we go to church, not cuss, read our Bibles and pray. It’s a gift, and people don’t work for gifts.

This New Covenant also gives us righteousness, or right-standing with God. Remember, Hebrews told us that people could never be truly cleansed with all those animals sacrifices. And back in Romans 3:20, it says that “no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law.” Getting right with God simply can’t happen by obeying the law, or any kind of principles and rules we have today. **Being right with God is a gift – we just have to receive that gift.**



Romans 3:21-24

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

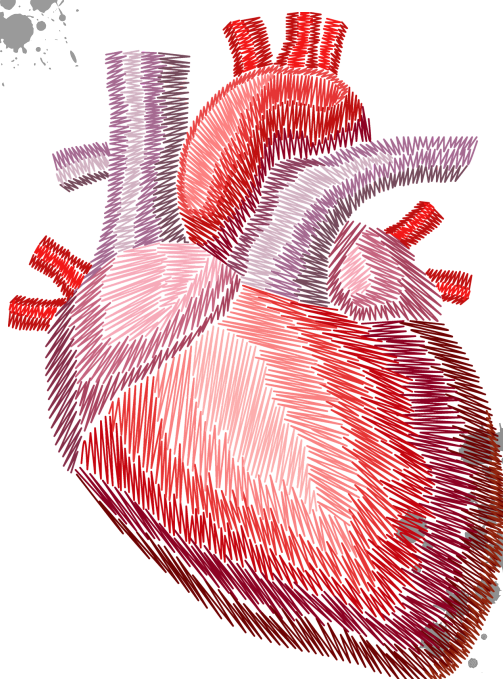
He talks a lot about the righteousness that comes from God here. He begins by saying that this right-standing with God based on faith was talked about in the Old Testament by the prophets. They said that one day it would happen – God would restore everything and give people righteousness. **And how do we get this righteousness?** By faith in Jesus! We’re justified freely by his grace. It’s what makes this New Covenant so great. **Now, a way to God has been made.** The only way that we could come into God’s presence is by being righteous ourselves. We could never achieve righteousness from our works. But Jesus has done it for us by shedding his blood for us. Now, we can approach God with boldness, knowing that we’ve been made righteous by the blood of Jesus.

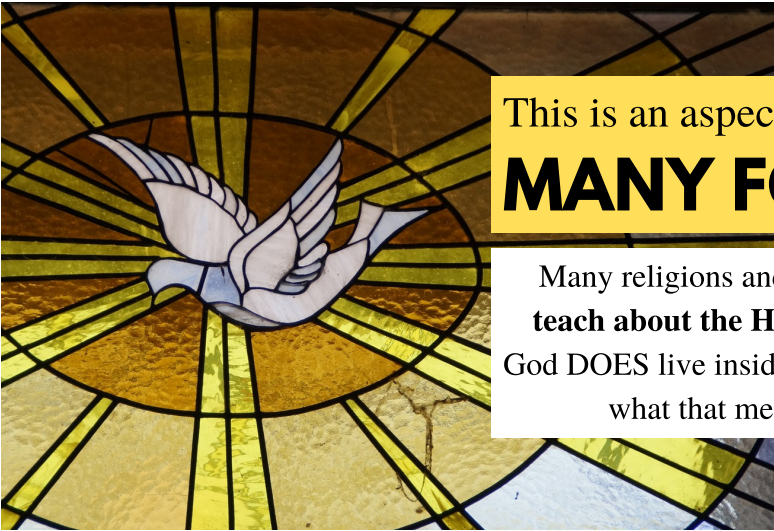
The last main thing that this New Covenant gives us is God’s spirit living on the inside of us. You might of heard it called the Holy Spirit. In the Old Covenant, God literally lived in the temple. He was everywhere at all times, but his home was really the temple, and he didn’t live inside of people. **There was no direct access to God,** and if you needed something from God, most of the time you had to go to the temple and speak with the priest. But when Jesus died, he said that he was not going to leave us alone. He was going to send the Spirit to live inside of us. This is a great aspect of this New Covenant – **now God lives in us, and we have direct access to him.** **2 Corinthians 6:16** makes it clear that while God lived in a temple in the Old Testament, WE are now the temple that God lives in.



John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be **in you.**





This is an aspect of the New Covenant

MANY FORGET ABOUT

Many religions and churches out there **don't heavily teach about the Holy Spirit**. They might believe that God **DOES** live inside of them, but they don't really know what that means or talk about it too much.

The Holy Spirit means that

WE CAN HAVE POWER

Jesus told the disciples after he rose again to wait for the Spirit. When they received it, they got power. This is what caused them to be able to change their world and do miracles, signs and wonders among the people.



This wasn't available in

THE OLD COVENANT

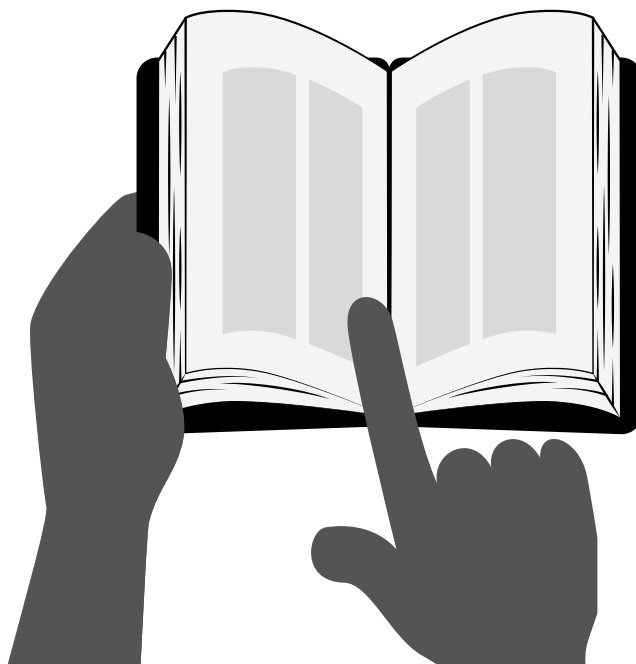
Christians today are living as if it doesn't exist. But the "Holy Spirit" is nothing but God's spirit living on the inside of us and operating through us.

Our main mission in this New Covenant is to

PREACH THE GOSPEL

Jesus said that signs and miracles would also follow our ministries, because we have God's spirit as well. It gives us the power to do our mission and spread the kingdom of the New Covenant all over the world.





So, when we ignore this wonderful, important aspect of the New Covenant, we're crippling ourselves from doing the mission that Christ sent us to do. We've been saved and made right with God, but we still have a job to do, and we can't do that without **acknowledging** the Holy Spirit living on the inside of us.

... and accessing it.

So, let's

recap

and name all of the things that this New Covenant gives us.



It gives us

FORGIVENESS OF SINS



It gives us

GRACE

Remember, grace is just unearned favor with God.

It gives us

RIGHTEOUSNESS



It gives us

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We now have all these things plus many more BECAUSE of this New Covenant we're under. **1 Peter** actually says that the prophets of the Old Testament and the angels themselves longed to just catch a glimpse of these things, but you and I have them.

1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that would come to you, searched and carefully investigated. They inquired into what time or what circumstances the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified in advance to the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you. These things have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

They wanted to know WHEN this New Covenant would come. **When would we get all these things?** Now, we know that after Jesus died and gave us his spirit, we enjoy all these benefits. So it kind of makes you wonder: **Why don't more people talk about this New Covenant?** Why are many preachers around the world simply preaching whatever makes themselves and people feel good? Why do many people believe that we're under a New Covenant, but still talk and act as if some things from the Old Covenant still apply to us? Why aren't more people seeing how important it is to KNOW the New Covenant? The Bible says that we're ministers of this New Covenant:

2 Corinthians 3:6

He has made us competent to be **ministers of a new covenant**, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



Paul and the other apostles were not just ministers – **they were ministers of a New Covenant, a better covenant.** It was at the core of their preaching and their lives. They knew that they were under a new way of doing things, and they went everywhere talking about this New Covenant. It's why they were killed for their faith. They would not have been killed if they were simply preaching the same, Old Covenant.

I believe that **all Christians are ministers in some shape or form.** You might be a minister in your family where you talk to your spouse or children about the Gospel. You might even be a minister at your workplace, helping your coworkers understand God more. But just remember, you're a minister of the New Covenant. So you should always be asking yourself, **“Is what I'm sharing about God a “New Covenant message”?** Is it representing forgiveness of sins, grace, righteousness, and the Holy Spirit?” Again, we shouldn't just preach a “Bible message” or a message that helps people reach their personal goals in life. It should be a New Covenant message.

I'm not saying that every single sermon needs to be about the New Covenant, or every word we share about God should include something about the New Covenant.

But the New Covenant should be at the core of everything we share, and we should understand what it means. I think if our messages and preaching somehow teaches that someone is righteous by their works, **that is not a New Covenant message.**

Back in **2 Corinthians 3:6**, he says that the “letter” kills. In context, **the “letter” he’s referring to is the law of Moses.** Whenever they taught the law of Moses and that people were justified by keeping it, it actually brought death to the people. No one could ever fully keep it, so when they tried and failed, it brought death and condemnation. Other places in the Bible says that when the Old Covenant is preached, a spiritual veil is put over their faces and separates them from God. The same goes for today. **When we preach a message that carries the spirit of the Old Covenant and not the new, it condemns people and distances them from God.** It does this because at the core of the Old Covenant, it taught that they were made righteous by works. When we teach and believe this today, we are diminishing the blood of Jesus. These are the dangers of NOT being a true minister of the New Covenant.

Romans 7:6

But now we have been released from the law, since we have died to what held us, so that we may serve in the **newness of the Spirit and not in the old letter of the law.**

We’ve been released from the Old Covenant **so that we can serve God in the new way – the way of the Spirit and the New Covenant.** It’s just something that all Christians should be mindful of in their relationship with God.

Remember how God’s original covenant for the children of Israel was a grant covenant where they would be a holy nation of kings and priests unto Him? Well, when Jesus brought in the New Covenant, **God was restoring and fulfilling this covenant with Jesus.** And if we put our faith in Jesus, we TOO are in this covenant with God, heirs with Christ, getting all the benefits of it.

In 1 Peter, he quotes that same scripture from the Old Testament, and says that this covenant scripture is now fulfilled in us, the people who are believers in Christ!



1 Peter 2:9

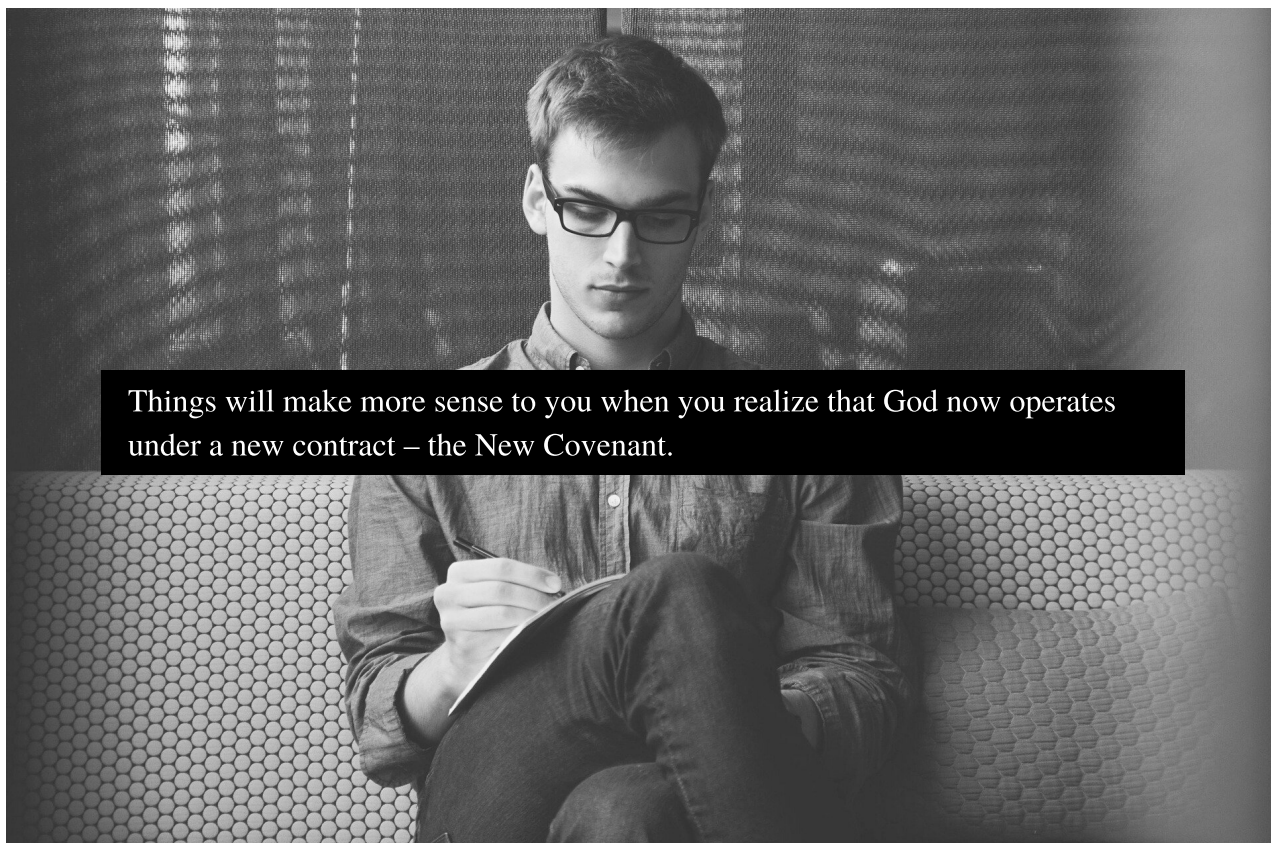
But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession,** so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



In conclusion

This is a great place for you to begin learning more about the Bible.

Now that you have the New Covenant at the core, it's going to be easier to learn about other things in the Bible



What's next?



LEARN THE BIBLE AND GROW

Thanks for reading! This book was a resource to help you learn the Bible and grow in your relationship with God. At the moment, we're creating more books and resources to help you even more! If you have any questions or comments at all about the material you just read, we're asking everyone to address them on our [Facebook page](#). That way, more of our followers will be able to see the interaction and be helped by the questions and the answers. For now, check out more FREE resources on our site to grow even more!

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