

The *Old* or the **NEW** Covenant and that

OBSOLETE LAW

So, what's going on?

Adam and Eve sinned breaking the Law of God and caused all to sin and come under the **Law of Sin and Death**. Eternal life was no longer an option; death was the legal enforceable sentence until an acceptable penalty could be paid.

From our beginning, the Creator and the Word formulated each step of the plan of salvation for mankind, comprising of:

- **Teaching mankind** about sin and the penalty for breaking God's Law.
- **Living the way of God**—the only way of life.
- **Loving God** and **valuing His generous gift of grace**.

From the time of Adam and Eve, most people did not choose the Law of God and wickedness, cruelty, and detestable practices became the norm. Living in darkness and selfishness became a delight. Bad was good, lies were truth, self-reliance, self-determination, self-glory—selfishness infected the people like a contagious deadly plague.

God looked on the earth and He was grieved that He had created man, for they desired only wickedness. So, He caused the great flood and it destroyed everyone on the earth, except for eight people of whom, He gave grace. They were righteous so, they were saved.

*“But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8).*

God so loves His creation that He does not desire anyone to die but that all receive eternal life. When the earth was created, all of the sons of God sang for joy.

*“Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? ...On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the **morning stars sang together** and **all the sons of God shouted for joy?**” (Job 38:6-7)*

It didn't take long for mankind to go astray—again. At the time of Babel, God decided to divide the nations and set over them the members of His heavenly court to teach and help mankind to keep the Law of God and live His way.

*“God presides in the great assembly; **he gives judgment among the 'gods'**” (Psalm 82:1).*

*“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples **according to the number in his heavenly court**” (New Living Translation Deuteronomy 32:8).*

God participated in this new allocation of rulership. While of sons of God ruled the nations, God's portion was and remains the descendants of Jacob/Israel. They are His inheritance.

“For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:9).

“The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, ‘Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and **Israel my inheritance**’” (Isaiah 19:25).

The members of God’s heavenly court assigned to the nations rebelled against God and taught the nations they ruled over, to break the Law of God and worship them instead of the Almighty God. Mankind was led astray again, falling deeper and deeper into sin. These sons of God will be punished sometime in the future; they will be moralized and die like mere men.

"But I say, that **the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils**" (1 Corinthians 10:20).

“The *gods* of other nations are mere idols, but the LORD made the heavens!” (Psalm 96:5)

“I said, ‘You are *gods*; you are all sons of the Most High. But **you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler**’” (Psalm 82:6).

Undeterred, God and the Word continued their rescue plan with one small family re-teaching them the Law and the way of God. Together, the Creator and Christ established the Old Covenant with the children of Israel.

The Old Covenant was a conditional agreement between God and the Israelites. They were to:

- **KEEP THE LAW OF GOD** and then the nation of Israel would be a premier nation on earth and a light to the disobedient nations ruled by rogue sons of God.

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then **you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine**” (Exodus 19:5-6).

- **BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS:** Upon obeying God, He would bless them, but if they disobeyed, they would be cursed.

Blessings:

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

- You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.
- The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.
- Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.
- You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.
- The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.
- The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

- The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.
- The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

Cursings:

However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and **do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees** I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:

- You will be **cursed in the city and cursed in the country.**
- Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.
- **The fruit of your womb will be cursed,** and the **crops of your land,** and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.
- You will be **cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.**
- The Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him. The Lord will **plague you with diseases** until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. The Lord will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.
- The **Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.** You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth. Your carcasses will be food for all the birds and the wild animals, and there will be no one to frighten them away. The Lord will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured. The Lord will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind. At midday you will grope about like a blind person in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you.

- You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but **another will take her and rape her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it.** You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit. Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will eat none of it. Your donkey will be forcibly taken from you and will not be returned. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no one will rescue them. Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand. A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labor produce, and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days. The sights you see will drive you mad. The Lord will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.
- The Lord will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your ancestors. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone. **You will become a thing of horror, a byword and an object of ridicule among all the peoples where the Lord will drive you.**
- **You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little,** because locusts will devour it. You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them. You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off. You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity. Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.
- **The foreigners who reside among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower.** They will lend to you, but you will not lend to them. They will be the head, but you will be the tail.
- All these curses will come on you. **They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed,** because you did not obey the Lord your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you. They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever. Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.
- **The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away,** from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand, a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young. They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or olive oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined. They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the Lord your God is giving you.
- Because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you. Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on

his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children, and he will not give to one of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating. It will be all he has left because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of all your cities. The most gentle and sensitive woman among you—so sensitive and gentle that she would not venture to touch the ground with the sole of her foot—will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For in her dire need she intends to eat them secretly because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of your cities.

- If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the Lord your God—the Lord will **send fearful plagues on you and your descendants**, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. The Lord will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed. You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the Lord your God. Just as it pleased the Lord to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.
- Then **the Lord will scatter you among all nations**, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!”—because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. The Lord will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you. (Deuteronomy 28: 16-68)

The nations of the Israelites have craved the ways of the people in the nations. They love stardom, superpower status, and self-glory, control and power. God called them to be a humble nation of priests in God’s royal kingdom, but this does not appeal to them because they don’t understand true greatness—greatness in humility, teachability, meekness, selflessness, kindness, compassion and love.

- **HOLY DAYS:** God’s plan for mankind is transparent and was given to His people—the Israelites in the form of Holy days (Leviticus 23).
Fulfilled:
 - ✓ **The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread:** Christ’s sacrifice and the reminder for us to purge ourselves of sin, represented in seven days of eating unleavened bread.

- ✓ **Feast of First-Fruits:** Christ was resurrected and is the first to be resurrected. He is the first of the first-fruits. The resurrection of the saints is sure.
- ✓ **Feast of Weeks/Pentecost:** The receiving of God's Holy Spirit resulting in a new man, loving God and entering into an intimate relationship with Him, desiring to obey God's Law. A renewed group of people gathered following Christ wherever he goes.



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Still Unfulfilled:

- **Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets:** Christ's return and the first resurrection.
 - **Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement:** The sins of God's people removed and returned to Satan's place of wickedness.
 - **Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles:** Millennial 1,000 year-rule of Christ and the saints.
 - **Last Great Day:** Final Great White Throne Judgement of mankind.
- **SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM:** The temple and sacrificial system involved only the Levites as priests. It was designed to teach the Israelites about sin and the penalty of breaking God's Law. The sacrificial system was also a foreshadow of Christ's sacrifice and payment for our sins. It also included a system of tithing:
 - As a means to support the Levites and priests serving at the temple in Jerusalem as they did not own property or work outside the temple (Numbers 18:21-26).
 - Provided means for keeping God's Holy days in Jerusalem each year. If they lived far away and since the Holy days were kept only in Jerusalem, instead of bringing animals and produce, they could bring money (Deuteronomy 14:22-26).
 - Tithes were used to assist the needy (Deuteronomy 14:27-29).

This sacrificial system was abruptly halted when the Jews entered into a devastating battle against the Romans, which led to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.. Jerusalem is the only location established by God for the sacrificial system. We presently live in the "many days" of Hosea, when there will be no sacrifice.

"For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods" (Hosea 3:4).

Limitations of the Old Covenant:

- There was no hope of eternal life. (II Corinthians 3:6)
- There was no Savior for mankind only a foreshadow of a Savior.

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION ACCOMPLISHED MORE THAN THE SPILLING OF BLOOD FOR PAYMENT OF SIN. In total, it:

- **Paid the penalty of sins for all of mankind.**

“Christ paid the price to free us from the curse that the laws in Moses’ Teachings bring by becoming cursed instead of us. Scripture says, ‘Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed.’ **Christ paid the price** so that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to all the people of the world through Jesus Christ and we would receive the promised Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-15).

- **Released the divorced house of Israel from the old marriage covenant.** Now, God considers the house of Israel as virgins, no longer adulteresses.

“**I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce** and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet, I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery” (Jeremiah 3:8).

“In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the Living God’” (Hosea 1:10).

“I will build you up again, and you, **Virgin Israel**, will be rebuilt” (Jeremiah 31:4).

“Surely you have heard about the **administration of God’s grace** that was given to me for you, that is, the **mystery made known to me by revelation**, as I have already written briefly... you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles [both divorced Gentiles and Gentiles by birth] are heirs together with Israel**, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!” (Ephesians 3:2-21).

- **Overthrew the rogue sons of God who ruled the nations.**

“**None of the rulers of this age understood it**, for if they had, **THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY**” (I Corinthians 2:8).

“He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the **written code, with its regulations, that war against us** and that **stood opposed to us**; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having **DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES**, he made a **PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS**” (Colossians 2:13-15).

“This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, **He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.**’ What does ‘**He ascended**’ mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens**, in order to fill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-9).

- **Established a new group of leaders over the nations.** The authority originally given to the sons of God ruling over the nations was won in conquest by Christ and he gave it to his church/his bride to be teachers and spread the gospel to the world.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (Mathew 28:18).

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God’s people for works of services, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the father and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

- **Made obsolete the Law of Sin and Death.** The penalty is paid. There will be no death (second death—since all die a first death) for repentant people. The Old Covenant is fast becoming obsolete. When ALL repent, receive God’s Holy Spirit and keep the Law of God meticulously, the New Covenant with its better promises will be enforced.

“When God speaks of a ‘new’ covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and **will soon disappear** [not totally disappeared yet]” (Hebrews 8:13).

To the 21st century Israelites, God says, “I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you [now possible with God’s Holy Spirit]... **you will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws**” (Ezekiel 36:24-27).

- **Made available God’s Holy Spirit** so that now, finally repentant people can willingly obey the Law of God, live the way of God, and love their Creator as He loves us.

“But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7).

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will testify about Me” (John 15:26).

THE NEW COVENANT is an agreement between God and the people of Israel, but is different in that it has better promises.

“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**” (Hebrews 8:6).

It was part of the plan from the beginning.

“For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was **his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus**” (II Timothy 1:9).

- **Payment of our sins has been accepted by God through Christ’s sacrifice.**
- We are given **God’s Holy Spirit**, so that we can **willingly** keep the **Law of God**.

“For this is the love of God, that we **keep his commandments**: and **his commandments are not grievous**” (I John 5:3).
- The blessings are both physical and eternal treasures.

“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share, thus **storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future**, so that they may take hold of that **which is truly life**” (I Timothy 6:18-19).

- God’s plan remains transparent with the Holy days in place, as annual reminders.

“Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and **to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles**” (Zechariah 14:16).
- The sacrificial system will be re-established during the 1,000-year rule of Christ as a teaching mechanism of sin and the penalty when the Law of God is broken.

“And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, **all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.**

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

The Sovereign Lord declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: ‘I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered’” (Isaiah 56:6-8).

“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, thus says the Lord God: These are the **ordinances for the altar:** On the day when it is erected **for offering burnt offerings** upon it and **for throwing blood against it,** you shall give to the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who draw near to me to minister to me, declares the Lord God, a bull from the herd for a sin offering. And you shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the ledge and upon the rim all around. Thus you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it. You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and pit shall be burned in the appointed place belonging to the temple, outside the sacred area. And on the second day you shall offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering; and the altar shall be purified, as it was purified with the bull. When you have finished purifying it, you shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish and a ram from the flock without blemish. You shall present them before the Lord, and the priests shall sprinkle salt on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the Lord. For seven days you shall provide daily a male goat for a sin offering; also, a bull from the herd and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be provided. Seven days shall they make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and so consecrate it. And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, declares the Lord God” (Ezekiel 43:18-27).
- We now have a mediator; Christ intervenes for us and pleads our case.

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.** Therefore, **let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need**” (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- Eternal life is now available to those who repent and get baptized, receive God’s Holy Spirit and keep God’s Law.

- An intimate relationship with God is now open for all of mankind. The veil has been rent and God welcomes us to come directly to Him.

“When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit. At that moment **the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**. The earth quaked and the rocks split” (Matthew 27:5).

“Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has **done** for us” (Ephesians 2:18).

The Old and New Covenants were made with the nation of Israel because they are God’s inheritance at the time He divided the nations and they are also His first-born son, which means, there are many more sons to come—all from the nations of the world.

“Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son.**' So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn” (Exodus 4:22-23).

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb**. They were **wearing white robes** and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’... These are **they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb**. They are **before the throne of God** and serve him day and night in his temple; and **he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them**. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:9-17).

In summary:

The Old Covenant was established to re-teach the Israelites the Law of God. The house of Israel continually broke the Law of God; they were faithless. The house of Judah added many laws that pushed the people away from the Law of God; they were unfaithful. It was a covenant with only physical blessings without any hope for life eternal.

The New Covenant was established to re-teach the Israelites and all of mankind the Law of God. It is a covenant with **better promises**: freedom from the Law of Sin and Death, gift of grace, spiritual strength through God’s Holy Spirit, awarding of physical and spiritual blessings, and the restoration of hope for eternal life.

The only law that is obsolete, is the Law of Sin and Death. It is as simple as that!

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich