

Out with the Old – In with the New

The Covenant Relationship Between God and Man

Introduction

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

- 1. The term "New Testament" or "New Covenant" necessarily implies that there was an "Old Testament" or "Old Covenant".**
 - A. God's dealings with His people in the various dispensations of the world's history have been in terms of covenant.**
- 2. The term "Testament" or "Covenant" means *"a solemn disposition, or contract"*.**

Out with the Old

- 1. The old law has been done away with. Even though we can learn how God dealt with His people of long ago, we today are not under this "Old Covenant".**

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2. Several New Testament scriptures give proof that the Old Covenant under Moses has been done away with. Jesus nailed the old covenant to the cross!

Ephesians 2:15-16

Colossians 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

B. Paul says we can only serve one. Today we must serve the Law that Jesus came and died for.

Galatians 5:1-4

C. In the marriage relationship Paul gives us a lesson on what it means to be bound as he contrasts this relationship with the keeping of the law (the Old Law of Moses).

Romans 7:1-6

3. Even Moses pointed to the coming Christ and instructs us to follow Him.

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

A. Peter emphasized later in Acts 3:22-23 what Moses had said.

Acts 3:22-23 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

4. The Old Covenant was done away with because it was faulty.

Hebrews 8:7-8

In with the New

- 1. Christ connects the "New Covenant" with His blood. At the Last Supper when Jesus initiated this memorial the disciples may have thought about the transaction described in Exodus 24.**

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup **is the new covenant in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Exodus 24:7-8 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." And Moses **took the blood, sprinkled it on the people**, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

- A. The blood was sacrificial blood, the blood of animals sacrificed as burnt offerings and peace offerings.**
 - 1) When Moses did this **half** the blood was sprinkled on the altar - the sacrifice offered to God. The other half sprinkled on the people - the virtue of the same sacrifice applied to the people.**
- B. Christ speaking of His blood in this connection, plainly indicates that His death was a sacrifice, and that through His sacrifice His people would be brought into a NEW COVENANT relationship with God!**
 - 1) Notice the following scriptures:**
Luke 22:20

Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is **shed for many for the remission of sins**.

2. The Use in Hebrews:

A. The Shed Blood.

- 1) The writer draws out fully the contrast between the new and old covenant by showing the perfection of Christ's atonement in contrast to the material and typical sacrifices of the old.
Hebrews 9:11-28
- 2) The blood of those offerings only procured ceremonial cleansing - Jesus' blood cleanses the conscience "*from dead works to serve God*"
- 3) He was perfect - without blemish - the perfect, complete sacrifice for ALL!
- 4) The **blood is the life**. It is the **symbol of life**. The blood Christ shed is the **symbol of life outpoured for us**.
- 5) He shed His blood so we can have forgiveness of our sins!

B. The Mediator

- 1) Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant.
 - a) He is the **go-between man and God**.
 - b) His sacrifice - His blood - must come in contact with us before we can enjoy the blessings that are only associated in Him
Romans 6:3-5

C. "Inheritance" and "Will"

- 1) **Not only does the blessing of perfect forgiveness come through the New Covenant, but also the promise of the "eternal inheritance".**
 - a) **This is in contrast to the earthly inheritance that Israel obtained under the Old Covenant.**
- 2) **The idea of verse 17 is that the death is necessary to the establishment of the covenant with God.**
 - a) **Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins (vs 22)**

D. Relationship to Jeremiah 31:31-34:

- 1) **The New Covenant established by Christ was foretold by the prophet Jeremiah. He even uses the word "New Covenant" in describing it: (Restated in Hebrew 8:8)**
Jeremiah 31:31-34

E. Relationship to Ezekiel:

- 1) **Ezekiel had spoken of the same effect, though the word "New Covenant" is not used.**
Ezekiel 36:26-28
- 2) **Other foretellings of the New Covenant are found in:**

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you — The sure mercies of David.

3. Paul's contrast of the Old and New:

- A. In 2 Corinthians 3:5-12 Paul has an interesting and instructive contrast between the Old and New Covenant.
2 Corinthians 3:5-12
- B. He says that our sufficiency is from God - not in a written code.
 - 1) The written code is **the letter of the law, the Old Testament (Covenant)** which could only bring condemnation.
 - 2) But the spirit which characterizes the New Covenant gives life, it writes the law upon our heart!
- C. The message of the New Covenant is **the gospel of Christ.**
- D. The glory of the New Covenant is focused in Christ and shines forth from Him.

Conclusion

1. All people today are **under the New Covenant** (The New Testament) that Jesus died for.
2. We cannot do things based upon what individuals were commanded to do or practiced under the Old Covenant of Moses.

Galatians 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes **circumcised** that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

- A. Those that practice parts of the Old Testament today, then are obligated to practice all of the Old Law.
 - B. Too many in denominations want to set the Old Law on a big table and pick and choose what parts they want to still do under that Old, abolished covenant.
3. Only those that want to come in contact with the blood of Christ will be saved.
 - A. We must be willing to die to our old ways, be buried with Christ, and arise to walk anew.
Romans 6:3-8

