

GOD IS IN THE PROCESS OF RECLAIMING THE WORLD!

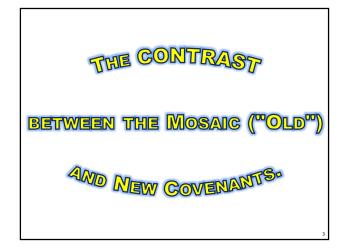
✓ The final outcome can be seen in the words of this song, which will be sung in the presence of God:

"... you [= Jesus, as the "Lamb"] were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:9b-10 (NIV)

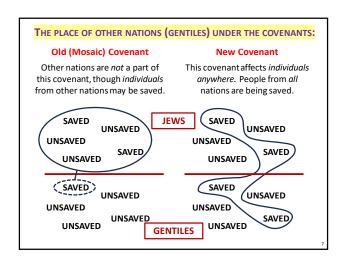
- ✓ But many things need to happen before this time.
 - To start, those who will be a part of the kingdom of God need to know how to live as members of the kingdom!
 - Two covenants accomplish this: The Mosaic Covenant teaches us how to live, and the New Covenant embeds within us (God's people) the desire to live that way.



THE LAW, IN THE MOSAIC AND NEW COVENANTS:	
Mosaic Covenant's LAW	New Covenant's LAW
God's Law is <i>external</i> , written on tablets of stone.	God's Law is <i>internal</i> , written on the heart.
This law is addressed to a <i>group</i> , which contains both saved and unsaved people.	This law is embedded in the hearts and minds of saved <i>individuals</i> . (Unsaved people may try faking it.)
People <i>must choose</i> whether or not to live by it. Doing so requires trusting God for the needed heart change.	These people do choose to live by it; they do trust God; they do have a changed heart.
Many who hear this law <i>remain</i> unsaved. They <u>all</u> are born with unchanged hearts, and many never trust God (in order to receive the changed hearts/minds, which would result in changed lives).	100% of those who "hear" (recognize and submit to) this law are saved. (In this present world, there will be others who claim to be saved, but who's hearts and lives remain unchanged.)

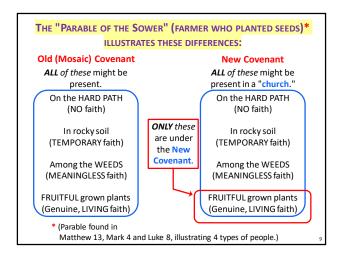
WHO IT IS ADDRESSED TO: **Old (Mosaic) Covenant New Covenant** Addressed to the entire group. Embedded within the As individuals, they must decide individual. They do respond whether or not to trust God. with trust in God. SAVED SAVED UNSAVED UNSAVED UNSAVED UNSAVED **SAVED** SAVED UNSAVED UNSAVED The accomplishments of the New Covenant could not occur until Jesus made it possible, through his sacrifice and resurrection. The New Covenant brings changes in our desires and actions. (The moral obligations do not change.)

HOW A PERSON ENTERS THE COVENANT: Old (Mosaic) Covenant New Covenant By physical birth. The person is By spiritual birth, by the born unsaved, and may (or may Holy Spirit, at the time the not) choose to trust God. person is saved. The people had to be repeatedly Those under this covenant do trust told to trust God, because most of God – though at times they may have a temporary lapse of faith, or them didn't. More often than not. Israel's history was characterized may need encouragement to ${\it grow}$ by rebellion against God. in their faith/trust.

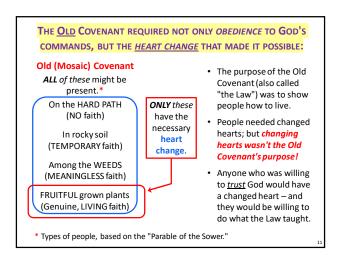


UNDER THE NEW COVENANT: WHAT WE SEE, VS. WHAT GOD SEES: Being part of the is NOT the same as a "church." **New Covenant** In some Scripture passages, the word "church" refers only to saved people. These people have changed hearts. (We might call this "the church as God sees it.") This would match the concept of "New Covenant." • In other passages, the word "church" refers to people in a local area, who meet together. This would include not only saved people, but also people who have not made such a commitment - children (who are not old enough to understand), fakes (who might claim to be saved, though their actions deny it), and even people asking questions (about what it means to follow Jesus). * This mixture of individuals would be more similar to the mixture of saved-unsaved people that were present in Israel,

under the Old Covenant.



Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." 2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV) • The Lord knows. You can't fool him – and it's stupid to try! • Our duty isn't merely to claim we are saved. We must back up this claim with a willingness to turn away from wickedness! If we aren't willing to do this, we aren't saved. • This obligation is found throughout the New Testament. It's not a "work" for salvation. If we do it out of love for God, we are demonstrating that the heart changes have actually occurred. • Even under the Old Covenant, there was a need to trust God and to obey him.



THIS IS WHY MOSES AND THE PROPHETS (AND GOD) KEPT

EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR A CHANGED HEART... IN PEOPLE

WHO WERE ALREADY UNDER THE OLD COVENANT!

Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

Deuteronomy 5:29 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your Strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 (NIV)

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Isaiah 29:13b (NIV)



THE MOSAIC (OLD) COVENANT: WORTHLESS FOR SAVING PEOPLE.

✓ The Old Covenant sacrifices *could not* accomplish what Jesus did.

The former regulation [= what the Levitical priests did] is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced [= what Jesus did], by which we draw near to God.

Hebrews 7:18-19 (NIV)

✓ We have <u>all</u> sinned <u>many times</u>. Yet even just <u>one</u> sin – just <u>one</u> violation of the Law – would place us under its curse.

All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10 (BSB); quoting Deuteronomy 27:26.

✓ Our only hope is in Jesus, who lived a sinless life.

[Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15b (NIV)

... Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1b (BSB)

✓ He paid for our sin, by dying in our place, on the cross. He became our curse.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Galatians 3:13 (BSB); quoting Deuteronomy 21:23.

✓ What the Law couldn't do, God did through Jesus, who – by his death and resurrection – brought to us the New Covenant.

"This is the **covenant** I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord.

I will put My laws in their hearts and inscribe them on their minds."

Hebrews 10:16 (BSB)

√ This covenant was confirmed/sealed/ratified by his blood – the sacrifice of himself on the cross.

... the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.

Luke 22:20b (BSB)

[You have come] ... to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood ...

Hebrews 12:24a (BSB)

- ✓ Under the New Covenant, Jesus accomplished the "great exchange," which enables us to be seen as righteous in God's sight.
 - The Law requires perfect righteousness. We could never meet this requirement. But Jesus met it for us with this "great exchange."

God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (BSB)

✓ What Jesus did affects not only our standing before God, but also our attitude toward doing good!

[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:14 (NIV)

WHY DID THE LAW FAIL?

(Salvation wasn't its purpose; but it couldn't accomplish it anyway.)

✓ The LAW is *good*. In fact, its commands are *holy*, *righteous* and *good*.

So then, the law is **holy**, and the commandment is **holy**, **righteous**, and **good**.

Romans 7:12 (BSB)

✓ But SIN used that <u>good</u> law to increase our <u>desire to sin.</u>

For sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through the commandment put me to death.

Did that which is good, then, become death to me? Certainly not!

But in order that sin might be exposed as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Romans 7:11, 13 (BSB)

What the Law couldn't do (because of what sin did with it), God did through Jesus. Sin used our flesh to destroy <u>us</u>... so Jesus took on human flesh to destroy <u>sin!</u>

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ...

Romans 8:3 (NIV)

✓ Now, God sees the law's righteous requirements as having been met in us – people who, under the New Covenant, now desire to live according to the Spirit!

And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:3b-4 (NIV)

(Though worthless for saving people...)

THE MOSAIC (OLD) COVENANT: EXCELLENT FOR SHOWING PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE.

- As long as we keep things within context.
- ✓ Moral principles that apply to all people, at all times, everywhere.
- ✓ Regulations that apply only to nations, and not to individuals.
- ✓ Obligations given only to Israel because God chose them to be a light to the world.

As a nation, Israel failed in all of these matters.

Yet we cannot necessarily say that we have done any better.

There is much we can learn from the law. If we *trust* God, we can pursue the "obedience of faith" (Romans 1:5; 16:26) that the Holy Spirit – under the New Covenant – enables us to pursue!

OUR MISSION:

Learn to think CLEARLY about these issues!

- ⇒ Both Old and New Testaments affirm that the Law is *GOOD*.
- Yet, because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, parts of the Law have been fulfilled and no longer apply to us. (Other parts, written for specific groups, might have never applied to us.)
- ⇒ We need to learn to distinguish between the parts that don't apply to us, and the ones that do apply! (This is our future goal.)

We will end with a CONSIDERATION and a WARNING.



A CONSIDERATION: THE LAW (PRIMARILY THE MORAL LAW) IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS HAVING THREE USES UNDER THE NEW COVENANT:

- To RESTRAIN SIN. Even though sin still finds ways to express itself, knowledge of the law has at least some restraining effect. None of us lives up to our maximum potential to sin!
- 2. To POINT US TO CHRIST. We discover that we don't and can't attain the righteous requirements of the law. We need the "Great Exchange," in which Jesus takes our sin, and gives us his righteousness. Though we aren't sinless, this exchange means that God sees the righteousness of Jesus (instead of our sin) as though it were accomplished in us.
- 3. To SHOW US HOW TO LIVE. The law is holy and good. Under the New Covenant, God embeds within us the desire to live holy and to do what is good. We learn from the law what these holy and good things are!

WARNING: PEOPLE TEND TO EMPHASIZE HALF OF THE TRUTH.

- People who emphasize works tend to forget the need to trust God for the ability to do those works.
- People who emphasize <u>trust/faith</u> in God tend to forget the need to pursue the holiness that results in <u>obedience</u> to God.
- We need to emphasize <u>both</u>, being fully aware that God is the one who makes <u>both</u> possible. He gives us a living faith!

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, ... created in Christ Jesus to do good works, ...

Ephesians 2:8a, 10b (BSB)

For God is working in you, giving you the desire [= the heart change] and the power to do [= action/works] what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

So too, **faith** by itself, if it does not result in **action**, is dead.

James 2:17 (BSB)

Credits

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