

# #16

## A New Covenant

Covenant and Testament come from the same Greek word which means contract. A will is a specific kind of contract. Through the New Testament we were made heirs of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our becoming heirs was subject to certain conditions. What we are required to do is accept the terms of God's contract.

Let's take a brief look at the Original Covenant and then we'll look at the New Covenant.

### The Original Covenant

The Old Covenant of the Old Testament was a contract between God and the nation of Israel. God agreed to bless and in return Israel agreed to obey all that God commanded. Israel broke that contract. But the Old Covenant was not designed to bring salvation. Salvation was the purpose of the New Covenant.

**Exodus 19:5-8** – <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant**, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: <sup>6</sup> And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. <sup>8</sup> And all the people answered together, and said, **All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.** And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

**Hebrews 9:1-10** – <sup>1</sup> Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup> For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. <sup>3</sup> And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; <sup>4</sup> Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; <sup>5</sup> And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. <sup>6</sup> Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. <sup>7</sup> But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

<sup>8</sup> The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: <sup>9</sup> Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; <sup>10</sup> Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

## A New Covenant Promised

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** – <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: <sup>32</sup> Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: <sup>33</sup> But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** <sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

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

## Jesus The Mediator

A mediator is “one who intervenes between two [parties], either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant.”

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

## Jesus Our Redeemer Under The New Covenant

**Hebrews 9:11-28** – <sup>11</sup> But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; <sup>12</sup> Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: <sup>14</sup> How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

<sup>15</sup> And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. <sup>16</sup> For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. <sup>17</sup> For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. <sup>18</sup> Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, <sup>20</sup> Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. <sup>21</sup> Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. <sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

<sup>23</sup> It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: <sup>25</sup> Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; <sup>26</sup> For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: <sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

## A New Commandment

The New Commandment that Jesus gave was essentially a clarification of the purpose behind the majority of the ten commandments which was to love our neighbor. John makes this clear when he writes, "I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment." (1 John 2:7) Jesus also states in the Gospels of Mark and Matthew that there are essentially two commandments; these are to love God and to love our neighbor. All the other commandments are based on these two.

**John 13:34-35** – <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**1 John 2:7-11** – <sup>7</sup> Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. <sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. <sup>9</sup> He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. <sup>10</sup> He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

**Mark 12:29-31** – <sup>29</sup> And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: <sup>30</sup> And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

**Matthew 22:34-40** – <sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. <sup>35</sup> Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> Master, which is the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Matthew 5:27** – <sup>27</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: <sup>28</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

## The Law Is Good

**Romans 7:12** – <sup>12</sup> Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

## The Law Shall Endure Forever

**Matthew 5:18** – <sup>18</sup> For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law**, till all be fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

## Summary

In the agreement that Israel made with God in the old testament, they simply promised to obey him and do all that he commanded. God then gave them the ten commandments, the feast days and the temple ceremonies. Israel failed to keep their covenant with God. Israel's failure was not a surprise to God, He knew it would happen. God promised a New Covenant in which he would write his laws in our mind and in our hearts. He delivered as promised.

Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant and under this covenant He is our redeemer. Jesus paid the price for our sins through His death. Through His resurrection he conquered death. By accepting Jesus as our Saviour we can receive his perfect righteous character and thereby obtain eternal life.

Jesus never said anything that would indicate the law was done away with. In fact Jesus raised the standard for Christians. He commanded us to love God with all our heart, mind and soul. He commanded us to love our neighbor as our own self. And finally, Jesus said that if we lust after a woman we have already committed adultery. What he was saying is that sin begins in the mind and that we are accountable for not only what we do but what we think.

Many people, even Christians don't like God's law but the word of God tells us that "the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Therefore, it is not surprising at all that the law shall last forever. Jesus said that if you want to be considered great in the Kingdom of God, you will obey the law and teach others to do the same.