

New Covenant

Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "*In you all the nations shall be blessed.*" So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Gal 3:7-9)

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "*And to your Seed,*" who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. (Gal 3:15-18)

Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:24-29)

For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "*You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*" For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. (Heb 7:14-19)

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*" But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. (Heb 8:1-7)

In that He says, "*A new covenant,*" He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Heb 8:13)

It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience – concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 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. (Heb 9:9-15)

For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, *"This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."* Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Heb 9:16-28)

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: *"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – to do Your will, O God.'* " Previously saying, *"Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them"* (which are offered according to the law), then He said, *"Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God."* He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb 10:1-10)

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. (Heb 10:10-18)

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (Heb 10:19-29)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Heb 12:22-24)

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13:20-21)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. (1Pe 1:1-2)

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1Pe 2:4-5)

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. (1Jo 3:4-9)

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (1Jo 5:18-20)

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (1Jo 3:23-24)

O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you? (Jer 4:14)

There is also an antitype [! to Noah's flood] which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. (1Pe 3:21-22)

Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. (2Pe 2:9-10)

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (Jam 1:25)

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1Pe 2:15-17)

What purpose then does the law serve?

It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. (Gal 3:19-20)

Is the law then against the promises of God?

Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:21-29)

This is the reverse process of what Abraham experienced. Abraham received the promises from God at the age of 70 years. Abraham began in faith, he believed God, and his faith in what God had told him made him righteous. (see Gen 15:6)

But after a while Sarah became impatient and gave her servant girl, Hagar, to Abraham, that they may receive a child by her. This was a demonstration of disbelief in God's promise to Abraham, and he sinned in the flesh by disobedience against God's word. Just as Eve had led Adam into sin! When Abraham was 99y, Ishmael his son by Hagar was 13y. God spoke to Abraham and instituted the covenant of circumcision. Abraham had not waited for the son of promise but through Hagar, an Egyptian, he had acquired a son of the flesh (Gen 17:10). This was a pattern of disobedience that the children of Israel (even Solomon!) followed, taking wives from other nations. So this covenant came about through their disobedience. He sinned in the flesh, so he had to be circumcised in the flesh. God speaks once and we must listen very carefully, see Numbers 22:12!

I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him. That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; and God requires an account of what is past. (Ecc 3:14-15)

This is the way God sees time, past, present, and future together. God knows what will be, so when He gives a person instructions they will achieve the very best result. For a person to be disobedient to God is foolish on three counts:

- 1) It is stupid to go against an Almighty God, just ask Jonah!
- 2) The act of disobedience is going to cost us something valuable.
- 3) This is God's best plan for us, because His plans are based on achieving the best result, through an accurate understanding and absolute knowledge of the plan's outcome.

Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus?

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (Joh 3:6)

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (Joh 3:12)

The fleshly practices, Moses' law, circumcision etc. were necessary because of the disobedience of men towards God's Word (see Gal 3:19 above). These earthly practices served as a model and an example, to teach us how to understand the working of the heavenly things.

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man. (1Co 15:46-49)

We are reborn from above by the Holy Spirit, not by fleshly practices. There is no fleshly sacrifice we can offer, as God came in the flesh to fulfill all the fleshly commandments, to die completely innocent of any transgression against God's Word. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, paid the full price of Sin; that anyone who believes in Him, may receive His Righteousness in exchange for that person's sin. What more can any man do to improve on this divine sinless, holy, offering? As our own righteousness is as dirty rags!

Abraham is the father of faith, and we are his children when we accept Jesus Christ by faith. However once saved we do not go running back to Moses law of washings and sacrifices, foods and clothing!

This is all works of the flesh, if we do we insult God's perfect sacrifice, telling Him that His work was not good enough! Isaiah 63:3-6 makes this divine work very clear.

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Col 3:1-4)

"These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." (Deu 5:22)

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal 5:24-25)

God has completed the work of justification, which we receive by faith, and we must study the Word of God to show ourselves approved, offering gifts of worship, and giving our time in the service of others to spread the Gospel. We keep the ten commandments in obedience and love for God and mankind. We look forward to the heavenly sanctuary, the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem made by God; which will come down from heaven to be planted on the New Earth. The Earth will be recreated after the judgment of fire. Which is after all the unrighteous, sin and death, have been completely destroyed in the lake of fire.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (Plp 3:20-21)

Old Covenant - Moses' Sacrificial Laws

Person – Melchizedek and Sons of Levi
High Priest – Each one replaced and died
Blood – Lambs, goats, calves, bulls.
Method – Sacrifice of animals lifeblood
Sacrificed – Continually for sin
Offering – Shadow of the True Sacrifice
Means - Sacrifice of animals
Continually reminded of Sin
Conscience - never cleansed
Sanctuary – Earthly made by men
Sanctuary – Lesser and imperfect
Sanctuary – Copy of the True
Covenant – Annulled and Obsolete
Covenant – Weak and unprofitable
Sin – Covered by animal blood
Person – Temporarily sanctified
Most Holy Place – Veiled and Deadly
Mediator – High Priest of the Temple
Son of God – Circumcision of the flesh

New Covenant – Grace of God

Jesus Christ
High Priest continually
Jesus' own blood paid the price
Scourging and death on the Cross
Offered once for all Mankind
Very image
Worship and good deeds
Sins taken away permanently
Conscience cleansed
Heavenly made by God
Greater and more perfect
Original made in the Beginning
Permanently replacing the Old
Perfect and better Covenant
All sin covered by Jesus Blood
Receives Christ's Righteousness
Veil was torn and is open to all
Jesus Christ of old and new
Repentance of the heart

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