

Old & New Covenants: Has the Old Testament Law Ended?

Lesson Text: **2 Timothy 2:15**

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“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah --
not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Hebrews 8:6-7

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.

Hebrews 8:13

“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”

Hebrews 10:9

Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second."

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."

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ Our Peace For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

2 Corinthians 3:6-16

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,

how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech --

unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Hebrews 7:18-19

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.

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Galatians 5:4

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,
 through whom also He made the worlds.

OLD & NEW COVENANTS**A. GOD MADE THE OLD COVENANT WITH ISRAEL (JEWS), AND GOD AND CHRIST MADE THE NEW COVENANT FOR BELIEVERS OF ALL NATIONS.**

1. **Jeremiah 31:31-32** – "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah --
not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.
1. **John 1:17** - For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

B. THE OLD COVENANT WAS GIVEN THROUGH MOSES, AND THE NEW COVENANT CAME BY CHRIST.

1. **Hebrews 1:1-2** - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.
1. **Matthew 17:5** - While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

C. THE OLD COVENANT WAS FAULTY, BUT THE NEW COVENANT WAS ESTABLISHED UPON BETTER PROMISES.

1. **Hebrews 8:6-7**

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.

D. THE OLD COVENANT HAS BEEN BLOTTED OUT, NAILED TO THE CROSS. THE NEW COVENANT IS STILL IN FORCE AND AVAILABLE TO ALL THE NATIONS.

1. **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.

2. **Ephesians 2:13**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

3. **Mark 16:15-26**

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

E. UNDER THE OLD COVENANT THE PEOPLE BECAME DEAD TO IT WHEN THE BODY OF CHRIST CAME. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT WE ARE MARRIED TO CHRIST.

1. **Romans 7:4**

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God

F. THE OLD COVENANT SEVERS FROM CHRIST. GOD NOW SPEAKS TO US THROUGH CHRIST'S COVENANT.

1. **Galatians 5:4**

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

2. **John 1:17**

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

G. THE OLD COVENANT WAS WRITTEN ON STONES. THE NEW COVENANT IS WRITTEN ON THE HEART.

1. **2 Corinthians 3:7**

If the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away.

2. **2 Corinthians 3:3**

You are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

3. **Hebrews 8:10**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

H. THE OLD COVENANT WAS ONLY A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME. THE NEW COVENANT IS GOD'S COMPLETED COVENANT WITH MAN.

1. **Hebrews 10:1**

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.

I. THE OLD COVENANT DID NOT HAVE A PERFECT PRIESTHOOD. THE NEW COVENANT HAS A PERFECT UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD.

1. **Hebrews 7:11-12**

Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

2. **Hebrews 7:21-28**

for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'"),

by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

3. **Hebrews 8:1-2**

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.

J. **UNDER THE OLD COVENANT THERE WAS A CONTINUAL OFFERING OF ANIMAL SACRIFICES. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT THERE WAS ONE SACRIFICE, AND THAT ONCE FOR ALL. I SPEAK OF THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS.**

1. **Hebrews 10:3-4**

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.

2. **Hebrews 9:22-26**

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.

K. THE OLD COVENANT WAS DONE AWAY WITH. THE NEW COVENANT REMAINS.

1. Hebrews 8:6-7

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.

2. Hebrews 8:13

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For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

5. 2 Corinthians 3:11

if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Old Law . . .the Law of Moses . . . served the purpose for which God intended it.
- B. The New Law . . . the Gospel of Christ . . . is serving the purpose for which God has intended it to serve.
- C. The Old Covenant was for the Jews only. The New Covenant is for all people . . . for all nations . . . everyone included . . . no one excluded . . . who will accept it and render the proper obedience to God through Jesus Christ.
- D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**