

Old & New Testaments

Gospel Foundation Of Faith: Shelf 1 — Volume 8

~ Change From The Old To The New ~

One of the most important subjects in Bible study is to determine which law of God was in force at any one time in history from the beginning of creation until today. It is especially critical to separate the covenant and law under which the Jews lived in the Old Testament from the covenant and law under which Christians live today.

A. From Genesis to Mount Sinai

Before the giving of the Sinai law to Israel at Mount Sinai, God worked with all those who were of the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Job may have also



God gave moral directions to the fathers of clans.

lived during the time of these patriarchs. With these people of faith God gave law through the fathers of the clans who lived before and during their time (Rm 2:14; Hb 1:1,2). Before God called the children of Israel into a special covenant relationship at Mount Sinai, there was no such thing as a Jewish race since a Jew is defined as one who was an

Israelite and in a covenant relationship with God as a part of national Israel.

After God established a special covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai, He continued to work with the Gentiles in reference to law as He had always worked with all mankind from the beginning of time. All of God's work with humanity through law has always been for the purpose of leading all people of faith to the revelation of the Son of God at a predetermined time in history.

From Mount Sinai onward, God worked in a spe-

cial covenant relationship with Israel. With this covenant, God also gave the Jews the Sinai law. This covenant and law would remain in force with the Jews until the activation of the new covenant that was revealed and established in Acts 2 in A.D. 30.



The Sinai Law Was Given Only To Israel.

When studying through the material that is revealed in the New Testament from Acts through Revelation, therefore, **one must keep in mind that the new covenant and law under which we now live as Christians has freed us from the Sinai covenant and law under which the Jews lived until the announcement of the gospel on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30** (Rm 7:1-4; Hb 9:16,17).

The Law Of Christ Frees Christians From The Sinai Law.

This new covenant and law will be in force until Jesus comes again. The Bible student must be cautious, therefore, not to bring laws from the Sinai law into the new covenant and law relationship that God now has with the gospel-obedient people of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Ministry Of Jesus To Pentecost

In the books of **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**, God recorded for us the events that would lead to the last days of national Israel. It was during this time that Jesus came to finalize the Sinai covenant and law that were originally established between God and Israel at Mount Sinai. **By fulfilling the purpose for which that covenant and law were given, Jesus fulfilled the Sinai law** (See Mt 5:17,18). It was thus nailed to the cross (Cl 2:14; Hb 10:9).

C. Fulfillment Of All Prophecies

The fact that Jesus fulfilled the purpose for which the Sinai law was given to the nation of Israel means that there was an end of that law when the nation of Israel was consummated in Christ. At the end of His ministry, and prior to His ascension, Jesus re-

mindful His disciples that all Old Testament prophecies had been fulfilled in Him (Lk 24:44). The Sinai law to which Jesus referred in Matthew 5:17,18 was fulfilled by the end of His ministry. Therefore, when the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Christ, then the covenant and law that God had given to the nation of Israel came to an end.

The special covenant relationship that God had established with national Israel 1,400 years before Jesus came was consummated in Christ. This consummation of the Sinai covenant and law took place when Jesus established His covenant with those who obeyed the gospel on and after the Pentecost of Acts 2. **Jesus took away the Sinai covenant**

that God had established with the nation of Israel in order to establish His new covenant that was ratified by the blood of His Son (Hb 10:9). All those who have obeyed the gospel since the Pentecost of A.D. 30, therefore, have now come into a new covenant relationship with God (Mt 26:26-29). They are now married to Christ (Rm 7:1-4).

One Cannot Claim
To Be Married
To Christ While
Keeping The Sinai Law.

D. Earthly Ministry To Reign

It is important to understand that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record Jesus' earthly ministry to the Jews in order to bring them to the gospel and acceptance of His kingdom reign that was to be established at the time of His ascension (See At 2:14-36; Ep 1:20-23). **Jesus lived under the Sinai covenant and law.** His ministry was to the Jews. Many things that Jesus said and did during His ministry, therefore,



Jesus Lived And
Died Under
The Sinai Law.

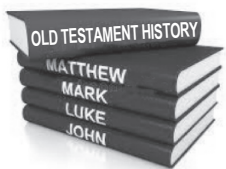
must be understood in the context of His ministry to the Jews, who with Himself, were living under the Sinai law. He lived without sin in reference to His obedience to the Sinai law (Hb 4:15). It is important to understand this lest we bring teachings of the Sinai law into the New Testament covenant and law under which those who

have obeyed the gospel now live. Jesus came to fulfill the Sinai law.

E. Rightly Applying Law

In order to understand the New Testament, we must rightly divide the word of God (2 Tm 2:15). We must understand what Jesus taught in reference to the Sinai covenant and law that God had established only with the nation of Israel, the Jews. Jesus' revelation of truth for us today was revealed through Himself and His apostles (See Jn 12:48; 14:26; 16:13).

The New Testament (covenant) of Jesus was established when men and women first came into a covenant relationship with God on the Pentecost of A.D. 30, which event is recorded in Acts 2. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, therefore, are books that record events of the Old Testament era while the Jews were still in a national covenant relationship with God. Acts through Revelation, however, record the events of the early disciples who were in a new covenant relationship with God because of their obedience to the gospel, which gospel had not been fully revealed during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Jesus' personal teachings were



recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for the benefit of His disciples (Jn 12:30,48). However, after His ascension, He continued to teach through His chosen apostles, to whom all necessary truth was later revealed by the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; 16:13).

- T or F:** Jesus' ministry took place while He lived under the New Testament law.
- Which book is a historical record of Jesus' earthly ministry?
(A) Matthew, (B) Romans, (C) Galatians, (D) Jude

F. The Christ-Sent Apostles

Throughout His ministry, Jesus prophesied of the new covenant and law that would come for those who would respond to His gospel call (Mt 26:26-

28; Jn 3:3-5). However, He reminded His disciples that in His immediate audience many would not understand His prophesied message to Israel, that the Jews' special covenant relationship with God through the Sinai covenant and law **was coming to an end** (See Mt 13:10-17). Nevertheless, it would be understood by those who would later come into a covenant relationship with God through their obedience to the gospel. Their obedience to the gospel meant that God had transferred them away from the kingdom of Israel to the kingdom reign of King Jesus (Cl 1:13). Throughout His ministry, therefore, Jesus led the Jews to the announcement of His kingdom reign. This would be the time when people would first come into a covenant relationship with God through their obedience to the gospel of His Son (At 2:38,41).

G. First Gospel Announcement

In fulfillment of Jesus' promise of Matthew 16:18,19, Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30 and officially announced for the first time in history the good news of the death of Jesus for our sins, His resurrection for our hope, and ascension to the right



Historical Events That Changed History

hand of God to reign as King of kings (At 2:29-33; 1 Tm 6:15). When thousands heard this gospel message, they were cut to the heart. In response to Peter's gospel message, therefore, thousands of people repented and asked what they should do in response to Peter's gospel message (At 2:37). Subsequently, and on that very day, about three thousand people were immersed into a new covenant relationship with God (At 2:37-41). This initiated the new covenant that God established with mankind through His incarnate Son.

Beginning on the day of Pentecost, God revealed through the apostles by inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, all necessary truth for the nurturing and building up of those who obeyed the gospel (Jn 14:26; 16:13; Jd 3). The New Testament era thus began on the day of Pentecost, and will continue until Jesus comes again at the end of time. It began with the first official announcement of Jesus as the reigning King of kings. It will end at the time of His final coming when He returns kingdom reign to God the Father in order that God may be all in all (1 Co 15:24-28).

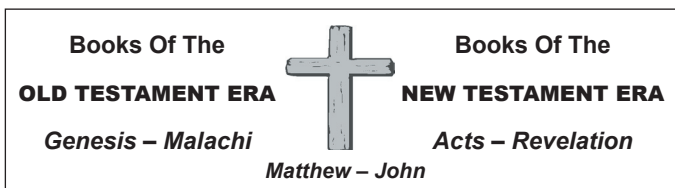
5. **T or F:** The word “gospel” (good news) is a word that is used to refer to a collective of historical events that occurred in the first century.
6. **T or F:** The revelation of the gospel was God’s reaffirmation that the Sinai law would remain binding on His people until the end of time.

~ Nature Of The Old & New Testaments ~

One of the first challenges that faces the Bible student is to understand that the Bible is a collection of literature that was written over a period of about fifteen hundred years. Each book of this collection was written for a specific purpose and to a specific people concerning circumstances that faced them in their particular era of history. Though there are two general collections of Bible literature referred to as the Old and New Testaments, these two major collections can be subdivided into different categories. Placing the books in the appropriate category of the final collection is vital in order to understand the content of each book. In reference to the Holy Spirit recording all historical events that led to the revelation of the gospel through the salvator events of the incarnate Son of God, it is important to understand the purpose why each book was written.

A. Purpose Of The Testaments

The Old Testament was written primarily for the purpose of directing national Israel toward God’s eternal plan of salvation that would be revealed through the Messiah. The New Testament was written to reveal Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, and thus the One through whom the truth of the



gospel was revealed. The New Testament was written to encourage all people of all nations to accept Jesus, not only as the Messiah of Israel, but also as the Son of God who gives eternal life to all those who obey the gospel (Jn 20:30,31). Therefore, these two major divisions of the Bible differ in reference to their purpose for being written, and their application in our lives.

B. Divisions Of The Old Testament

The Sinai law (Genesis – Deuteronomy) was given by the Holy Spirit through Moses specifically to the nation of Israel (Lk 24:44; Jn 1:17). This was a **theocratic law**, that is, **it contained both civil and moral laws for the citizens of Israel**. The statutes of this law were given directly by God in order to direct the nation of Israel until the Messiah came. After the original law was given at Mount Sinai, God sent judges and prophets to His people (At 3:24; 13:20). These inspired men also wrote additional books for Israel's spiritual correction and direction. The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament can thus be divided into four categories of Scripture: Beginnings and Sinai Law, History, Wisdom Literature, and the Prophets of Israel. This division of the books is based on the general content of each book and the type of literature contained in the books.



When God established a covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai (Ex 6:1-5; Dt 5:2,3), He also gave the people laws to be obeyed (Dt 4:1-14; 6:1-9; Rm 3:1,2). However, when God established a covenant with Israel, and gave them laws as conditions for maintaining the covenant, He had a greater purpose in mind than the Sinai covenant and law alone. His greater purpose was to send His Son into the world for the salvation of mankind (Gn 3:15; Gl 3:15-19). **The purpose for the existence of Israel, with the old covenant and law, therefore, was to prepare the way for the Savior by preserving among all people of the world, a special people of faith (Gl 4:4).**

7. **T or F:** The central purpose of the Old Testament is to reveal God's providence in protecting the Seed of woman until His salvational offering at the cross.
8. **T or F:** There is no difference between the theme of the Old Testament and the theme of the New Testament.
9. **T or F:** The Old Testament was a theocratic law that provided moral and civil laws for Israel.

~ Origin Of Sinai Covenant & Law ~

Every Bible student must understand that **Christians are not under the Sinai law that was given to Israel at Mount Sinai.**

Though there are valuable principles in the Sinai law, especially concerning moral behavior, Christians must understand that their

relationship with the Sinai law is different than their relationship with Christ and His word, which relationship embodies a new covenant and law.



A. Defining Covenant & Law

There is a difference between **covenant** and **law**. **Covenant** refers to an agreement that is established between two parties. **Law** refers to the conditions that are necessary in order to maintain a cov-

enant relationship. Therefore, when God established a covenant with individuals or nations, there were conditions for the maintenance of the covenant that had to be obeyed. Throughout history, God established covenants with people and gave laws by which those covenant relationships had to be maintained (See Gn 6:18; 9:9-17; 15:18; 17:2).

B. Conditions To Keep Covenants

At Mount Sinai God established a covenant with the nation of Israel around 1440 B.C. The conditions for keeping this covenant were the laws that came with the covenant. Israel had to keep the Sinai law, therefore, in order to remain in their covenant relationship with God.

1. The Sinai law was given through Moses to Israel at Mount Sinai about 1,440 years before the coming of the Messiah (Ex 19:11,18-20; Dt 33:2; Ne 9:13; Jn 1:17).
 2. The Sinai law was given only to the nation of Israel in order to preserve the identity of Israel as the seedline nation (Ex 19:4-6; Dt 4:1,13; 5:1-5; Ne 8:1; Rm 3:1,2).
 3. The Sinai law was given as a condition for Israel to remain in a covenant relationship with God until the Messiah came (Dt 4:1-14).
- 10. T or F:** In a covenant relationship between two parties, the word “covenant” refers specifically to the terms that each party must keep in order to maintain the covenant relationship.
- 11 T or F:** In a covenant relationship between two parties, there are always rules (laws) that are necessary to keep in order to maintain the covenant relationship.

~ Purpose Of Sinai Covenant & Law ~

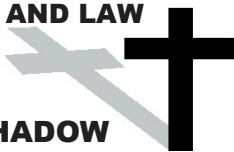
Since God chose Israel out of the nations of the world in order to preserve a people of faith for the coming of the Son of God, then **the purpose of the Sinai covenant and law, with the exhortation of the prophets, was to lead all Israel to the incarnate Son of God who would bring redemption into the world.**

1. The Sinai covenant and law were given to preserve Abraham’s heritage until God could fulfill His promise to Abraham that in his seed all nations of the world would

be blessed with salvation in Christ (Gn 12:1-3; Gl 3:8,16-19).

2. The Sinai covenant and law were a shadow that was cast by good things that were yet to come in the history of Israel (Cl 2:16,17; Hb 10:1).
 3. The Sinai law was a tutor, or headmaster, to preserve a portion of humanity (the nation of Israel) until people could be delivered to faith in the sacrificial Lamb of God (Jn 1:29; Gl 4:4; 3:24,25).
 4. The Sinai law was given to reveal one's inability to be justified by perfect law-keeping. Sincere believers were thus driven to depend on the grace of God that came through faith in the gospel of the incarnate Son of God. People of faith were driven to the justification and sanctification of the cross because no one could obey any system of law perfectly in order to be either self-justified or self-sanctified before God (Rm 3:20; 7:7,24,25; Gl 2:16).
 5. The Sinai law was given in order to guide the behavior of Israel concerning what to do in order to maintain their covenant relationship with God (Gl 3:24,25).
 6. The Sinai law was written to inform Christians under the new covenant and law of Christ concerning the work of God in the lives of those who lived under the Sinai law (Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11).
12. What were the reasons why God gave the Old Testament law and covenant to His people?
 (A) To preserve Abraham's heritage, (B) To be a spiritual tutor to usher the people of God to the coming of the Son of God, (C) To reveal that one could not justify himself through perfect law-keeping, (D) A,B & C

SINAI COVENANT AND LAW



SHADOW
of good things to come

~ Fulfill Of Sinai Covenant & Law ~

Though the Old Testament contains valuable history and moral principles, the Bible student must not forget that we have the Old Testament today primarily as **the foundation upon which the Sonship of the incarnate Son of God is confirmed and established.** God laid the foundation for the revelation of His Son into this world through the establishment of the nation of Israel. We must not forget that this purpose for the establishment of the nation of Israel, as well as all the prophetic messages that saturate

the Old Testament Scriptures, is the primary reason we have the Old Testament in our lives today. The very existence of the Old Testament confirms that Jesus of Nazareth was the incarnation of God into this world, as well as the ascended and coronated King Jesus to reign at the right hand of God on David's throne. He will reign until He has put down the last enemy, death, and then deliver His subjects into a heavenly kingdom wherein God is all in all.

OLD AND NEW COVENANTS

OLD COVENANT

**NATION
OF ISRAEL**

Born into
a national
covenant
with God



NEW COVENANT

ALL
NATIONS
The Church

First taught to know God,
then BORN into a covenant
with God

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:7-13

A. Consummation Of Israel

God never intended that the Sinai covenant and law be a permanent covenant and law for all people for all time. It was not permanent because God never intended that national Israel should exist in a special covenant relationship with Him until the end of time. On the contrary, God intended that national Israel would eventually be dissolved in Christ, wherein there is neither Jew nor Gentile because we are one in Christ (Gl 3:26-29).

National Israel was the vehicle through which God brought the Jews to Christ. Therefore, at the time when the old covenant and law were established with Israel at Mount Sinai, God intended that in the future of Israel He would establish a new covenant and law with all those of faith who desired to come into a covenant relationship with Him through faith (Jr 31:31-34; Hb 8:7-13). Christians are now in this new covenant relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ (Rm 9:1-33).

During the ministry of Jesus, Jesus prophesied concerning the coming of both the church and His kingdom reign. This is particularly revealed in the parables. He also taught concerning the consummation of national Israel. This would be the end of Israel as a nation, since the nation had fulfilled her purpose in bringing the Jews to redemption in Christ (Gl 3:15-25). The Sinai law, with national Israel, subsequently ended at the cross. The church is now the nation of God, wherein there is neither Jew nor Gentile (Gl 3:26-29). The church of Christ will continue to the final coming of Jesus, and eventually she will be taken, as the bride of Christ, into eternal glory with Him (1 Th 4:13-18). This is the hope of every Christian, and thus the comfort Christians have in times of struggle (2 Pt 3:8-16).

13. T or F: The nation of Israel was God's social vehicle to bring His Son into the world for the salvation of the world.

B. The Sufficient Sacrifice

God never intended that animal sacrifices and the Levitical priesthood of Israel should continue until the end of the world (Hb 7:11-28; 10:1-4). On the contrary, He planned that in the future of Israel, Jesus would come in order to fulfill the Sinai covenant and law, and then establish a new covenant with all those who would personally choose to be born again into a covenant with God (Mt 5:17,18; Lk 24:44; Hb 10:9,10). God planned before the creation of the world, and thousands of years before the existence of Israel, that the incarnate Son of God would be the eternal offering for the sins of all the world (Rv 13:8). Israel was established, with the animal sacrifices, in order to prepare the way for this historical event.

C. A Biblical Research Library

Since the original purpose of the Sinai covenant and law was fulfilled in Christ, God changed the purpose for which the covenant and law are now recorded for us in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is now a book of covenants and laws that were **writ-**

ten for our learning and instruction in principles and examples of moral behavior (Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11). The written record of the old covenant and law have now become the Christian's research library for understanding the work of God in the affairs of this world. The Christian in this era, therefore, has the privilege of having a Holy Spirit inspired biblical research library of the work of God throughout history.

The Bible
Is A Textbook
Of Morals
And Teaching.

1. The Son of God was revealed in order to fulfill the purpose for which the Sinai covenant and law were given to Israel (Mt 5:17,18). Once fulfilled, the law became void, and God's special covenant relationship with Israel was dissolved when the new covenant was activated.
 2. The Son of God was revealed to take away the Sinai covenant and law in order to establish a new covenant and law (Hb 10:9,10).
 3. The Son of God established the law of grace that was based on the truth of the events of the gospel (Jn 1:17).
 4. The Sinai law was abolished, though its eternal moral principles live on in the New Testament (Ep 2:14-16; Cl 2:14; Hb 9:16,17).
 5. The law of God for man was changed from the Sinai law to the law of Christ because the priesthood was changed from the Levitical priesthood of the Sinai law to the High Priesthood of Jesus, who, contrary to the Sinai law, was born of the tribe of Judah (Hb 7:11-25).
 6. Christians are dead to the Sinai law because they have been married to Christ, with whom they are now in a new covenant and law relationship with God (Rm 7:1-4).
 7. Christians are free from the bondage of trying to keep any law perfectly in order to save themselves, for they are under grace, not perfect law-keeping (Rm 6:14; Gl 4:21 – 5:1).
- 14.** Of what tribe was Jesus born?
(A) Levi, (B) Judah, (C) Ephraim, (D) Simeon
- 15. T or F:** The Old Testament reveals how God worked among the Israelites and nations until the incarnation of His Son into the world.

~ The New Covenant & Law ~

In their relationship with God, people of faith have never lived outside a covenant relationship with God. Inherent in any covenant, however, are conditions (laws). People of faith must live in obedience

to these conditions in order to maintain a relationship with God. It is incumbent on every person who believes in God, that he or she discover in the word of God the conditions for establishing and maintaining a covenant relationship with God.

A. Dead To The Sinai Law

Once the Sinai covenant and law were fulfilled in Christ, God established a new covenant with all those who would choose to come into a covenant relationship with Him through faith in His grace. When one comes into this new covenant relationship with God today through obedience to the gospel (Rm 6:3-6), he or she comes under the direction of the law of Christ. Therefore, in their obedience to the gospel, Christians have become dead to the Sinai law (Rm 7:4). They are now married to Christ (Rm 7:1-3).

B. Alive Through Grace & Faith

The new covenant that Christians now have with God does not mean that they are in a relationship with God wherein they must keep law perfectly in order to save themselves. On the contrary, Christians are under the law of grace, not a system of perfect law-keeping (Rm 6:14). Their new covenant relationship with God means that they are saved by grace because of their faith in God. They are not saved by any self-righteous system of perfect law-keeping by which they can declare their own salvation. Christians rejoice in the grace of God because they realize that no one can be justified before God through perfect keeping of law (Gl 2:16). It is the grace of God, therefore, that motivates them to obey the law of God because of their appreciation for their salvation that they have in Christ (2 Co 4:15).

16. T or F: When one responds to the gospel, he or she must continue to be obedient to the conditions that God gave to Israel in order that one maintain a covenant relationship with Him.

17. When one becomes a Christian in response to the gospel, then what relationship does he or she have with the Sinai law?

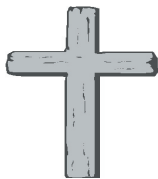
(A) Dead to the Sinai law, (B) Revived by the Sinai law, (C) Makes every effort to keep the law perfectly, (D) A,B & C

~ New Covenant Superiority ~

Since there was a specific purpose for which the Old Testament Scriptures came into existence over many centuries, there is little comparison between the Old and New Testaments. Both writings are beneficial for Christian growth (See Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11). The comparison is in reference to the old and new covenants. Since the old covenant was based on the offering of animal blood, **the new covenant was established on the foundation of the blood of the incarnate Son of God.** In this way, the new covenant is far superior to the old covenant.

A. First Gospel Announcement

The blood offering of the new covenant was accomplished by the incarnational offering of the Son of God on the cross of Calvary (Hb 9:16,17). The new covenant of this offering was inaugurated on earth when Peter announced for the first time in history the gospel on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30. In response to Peter's announcement, men and women for the first time in history came into a new covenant relationship with God when they obediently responded to the gospel.



An Eternal
Atoning Sacrifice
Of Incarnational
Blood

B. First Gospel Responses

People came into a new covenant relationship with God because they were obedient to the gospel by immersion in water for the remission of their sins (At 2:38-41). Therefore, the new covenant was initiated when people responded by immersion to the first announcement of the gospel offering of the Son of God for our sins, His resurrection for our hope, ascension, and His existing kingdom reign (At 2:14-36). In comparison to the old covenant that God established with the nation of Israel, the new covenant is better for the following reasons:

1. It is better because the covenant was established by the blood of Jesus (Hb 7:22; 8:6).
 2. It is better because our hope is guaranteed by the sonship of Jesus (Hb 7:19).
 3. It is better because promises are based on the cross (Hb 8:6).
 4. It is better because the sacrifice of the Son of God is better than animals (Hb 9:23).
 5. It is better because its hope is based on Jesus who was resurrected (Hb 10:34).
 6. It is better because we will be resurrected never to die again (Hb 11:35).
 7. It is better because the blood offering of Jesus guarantees remission of sins (Hb 12:24).
- 18.** What makes the New Testament covenant superior to the Old Testament covenant?
(A) The old was based on animal sacrifices, (B) The old has more books than the new, (C) The new covenant is based on the blood of the Son of God, (D) The old covenant contained the ten commandments
- 19. T or F:** The new covenant was inaugurated when the first person responded to the first gospel announcement to be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- 20. T or F:** The new covenant is better because it was inaugurated and was based on the blood of the incarnate Son of God.

~ Nature Of New Covenant & Law ~

The nature of the new covenant and law of Christ is different from the old covenant and law. The following points define the nature of the new covenant and law that God now has with all those who have come into a covenant relationship with Him through obedience to the gospel:

1. The new covenant and law are made available to all people in all nations who respond to the gospel (Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15).
2. The new covenant and law were dedicated by the blood of the Son of God (1 Co 5:7; Hb 10:10,19,20).
3. The new covenant offers assurance because it is based on the blood of Jesus (Hb 7:25).
4. The new covenant was secured by the eternal offering of the Son of God (Hb 9:28).
5. The new covenant has Jesus as an eternal High Priest (Hb 8:1; 9:11).
6. The new covenant offers justification by grace that is based on obedient faith (Rm 5:1,2; 1 Co 6:11).
7. The new covenant has a law that is written on the hearts of obedient believers (Hb 8:10).

8. The new covenant contains spiritual ordinances for spiritual people (Jn 4:23,24; 6:63).
 9. The new covenant was inaugurated and established by the Son of God (Hb 2:1-4; 10:9,10).
 10. The new covenant contains a law that will be the standard of judgment for those who have lived in response to the gospel (Jn 12:48).
21. What advantages does the new covenant have over the old covenant and law?
(A) The new was inaugurated by the blood of God's Son, (B) The new has the High Priesthood of the Son of God, (C) The new is secured by an eternal offering, (D) A,B & C

A. Under Grace & Faith

Christians are now under grace and faith in their covenant relationship with God (Rm 6:14). They must seek direction in life from the word of God, and be assured of their justification from sin by the blood of Jesus. If one seeks to be justified by obedience to the Sinai law today, while trying to maintain a relationship with God that is based on one's supposed perfect law-keeping, then he or she is fallen from the grace of God. He is cut off from Christ (Gl 5:1-4). **If one seeks to use any meritorious system of good works or perfect law-keeping in an attempt to justify himself before God, then he is marginalizing the justification and sanctification of the cross of the Son of God.**

22. **T or F:** Efforts to justify oneself before God though any system of law-keeping marginalizes the justification that comes through the cross of the incarnate Son of God.

B. Set Free, Stay Free

One simply cannot be justified before God on the basis of perfect law-keeping or the supposed atonement of meritorious good works (Rm 3:20; Gl 2:16; 3:11,12). This is true because **no one can keep any law perfectly. No one can do enough good works to atone for one sin** (Rm 3:9,10). Therefore, by faith we must be joined to Christ in a new covenant relationship with God in order to be justified by His grace that was made possible by the atonement of the sacrificial blood of Jesus (Rm 7:24,25; Gl 3:26-

29). This is great news for Christians since they need not offer animal sacrifices as did the Jews in a futile effort to receive remission of sins (Hb 10:1-4). Neither must Christians keep the Jewish feast days that were a part of the Sinai law. Christians have thus been set free from the ordinances of the Sinai law by the sacrificial offering of Jesus (Rm 7:1-4). They are free from the bondage of having to save themselves on the merit of their own good works or supposed ability to keep God's law perfectly (Gl 5:1).



23. T or F: It is possible to do good works in order to make up for sins we commit against God's law.

24. T or F: Christians live in thankful response to the grace of God, and by faith in the faith of the Son of God that took Him to the cross.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

1. Why was Jesus subject to, and thus lived under, the Old Testament law?
2. Why does prophecy prove that Jesus was the Messiah?
3. Why did the Old Testament law and covenant pass away when Jesus was nailed to the cross?
4. Why was Jesus reigning in heaven at the time of the initial announcement of the gospel by Peter on Pentecost?
5. Why do we conclude that the church was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2?
6. What was the purpose of the Old Testament law and covenant?
7. Why was the Old Testament law and covenant a theocratic system of law?
8. Why does a covenant have conditions for continued existence?
9. How and when was national Israel consummated?
10. Why was it impossible for animal sacrifices to take away sins?
11. What was the true purpose of the existence of national Israel?
12. In reference to Christians, what now is the purpose of the Old Testament?
13. Why are Christians dead to the Old Testament law?
14. Why is the new covenant superior to the old covenant?
15. Why does grace set the Christian free?



ABBREVIATIONS**OLD TESTAMENT**

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

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