

# Live in the Glorious NEW and Better Covenant

## Part 1 of 2



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*In this message, our main focus is WHY the New Covenant is SO much more glorious, so new and so much better than the Old Covenant. PLUS I want to be sure we are LIVING in this NEW and glorious covenant. It's FAR from just being an academic exercise. But don't live in the Old Covenant – or even a renewed and polished up old covenant. We are in a NEW covenant. Share the joy with me. This is Part 1.*

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**Hi everyone. Welcome to Light on the Rock.**

We all know we are in a new – some call it renewed- covenant. But do you understand how totally different it is from the covenant at Mt Sinai – or is it basically the same with minor differences?

**And does calling it “new” or “renewed” make any difference?**

Hebrew Roots and Messianics often use the term “renewed” when discussing the Covenant we have with Elohim. Most of us use the term “NEW” Covenant. Which is it? Does it make a difference? Is it just semantics – the way we use terms but it doesn't really matter?

I submit that there's a very different impression one gets when you hear or say “renewed covenant” versus saying “new” or “brand new covenant”.

Most of the time when I ask sabbath-keeping believers what makes the New Covenant different from the Old Covenant, the usual answer I get is – “Well, it's the same except no more physical priesthood, or animal sacrifices. No more physical temple, no more washings, no more altars. Otherwise it's pretty much the SAME.”

I think that's an appalling answer. And of course some (not all) Protestants would add that pretty much most things in the OT are now no longer required – including the sabbath, the holydays, clean and unclean meats – and many replace God's holydays with pagan holidays like Christmas, Easter, Halloween, New Year's and St Valentine's Day and so on.

So today I want to focus on this main point: WHAT MAKES THE NEW COVENANT SO much more glorious than the Old Covenant?

### **WHY is this so important?**

- I see even many sabbath-keeping believers stuck in the Old Covenant (and often don't know it) and don't understand how we are fully in a NEW covenant.
- **There are 613 laws in the Old Testament Torah.** I don't mean the man-made additional rules, I mean the Torah itself. 613. Some claim to keep the OT Torah. **Peter in Acts 15:8-10** says none of them could keep the Torah – and he had to mean more than circumcision, because I'll guarantee the Jewish men there were all circumcised. And Paul says in **Gal 2:21** that if righteousness could be attained by the Torah, then Christ DIED IN VAIN.
- And I promise you –those of you who believe you DO keep all 613 Torah laws except the ones about sacrifices, priesthood and the temple – that you do not keep them all. And when we break one, we break all. Examples:
  - Many of you don't wear tzit-zit or tassels on the edge of your garments every single day (**Numbers 15:28-30**). Those who do wear them often have them ultra-long though Yeshua said that's ridiculous (**Matthew 23:5**)
  - Do you women, during your period, make everything you sat on – unclean? See **Leviticus 15:19-24**.
  - Men- how about those seminal emissions = **unclean (Lev 15:16-18)**
  - Do you married couples after every loving marital sex act get up and take a bath? That's a Torah rule. **Lev. 15:18**
  - DO you release your creditors of their debts in the years of release? **Deut 15**
  - Do you rest your land every 7 years? **Lev 25:1-7** – the land sabbath of 7<sup>th</sup> yr.
  - Do you absolutely keep the Feast of Tabernacles with a God-fearing group and refrain from work on God's holy days? **Lev 23**
  - Do you wear clothing that is of only one material – just 100% cotton, or 100% wool, or 100% linen? See **Leviticus 19:19**.

Those and many more are rules that we don't keep today – and if you don't, you're NOT keeping Torah. Believe me, I could list dozens more that few truly keep.

But there's a BETTER covenant of LIFE and liberty. That's my point today.

### **Is it a “NEW” or is it a “RENEWED” covenant**

There's much debate over this question. My study of the Hebrew and Greek has led me NOW to conclude that it could be translated either way. SO I won't spend time on that, but

to say this: with all the GLORIOUS changes we'll see in the New Covenant, I don't want to in any way imply that this glorious covenant, this SECOND, BETTER covenant (as scripture defines it) is just a polished up version of the OLD. It's much more than that.

Yes – sometimes the Hebrew HAS to mean brand new – as in “a NEW Pharaoh arose who didn't know Joseph” – **Exodus 1:8**

Or, “if a man marries a new wife”, then he was free of certain responsibilities for a time. That's not a renewed wife, folks, but a brand new wife. **Deuteronomy 24:5**

But at the same time, when David asked YHVH to RENEW a right spirit within him – that had to mean “RESTORE” something he once had already. **Psalms 51:10.**

So all in all, I will call it the NEW covenant.

**I think believing the new covenant is just a polished up version of the Old Covenant is what is leading some of you to try to live in the Old Covenant!**

**When I study all the ways the New Covenant is so different from the Old Covenant, I personally prefer to say “NEW covenant”.** The Covenant I live in and follow is not a rehash of the old one. No way.

If we're not careful, if we don't grasp how NEW the new covenant is, we can start trying to live like ancient Jews, dress like them, take on Jewish names.... I've seen all of this.

- **If not careful, we can end up practicing and teaching Judaism**, which does not recognize Yeshua as Messiah. Yeshua said they ERRED, not knowing the scriptures. **Matthew 22:29**
- Some start over-emphasizing the PHYSICAL Israel instead of the Israel of God; “Love for Israel conference”, rather than calling it the “Love for Yeshua (or YHVH) conference”

The result is a false teaching that says we really are still technically under the OLD Covenant, the one Yah gave Moses at Mt Sinai.

So LET'S EXPLORE.

**SO WHAT HAS YAH GIVEN US – The same OLD Covenant brushed up a bit – or a largely BRAND NEW covenant?**

Scripture is so clear that we are not under the Old Covenant today, and neither is the new covenant of YHVH the same as the one given at Mt Sinai. It might be super clear if I just let God himself say it. Keep in mind that this same passage is quoted in **Hebrews 8:6-13** and Heb 10:16-19, in the new testament.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says YHVH, when I **will make A NEW covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 **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 YHVH. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHVH: 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. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know YHVH,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says YHVH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

Did you notice it is NOT like the covenant (v.32) that God gave to Israel at Mt Sinai? In Verse 31 YHVH says it is a NEW covenant.

By the way – **COVENANT – in Hebrew it is beriyt (be-reet). The root means to “cut” an agreement. In ancient Paleo Hebrew, the last letter was Tav, which looked very much like a cross. The Hebrew word picture for the word “covenant” is “The cross of my Son.”** Imagine that just being coincidental. I can't.

“Covenant” is used many times in the Old Testament – between man and man, man and a nation, between God and man, between God and a nation, etc. In its context, it is used of an agreement, contract, alliance or treaty. At Mt. Sinai, it was a wedding covenant between YHVH and the nation of Israel.

In the New Testament– what did Christ say? He referred to the wine of the Passover, and the cup itself and said:

#### **Luke 22:20**

“Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the **NEW covenant** in MYblood, which is shed for you.”

#### **Matthew 26:27-28**

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "**Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

In the days Yeshua walked the earth, when a man proposed to his bride-to-be, he offered her a cup of wine, symbolizing his life ahead. If she drank of his cup, she was accepting the betrothal and basically saying, “Yes, I will be your wife, and I will willingly and gladly share whatever lies in store for us together, good or bad, symbolized by this wine in your cup. **Yes, I will drink of your cup”.**

So I see in Yeshua's language to the disciples, that he was using the same symbolism, beginning the New Covenant assembly of believers who have accepted HIS life, and whatever would be in store for us WITH Him. That's what marriage is all about: a loving commitment to stick together, in thick or thin, in “good or bad”, til death do us part, right?

#### **1 Corinthians 11:25**

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant **in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

So the Old Covenant was established at Mt Sinai in Arabia. The New Covenant was begun by Yeshua in Jerusalem, on Mt. Zion.

A COVENANT involved shedding blood. Yeshua, the Son of God, SHED HIS BLOOD which we accept over and on us, and we drink of the cup of red wine picturing all that – to establish the NEW COVENANT in our hearts and lives.

**THE NEW covenant is definitely tied to the Passover and the crucifixion of Christ** – in his shed blood for us. The night before he died, He had washed feet and then had his disciples drink wine, picturing HIS BLOOD. We tie that cup of wine to the word “*forgiveness*”, and correctly so, but perhaps we should be focusing more on tying it also to the NEW COVENANT.

**Normally failure to obey a covenant meant death. But finding fault with them, the people, a NEW AND BETTER COVENANT had to be made. And yes there was death: in this case, the son of God died FOR us.**

**Hebrews 9:15 (read slowly)**

“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.”

**WHOSE BLOOD? YESHUA’S.** We’re able to be redeemed from the curse of the death penalty because of our sins and failure to keep it, required by the first covenant as we’ve just read.

But WE were the ones who broke it! So why HIS blood?

***BECAUSE indescribable WRATH is incurred when a covenant is broken. I think we’ve largely gotten away from recognizing and remembering that. We are – thank God – under grace today, but we should take our covenant with God Most High most seriously. God gets angry at unrighteousness.***

**Ex 32:10** – when Moses was asking God to turn from his wrath during/after the gold calf incident. So we can start taking this grace in the covenant for granted, and we must not.

**Romans 1:18-19**

**“For the WRATH of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,** who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

**Romans 5:8-11**

***“But God demonstrates His own LOVE toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified [declared righteous] by His blood, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM.*** 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled,

we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

**Colossians 3:5-7**

“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6 BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING UPON THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE,** 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”

UPON YESHUA WAS POURED OUT – ON ONE MAN – ALL the WRATH for every little and big sin YOU and I did – if we accept his death and life for us. This covers all sin. It covers every terrorist act, for every rape, murder, every perversion, every lie, every single one – all at one time; all sins were put on that son of God, perfect and holy – on the TREE AT CALVARY.

If you don't accept that, then God's wrath for your sins still abides on you.

**John 3:34-36**

“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. **36 He who believes in the Son HAS everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**”

*Christ, who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we, who knew no real perfect righteousness, might become the very righteousness of God himself by, in and through Yeshua our Messiah.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

**“For He [God] made Him [Yeshua] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might become the righteousness of GOD in Him.”**

***This is the essence of the New Covenant. This is the essence of the true Gospel, as you will read also in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. Christ is the WAY and the DOOR to the kingdom of God. THIS is the new covenant.***

What happened as Yeshua died an excruciating slow death at the cross/tree? He was offered the sour wine on the reed /sponge (Matthew 24:45-50). He took sour wine for us. More on that later.

**He cried out “FINISHED” – John 19:30,** then offered his spirit up to God the Father (Luke 23:46) and lay down his head on his chest and died.

**Then the veil of the temple's Holy of Holies was ripped apart from top to bottom, which Hebrews tells us was the type of the BODY and FLESH of Christ which was ripped open, opening the way now, through him and his blood, to come into the true Holy of Holies in heaven. We now enter thru Christ – in him – using his OWN blood. The High Priest, once a year, came into the holy of Holies only with blood, remember. More on that in part 2.**

**Matthew 27:51**

***“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,...”***

Now let's get into the COVENANT CHART I made.

FULL CHART WILL APPEAR IN THE PART 2 OF THIS COVENANT SERMON, BUT HERE ARE THE FIRST 3 POINTS - of many—on how the NEW covenant is SO MUCH better, SO MUCH more glorious than the Old Covenant.

For the rest of this sermon we will cover the first 3 points:

**POINT 1: The OLD COVENANT was ONLY between YHVH and the nation of Israel. Too bad if you were a Gentile or lived outside Israel.**

#### **Exodus 19:5-6**

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and **keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." See also Exodus 20:14

#### **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

**“For YOU are a holy people to YHVH your God; YHVH your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 YHVH did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because YHVH loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, YHVH has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

#### **Deuteronomy 14:2**

**“For you are a holy people to YHVH your God, and YHVH has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”**

**PT 1 B– BUT THE NEW COVENANT IS NOW between GOD AND ALL of humanity who are the called, and who respond and accept Yeshua as their Saviour. Today he works with the spiritual group called “Israel of God” Galatians 6:16. Apply those verses in the Old Covenant to the Israel of God today.**

#### **Galatians 3:26-29**

**“For you are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 **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. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

#### **1 Peter 2:4-5**

**“Coming to Him as **to a living stone,** rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 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."

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

**"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,** that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God,** who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy".

**Read Acts 10** – how our Father in heaven is now opening the door into covenant to the Gentiles as well. Orthodox Jews considered Gentiles as "common" and unworthy of dining with, and so on.

**Acts 10:24-29**

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. 28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But God has shown me that I should not call any MAN common or unclean.** 29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

**Acts 10:34-35**

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "**In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in EVERY NATION whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him...**"

**Acts 10:43-46**

"To Him all the prophets witness that, **through His name, WHOEVER believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**"

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.** 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Please also carefully read Romans 9:6-9. One is now a spiritual Jew and heir of the promises to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob – if he/she accepts Christ.

**Romans 2:28-29**

"For he is NOT a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 **but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart,** in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."

**John 3:16-21** – the promises are now to ALL who believe, FROM ANY NATION, for the whole world.

It's not just between God and Israel any more – but to all who accept Yeshua as their Messiah. I hope Jews everywhere will have their hearts and minds opened to this.



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**POINT 2 OF THE COVENANT CHART: OLD COVENANT WORSHIP REQUIRED ANIMAL SACRIFICES, EVEN THOUGH BLOOD OF ANIMALS COULD NOT SAVE US.**

**Hebrews 10:1-4**

**“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. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”**

**PT 2B – BUT IN THE NEW COVENANT, the Sacrifice for sin is now the sacrifice of the SON OF GOD, the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). Christ has now replaced animal sacrifices and his one sacrifice is perfect and requires no more blood sacrifices of animals.**

**John 1:29** “Behold the Lamb of GOD who takes away the sin of the WORLD.”

God is now sharing himself with the WHOLE world. Even Jews must now accept Yeshua as their Messiah, as their Savior, or they are no longer the chosen people spiritually.

**Hebrews 9:11-15**

**“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. 12 **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.** 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 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? 15 **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.”**

**Hebrews 10:11-14**

**“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered ONE sacrifice for sins FOREVER, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by ONE offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”**

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**PT #3 – the OLD COVENANT SAVED THEM FROM Egypt, BUT NEVER OFFERED THEM ETERNAL LIFE, SPIRITUAL SALVATION OR TRUE PERFECTION. (Did you realize that?)**

**Hebrews 7:19**

“**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

See Heb 10:1-4 again. THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS COULD NOT take away sin and could not perfect anyone.

**Now in Hebrews 8, notice how the NEW covenant is referred to as a BETTER, SECOND covenant – NOT AS A BRUSHING UP, CLEANING UP, of the OLD Covenant.**

**Hebrews 8:6-11, 13**

“But now He (Christ) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch **as He is also Mediator of a BETTER covenant, which was established on better promises.** 7 For if that **FIRST** covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for A **SECOND**. 8 Because finding fault with THEM, He says: "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 — 9 **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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. 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. ....**

**13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the FIRST [covenant] obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away"**

**Galatians 2:21**

“**I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**”

And remember the “LAW” that he is referring to is the one given at Mt. Sinai as Gal 4 clearly shows.

**BUT PT 3B – BUT in THE NEW COVENANT, God now OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE AND SPIRITUAL SALVATION; which was NOT in the OLD Covenant.**

**Romans 6:23**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

You don't earn a gift. Eternal LIFE is the gift of God in the New Covenant. The word “eternal” is a word only applied to the Eternal God in the Old Testament scriptures. Eternal life was not offered in the Old Covenant.

You should read all of 2 Corinthians 3 carefully and slowly. Notice how Paul compares the Old Covenant from Mt Sinai as a covenant of the letter, and of death – because if you broke any of it, you incurred the death penalty. But Christ freed us from the penalty of the Old Covenant as we read earlier in Hebrews 9:15.

**2 Corinthians 3:5-6**

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 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.”

**John 3:16, 34-36** – WHOEVER, from anywhere in the whole world, whoever believes in Christ shall be saved.

You just don't find scriptures in the Old Covenant that ever promised ETERNAL LIFE . So you see how much more glorious this covenant is! It's NOT just a RENEWED" COVENANT.

**1 John 5:11-13**

“And this is the testimony: **that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.** 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

**1 John 2:25**

“And this is the promise that He has promised us — eternal life”.

Wow, are we seeing it?

**Hebrews 9:15**

“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.**”

We'll have to end it there for this part 1 of the 2 part sermon on the GLORIOUS brand NEW – not renewed – COVENANT! Let's live in this new covenant.

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Closing prayer.

Be sure to continue this study into how much more GLORIOUS the New Covenant is. But in some ways, my BIGGER concern is not just the points here and there – but that you GRASP that we must now LIVE in this new covenant, not the old. More on that in the coming sermons.

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