

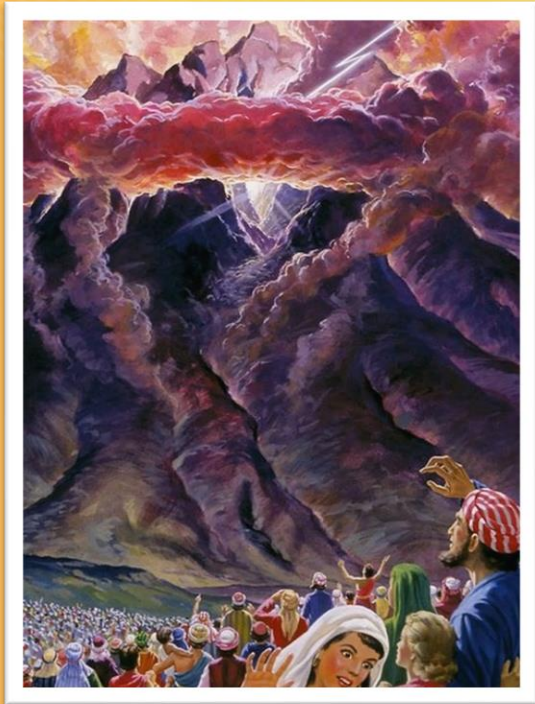


# THE NEW COVENANT

Lesson 10 for June 5, 2021

In previous lessons, we learned that God established an Everlasting Covenant. Then why are we talking about a New Covenant in this lesson?

What is the difference between this new covenant and the old one? Are they similar?



➡ What's OLD in the new covenant?

➡ Same Author, same Law

➡ Same relationship

➡ Same purpose

➡ What's NEW in the new covenant?

➡ Better covenant, better promises

➡ Better sacrifice, better priesthood

# SAME AUTHOR, SAME LAW

“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 [...] I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” (Jeremiah 31:33,34)

The people of Israel had broken their covenant with God because of their unfaithfulness (Jer. 31:31-32).

Therefore, Jeremiah prophesied a new covenant between God and His people. However, there are elements that stay the same in this new covenant:

The “new covenant” is a “renovated covenant” in some way. It is the culmination or the fulfilment of the first one.



**The same Author**  
God is the creator of the covenant



**The same Law**  
The Law of God is the basis of the covenant



**The same foundation**  
It is based on God's forgiveness and mercy



# SAME RELATIONSHIP

**"I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord." (Hosea 2:20)**

**The people of Israel had been unfaithful to God, but He wanted to renew their relationship. That is what the new covenant is about: God wants to win our hearts again.**

**He wants us to renew our thoughts and feelings: "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts" (Jer. 31:33); "get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit" (Ez. 18:31); "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you" (Ez. 36:26).**

**Nevertheless, this is not a new purpose. It is the same relationship that God wanted to have with His people since the beginning: "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart." (Dt. 6:6)**



**“The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth ‘the fruits of the Spirit.’ Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts.”**

**E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 32, p. 372)**

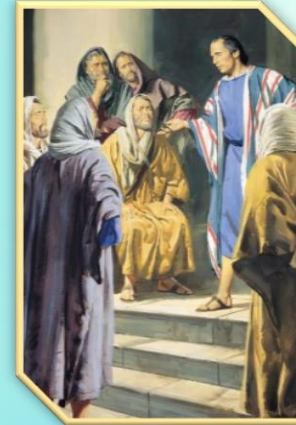
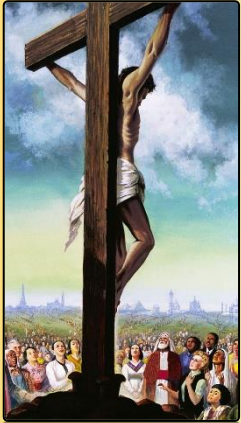
# SAME PURPOSE

**“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”  
(Isaiah 56:7)**

**God wanted to invite all the nations to be part of His promises. This was at the core of His covenant with Israel.**

**The new covenant has the same purpose. The grace of God is available for anyone who wants it through the blood of Jesus (Romans 3:21-24).**

**The Jews who accepted Jesus embraced this new covenant and built the foundation of the Church. Later, Gentiles from every nation joined the covenant and were “grafted” into the true people of God (see Romans 11:1-24).**

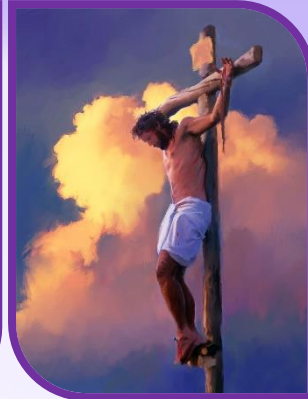


# BETTER COVENANT, BETTER PROMISES

**"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." (Hebrews 8:6)**

**The book of Hebrews explains how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34. It also explains the differences between the two covenants.**

**Why is the new covenant better than the old one?**



**The old covenant used symbols to explain salvation. In the new covenant, no symbols are needed, because Jesus died for our sins and intercedes on our behalf before the Father (1Co. 15:3; Heb. 7:25).**

**Why are the new promises better?**

**Salvation is the same in both covenants, but the old one was based on a future promise. The new covenant is based on a promise that Christ has already fulfilled (Heb. 9:11-12).**

# BETTER SACRIFICE, BETTER PRIESTHOOD

**"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)**



The sacrifices of the old covenant could not actually clean the sins of the offerors or sanctify them (Heb. 10:1-4). However, the sacrifice of Christ in the new covenant can remove our sins and sanctify us (Heb. 10:10, 12, 14).

Likewise, there were priests in the old covenant who were not perfect and had to be replaced by the following generations. In the new covenant, Jesus is "High Priest forever" (Heb. 6:20). Besides, He serves as such in Heaven.

The veil of the Most Holy Place was torn when Jesus died (Matthew 27:51). This incident marked the transition from symbols to reality, from the old covenant to the new one.





**“Though this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a *new covenant*.”**

**E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 32, p. 370)**