

1. Understanding the Old Covenant

When we talk about the **New Covenant**, it's important to first understand the **Old Covenant**, because the New came to **fulfill** and **surpass** the Old (Hebrews 8:6–13). The Bible itself is divided into two major sections:

- The **Old Testament** (based on the Old Covenant)
- The **New Testament** (based on the New Covenant)

The Foundation of the Old Covenant: Abraham

The Old Covenant began when God made a covenant with **Abraham**—not just a casual promise, but a **divine agreement** involving obedience, blessing, and descendants.

Genesis 17:1-2

“I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”

God then changed Abram's name to **Abraham** (“father of many”), gave

him the land of Canaan, and required **circumcision** as a sign of the covenant (Genesis 17:4-11). This covenant was both **relational** (God would be their God) and **territorial** (the promised land).

The Law Given Through Moses

Later, Abraham's descendants (Israel) became a great nation but didn't fully know God. So in the wilderness, **God gave them the Law through Moses**—not to save them, but to teach them how to live as God's holy people.

Galatians 3:19

“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...”

These laws were written in the first five books of the Bible (the Torah):

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers

- Deuteronomy

This became known as the **Mosaic Covenant**, which defined Israel's national identity and relationship with God. But it was still temporary and incomplete.

2. The Need for a New Covenant

The Old Covenant, though holy, **could not save anyone**. It exposed sin but could not remove it.

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... make those who approach perfect.”

Israel frequently broke the covenant. Their hearts remained hard. God, through the prophets, promised a **New Covenant** that would transform people from the inside out.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

“Behold, the days are coming... when I will make a new covenant... 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.”

3. The New Covenant - Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Just like the Old Covenant began with one man (Abraham), the New Covenant also begins with one Man—**Jesus Christ**.

Hebrews 8:6

“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.”

Jesus is the **Mediator** of this New Covenant, which offers:

- **Forgiveness of sins**
- **Eternal life**

- **The indwelling Holy Spirit**
- **Access to God through faith**

This covenant is not based on blood sacrifices of animals, but on the **shed blood of Jesus**.

Luke 22:20

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

4. Who Can Enter This New Covenant?

Unlike the Old Covenant, which was limited to Abraham’s physical descendants (Israel), the New Covenant is **open to all nations—Jew and Gentile** alike.

To be part of the New Covenant:

- One must be **born again** by the Spirit (John 3:3)
- One must **believe in Jesus Christ** and be **baptized** (Mark 16:16)
- One must **walk in His teachings** (John 8:31)

John 3:3

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

5. Baptism - A Sign of the New Covenant

In the Old Covenant, circumcision was the outward sign. In the New Covenant, it is **baptism**—a sign of **spiritual circumcision** and dying to the old life.

Colossians 2:11-12

“In Him you were also circumcised... by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism...”

Baptism is not just a ritual—it is a declaration that we belong to Jesus, having died to sin and been raised to new life.

6. Learning to Live in the New Covenant

Just like Israel had to learn and follow God's laws in the Old Covenant, believers in Christ must also **learn and obey** the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

This is why we have the **27 books of the New Testament**:

- The **Gospels** teach the life and words of Jesus.
- The **Acts of the Apostles** shows the early Church living out the New Covenant.
- The **Epistles** (letters) guide believers on how to live in Christ.
- **Revelation** reveals the fulfillment of all God's promises.

Matthew 28:20

"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."

7. What Is the New Covenant?

The **New Covenant** is the covenant God made through Jesus Christ for the salvation of all who believe. It replaces the Old Covenant and

brings:

- A **new relationship** with God
- **Forgiveness of sins**
- The **indwelling Holy Spirit**
- **Eternal inheritance** in Christ

Romans 8:1-2

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

8. Are You Part of the New Covenant?

This is a question every person must answer. Are you still living outside of this covenant, or have you been born again in Christ?

1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood... who once were not a people but are now the people of God...”

If not, don't delay. Invite Jesus into your life today. Be born again. Be baptized. Receive the Holy Spirit. Join the royal family of God.

This is a **gift of grace**. As Gentiles, we never deserved this covenant, but by Christ's mercy, we are now included. Don't take it for granted.

Final Blessing:

If you are in Christ, you are now:

- A child of God (John 1:12)
- A co-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- A citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- Part of the New Covenant community

Live in this grace. Grow in it. Teach others. And never turn back.

Amen. Hallelujah!

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