To understand the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, it helps to compare it with familiar examples from daily life.

1. A Life Example: From Primary School to High School

When we were in primary school, we learned basic math—addition and multiplication—often using physical objects like sticks or stones. But in high school, we were introduced to calculators, which could perform the same calculations much faster and more accurately.

Now, using a calculator doesn’t mean what we learned in primary school was wrong or useless. In fact, it confirms it—the calculator simply builds on those same principles with greater power and precision.

This is similar to the relationship between the Old and New Covenants. The New Covenant doesn’t cancel or contradict the Old. Instead, it fulfills, completes, and reveals it more clearly and powerfully.

> *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.*

> *I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*
> *—Matthew 5:17*

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2. What Is a Covenant?

A covenant is a divine agreement between God and His people. In Scripture, the Old Covenant refers to the law and promises given to Israel through Moses (Exodus 24:7–8), while the New Covenant refers to the salvation and grace brought through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8:6–13).

The Old Covenant:

- Based on the Law (Torah)
- Required sacrifices of animals for sin
- Had priests as mediators
- God’s law was external—written on stone
- Mostly applied to the nation of Israel

The New Covenant:

- Based on grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- Jesus Himself is the final sacrifice for sin
- Christ is our High Priest and mediator (Hebrews 4:14–16)
- God’s law is internal—written on our hearts

- Applies to *all people* who believe, Jew and Gentile alike (Galatians 3:28)

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3. Example: Comparing Old and New

Think about the early version of a mobile phone—it may have only allowed calls and texts. Now compare that to a modern smartphone: internet access, video calls, apps, and more. The new model didn't discard the original purpose—it expanded and perfected it.

In the same way, the New Covenant builds upon the foundation of the Old but adds depth, clarity, and power.

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4. Key Differences With Biblical Examples

a) Sacrifices for Sin

- Old Covenant: Required continual animal sacrifices (Leviticus 16:15–16)
- New Covenant: Jesus Christ offered Himself once and for all as the perfect sacrifice

> *"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."*
> *—Hebrews 9:12*

b) The Law

- Old Covenant: Written on tablets of stone (Exodus 31:18)
- New Covenant: Written on human hearts by the Spirit

> *"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."*
> *—Jeremiah 31:33*

> *(This is fulfilled in Hebrews 8:10)*

c) Understanding Sin

- Old Covenant: Adultery and murder were only physical acts (Exodus 20:13–14)
- New Covenant: Jesus reveals that sin begins in the heart

> *“Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*
> *—Matthew 5:28*

> *“Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.”*
> *—Matthew 5:22*

This shows a deeper spiritual standard in the New Covenant.

d) The Holy Spirit

- Old Covenant: Only certain people (prophets, judges) received the Spirit temporarily
  (Numbers 11:25, Judges 14:6)
- New Covenant: The Holy Spirit is poured out on *all* believers

> *“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy…”*
> *—Acts 2:17–18*

> *“The Holy Spirit... whom God has given to those who obey Him.”*
> *—Acts 5:32*

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5. Fulfillment, Not Replacement

The New Covenant doesn’t destroy the Old—it fulfills and completes it. Everything in the Old Covenant pointed forward to Christ. The ceremonies, sacrifices, and laws were shadows of the real thing found in Jesus.

> *“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come... can never with these same sacrifices... make those who approach perfect.”*
> *—Hebrews 10:1*

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6. The Holy Spirit Helps Us Understand Both Covenants

To understand the unity between the Old and New, we need the help of the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth (John 16:13). He is the promised gift to everyone who believes in Jesus.

> *“Repent... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children...”*
> *—Acts 2:38–39*

The Old Covenant laid the foundation. The New Covenant fulfilled it through Jesus Christ. It’s not two separate stories—it’s one continuous, unfolding plan of redemption. Jesus is the center of both.

Seek the Holy Spirit to help you understand God’s Word more deeply, and you will see the beauty and unity of both covenants working together.

May the Lord bless you and open your heart to His truth.
—Amen

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