

## "What is the New Covenant?"

- The New Covenant is the promise that God will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him.
  - Moreover, I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:26-28
- Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise.
  - how much more will the blood of Messiah - who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God - cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? <sup>15</sup> For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that those called may receive the promised eternal inheritance - since a death has taken place that redeems them from violations under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup> For where there is a covenant, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup> For a covenant is secured upon the basis of dead bodies, since it has no strength as long as the one who made it lives. <sup>18</sup> That is why not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Torah, he took the blood of the calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and he sprinkled both the book itself and all the people. <sup>20</sup> He said, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." Hebrews 9:14-20
  - In the same way, He took the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you." <sup>21</sup> But look, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. <sup>22</sup> For indeed, the Son of Man is going as has been predetermined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" Luke 22:20-22
- The New Covenant was predicted while the Old Covenant was still in effect - the prophets Moses, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all allude to the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant that God had established with His people required strict obedience to the Mosaic Law. Because the wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23), the Law required that Israel perform daily sacrifices in order to atone for sin. But Moses, through whom God established the Old Covenant, also anticipated the New Covenant. In one of his final addresses to the nation of Israel, Moses looks forward to a time when Israel would be given "a heart to understand".

- Moses called to all Israel and said to them, "You have seen all that ADONAI did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land - <sup>2</sup> the great trials that your eyes saw, those great signs and wonders. <sup>3</sup> But to this day ADONAI has not given you a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear. Deuteronomy 29:1-3
- Moses predicts that Israel would fail in keeping the Old Covenant (verses 22–28), but he then sees a time of restoration (Deuteronomy 30:1–5). At that time, Moses says, "The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live" (verse 6).

The New Covenant involves a total change of heart so that God's people are naturally pleasing to Him.

The prophet Jeremiah also predicted the New Covenant.

- "Behold, days are coming" - it is a declaration of ADONAI - "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - <sup>31</sup> not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them." it is a declaration of ADONAI. <sup>32</sup> "But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days" - it is a declaration of ADONAI - "I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people. <sup>33</sup> No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: 'Know ADONAI,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest." it is a declaration of ADONAI. "For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31:30-33
- There is still more to the New Covenant in Jeremiah 32:37-44. Notice **who** is going to do this. Also, not all has been fulfilled yet...
  - God will bring them back from the lands where He scattered them, place them in the Covenant Land and make them live in safety.
  - He will be their God.
  - He will give them one heart and one way (so they will fear and be in awe of Him) they will never turn away from Him.
  - Make an everlasting covenant with them that He will never turn away from.
  - He will rejoice over them and do them good.
  - He will faithfully plant them in the Covenant Land with all His heart and soul.
  - For how long? Eternally – Forever!
- Jesus Christ (Yeshua) came to fulfill the Law of Moses.
  - "Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. Matthew 5:17
- To establish the New Covenant between God and His people. The Old Covenant was written in stone, but the New Covenant is written on hearts.
- Entering the New Covenant is made possible only by faith in Christ, who shed His blood to take away the sins of the world.
  - The next day, John sees Yeshua coming to him and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29
- Jeremiah's contemporary Ezekiel went into Babylonian captivity during the second siege of three sieges on Jerusalem. In Ezekiel 11:13-21, he asked God a question: "Ah, Adonai! Are you going to completely eradicate the remnant of Israel?"

What was God's answer in 11:17-21?

- Therefore say, thus says ADONAI Elohim, "I will gather you from the peoples and collect you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. <sup>18</sup> When they come there, they will remove all of its detestable things and all of its abominations. <sup>19</sup> Then I will give them one heart. I will put a new Spirit within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> so that they may follow My laws, keep My ordinances and practice them. They will be My people and I will be their God. <sup>21</sup> As for those whose heart walks after the heart of

their detestable things and abominations, I will bring their ways upon their heads." It is a declaration of ADONAI Elohim.

The New Covenant is mentioned in Ezekiel 36:26–27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Ezekiel lists several aspects of the New Covenant here: **a new heart, a new spirit, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and true holiness.**

- The Mosaic Law could provide none of these things.
  - Now we know that whatever the Torah says, it says to those within the Torah, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For no human, on the basis of Torah observance, will be set right in His sight - for through the Torah comes awareness of sin. Romans 3:19-20

The New Covenant was originally given to Israel and includes a promise of fruitfulness, blessing, and a peaceful existence in the Promised Land.

- Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> "So I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful. I will not bring a famine upon you. <sup>30</sup> I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will no longer bear the disgrace of famine among the nations. Ezekiel 36:28-30
- Deuteronomy 30:1-6 contains similar promises related to Israel under the New Covenant.
  - "Now when all these things come upon you - the blessing and the curse that I have set before you - and you take them to heart in all the nations where ADONAI your God has banished you, <sup>2</sup> and you return to ADONAI your God and listen to His voice according to all that I am commanding you today - you and your children - with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>3</sup> then ADONAI your God will bring you back from captivity and have compassion on you, and He will return and gather you from all the peoples where ADONAI your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the heavens, from there ADONAI your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. <sup>5</sup> ADONAI your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, and you will possess it; and He will do you good and multiply you more than your fathers. <sup>6</sup> Also ADONAI your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants - to love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.

After the resurrection of Yeshua, God in His grace brought the Gentiles into the blessing of the New Covenant.

- While Peter was still speaking these words, the Ruach ha-Kodesh fell on all those hearing the message. <sup>45</sup> All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were astonished, because the gift of the Ruach ha-Kodesh had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup>

"Can anyone refuse water for these to be immersed, who have received the Ruach ha-Kodesh just as we did?" <sup>48</sup> So he commanded them to be immersed in the name of Messiah Yeshua. Then they asked him to stay for a few days. Acts 10:44-48

- But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. <sup>14</sup> For He is our shalom, the One who made the two into one and broke down the middle wall of separation. Within His flesh He made powerless the hostility— <sup>15</sup> the law code of mitzvot contained in regulations. He did this in order to create within Himself one new man from the two groups, making shalom, <sup>16</sup> and to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross—by which He put the hostility to death. Ephesians 2:13-16

The fulfillment of the New Covenant will be seen in two places: on earth during the Millennial Kingdom, and in heaven for all eternity.

We are no longer under the Law but under grace.

- For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Romans 6:14-15

The Old Covenant has served its purpose, and it has been replaced by “a better covenant”.

- How much more then has Yeshua become the guarantee of a better covenant. Hebrews 7:22

“In fact, the ministry Yeshua has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises”

- But now Yeshua has obtained a more excellent ministry, insofar as He is the mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted on better promises. Hebrews 8:6

Under the New Covenant, we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift.

- For by grace, you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves - it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Our responsibility is to exercise faith in Christ, the One who fulfilled the Law on our behalf and brought an end to the Law’s sacrifices through His own sacrificial death. Through the life-giving Holy Spirit who lives in all believers.

- However, you are not in the flesh but in the Ruach - if indeed the Ruach Elohim dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Ruach of Messiah, he does not belong to Him. <sup>10</sup> But if Messiah is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Ruach of the One who raised Yeshua from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Messiah Yeshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Ruach who dwells in you. Romans 8:9-11

We share in the inheritance of Christ and enjoy a permanent, unbroken relationship with God.

- For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that those called may receive the promised eternal inheritance - since a death has taken place that redeems them from violations under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:15