

GOODNEWS LETTER

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THE IDEA OF A COVENANT

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;...And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Hebrews 10:19, 20 & 24.

Lately, the GoodNews Letters have been about the Old Testament and how it blocks man from a personal access to God's presence. Once erected, the Tabernacle was the main site for service. Then, later service was in the Temple.

Through animal sacrifices and other **TYPES**, we see God holiness, but it is the restrictions within the Holy Place and Most Holy Place that comes to the forefront. Rather than allow entrance, the Tabernacle was sectioned off, revealing a division between God and those who served.

Those sacrifices and offerings of Old could not get the job done. The Book of Hebrews instructs us why. **"But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year"** (10:3).

Thus, each year became a reminder that the way to God was not yet open to man. Hebrews 10:1 explains more in detail about the Old service. **"For the Law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can NEVER WITH THOSE SACRIFICES which they offered year by year continually make the comers there unto perfect."**

So, another year meant another Passover Lamb. On a yearly basis, the Day of Atonement was observed. It is clear what needed to happen. A true sacrifice must be offered that removes sin and opens up the way for man to come to the LORD.

The Old did not make man complete. Its offerings were not efficacious and, therefore, Israel was always offering. Those "Old" sacrifices could not eradicate sin.

But, Jesus would clear the way for mankind. That's true because of two reasons, at least. First, it was man who broke the Law of God, and it had to be man that paid to fix it. Thus, Jesus is called the Son of man.

Secondly, Jesus cleared the way for man because God entered Jesus and overcame sin. He was the perfect sacrifice. End of story? Well, at least, end of the Law.

There is a vast difference between the Old and the New; therefore, it is extremely important to understand...

THE IDEA OF A COVENANT.

LET US LOOK AT WHAT A COVENANT IS; WHAT IT ACTUALLY INVOLVES.

And let's look at what we have now, today. Rather than going back to *Genesis*, we want to see what Jesus has given to us in present time.

1). A **COVENANT** is a declaration of purpose. A **COVENANT** is a promise from God. The Promises are for man, but we must understand that sin blocks the promise. Sin has to be removed; for until sin is paid for, the New Covenant cannot become available to man. And in order to bring the New to man, we need three things to be completed:

1. **REMOVAL**. The blockage of the Old must be removed.
2. **RECONCILIATION**. The Old was removed and the New was ratified in the blood of Christ. Now the New Covenant is ushered in on man's behalf. A believer becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus (2nd Cor. 5:17).
3. **RECOVERY**. It occurs simultaneously; that is, the removal of the Old and establishment of the New, happens at the same time that Christ died on the cross. By trusting, man dies with Christ and the Law is removed. It is at the time of the crucifixion, when the believer trusts in Jesus.

Our proof is in the curtain of the Temple being rent. Man's flesh is out of the way and now, man may come to God "**in spirit and in truth**," John 4:24.

When Christ died, God's love was unleashed toward man. Like never before, God brings man to Him and into fellowship through the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. He enters the world to initiate and operate the Laws of the New Covenant. By these Laws the Holy Spirit manifests His Person through conviction. He leads, guides and directs man into, and through, God's salvation (See John 16:15-21).

NOTE: We see a very special leadership given to those who unite within the church that Jesus established. Only in the Ecclesia do we understand that His Laws operate for us on a daily basis. The church does not initiate the Spiritual Laws of the New, but She honors them by following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is a fellowship and He teaches us the laws correctly. In the church we learn what the Laws are; as well as how they work in us daily.

It is clear that the church was given the commission to preach those Laws to all the world; even, teaching them to "observe all things whatever I (Jesus) have commanded you," Matthew 28:19-20. And it is just as clear that the church carries out the Laws of the New, as She lives within them; being faithful to "observe all things whatever I (Jesus) have commanded you," Matthew 28:19-20.