

GOD'S OLD AND NEW COVENANT

DECEPTION – VOL VI.

PART 1

**BY
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CONTENTS

<i>PREFACE</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	<i>ix</i>
THE OLD COVENANT WEAKNESS	1
THE GOD OF BOTH COVENANTS	9
HISTORY OF ISRAEL	17
GRACE AND TRUTH	23
THE NEW COVENANT LAW	31

PREFACE

Why did God institute two major covenants? The covenants God instituted were: 1) *The Old Covenant* and 2) *The New Covenant*. You must realize, God made many covenants, or contractual agreements in *The Torah*. After the flood, He made The Noachian Covenant which included everyone in the world. With Abraham, He entered into two agreements. One was The Promise of receiving The Land of Canaan (by circumcision) as an inheritance. The second was *The Promised Seed* who would *bless all nations*. It wasn't until about 1500 B.C. that *The Old Covenant* began (with *The Law of Moses*). This covenant was made only with Israel through circumcision (Deuteronomy 5:3). This *Old Covenant* never included the names of any of the fathers in Deuteronomy 5:3. *The New Covenant* fulfilled the agreement made with Abraham concerning The Promised Seed (Jesus, The Christ). So, God made many covenants besides *The Old* and *New Covenants*. This fact is debated by scholars to this very day. So, what is the difference? This book may reveal some insights in this matter.

This book is free and no money will ever be accepted. Any comments or criticisms are appreciated. Please, if you disagree, include scripture to prove your point.

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INTRODUCTION

What Is A Covenant?

In Hebrew “*a covenant*” is “*a legal document*” which has power in a *Court of Law*. A covenant between two or more individuals (including God) determines the *right of private ownership* (piece of property).

Anything purchased or created by anyone should guarantee it is theirs. A *covenant* is a *legal right* in a *Court of Law* which has been designated to judge the rightful ownership of a product or a property. Conditions must be stated precisely and any exceptions must be *clearly explained*. All parties must define their individual rights and responsibilities.

The parties involved in this *legal agreement* must sign with their *signatures* or other valid *mark* in order to show that they agree with all of the conditions. There must be *two* or *three witnesses* to verify the *covenant* is genuine. Their *covenants* testify ownership and responsibility in a *Court of Law* (Hebrews 6:13-18).

Old And New Covenants

Does *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant* continue (together) forever? Yes, they do! *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant* are *forever* – for *ages* and *ages* (Hebrews 7:28). There is a difference, however, between the conditions of these two agreements. You must discern these differences in order to understand what will hold up and be *legal* in a *Court of Law*.

The *Old Covenant Law* was *first* and *foremost* made

only with Israel, as a nation, and not with the *former fathers* (Deuteronomy 5:3). This *Old Covenant* only applied to The Nation of Israel. Otherwise, in the case of The Gentiles, this *Old Covenant* did not apply to them in a *Court of Law*.

Secondly, this *Old Covenant*, as based upon The Keeping of *The Law of Moses*, was only an agreement which served as a *testimony* or *witness* to another *Covenant* (Hebrews 3:5). It could only lead The Keepers of *The Law of Moses* toward *things to come*. *The Law of Moses* was only a *shadow* or *type* of *future things to come* (Hebrews 10:1).

Even though this *covenant* is *forever*, it is *conditional*. Once this *Old Covenant* has been replaced by a *New Covenant* – then *The Old vanishes* (Hebrews 8:13). To understand the differences about why *The Old Contract* vanishes away and why it can only be *replaced* by *The New Covenant* – you must read and then study *The Bible*.

CHAPTER 1

THE OLD COVENANT'S WEAKNESS

How can two covenants be forever and then one of the covenants ends or *vanishes*? Many believe that when a contract is completed and is no longer in force, then everything in it is done away. Jesus gives the answer, “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least Commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5:17-19).

Christ declares how *The Law* and *The Prophets* cannot, and will not, be *destroyed* until all is *fulfilled*. How long will it be before God builds a *New Heaven* and a *New Earth*? That question involves *prophecy*, my friend. Not only is *The Law* not done away, but everything *The Prophets foretold* must come to *pass* as well. Jesus answers, very clearly, the question about *The Law*. As *The Prophets foretold*, parts of *The Law* are *prophecy* and therefore must be *fulfilled*. As they are *fulfilled*, they no longer apply to those who have completed what *The Law* or *The Prophets* foretold.

That is why God hated Israel's keeping of *The New Moons, Sabbaths, Holy Days and Washings*. He wanted to do away with them and He did so, temporarily, by causing Israel to be taken captive (Ezekiel 36:24-25). *The Old Covenant* had many purposes. *The Ten Commandments* were different from *the works of The Law*. "*The works*" were "*prophecy*" or "*shadows of things to come*." What part referred to prophecy?

What part of *The Law* is prophecy? "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ*" (Colossians 2:16-17). Paul could not have written it any *simpler!* Those parts of *The Law* which foretell the *future* are called *prophecy*. Once *prophecy* is *fulfilled*, it can no longer be *prophecy*. Rather, it has been completed (becomes history). Therefore, there *no longer* is a duty or a reason to keep it. It is like any *will* or *contract*: once completed, it is *no longer necessary to keep*. That is why everything which *The Prophets* and *The Law* foretold, must stay in *force* until The New Heaven and New Earth arrives.

Paul plainly reveals how all of *The Law* is *prophetic* (Hebrews 10:1). Since *The Law* was a *shadow* or *prophecy*, it would not make The Israelites perfect – even though they offered sacrifices. *The Old Covenant*, along with *The Law*, was *weak* because it could *only* make the people aware of what *sin* was (I John 3:4). The Keeping of *The Law* was only prophetic and *temporary* until *The Law* was *fulfilled*. *The Law* was *weak* because humans tried to keep or obey it. The Israel-

ites needed God's Holy Spirit to make *The Law* more *honorable*. This was done by *magnifying The Law* (Isaiah 42:21). Being human and very carnal, the people could not be led to Christ (Hebrews 7:18-22).

Commandments And Law

There is another part of *The Old Covenant* besides *prophecy*. This part eliminates *The Law* from having a *divine purpose*. Israel had a *wrong heart* even in *The Keeping of The Ten Commandments* (Deuteronomy 5:29). *The Ten Commandments* are considered to be *divine* as opposed to *The Statutes and Judgments* – which are not considered to be *divine*. In the original Hebrew language, gender was determined by properly discerning *the genesis of a word*. *The Ten Commandments* were given directly by God (Exodus 20). This is because God is the originator of *The Commandments*. Because God is a *male*, *The Commandments* are written in the *male gender*. The actual Hebrew denotes that the genesis of *The Ten Commandments* came from the real *thoughts* and *mind* of *The Most High, True God*. *The Statutes* are written in the *feminine gender* – and are subservient to *The Ten Commandments* (which are *masculine*). *The Statutes* were written by humans (Moses). *The Law of Moses* allows divorce between a man and woman. Who was the originator of this statute?

The Pharisees asked Jesus if a *man* could divorce a woman (for any reason). Christ replied with the following, “*What did Moses command you?*” (Mark 10:3). He did not ask what God had told them, but what Mo-

ses had told them. Then, He became very precise and answered The Pharisees, “*For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept*” (Mark 10:5). Wow! It wasn't God who wrote this statute, but rather it was Moses.

The Oral Law actually began with Jethro, The Midianite Priest. This Oral Law was also a binding part of *The Law of Moses*. Please read Exodus 18 thoroughly. It was Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, who came up with the idea for The Elders of Israel to handle the *smaller* aspects of *The Law*. Then Moses was free to deal with the major parts of God's Law, such as *The Commandments* and Statutes. The Elders of Israel came together and *orally* discussed the smaller aspects of *The Law*. These smaller aspects were as *binding* as the rest of *The Law*. That is why Jesus clearly told Judah that whatever The Pharisees told them, they should do because they sit in Moses' seat as Elders (Matthew 23:1-2).

Old Covenant Purpose

God knew Israel had a *wrong heart*, so He came up with *The Law of Moses* – which included more than *The Ten Commandments*. These *Ten Commandments* were given directly from God's *mind* and *heart* (Deuteronomy 5:29). Therefore, He permitted Moses and The Elders of Israel to judge *The Old Covenant*. The Elders made *judgments orally* concerning the more detailed parts of *The Law*.

God did so because Israel had a wrong heart (desires)

and therefore *lacked* the *faith* required to trust Him implicitly (Hebrews 3). Moses would personally ask God for help with *judgments* regarding *The Ten Commandments*. *The Law of Moses* was not only of *divine origin* but it was also of *human origin* – because of Israel’s *weak* and *wrong desiring heart*. They only obeyed God out of *fear* (not through *faith*) and did not totally *trust Him* (Exodus 20 and Hebrews 3).

This *Law of Moses* (*The Old Covenant*) was *weak* because Israel lacked *faith* and didn’t trust God. They only *feared Him*. It was *weak* because *The Old Covenant* could not give them *Salvation*. It only spelled out what was *right* or *wrong*. It was how they knew they sinned when they transgressed (I John 3:4). This *Old Covenant* demanded every part and particle of *The Law* should be kept. If the people transgressed any part of *The Law* (given by God, Moses or The Elders), then they broke the entire *Law*. You may ask why this *Law* was so severe?

This *Old Covenant* was written for people who had a *wrong heart* and *lacked faith* in God. It carried *judgments* and *curses* as well as *blessings* (Deuteronomy 28-29). Even the smallest infringement contained *judgments* and *penalties* (sacrifices). Israel had to learn that they would be penalized no matter how small *the sin*. They had a *wrong nature* or *heart* and couldn’t keep *The Law*. Therefore, Israel was penalized so they would *obey* God out of *fear*. That is what they agreed to do and God accepted it.

The Old Covenant Law, being based upon *The Law*

of Moses, was only for Israel because in their hearts, they were the same as *criminals* (I Timothy 1:9-10). It only gave them limited choices. These are the choices of *good and evil*, just as with Adam and Eve. They could only be *God's chosen people* as *witnesses* of *better things to come* (prophecy). Like Adam and Eve, The Israelites could stay on God's property – but God would not *dwell with them*. He only spoke to Moses outside of Israel's camp.

Once The Israelites sinned when they built The Golden Calf, God could not allow them to live on His *land*. Instead, they had to wander in *the wilderness* to be *tried* and *tested* just like Cain in The Land of Nod (wandering in the wilderness). What a perfect God! *The Old Covenant* was written for *criminals*, like those found in any nation. Certain laws are needed to stamp out *crime*. But God gives you every chance to change. Even though *The Law of Moses* would keep *crime* to a *minimum*, it still could not give anyone in Israel – *Salvation*. Furthermore, it did not make them *perfect*. For this to occur, God had to give them a *better covenant* with *better promises*. *The Law* had to be *magnified* or *enlarged* to become *honorable* so they could be given The Gift of *Salvation* (Isaiah 42:21). *The Law*, when *magnified*, had to lead the people to *God's righteousness*.

CHAPTER 2

THE GOD OF BOTH COVENANTS

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). Was The God of The Old Testament and The New Testament – the same God? Some believe The Old Testament and The New Testament “God” was not the same. What is the truth?

A New Teaching

The Old Testament “God” and The New Testament “God” were the same God, but each covenant had a different purpose. Moses was given The Law, but when Jesus came, His purpose was to give grace (mercy) and truth. “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law” (Hebrews 7:12). You are about to learn the reason for that change. You will soon discover in what ways The Law wasn’t changed. What changed was The Priesthood (which had different goals and purposes) and God’s method of teaching or Methodology.

Wrong Heart

As you have seen, The Old Covenant teaching was only between God and a specific group of people who listened to Him out of fear. They had a wrong heart and wrong desires when God gave them The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). Israel, having been slaves in

Egypt, only knew how to worship Egyptian “gods” out of *fear*. Those gods had to be appeased. When Israel sinned by worshipping The Golden Calf as *a god*, a change of teaching had to be instituted. The *pagan gods* had to be appeased and feared. God wanted Israel to love *Him*, as *The Great Commandment* revealed; rather than to *fear Him* (Deuteronomy 6:5). *The New Covenant* is totally the opposite and is not founded upon *fear*. Rather, it is founded upon *love* which is God’s real goal for everyone. “*Perfect love casts out fear*” (I John 4:18).

The Old Covenant is a temporary agreement between the unconverted and the converted. What is the difference? To be *converted* is to change what you may want at any given time in your life. If you are going in a specific direction and then realize you are not succeeding, you therefore must change your *ways*. It is a complete change of your *mind* and how you *think*. No longer do you worship God out of *fear* – but out of *love*. *Biblically*, this is called *repentance*. Any good teacher knows every *student* cannot be taught the same way. Differing “*methodologies*” are required. That means different *teaching methods* must be employed with each *student* – until *all choose* (in faith) to follow *the teacher*. God, as a great *Rabbi* or Teacher, understands this. The One True World’s Teacher uses different *methodologies* depending upon *the people* being taught. Those who have a *wrong heart* and who will only obey *out of fear* are like a *prisoner* in jail who only listens to the jailer – out of fear. Once a prisoner experiences the difference between their former life, a few will change their evil ways of thinking. They can

then be trusted like Abraham who was always *faithful* and obeyed God's voice (unlike Israel).

A Judge

The Old Covenant was not a teacher – rather, it was an assistant to render judgment upon each of Israel's acts. God introduced Israel to their new teacher. “Behold, I send an Angel [messenger] before you, to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him” (Exodus 23:20-21). Wow! *This teacher was harsh*, but it wasn't God doing this, because “*God is love*” (I John 4:8). Notice, God is *love* and until you understand “*love*,” you may not even know who or what God is! *The Old Covenant Law* administered by Moses was not enforced by God but by a messenger of God who had God's authority and served as a Judge. *The Law of Moses* was administered, not by God, but by a strict judge.

The Law And Slavery

Paul told Timothy, The Evangelist, “*That the law* [in The Old Covenant] *is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers... and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine*” (I Timothy 1:9-10). Israel had to remain in *slavery* in the wilderness and continue doing *The Works of The Law* until they acquired a *right heart*. They were required to wan-

der aimlessly for forty years (one full generation) until they all died in the wilderness. This was because they wouldn't change their hearts. Even Aaron and Moses (Israel's leaders) could not enter God's Promised Land because of their hard hearts or hot *tempers*. Notice how God changed *The Ten Commandments* which He had given at Mount Horeb from the time when they *sinned as unrighteous criminals*.

At The Mount, *The Fourth Commandment* concerning God's Sabbath Rest in The Garden was *altered*. This occurred after Israel had sinned while they were coming out of *slavery* (Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5). "*Prison*" is "*God's slavery*." Now Israel, as slaves in Egypt, had to be delivered from *slavery* once again. They had to do *the work of survival*. Consequently, the only rest they had was on The 7th Day (Sabbath). It was *a reminder* of how they were *still in slavery* (as in Egypt). They had to obey their leaders, with *the angel as their Judge*. They were required to keep every work. This meant they had to observe every aspect of *The Law*, or they would be *guilty of breaking all The Law*. The Angel/Judge would not *pardon* them so he had to *curse* them (Deuteronomy 28). They were still in *slavery* as long as they had *a wrong heart* and were without God's *love*.

No Illegal Aliens

How does God permit people to *immigrate* to His *land*, which is *The Promised Land of Rest*? Not by *slavery* as in Egypt. God does not allow anyone to become immigrants in His land unless they agreed to keep His

Law. Why is this? It is because unless humans have a right heart and *think* like God (showing their absolute *faith* in Him), they must (by their *works*) obey His Laws. Israel proved to be *illegal aliens* and therefore had to remain in *slavery* (on their own) while attempting to survive in *the wilderness*. God's land was a developed piece of *property*, a *land of milk and honey*. God blessed this area to be a *land of plenty*, just like Eden. The Canaanites, who were occupying this *property*, had no legal right to it because they had *filled* it with their *sins*. There was nothing but *violence, wars* and idolatry.

They did not know or worship The One True God who had blessed the land. The squatters had to be removed – or else be killed in order to preserve God's "*blessed land*." Otherwise, with their *unlawful* conduct, they would ultimately destroy the area and cause genocide. It was just as the world was in Noah's day before the flood (Genesis 6). Israel couldn't enter The Land of Plenty because they were criminals as well. They were *lawless*, just like The Canaanites. God does not allow *lawless, illegal aliens* to live on His land (even if they are His people). The consequence would be for *The Promised Land* to become a desolate *wilderness*. Sin always causes darkness.

No Mercy Or Grace

Because Israel sinned when they received *The Ten Commandments*, God gave them *no mercy*. They had to keep *all* of *The Law* or become guilty of *transgression*. They had a *wrong heart* and could not keep *The*

Ten Commandments because of their human nature (Deuteronomy 5:29). When God agreed with Moses to keep Israel as His *people*, the promise was to be based upon their keeping all *The Law* and its “*works*” perfectly (Exodus 33:13). Moses pleaded for *grace*. Then here is what God told Moses, “*And the Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that you have spoken: for you have found grace in my sight, and I know you by name*” (Exodus 33:17).

God only listened to Moses because he was *faithful in his house* just like Abraham. He was also *faithful* as Jesus was (Hebrews 3:1-3). This is powerful stuff. The major difference between *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant* is *grace*. God only stayed with Israel and kept them as His *people* because of Moses interceding on their behalf. God insisted that *The Old Covenant* had to be kept perfectly to allow Israel to stay in God's blessed Promised Land of Plenty. There would be *no mercy*. There would be no *illegal immigrants* – not even His *people*, Israel. They were to be led into the *wilderness* to be *judged* by God's angel with *no mercy*. God was The One True God (as with *The New Covenant*) but even so, *criminals* must always be dealt with harshly. They had a *wrong heart* (desires) and couldn't obey God – in faith. Only those completely obedient to God's Law could reside in God's Promised Land. There would be no *grace* until the arrival of Jesus, The Christ who brought *The New Covenant* (John 1:17).

The God of *The Old* and *The New Covenant* is the *same God* – but He could not give *grace* (mercy) under *The*

Old Covenant. The Keeping of *The Law of Moses* was the only way people who lacked *faith* in God would not end up like The Canaanites. The Canaanites lived in violence and genocide. *The Old Covenant God* was the *same God* as *The New Covenant God* – but with a *different judge*. Who was this *messenger/angel/judge*?

CHAPTER 3

HISTORY OF ISRAEL

When Joshua took the new generation of Israel into The Promised Land, they had to go through Immigration. (They went from the wilderness to The Promised Land. They became legal immigrants). The people had to learn The Israeli Constitution – which was *The Old Covenant Law of Moses*. This was the legal foundational basis for the nation. It was originated by God and Moses over a period of forty years in the wilderness. However, it started during the forty days which Moses spent on Mount Sinai. The founding fathers all died in their forty-year journey because they refused to have *faith* in God or in their Constitution.

Jericho And Faith

After Israel crossed The Jordan River (their baptism), they were required to *circumcise* all the males who were twenty years of age and older. Only the males had the right to inherit the land. Therefore, they owned everything on their inherited estate (Psalm 24:1). This was God's land that He gave to each male as *an inheritance* from His estate.

Israel's first test was at The City of Jericho. They had to prove they could enter The Land of God by showing their *faith* in Him. God tested them concern-

ing whether or not they accepted Him as their *only* Master. They were coming out of *slavery* from *the wilderness*. God chose this Land of Canaan as His property which He had been developing as The Land of Plenty. This was during the period of time when The Canaanites possessed the area. They had abused it, worshipped many *gods* and were warlike and violent. They burned their children as sacrifices, which God never asked them to do. This very act was hated by The Creator. By doing such atrocities, they had lost their chance to remain on God's Promised Land. They became slaves and had to depart from the area to prevent them from being killed. In many different ways, they were eradicated from the land.

God Signs His Agreement

When those in Jericho heard about the coming of The Israelites, they were frightened. This is because they had learned of Israel's successes in the wilderness. The man-made *gods*, from The Time of The Tower of Babel onward, were looked upon by societies as heroes, making them men of renown or *Saviors*. The only question was "who was the strongest mini-god?" They were only humans perceived as Kings or *Priests* and considered *divine* as mini-gods. Their cities were all protected by *walls* because of so much *violence*, just like it was in The Days of Noah.

The One True God was ready to prove to His chosen people, Israel, that He, alone, was *The One Almighty God*. God told Joshua, a Savior of God's people, that they must walk around Jericho for *seven days*. As

they walked each day, they were led by The Priests who would blow the trumpets. God was giving Israel *a test of faith* to prove that only He was The One True God. Israel obeyed God and on *the seventh day*, they blew *the seventh trumpet* and all *the walls* came down. All Israel needed to do was to enter and take over the entire city. God proved He was *The One True God* and they could always *trust Him*. Israel passed their *Constitutional "test"* through *faith* and, with *the circumcision*, both Israel and God signed *The Covenant*. Then, they were able to live in *The Promised Land*. *The Book of Joshua* shows how God kept putting Israel through *trials* to demonstrate their *faith*.

God tested His people from The Time of Moses to King David. Around 1000 B.C., King David became a person after God's own heart. David repented of his sins in Psalm 51. David was granted a right heart by God's Holy Spirit. God made an eternal covenant which promised to always have *a seed* of David to reign over Israel.

King Solomon built a house for God. The temporary *tabernacle* was replaced by a permanent structure. Now, The Ark of The Covenant was in a house of stone, known as The First Temple. Israel could stay on God's property as long as they remained *faithful*. When Solomon died, Rehoboam, his son, refused to listen to The Elders of Israel regarding all the high taxes he instituted. The result was Israel split into two nations. Ten tribes were led by Ephraim with Jeroboam as King and the others were led by Rehoboam with Judah as King.

When The Israelites were divided into two kingdoms, their combined military powers were reduced. They started to make covenants with other nations. By The 7th Century B.C., they declined (morally) because they were so involved with the other nations. Israel was taken captive by Assyria. Judah was taken captive 130 years later. Eventually, Israel and Judah both became corrupt – hence *the prophesied captivity*.

God found His people had become as sinful as the nations around them (Isaiah 1). They became very *violent* and were wicked towards their own people, especially the widows and the poor. They remained great churchgoers in keeping *The Works of The Law* – but they had *a wrong heart*. Read the whole *Book of Isaiah*, which is a prophecy about Israel's destruction. By following their lovers and becoming like those nations which they followed, God allowed them to go into captivity.

Cyrus, The Mede

For seventy years, Judah remained in captivity. The Ten Tribes of Israel were absorbed by The Gentile Nations and became The Ten Lost Tribes (Amos 9:9). Only Judah remained as The 2^{1/2} Tribes. After being conquered by Babylon, Cyrus allowed Judah to restore The Temple under Zerubbabel, as Governor. Judah's return to Jerusalem is foretold – but it will be at *The Time of Jacob's Trouble* until Christ comes back (Jeremiah 30:1-7).

The Book of Malachi prophesies how Jesus would come to restore The Temple of God along with another

person who comes in *The Spirit of Elijah*. The latter would prepare *the way* (before Christ) (Malachi 3:1). *The Book of Malachi* was written as a warning to The Levitical Priesthood. Malachi, Judah's last Prophet, warns The Priests to not misuse the sacred tithe. This instruction reflected the special message to be brought by Elijah's *spirit*. A warning was given – they had better adhere to the teachings of The Messiah who will come to restore true Temple worship – or else.

If The Messiah is rejected and Judah continues to corrupt The Priesthood and The Temple, then an unbearable event is promised to occur. Judah has been under a *curse* or a Time of Trouble until The Messiah comes (Malachi 3:8-18). If they would have listened to their savior and restored The Prophets' temple-worship, then they would have been *blessed* in all their *works* and *ways*.

If not, *the curse* will continue as Jacob's Time of Trouble with a *great tribulation* to follow. Read about this Time of Trouble (if it continues) in Malachi 3:16-18. The curse will separate those who follow The Messiah from those who do not. A *Book of Remembrance* is being written which holds the names of those who follow Jesus. It does not contain those who are not following Jesus.

The Great Tribulation will surely come if they do not follow *The Sun of Righteousness* (a symbol of Christ) (Malachi 4). When Jesus came to earth in *the flesh*, He came with *healing in His wings* (Malachi 4:2). Here is what will transpire to those who do not follow The

Messiah, “*For, behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch*” (Malachi 4:1).

Those who followed Jesus would escape and trample over the ashes of those under the soles of their feet (who were burned). **Only The Messianic Jews** (followers of Jesus) would escape from this *tribulation* (70 A.D.).

What will occur if they do not heed Malachi’s warning? “*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*” (Malachi 4:5-6). Malachi concludes the prophecy at this point.

This prophecy is quite clear. When Elijah comes and The Temple and The Priesthood are not *cleansed* (made Holy), then a worldwide curse will take place. The people will refuse to obey The Messiah and not follow Him.

The Day of The Lord will be postponed. Judah will once again be scattered into all nations (just as Israel was) until The Times of The Gentiles are *fulfilled* (Luke 21:24). (Read the book, *The Times of The Gentiles*). The Time of Jacob’s Trouble continues.

CHAPTER 4

GRACE AND TRUTH

Malachi was Judah's last Prophet because Judah did not listen to his prophecy. A worldwide curse was passed on to the *whole world* (Zechariah 5:3). A great scroll, which is *wickedness*, covers the *earth*. Now, in Jacob's Time of Trouble, is the time to look for a *New Covenant* (to come). The question becomes, what happens with *The New Covenant*?

The Law And Christ

The Law came through Moses, but *grace* and *truth* came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Malachi's prophecy would either bless Judah or bring a curse. What did The Messiah say about His purpose when He came in the flesh? "*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before your face, which shall prepare your way before you*" (Mark 1:1-2).

They heard "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare you the way of the Lord, make his paths straight*" (Mark 1:3). This is from Isaiah 40:3. Mark's gospel announces the *good news* of Jesus Christ and not the good news about The Kingdom of God. John, The Baptist (as Elijah) declares The Coming of The Lord, The Messiah who they will seek. Jesus is The *Messenger of The Covenant* in whom they will *delight*.

How simple and clear is this message? The Messiah was expected and desired. Jesus, The Christ came because of Malachi's prophecy (regarding *The Old Covenant*). The Temple served with *The Old Covenant*. What was Christ going to do regarding The Temple and *The Covenant*? Jesus explains this in Matthew 5:1-20. After Jesus preached to the multitude on the mountain, He came to His Disciples and gave them *The Beatitudes*. Then, He told His Disciples they were the "*salt of the world.*" They were to become like salt (the preservative spice). They were to be *The Light of The World*.

Jesus clarified why He called His Disciples to follow Him. He made a departure from *their purpose* to His purpose. He preached concerning what He came to fulfill. In Greek, the word "*pleroma*" means "*to complete the prophecy*" which appears to be directed toward Malachi 3:1. Listen to His words, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law; or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill*" (Matthew 5:17). There it is again, the word "*fulfill.*" Christ came not only to *complete* the *prophecy* (Malachi) but also to *fulfill* the *purpose* of *The Law of Moses* – as well as that told by The Prophets.

You need to biblically prove what *The Law of Moses* has to do with The Messiah. "*And Moses verily was faithful in all his house [Israel], as a servant, for a testimony [witness] of those things which were to be spoken after*" (Hebrews 3:5). Wow! This is *prophecy*. Besides Malachi and the other prophets, *The Law of Moses* foretold about Christ and what He was destined to do

for His Father, God, Almighty. Paul clearly said the same about *The Law of Moses*. “*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [teacher] to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith*” (Galatians 3:24). Jesus told His Disciples to be a *light* or a *witness* to the world!

The Law and *The Prophets* declared that Jesus was to completely *fulfill* every piece of prophecy concerning *Himself*! “*For verily I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled*” (Matthew 5:18). What was The Messiah telling you? Christ wasn’t telling His Disciples to keep *The Law* in *the letter* but only the part of it which was not *completed*. When you *fulfill The Law*, it becomes part of *your nature*. The Messiah was fulfilling prophecy concerning His coming. A “*jot*” in Greek is the *ninth letter* while in Hebrew “*the tenth*” is a “*tittle*.” A “*tittle*” in Hebrew and in Greek means “*the least*.” It is just like a *tithe* – *one tenth*. Christians do not *tithe*, rather they *give all* – even their own *lives*.

Even a *tithe*, or the least part of *The Law*, will not pass away as prophesied until all of *The Law* has been fulfilled. Jesus told His Disciples they must be more *righteous* than the *scribes* and Pharisees, or they could not enter The Kingdom of Heaven. Wow! Christ was telling His *followers* how they, as He, must complete what is foretold in prophecy about them. Each *jot* and *tittle* must come to pass concerning *The Law*.

“*The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify [enlarge] the law and make it more*

honorable” (Isaiah 42:21). Not one part of *The Law* will cease until Jesus expands God’s Law to make it more honorable. This is so *Salvation* can take place under The New Heaven and on The New Earth. That is how *The New Covenant* changes *The Old Covenant*. In turn, *The Old Covenant* finally *vanishes* (beyond its use – it didn’t fulfill its Godly purpose) (Hebrews 8:13). Matthew 5, 6, and 7 describes *The New Covenant* in detail – as opposed to *The Old Covenant*. Matthew 5:48 declares how The Disciples must become *perfect* – just like their Father in heaven. There it is – simple and clear. Christ, as The Messiah, was declaring how He came to give God’s people, Israel and Christians, the very process by which one could grow from The Letter of *The Law* into The Spirit of *The Law*. That is why Paul said *The Law* is *spiritual* (Romans 7:14).

Works Of The Law

Most debates are not about *The Law* being done away – but rather arguing about *The Works* of God’s Law. Here is what The Apostle Paul said about Christians being so careful doing *The Works* of *The Law*, “*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them*” (Galatians 3:10). Then Paul declared, “*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse [sacrifice] for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree*” (Galatians 3:13).

Christians now obey God’s *word* by means of The Holy Spirit – “*In Them.*” This is quite clear and very plain.

Therefore Christians are *faithful* (Galatians 3:1-3). Doing *The Law* by works demands completing *every jot and tittle*, just as Jesus said (Matthew 5:18). Works have to do with the complete Law and not just sacrifices. “Works” in Greek is “*ergo*” or “*deeds*” and not merely “*labor*.” “*Ergozomai*” is Greek for “works” or “*labor for profit*.” Ergo refers to *The Law’s* requirements and not just to labor – such as pulling a lamb out of the ditch (hard work).

Not one *jot or tittle* will be done away until *all of The Law and The Prophets* are *fulfilled* (completed). Once a Christian receives God’s Holy Spirit, he or she is led to *the truth* by *faith* and not by doing *The Works of The Law* (Matthew 5).

Since Christ removed the *curse of The Law*, as written in Deuteronomy 28, there is no penalty for not doing *The Law*. *The Law* is now written in your heart and mind, naturally, by God’s Spirit. God’s Holy Spirit makes you *Holy* just like Jesus (not by *The Law* with its works). Does *The Bible* define these *works*? Yes, it does!

The entire Law, including *the sacrifices*, is only a *shadow of good things to come* (Hebrews 10:1). Moses built his house by means of *The Law* (Hebrews 3:5). *The Law of Moses* was merely a *prophecy* about these “*good things to come*.” *The Book of Hebrews* was speaking about *The New Covenant* which makes you *perfect* through *The Priesthood of Melchizedek* (Hebrews 8:5-13). It all becomes clear and fits together perfectly. Paul becomes very specific concerning what

works he had in mind, “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow [prophecy] of things to come; but the body is of Christ*” (Colossians 2:16-17).

Since *the body* (the church) is *Christ*, then let no one *judge* you about *prophecy*. Once a Christian repents, God gives them *grace* (mercy). Then, a Christian is *unleavened* (I Corinthians 5:7). As you receive God's Holy Spirit, you are in The Kingdom of God, as long as you remain *faithful* to Christ and God (John 5:24).

When a Christian fulfills *all The Law* through repentance, then being unleavened (sinless) guarantees *life eternal* in *paradise*. Once you won the race, there is no need to keep those *shadows*. Those shadows have already been *fulfilled* (Matthew 5:17-18). Jesus did not come to destroy *The Law* but to complete *The Law* (better things to come being fulfilled).

Why would you need to do something which you have already accomplished and fulfilled? If you choose to memorialize these days – that is fine. It is not a sin to rejoice in these days – but they are no longer mandatory for Christians. This is because it would mean that you *lacked faith* and do not believe that Christ put *The Law* (*spiritually*) in your heart and mind.

Doing The Works of *The Law*, as the result of a command, is a lack of *faith*. You must have God's Holy Spirit to be able to accomplish the job. It will lead you to *the truth*. It is Christ – “*In You,*” through The Holy

Spirit which will, then, reveal God's truth. It is not doing *The Works of The Law* but becoming or growing into what *The Law* foretells (Matthew 5). How simple is this? You are now under *grace* (mercy) and *truth*. *The Law* will be in your heart and mind by faith (just like Abraham).

CHAPTER 5

THE NEW COVENANT LAW

Key scriptures which define the differences between the various constructions of two houses should be read in Hebrews 3:1-6. The first house is The Tabernacle built by Moses who was faithful. God's *glory* dwelt there. Its purpose was to be a *testimony* of what God was going to do with Israel. It pointed towards the future. *The Law* of Moses was designed to bring them to Christ. Once Jesus came, He became personally responsible to build The House of God. Since He built *the spiritual house*, it was greater than *the physical house* which Moses built. Jesus built this house with more *glory*. These two houses describe the difference between *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant*.

God Builds All Things

Paul instructed Timothy that God was building a *Great House* where He will dwell with man (Revelation 21:3). This *great house* will be built by God under The New Heaven and on The New Earth. This is because God, alone, builds *all things* (Hebrews 3:4).

Jesus intended to build *a house, personally*, which would have "*great honor*." When God's *house* began in The Garden of Eden, it was filled with both *hon-*

orable and dishonorable vessels. The Messiah was to come and *magnify the house* (no dishonorable vessels) which Moses built (Isaiah 42:21). Moses came and gave *The Law* in The Letter, but Christ magnified *The Law* and gave it *light*. What was the difference? Before Paul describes this great house which God is building, he instructs Timothy to have a *sure foundation* (II Timothy 2:19). Then Paul declares that The Lord knows who belongs to Him. Who is this *foundation* (I Corinthians 3:11)? Paul said, “*And, Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity*” (II Timothy 2:19). This *great house* has both honorable and dishonorable vessels in it. So Paul wants Timothy to continue Christ’s *work* of instructing the vessels (individuals) in this house to be *faithful – In Christ – to the very end.*

Old And New

Clearly, *The Old Covenant* was given to Moses to bring Israel to repentance. This is before their acceptance of their Messiah who would become *The Author* of a *New Covenant* which is newer and better than *The Old*. That is why *The Old Covenant* had to vanish away. But it was never to be destroyed. *The Old Covenant* was only for the *unrighteous* and not for the *righteous* (I Timothy 1:7-10). All *The Old Covenant* could do was to be a *Schoolmaster* (Rabbi/teacher/priest) to bring a person to Christ. *The Old Covenant*, based upon *The Law of Moses*, required a Levitical Priesthood to pardon individuals for their *sins*. The *righteous* were *righteous* because of *The Blood of Christ* (their sins were pardoned). They received *grace* and did not

need to *sacrifice animals*. As they remained *faithful* asking for repentance, they belonged to Jesus under The Melchizedek Priesthood. This *Priesthood* was of *righteousness* and *faith*. That is why *The Priesthood* changed *The Law* (Hebrews 7:12).

The Law was not destroyed but *magnified*. Those under The Magnified Law are to be more *honorable* than those under *The Old Covenant Law* of Moses. During The Time of Herod, The Levites served in The Temple. Jesus could not have been a Priest on earth because The Levites were still serving in God's House according to *The Old Covenant Law* of Moses (Hebrews 8:4-8).

Christ, as Melchizedek in Heaven, is serving in God's House, which is His Temple in *heaven*. When they sin, Christians can repent and be forgiven through faithful prayer. Christ's blood always covers the *sins of the faithful*. *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant* are never destroyed or done away. A person's repentance decides which *Covenant* is in *force* during their *lifetime*. *The Old Covenant* can only be in force with the correct Priesthood and The Temple, where sin was pardoned by animal sacrifice. *The New Covenant* is about *the spiritual keeping of The Law* where The *Blood* of Christ covers *your sins* through *faith*.

Temple Of Stones

Here is what Christians are to be and how they are to become part of *The New Covenant* – as opposed to *The Old Covenant*, “*Wherefore laying aside all malice and*

*all guile and hypocrisies and envies and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby: If so, you have tasted that the Lord is gracious [merciful]. To whom coming, as to a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, You also, as lively [living] stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices [your life], acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone [I Corinthians 3:11], elect [chosen], precious: and he that believes on Him shall not be confounded” (I Peter 2:1-6). There it is – *The New Covenant* entirely spelled out very clearly.*

It is Jesus, by means of The Holy Spirit, who changes your *nature* from human to *Spirit* (like Christ). As The Holy Spirit reveals *The Truth* to you by following Christ's example in *faith*, you become an *eternal stone* in God's *Spiritual House* built upon Christ. Christ, *The Rock*, is *The Chief Corner Stone* in God's Holy House. This makes you an *honorable vessel* in God's *temple*. “*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”* (I Peter 2:9).

What a difference there is between *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant*! *The Old Covenant* reveals what *sin* is and it brings you to Christ. *The New Covenant*, if you remain *faithful*, actually makes you *Holy* by nature and allows *The Spirit of The Law* to be kept in your *heart* and *mind* (be an integral part of you). **Wow!**

The Old Covenant will not be implemented again until Christ returns and has ***The Physical Temple*** restored with God's ***glory*** in it. Eventually, this will bring Israel and the world to ***the truth*** of God (Ezekiel 40-48, Isaiah 2:2-4 and Isaiah 11:9). This is the beauty of The Gospel of Christ.

All Things New

Did you know that after both ***The Old Covenant*** and ***The New Covenant*** are fulfilled, there is a ***Third Covenant***? It is only built by God with His Honorable chosen ***vessels*** who live in His Temple. God's final house or ***temple*** is not physical like ***The Old Covenant*** or ***The New Covenant***. This is because this Covenant requires God, who ***builds all things*** (Hebrews 3:4), to be The One doing ***all the work*** (Revelation 21:3-9). It is truly God's ***rest*** for the ***whole earth***. God and Christ will dwell with ***mankind***, permanently, in The Holy of Holies (Revelation 22:3).

The Beginning

What started in ***the beginning*** in The Garden of Eden continues with ***the promised seed***, coming through the line from Adam and Eve. All things are made new by God, Almighty – “***throughout all ages, world without end. A-men***” (Ephesians 3:21). There is ***no curse*** or Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil – but only The Tree of Life with the ***healing leaves*** and ***waters of life*** flowing out of The Throne of God (God's Holy Spirit) to heal (restore) ***all the nations*** (Revelation 22:1-2). Everyone can become God's sons when they decide

through their *free choice* to become like Christ. When they are in *outer darkness – spiritually*, then will be the time for them to make their free choice. There is *no set date* – but God's *loving nature* waits till *everyone comes to repentance* (II Peter 3:9).

Then The Bride and God's Holy Spirit declares, "*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life [healing leaves] freely*" (Revelation 22:17). You have a *Glorious and Wonderful Father*. What began in The Garden of Eden, now continues with all of Eve's children. She is "*The Mother of us all*" (Galatians 4:26). Everyone is to come to Christ and be like Him. *The Old Covenant* is only a *shadow of good things to come* in order to bring you to Christ. "*In Christ*" you become "*the work of The New Covenant of The Groom, Jesus.*" Finally, Christ will marry His Bride. Then God, Christ and His Wife will live in New Jerusalem. God will start a New Genesis – The Alpha and Omega to *make all things new!* It will be The Wonderful World of all your wonderful tomorrows. A-men!