

THE COVENANT

THE OLD AND NEW COVENANT

I. DEFINITION

The Hebrew word for the covenant of God with man gives us the concept of a binding agreement. This is not an agreement or settlement between two parties, but implies the notion of **IMPOSITION AND OBLIGATION**.

So we find that the covenant is Commanded. This cannot be said about a mutual agreement. **GOD HAS IMPOSED UPON US A BINDING CONTRACT!!**

II. WHO IS THIS GOD WHO MAKES THIS COVENANT?

He is the **CREATOR** who created out of nothing. (Genesis 1)

He is fleshed out in Jesus, the **SUFFERING SERVANT** revealed in the Gospels.

He is the **KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS** as revealed in the Revelation.

III. WHY IS HE MAKING THIS COVENANT?

He has called us to revolt against the rule and domain of the enemy who has deceived us and has kept us bound.

When Adam sinned he gave his God-given right to rule the earth to Satan.
(Gen 1:26,28; 3)

The enemy has ruled and oppressed humankind since. But Christ Jesus has called us out.

Ephesians 2:1-3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature {Or [our flesh]} and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:12-13

remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

IV. EXAMPLE OF A COVENANT

In an early HITTITE contract or treaty (c. 2000 B.C.), a king imposed a set of commandments on his subjects. The King imposes terms upon subjects and in turn promises protection. (Jehoiada in 2 Kings 11:4--).

CHARACTERISTIC ELEMENTS OF A TREATY:

A. PREAMBLE

The King identifies himself.

B. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE

Describes the previous relationship the King had with his subjects.
Grounds upon which the subject should willingly give up his freedom to serve the King.

C. STIPULATIONS

Obligations to which the servant binds himself in accepting the covenant.

D. DEPOSIT OF TEXT

To be placed in a public place and read to the people one to four times a year.

E. WITNESSES

That would witness against them if they broke the covenant.

F. CURSES AND BLESSINGS

Blessings that would come for obedience and curses that would occur for disobedience.

G. OATH AND SOLEMN CEREMONY

To show that you are serious in keeping the covenant.

H. PROCEDURE FOR ACTION AGAINST A COVENANT BREAKER

Procedure to bring a lawsuit against the covenant breaker.

V. MOSAIC COVENANT

FORMATION OF A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY BY COVENANT

A. PREAMBLE

Exodus 20:1

I am YAHWEH your God.

YAHWEH gave, commanded, established the covenant.

B. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE

Exodus 20:2

The one who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

C. THE STIPULATIONS

Exodus 20:1-17,22-26 (Basic)

Exodus 20-31 and Leviticus 1-25 (Detailed)

1. Exclusive relationship to YAHWEH alone.

2. Unwavering trust in His rule.

Murmuring against Him was always regarded as a violation of our obligation. (Murmuring was not punished until **after** the covenant. (see Exodus 17 vs. Numbers 11).

Defines the interests of the ruler which the servant is bound to protect.

Has to do with regulations which preserve the peace of the domain.

By placing the people under oath to refrain from the acts proscribed--- there is a horror in the community of the sort of acts that are likely to disrupt the peace.

The content of the covenant is not necessarily new or different from the pagan laws. (Code of Hammurabi). It was the *religious concept of the relationship between YAHWEH and man that was unique.*

Obedience to the commands of YAHWEH took precedence over the other concerns.

D. DISPOSITION OF TEXT

Exodus 25:10-22

Put it in the Ark of the Covenant. There will I meet with you and give commands.

To be read at least every 7 years at the Feast of Tabernacles
(Deuteronomy 31:9-13)

The men were to personally appear before the Lord three times a year at the Feasts. (Exodus 34:23)

Private teaching in the family was to be done daily.
(Deuteronomy 6:20-25)

E. WITNESSES

1. The gods of paganism are excluded.
2. Memorial stones. (Exodus 24:4)
He built an alter at the foot of the mountain and set up 12 stone pillars. Then sacrificed and then read the covenant.
3. Heaven and Earth. (Deuteronomy 31:28)

F. CURSES AND BLESSINGS

Blessings: Leviticus 26:3-13 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Curses: Leviticus 26:14-33 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68

G. OATH AND SOLEMN CEREMONY

Exodus 24:1-11

Built alters, sacrificed, read the covenant.

They saw God and ate and drank with Him.

Deuteronomy 27:6-9

You have now become the people of YAHWEH your God.
(fulfilled in Joshua 8:30-35)

H. PROCEDURE FOR ACTION AGAINST A FAITHLESS COVENANT PARTNER.

Deuteronomy 32:15---

The controversy pattern.

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

YAHWEH, the God of Israel (through the prophets) arraigns this people for breaking the covenant.

The speeches of the prophets are stylized in the form of a lawsuit. (1 Samuel 12:6) (Isaiah 1:2) (Jeremiah 2:4) (Hosea 4:1) (Micah 6:1)

God sues the people of Israel in the presence of witnesses such as heaven and earth and the mountains.

(1 Samuel 12:6; Isaiah 1:2; Micah 6:1)

The prophetic lawsuit represents the accusation of God before His coming to destroy Israel for violating the covenant.

(Amos 4:6-11)

The purpose of the treaty curses was to portray calamities that would befall the vassal if he violated the treaty. This was usually done by literary similes and a dramatic enactment of the punishment that would befall the transgressor. Both devices were employed by the prophets.

(Amos 2:13; 3:12; 5:19)

Jeremiah speaks of the covenant that YAHWEH had concluded with the fathers (11:8; 34:13) and censures the people because they had broken the covenant and served other gods. (11:10; 31:32) In his intercession for the people, he refers to the covenant. (14:21)

But he also knows of a ***NEW COVENANT*** which YAHWEH will conclude with Israel in place of the covenant they had broken. (31:31) This will consist of the "law", but will differ from the old covenant in that people ***will know and perform the will of God out of inner motivation.***

Forgiveness of sins is the basis of this new covenant. (31:34)

In Ezekiel 16, Ezekiel speaks of the covenant YAHWEH had made with young Israel (16:8) but which Israel had broken (16:59). But now, YAHWEH will make a ***NEW COVENANT*** (16:60-62) not because of Israel's faithfulness (16:61) but because YAHWEH himself will remember the covenant (16:60).

Elsewhere---He promises a ***NEW COVENANT*** (37:26) which will be a covenant of peace (34:25: 37:26) and an everlasting covenant. (16:60; 37:26; cf Isaiah 61:8).

VI. STEPS OF A BLOOD COVENANT:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| (1 Samuel 18:3-4) | 1. Exchange of robes - | (Identity) |
| | 2. Exchange of belts - | (Strength) |
| | 3. Exchange of weapons - | (Enemies) |
| (Genesis 15) | 4. Sacrificial animal cut in two | |
| | 5. Walk of death | (Commitment) |
| (Genesis 17) | 6. Striking of hands - | (Covenant mark) |
| (Deuteronomy 28) | 7. Pronouncements of blessings and curses. | |
| (Exodus 24:1-11) | 8. Covenant meal | |
| (Genesis 17) | 9. Exchange of names. | |

"THE BETTER COVENANT"

Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.(Hebrews 7:22)

But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6)

1. EXCHANGE OF ROBES - (IDENTITY) (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. **Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David**, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

Robe, garment, covering = Identity

Job 29:14

I put on righteousness as my clothing;
justice was my robe and my turban.

Psalm 109:29

My accusers will be clothed with disgrace
and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

Isaiah 59:17

He (YHWH) put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Ezekiel 26:16

Then all the princes of the coast will step down from their thrones and lay aside their robes and take off their embroidered garments. Clothed with terror, they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled at you.

Edge of garment, corner of garment, wings:

Numbers 15:37-41

YHWH said to Moses,

"Speak to the Israelites and say to them:

Throughout the generations to come you are to **make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.** You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of YHWH, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God.

I am YHWH your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God.

I am YHWH your God."

Ruth 2:12

May YHWH repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by YHWH, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth 3:9

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

1 Samuel 24:4-5

The men said, "This is the day YHWH spoke of when he said to you,

'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'"

Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

Psalm 17:8

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings

Ezekiel 16:8

"Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign YHWH, and you became mine.

Mark 6:56

And wherever he went -- into villages, towns or countryside -- they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in YHWH; my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself
in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.
And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through
us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
**God made him who had no sin to be sin {Or [be a sin offering]} for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.
For you were like sheep going astray,
but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became
poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by
sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in
sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not
live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Philippians 2:7-8

but made himself nothing, taking the very nature {Or [the form]} of a servant,
being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!

Ephesians 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit
guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise
of his glory.

Romans 13:12-14

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.
So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness,
not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.
Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ,
and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Galatians 3:26-27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life,
to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
and to put on the new self,
created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:1-13

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ, who is your life, appears,
then you also will appear with him in glory.
Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.
You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these:
anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the
new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
Here there is no Greek or Jew,
circumcised or uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave or free,
but Christ is all, and is in all.
Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2. EXCHANGE BELTS - (STRENGTH) (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. **Jonathan took off** the robe he was wearing and gave it to David,
along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and **his belt**.

Belt, girdle = strength

Characterized a soldier's uniform

Psalm 18:30-36

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of YHWH is flawless.
He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.
For who is God besides YHWH? And who is the Rock except our God?
It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights.
He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me;
you stoop down to make me great.
You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.

Ephesians 1:18-21

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Isaiah 11:5 (describing the Root of Jesse)

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Psalms 65:5-7

You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,
who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,
who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.

Psalms 93:1

YHWH reigns, he is robed in majesty;
YHWH is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

Zechariah 4:6

So he said to me,

"This is the word of YHWH to Zerubbabel:

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says YHWH Almighty.

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Ephesians 3:16

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Colossians 1:10-12

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might** so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. EXCHANGE OF WEAPONS - (ENEMIES) (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. **Jonathan took off** the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even **his sword, his bow** and his belt.

Our enemy - Death His enemy - Satan

Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written:

"It is mine to avenge; I will repay," {Deut. 32:35} says the Lord.

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." {Prov. 25:21,22}

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*****God takes on my enemies!! I have been set free to love them.**

*****God provides protection as I take on His enemy.**

The armor of TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS, PREPARATION, FAITH, SALVATION, THE WORD OF GOD, PRAYER, ALERTNESS, PERSEVERANCE is given to me in order to fight His enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God

so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers,

against the authorities,

against the powers of this dark world and

against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God,

so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground,

and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then,

with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist,

with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place,

and with your **feet fitted with the readiness** that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this,

take up the **shield of faith,**

with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the **helmet of salvation** and

the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the word of God.
And *pray in the Spirit* on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, *be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints*.

1 Corinthians 15:22
For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:26
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in {Or [through]} Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 2:17
but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Ezekiel 18:4
For every living soul belongs to me,
the father as well as the son -- both alike belong to me.
The soul who sins is the one who will die.

2 Timothy 1:10
but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus,
who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

4. SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL (SUBSTITUTION) (Genesis 15)

Genesis 15:1-21

After this, the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."

But Abram said,

"O Sovereign YHWH, what can you give me since I remain childless
and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

And Abram said,

"You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of YHWH came to him:

"This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

He took him outside and said,

"Look up at the heavens and count the stars -- if indeed you can count them."

Then he said to him,

"So shall your offspring be."

Abram believed YHWH, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

He also said to him,

"I am YHWH, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land to take possession of it."

But Abram said,

"O Sovereign YHWH, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

So YHWH said to him,

"Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old,
along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram brought all these to him,

cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other;

the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was setting,

Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Then YHWH said to him,

"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own,
and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great
possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the
fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet
reached its full measure."

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and
passed between the pieces.

On that day YHWH made a covenant with Abram and said,

Hebrews 9:1-10:25

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

A tabernacle was set up.
 In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread;
 this was called the Holy Place.
 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,
 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant.
 This ark contained the gold jar of manna,
 Aaron's staff that had budded,
 and the stone tablets of the covenant.
 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory,
 overshadowing the atonement cover. {Traditionally [the mercy seat]}
 But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

When everything had been arranged like this,
 the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry.
 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year,
 and never without blood,
 which he offered for himself and
 for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.
 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had
 not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.
**This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and
 sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the
 worshiper.**
**They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings -
 external regulations applying until the time of the new order.**

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here,
 he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made,
 that is to say, not a part of this creation.
 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves;
 but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood,
 having obtained eternal redemption.
**The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those
 who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.**
**How much more, then, will the blood of Christ,
 who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God,
 cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,
 so that we may serve the living God!**
 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant,
 that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance --
 now that he has **died as a ransom to set them free** from the sins committed
 under the first covenant.

In the case of a will, {Same Greek word as [covenant]; also in verse 17} it is
 necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,
 because a will is in force only when somebody has died;
 it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.
 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.

When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people,
 he took the blood of calves, together with water,

scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." {Exodus 24:8}
 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world.

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming -- not the realities themselves.

For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

If it could, would they not have stopped being offered?

For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,

because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
 but a body you prepared for me;
 with burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you were not pleased.

Then I said, 'Here I am -- it is written about me in the scroll --
 I have come to do your will, O God.'" {Psalm 40:6-8}

First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to

be made). Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will."
He sets aside the first to establish the second.

**And by that will, we have been made holy
through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties;
again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of God.

Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool,
because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever
those who are being made holy.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds." {Jer. 31:33}

Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more." {Jer. 31:34}

And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by
the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain,
that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience
and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good
deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but
let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of a creature is in the blood,
and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar;
it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,

who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 7:23

You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

Matthew 20:26-28

Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Romans 3:21-26

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished --

he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time,

so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Acts 20:28

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

Be shepherds of the church of God, **which he bought with his own blood.**

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions,

and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

5. WALK OF DEATH (Genesis 15:17-18)

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen,

a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

On that day YHWH made a covenant with Abram and said,
 "To your descendants I give this land,
 from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates --

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself and became obedient to death --
 even death on a cross!

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
 While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Mark 8:35

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
 but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Colossians 3:3-10

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
 When Christ, who is your life, appears,
 then you also will appear with him in glory.
 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
 sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.
 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these:
 anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its
 practices and have put on the new self,
 which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,
 who is in you, whom you have received from God?
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
 Therefore honor God with your body.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,
 to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God --
 this is your spiritual {Or [reasonable]} act of worship.
 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,
 but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --
 his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 8:5-11

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind

of sinful man is death,
 but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
 the sinful mind {Or [the mind set on the flesh]} is hostile to God.
 It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.
 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit,
 if the Spirit of God lives in you.
 And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.
 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of
 righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised
 Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

6. COVENANT MARK (Genesis 17:9-14)

Then God said to Abraham,
 "As for you, you must keep my covenant,
 you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.
 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
 the covenant you are to keep:
Every male among you shall be circumcised.
 You are to undergo circumcision,
 and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.
 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised,
 including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner -- those who are not
 your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be
 circumcised.
 My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.
 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh,
 will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Old Testament = circumcision

New Testament = circumcision of the heart

Romans 2:25-29

Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law,
 you have become as though you had not been circumcised.
 If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements,
 will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?
 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though
 you have the written code and circumcision,
 are a lawbreaker.
 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly,
 nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.
**No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly;
 and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit,
 not by the written code.**
 Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

Deuteronomy 30:6

YHWH 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.

Philippians 3:3

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God,
who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh --

Colossians 2:9-15

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
and you have been given fullness in Christ,
who is the head over every power and authority.
In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature,
{Or [the flesh]} not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by
Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power
of God, who raised him from the dead.
When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, {Or [your flesh]}
God made you alive with Christ.
He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us
and that stood opposed to us;
he took it away, nailing it to the cross.
And having disarmed the powers and authorities,
he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Galatians 5:16-25

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful
nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They
are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.
The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:
sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft;
hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness,
orgies, and the like.
I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the
sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the
Spirit.

Galatians 6:15

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything;
what counts is a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!

Romans 6:1-14

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who
were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him

through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,

we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with him like this in his death,

we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, {Or [be rendered powerless]} that we should no longer be slaves to sin -- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness,

but rather offer yourselves to God,

as those who have been brought from death to life;

and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Isaiah 49:16

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

John 20:19-20

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews,

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit {Or [the Spirit]} of grace and supplication. They will look on me,

the one they have pierced,

and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child,

and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Luke 24:38-40

He said to them,

"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!

Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

Revelation 5:1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice,

"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me,

"Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits {Or [the sevenfold Spirit]} of God sent out into all the earth.

He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For you were like sheep going astray,

but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

7. BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS

Deuteronomy 28:1-68

If you fully obey YHWH your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, YHWH your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these **blessings** will come upon you and

accompany you if you obey YHWH your God:

You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock -- the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

YHWH will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

YHWH will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. YHWH your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

YHWH will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of YHWH your God and walk in his ways.

Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of YHWH, and they will fear you.

YHWH will grant you abundant prosperity -- in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground -- in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

YHWH will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

YHWH will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of YHWH your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

However, if you do not obey YHWH your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these **curse**s will come upon you and overtake you:

You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.

The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

YHWH will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.

YHWH will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess.

YHWH will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron.

YHWH will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

YHWH will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.

You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.

Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the

earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.
 YHWH will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors,
 festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured.
 YHWH will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind.
 At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark.
 You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be
 oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you.
 You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her
 and ravish her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it.
 You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit.
 Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will eat none of it.
 Your donkey will be forcibly taken from you and will not be returned.
 Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no one will rescue them.
 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear
 out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.
 A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labor produce,
 and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days.
 The sights you see will drive you mad.
 YHWH will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be
 cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.

YHWH will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to
 you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and
 stone. You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and
 ridicule to all the nations where YHWH will drive you.
 You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts
 will devour it.
 You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or
 gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.
 You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil,
 because the olives will drop off.
 You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will
 go into captivity.
 Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.
 The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher,
 but you will sink lower and lower. He will lend to you, but you will not
 lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail.

All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed,
 because you did not obey YHWH your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you.
 They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever. Because you did not serve

YHWH your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies YHWH sends against you.

He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

YHWH will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand, a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young. They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined. They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land YHWH your God is giving you.

Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters YHWH your God has given you. Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children, and he will not give to one of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating. It will be all he has left because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of all your cities. The most gentle and sensitive woman among you -- so sensitive and gentle that she would not venture to touch the ground with the sole of her foot -- will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears.

For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege and in the distress that your enemy will inflict on you in your cities.

If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name -- YHWH your God -- YHWH will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. YHWH will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed. You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey YHWH your God. Just as it pleased YHWH to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

Then YHWH will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods -- gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There YHWH will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, "If only it were evening!" and in the evening, "If only it were morning!" -- because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. YHWH will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.

Matthew 5:3-12

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are those who mourn,
 for they will be comforted.
 Blessed are the meek,
 for they will inherit the earth.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.
 Blessed are the merciful,
 for they will be shown mercy.
 Blessed are the pure in heart,
 for they will see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers,
 for they will be called sons of God.
 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds
 of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your
 reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were
 before you.

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.

Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself,

goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it -- he will be blessed in what he does.

John 13:12-17

When he had finished washing their feet,

he put on his clothes and returned to his place.
 "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.
 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.
 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
 you also should wash one another's feet.
 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master,
 nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Luke 11:28

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

8. COVENANT MEAL (Exodus 24:1-11)

Then he said to Moses,
 "Come up to YHWH, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, but Moses alone is to approach YHWH; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."
 When Moses went and told the people all YHWH's words and laws,
 they responded with one voice,
 "Everything YHWH has said we will do."
 Moses then wrote down everything YHWH had said.
 He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.
 Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings {Traditionally [peace offerings]} to YHWH. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar.
 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything YHWH has said; we will obey."
 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said,
 "This is the blood of the covenant that YHWH has made with you in accordance with all these words."
Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, {Or [lapis lazuli]} clear as the sky itself.
But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

John 6:48-58

I am the bread of life.
Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.
But here is the bread that comes down from heaven,
which a man may eat and not die.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.
This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves,
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
Jesus said to them,
**"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you have no life in you.
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day.
For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.
Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father,
so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.
This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Your forefathers ate manna and died,
but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHWH appeared to him and said,
 "I am God Almighty {Hebrew [El-Shaddai]}; walk before me and be blameless.
 I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."
 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,
 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.
 No longer will you be called Abram {[Abram] means [exalted father.]};
 your name will be Abraham, {[Abraham] means [father of many.]}
 for I have made you a father of many nations.
 I will make you very fruitful;
 I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.
 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me
 and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come,
 to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.
 The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien,
 I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you;
 and I will be their God."

God also said to Abraham,
 "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai;
 her name will be Sarah.
 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her.
 I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations;
 kings of peoples will come from her."

Genesis 26:24 (covenant with Isaac)
 That night YHWH appeared to him and said,
"I am the God of your father Abraham.
 Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants
 for the sake of my servant Abraham."

Genesis 28:13 (covenant with Jacob)
 There above it {Or [There beside him]} stood YHWH, and he said:
"I am YHWH, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.
 I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Exodus 3:6
 Then he said, (- Jochebed, mother of Moses)
"I am the God of your father, (Levi - Kohath - Amram - Moses)
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."
 At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Isaiah 43:7
 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 56:5
 to them I will give within my temple and its walls
 a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters;
 I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.

Isaiah 62:2

The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name that the mouth of YHWH will bestow.

Isaiah 65:15

You will leave your name to my chosen ones as a curse;
the Sovereign YHWH will put you to death,
but to his servants he will give another name.

Hebrews 8:10

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,
declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.
I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Mark 2:28

So **the Son of Man** is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Acts 11:26

The disciples were called **Christians** first at Antioch.

Revelation 2:17

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna.
I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it,
known only to him who receives it.

Revelation 3:12

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.
Never again will he leave it.
I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God,
the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God;
and I will also write on him my new name.

John 1:42 Peter's name change

Psalm 81:13-16

"If my people would but listen to me,
if Israel would follow my ways,
how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!
Those who hate YHWH would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

**WE ARE IN A COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD!!!!
LIVE UP TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.**