

Understanding The Bible

Part 3 - The New Covenant Fulfills the Old



Memory Verse

But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. - Isaiah 53:5

The Old Has Gone; The New Has Come

While Jesus was here on earth, He chose twelve disciples to lay the foundation for and be the inspired teachers in the church, which would be born on the day of Pentecost. Jesus taught these men for a few years, telling them about His spiritual kingdom, and also about His coming death and resurrection. These twelve apostles were witnesses of His resurrection. Jesus later made Saul, called Paul, an apostle also.

We have the writings of the apostles in the books of the New Testament. The apostles teach that the Old Covenant which God made with Israel through Moses is no longer in force. We are now under the New Covenant, the one God made with the church through Christ. The New Covenant was promised in **Jeremiah 31:31-32**. This new covenant is called a "better" or a "superior" covenant and it is founded on better promises (**Hebrews 8:6**). God established the second covenant because the first covenant was not perfect.

The New Covenant accepts the basic truths of the Old Covenant and builds on them. It drops temporary things of the Old Covenant, like Jewish holy days, circumcision, and food and dress regulations. Jesus taught that God was concerned not only with wrong behavior, which was condemned in the Old Testament, but also with the **inner motives of our hearts**. See what Jesus taught in the verses listed below:

Grade 7 - Quarter 2 - Week 4

Murder (**Matthew 5:21-26**)

Adultery (**Matthew 5:27-30**)

Divorce (**Matthew 5:31-32**)

Revenge (**Matthew 5:38-42**)

Treatment of enemies (**Matthew 5:43-48**)

Jesus' part in establishing the New Covenant was by shedding His blood and dying for our sins, and rising in victory over sin and death to give us new life in Him. Our part is to believe in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and to receive it for ourselves, and living a new life of love and obedience through His victory over sin and death.

Jesus is the **full** and **final** revelation of God. No one will ever come with a more perfect revelation. The New Covenant is the **last** one. Because we are living under the New Covenant, we are living in "the last days." The hope of every true Christian is not for another covenant, but for the glorious return of Christ from heaven to take us to be with Him forever! (**1 John 3:2-3**)

Understanding The Bible

Part 3 - The New Covenant Fulfills the Old

Lesson Questions

Answer the following items as directed:

1. Should Christians today still keep the law of Moses concerning sacrifices, foods, and Jewish holy days? _____
2. What great and miraculous event were the apostles witnesses to? _____
3. How would you say the New Testament is just another covenant, or is it also better?

4. Write briefly in your own words what Jesus said in **Matthew 5** on these five subjects:
 - a. about murder: _____

 - b. about adultery: _____

 - c. about divorce: _____

 - d. about taking revenge: _____

 - e. about enemies: _____

5. Jesus' part in establishing the New Covenant was by shedding His blood and dying for our sins, and rising in victory over sin and death to give us new life in Him. What is **our part**? _____

6. What is the hope of each true Christian today? _____

Personal Question: Thinking in terms of the Old and New Covenants, do you think it is harder to keep the outward rules or the inner motives of the heart? Why?
