

A Sermon Transcribed

THE TWO COVENANTS

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I appreciate the special music, it ties into the conclusion of my sermon today. But I know you people, by the time we get to the conclusion of my sermon you'll have forgotten what the special music was about...

One of the things brethren that we understand that is integral to our lives as Christian in God's Church, is the keeping of the law of God. Without the keeping of God's laws, we cannot even be designated as Christians in God's sight. Yet, throughout the past couple of centuries, there have been many attempts by Protestants to do away with God's law, an particularly in this century. They've misinterpreted certain scriptures of the bible in order to do this. And in fact, as spokesmen know, there are times when we refer to them as difficult scriptures - they're not truly difficult in themselves - its just that the misinterpretation of the Protestants has made them questionable to the minds of some out in this world; and we have to learn to give the true meaning, as the bible teaches us.

But along with the misinterpretation of certain scriptures, that as Peter says, "They have rested to their own destruction", they have used them to claim that Jesus Christ nailed the Ten Commandments to the stake. That this was the major reason Jesus Christ came to this earth - to do away with the Ten Commandments.

Now, this *attempt*, to put aside God's law, relates directly to the Old Covenant that we find in what is so called, the Old Testament. Their concept of the New Covenant is that there is no law, only Grace and Promises. And their concept of the Old Covenant is that (that) is merely the Ten Commandments. In other words, that the *fault* with the Old Covenant was the law. That the two really equated each other in essence. And, by implication, since God gave that law, then God was at fault. Because people in this world do not worship an all wise, omnipotent God. If they recognized Him as all wise, they would appreciate His law, and the commandments that He has given that are the foundation of wisdom, in our daily living.

But they believe they worship a God who's losing out to Satan, in what is a single-time chance at salvation. And that this God is weak and, because He can only get a few saved, sadly He's had to predestine the rest to be lost. Their concept is that this God is weak, and that He made a mistake when He gave the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament.

Today brethren, what we're going to do is to study the subject of the two covenants of the bible - the two major ones - the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, and particularly as both of them are

associated with a day of Pentecost. The tradition of the Jews, and certainly it is pointed to when you study Exodus, is that the law, the Ten Commandments, was given on a day of Pentecost in 1443 A.D. We certainly know in the New Testament that in 31 A.D., the Holy Spirit was given. And we also understand - and I think you should know by the sermon that I gave on marriage and the one on the book of Ruth - that Pentecost has to do with the New Covenant that is yet to be established. The marriage to Jesus Christ.

First of all brethren, what is a Covenant? There has been much confusion in Protestantism, and particularly what they've got is the wrong end of the stick in the way many of them teach it, with regard to these covenants that are the major essence of the story flow of the bible.

What is a covenant? Well you could look up the different dictionary definitions and you'll get several phrases or words that you could use - basically the one we'll choose here today is the word "Agreement." A covenant is an agreement, between two or more parties.

Now with this agreement, the death of one of the parties does not necessarily enter into its terms, it is not the requirement for having a covenant. Yet, we have this term, "The Old Testament." And if there is the death of one of the parties, then that party, by implication, will have left a "Last Will and Testament." And so we have this term, "The Old Testament", and the "New Testament." But a covenant per se does not require a testament brethren because it does not require the death of one of the individuals making this "Agreement", one with another.

One of the prime examples of such an agreement is found of course in Genesis chapter 12, with Abraham, when God first called him. Abraham was the father of the faithful, so it's a good place to start out, with him and with his initial calling by God. Notice that a covenant was made here, at that calling. But the death of one of the two people making the contract was never called for. Genesis chapter 12 and beginning in verse one:

***Gen 12:1* Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.**

So, here was the deal, God said, emigrate, move, leave behind your possessions, the people you know, your relatives, your kindred, the country of your acquaintance - I want you to go somewhere else. If you will do this for Me, if you will obey me, pull up roots, leave behind these people that you know - in a type leaving behind the world - come with me to a new land (and by implication continue to obey me because by pulling up roots and obeying God's commands he was basically saying, "Well I'm willing to serve You *rather than serve myself*), if you will do this, if you will pull up stakes, "I" [this is My (God's) side of the agreement],

2 And I will make of you a great nation, will bless you and make your name great;

God promised to Abraham, if he would emigrate to this promised land - as it would turn out to be, the land of Canaan - that He would give him seed. And of course, as you understand, later on Abraham and Sarah were (both of them) unable to beget seed. But God provided, or rather Sarah. But God made this promised that He would make of them a great nation.

So the requirement for Abraham was, you move. God's requirement was, you move, I bless. No death involved in this covenant. A simple agreement between two people (parties). You do such-in-such for Me, I'll do such-in-such for you. So a covenant brethren is an agreement between two or more parties, it does not necessarily at all involve the death of one of the individuals.

What is a Testament? Well, again, if you look up the different dictionary definitions you might get several words to explain it - we'll use a simple word, I think we've already referred to it, a "Will." We talk in terms of a "Last Will & Testament," where a person says that when I am dead I bequeath to so-and-so, my possessions, my wealth, whatever I owned in this world, it will be dispersed among different relatives. It's a disposal of a persons possessions after his/her death. One person leaving his wealth to others for an inheritance.

Now were going to see, later on, that Jesus Christ made a testament. But there is no testament in the *Old Testament*. There is a testament in the "New Testament," but there's no testament in the Old Testament. Were going to see with the Old Covenant brethren that it did not involve the death of one of the contracting parties.

Now death is definitely involved in a Will, in a Testament, but not necessarily so in a covenant. And so you have several covenants that did not involve death, in the "Old Testament," we've just of one with Abraham in Genesis 12, you have the Noation covenant in Genesis chapter 9, you have the separate Sabbath covenant of Exodus chapter 31. You have the Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel chapter 7.

Let's take a closer look then brethren at the Old Covenant, the covenant with Israel, which is thought (and has been taught by Protestants) to be the Old Testament. Now we're going to see that no testament was involved with this covenant. Exodus chapter 19 and beginning in verse 1. Here we come to Israel arriving at Mt. Sinai and their preparation for that day of Pentecost in 1443 when the law of God would be given to them in the form of the Ten Commandments.

And I should mention here, and you should fully understand it, that this was not the first giving of the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments existed *long* before this. From the very first week of man's existence we have the Sabbath - the fourth commandment, and as you carry on thru Genesis you see constantly that the Ten Commandments were in effect - but here was the nation Israel coming out of their slavery to Egypt, exposed to all the polytheistic religion that was extant in that country. They had to be re-educated to the truth's of God. And therefore these Ten Commandments, that were in existence long before this Old Covenant was ever invented, were given to them for the renewal of their understanding of what God wanted of them.

Ex. 19:1 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.

Now this isn't referring to the day of the month, it's referring to the day of the week. The day they left Egypt was a Thursday evening, the night to be much observed. So this was a Thursday three months later that they came. In others words there were three days before Pentecost - and you can trace it thru Exodus and find that your dealing with a period of seven weeks when we come up to this day of Pentecost in Exodus chapter 19. But that's a side point. Going to the covenant itself, verse 4 and 5 and 6. God says:

Ex. 19:4-6 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

God bore them thru the Red Sea, He defeated, swallowed up, Pharaoh 's army for them, He brought them thru the wilderness to Mt. Sinai. "I brought you to Myself" - which is a part of the symbolism of the day of Pentecost. We are brought to God, and the marriage supper is symbolized by the day of Pentecost; when we are brought, as Jesus Christ's bride, to Him, and presented before Him.

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice [ok, remember with Abraham God said get up out of your country - point of obedience. You obey Me, I will bless you. So here.] **if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant**, [this is the establishment of the Old Covenant - the term used for it, the covenant to Israel] **then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**

Now, just as we refer to the Noation covenant and the Davidic covenant, we can call this the Israelite covenant. But it's called the Old Covenant because it's the major covenant throughout the Old Testament. The story of Israel of course flows all the way through the book, except for Genesis; and I take that back because of course you have the establishment Israel thru Jacob and his twelve sons. Hence, this Old Covenant is the story flow of the Old Testament. Verse 6, you obey me, you do this for Me, and here's what I'll do for you:

6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Now we understand brethren that Israel failed, in their obedience to God. And in consequence they *never* became a "Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation." They were never converted. Now God still worked with them, He still dealt with them, they were still His people, but this *prophecy* of what they could become never happened to them. *To them!* Now the prophecy is still going to be fulfilled, but to a *different* Israel.

Physical Israel failed to live up to what was asked of them in the Old Covenant, they did not obey God, they did not fulfill their side of the *agreement*. But God still intends to have a nation of priests,

an Holy Nation., and so He is creating at this point - we are in the fetal stage right now, the embryo of the Kingdom of God, spiritual Israel, which in the World Tomorrow *will* become, verse 6, a Kingdom of Priests, a Holy Nation, as it says Revelation 5 and verse 10:

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.

So this prophecy for Israel, though God could not do it for them because they did not hold up to their end of the bargain, God still intends to fulfill it, but thru a different people, spiritual Israel, the Church. So we see then in verse 5 brethren, Israel's part - be obedient. In verse 6, we see God's part - to bless, for their obedience. Notice that in the terms of this covenant, and this is a brief summary of it - God goes into a little more detail in the next few chapters with what is required of them in terms of obedience - notice that *no death is called for*. As with the Abrahamic covenant, death was not mentioned, as a part of that covenant there in Genesis 12. Death is not mentioned here brethren.

There is no such thing as an "Old Testament." And we're going to see that as we go along. In fact, in one sense brethren there is no "New Testament," because to use the word "New" implies there was one before it, an "Old" one, and that's why they use the term for this part of the bible (Old Testament), and for the latter half of the bible, New Testament. There is a Testament." One testament. But in the truest sense it's not a new testament because there was never an old testament to begin with. Anyway, we'll come to that later on. But here, with this old covenant, no death called for and therefore not a testament.

Now *why then* do we have this term, this nomenclature for the first section of the bible, the "Old Testament?" When the bible was translated into Latin brethren, the Roman's had used the word, *Testamentum*, (it's testament with the two letters "um" after it). In Latin, *testamentum* means either a covenant or a testament. It could be used interchangeably one for the other. In English we have many more terms and so we can be more specific. But in Latin, the word *testamentum* meant either a covenant or a testament.

Now as we're going to see, it's the same thing in Greek, "*Diatheke*" can be used either as a covenant or a testament. In English we differentiate between the two, back then you went by the context to determine which it was - whether it was a covenant, whether it was a testament.

When the Bible was translated into English, the word "*testamentum*" continued as the word "Testament," and hence, you have these two sections of the bible - Old Testament / New Testament. They would be better called, Old Covenant, New Covenant; and if you wish, New Covenant and A Testament. But not Old Testament, New Testament. Now, as I'm flipping back and forth thru the bible I will use those terms because we're used to them now. But understand brethren that they are of themselves misnomers.

So we've seen then and we understand Israel's failure, from our study of the history given during the time of this old covenant in the *Old Testament*. Israel fails to obey, so they didn't receive the

promises. They never became the Kingdom of Priests and the Holy Nation. They did receive certain *material* blessings because of the promises to Abraham; but they never became a righteous people that God could use, as He's going to use the Church, the new Nation of Israel.

These promises that are given in verse 5 are to be performed to the saints in the millennium, because they will be born into the Kingdom and thru the power of the Holy Spirit - which was not available to ancient Israel.

Ok, Exodus 19 and verse 8. God spelled out the covenant (verse 5 & 6), notice Israel's answer - verse 8:

Ex. 19:8 Then all the people answered together and said, All that God has spoken *we will do*.

They agreed to the covenant. We will obey You, You will bless us. And then, in chapter 20, God gave again the Ten Commandments, but in a form that would help them in their understanding of exactly what God wanted when He talked in terms of obedience. And then chapters 21 thru 23 brethren give in greater detail various applications of the Ten Commandments in forms of civil statutes and judgments. When these chapters, in this section was completed – this is the “fine print” of the Old Covenant here - what they had to obey, then we see it was posed to them again, whether or not they would fulfill the covenant. (Gen) Chapter 24 and in verse 3:

Exodus 24:3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of [God], and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which [God] has said will we do.

So they said it with the large print in chapter 19, and they now said it with the fine print in chapter 24. They didn't change their minds, turn around and say, no it's too much, we understand what you want us to obey. We will do it! They put their mouth on the line, they agreed to the covenant – An agreement between two individuals, Israel on the one hand, God on the other. Death was not called for to make the agreement work.

Now there will be a death later on because of their failure to keep the covenant, as we'll see in the New Testament. However, death is not recorded as part of this agreement, as we've just seen here. So there's no such thing as an old testament. God wasn't called upon to die in order to bless them here, neither were they called upon to die. It's just an agreement, a covenant between two individuals. Both could continue to live.

Now we understand that Jesus Christ is going to die, but we will see it is because of their failure to keep the old covenant, that initially did not require any death on the part of either party. Verse 7:

Exodus 24:7-8 Then he took the Book of the Covenant

Now, in chapter 19 that was just two verses, how can you make a book out of two verses? What are we referring to here? We're talking about these chapters, chapters 20 thru 23.

... he took the book of the covenant and read it in the audience of the people, and the third time they said, "All that God has said we will do and be obedient".

8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant."

Many times back then in the Middle East when you made a covenant you ratified it with blood. Now this blood does have some symbolism for the future, but it was the blood of an animal, it wasn't the death of a human being, an a testament requires the death of a human being. Animals don't leave Last Will's and Testaments – if you've got a pet that is prepared to do that let me know about it. We have special television programs for such talented animals. Only a human being leaves a last will and testament. When a covenant was ratified with blood, it was an animal, an animals blood obviously that did that. However, remember this brethren because it does have some symbolism later on, it is pointing forward to the New Covenant, as we'll see.

8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which [God] has made with you according to all these words."

Israel still thought they could obey. But, as we understand, Israel was without the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians chapter 3 verses 6 thru 8, they glibly said three times, we can do it, sounds great, no big deal. When it came around to put their money where their mouth was brethren, it was a different story. How many times do we think we can do it – but without God's Spirit and God's help, we can't – because Satan is certainly far greater than we are...

2 Corinthians 3 verses 6 thru 8. Now, I did mention to you earlier that the Greek word, like the Latin word at times can either mean covenant or testament, and you have to go by the context to determine which. So here in:

2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant,

It can not be New Testament brethren because there wasn't a "testament" in the Old Covenant. There was no "Old Testament", so the fact that it has the word "New" we have to talk in terms of Covenant. Because there's not an Old Testament and a New Testament. There's an Old Covenant, there's a New Covenant, there is a Testament that is a part of the New Covenant, but just one Testament, not one old one new...

6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

7 But if the ministry of death,

Now nobody died in that covenant, but there was an administration of death for the breaking of God's laws, just as, to a certain extent we have it today – it's called Capital Punishment.

... (But) **if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was to be done away,**

8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

Now notice we're not talking here about the terrible 10 and wretched Old Testament, wretched old covenant, whatever... it talks about *glory* belonging to that old covenant. And those laws that God gave, when you read them further in Deuteronomy, time and again God required the *Death Penalty*, if a person broke certain laws.

We have so taken the *teeth* out of the laws in our government today, that all kinds of people are running around committing adultery that many of them didn't dare to do in ancient Israel. *Because if you committed adultery in ancient Israel God decreed the "Death Penalty" for it.* Yet in our society, modern day Israel, little adultery a little fornication, big deal. *There's not even a fine imposed by the law of the land, for adultery.* People think they can get away with it... You raped a woman, death penalty. Time and again God gave the death penalty, and it says "*that ministration of death was glorious.*" Because it stopped people sinning so much. Sure they'd still do a bit of and they'd break the law here and there, but there was some teeth to the law.

What would God do with drug peddlers today, well you guessed it, death penalty... Time and again you read the laws God has, be it *rape, adultery, murder*, whatever... death penalty. God didn't have jails that were filled to over capacity. Now there were cities of refuge for lesser offenses, manslaughter. But God had a system whereby if the teeth had been in the laws He gave to the people, they would have been a happy nation – not over-ridden as we are with crime and violence and perversion – simply because we won't put teeth into the law! So that ministration of death brethren was a glorious thing because of what it accomplished. And so as it says, verse 8:

8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

Because there is forgiveness for sin if a person is truly repentant, but of course that has to be by true repentance, if not, then they had to be punished, and many things that would not even be considered for the death penalty today, God had (assigned) the death penalty. If we had such a law today where adultery was concerned we would be such a sexual sick nation. And because of our moral collapse that's one of the major reasons God is going to have to punish us and take us into captivity, and millions of people are going to die... instead of the few, as it would have been under God's system. The few adulterers then the rest would have been afraid to commit the act.

Now this also brethren was glorious because it showed Israel their weakness. It accomplished a glorious purpose. It showed us we can not keep the Law of God of ourselves, we need the help of His Holy Spirit. And even if Israel had kept the Laws of God and the old covenant, there was no promise of eternal life included in that covenant. They would have gained material possessions and material promises, but then their life would have run it's course, they would have died. They was no promise of eternal life for them. Now it's still a wonderful covenant! To spend a life physically with great blessings from God in a land flowing with milk and honey; but no promise of eternal life.

Now before we leave the old covenant and go to the new we need to understand two additional things in relationship to it. That the old covenant, brethren, was also a "marriage" covenant. Ezekiel 16 and verse 8 and this is important to understand in it's relationship to the new covenant that will replace it, in the world tomorrow.

Now the old covenant is finished, but is not yet replaced. We are in an "interim" period here over the last 2000 years. The old covenant ended with the death of Jesus Christ. The new covenant is not yet in effect, not signed, sealed and delivered... ratified. We are in an interim period, we are working toward it, but though the old covenant is done away, it is not yet replaced. And that new covenant, like the old, is going to be a marriage relationship.

Ezek. 16:8 **When I passed by you again and looked upon you, (talking of Israel in Egypt) indeed your time was the time of love; (God talks in terms of romance here, courtship, which of course leads to marriage) and I spread My skirt over you**

The way it was done in the Old Testament was that a man, in that time, would put his robe over the woman as a proposal of marriage. So God here proposed to Israel.

... I spread My skirt over you, covered your nakedness. I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, you became Mine,"

Marriage, she became His wife. Now remember, that in those three instances, where Israel said, "all that the Eternal has said, we will do." It was three times, like a wife at the marriage ceremony saying "I do." The husband, "Will you love your wife, provide for her, etc., etc.?" He says, "I do." To the wife, "Will you obey your husband, etc., etc.?" She says, "I do."

Jesus Christ, the God of the Old Testament, was marrying Israel, she became His wife, and *three times* she said, "I do. I will obey You, as my husband" in effect. Jeremiah chapter 3 and in verse 14. God here, speaking to Israel, towards the end of her Old Testament history. And remember brethren when I'm using the Old Testament, you understand that I'm just using the term that you're used too, for the first portion of the bible.

Jeremiah 3:14 **"Turn, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for I am married to you".**

How did God marry Israel to whom He was speaking at this point? He married them in a marriage covenant. When He proposed, spread His skirt over her, at the time of love she became His. She became His wife.

... I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

Come back to me. You're an adulterous wife. You've run off from me. You've gone chasing other lovers. But I still love you. I'm still a faithful husband. Remember that I married you. Come back to me, He's saying. But Israel, of course, never came back.

Now we need to understand something with the Law of God that we've been dealing with in the Old Covenant. These two additional points. First of all that it was a marriage covenant as we see by these two last scriptures. But also with the law of God. That when it talks about any law being ended or done away, it's not talking about the Ten Commandments. It's talking about the *ritual laws*, that were not a part of the original covenant that we read in Exodus 19. The ritual and sacrificial laws were added *later* because of their continued disobedience. Jeremiah chapter 7 and verse 22

***Jeremiah 7:22-23* For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices.**

So Exodus chapter 19, when I spoke to Israel from Mount Sinai – when I made this marriage covenant with them that said obey Me and I will bless you and then told them what they had to obey (the Ten Commandments and the ramifications thereof) *I never spoke to them concerning the ritual laws*, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifice.

23 But this one thing commanded I them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, (You be my wife, I'll be your husband) and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well to you.'

24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Therefore, God *added*, to the laws that we have in Exodus 20 thru 23, He later on added the *Ritual Laws* – the *Sacrificial Laws*, so that when they wanted forgiveness for sin in the physical sense of forgiveness they had to sacrifice one of their animals. And they came to learn that *sin* carried with it a price tag, it was an expensive business, you kept up sinning eventually you lost your whole flock, the whole herd. Now, not in reality but they would go up at times to make these sacrifices. God was trying to teach them that *sin costs something*. It costs the life of an innocent animal, which of course, as we understand points forward to the death of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God.

So this is why God added these rituals, which were hard work. But once again, everything that God does He does in love for His people. He did it in love for them to try to get a lesson across to them. *You can't get away with sin!* Not only will you hurt yourself, but other innocent people get hurt, in the case of this ritual, animals would have to be put to death. And of course, it all pointed forward, as I said to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which after that the animal sacrifices would no longer be needful. Galatians chapter 3 now and verse 19. These are the kind of scriptures, such as Gal. 3 and verse 19, that Protestants will twist to say that the "10 Commandments" are done away. And of course, Colossians where they'll say, by their misinterpretations of the scripture there, the 10 Commandments were nailed to the stake.

That the problem with this Old Covenant" was the Ten Commandments... God made a mistake. Our weak-handed God who can not defeat Satan, who's been fighting a losing battle with Satan for all these years, also made mistakes. And one of them was giving the 10 Commandments. So then He had to change His mind, somehow He had to do away with the 10 Commandments. So He sent Jesus Christ to die, nailing the 10 Commandments to the stake, now we're freed from that.

Verse 19 of Galatians 3 Wherefore then serves the law?

Now, we've just been talking about a certain kind of law, the ritual law. But, for the protestants reading the verse, the word "*law*" here means the 10 Commandments.

... It was added because of transgressions, *until* the seed should come to whom the promise was made (Jesus Christ.)

So they take this verse and say, Jesus Christ came. The 10 Commandments were until Jesus Christ would come. When He died, He nailed the 10 Commandments to the stake.

Notice clearly what it says brethren. It says, "this law was *added* because of transgressions." If there was no law before this law how come there were transgressions? Because it says in 1 John chapter three and about verse 4, "sin is the transgression of the law." If there was no law before *this* law spoken of here in verse 19 there were no transgressions. *You can't transgress a law that isn't there brethren!*

What we actually have in this verse are two laws. The law that they transgressed, and then the law that had to be *added* because of their transgressions of the first law. The *first law* was the 10 Commandments and the ramifications (Exodus 20 – 23). God then *added* as we saw in Jeremiah 7, the other laws because of their disobedience, the *ritual laws*. This law was added, the ritual laws and the laws of the sacrifice until the supreme sacrifice, Jesus Christ, would come. And then those sacrifices would no longer be needful as they were with the Old Covenant. *Because what they pointed forward to prophetically would have come to pass, in the life and the death of Jesus Christ.* So the need for sacrifices was done away with Christ's death but the law stands forever! The 10 Commandments. We are not doing the sacrifices and the rituals today are we brethren? But the original law stands firm.

Psalm 111 verse 7 thru 8. The law of God did not die with the death of the Old Covenant. That law of God *proceeded*, in antiquity, the Old Covenant. That law of God is still in effect today even as the Old Covenant is finished and the New Covenant is not yet here. And that Law of God is going to continue on thru all eternity because it is a perfect, wise, just and holy law.

Psalm 111 verse 7-8 The works of His (God's) hands are verity and judgment; all His commandments are sure.

It's not a problem with the commandments. They are certain, certain to give you success if you obey them. Notice verse 8:

8 They stand fast, forever and ever,

The 10 Commandments were here at the beginning and they'll be here, brethren, at the very, very end. And there is no end in eternity. Forever and ever God's law stands fast. All His commandments:

... are done in truth and uprightness. (The old covenant was done away, when Jesus Christ died, but not the 10 Commandments.)

So, we see these two additional points. That it was a marriage covenant and the rituals were added later. They were not a part of the original agreement. One of the things we need to understand, then, with regard to the Old Covenant, it contained only material promises. It was *national*, it was *material*, it was *temporal*.

Now, it could have lasted a long time because in Deuteronomy 7 and verse 9 God says "I will fulfill My covenant to a thousand generations." In the Old Testament a generation was considered forty years. That's 40,000 years! We've only been around for six thousand.

So, it would have continued on to different generations of Israel, if they had obeyed. Each generation in succession would have had those blessings. But obviously we've not been here for forty thousand years to try it out. In fact, it was about seven hundred years that Israel was given the opportunity to obey before they were scattered. Yet, even before they were scattered God, in the Old Testament, prophesied of the New Covenant. Jeremiah chapter 31 and verse 31.

Now remember brethren that we said that the Old Covenant was a marriage covenant. And that's important to understand from the standpoint of the *timing* of the New Covenant. Because the New Covenant is *also* a marriage covenant. And *only* when the marriage takes place, will the covenant come into effect; Will it be signed, sealed and delivered; will the wife be married to her husband. Just as ancient Israel was married to her husband on that Day of Pentecost, back in 1443.

Jeremiah chapter 31:31-34 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

So, even before the Old Covenant was finished, in fact, centuries before it was over with God said He would one day establish a New Covenant to replace it in a time *yet* to come for us.

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, (God didn't brake it. God didn't make a mistake. It wasn't God's fault. They broke their end of the bargain.) ...although I was an husband to them,

Notice God reemphasizing the fact it was a marriage covenant. And He emphasized it with the Old Covenant in the context of the new implying the New Covenant would also be a marriage. And God is going to marry Israel again – but a different Israel.

33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the Eternal, I will put my law in their inward parts, (This is the different Israel) and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: (All these Protestants running around in Israel saying, “know the Lord, brother”. It's almost like God knew there terminology millennia in advance) for they shall all know me, (everybody's going to be religious one day, in God's true religion, in obedience to God's one way and law) they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

Now, we see then, that even before the Old Covenant was finished, in fact, long before it was finished, God promised a new one. And it was promised because there was a problem in the Old Covenant. But the problem, as we're beginning to see, was not with the law of God. The problem was the people.

Protestants will say the problem with the Old Covenant was the law, the Ten Commandments. Because the people couldn't keep them, Christ lived in their stead, keeping them Himself in their stead. And then He died, nailing those Ten Commandments to the stake and now we just live by grace. Hebrews chapter 8 reemphasizes that the *problem* was *not* with the law. The law was good from day one and is going to be good throughout all eternity. And without law God's Kingdom can not exist, just as you cannot be a Christian in God's sight without subservience to the Law of God. Hebrews 8 and verse 6, with regard to Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:6-10 But now has He obtained (thru what He did for us on this earth brethren) a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant (here it's translated

correctly and notice that the new covenant is a better covenant than the Old), **and it is established upon better promises.**

It's going to be better for everyone all around. But that Old Covenant was still glorious, brethren. But a greater glory belongs to this one.

Heb 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. (So there was a problem with the first covenant. But the problem wasn't God's brethren. Whatever God makes He makes perfectly.)

8 For finding fault with *them*, (not with the Law, not with the agreement, with the people... because they were carnal, and rebellious, hard hearted) He says, ***Behold, the days are coming, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:***

Now notice that the New Covenant is *only* to Israel. Judah, of course is a part of Israel. So where do the Gentiles fit in? Well, we'll see in a moment. (Note: audio tape flips sides now – missed a few words) So, the New Covenant is only for the nation of Israel.

9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I regarded them not [in consequence].

10 For this, (verse 10) is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people.

There was no fault with the law, brethren. The law is perfect. In fact, that's the statement out of the Bible, in Psalm 19 and in verse 7. It says:

Psalms 19:7 The law of God is perfect, converting the soul

If the law of God is perfect it has no imperfections. If there are no imperfections there is no fault with the law. Therefore, to say that the old covenant with the law of God is done away because the fault was with the law is to go directly ***against*** scripture and what the bible actually says. Romans 7 and verse 12 says, "The law is holy, just and good."

Anything that God calls holy, that He makes holy, rather, is without imperfection. No fault with the law of God. Now, as we understand brethren, the problem with Israel and the reason they couldn't keep it was because they were carnal and without the Holy Spirit.

When we look at the terms, then, of the New Covenant as they're delineated for us in Jeremiah 31 and repeated in Hebrews chapter 8 we see that God has to do something to help us to be perfectly

obedient to Him. 2 Corinthians chapter 3, and to become perfectly obedient and what is required is symbolized by what took place on Pentecost of 31 A.D., when the Holy Spirit was given. 2 Corinthians chapter 3 and beginning in verse 2.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men (Your light shines, people can see you, the kind of life that your living...)

3 Forasmuch as you are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God;

Now the New Covenant is not yet here brethren, but we are working toward it. We are in the engagement period to Jesus Christ. We're not yet married to Him. We have the down-payment of the Spirit now, called the "earnest" in the King James. The day is coming when we will be totally Spirit.

Right now we have *two natures*, our carnal nature (Satan's nature) and we have the nature of God's Spirit. *The two war with each other, they struggle with each other.* We do have God's law written on our hearts but only to a certain extent because we also have Satan's law written on our hearts. Which is why we don't perfectly obey today.

The day is coming when *only* God's law will be written on our hearts. No other law at all! At that point, because we will be spirit beings, filled with the character of God we will never sin again... The law will be so established in our hearts as spirit beings. And of course, by the experience we've been through now, to get to that point, that we will never sin throughout all eternity.

And Jesus Christ is going to marry a bride *made* perfect, by the resurrection. When she is completely divested of the flesh and of carnal nature, and will be perfectly obedient to Jesus Christ, that the two might live in harmony throughout all eternity. And this universe, the new universe rather, will be a splendid place because of that perfection and that harmony that will pervade it. Going on in (2 Cor 3) verse 3:

... not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart

The Ten Commandments, when they were re-given to Israel at the time of the establishment of the Old Covenant, Pentecost in 1443 A.D., were written on tables of *stone*. Why brethren...? God was symbolizing the *nature* of the people. They were hard-hearted. He wrote those 10 commandments on stone symbolizing the way the people were back then. Now, as I said, the Ten Commandments existed long before. But the time that He worked with ancient Israel and gave them His covenant He deliberate wrote His commandments on stone because they were stony-hearted.

Now, we find, that instead of tables of stone they are to written in the fleshy tables of the heart. The heart in your body brethren is soft, it's malleable, it's flexible, it's yielding, and that is the way we

are to be to God. Not hard-hearted hearts of stone but fleshly, soft, malleable hearts yielded and submissive to the God who rules over us.

So, under the Old Covenant God wrote the laws on stone, a type of their stony heart. In the New Covenant God makes, or Jesus Christ particularly, makes a marriage agreement *only* with those having the law written on their hearts and minds in *totality*. We have it in part now. It will be *totality* then and we will never sin. Christ is to marry His bride *only* after she has *prepared herself* by practicing obedience. That practice of obedience, though she fails and makes mistakes, she keeps on trying, proves to Jesus Christ that if He makes her a part of the first resurrection and gives her His perfect character, no longer subject to the temptations of Satan, she will be a perfect bride for a perfect Husband.

Now, with this New Covenant, as with the Old, there are two additional things again to understand. I mentioned that this covenant, the New Covenant, is once again to a single nation. The Old Covenant was to Old Testament Israel. The New Covenant is to the New Testament Israel, the Church, spiritual Israel.

Jesus Christ is not going to be married to many nations and have many wives. God is not a bigamist. He's only going to have *one wife* in the World Tomorrow, spiritual Israel. Remember when we read Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8, "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel." He doesn't mention the Gentiles. So where do the Gentiles fit in, brethren? Because God is not a respecter of sex, not a respecter of age, and not a respecter of ethnic background. Galatians chapter 3 and verse 28, this covenant is, in reality, for all peoples and yet at the same time it's for only one people because all peoples *will become* one people. There will still be differences on this earth, obviously. There will be black, white, yellow because God is a God of variety. But where spiritual things are concerned there is only one faith, one Lord, one baptism and one law of God. Therefore, there will only be one people "spiritually" to God.

Galatians 3:28-29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Yes, there will be many nations in the World Tomorrow, physically speaking. But there will be only one people spiritually speaking. "You are all one, in Jesus Christ."

29 And if you be Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Ephesians chapter 2 beginning in verse 11. How do the Gentiles fit in when the covenant is only for one nation? They become spiritual Israelites. Remember, brethren, with the New Jerusalem that the twelve gates have only the names of the tribes of Israel. No Gentiles are mentioned. Yet obviously, there will be Gentiles in the New Jerusalem. But they become spiritual Israelites. We become one people under God but we may maintain our ethnic differences, our personalities, etc.

Ephesians 2:11-13 Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision (the Jews call you uncircumcised) ... verse 12:

12 That at that time you (the Gentiles) were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, (covenants plural, two covenants particularly, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. They were strangers, but they can become a part of the New Covenant. You were:

... strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ. (and so, verse 19)

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (You are also spiritual Israel).

Now, I mentioned there were two additional points to understand. The first is that the Genitals are to be in the New Covenant. The second point is that the New Covenant, unlike the old is preceded by a will, a testament.

There are many scriptures in the Bible, in the New Testament, that talk of us being heirs, with Jesus Christ. That talk of us inheriting eternal life, inheriting the Kingdom of God. Why this term "heir? Why this term inherit? You inherit something from somebody else when they die. When you write your last will and testament that is to give your heirs your property upon your death. So why does the bible talk about us being heirs and inheritors, brethren? Because we're going to inherit the will and testament of Jesus Christ, that He gave to us at His death. Hebrews chapter 9 and verse 15.

Now, I mentioned to you that the Greek word *diatheke* can be translated either covenant or testament. In this section you'll see that the King James translators used testament only in all the verses we're reading here (about five of them). Each time they just use testament. They don't translate it covenant. Now, in two of the verses they're correct. In the rest their incorrect. If you have a New King James they have correctly translated the verses. The verses where it should be covenant they put it as covenant. And the verses that should be testament they've left it as testament. So, verse 15 of Hebrews 9:

Hebrews 9:15-17 And for this cause He is the mediator of the new [covenant] (not a new testament because there wasn't an old testament but there is a testament), He is the mediator of the new [covenant] that by means of death,

Notice this new covenant comes into effect because of a death. And at Christ's death He made a testament. At His death He put an end to the Old Covenant as we'll see in a moment. But, He also

made a testament. A testament that's carried on over two thousand years and will come to fruition when we inherit what He has left us in His testament at the fulfillment of the New Covenant.

... that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first [covenant], they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Jesus Christ, brethren, for forty days fasted in the wilderness and then took on a great climatic spiritual struggle with Satan for the possession of this globe. Remember that Adam was given rulership of this earth initially. Satan, in the Garden of Eden, took it away from him because Adam chose to submit himself to Satan instead of to God.

The second Adam came to this earth, to take back from Satan what had been stolen in the Garden of Eden. Jesus Christ fought Satan in that great fast and the temptation that followed, and defeated Satan for possession and rulership of this world. Jesus Christ now owns this globe, but He hasn't yet come back to claim it. This globe is Jesus Christ's inheritance. But in His Testament He intends to share His inheritance, with His bride, His wife. If you're a husband and you own many possessions and you get married, don't you automatically share your possessions with your bride, with your wife? This is what Jesus Christ is going to do. As a result of His death later on, He has made possible our eternal salvation so that we can inherit from His testament, and be coheirs with Him. So now, verse 16 (of Heb. 9):

16 For where a testament is, (properly translated here), there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator lives.

Jesus Christ died to make a testament possible, a last will, and only will whereby we could inherit the Kingdom of God with Him in the World Tomorrow.

18 Whereupon neither the first [covenant] was dedicated without blood.

That covenant required no death in its agreement as we saw. But God knew, even when He made it, that though the covenant was perfect, the people were not and the people would fail. But He had to allow them to do that to understand that without His Spirit and His help they can not make it.

Therefore, to point forward to the New Covenant He ratified the old in the way they were used to doing it. But the symbolism had greater meaning to God. "Whereupon neither the first [covenant] was dedicated without blood" because there was an animal sacrifice and the blood was sprinkled upon the people. Verse 20 Moses said:

20 Saying, This is the blood of the [covenant] (if you read Exodus it was translated covenant) which God has enjoined unto you.

The blood of that animal symbolized the blood of Jesus Christ that would be shed at His death when the testament would be made. And by being sprinkled (all the people were sprinkled with the blood) that was a type of the future time when their sins would be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. So, Christ left a testament at His death, brethren, so that His heirs might also receive thru Him the eternal inheritance of this earth.

Remember that it was said to Abraham “in your Seed” (singular) shall all nations of the earth be blessed.” The singular Seed refers not the plural seed Israel, but to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ would make it possible thru His life and His death, a life of perfect obedience to God’s law, a perfect sacrifice in death that we could inherit with Him. This is His Testament, His will for us. This New Testament, if we want to call it new, it is perennially new, certainly, but this testament or the will of Christ has been in effect since His death. But, it has conditions that we must fulfill and meet before we can actually inherit those promises.

Now since the Greek word testament can also mean a covenant, and since this testament involves our agreement to fulfill the conditions (that’s what we say at baptism, we agree to fulfill the conditions) so then because it’s an agreement it also becomes a covenant. And that new covenant will not be established with us until we are first made immortal. And we can be perfected trust never to go back upon God.

So, what you have brethren, is the Old Covenant and then the New Covenant and Testament. Not an Old Testament New Testament but an Old Covenant in the first part of the bible, a Testament and a New Covenant made possible by that Testament in the second half of the Bible. And we are in the process of qualifying for the New Covenant and for our inheritance.

At this point brethren, I’d like to show you seven major differences between the Old and the New Covenant. Now, on the left (referring to a chart he had set up) we have four points to begin with and the other three are on the next page. There are four major areas here on this first side that we’ll see differences between the Old and the New; seven differences in total.

The first difference relates to the *timing* of the covenants. Remember that with the Old Covenant Jesus Christ married them without them first proving themselves faithful and obedient to them. So with the time factor the Old Covenant was made with the people before they had proved their obedience. That is not going to happen with the New Covenant because the New Covenant is an eternal covenant and there can be no mistake with the people. Therefore the New Covenant is made with the people *after* they have proved their obedience, after the Church (spiritual Israel) in this life that you’re living now, have proved that you will be subservient to God’s law.

The second difference between the Old Covenant and the New are the people themselves. In the Old Covenant they were mortal, physical, carnal people. In the New Covenant they will be immortal. They will be spirit beings who can never sin, never go back.

The third difference relates to the law itself. The law has stayed the same throughout but the law in the first covenant was written on stone symbolizing the hardness of the heart of the people. The second covenant will be written on our hearts and our minds in totality. We will be as God is with the fullness of His mind and His character and we will never turn our backs throughout all eternity as Lucifer turned back.

Point number four, testament. Under the Old Covenant there was no testament. But the New Covenant is tied in with a testament, Jesus Christ's will and testament that we should be inheritors with Him of this earth of which He is the rightful ruler and is soon coming back to take over.

The last three points have to do with the promises relating to the two covenants. Under the Old Covenant it was only material. Under the New Covenant it will be both material and spiritual because we're going to rule a universe, brethren. A universe is made of matter. It's a material universe we're going to rule as well as rule the earth. So, under the New Covenant, the blessings are both material and spiritual because you'll enjoy the physical dimension of living and you'll also living on the spirit dimension as a spirit being.

The next point under promises, the sixth, the promises were national. It was to the Nation of Israel. With the New Covenant it is universal. It is intended for all peoples. Now, I have to qualify that. And be careful when you copy this down that you remember to put in the qualifications as we go along, okay. Because, in one sense it is also national, the New Covenant. It is to one nation because Jesus Christ is only going to be married to one wife. He's not going to be a bigamist as we said earlier, and have many wives, just one wife. So it is the nation of spiritual Israel.

But because that spiritual Israel will include the Gentiles and this covenant is for *all* peoples, unlike the Old Covenant was just for the one nation, physical Israel back then. Therefore we can call it Universal.

The seventh difference is that the Old Covenant was temporal. You just enjoyed it while you lived your lifetime. That was it. Now, it could have extended far longer because God did speak of a thousand generations. He could have carried it on. It certainly was to the generations of Israel as they continued to obey. But for you individually, it was just during your physical lifetime that was it. No promise of eternal life. Whereas in the New Covenant eternity is promised. It's an eternal covenant that God will be making with us.

Now I mentioned, brethren, that the Old Covenant was a marriage covenant. And we're going to see, as we turn to Revelation 19 in conclusion, that the New Covenant is a marriage covenant as well. It's a type of the old but a far better covenant with far better promises. The Protestants think Jesus

Christ died to do away with the law. No He didn't! He did, however, at the point of His death, do away with the Old covenant. When you read Jeremiah and when you read Isaiah, brethren, particularly Isaiah 50 and verse 1 you find that because ancient Israel ran away from God and kept on committing adultery that God finally said "okay, you want to be separated from Me, it's basically a "fait accompli, I'll accept the status quo. I will give to you a bill of divorcement." Isaiah 50 and verse 1.

So, God recognized the situation. They separated themselves from Him. He gave them a bill of divorcement. But Jesus Christ said in the New Testament, that Moses permitted divorcement "for the hardness of your hearts." Now God has no hardness of heart, brethren. He recognized the hardness of hearts of Israel. They separated themselves from Him. He gave recognition to it by giving them a bill of divorcement, or as it can be translated annulment.

But God, in His own heart, even though Israel in her heart had divorced herself from the God that had created her, God, in His own heart, as a faithful God, could not consider Himself truly separated from Israel. Hence Jeremiah 3 and verse 14, "return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for I am married to you." He wanted them to come back but continued to refuse. Now, He allowed the bill of divorcement for them. But God holds Himself up to a much higher law. God does not recognize adultery, in other words, as grounds for divorce of itself. Therefore God knew that in order to put an end to this marriage, in order that He could be free to remarry He had to die, because marriage is until death do us part.

When Jesus Christ died on the stake He put an end to the old covenant marriage because one of the partners died. Only when there is a death is another marriage then permitted in God's sight on God's standards where it's God holding Himself accountable.

And so, in consequence, Jesus Christ was now free to remarry. In essence, He's going to marry Israel again but it's going to be a different Israel, a converted Israel. An Israel that's not only converted in mind but changed in body because she's no longer flesh. She is spirit. And Jesus Christ, then, will establish this marriage with Israel again but a new Israel that has returned.

Now, we understand, brethren, that there is that likelihood that Jesus Christ will return on a Feast of Trumpets. We don't know for sure but that's what the Feast of Trumpets symbolizes. The Day of Pentecost is six months later. Would Jesus Christ, if He didn't return at the Feast of Trumpets, wait a whole six months to marry His bride? Most people coming out of the second exodus are going to need Jesus Christ and His wife to work with them, to help them. The second exodus *begins* at the sounding of the seventh trump. If Jesus Christ were to come back on a Feast of Trumpets when would the marriage actually take place? The Day of Pentecost symbolizes it but obviously doesn't have to take place on that day.

In the Old Testament you find that when there was a marriage ceremony or a marriage feast there was seven days of feasting. Right after the Feast of Trumpets comes the Day of Atonement when the whole world is to be made at one with God by Satan's removal and casting into the bottomless pit.

After that Day of Atonement when man is made at one with God, symbolically, then there are the seven day of the Feast of Tabernacles concluded by the eighth day, the Last Great Day. Those seven days *may* represent the marriage feast of Jesus Christ and His Church, if that is the way that God intends to do it. Revelation 19 then in conclusion. Verse 7:

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

It is a work that you do, *on yourself*, with God's help. We have to make *ourselves* ready! And we do it by obedience to God's law with the help of His Holy Spirit. Verse 8:

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb

A very special blessing because they are the ones at the very beginning of the World Tomorrow who inherit the blessings intended by Jesus Christ from His will and testament which spoke of Him being the Mediator of a better covenant with better promises. And the first resurrection is called in the Bible, brethren, in the book of Hebrews, the better resurrection. This is what awaits us if we do our part and if we make ourselves ready. The Great Marriage Supper of the Lamb, symbolized by the upcoming day of Pentecost...

