

2nd Corinthians 3:7-18

A New Hope

Additional Notes and Verses on the Old and New Covenants

"Covenant" refers to a compact or agreement between two parties binding them mutually to undertakings on each other's behalf. Theologically (used of relations between God and man) it denotes a gracious undertaking entered into by God for the benefit and blessing of man, and specifically of those men who by faith receive the promises and commit themselves to the obligations which this undertaking involves. *Baker's dictionary of theology*; Everett F. Harrison Ed. p. 142

The purpose of the New Covenant is to produce righteousness. The purpose of the Old Covenant was to show that humans stand condemned because we cannot please God by obeying him completely.

The Old Covenant was very specific concerning human responsibilities. It was essentially an objective, eternal standard that God revealed for His people Israel without any special enabling grace. However the New Covenant rests on promises that include the indwelling and empowering presence of God's Holy Spirit who enables the believer to obey. (John 14:17; 16:13; Acts 1:4-5,8; Rom. 8:4).

The Old Covenant showed how impossible it was to measure up to God's requirements. Moreover it announced a death sentence on all who fell short (cf. Rom. 7:9-11; Gal. 3:10). The New Covenant, on the other hand, leads to fullness of life because God's Spirit helps the believer do God's will (cf. Rom. 7:6; 8:3)

God employed stone tables for the Old Covenant but His Holy Spirit for the New Covenant. These vehicles represent the nature of each covenant: hard and unbending compared to personal and friendly.

Both covenants involved ministry to God that resulted in glory for God. However the glory of the New Covenant far surpasses the glory of the Old Covenant. The New Covenant...manifests the character and purposes of God more fully and finally.

Notes on 2 Corinthians, 2007 Edition Dr. Thomas L. Constable, pp. 34-36.

Additional Verses Regarding the New Covenant:

Hebrews 3:5-Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

6-But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Hebrews 9:14-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!

15-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.

Hebrews 8:6-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.

7-For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

8-But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

9-It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

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.

11-No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

12-For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

13-By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.