

# *THE OLD COVENANT and the NEW COVENANT*

*by BRYAN ELLIOTT • from MORE THAN GOLD*

The Old Covenant refers to God's physical, earthly agreement with His people, the children of Israel. Under this agreement, God promised the Israelites that they would be blessed because of their obedience to His law and through a system of animal sacrifices to atone for their sins. The Old Covenant lasted for hundreds of years.

As Jesus prophesied in Mark 13, the temple where animals were sacrificed was destroyed, and with it, the system God's children once needed to be made right with Him. Thankfully, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the ultimate and final sacrifice, we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus serves as our superior and eternal High Priest. We have entered into the New Covenant.

The New Covenant is the spiritual agreement outlined in Matthew 5 - 7. This agreement is not contrary to the Law, but the fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and those who

submit to it through surrender to Jesus are promised spiritual and physical blessings, eternal life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Old Testament, or the scriptural books written during the Old Covenant, God says clearly over and over that a New Covenant is coming. This new agreement will fulfil God's promise to put His law on our hearts, put His Spirit within us, and help us to walk in His ways through the help of the Messiah. Through the New Covenant, our relationship with God is restored once and for all because of the freedom we gain in His sacrifice!

The Old and New Covenants are not at odds with each other. Rather, the Old Covenant was made knowing that the New was coming. There would be no New Covenant without the Old. And without the promise of the New Covenant, the Old Covenant is meaningless. Through Jesus' sacrifice, God displays His faithfulness to His people and the world. He sent His Messiah as promised, perfectly fulfilling the Old Covenant and paving the way for our adoption as His children.

A few of the key differences between the Old and New Covenants include:

## *Old Covenant*

Holy Spirit given only to a select few for specific periods of time  
(Numbers 27:18)

A High Priest (man) was required to serve as mediator between God and man  
(Exodus 28:29-30)

Animal sacrifice to pay for sins (Leviticus 1-7)

Imperative to keep the Law to the letter  
(Leviticus 1-7)

Between God and the children of Israel (Genesis 26:3)

## *New Covenant*

Holy Spirit given to all  
(Romans 7:6)

Jesus, perfect and sinless, is our perpetual High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14-17)

Bearing the fruit of the Spirit and good works are required  
(Galatians 5:22 - 24)

Between God and those who accept the gift of salvation through His Son.  
(Acts 10:34-43)

<i>Old Covenant</i>	<i>New Covenant</i>
Exposes sin (Galatians 3:19)	Removes our sin as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12; Romans 4:7-8)
Cannot give life (2 Corinthians 3:7)	Gives life (Galatians 3:11)
Brings a curse (Galatians 3:10)	Redeemed from the curse (Galatians 3:13)

## *ADDITIONAL RESOURCES*

This resource is from Bryan Elliott's book, *More than Gold*. Bryan is the President and co-founder of M46 Ministries along with his daughter, Bryn Elliott. Their mission is to inspire, disciple, and bring hope to the nations.

Find more resources at **[m46ministries.com](http://m46ministries.com)**