

Which Covenant?

Many of us have recognised that we are now living in “the beginning of sorrows”, Matthew 24:8, maybe not the ‘End Time’ per se just yet, but all the evidence points to the nearness of the coming fall of God’s Israelite people because of their sins, Deuteronomy 28:15, “**But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.....**”

The rise of the Eastern autocratic gentile nations – Gog and Magog, is particularly noticeable, they whom will eventually challenge the European Beast power after his invasion of Britain and the US, Jeremiah 30:7, ‘**Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.**’ Revelation 9:14,16, ‘**Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.... ‘And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.**’

At this time it is more important than ever that God’s Church (of which ever denomination or individuals) comes closer to God’s word, and are aware that Satan is desperately trying to divert us, in any way from our commission to preach the whole gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world. Matthew 24:14, ‘**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**’ The equivalent of this scripture in Matthew is Revelation 14:6-7, for only a miracle can reach all men and women, everywhere with the Truth, unlimited by wilful omission because of false church tradition.

If you have been reading the previous articles, you already know how successful Satan has been at diverting the Church from a true understanding of the End Time according to God’s word, into the “traditions of men”, invented End-time scenarios that don’t match the scriptures, which Jesus Christ plainly warned against. Matthew 15:9, ‘**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**’

This total misunderstanding of the major End Time events, (Read the article, “Hidden in Plain Sight”) which has resulted in their failure to acknowledge even God commanded responsibilities, means that they are also subject to **God-given delusions**, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, ‘**And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**’

One of these lying delusions, beginning to emerge among some members of the Church, is the creeping in of the physical signs of Judaism, so obvious among the orthodox Jews, and the false belief that the Jews are God’s special people, but that is no longer so, Matthew 21:43, ‘**Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**’ (Who carried the gospel to the world?)

Matthew 8:12, ‘**But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’

Prayer shawls, tassels, and an emphasis on the first 5 books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, and even circumcision, reveal an evil diversion, designed for us to, in effect, wilfully reject the “better” New Covenant of unconditional blessing which we read of in Jeremiah 31, Hebrews 8:10 and elsewhere, in favour of the Mosaic covenant delivered at Sinai, with its inferior promises and demands of

obedience to God's Law, effectually without the help of God's Holy Spirit! Romans 8:3-4, 'For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**' And Hebrews 7:18-19, 'For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment [the instigation of the Aaronic Priesthood] going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.' If the Mosaic Covenant had not been lacking in achieving perfection within us, God would not have needed to **replace it** with the New Covenant, which allows us to attain holiness and fellowship with Jesus Christ and His Father!!

Such a return to an inferior covenant is not compatible with the superior and unconditional promises of the New Covenant. **We can't apply both**, for choosing to rely upon the **Mosaic** Covenant implies that Christ's sacrifice was not enough to forgive our sins. It rejects the significance of our Creator's death and spurns the gift and work of the Holy Spirit **in our circumcised hearts**. It fails to recognise that the Mosaic Covenant was only a temporary measure until **Christ's sacrifice completely changed the circumstances for ever**, Galatians 3:24-26, 'Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be **justified by faith**. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. [justification could not be achieved through the Mosaic Law or Covenant but it can through the Grace of the new Covenant] **For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**' The fact is that we all sin and cannot rely on the Mosaic Covenant to cover our sins.

Under the New Covenant we are to **keep God's original spiritual intent** rather than merely the letter of the law, as is brought out by Paul in Romans 2:26-29, 'For circumcision verily profiteth, **if thou keep the law**: but if thou be a breaker of the law, [as are we all] thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the **righteousness of the law**, [through their diligent study + Christ's forgiveness] shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, **if it fulfil the law**, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **But he is a Jew**, which is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart**, in the spirit, and **not in the letter**; whose praise is not of men, but of God.'

Some of God's people have not understood that though God does not change, circumstances in which His people find themselves, do! God's original intention of a law thus can become distorted, or lost. Only then, does God make adjustments to His Law – to get back to **His original intention**. Study the changes God made in the book of Deuteronomy relating to Tithing and the Firstborn and Firstfruits, when Israel entered the Promised Land, after years in the barren wilderness for example, or those before and after the coming of God's Holy Spirit in the NT and you will understand that God has always been more concerned with the spiritual intent of the Law and that the New Covenant brought changes too! Such changes cannot be denied!

So, it is only under the "better covenant" that our failings can be covered, for in this life, none of us is perfect, despite our desire.

So, 'Which Covenant?'

A special emphasis on the first 5 books of the Bible – the Pentateuch, doesn't sound dangerous, so why this concern?

These are known as the Books of the Law, written down at the time of Moses, but in existence long before then, Genesis 26:5, 'Because that **Abraham** obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.'

These are some of the laws which make up the Mosaic, or 'Old Covenant', in comparison to the 'New Covenant' which came into application after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are different kinds of laws in the Mosaic Covenant. **The Ten Commandments** are a summary of those laws, and set forth broad general principles of living in order for us to maintain a relationship with God and men. They provide **the basic morality** required by God of **all peoples**, and as such they are eternal, for all men and women, everywhere. They were kept by Abraham, along with the practical Civil Laws.

Secondly, there is the **Ceremonial Law** which related to Israel's worship at that time, and points forward to Jesus Christ; for example the **sacrifices, eg. that of a lamb** at Passover, (see [Exodus 12](#)). At Christ's death and resurrection, Jesus Christ replaced the lamb, and **these laws became redundant**, though the principles underlying them remain to guide our relationship with God.

Thirdly, there is **Civil Law** involving the practicalities of daily living, for example the legal penalties for burglars, Exodus 22:2-3, 'If a thief be found breaking in, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. But if it happens after sunrise, the defender is guilty of bloodshed.' Obviously modern societies are so different that it would be impossible to apply some of these laws without ending up in jail, though the principles behind the laws are still valid, and will once again apply in God's Kingdom.

The Law teaches us the need for salvation. God's Grace gives us that salvation. It is the only way.

God had first spoken to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3:

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Abram obeyed. His belief in God's words, and his faith to carry them out, were the reason for his, and through Abraham, *our* acceptance by God. **This was quite aside from any laws**, and according to that covenant, both he and his children, physical and spiritual, (Romans 9:6-8) have been continually rewarded, according to God's magnificent promises to Israel.

If we fall for choosing to obey the *Mosaic* covenant, we **despise** the sacrifice of Christ in the New Covenant, [by prioritising a failed covenant which God has replaced] and incur the judgement of God. There would remain no more sacrifice for our sins, Hebrews 10:26, 'For if we **sin wilfully** after that we have received the **knowledge of the truth**, [New Covenant] there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,' and v 28-31, 'He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant**, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath **done despite** unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.' Sins against the Holy Spirit risk the unpardonable sin!

That this regression to relying upon the failed Mosaic laws which could never bring perfection, rather than the gift of Grace through Jesus Christ's sacrifice and the work of God's Holy Spirit, is

actually of Satan, is evidenced by an accompanying rejection of the need to observe Jesus Christ's instructions on how to annually renew the New Covenant, in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 'For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed [Passover night, **on the 14th** of Abib] took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he [Christ] took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, [as a memorial] on the night in which He was betrayed] in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew [proclaim] the Lord's death till he come.'

If we reject these commands of our Saviour to renew our part in the New Covenant from year to year, we would consolidate **our fall out of the New Covenant**, and make Satan's attempt to divide us from the unconditional promises to our father Abraham, which find fulfilment in the New Covenant, successful. We would have sinned and, unrepentant, the result would be death.

So, brethren, let us armour ourselves with God's words against Satan's attack and glory in the mercy and forgiveness of the better, **New Covenant** with its offer of eternal life to all who will believe and repent, and thank our Father, and Jesus Christ for their endless love!

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