

## THE TWO COVENANTS

Text: Hebrews 8:7-8

INTRO: There have been numerous covenants or contracts mentioned in the Bible, but the Hebrew writer takes special note of two of them. This should be obvious to all. But there is much confusion in the world regarding these two covenants or testaments: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Some folks make no distinction between the two at all. Some tend to accept a part and reject a part of each of them. A few folks have even ventured to deny that there really are two distinct covenants at all, that somehow the new covenant is just a renewing of the old.

In this lesson I will affirm that we today are living under the New Testament or covenant, and that the Old Testament law is not binding on any nation or group of people today.

### I. WE ARE LIVING IN A PERIOD OF TIME THE BIBLE REFERS TO AS “THE LAST DAYS.”

A. About 800 B.C. Joel had written: And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons & your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions... (Joel 2:28).

B. Peter declared that the events of Pentecost, Acts 2, were the fulfillment of Joel’s promise, & set the beginning of the period of time known as the “last days.”

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons & your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams... (Acts 2:16-17).

### II. IN THESE LAST DAYS, WE ARE TO HEAR GOD’S SON IN ALL MATTERS OF RELIGION.

While [Peter] was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; & suddenly a voice came out of the

cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matt. 17:5).

God, who at various times & in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, thru whom also He made the worlds. (Heb. 1:1-2).

Peter quotes from Deut. 18:15, 19, & applies it to Jesus: For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'" (Acts 3:22-23).

### III. BY WHOM & TO WHOM WAS THE FIRST COVENANT, FREQUENTLY CALLED THE LAW, GIVEN?

A. It was given by Moses. John 1:17

B. It was given to the Hebrew nation.

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." (Ex 20:1-2).

Deut 5:1-3, And Moses called all Israel & said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes & judgments which I speak in your hear-ing today, that you may learn them & be careful to observe them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.

### IV. HOW LONG WAS THIS LAW OR COVENANT TO LAST?

A. Till the promised Seed should come.

Gal 3:19, 23-25, What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator... But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be

revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Rom 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Rom. 10:4)

B. From the time that God promised to give a new covenant, the first covenant began to grow old & get ready to vanish away. Heb. 8:13.

C. There are many valuable truths & lessons we may learn from the O.T., but its commands & ordinances are no longer binding on anyone anywhere today.

Col 2:14, 16, Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities & powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths.

D. The Law of Moses once stood as a wall of separation between Jews & Gentiles, but Christ has removed that wall. Neither Jew nor Gentile is bound by O.T. law today.

Eph 2:14-18, For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, & has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, & that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

CONCLUSION: The O.T. was taken away, figuratively nailed to the cross of Jesus. It no longer serves as law today. Of course, some of the

things that were sinful under the Law of Moses are also sinful today, and some of the things that were pleasing to God then are also pleasing to God now, because they have been incorporated into the gospel of Jesus Christ. But it is indeed to the gospel of Christ to which we must turn to learn how to worship, how to serve, how to please God so that we might have everlasting life thru Jesus Christ His Son.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, March 11, 1964

Cox Springs, TX, March 7, 1965

Jonestown, TX, May 12, 1968

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, February 7, 1971

Springhill, LA, April 20, 1975

La Porte, TX, December 11, 1977

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 21, 1999

Shiloh, Mexia, TX March 7, 1999

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 19, 2004