



The Old Covenant and the New Covenant represent two key stages in God's redemptive plan, revealed in Scripture. While both reflect God's relationship with His people, they differ in their scope, purpose, and method of fulfillment.

The Old Covenant reveals God's holiness, justice, and the impossibility of salvation through human effort. It points forward to the New Covenant, where Jesus fulfills the Law perfectly, provides redemption, and transforms our hearts. For Christians today, the New Covenant is the foundation of our faith, freeing us to worship and serve God out of love, not fear.

Hebrews 8:6 sums it up beautifully: *"But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises."*

1. BASIS AND MEDIATOR	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Moses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Established at Mount Sinai after the Exodus (Exodus 19–24).</li><li>It was mediated through Moses, who acted as the representative between God and Israel (Exodus 24:8).</li><li>The covenant was based on the Law (the Mosaic Law), summarized in the Ten Commandments and detailed throughout the Torah.</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Jesus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Established through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6).</li><li>Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15), fulfilling what the Old Covenant pointed to.</li><li>The New Covenant is based on grace and faith in Christ's finished work (Ephesians 2:8-9).</li></ul>
2. WRITTEN FORM	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Tablets of Stone) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written on tablets of stone and parchment (Exodus 31:18).</li><li>It emphasized external obedience to the letter of the Law.</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Written on Hearts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written on the hearts of believers through the work of the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10).</li><li>It emphasizes an internal transformation and obedience from the heart.</li></ul>
3. SACRIFICES AND ATONEMENT	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Repeated animal sacrifices) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Required repeated animal sacrifices to temporarily cover sins (Leviticus 16:34; Hebrews 10:1-4).</li><li>The sacrifices were a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice to come (Hebrews 10:1).</li><li>The high priest entered the earthly Tabernacle or Temple to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people.</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jesus Christ, the perfect and final sacrifice, offered Himself once for all to atone for sin (Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 3:18).</li><li>The shadow (Old Testament sacrifices) was fulfilled in the reality of Christ (Hebrews 10:12-14).</li><li>Jesus, our High Priest, entered the heavenly Tabernacle to secure eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:11-15).</li></ul>

## OLD VS NEW COVENANT

4. CONDITIONAL VS. UNCONDITIONAL NATURE	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Obedience to the Law) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conditional: Israel's blessings depended on their obedience to the Law (Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 28).</li><li>• Disobedience brought curses and judgment, which Israel often experienced (e.g., exile).</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Faith in Christ and God's grace) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unconditional: God promises forgiveness of sins, a transformed heart, and eternal life for all who believe in Christ (Jeremiah 31:34; John 3:16).</li><li>• The New Covenant is secured by God's faithfulness, not human effort (Hebrews 8:6-12).</li></ul>
5. SCOPE AND PEOPLE	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Nation of Israel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Made exclusively with the nation of Israel (Exodus 19:3-6).</li><li>• Gentiles were largely excluded, unless they became proselytes (joined Israel through circumcision and obedience to the Law).</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (All nations (Jews and Gentiles)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended to all nations (Jews and Gentiles) through faith in Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 3:28).</li><li>• God's people now include the Church, which is made up of all who believe in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22).</li></ul>
6. PURPOSE	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Reveal sin; point to need for redemption) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To reveal sin and the holiness of God (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:19-24).</li><li>• The Law acted as a guardian or tutor, pointing Israel toward their need for a Savior.</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Provide forgiveness and salvation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide salvation and reconcile sinners to God through faith in Christ (Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21).</li><li>• The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live lives of obedience and sanctification (Romans 8:9-11).</li></ul>
7. RESULTS	
<b>Old Covenant</b> (Knowledge of sin; condemnation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resulted in the knowledge of sin and condemnation (Romans 7:7-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6-9).</li><li>• No one could perfectly keep the Law, so it could not bring salvation (Romans 3:23; James 2:10).</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> (Forgiveness of sin; eternal life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Results in forgiveness of sins, justification, and eternal life through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8:12; Romans 5:1).</li><li>• Believers are given the Holy Spirit, who enables them to grow in holiness and live in obedience to God's will (Ezekiel 36:26-27).</li></ul>

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KEY SCRIPTURES FOR COMPARISON	
<b>Old Covenant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Exodus 24:8: "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."</li><li>● Deuteronomy 28:1: "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God... the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."</li></ul>	<b>New Covenant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Luke 22:20: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."</li><li>● Jeremiah 31:33-34: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts... I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."</li><li>● Hebrews 8:13: "In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete."</li></ul>