

THE TWO COVENANTS CONTRASTED (2)

By Keith Greer

What type of blood was offered under both? Old Covenant: “Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people.” {Hebrews 9:18,19} Under the rules of the old covenant, animal blood was required for forgiveness and atonement. New Covenant: “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” {Hebrews 9:12} This was a ONE-TIME sacrifice that will never have to be repeated. “So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” {Hebrews 9:28} Christ’s blood was offered once for all men for all time. This could not be said about the animal sacrifices offered under the Old Covenant.

Could both sacrifices clear a person’s conscience? Old Covenant: “The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience.” {Hebrews 9:8,9} If those sacrifices could clear the conscience, why did they have to be offered continually? New Covenant: “For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.” {Hebrews 7:18,19} What could not be achieved under the Old Covenant becomes a reality under the new. For this reason the New-Covenant sacrifice was offered only ONCE. It provided the remedy that was lacking under the First Covenant.

Different Ordinances. Old Covenant: “Concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.” {Hebrews 9:10} The Old Covenant was for a physical nation that observed fleshly ordinances. New Covenant: “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” {1 Peter 2:5} The New Covenant is for a spiritual nation that offers spiritual sacrifices. This is probably one of the strongest contrasts between the covenants.

How long they would last. Old Covenant: “For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.” {2 Corinthians 3:11} This covenant was concerned with temporal blessings and was intended to last a limited time. How long? “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.” {Galatians 3:23-25} Please get this point clear in your mind. The Old Covenant was temporary to lead men to the new covenant. God never intended to save just one nation and have two different saving messages. God’s plan, before time began, was to save ALL MEN through Jesus Christ. New Covenant: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” {Matthew 24:35} This is His last will and testament; it will last until the end of time. God gave this universal covenant with a universal message to save all men who would accept His terms and become obedient to its conditions.

Why would anyone want to go back to a carnal, fleshly law and its ordinances? Yet, that is exactly what many do who seek to justify their practices by referring to the Old Covenant. Sadly, the main reason they do so is to justify practices that are forbidden under the new covenant so they reach backwards for authority for ungodly practices by the “old covenant.” I prefer to stick with the new one. Why? It’s BETTER! A covenant with a BETTER mediator! ***