

# The Two Covenants

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# The Two Covenants

We welcome you to this series of Bible studies concerning the two covenants. It is the purpose of these lessons to assist truth seekers and growing Christians in a better understanding of the covenants as revealed on the pages of the word of God.

Please take your Bible, look up the Scriptures listed, fill in the blanks where called for, and answer any questions.

**“For if that first covenant had been faultless,  
then should no place have been sought for the second” (Heb. 8:7).**

If you have any questions or comments as you study these lessons, write them down so you can remember to mention them at the right time and place. Write your name on your material as you will want to keep it for future study.

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Name

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Date and Place of Study

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# The Need for Understanding About Covenants

## Introduction

1. Over the years, we have had to teach outsiders that the first covenant or the law of Moses served its purpose and has been taken out of the way. But, who would have thought that our own brethren would have to be taught that the first covenant is not binding on folks today? We are being told by some brethren that, “Christ gave no law; He was a covenant victim, not a covenant maker or lawgiver; That Jesus did not come to establish a covenant which was different from previous arrangements; That Christ came to perpetuate a continuity of law; Jesus did not dismantle the law and give a new one. He only took away the ceremonial aspects of the law; There is continuity of covenant since the days of Abraham; Law does not become obsolete when it has been fulfilled; And, the law was not nailed to the cross only the debt which sin created was taken out of the way.” When we read such statements, it is past time that we get to studying about covenants. A failure to teach on and study such basic Bible lessons, over the years, has brought about this issue among brethren. No doubt, some are teaching this false doctrine to try to get around what the Lord says about marriage, divorce, and remarriage in Matthew 19:1-9 and other doctrines as well.
2. There is always a need for God’s people to understand about Bible covenants. Covenants are about as old as man himself. Every generation must be taught on such subjects. A failure to do so will result in some teaching false concepts about the covenants.
3. John wrote, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17).
4. To further our understanding of the covenants God has had with His people, this study is dedicated.

## Discussion

### I. **Meaning Of The Word “Covenant”**

- A. The basic meaning of the word “covenant” is an agreement. It is usually entered into between two persons. In a spiritual sense, it involves God and man. From a legal standpoint, God is the party of the first part and man is the party of the second part
- B. Sometimes a covenant is a sign between God and His people.
  1. For example, sabbath keeping was a sign between God and Israel. A reading of Exodus 31:13-17 will show that the sabbath was “a \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (the children of Israel) throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you” (Ex. 31:13).
    - a. This sign is called a covenant in Exodus 31:16.
    - b. Please observe that this was only a sign between God and Israel. It was not a covenant with any other people, like us today!

2. Often a covenant is an agreement made with an individual. God made a covenant with Noah. Moses recorded, “But with thee I will establish my \_\_\_\_\_; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee” (Gen. 6:18).
  - a. God agreed that if Noah would build the ark and “come into” it, He would save him and his family from the flood waters.
  - b. Noah did “according to all that God commanded him, so \_\_\_\_\_ he” (Gen. 6:22).
  - c. God was “the party of the first part” and Noah was “the party of the second part.”
  - d. God also made a rainbow covenant. “And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And \_\_\_\_\_, behold, I establish my \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, and with your \_\_\_\_\_ after you; And with every living creature that is with you...neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any \_\_\_\_\_ be a \_\_\_\_\_ to destroy the earth” (Gen. 9:8-11).
    - (1) God said, “This is the token of the covenant which I make \_\_\_\_\_ me and you...” (Gen. 9:12).
    - (2) The token of this covenant was, “I do set my \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, and it shall be for a token of a \_\_\_\_\_ between me and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 9:13).
    - (3) Every time you see a rainbow, it is a reminder that God still honors His agreement with all the earth to never destroy all the earth with a flood.

## II. **There Are Three Periods Of Bible History**

### A. Patriarchal period.

1. This period of time was from the days of Adam until Moses.
2. This was a time of promises and God dealing directly with man through head of the families, the father.
  - a. The writer of Hebrews picked up the story of this time when he said, “For when God made promise to Abraham...” (Heb. 6:13).
  - b. Abraham was the central character of this period.
  - c. This time period lasted for about 2500 years.

### B. Jewish period.

1. This period was the time of God dealing with the Jewish people and the law of Moses.
2. This covenant was made only with the Israelites. Moses wrote, “The Lord our God made a \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with \_\_\_\_\_, even \_\_\_\_\_, who are all of \_\_\_\_\_ here alive this day” (Dt. 5:2-3).
3. This covenant was given to restrain the people of God from so much sinning. God never did intend for the law of Moses to be a lasting covenant.

- a. In giving the purpose of the Jewish covenant, Paul said, “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was \_\_\_\_\_ because of transgressions, till the seed should come...” (Gal. 3:19).
  - b. We know that the seed referred to is “\_\_\_\_\_” (Gal. 3:16).
  - c. Paul told the Ephesians that the law was “\_\_\_\_\_” (Eph. 2:15).
- C. Gospel period.
1. This is the time period in which we now live. It extends from the time of gospel preaching on Pentecost in Acts 2 and will continue to the end of time.
  2. The gospel age brought about a lot of new things, including a new \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 8:8, 13).
  3. The law of Moses belonged to the Jewish age, but the new covenant is the law of Christ. Just as Paul wrote the Galatians, “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (Gal. 6:2).
  4. This period is called “the \_\_\_\_\_ days” (Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:1-2).

#### Conclusion

1. Having studied the need for understanding the covenants of God, please take your Bible and investigate the next twelve lessons to learn which covenant is binding on us today.
2. Remember that “we are delivered from the law...that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter” (Rom. 7:6).