

## THE OLD COVENANT AND THE NEW COVENANT

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**The Old Covenant**, whereby a person is declared to be **in a righteous relationship with God by his/her works of complete obedience to God**, is expressed in *Lev 18:5, Ezk 20:11, Rom 10:5*.

*Rom 10:5* “For Moses writes about **the righteousness which is of the law, ‘the man who does those things shall live by them.’”**

The “Law of Moses” which was given to Israel by God at Mt Sinai, is found in Exodus to Deuteronomy.

**This “Law of Moses” was not given to Israel as a means of obtaining a righteousness relationship with God through a person’s complete obedience to every law or commandment contained therein.**

Some have said there are 613 laws or regulations, statutes and judgments in the Law of Moses.

The “Law of Moses” was given to Israel to **heighten the awareness of the knowledge of sin.** *Rom 3:19,20*.

The “Law” was given so that **“the offence might abound.”** *Rom 5:20*.

“What purpose does the Law serve? **It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed shall come ....**” *Gal 3:19*.

The Law was given **“so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”** *Rom 7:13*.

**No person, apart from Jesus Christ, who has ever lived, from the fall of man, in *Gen 3:4-6*, onward, has been able to completely obey God’s Law.** *Rom 3:19,20,23, Gal 2:16*. Jesus Christ completely kept the Law of God. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life. *Hebrews 4:15, 2Corinthians 5:21*. Since the fall of man, no one has had a righteous relationship with God by their works of complete obedience to God’s Law.

**The only persons we know of, who lived in a righteous relationship with God through their complete obedience to God, were Adam and Eve before the fall.**

Adam and Eve were the only persons who lived in a righteous relationship with God **under the Old Covenant**.

**The New Covenant was established in principle, by the Three Persons of the Godhead from the foundation of the world.** *Rev 13:8, Titus 1:2, 2Tim 1:9, Eph 1:4*.

**They foresaw the possibility of man’s disobedience.** They saw the possibility of the fall of man into sin..

**So they planned the New Covenant.** This was, that the **sinless Son of God**, the Second Person of the Godhead, **would come to earth in a human body of flesh, born of a virgin, live a sinless holy life of obedience to God**, and at the end of His ministry **offer His life and pour out His Blood as a complete sacrifice for man’s sins, rise again the third day, so that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but would receive God’s mercy and have eternal life.** *Jn 3:16, Is 53:4-6, Jn 1:29, 1Pet 2:24, Is 7:14, Mat 1:21-23*.

**The first mention by God of the New Covenant is in *Gen 3:15*. Here, the Seed of the woman, (Jesus Christ), bruises the serpent’s head, (satan), and is Himself struck in the heel.** (A reference to the Cross of Christ).

In *Gen 3:21*, God covered the sinful nakedness of Adam and Eve through the shedding of blood. In *Gen 4:4*, Abel obtained a righteous relationship with God, by faith in the blood of the lamb for his sins. *Hebrews 11:4*.

And so, for all people, from that time to this, **guilty sinners have obtained a relationship of righteousness with God, by faith in the promise of the coming SEED of the woman, that would crush the serpent’s head, and by faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who gave His life for us on the Cross as a full payment for our sins.** *Gen 3:15, Gen 7:1, Gen 15:6+Rom 4:1-5, 2Corinthians 5:21, 1Peter 2:24, 1Peter 3:18, John 1:29, 1Corinthians 15:3,4*.

It has been felt by some that God gave Israel a Law at Sinai that they could not keep, and then condemned them for not keeping it. However God is just. *1John 1:9, Revelation 15:3, Acts 22:14, Romans 3:26*.

And the truth is that **the message of the Gospel or New Covenant was clearly revealed to Abraham and the people of Israel.** *Galatians 3:8*. (But many did not heed it. *Rom 10:1-3, Heb 4:1-3*). One of the greatest Biblical pictures of **the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the guilty, is in Exodus 12**. The Passover Lamb’s Blood stood between the judgment of God and the first-born.

**“When I see the Blood, I will pass over you.”** *Ex 12:13, Ex 15:13*.

In *Deut 30:11-14* we find **the Gospel message of the “righteousness of faith” which Paul preached.** *Rom 10:6-8*.

(I have heard it said that the New Covenant did not start until Jesus was raised from the dead. *Mat 28:6*. This is not true.)

The New Covenant or the Gospel, saturates the “Old Testament”. Some further examples: *Gen 22:8, Gen 26:24, Gen 28:12-15, Gen 39:21-23, Gen 49:10, Ex 12:13, Lev 16:20-22, Lev 25:10, Num 21:9, Deut 30:11-14, Isaiah 53*.