

## THE TESTAMENTS .... Are We Included In One ?

Before we get into the study of the scriptures ....

we'll get a little FYI .... that's "For Your Information."

The KJV word '**covenant**' is used 292 times:

272 times in the Old Testament,

20 times in the New Testament.

The KJV word '**testament**' is used 14 times:

-0- times in the Old Testament,

14 times in the New Testament.

The Greek word 'diatheke' is translated both 'covenant' and 'testament.'

A '**covenant**' is defined as

- a compact
- a confederacy
- a league
- an alliance
- a pledge.

A '**covenant**' can be between

- individuals
- man and woman, as in marriage
- nations
- God and man.

A '**testament**' is defined as

- a covenant
- a disposition
- an agreement
- a document the author has sworn to be true.

A 'last will and testament' is a written notice of binding wishes upon the author's death.

*This issue is one that is so important to right division .... to understand that we DO 'fit IN' .... and 'where we fit IN' .... we're not 'separated OUT.'*

The 1st use of the word **testament** appears in Matthew's gospel.

At the **last supper** Jesus ate with His disciples .... for the **new testament**,

He instituted a **memorial** for His upcoming death on the cross at Calvary:

**Matt 26:26-29** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of **this fruit of the vine**, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

The 'fruit of the vine' .... was wine, made from fermented grape juice.

Some scripture references are Gen 9:20,21, Deut 28:39; 32:14, Isa 65:8.

Wine was referred to as '**the blood of grapes:**'

**Gen 49:11** Binding his foal unto **the vine**, and his ass's colt unto **the choice vine**; he washed his garments **in wine**, and his clothes in **the blood of grapes**:

Thus, it is not surprising that Jesus would use wine as a symbol for blood.

Jesus personally gave Paul the information of the ceremony for the saints at

Corinth .... for however often they ate the Lord's supper (as 1 Cor 11:20):

**1 Cor 11:23-26** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is **the new testament** in my blood:

**this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.**

26 For as often as **ye** eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye** do shew the Lord's death till he come.

So we see a **connection** with the **new testament** for saints in the dispensation of grace.

We'll read from **2 Cor 3:2 through chapter 4:verse 4 ....**

so hold your place here .... as we reference other passages along the way.

Notice the **comparisons** ....

- of the Old Testament letter
- with the New Testament spirit:

**2 Cor 3:2,3** Ye are our epistle written in our hearts,  
known and read of all men:

**3** Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be  
the epistle of Christ **ministered by us,**

- **written not with ink,**  
but with the Spirit of the living God;
- **not in tables of stone,**  
but in **fleshy tables of the heart.**

God's promises are similar to Israel .... when He will plant them  
back in their homeland:

**Ezek 36:26-28** A new heart also will I give you,  
and **a new spirit will I put within you:**  
and I will **take away the stony** heart out of your flesh,  
and **I will give you an heart of flesh.**

**27** And **I will put my spirit within you,** and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**28** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers;  
and **ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.**

Back in 2 Cor, over in the 6th chapter, the same promise is made:

**2 Cor 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?  
for **ye are the temple of the living God;** as God hath said,  
**I will dwell in them,** and walk in them;  
and **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Paul mentioned **his ministry** in 2 Cor 3:3 .... here again, he states it:

**2 Cor 3:4-6** And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:  
5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves;  
but our sufficiency is of God;

6 Who also hath **made us able ministers of the new testament;**

- **not of the letter, but of the spirit:**
- **for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.**

It is the **'inside'** .... not the **'outside'** .... principal:

**Rom 2:28,29** For he is not a Jew, which is one **outwardly;**  
neither is that circumcision, which is **outward** in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one **inwardly;**  
and circumcision is that **of the heart, in the spirit,**  
**and not in the letter;** whose praise is not of men, but of God.

The **contrast** is repeatedly made between the Old and New Testaments:

**2 Cor 3:7-11** But if **the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones,** was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance;

**which glory was to be done away:**

8 How shall not **the ministration of the spirit** be rather glorious?

9 For if **the ministration of condemnation** be glory,

much more doth **the ministration of righteousness** exceed in glory.

10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

11 For if **that which is done away** was glorious,  
much more **that which remaineth** is glorious.

We have confident assurance that the ministration of the spirit,

the ministration of righteousness .... will remain:

**2 Cor 3:12** Seeing then that we have such hope,  
we use great plainness of speech:

To continue in the law .... is to stay under the Old Testament.

But the New Testament .... **takes the law away and replaces it:**

**2 Cor 3:13,14** And not as Moses, which put **a veil** over his face,  
that the children of Israel **could not stedfastly look** to the end  
of **that which is abolished:**

14 But **their minds were blinded**: for until this day remaineth **the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament;** which veil is done away in Christ.

Again, the Old Testament is a covering veil, but the New Testament removes it:

2 Cor 3:15-18 But even unto this day, **when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.**

16 Nevertheless **when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.**

The old testament letter .... is exchanged .... for the new testament spirit:

John 1:17 For the **law** was given by Moses, but **grace and truth** came by Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty.**

Paul instructed the churches of Galatia not to fall back under the law:

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore **in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**

The old testament demanded death for sin .... but the new testament in Christ Jesus' blood .... promises life in the Spirit:

Rom 8:2 For the law of **the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

Sin and death ---- or ---- liberty and life?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of **sin is death;** but the gift of God is **eternal life through Jesus Christ** our Lord.

Back in 2 Cor 3, as in vs. 13, Israel could not look ....

.... but now, we can look .... and we can see the Lord's glorious liberty:

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, **with open face beholding** as in a glass **the glory of the Lord**, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When you keep reading through 2 Cor chapter 3 right on into 2 Cor chapter 4 .... the context is the ministry Paul already said he was qualified for (in 2 Cor 3:6) was the ministry of the new testament:

2 Cor 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry,  
as we have received mercy, we faint not;

Paul will not be guilty of vailing .... covering .... or hiding .... the truth:

2 Cor 4:2 But have renounced **the hidden things** of dishonesty,  
not walking in craftiness,  
nor handling the word of God deceitfully;  
but by **manifestation of the truth**  
commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Paul made it a point that his ministry was 'out in the open'.

People who won't believe the gospel .... are **blinded** by Satan:

2 Cor 4:3,4 But if **our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**  
4 In whom the god of this world hath **blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ,** who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Israel was **blinded** by seeking God through works of the law ....

instead of by faith:

Rom 9:31,32 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.  
32 Wherefore? **Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.** For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

The gospel Paul preached was about Jesus being crucified. It was offered to Israel first, but they stumbled at it .... and Gentiles thought it was foolish .... but **whoever BELIEVED** it .... was saved:

1 Cor 1:18 For **the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.  
23 But **we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock,** and **unto the Greeks foolishness;**

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks,  
Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

The glorious gospel of Christ .... gives life by faith .... not by works:

**Rom 1:16,17** For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is **the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth**;  
to the **Jew first**, and **also to the Greek**.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live **by faith**.

We are to function by faith, by the spirit .... and not by the law, or letter:

**Rom 7:6** But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should **serve in newness of spirit**,  
and **not in the oldness of the letter**.

Jesus brought .... a much better testament:

**Heb 7:22** By so much was Jesus made a surety of a **better testament**.

Jesus' new testament .... was a much better ministry,  
a much better covenant,  
with much better promises:

**Heb 8:6** But now hath he obtained **a more excellent ministry**,  
by how much also he is the mediator of **a better covenant**,  
which was established upon **better promises**.

The problem was not with the law .... it was with the people who  
couldn't keep it. Hebrews quotes Jer 31:31 about Israel's new testament:

**Heb 8:7,8** For if that first covenant had been faultless,  
then should no place have been sought for the second.  
8 For **finding fault with them**, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the  
Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with  
the house of Judah:

Jesus taught His disciples about their weak flesh:

**Matt 26:41** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:  
**the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak**.

The old testament could not bring righteousness ....

because of their weak flesh .... so Jesus came to the rescue ....

with a better covenant .... with the Spirit in us:

**Rom 8:3,4** For what **the law** could not do, in that **it was weak through the flesh**, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

God promised the new testament to Israel (in Jer 31:31) ....

to supersede their old one:

**Heb 8:10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and **write them in their hearts**: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

But now we Gentiles are included .... by the gospel of Christ that Paul preached .... freedom from the law and liberty in Christ:

**Rom 2:14-16** For when **the Gentiles, which have not the law**, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 **Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

16 **In the day when God shall judge** the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**.

Paul's gospel .... was the gospel of Christ ... which was sent to the Romans:

**Rom 15:29** And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of **the gospel of Christ**.

Paul purposed to stay focused .... solely on the cross of Christ:

**1 Cor 2:2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save **Jesus Christ, and him crucified**.

When Jesus brought the new testament .... it made the first one to be classified as the old testament:

**Heb 8:13** In that he saith, A **new covenant**, he hath made **the first old**. Now **that which decayeth and waxeth old** is ready to **vanish away**.

Jesus brought the new testament .... by His death on the cross:

**Heb 9:15** And for this cause **he is the mediator of the new testament**, that **by means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, **they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance**.

The new testament could not begin .... until after **Jesus' blood** was shed:

**Heb 9:16** For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

The old testament had also been coventanted with blood:

**Heb 9:18-22** Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission**.

Paul's gospel .... centers on Jesus' blood atoning for sin:

**Eph 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Col 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Paul described the payment for sins ....

that were under the 1st covenant .... and now presently also:

**Rom 3:24-26** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth **to be a propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are **past**, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, **at this time** his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

We already read about the day when God will judge men (Rom 2:16).

That will be 'in His day' .... when He appears:

**Heb 9:27,28** And as it is appointed unto men once to die,  
but after this **the judgment**:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;  
and **unto them that look for him shall he appear**  
the second time without sin unto salvation.

We look for Him to come from heaven .... to bring our salvation:

**Phil 3:20** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ**:

When He appears .... it will be in judgment and in salvation:

**2 Tim 4:1,7,8** I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom**;

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, **the righteous judge**, shall give me **at that day**: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing**.

Would you say, with Paul, we are 'able ministers' of the new testament?