

The Two Covenants

By

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Why two covenants? -

I. The first covenant was found by God to have faults –

Hebrews 8:7–13: ⁷For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸Because finding fault with them, He says, (Jer. 31:31-34): “*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—* ⁹“*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.* ¹⁰“*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ¹¹“*None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.* ¹²“*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*

¹³In that He says, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.¹

II. The OLD covenant, (= old testament), was a covenant dependant on works of the flesh, the NEW covenant, (= new testament), is dependant on FAITH and ‘works’ of the Spirit, (i.e., Holy Spirit). Consider the Samaritan woman at the well with Jesus -

John 4:19-26: ¹⁹The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

²¹Jesus said to her, “**Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.** ²²“**You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.** ²³“**But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.** ²⁴“**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

²⁵The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”²

Also look at some other scriptures regarding walking, (i.e., living according to), by the spirit -

Romans 7:1 through 8:17:

Chapter 7 - ¹Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? ²For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. ⁴Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another— to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

⁷What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead. ⁹I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*. ¹²Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

¹³Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷But now, *it is* no longer I who do it,

but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

²¹I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²²For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Chapter 8 - ¹*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then

heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.³

Galatians 4:21 through 5:26:

Chapter 4 - ²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— ²⁵for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— ²⁶but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷For it is written, (Is. 54:1):

*“Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband.”*

²⁸Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. ²⁹But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. ³⁰Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? (See Gen. 21:10.) “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” ³¹So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Chapter 5 - ¹Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ²Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

⁷You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you

will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

¹¹And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹²I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

¹³For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this, (Lev. 19:18): “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.⁴

Ephesians 1:22 through 3:21:

Chapter 1 - ²²And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Chapter 2 - ¹And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

¹¹Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, ²¹in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Chapter 3 - ¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

⁸To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. ¹³Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.⁵

III. ***JESUS CHRIST*** is the way, the ***ONLY WAY*** to God the Father. ***JESUS CHRIST IS*** the ***NEW COVENANT***. ***JESUS CHRIST*** is the ***ONLY WAY*** for us to enter into the ***Kingdom of Heaven***. That is, a person must be ***Born Again***, that is ***Born of the Spirit of God*** by accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This is the ***ONLY WAY*** to enter the Kingdom of God, (i.e., through Jesus Christ the ‘doorway’ to ***LIFE EVERLASTING***) -

John 3:1-21: ¹There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵Jesus answered, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** ⁶“**That which is born**

of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹²“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰“For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹“But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”⁶

John 6:28-71: ²⁸Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

³⁰Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹“Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

³²Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶“But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

⁴¹The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” ⁴²And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

⁴³Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. ⁴⁸“I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰“This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

⁵²The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this *Man* give us *His* flesh to eat?”

⁵³Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵“For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸“This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

⁶⁰Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

⁶¹When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²“*What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?* ⁶³“*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.* ⁶⁴“*But there are some of you who do not believe.*” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵And He said, “*Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.*”

⁶⁶From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷Then Jesus said to the twelve, “*Do you also want to go away?*”

⁶⁸But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹“*Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

⁷⁰Jesus answered them, “*Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?*” ⁷¹He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.⁷

NOTE: *In these passages, Jesus was not talking about cannibalism, as the Jews thought. He was actually speaking about the institution of the ceremony of what has become known as the Lord’s Supper, (see Matt. 26:26-39, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:18-30, and I Cor. 11:23-34). This ceremony is an outward sign that we love Jesus and obey what He has instructed us to do. Much like water baptism, we do it as a sign, to others and to God, of FAITH in Jesus, and that we BELIEVE the TRUTH of what He taught. It is symbolic of the NEW COVENANT that it is made with us by God. It is through the ‘blood’ of Jesus that we ‘enter’ into this covenant, (represented by the wine of the Lord’s Supper). This is ‘figuratively’ done by drinking the wine of the Lord’s Supper, and ‘literally’ done by BELIEVING in God and Jesus Christ His Son, whom God sent into the world to save it, (see John 17:3). We must also DAILY ‘eat’ or consume the ‘bread’, (see Matt. 6:11), which God sent, (the ‘bread’ is Jesus, a.k.a. the ‘Word of God’, John 1:1, and the ‘Bread of Life’, Matt. 4:4, Luke 4:4 and John 6:51). This second part is ‘figuratively’ done by eating the bread of the Lord’s Supper and done ‘literally’ by DAILY STUDYING the Bible, (which is the Word of God and represents Jesus and His flesh), DAILY PRAISING God and DAILY THANKING Him for our blessings, healings, etc.*

Note also here that false religions, such as Islam, pervert these scriptures, (such as John 17:3 - ³“*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* 8, compare this scripture to the saying that people

⁷The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁸The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

must confess to become a Muslim) and try to say that there is another way to eternal life other than through believing in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whom God sent. Demons, especially the anti-Christ spirit have brought these religions, (especially Islam), into the world in order to deceive people and to turn them away from the one true God. (John 10:1-18: ¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²“But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³“To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴“And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵“Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

⁷Then Jesus said to them again, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸“All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

¹¹*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹²“But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³“The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*

¹⁷*“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”).⁹*

John 14:1-26: ¹“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴“And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷“If you had known Me, you would have

known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

¹¹“Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

¹²“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴“If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

¹⁵“If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰“At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 10

- IV. This ***New Covenant Righteousness***, (i.e., becoming ***Right with God***), comes therefore in only one way, through acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, allowing Him to come into our heart. Then by the POWER of the Holy Spirit, (i.e., the Spirit of God, a.k.a., the Spirit of Truth), we are ***SANCTIFIED***, (or ‘set apart’...’cleaned-up’ if you will). Thus, we are gradually changed and molded into the image of Jesus Christ, by the POWER of the Holy Spirit working on the inside of us, (i.e., in our heart) through the TRUTH of the ***Word of God***, which IS Jesus -

John 17:14-19: ¹⁴“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.¹¹

Romans 9:30 through 11:36:

Chapter 9 - ³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³²Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³As it is written, (Is. 18:14, 28:16):

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,
And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*

Chapter 10 - ¹Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, (Lev. 18:5), *“The man who does those things shall live by them.”* ⁶But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, (Deut. 30:12), *“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ”* (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷or, (Deut. 30:13) *“ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ”* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? (See Deut. 30:14.) *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”*

¹¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

(that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, (Is. 28:16), *“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”* ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For, (Joel 2:32), *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*

¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, (Is. 52:7 and Nahum 1:15):

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, (Is. 53:1), *“Lord, who has believed our report?”* ¹⁷So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed, (Ps. 19:4):

*“Their sound has gone out to all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world.”*

¹⁹But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says, (Deut. 32:21):

*“I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation,
I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”*

²⁰But Isaiah is very bold and says, (Is. 65:1):

*“I was found by those who did not seek Me;
I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”*

²¹But to Israel he says, (Is. 65:2):

*“All day long I have stretched out My hands
To a disobedient and contrary people.”*

Chapter 11 - ¹I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, (I Kings 19:10, 14), ³*“LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?*

⁴But what does the divine response say to him? (See I Kings 19:18.) “*I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*” ⁵Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

⁷What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸Just as it is written, (Deut. 29:4 and Is. 29:10):

*“God has given them a spirit of stupor,
Eyes that they should not see
And ears that they should not hear,
To this very day.”*

⁹And David says, (Ps. 69:22-23):

*“Let their table become a snare and a trap,
A stumbling block and a recompense to them.
¹⁰Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their
back always.”*

¹¹I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles. ¹²Now if their fall *is* riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

¹³For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to jealousy *those who are* my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their being cast away *is* the reconciling of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead?

¹⁶For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches. ¹⁷And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, ¹⁸do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that* you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

¹⁹You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰Well *said*. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²²Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you,

goodness, if you continue in *His* goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who *are* natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

²⁵For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, (Is. 59:20-21):

*“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
²⁷For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”*

²⁸Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable. ³⁰For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³²For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. ³³Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

³⁴*“For who has known the mind of the LORD?
Or who has become His counselor?”* (See Is. 40:13 and Jer. 23:18.)

³⁵*“Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?”* (See Job 41:11.)

³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.¹²

- V. The New Covenant is a BETTER Covenant, as it is a Covenant of LOVE...the Love of God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ towards the people of the Earth -

Isaiah 42:1-9: ¹“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold,
My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights!

I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

²He will not cry out, nor raise *His voice*,
Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.

³A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench;
He will bring forth justice for truth.

⁴He will not fail nor be discouraged,
Till He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”

⁵Thus says God the LORD,
Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it,
Who gives breath to the people on it,
And spirit to those who walk on it:

⁶“I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness,
And will hold Your hand;
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the Gentiles,

⁷To open blind eyes,
To bring out prisoners from the prison,
Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

⁸I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name;
And My glory I will not give to another,
Nor My praise to carved images.

⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
And new things I declare;
Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”¹³

John 3:16: ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”¹⁴

John 17:20-26: ²⁰“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹“that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵“O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You;

¹³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”¹⁵

- VI. The Old Testament was a mere foreshadowing, (pointing to) the TRUE way, which is through the New Testament, by way of Jesus Christ the Son of the Most High God and Father in Heaven. Anyone who believes in Him, (Jesus Christ) will have everlasting Life, (John 3:16). Through the Old Covenant, (Old Testament) and the Law of Sin and Death, there was only DEATH, because if anyone sinned, (and everyone did/does) they deserved DEATH. However, through the New Covenant, (New Testament), there Is LIFE through Jesus Christ, so we do NOT have to suffer eternal death, but we can have LIFE everlasting! -

John 11:25-26: ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶“And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”¹⁶

John 12:44-50: ⁴⁴Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵“And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. ⁴⁶“I have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. ⁴⁷“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹“For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰“And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”¹⁷

John 8:51: ⁵¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”¹⁸

Hebrews 8:13 through 10:39:

Chapter 8 - ¹³In that He says, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Chapter 9 - ¹Then indeed, even the first *covenant* had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ²For a tabernacle was prepared: the first

¹⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

part, in which *was* the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which *were* the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing *the services*. ⁷But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and *for* the people's sins *committed* in ignorance; ⁸the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹It *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— ¹⁰*concerned* only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

¹¹But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹²Not 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. ¹³For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

¹⁶For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, "This *is* the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²²And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

²³Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— ²⁶He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸so 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.

Chapter 10 - ¹For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

⁵Therefore, when He came into the world, He said, (Ps. 40:6-8):

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.

⁶In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin
You had no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.’ ”

⁸Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*” (which are offered according to the law), ⁹then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

¹¹And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, (Jer. 31:33-34),

¹⁶“This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” ¹⁷*then He adds*, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹⁸Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord, (Deut. 32:35). And again, “The LORD will judge His people, (Deut. 32:36).” ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³²But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise, (Hab. 2:3-4):

³⁷“For yet a little while,

And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

³⁸Now the just shall live by faith;

But if *anyone* draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.¹⁹

Hebrews 12:18-29: ¹⁸For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰(For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” [See Ex. 19:12-13.] ²¹And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.” [See Deut. 9:19.]

²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, ²⁶whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” (See Hag. 2:6.) ²⁷Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God *is* a consuming fire.²⁰

Hebrews 13:7-22: ⁷Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. ⁸Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

¹⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹²Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

¹⁷Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

¹⁸Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. ¹⁹But I especially urge *you* to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. ²²And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.²¹

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