

## Impact of the New Covenant on the Old Session 2

**Review:** Bible is divided into two big sections, Old Testament and New. From one to the other, we go from Moses to Jesus, Jew to Gentile, Canaan to the whole world, Hebrew to Greek, and from Israel to the Church. The very fact there is a language change speaks volumes! The question since the apostolic age has been: **How are the two Testaments related to each other?**

One set of answers to this is found in New Covenant Theology. NCT says the difference between old and new is the difference between night and day, shadow and substance, prophecy and fulfillment. It is the difference covering over sin versus actually forgiving of sin.

NCT understands the coming of Jesus and the establishment of the New Testament church to be the reason the Old Testament existed. **Example:** Scaffolding covers building that are under construction. Once the building is completed, the scaffolding is removed. So too, the scaffolding of the Old Testament has been removed.

We need to start by understanding some basics about the Old Testament.

-----

### “Testament”

Our English word “testament” is often used to refer to evidence that something is true, such a courtroom testimony when someone testifies. **Example:** “His success is testament to the value of hard work.” However, that’s not how the word testament is used in the Bible. **When you read about the Old or New Testament, what does “testament” mean?** The archaic meaning of “testament” is covenant. In the case of the old covenant, it was a very one-sided treaty or covenant. The Treaty of Versailles that ended World War One was so one sided, and so crushed Germany, that many believe it led directly to World War Two.

**Examples:** A modern example of “testament” as a contract would be someone’s “last will and testament” (a legal document reflecting only one person’s will; it is completely one sided).

**There are several of different treaties, or covenants, recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures made by Jehovah God through various people: Noah, Abraham, Moses. Which one of these three is “the” old testament?** The treaty that constitutes “the” old testament is the one made at Mount Sinai between Jehovah God and the ancient Israelites.

**Background:** The children of Israel had been enslaved in Egypt 400 years. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let them go. They left Egypt, and passed through the Sinai Peninsula *en route* to the Promised Land. While they were camped around Mt Sinai, God made a treaty with them. Some theologians call it the **Sinai Covenant** (not cyanide). Since Moses was the mediator, it is also called the **Mosaic covenant**.

**Google “suzerainty treaty” and summarize your findings.** As it turns out, the format of the old covenant was laid out in a way that was typical of a **suzerainty** treaty common around 1500 B.C. In it, a strong king (the **suzerain**<sup>1</sup>) would make a treaty with a smaller neighboring country, making it a vassal state, or protectorate. The writings of Moses follow the same layout/format/legal pattern as a suzerainty treaty; there was a standard legal format. For example, there was a statement of all the things the Suzerain had done for the vassal state, then came the laws, and there was a statement of various blessings and curses. In the case of the old covenant, God was the suzerain, and Israel was the vassal state.

**Big Idea:** The Sinai covenant was to the ancient nation of Israel what the Constitution is to the United States. It was a legal document, the “law of the land.” Its laws are recorded throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (the Torah). The whole rest of the Hebrew Scriptures are built on this foundation of the Law of Moses in the treaty called the Old Testament.

**OT Structure:** There are 39 books in the Old Testament, divided into 3 sections: History (17), Poetry (5) and Prophecy (17). The first 5 of the 17 historical books contain the Sinai covenant (think of these books as the rules of a game); the next 12 are history books containing real-life accounts of what happened when people played the game (for obedience, blessing; for disobedience, curses). The next 5 poetical (wisdom) books are the record of people’s meditations on the Law of Moses (“Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord ...”). The 17 prophetic books are sermons of judgement against Israel for breaking the Law (the prophets read the Law, looked at the disobedience of Israel, and predicted judgement as prescribed by Moses). It’s all based on the Sinai covenant.

**Important:** Even though the Hebrew Scriptures are called the Old Testament, there is a difference between the two. What is the difference? The actual “old testament” (not capitalized) refers to the covenant between God and the ancient Israelites, and is contained in the five books written by Moses.

**Premise:** The overall purpose of this covenant was to prepare a people (Israelites) and a place (Canaan) for the coming of Jesus.

-----

**Our covenant is the new covenant. Based on Hebrews 9:15-17, why might it be good to call it the new “testament” and not simply new covenant?**

---

<sup>1</sup> Suzerain comes from the French word for sovereign.

ESV **Hebrews 9:15-17** ... [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them ... For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

The new covenant is the Last Will and Testament of Jesus. The inheritance is eternal life. Those named in the will are God's elect (the called). It is totally one sided, and only goes into effect at the death of the testator (tes-ta-tor).

### **The Duration of the Old Covenant**

**In product design, what is “planned obsolescence”?** It is the practice of designing products to become obsolete in the short to mid-term. The general idea behind it is to encourage sales of new products and upgrades.

God's Sinai covenant with Israel was an early example of planned obsolescence. **Way back when the Sinai covenant was first made (1500 B.C.), what prediction did God make?**

ESV **Deuteronomy 31:16**... this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them ...

God knew they would break the covenant—a breach of contract. Planned obsolescence was built into it to allow for a new, better covenant to replace it (the old was based on law, the new on promise/grace).

**The word “Bible” is on the Bible, but not in the Bible. What about the name “old” with reference to the Sinai covenant. Is this name something theologians made up, or is it a biblical name for the Sinai covenant?** It is actually in the Bible. It was God Himself who first implied this name for the Sinai covenant, in Jeremiah 31 (see next question).

**Because the Israelites broke the Sinai covenant, what did the Lord declare he would do (Jer 31:31-32)?**

ESV **Jeremiah 31:31-32** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them ... out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke ...

When God declared that He would make a new “new” covenant, by comparison the Sinai covenant is the “old” one.

**The Broken Covenant:** One might also refer to the Sinai covenant as the broken Testament because they “broke” it. So, the Bible is in two big parts: New Testament and the Old Testament, or the New Testament and the Broken Testament.

-----

**\*\*\*\*At the last supper, Jesus passed around a cup. What did Jesus say that the cup represents (Lk 22:20)?**

ESV **Luke 22:20b** This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant ...

**Fulfillment:** When Jesus said it represents the new covenant, it was clearly a reference to the fulfillment **Jeremiah 31**. At the inauguration of the new covenant, the Sinai Covenant was made old. Similarly, Paul referred to the Sinai covenant as ESV **2 Corinthians 3:14**... the old covenant ...

-----

**We just read from Jeremiah 31. The author of Hebrews quoted from Jeremiah 31. After quoting it, how did he describe the impact of the new on the old?**

ESV **Hebrews 8:13** In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The author of Hebrews explicitly stated that the new covenant not only made the Sinai covenant “old”, but also “obsolete”, and about to “vanish.”

NAS **Hebrews 7:22b** Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

**What does the word “obsolete” mean?** It means no longer in use.

**Application:** So, we could say we have the Better covenant in contrast to the Worse covenant, the Broken covenant, Obsolete covenant, and the Vanishing covenant. The use of such terms by New Testament writers should make Christians very cautious about claiming promises or imposing obligations based on the Sinai covenant.

**Examples:** The old covenant promised physical prosperity for obedience, forbade eating lobster, and required the death penalty for sabbath breaking. *What are you going to do with that?* (Rhetorical). It’s like a loaded gun; you’d better be careful who you point it at.

## Shadow & Substance

Imagine you place a drive-through order at the Chil-Fil A. In response, someone soon walks out to your car with your order. As she draws near, the sun casts a shadow of your bag onto your lap. **Would you be context to drive off with just the shadow, leaving the bag behind?** Of course not; you want the actual food. The difference between old covenant and the new is just as stark. The old is shadow; the new is substance.

ESV **Hebrews 10:1** ... the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities ...

## Purposes of the Old Covenant

People don't just write up contracts willy-nilly, for no reason. Neighborhood covenants, labor contracts, peace treaties, marriage covenants all have a purpose or objective in being written. It is the same with the old covenant. Ultimately, that purpose was to prepare a people and a place for Jesus to come into the world, but there were short-term objectives that had to be accomplished first.

**\*\*\*\*Based on Exodus 19:5-6, what was God's stated reason for making the Old Testament with the Israelites?**

ESV **Exodus 19:5-6a** ... if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples ... you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

A major short-term physical purpose of the old covenant was to establish a God/people relationship, to make the Israelites a **treasured possession** and to make them into a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation** (write on board.)

**Premise:** The KJV states that they would be a **peculiar** people to God. Other promises for obedience included **possession** of the promised land, **prosperity** in the promised land, **protection** in the promised land, and a **populous posterity**. Again, the overall purpose of ancient Israel was to prepare a people and a place for the coming of Jesus. For example, Moses predicted:

ESV **Deuteronomy 18:15** The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen ...

ESV **John 1:17** ... the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**We need to pay attention when a New Testament writer identifies the ultimate fulfillment of an Old Testament promise.**

**In 1 Peter 2:9-10, the apostle Peter told us the fulfillment of Exodus 19:5-6. What is it?** Writing to new covenant, Gentile believers, Peter declared:

ESV **1 Peter 2:9-10** ... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession .... Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people ...

**The True Israel:** Peter picked up on **Exodus 19:5-6** and applied it to the church, which he clearly saw as the **true Israel**.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, Peter understood God's purposes for OT Israel to be fulfilled in the church (**spiritual Israel**).<sup>3</sup> A shift was made from Israel to the Church, from believing Jew to believing Gentile.

John the apostle drew the same connection:

ESV **Revelation 1:5b-6** [Jesus] has ... made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father ...

ESV **Revelation 5:9-10** ... by your blood you ransomed people for God ...and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God ...

**Fulfillment:** The church is the fulfillment of the purpose of the Sinai covenant.

**NCT:** How the apostles interpreted the OT is the way we should interpret the NT. The apostles read Exodus 19 and applied it to the Church.

**Premise:** The purpose of ancient Israel was to prepare a physical lineage and a physical place for the coming of Jesus, so that the ultimate Israel, spiritual Israel, the true Israel (the church) would come into being. That mission was accomplished; the scaffolding was taken down.

### **Eternal Life?**

**Where did Moses offer eternal life as a reward for obedience to the laws of the old covenant?** Eternal life was never offered for obedience to the law of Moses. It totally concerned physical life in the Promised Land.

ESV **Galatians 2:21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose

ESV **Galatians 3:21** ... if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

ESV **Hebrews 7:19** ... the law made nothing perfect ...

---

<sup>2</sup> Dennis & Grudem, *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008), 2408.

<sup>3</sup> DT critics call NCT "replacement" theology; it is in reality "fulfillment" theology. The physical promises for ancient Israel were ultimately fulfilled in spiritual realities in the church. That said, God still has a plan for the Jews: that in every generation there will be elect Jews who believe in Jesus and come into the church.

ESV **Hebrews 10:4** ... it is impossible for the blood of bulls ... to take away sins.

**Application:** The New Testament offers something the Old Testament never did: Forgiveness of sins. This is new, new, new, gloriously new!

ESV **Jeremiah 31:31-34** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant ... I will forgive their iniquity ... I will remember their sin no more.

ESV **Matthew 26:28** ... this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**Fulfillment:** The animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant were types foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay for our sins.

### Spiritual Purpose of the Law of Moses

**What did the apostles reveal about the spiritual purpose of the Law of Moses in elect Jews?** See *Romans 3:19-20, 2 Corinthians 3:7*.

ESV **Romans 3:19-20** ... whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law [*Who is that?* Unbelieving Jews], so that every mouth may be stopped [no excuses] ... since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

ESV **Romans 7:7** ... if it had not been for the law, I [Paul, an elect Jew] would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

ESV **2 Corinthians 3:7b** [Refers to the Law of Moses as a] ministry of death, carved in letters on stone ...

The spiritual purpose of the Law of Moses was to show elect, unbelieving Jews their own sinfulness. It was a ministry of death designed to lead them to Christ:

ESV **Galatians 3:23-25** ... before faith came, we [Jews] were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed ... the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we [believing Jews] are no longer under a guardian ...

It served to show them their sin and need for a salvation based on promise rather than law.

## Moral Law Binding on Christians?

### What is the new covenant believer's relationship to the Law of Moses?

(Rhetorical).

Theologians have observed that the Law of the Sinai covenant could be categorized into what three types? Moral, Civil, Ceremonial. Can you give an example of each?

1. The **moral** (ethical) law: The **moral** law establishes basic morality, right from wrong. "Thou Shalt Not Steal", **Exodus 20:15** (KJV). (that which was ethical under Moses was renewed in the law of Christ).
2. The **civil** (judicial) law: The **civil (penal code, judicial)** law consists of rules for Israel's civil government and the penalties to be imposed for breaking the law. If convicted of stealing, seven times the amount stolen must be paid back, **Exodus 22:2-6**.
3. The **ceremonial** (religious) law (**Le 22:17-25**): The **ceremonial** law has religious rules concerning sacrifices, offerings, feasts, dietary regulations, etc. Examples: don't eat eating pork or shrimp (**Leviticus 22:17-25**).

However, having observed that there do indeed seem to be three categories of law, it should be pointed out that there is no grouping of law *by Moses* or *by Scripture* according to type. Instead, they are all woven together. The Bible itself does not separate God's law into three parts: moral, ceremonial and civil. Historically, this threefold separation was not substantially taught until the time of Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century and then in the 16th century by John Calvin.

**Despite the fact that the law may be categorized into three types, what must we understand from James 2:10?**

ESV **James 2:10** ...whoever keeps the whole law [moral, civil, ceremonial] but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Though there are clearly three types of Mosaic Law, the Law itself is indivisible. It stands or falls as a unit. Choosing cafeteria style to obey only parts of the Law is not an option:

**F.F. Bruce:** "... it is sometimes said that Christ is the end of the ceremonial law... this ... has no place in Pauline exegesis. It has to be read into Paul, for it is not a distinction that Paul himself makes."<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> F.F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1977), 192-193.



**Example:** The Law of Moses is like a balloon. One small pin prick, and the whole balloon is destroyed.

**Salvation Application:** If a person is seeking to be right with God based on keeping the Law of Moses, his is a forlorn hope. Just breaking even one tiny law makes him as guilty as if he broke all of it.

**Sanctification Application:** NCT understands **James 2:10** to mean we do not have the freedom to pick and choose, cafeteria style, which of the laws of Moses to obey. NCT holds that we are either under all of the Law of Moses or none of it. Some misguided applications of Mosaic Law have occurred when believers attempt to pick and choose which Mosaic laws are relevant under the New Covenant.

Writing to Jewish Christians, Paul declared:

ESV **Romans 6:14** ... you are not under law ...

ESV **Romans 7:4** ... you ... have died to the law through the body of Christ ...

ESV **Romans 7:6** ... we are released from the law ...

NCT declares those in Christ to be free from the Law of Moses (moral, civil, and ceremonial).

-----  
**\*\*\*\*According to 1 Corinthians 9:20-21, what differing strategies did Paul have to win Jews versus Gentiles to Jesus?**

ESV **1 Corinthians 9:20-21** To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

**In 9:20, how did Paul describe his own relationship to the law of Moses?** He wrote that was not under the law (of the Jews; *hupo nomon*).

**In 1 Corinthians 9:21, how did Paul describe unbelieving Gentiles?** He described them as those who are “outside the law” (*anomos*).

**How did Paul describe his relationship to the law of Christ?** He was “under the law of Christ” (*ennomos Christou*; in-lawed to Christ).

**Application:** Christians were not under the law of Moses, but neither are we like pagan Gentiles (without law). Instead, we are in-lawed to Christ. We are under the law of Christ.

**What is antinomianism?** It was Martin Luther who coined the word, in a book published in 1539 titled *Against the Antinomians*. Luther joined together two Greek words to create a new derogatory nickname: *anti* (“against”), and *nomos* (“Law”).<sup>5</sup> Antinomianism is sinful:

ESV **1 John 3:4** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

Galatians makes mention of:

ESV **Galatians 6:2** ... the law of Christ.

**Application:** Christians are under the new covenant Law of Christ, not the old covenant Law of Moses.

-----

**God’s people went from the Aaronic priesthood to the priesthood of Melchizedek. According to Hebrews 7:12, what changed besides the priesthood?**

ESV **Hebrews 7:12** ... when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

NIV **Hebrews 7:18** The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ... (Scripture itself states Mosaic law is weak and useless)

ESV **Romans 7:4** ... you ... have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead.

### So What?

**Conclusion:** the Siani covenant has done its duty. Now, it is like a spent shot-gun shell. It is like a burned-out booster rocket. It was a flashlight in the darkness that was used until the sun came up

**How does all this impact new covenant believers?** It impacts tithing, priests, sanctuaries, altars, sabbath days, merging church and state (theonomy), prosperity gospel, kosher diets, your view of modern day geo-political Israel.

### What’s so New About the New Testament?

The NT made the OT obsolete.  
OT was shadow, NT is reality/substance.  
OT was physical, NT is metaphysical.  
OT is prophecy, NT is fulfillment.  
OT concerned physical Israel; NT concerns spiritual Israel.

---

<sup>5</sup> Ryan Reeves, “What is Antinomianism and who teaches it?”, [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org). Accessed June 21, 2024.

OT based on law; NT based on grace/promise.  
OT offered physical blessings; NT offers spiritual blessings.  
OT covered sins; NT forgives sins.  
OT centered on Moses; NT centered on Jesus.

## **Applications**

### **How do the Hebrew Scriptures help us today?**

#### **1. Teaches Us Theology Proper:**

ESV **Deuteronomy 4:35** ... the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.

#### **2. Gives Us Broad Principles for Application:**

ESV **Deuteronomy 25:4** You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

ESV **1 Corinthians 9:7-10** Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? ... Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

#### **3. Worship & Devotion:**

ESV **Psalms 138:1-2** I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart ... I sing your praise; I bow down ... and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness ...

#### **4. Wisdom for Everyday Living:**

ESV **Proverbs 6:9-11** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

#### **5. Faith-Building Fulfilled Prophecies:**

ESV **Micah 5:2** Bethlehem ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

You can hear this series taught at [SermonAudio.com/NTRF](http://SermonAudio.com/NTRF) under "New Covenant Theology."

Stephen E. Atkerson  
NTRF.org  
06/20/2024

## Extra Material for Depth

### Blood Covenants

It was said that covenants were “cut” because often animals were killed and cut up in the making of a covenant. This is still seen today in saying we “cut a deal”. What was the practical significance of a blood covenant in ancient society? See Jeremiah 34:18-20.

**ESV Jeremiah 34:18-20** ... the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts ... all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf ... Their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.

A blood covenant was the highest level of covenant, typically involving a life-or-death commitment. As is obvious from the penalties, this was a serious, binding, life or death contract.

\*\*\*\*Treaties often have some sort of formal inauguration. How was the Old Testament inaugurated (Ex 24:3-8)? See Hebrews 9:18-20.

**ESV Exodus 24:5-8** ... Israel ... sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people ... And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Moses threw sacrificial blood against the altar (representing God), read the Book of the Covenant (the material in Exodus 20-23) to the people, and then threw blood on the people. It was a life or death, blood covenant.

### Promises of the Sinai Covenant

\*\*\*\***What blessings were promised for obedience to the laws of the old covenant?**  
*See Deuteronomy 4:40, 5:33, 8:1, 28:1-2 and scan Deuteronomy 28:3-14.*

**ESV Deuteronomy 8:1** The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may ... go in and possess the land ... <<**Possession of Property**

**ESV Deuteronomy 28:7** The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. <<**Protection from Predators**

-----

ESV **Deuteronomy 28:11** ... the LORD will make you abound ... in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground ... <<**Populous Posterity** (lots of kids & cows)

-----

ESV **Deuteronomy 28:12** The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. <<**Physical Prosperity**

-----

**Summary:** A Peculiar People, Possession of the land, Protection in the land, Prosperity in land, a Populous Posterity in land.

### Conditional or Unconditional?

**What's the difference between a conditional agreement and an unconditional agreement?** In a conditional agreement, if either party fails to do his part, it is a breach of contract, which often results in penalties. An unconditional covenant is more like the guarantee of a unilateral promise.

**How does Exodus 19:5 indicate whether the old covenant was conditional or unconditional?**

ESV **Exodus 19:5**... if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples ...

It is conditional; note the "if"; they had to "obey" (**19:5**). The blessings of the Sinai covenant were based on obedience to the Law of Moses.

**What's so new about the New Testament?** In contrast with the Old Testament, the New Testament not only **1)** offers eternal life, but it is **2)** totally based on God's grace. Eternal life is granted to us as an undeserved favor:

ESV **Ephesians 2:8-9** ... by grace you have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

As we have already seen, the New Testament is the Last Will and Testament of Jesus. The inheritance is eternal life. Those named in the will are God's elect (the called). A last will and testament is a unilateral contract. It is one person's will (there is no agreement between two people). The old covenant is based on performance; the new on promise.

**Fulfillment:** Jesus lived a sinless life, perfectly fulfilling the Law of Moses. This qualified Him to be offer Himself as the spotless Lamb of God to die on the cross as payment for our sins. He did work that we couldn't do.

## From Law on Tablets of Stone to Human Hearts

**Upon what did God record the laws of the old covenant (Ex 24:12, 31:18)?**

ESV **Exodus 31:18** ... he gave to Moses ... on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

**NCT:** The new covenant is new in that God's laws are now written on human hearts, not on stone tablets.

ESV **Jeremiah 31:31b-33** I will make a new covenant ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts ...

The law that is written on our hearts is the new covenant Law of Christ, not the old covenant Law of Moses!

### Sabbath Rest

**\*\*\*\*Every ancient covenant had covenant sign to remind the parties of their covenant obligations. Based on Exodus 31:12-17, what is the sign of God's covenant with Israel?** The sign of the Sinai covenant is observing the Saturday Sabbath.

ESV **Exodus 31:13b, 17** ... you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations ... It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel ...

**What does the word "Sabbath" mean?** From *shabbat* (7676) "to cease, desist, rest."

**The Israelites were to observe the sabbath on the seventh day of each week.**

**What day of the week is the "seventh" day (31:15)?** The seventh day is Saturday. Sunday, the Lord's Day, is the first day of a new week. Jewish people today still worship on Saturday.

**NCT:** The fact that the early church met on the day after the Sabbath, on the first day of the week, speaks volumes about the newness of the New Testament. Something radical changed.

Before concluding that the Sabbath sign should be observed today, ask yourself:

***Are you a citizen of ancient Israel? (Are you a member of the twelve tribes?)***

***Are you party to this covenant (suzerainty treaty)?***

***Do you intend to move to the Middle East to occupy Palestine, settling perhaps on the West Bank?***

We must allow the NT to interpret the OT for us: The Saturday Sabbath of the Old Testament is a type of the salvation Sabbath rest we have in Christ.

**According to Hebrews 4:8-9, the Jewish Sabbath was a type of what reality?**

ESV **Hebrews 4:8-9** ... there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

We don't work for salvation, we rest for it! Jesus did all the work.

**What does the New Testament have to say about Sabbath observance? See *Colossians 2:16-17, Galatians 4:9-11***

NAS **Colossians 2:16-17** ... let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

The New Testament went from shadow to substance.

ESV **Galatians 4:10-11** You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

The wedding ring is a sign of the marriage covenant. When a couple divorces, wedding ring is no longer worn. *Regarding the Sabbath, why would you want to keep the sign of a testament you were never part of?* Our covenant is not the old one with Israel, but the new one with Christ.