
GOD'S COVENANTS: A STORY OF PROMISES

New Covenant to the Church

NEW COVENANT TO THE CHURCH

- God promises eternal life, through Jesus
 - Sign: Lord's Supper
 - Unconditional
 - Luke 22:20 *Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood, which is shed for you.*
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NEW COVENANT TO THE CHURCH

- I Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)

23. For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24. and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

25. In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

26. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

NEW COVENANT TO THE CHURCH

- Matthew 26:26-28 (NKJV)

26. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

27. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.

28. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Party	Role in the New Covenant
God the Father	Initiator and promise-maker
Jesus Christ	Mediator and sacrifice that seals the covenant
Believers (the Church)	Recipients of the covenant's promises through faith
Holy Spirit	Applies and empowers the covenant in the hearts of believers

NEW COVENANT TO THE CHURCH

- Mark 14:22-24 (NKJV)

22. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

23. Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.

- The Nestle-Aland / United Bible Societies critical edition of the Greek New Testament (NU) omits the word *new* in verse 24.

- Mark 14:24 (ESV) *And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.*

NEW COVENANT TO THE CHURCH

- Luke 22:19-20 (NKJV) *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*
 - Luke 22:20 (ESV) *And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup **that is poured out for you** is the new covenant in my blood.*
 - Luke 22:20 (YLT) *In like manner, also, the cup after the supping, saying, `This cup [is] the new covenant in my blood, that for you is being poured forth.*
 - Luke 22:20 (KJV) *Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*
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THE FOUR CUPS OF THE PASSOVER

- Based on Exodus 6:6–7 (God speaking to Moses):
 - ...**I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians,
I will rescue you from their bondage,
and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
I will take you as My people, and I will be your God... (NKJV)
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ATTRIBUTE	CUP 1: SANCTIFICATION	CUP 2: DELIVERANCE
PROMISE	“I will bring you out...”	“I will deliver you...”
SEDER MOMENT	Opening blessing (Kiddush)	After retelling the Exodus story
MEANING	God sets His people apart	Freedom from slavery
CONNECTION TO JESUS	Likely the cup Jesus used at the beginning (Luke 22:17)	Possibly alluded to in the teaching

ATTRIBUTE	CUP 3: REDEMPTION	CUP 4: PRAISE (HALLEL)
PROMISE	“I will redeem you...”	“I will take you to be My people...”
SEDER MOMENT	After the meal	After singing Psalms (Hallel)
MEANING	Redemption by God’s power	Joyful relationship with God
CONNECTION TO JESUS	Cup used to institute the New Covenant (Luke 22:20)	Possibly withheld — Jesus waits for Kingdom (Matt. 26:29)

PAUL'S COMPARISON OF COVENANTS

- 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 (NKJV)

4. And we have such trust through Christ toward God.
 5. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,
 6. who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
 7. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,
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PAUL'S COMPARISON OF COVENANTS

- 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 (NKJV)

8. how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

9. For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

10. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

11. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

12. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—

13. unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

PAUL'S COMPARISON OF COVENANTS

- 2 Corinthians 3:4-18 (NKJV)

14. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament (covenant), because the veil is taken away in Christ.

15. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

16. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

CONNECTION TO JESUS

- Jesus establishes the New Covenant at the end of the Passover meal
 - Jesus gives the Lord's Supper as a sign to the church, as taught by Paul in 1 Corinthians
 - Jesus' shedding of blood ratified the covenant
 - Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV) For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'
 - Exodus 24:8 (NKJV) And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."
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CONNECTION TO JESUS

- The resurrection of Jesus:
 - Seals the New Covenant with divine power
 - Guarantees our access to God and eternal life
 - Confirms the promises of forgiveness, transformation, and resurrection
 - Empowers believers through the Holy Spirit, given after His resurrection
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CONNECTION TO JESUS

- Hebrews 12:24 (KJV) *And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant...*
 - The Old Covenant promised blessing for obedience to external laws, but the New Covenant promises internal transformation, forgiveness, and direct access to God through Jesus.
 - Romans 8:31-34 *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is **Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **maketh intercession for us.***
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DISCUSSION

- What is the New Covenant, and how is it different from the Old Covenant?
 - The Old Covenant pointed forward to Christ, but could not save.
 - The New Covenant fulfills the old, offering full forgiveness, new life, and direct access to God — not through works, but through Jesus.
 - Why was a new covenant necessary?
 - The Old Covenant, though good and holy, was incomplete and insufficient to bring lasting forgiveness, inward transformation, and eternal relationship with God. It exposed sin but couldn't fully remove it.
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DISCUSSION

- How does the New Covenant reveal God's character differently than the Old Covenant?
 - How we approach God
 - Purpose of the Law
 - Conditional vs unconditional
 - Forgiveness through sacrifice
 - Why did Jesus use the words "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20)?
 - Just like ancient covenants were sealed with blood (Exodus 24:8), Jesus' blood would ratify the New Covenant — not with animals, but with His own life.
 - A new deliverance was happening — not from Egypt, but from sin and death.
 - New Covenant meal replaces the old Passover with the Lord's Supper (Communion).
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DISCUSSION

- How should the New Covenant shape our view of forgiveness and grace?
 - Under the New Covenant, Jesus' sacrifice fully atones for our sins once and for all — no more repeated sacrifices needed.
 - Forgiveness is a gift of God's grace, freely given because of Christ's sacrifice.
 - How should knowing we're under the New Covenant affect the way we pray, worship, and serve?
 - Hebrews 4:16 — “Let us come boldly to the throne of grace...”
 - Worship should flow from recognizing God's mercy and forgiveness through Jesus — it's heartfelt thankfulness, not trying to earn favor.
 - Because Jesus served us sacrificially (John 13:1–17), we serve others humbly and lovingly.
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SO WHAT

- Living under the New Covenant means we
 - pray confidently,
 - worship sincerely, and
 - serve selflessly — all empowered by the grace and presence of Jesus in us.
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