

*The  
New Covenant*

*&*

*The Sabbath*



## **Foreword**

The translators tell us that they (the translators) have deleted from the Scriptures the true names of the Father and the Son. It is our pleasure to comply with Scriptures which say we are to call on and to love the Name of the Creator. Of the Son's name it is said, "There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Therefore the Father's name (Yahweh), and the Son's name (Yahshua), have been restored to the Scripture quotations which appear in this booklet. Please ask for our literature dealing with The Names, and other topics.

All Scriptural quotations are from the Revised Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.

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**The New Covenant  
And  
The Sabbath  
By Voy Wilks  
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Many believe the Messiah took away, or abolished, the old covenant so that he could establish his own covenant - a new one. It is further believed that since the old covenant has been replaced by a new one, the Sabbath of the seventh day has passed away along with the old covenant; and therefore, the new covenant calls for a new day of worship.

The sincerity of those who believe this is not questioned. Not at all. But sincerity does not establish truth. Scriptures establish truth; therefore, let us examine the Scriptures and learn what is true. The answers are surprising.

The above mentioned faith is based, at least in part, on the statement in Hebrews 8:6 to 13 which reads as follows in the Revised Standard Version.

"But as it is, the Messiah has obtained a ministry which is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says,

"The days come, says Yahweh, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and so I paid them no heed, says Yahweh.

"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their Elohim and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach every man his fellow, or every man his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh,' for all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

"For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and will remember their sins no more.

"In speaking of a new covenant he treats the first as obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

These Scriptures speak of two covenants - an

old, or first one, and a new one.

### Who Made the First Covenant?

There seems to be no question about who made the first covenant, or with whom. The Supreme Being (the Mighty One of Israel) established this covenant with the nation of Israel (Ex. 19:3-8, 24:3-8). The decalogue is a part of this covenant. The two tables of stone on which were written the ten commandments are referred to as "the tables of the covenant."

"And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Ex. 34:28).

If we discover this first covenant has not been canceled, then as a consequence, none of the ten commandments have been cancelled either. Every one of them will still be in force, including the fourth commandment which directs us to remember the Sabbath, the seventh day, and keep it as a day of rest and worship.

"In speaking of a new covenant he treats the first as obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away" (Heb. 8:13).

This was written about the year of C.E. 64, approximately 31 years after the death of the Messiah. Still, after 31 years, the old covenant had not yet passed away. True, it was becoming obsolete. True, it was growing old. That it was becoming obsolete and growing old indicates it had not yet passed away. Look at me. I too am growing old, but I have not yet passed away. I still have life, vitality, and force. So it is with the first covenant. In C.E. 64 it was growing old, but had not yet passed away. It too still had life, vitality, and force. Perhaps it is not necessary to mention that we, today, live in the same era of grace as did the gentleman who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews.

The first covenant includes the decalogue, so this means the ten commandments are still in force today. Since the covenant has not passed away, neither has the Sabbath law passed away. Also, since the old covenant still stands today, this indicates the new covenant has not yet been established. It is for a future time.

### Who Makes the New Covenant?

The preface to a number of English Versions (including the RSV) state that the four letters

L-O-R-D (when spelled with capitals), has been substituted for the personal name of the Supreme Being, **Yahweh**, the Elohim of Israel.

"Behold, the days are coming says the L-O-R-D, that I will make a new covenant ..." (Jer. 31:31).

We now discover it is not **Yahshua** the Messiah, but **Yahweh** the Father who makes the new covenant. **Yahshua** is the mediator, a go-between, who mediates between **Yahweh** and **Yahweh's** people (Heb. 8:6).

### Know Yahweh

"And they will not teach every man his fellow, or every man his brother saying, 'Know Yahweh' ..." (Heb. 8:11a).

This is generally believed to be speaking of the present era of grace in which we live. Not so. Remember the Great Commission? Go and teach all nations (Mt. 28:19). From that day to this the saints have gone out teaching many peoples saying, "Know Yahweh." This has continued 1900 years and still continues today; believers teaching relatives, friends, and strangers about the Supreme Being and his Great Salvation through **Yahshua** the Messiah. Once the new covenant is made and becomes effective, however, this teaching will not be necessary. Why? Because, "... all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest" (Heb. 8:11b).

Did all know **Yahweh** in C.E. 40, in C.E. 500, in C.E. 1500? Do all know him today? No, my friend. Many people have never heard of **Yahweh**, the Supreme Being, and the salvation offered through his Son. The Scriptures have been translated into hundreds of languages, yet we have more than 1,000 languages to go. Many peoples in the most cultured nations today do not know **Yahweh**. There are also the Pigmies in Africa, the Aborigenes of Australia, New Guinea, and Brazil. Do all of them know **Yahweh**? If all know Him, why continue sending missionaries?

Evidence that the new covenant has not yet been established is the fact that much of the earth's population does not yet know **Yahweh**. When the new covenant is established in the earth, all the earth's people will be acquainted with **Yahweh**, the Elohim of Israel. Scriptures says, "... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of **Yahweh** as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9, Hab. 2:14).

## His Mercy On Israel

The new covenant comes at a time when Yahweh will "... be merciful toward their iniquities and will remember their sins no more" (Heb. 8:12). But someone says, "Oh, that is now!" No. This is not speaking of our time, but of the future. Please keep in mind that Yahweh spoke, not to the disciples of Yahshua, but to the House (nation) of Israel and the House of Judah (Heb. 8:8). This is the very people with whom he made the first covenant. Yahweh will remember Israel's sins no more. Has he forgiven the nation of Israel today? No. This too, is future. The Apostle Paul speaks of the time when this will come to pass. He exclaims,

"Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean?" (Romans 11:12). This is not a chance remark. Paul confirms this statement by adding,

"... and so, all Israel will be saved ... and he shall turn away unrighteousness from Jacob: for this is my covenant with them when I shall take away their sins" (Rom. 11:26,27).

Paul spoke of the future. The historians tell us he wrote this about C.E. 60 when the present era of grace was almost 30 years old.

## The Same Laws

"I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts ..." (Heb. 8:10, Ezek. 36:37).

This indicates the Father's laws have not been abolished. Instead, they will be a part of the new covenant when it is established. Being written in the heart and in the mind indicates all will know him, from the least of them to the greatest.

## The Ordinance of Passover (Sometimes called the Communion)

The new covenant of Jer. 31:31 which we have been considering may, by some, be confused with the covenant Yahshua made at the Last Supper.

"For this is my blood of the new testament [or, covenant], which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Mt. 26:28).

Are these the same covenants? Let the Scriptures answer. The covenant of the Last Supper was made by Yahshua the Messiah. He entered into a nazirite vow, for he will not again drink fruit of the vine until he comes again and drinks it new in the kingdom which he will establish (1Cor. 11:24, Lk. 22:15-18). Until this happens his disciples are to

- (1) Remember the Messiah, by observing the Passover Communion, and
- (2) Remember the Messiah's death (not his resurrection) by this service (1Cor. 11:25, 26).

### **Comparing These Two Covenants** **Jer. 31:31 & Mt. 26:28**

#1. The memorial covenant of the Passover Communion is to be observed until the Messiah returns (Lk. 22:20).

° The covenant of Jer. 31:31 will not become effective until the Messiah returns. Please recall the evidence given above.

#2. The covenant of the Passover Communion was and still is made with the disciples of the Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile (Mt. 26:17).

° The covenant of Jer. 31:31 will be made with the nations of Israel and Judah, the same people with whom Yahweh made the first covenant at Mount Horeb (Heb. 8:8).

#3. The covenant of the Passover Communion was made by Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh.

° The covenant of Jer. 31:31 will be made by Yahweh, the Father of Yahshua.

#4. The covenant of the Passover Communion is for the present age of grace (1Cor. 11:23-34).

° The covenant of Jer. 31:31 will be at a future time when Yahweh's tenderness will melt the stony hearts of Israel and Judah; a time when he will completely forgive them; a time when they will dwell securely; and a time when they will have no more wars (Ezek. 36:22-32; Hosea 2:14; Isa. 40:1-5).

Israel and Judah have not been blessed in these ways. For the past 1900 years they have suffered greatly. Why? Because they knew not the time of his (Yahshua's) visitation (Mt. 23:27 - 24:2; Lk. 17:25). One day, however, Yahweh will bless

them with peace and security, and will forgive them their sins. When this happens, he (Yahweh) will make a new covenant with the houses of Israel and Judah.

### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing evidence, we can safely conclude that the covenant of Mt. 26:28 and the covenant of Jer. 31:31 are two separate and distinct covenants made -

- With different people,
- With different circumstances,
- With different stipulations,
- At different times,
- And for different purposes.

Further, we have found that the old, or first covenant of Heb. 8:6-13 is still in force today; that the new covenant spoken of in these same verses will be made at some future time between Yahweh and the nations of Israel and Judah.

Also we had found that the weekly Sabbath is a part of the first covenant. Since the first covenant is still in force today, so is the weekly Sabbath.

Humbly Yours,

Voy

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