

# Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 49)—The New Covenant Temple

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/2z3vmr2/part-49-the-new-covenant-temple>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Blessings, everyone. Welcome to Episode 49 of *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

Currently, we are delving into the New Covenant. We are looking at what the New Covenant is and what the differences are between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. These things are significant to the discussion at large of why Christians would keep the Law. There are a lot of dots that have to be connected, and one of the most critical pieces to the entire puzzle is the discussion of the New Covenant and the differences between the New and the Old Covenant.

Thus far, we have identified two distinct differences between the Old and the New Covenant. The first being that the Law of God used to be on stone tablets and were housed in the Holy of Holies in a physical temple in Jerusalem. Today, that Law has been relocated. It has a new home in our hearts and in our minds.

The second thing that is extremely different is the sacrificial system. Under the Old Covenant sacrificial system, it was the blood of bulls, goats, and the ashes of a heifer, but under the New Covenant, it is the blood of Jesus. What Jesus did on the cross was one sacrifice for sin for all eternity and through Him we are forgiven, redeemed, and saved.

Today, I want to discuss a third difference. This directly relates to the Law and the sacrificial system. I want to read from the Gospel of John. In that gospel, Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman, and she said something to Him which was really interesting, and it provoked an even more interesting response.

John 4:20a—<sup>20a</sup> **Our fathers worshiped on this mountain,**

The Samaritans believed that they were called by God to worship on Mount Gerizim. They believed this because in the book of Deuteronomy, the children of Israel were commanded that when the Lord brought them into the land, they were to **proclaim the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal** (Deuteronomy 11:29). So, the Samaritans concluded that they were to worship God on Mount Gerizim.

They came to this conclusion because they did not receive progressive revelation which means they would not receive any prophet that followed Moses. So, their Scriptures were *Torah* alone. They didn't

accept any of the books of the Bible that followed afterward. They rejected them and only believed in the Law. I have a copy of a Samaritan Pentateuch. Even to this day, Samaritans have preserved the Law to the degree that it's almost word for word what we have in our Bibles. That's really something, but that's just a side note. Let's return to the woman's words.

John 4:20—<sup>20</sup> **Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship** (emphasis added).

The Jews were right. Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) was the place God called for His physical temple to be built as a center of worship, so all people could come into His house and worship Him.

John 4:21—<sup>21</sup> **Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain (Gerizim), nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father"** (emphasis added).

What Jesus said was radical! Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple and the integration of the New Covenant.

John 4:23—Jesus continued—<sup>23</sup> **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** (emphasis added).

Notice, Jesus said, **"The hour is coming and now is."** This means, even now, the time is upon us when people who want to worship the God of Israel and follow Him will do so in spirit and truth. This is the Father's heart. This radically changes the playing field. Under the Old Covenant, you were to go to the house of the Lord (the house of prayer, sacrifice, and worship). In the first century, although Jews were scattered all over the globe, they still went up to Jerusalem to sacrifice, worship, and pay homage to God. But with the institution of the New Covenant and the eradication of the temple, we became the temple of God. That is a massive change.

1 Corinthians 3:16—Paul said—<sup>16</sup> **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you** (emphasis added)?

You would have never heard any Jew say to a Gentile, "You are the sacred house of the Lord, the sacred house of worship, in which the Lord Himself and the presence of His Shekinah glory dwells." Before the Gospel of Jesus went out, no Jew would have ever considered saying something so utterly preposterous.

But once the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, gave His life and rose the third day, the New Covenant was instituted, and the world flipped upside right. Radical things happened, and there was a shaking. When we moved from the Old Covenant into a New Covenant, the Law now came into us because we are the temple of God. After all these years as a Christian, I still find it hard to process that since I am nothing but dust, who am I that God should dwell inside my heart. I don't know how to articulate that beauty. It's beyond description.

John 14:23—Listen to Jesus's words—<sup>23</sup> **Jesus 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** (emphasis added).

The blessed Father of glory and His Son, Jesus, as one (*echad*) in the Spirit comes and makes Their home in our hearts. That has broken and humbled me on so many levels. Regarding a relationship with God, the New Covenant is invaluable and superior in every way to that of the Old Covenant.

2 Corinthians 6:16—<sup>16</sup> **And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God**—To prove this, Paul reached into the depths of the *Torah* (the Law) into the book of Leviticus and drew out this prophecy which was the heart of the Lord—**As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people"** (emphasis added).

This goes back to Exodus 25:8—<sup>8</sup> **"And let them make Me a sanctuary** (*wə'āsū li miqdāš wəšāqantī bəṭōwḵām*), **that I may dwell among them.** God had them create a physical sanctuary, but ultimately, what was the heart of God? The home He wanted to dwell in was our hearts.

Let me close with Ezekiel 11:16—<sup>16</sup> **"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary** (*ləmiqdāš mə'aṭ-*) **for them** in the countries where they have gone." ' (Emphasis added).

God spread His people to the four corners of the globe, yet God said, **"I shall be a little sanctuary** (*ləmiqdāš mə'aṭ-*) **for them."** In reality, how did that prophecy take place? It took place by God pouring out His Spirit on all flesh and His sons and daughters prophesying. God took up residence in our hearts and minds.

What a glorious and awesome God we serve, who loves us so much and wants to be with us. I cannot put in words how thankful I am that Jesus obeyed the Father and gave His life for us. May the Lord Jesus bless you and keep you.