



THE NEW COVENANT

To begin this study on the New Covenant, we're going to look at the Torah (the 1st 5 books of the Bible) because that is where we find the Old Covenants. Then we're going to look at the rest of the Old Testament to see what happened. We need to discover the problem with Israel and discuss what Israel did in the Old Covenant (Mosaic, Mt. Sinai Covenant) so we know why the New Covenant was needed. We're going to learn that God is eternal, and His covenants reflect His nature and His character. Every one of His covenants is eternal, and none can be abolished or replaced. God's covenants are building blocks to His eternal Kingdom. We're going to talk about all of the covenants in the Bible the end of this study, but here we're going to start with the Abrahamic covenant

What is the Abrahamic covenant?

God made a promise to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**. God said, *"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* So, there was a condition to this promise. Abraham had to leave the land of the Chaldeans and go to the land God would show him. God promised to make of him a great nation, and bless him and make his name great so he would be a blessing. God would bless those who blessed Abraham and his nation and He would curse those who dishonored his nation. And in Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed. **God promises a people whom He would bless and make great.**

In **Genesis 12:7**, God said to Abraham *"To your offspring I will give this land."* God told him that He would give him the land of Canaan, which would become the land of Israel. Abraham would receive something from God that he didn't deserve, but God would give it to him because He chose him and called him out of living as a pagan Gentile. Abraham had faith in God, and God rewarded him for his faith.

In **Genesis 15:1**, God said *"Don't be afraid, Abraham. I am your shield (protector). Your reward will be very great."* In **verse 5**, God said, *"Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them."* and *"So shall your offspring be."* And Abraham believed the God's promise and God counted it to him as righteousness. And in **verses 7-21**, **God made the covenant with Abraham**, and a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the animal parts that God had ordered Abraham to bring and cut in pieces. He tells Abraham that his descendants would be foreigners in a land and be slaves and oppressed there for 400 years, but God would judge that nation and Abraham's people would leave with the possessions of the people of the land that enslaved them.

In **Genesis 17:7-9**, God told him *"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God. As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations."* To understand what "keep My covenant" means, let's look at it in another translation: The Amplified Bible says, *"As for you [your part of the agreement], you shall keep and faithfully obey [the terms of] My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations."* So we see there are two parts to the agreement, the covenant. God made promises and oaths to Abraham as part of the covenant, but there was something Abraham and his descendants had to do. **The future generation would have to promise to obey God. They would inherit the land. The covenant was conditional.**

In **Genesis 26:3-5**, God tells Isaac, *"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, BECAUSE ABRAHAM OBEYED MY VOICE AND KEPT MY CHARGE, MY COMMANDMENTS, MY STATUTES, AND MY LAWS."* Because Abraham obeyed God, God continues His covenant and promises to Isaac, Jacob and Israel.

In **Genesis 28:13-15**, God said, *"I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."* Jacob's name was changed to Israel. **The covenant God made with Abraham was passed on to Isaac and Jacob and Israel (his descendants). God was confirming the covenant He made with Jacob's grandfather and father. He promised to give them the land and multiply them all over the earth. God will guard Jacob and bring him back to the land and won't leave him. Israel WOULD claim their inheritance in the future because God said it, so it would happen.**

So we've learned a few things about the Abrahamic covenant: (1) It was conditional, based on obedience to God, (2) It was for Abraham's seed, (3) It was established because God chose Abraham, and Abraham believed God, (4) and all the nations of the earth would be blessed because Abraham obeyed God's voice, kept His commandments and laws.

To understand God's covenants, we must understand that each one builds upon the other, because He is establishing His eternal Kingdom through them. To establish a Kingdom, you need a people (a nation) and you need land. This Abrahamic covenant is an important building block because it provides for and promises a people and a land for the eternal Kingdom. God gives both in this covenant. The covenant with Abraham and His seed was/is conditional. God made promises and oaths to the people who would be Abraham's seed, the people who would have faith and obey Him. And the people are attached to this covenant, which is conditional. **Those who obey are in the covenant. The blessings are for God's covenant people, and the curses are for the enemies of God and His people.**

The Abrahamic covenant will flow over into the Mosaic covenant so it's very important to understand this because it provides a foundation for the Mosaic covenant and the New Covenant. And the other thing that's very important to understand about this covenant is that it has NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY FULFILLED. God's people haven't returned to the land eternally. We're going to understand this when we study the New Covenant.

Now we're going to walk through the other books of the Torah to see what God does with His people, the seed of Abraham, Israel. He gives them another covenant, the Mosaic covenant. Let's keep in mind that God wrote this covenant with His finger and gave it to Moses to give to the people. Moses was the MEDIATOR of the covenant, not the giver of the covenant.

THE MOSAIC COVENANT:

EXODUS: Exodus is where God gave the people His covenant. This consisted of the 10 words (the ten commandments) and His Torah (instructions). In **Exodus 19:5-6**, God said *"Now therefore, **IF** you will indeed obey my voice and **keep my covenant**, (then) you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."* God tells Moses to tell the people that He was giving them a conditional covenant-it had terms. The covenant was given by God in **Exodus 20-23**. At the end of Exodus 23, God promised them that He would drive out the pagans **IF** they served Him, **THEN** He would bless them, their food and water, and take sickness away from them. He was going to set up the boundaries of their land but they were NOT to make covenants with these nations or with their gods. Again, the covenant is conditional.

In **Exodus 24:3**, then Moses came down the mountain and gave the people God's rulings written on tablets of stone with His own finger. This was called **the book of the covenant**. In **Exodus 24:7-8**, Moses read the book aloud and the people responded, **"Everything that God has spoken, we will DO and OBEY."** Then Moses took blood and said, *"This is the blood of the covenant which God has made with you in accordance with all these words."* This is something we don't think about enough. The people offered sacrifice peace offerings to God. Then Moses sprinkled the blood of oxen on the people, making it a *"blood covenant."* This is very significant. This points us to the New Covenant, the blood covenant Yeshua inaugurated with His blood. God made a covenant that **IF** the people would DO and OBEY HIS WORDS, **THEN** HE would give them the promises of the covenant. **The covenant had terms: IF....THEN.** This is the same thing He told Abraham!

In **Exodus 24:9**, Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders went up on the mountain and saw the God of Israel. They saw his feet, and under His feet was something like a sapphire stone pavement as clear as the sky itself. He is the King of all creation, and He has a Law for His Kingdom. Also, God gave the children of Israel a commandment in Deuteronomy 22:12 that they were to wear tzits tzits (tassles) on their garments which had to have a blue thread in them to remind them of the commandments. **This tells us how important His Law is to Him, and He wanted them to be reminded of His words and that they were set apart for His holy purposes. The color blue represents the heavens and royalty. Wearing these tassles reminded them/us that God's Law comes from the heavens and it is the royal Law of God's eternal Kingdom.**

In **Exodus 25-31** God gives Moses the instructions for the building the Tabernacle. In **Chapter 31**, He gave him the Sabbath commandment again, but He mentions something that is important: **The Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel throughout ALL their generations**, so they would know **He is God who sets Israel apart for Himself**. He mentions it twice, so it's very important. **He says that it's a sign FOREVER**, so there can be no question that the Sabbath is the sign that we're in covenant with God.

Chapter 32 is the golden calf incident. Moses broke the sapphire tablets because he was so angry at the people. So God told Moses to cut two tablets and come back up on the mountain so God could inscribe the words on those tablets. In **Chapter 34**, the covenant was renewed when God gave them the conditions. Moses came down and spoke to them and passed on the orders that God gave. **We need to understand that these instructions were not** “if you want to do them, then do them, but if not, it’s okay.” **Rather, they were “IF you want to be Mine and be in My protection and receive My blessings and have life, THEN you WILL do them.”** Being in covenant with God has conditions. Then Moses assembles the community and tells them to keep the Sabbath. Then, they built the tabernacle and all of its furnishings, and God’s glory covered the tent and filled the tabernacle. This is how Exodus ends.

LEVITICUS: In Leviticus God gives more instructions. **He gave the commands to build the Tabernacle and with the corporate place of worship came more instructions.** Leviticus has instructions for the priests and how Israel was to worship God, including the appointed times, the days He was to be worshiped. He also gave them the laws for sexual morality, dietary laws (foods allowed to be eaten), skin diseases, purification of diseases, and discharges. This laws are meant to show us cleanliness vs. uncleanness. God has things that He deems clean, and things He deems unclean. There are also commandments about sacrifices, acceptable sacrifices, harvesting, stealing, cursing, livestock, garments, blood, divination, fortune-telling, the elderly, foreigners, honoring parents, adultery, and measuring, balancing scales and weights. He mentions the Sabbath again. Do you think it’s important to Him?

In **Leviticus 20:22-26** He says, “You shall therefore **keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the customs of the nations that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. But I have said to you, ‘You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples.**” He’s telling them that **IF** they want to stay in the land, there are conditions. “You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean (you shall distinguish from what is clean and unclean). You shall not make yourselves **detestable** by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean. **You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.**” **He set Israel apart as holy so these rules are meant to show us what holiness is.** One of the ways God defines holiness is what we put in our bodies. He told us to distinguish between what was clean and unclean and not make ourselves detestable by putting unclean things in our bodies.

In **Leviticus 21-22** He gave instructions for the priests. In **Chapter 23**, He talks about His appointed times. These are the designated/appointed times God has commanded us to worship Him. These are holy convocations (sacred assemblies, corporate worship) and they are Feasts: the Sabbath, Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits (waving of the sheaf offering), Shavuot (Pentecost), Day of Trumpets, Atonement, Sukkot (tabernacles, booths). These are to be kept throughout ALL generations. This means we are to keep them today.

In **Chapter 25**, He gave the commandment about the land Sabbaths. Every 7 years the land was to rest, just as the people were supposed to rest the 7th day of each week. He gives instructions about the yovel (Jubilee) year and selling property. **Each time He gives them additional instructions, He tells the people they are to keep them.** He gave them commandments about property, slavery, redemption and the poor. In **Chapter 26:2**, He says again (**Leviticus 19:30-31**), “**Keep My Sabbaths, and revere My sanctuary; I am God.**” He told Israel over and over again to keep **HIS Sabbaths**. He told them in Exodus to **REMEMBER** it and He keeps reminding them about it over and over again. In **chapter 26**, He gives them information about what He will do for them **IF** they obey the warnings about disobedience. He said HE would UPHOLD the covenant **IF** they obeyed. But **IF** they disobeyed, **THEN THEY WOULD CANCEL HIS COVENANT.** HE would not cancel His covenant, but they would. Then He tells them what discipline He will bring for them cancelling the covenant by their disobedience. In **verse 25**, He tells them He will execute the vengeance of the covenant. Then in **verse 42**, He said He would remember the covenant with Jacob, with Isaac and with Abraham and He would remember the land. He’s speaking into the future. **He said He wouldn’t break covenant to the point of destroying them because He is their God. He would remember the covenant with their ancestors so that He would be their God (He’s pointing to a future event).** Leviticus ends with the instructions about vows and consecration, giving 1/10 of the land, plants fruits, flocks and herds to God.

NUMBERS: Numbers has the laws for the Nazarite vow, the Levites, going to war and days of rejoicing. This is when the people start to complain. This is when God had the ground swallow up Korah and the people who sided with him rebelling against Moses’s leadership over Israel. **They wanted to appoint their own leader, not follow God’s leader.** Miriam and Aaron opposed Moses in **chapter 12. I believe this is a teaching. God appointed Yeshua and He told us to follow him, but many of us don’t. We rebel and do our own thing.** In **Numbers 13**, God told Moses to send 12 spies to spy the land they were about to enter. Ten of the twelve spies gave an evil

report. The people believe the 10 spies, and they proved they didn't believe God. They didn't obey His instruction to go into the promised land. They rebelled against the order of God. The 10 men that gave an evil report, God killed by a plague of death. God said He would not allow anyone over 20 years old that rebelled against Him to go into the promised land. They felt great remorse and admitted they sinned, and wanted to go take the promised land AFTER the fact. God had told them to go before, but they rejected His commandment and wanted to go after they realized they had sinned. Moses told them not to go up, because they would be defeated. They again disobeyed God and went up, but God would not let them take the land because they had rebelled. They didn't fully follow/obey Him and they were defeated. They fought when God told them not to, thinking they could take possession of the land AFTER they didn't obey. And God didn't listen to them or pay attention. He let them be defeated by their enemies.

Numbers 19 gives the instructions for death and uncleanness. In **Chapter 21**, Israel complained again. God sent snakes to the camp to bite people and they died. The people knew they did wrong, so Moses prayed. God has Moses put a snake on a pole and told the children of Israel to look at it. **IF they were bitten and they looked at it, THEN they would live.** This was a conditional salvation. **IF** they looked at it, they would live, but for the people who didn't, they died. God was testing them to see who would obey. In **Numbers 31**, God sent another plague to the camp because men were taking Moabite women, having sex with them, joining to Baal, and God's anger blazed against them. God told Moses for each of the judges in their camp to put to death all who joined themselves to Baal Peor by having sex with those women. Pinchas pierced his spear through a couple that was doing what God had commanded not to be done. God made a covenant with him because of his zeal for the Law and for God. **The covenant was that his descendants would always be priests** (this will be very important for future studies). **His zealous act made atonement for Israel.**

Numbers 28-29 gives the instructions for offerings at God's appointed times (Feasts), and the laws about man and wife. The laws about fathers and daughters are in **Numbers 30**. The laws for purifying metals that came from booty are in **Numbers 31**. In **Numbers 32**, God divides the borders of the land of Canaan and the inheritance of the tribes. He separates the people to the land He has assigned to them. In **Numbers 33**, He gives the laws for the Levites and the land they would occupy, cities of refuge, and murder. Numbers ends with the instructions about the land inheritance when women were not married. God ruled that the women would hold on to their inheritance because He cares about women.

DEUTERONOMY: Deuteronomy chapters 1-3 begin with Moses recounting their journey in the desert and he rebukes the people of being afraid and rebelling against God. They were in "unbelief." They didn't trust God. In **Deuteronomy 4:1-22**, Moses tells them "And now, O Israel, **listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.** Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal-peor, for the Lord your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. **But you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today.** See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. **Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'** For what great nation is there that has a God so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? **And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?** Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **Make them known to your children and your children's children—** how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.' And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. **And He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess."** These commandments, statutes and rules were to be performed. The covenant was a performance covenant. **IF** performed, **THEN** they would be a great nation, they would be near to God, they would be His people, and He would defeat their enemies. **Verse 23-24**, "Take care, lest you forget **the covenant of the Lord your God, which He made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.**" The covenant included not making images of anything created or worshipping them.

So, we understand now that the covenant had terms, a performance clause. God gave His words, statutes and rules and Israel was supposed to perform them. This is confirmed in the New Testament. Hebrews 9:15 says, ***“Therefore HE 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 from transgressions under the first covenant.”***

In **Deuteronomy 5**, Moses gives them the 10 words (commandments) again and the Torah (instructions). **He tells them to listen, keep and obey the rulings. IF they did, God would keep with them the covenant of mercy.** This covenant was conditional. **If they obeyed God’s rulings and instructions, they would be in covenant with Him and He would continue giving them mercy, abundance, blessings and life. But if they disobeyed, they would violate the covenant and no longer be under His protection.** In **Deuteronomy 6**, Moses tells them to do God’s commandments and fear Him, and that His words should be on their hearts and they should teach them diligently to their children. He told them not to put the Lord their God to the test, to DILIGENTLY KEEP the commandments. He wanted them to remind their sons and daughters of the meanings of the testimonies, statutes and rules of God. In **Deuteronomy 8:1-6**, Moses said, ***“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him.”*** This is the will of God, that we keep His commandments. **It is confirmed in**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 ***“Here is the final conclusion, now that you have heard everything; fear God, and keep His commandments, this is the whole duty of man.”*** Our relationship with God is like any other relationship. Both parties have duties. **God gives us His blessings IF we obey Him.**

Deuteronomy 11:1 has a VERY IMPORTANT commandment: ***“You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep His charge, His statutes, His rules, and His commandments ALWAYS.”*** Does this sound like it ends OR that this is still in effect today? This is what Yeshua taught also, so we see Him confirming the Old Testament. Would God change His Word after He already gave it? After Moses gives them the Torah again, in **Chapter 28** he tells them **what God will do for those who observe and obey all his commandments.** Do you see how many times God gives the commandments? This is because they are very important to Him. He lays out the blessings for keeping the commandments, but then he warns those who would refuse to pay attention to what He said, and would not observe and obey all His commandments. He lays out the curses for disobedience. And then we see what God will do with those who continue in disobedience. **Deuteronomy 28:64** says, ***“And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.”*** He’s again talking about the future.

Deuteronomy 30 is the first time we see God hinting at the New Covenant. In **Verses 1-20**, God said, ***“And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey His voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and He will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you (This is a future event). If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will take you. And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and that you may live. And the Lord your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments that I command you today. The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as He took delight in your fathers, when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”*** God is prophetically speaking about regathering Israel in the future from the nations He has scattered them to because of their rebellion and disobedience. He said He would bring them back to the land (Israel) and circumcise their hearts and their offspring’s hearts so they would love Him with all of their hearts and souls, so they would live. He would prosper them **WHEN** they obeyed His voice, kept His commandments and statutes written in **the Book of the Law** He gave Moses. **THIS** would be what determined

that they returned to Him with **ALL THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS**. Obedience was required. There are responsibilities in Covenant relationship with God. **Did you notice that God said obedience and turning to Him with all of our hearts and souls is obeying His Law and instructions? Obedience is the determining factor that we love God. If we don't love Him, we disobey Him.**

God gives Israel the choice between life or death. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 says, *“For this commandment that I command you **today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off**. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”* **God said we COULD do His commandments.** This isn't what we hear from pastors. We hear from a lot of pastors *“No one can keep God's commandments. That's why Jesus came.”* But God tells us otherwise. We have over 20,000 laws in the United States. We have laws in every state and in every city. Are we able to keep those laws? Absolutely. Yet people complain that there are 613 laws of the Mosaic covenant. However, some laws don't apply to everyone. For example, I'm not a man, I'm not a landowner, I'm not a priest. So those laws don't apply to me. The ones that do I'm able to keep. Even if there were 613 laws for me to keep, I could keep them **BECAUSE GOD SAID SO!**

Verse 15-16: *“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. **IF** you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, **by loving the Lord your God, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His rules, THEN** you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But **if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish**. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, **loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.**”* God gave them the opportunity to choose life or death. His commandments are life. Disobedience is death. God is defining loving Him. This is confirmed in **1 John 5:3** *“For **THIS** is the love of God, **that we keep His commandments and they are not burdensome.**”* **IF** we love God, **THEN** we **WILL** keep His commandments.

Proverbs 14:12 says, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”* The children of Israel wanted to go their own way, and they died in the wilderness and in the promised land. They disobeyed God's Law **BECAUSE** their hearts had turned away from Him. Obedience shows God where your heart is. **This is why we don't determine what righteousness or holiness is. And we don't determine what the Law is. God is the One who is righteous and holy and ONLY HE determines what righteousness and holiness is.** If we obey our hearts, the Bible says, *“the heart is deceitful above all things.”* **We must have HIS LAW written on our minds and hearts.**

In **Chapter 31**, before Moses died, God told him that Israel would disobey, abandon God and break covenant with Him. He said that He would flare up His anger against them, abandon them and hide His face from them. He said they would be devoured and many calamities would come upon them. He said it would be because they did evil in turning to other gods. So, He told Moses to write a song and He gave him the words. The song would testify before them. Moses wrote it and taught it to the people. Moses told them that disaster would come upon them in the last days due to the disobedience and evil of that generation (he's telling them about Jacob's trouble).

Moses spoke a blessing over each of the tribes in **Chapter 33**. Moses died in **Chapter 34**. **This is how the Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) ends.**

We're going to look at other verses in the Old Testament to see that there was a continual problem with Israel.

WHAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DID WITH THE COVENANT:

Deuteronomy 9:24 *“You have been rebelling against God from the day I first knew you!”* Israel was disobeying God from the time they went into the wilderness. God's grace was with them because He let them live.

2 Kings 17:7-8 *“And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods and **walked in the customs of the nations** whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.”* Verse 13: *“Yet **the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in***

accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” Verses 14-16a **“But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God. They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do like them. And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God.”** Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only. Verses 19-20: **“Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.** Vs. 34 **“To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the Lord commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel.”** So God was saying that lawlessness was an ongoing problem.

Nehemiah 1:7 **“We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.”**

Nehemiah 9:16 **“But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments.”**

Nehemiah 9:26 **“But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, and cast Your Law behind their backs.”**

Nehemiah 9:34 **“For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers have not kept Your law.”**

Ezekiel 5:7-17 **“Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, f, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you, therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations. And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again. Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds. Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will withdraw. My eye will not spare, and I will have no pity. A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them. Thus shall my anger spend itself, and I will vent my fury upon them and satisfy myself. And they shall know that I am the Lord—that I have spoken in my jealousy—when I spend my fury upon them. Moreover, I will make you a desolation and an object of reproach among the nations all around you and in the sight of all who pass by. You shall be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and a horror, to the nations all around you, when I execute judgments on you in anger and fury, and with furious rebukes—I am the Lord; I have spoken— when I send against you the deadly arrows of famine, arrows for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, and when I bring more and more famine upon you and break your supply of bread. I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will rob you of your children. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword upon you. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”** God is saying He is no longer for them, He’s against them. His grace ran out for them because they didn’t repent and turn back to Him.

Ezekiel 16:8-15 **“I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine..... You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God. “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his.” Israel was supposed to grow beautiful BECAUSE of the covenant God made with them. God had a plan to make them beautiful, but they rejected it. But they trusted in themselves and thought they could disobey God (because they had status) and still have His beauty. But God called them whores.**

Ezekiel 20:5-32. God rebukes them through Ezekiel for disobedience and rebellion and rejecting his statutes and rules and profaned His Sabbaths.

Ezekiel 22:26-29 **“Her priests have done violence to my Law and have profaned My holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says**

the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken. The **people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice.**" The priests were sinning in addition to the people. They were supposed to be holy, but they had been defiled.

Daniel 9:5 "we have **sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.**" Daniel is praying to God telling Him about the people's sins. He knew he was in exile because of the sins of his fathers and the majority.

Hosea 4:1-3 "for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. **There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;** there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish." They were breaking the commandments of God. Then God says in verse 6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because **you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.**" They rejected His knowledge, His Law and He was rejecting them from being priests. He was also rejecting their children because of their sin. Israel rejecting the calling of God to be a set apart nation. He rejected them because they didn't keep His Law.

Hosea 9:1,15,17 "Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God." "Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them. **Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.**" "My God will reject them because they have not listened to him; **they shall be wanderers among the nations.**" They forsook God by rejecting His commandments. Because of this He drove them out of Israel and made them wanderers (exiles) in the pagan nations.

Amos 2:4 "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because **they have rejected the Law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked.**" God is addressing another generation of people who decided to walk in the ways of their fathers instead of living by God's Law. In **Chapter 5:6, 12** He says, "Seek the Lord and live, lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel." "For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate." They were transgressing God's Law. God considered breaking His law transgression then, and in the New Testament sin is still transgression of the Law according to **1 John 3:4**.

Micah 2:1-3 "Woe to those who **devise wickedness and work evil on their beds!** When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. They **covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.** Therefore thus says the Lord: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster." God tells them what sins they had committed and He was going to humble them because of their pride and rebellion!

Habakkuk cried out to God in Habakkuk 1:4 "So the **Law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.** For the wicked surround the righteous; so **justice goes forth perverted.**" Most people were breaking the Law, God's Law. His Law had basically stopped because the people didn't obey. They perverted justice. Wickedness abounded. **BUT** there was a righteous remnant. This has been and will be.

Zephaniah 3:1-4 "Woe to her who is **rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city (Jerusalem)!** She listens to no voice; she **accepts no correction.** She **does not trust in the Lord; she does not draw near to her God.** Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests **profane what is holy; they do violence to the Law.**" How would one demonstrate their trust? By keeping the commandments. The leaders and priests profaned the Law. They were the ones that were supposed to teach it to the people, but they disobeyed. The whole city suffered because of their disobedience. Every kingdom has to have a standard, a law. There is NO disobedience without LAW. God's Law is the standard we're to live by.

Zechariah 7:11-14 "But they **refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets.** Therefore **great anger came from the Lord of hosts.** 'As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,' says the Lord of hosts, "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit sent the prophets to remind the people of God's Law and Word. I've had people tell me, "Yes, the things you say from the Bible are true, but I'm led by the Spirit." If you're being led by a spirit that tells you God's Law has been abolished or that you don't have to do that because you're in Christ, this is NOT the Holy Spirit, but an evil spirit. We are called to test the spirits. IF they don't align with God's Word, they are false spirits.

LET'S LOOK AT ISAIAH AND JEREMIAH BRIEFLY:

These books may best express what the problem was with Judah and Israel. In Isaiah's day, Israel and Judah had declined, rebelling against God and not obeying His commandments. Isaiah warned Judah about its rebellion. He warned that God would bring the curses of covenant in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 27-28, and that Israel would be exiled. And he also gives the promises of the New Covenant that God would restore the nation in the future.

Isaiah 5:24 "Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for **they have rejected the Law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.**"

Isaiah 24:5 says, "The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant." **God said His covenant was everlasting. So, if this is the case, why do people think it's been done away with? It's because they believe the enemy instead of God.**

In Chapter 42:20-25, He talks about Israel's rebellion and why they were given over to another nation: "He (Israel) sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. **The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.** But this is a people plundered and looted; they are all of them trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; **they have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say, 'Restore!' Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come? Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey? So he poured on him the heat of his anger and the might of battle; it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand; it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.**" God gave them His Law so they would make it glorious. But God plundered them just like He said He would do in **Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 27-28.** He made good on His Word, but the people didn't think He would. They thought He would continue His grace, letting them rebel and disobey. Again, **we identify THE problem: God gave them His Law to obey, but they did NOT. So, He did what the covenant required. He executed the vengeance of the Covenant.**

In **Isaiah 44**, God is reminding them that He is the only God. He's warning them about idolatry. He talks about people worshipping idols, and He tells them He formed them to be His servants and not to forget Him. **He tells them if they return to Him, He will wipe away their offenses and redeem them! This is God's grace and mercy!**

In **chapter 46**, He tells them to remember the things that have happened, that He is God alone! And He tells them that in the beginning He announced the end and proclaims in advance the things He hasn't yet done. I believe He's pointed back to **Genesis 3:15.** He tells them to listen because His justice is coming, and His salvation will not be delayed. He will place Yeshua, His salvation, in Zion. So this means Yeshua will live in Jerusalem.

In **chapter 47**, He tells them that He is going to have the victory, that they're going to experience loss despite their occult practices and spells. It's very difficult to believe they went to those things which were abominations to God. They were seeking "wisdom" and "knowledge", but not from God, not from His Torah. He told them disaster would befall them, and they would not be able to stop it. He told them the astrologers, horoscope makers and stargazers wouldn't be able to stop Him. He said they would be like straw, consumed with His fire. He told them no one would be able to save them.

In **chapter 48**, He tells them that He teaches them (His Torah) for their own good, He guides them on the path they should take, and he lamented that IF ONLY they would heed His commandments, peace would flow on them like a river and their righteousness would be like the waves of the sea, they would have numerous descendants and their name would never be cut off.

These chapters tell us there was a real problem with His people. They weren't His people anymore. But He was extending them grace and mercy to return to Him and walk in His ways, but they wouldn't listen.

Jeremiah is a lesson about living in covenant with God. Jeremiah is a prophet in the land of Judah, but God calls him to prophesy about Judah, Israel, and the people of Israel, Egypt and other nations. In **Jeremiah 2**, God told

Jeremiah to proclaim in Jerusalem (the capital of Judah) that their fathers went far from God and they went after worthless things, even though God delivered them from Egypt. God gave them grace and mercy and wanted relationship with them, but they did not want relationship with God. They wanted relationship with the world. **James 4:4** says, *“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”* **1 John 2:15** says, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* They were taken into the wilderness to be God’s people. With most of them God was not pleased (**1 Corinthians 10:5**) and they perished, never getting to enter the promised land. The generation that got to go into the promised land began defiling Him by breaking His commandments once they were in the land. **They wanted the promises and the blessings, but they didn’t want to obey. They thought in their delusional minds that they could disobey Him and He would allow them to stay. So they lost the promises and the blessings. Even the priests and shepherds didn’t know Him and transgressed His Law.** He says in **verse 13**, *“My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and they hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

How did God define forsaking Him? They broke the Law and did not obey Him. They went their own way which led to death. He told them they brought it upon themselves. He also told them that they didn’t fear Him and that it was evil and bitter for them to forsake Him. He was going to shame them, and he told them to cry out to their gods to save them. **He even struck their children, but they took no correction. They claimed they were innocent, but God knew they were guilty.**

In **chapter 3**, He told them that they polluted the land with their whoredom, and they were not ashamed. He tells them about Israel and how He gave them a divorce decree, but Judah became even more evil, didn’t fear Him, and polluted the land with idols. He says that Israel, even though they were faithless, were more righteous than Judah. He told Jeremiah to proclaim towards the North to Israel for them to return to Him. **IF** they return acknowledge their guilt that they rebelled against Him, He won’t look at them in anger, but in mercy. He would bring them to Zion and give them shepherds and feed them with wisdom and understanding. **This is the grace and mercy of God, that He allows us to repent of our sins and He accepts us back into His Kingdom.** He tells them that one day Jerusalem will be called the throne of the Lord. He said that the house of Judah would join to the house of Israel and come to the land of Israel. They had been treacherous to Him. **He told them to return and He would heal them, that in Him, there was truly salvation.** They had sinned against Him and not obeyed His voice. **DOING the will of the Father is keeping His commandments. This is what it means to obey His voice. When He speaks, we’re supposed to listen and obey.** This is what we will learn throughout the whole Bible. **This has to be a foundation if we’re going to understand the New Covenant.**

In **chapter 4**, He told them to circumcise their hearts so He doesn’t have to pour His wrath out on them. **This should show us God’s heart. He doesn’t want to bring discipline, and He brings it to get us to return to Him.** He has Jeremiah prophesy about a disaster that is coming from the North. He is bringing someone with the sword against Judah because His judgement is coming upon them. This is because of Judah’s rebellion. And it pains God. He is anguished over this. He doesn’t want to destroy anyone. He wants everyone to come to repentance. Because the people were foolish and had no understanding, He would make a desolation of the whole land, but not a full end. **This is God’s grace and mercy, that He preserves a remnant and He preserves the land. Because ALL of His promises and covenants will be fulfilled, no matter what people do.** But because they had not repented, He would not relent or turn back. **This is God’s character. He gives plenty of time for us to repent, but when we don’t, He brings judgement. He doesn’t keep His grace with us when we know what to do, but we continue in rebellion.**

Jeremiah 5:3 *“O Lord, do not your eyes look for truth? You have struck them down, but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.”* At the time of Jeremiah, God has struck Judah (the southern Kingdom), He was trying to refine them, but they refused. They hardened their hearts and would not repent. **In Verse 6**, because Jerusalem had refused to repent and their transgressions were many and their apostacies were great, the judgement would come severely upon them. The prophets had falsely prophesied and the priests were ruling by their direction, not God’s, not the Torah, but men. In **verse 7**, He asks them *“How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken Me and have sworn by those who are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of whores.”* **He says that he’s stripping away branches because they are not His.** This may be where Paul gets the *“branches that were broken off because of unbelief”* in **Romans 11:19-36**. Israel and Judah had been treacherous to Him and spoke falsely when they said He would do nothing to them. They were prideful and thought they were still His people even though He had told them that His people obey. **The unbelief Paul was talking about was that they didn’t believe that God would punish them because He delivered their ancestors from Egypt, so they thought they were His people no matter what, even though He told them those who obeyed would be His people. They thought they had His grace and mercy, but grace and mercy is NEVER**

a license to sin. It's the grace and mercy to help us to walk in His righteousness even if we stumble, and it's His grace and mercy to teach us how to walk and live! Grace and mercy is that He will not make an end of His people, and that He offers an opportunity for repentance. He is a God of covenant and His covenants are eternal, so He will never discipline or punish those who don't deserve it. He may allow them to go into captivity with those who have disobeyed, but this is for a purpose! **He will save His remnant! And He will bring those that belong to Him back!**

In **Jeremiah 6**, He warned Jerusalem that He would turn to them in disgust and make them a desolation, an uninhabited land. In **verse 11**, He said He was no longer going to hold His wrath. He was not even going to have mercy on the elderly. All who agreed with the things going on would be punished, and He said they would be overthrown. In **verses 13-15** He said, *"For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.'*" The people had become very greedy and were dealing falsely with each other. The false prophets were prophesying "peace", however, there was no peace and God was not going to bring peace. God would punish them and He would overthrow them. He was telling them to return to His ancient path and they would find rest from the curses. And then He said this in **verse 16**, *"Stand by the roads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."* They rejected His word in **verse 17**: *"But they said, we will not walk in it. And in verse 19*, He told them why **He's bringing disaster upon them**: *"Because they have not paid attention to My words; and as for My Law, they have rejected it."* And in **verse 30**, He says that **He rejected them**. Why? Because they rejected Him. So, **God gives us grace for a specific period of time, and then His grace is over. He does not continue with those who do not continue with Him. This should tell us that if we don't pay attention to God's words and if we reject His Law, He will reject us. Why? Because we are not His people.**

We can find this same teaching several places in the New Testament. The first is in **Matthew 7:21-27**. Yeshua says that not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but **ONLY those who do the will of the Father. What have we learned the will of the Father is? Keeping His commandments.** He says many will stand before Him when He comes and tell Him about all the things they have done in His name, but He will say to them (the many) *"I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness."* **1 John 3:6-7** says the same thing. *"No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous."* John understood following Yeshua just like Yeshua taught it. **AFTER** we come to faith in Yeshua, **IF** we keep His commandments, **THEN** we are His. But if we don't, we are the devil's. **This is hard to hear, but we need to hear it so we will be convicted. The enemy has a strategy to steal your salvation. Just like He did with Eve, convincing her she didn't have to obey God's commandment and that she wouldn't die, he's convinced most Christians of the same thing.**

In **chapter 7**, He told Jeremiah to stand in the gate of the temple and tell Judah to amend their ways and He would let them dwell there. He did not want them trusting in the words of the deceptive prophets who told them God would never destroy His house. Because they were worshipping other gods and mixing paganism with the worship of a Holy God, He would destroy the house because it wasn't His house anymore—they had defiled it. He told them that **IF** they did justice (according to His Law), not oppressing the sojourner, the orphans or the widows, not shedding innocent blood, or going after other gods, **THEN** he would let them dwell there. He said that He had spoken to them persistently but **they didn't listen**, and when He called them, **they did not answer, so He would cast them out of His sight and destroy the house they called His.** He told them that He commanded their fathers to **obey His voice and walk in the way that He commanded them, but they didn't obey and listen. They walked in their own counsels and the wickedness of the evil hearts.**

This is a lesson for us today. We can't bring God human traditions or "mixing" with paganism such as Sunday worship, pagan holiday celebrations like Easter and Christmas, or idolatry because if we do this, we are defiling His house. We also can't bring Him Judaism, Kabbalah or traditions of rabbis. **He doesn't want rituals and rules of men (not commanded by God) or man-made religion, He wants relationship. And relationship is defined as obedience.** If we do these things, we are walking according to our own counsels and we are bringing Him unacceptable worship. We do NOT see Yeshua worshipping His Father through these kinds of rituals or religion. He went to the synagogue to read, study and teach the Word. He broke with many of the Jewish religious customs that were not from the Father or Torah commandments. Yeshua actually quoted **Isaiah 29:13** when the Pharisees criticized His disciples for not washing their hands according to their commandments/traditions. He

told them that for the sake of their tradition they made void the Word of God. **This is exactly what we do when we create our own rules. This is NOT worshipping Him in Spirit and truth.**

In chapter 9, because they had forsaken His Law and not obeyed his voice or walked in accord with it but stubbornly followed their own hearts and went after gods as they were taught, He would feed them with bitter food and give them poisonous water to drink. He would scatter them to places they didn't even know about and send the sword on them until they were consumed. In Verse 13 *"The Lord said, 'Because **they have forsaken My Law** which I set before them, and **have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it.**'"* And in verse 23, He says *"Let not the wise many boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that **he understands and knows Me**, that I am the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."* **The righteousness of God comes from His Torah which comes from His heart and His throne.**

In Jeremiah 11, He told them why He brought judgement upon Judah: *"Hear the words of **this covenant**, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You shall say to them, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: '**Cursed be the man who does not hear the word of this covenant that I commanded your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying 'Listen to My voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be My people, and I will be your God**, that I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day.'"* God said that the people were cursed **because** they did not listen to His voice and do **all** He commanded them to do. They kept the commandments they wanted to keep, yet they disobeyed. They were not His people and He was not their God. If we break covenant, we cannot expect God to keep covenant with us. We are not His people, and these verses tell us this.

Jeremiah 31:32 says, *"not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke.**"* The problem was that Israel broke the covenant.

Jeremiah 44:10 *"But they have not become contrite even to this day, **nor have they feared nor walked in My law or My statutes**, which I have set before you and before your fathers."* Verse 23 *"Because you have burned sacrifices and **have sinned against the Lord and not obeyed the voice of the Lord or walked in His law, His statutes or His testimonies**, therefore this calamity has befallen you, as it has this day."* God brought calamity on them because they disobeyed.

**GOD GAVE HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO ISRAEL, HIS PEOPLE, SET APART, A HOLY NATION.
HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE WHAT MADE THEM HIS PEOPLE AND ARE WHAT MADE THEM HOLY.
WE SEE THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THEY TRANSGRESSED THE PERFORMANCE CLAUSE OF THE FIRST
COVENANT.**

**WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT A FEW PSALMS TO SEE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT GOD'S RULES (TORAH),
HIS COVENANT, AND WHY HE GAVE ISRAEL THE LAND:**

Psalm 11:5-6 says *"He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever. He has shown His people the power of His works, giving them the lands of other nations."*

Psalm 25:14 says, *"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."*

Psalm 78:10 *"They did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His Law."*

Psa. 89:3-4 *"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: "Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to **all generations.**"*

Psalm 89:34-37 *"**My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.** Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; **It shall be established forever** like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky."*

Psalm 103:17-19 *"**But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.** The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and **His kingdom rules over all.**"* This says that the steadfast love of the Lord is with those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. This doesn't mean God doesn't love everyone, but it means His **steadfast love** is with His obedient children. His Kingdom rules and it has a Law. You can't rule without law. And a king's law doesn't change. We see stories in

the Bible that teach us that kings could not change a law once they put it in place: Ahasuerus in the book of Esther. King Darius in the story of Daniel. It's the same with God. He has established His Word in the heavens. And He doesn't change it and we can't change it!

Psalm 105:7-11 says, "*He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.'*" This says that God's covenant is forever, everlasting. All of God's covenants are everlasting, and the Mosaic covenant is no exception. **Verses 43-45** say, "*So He brought his people out with joy, His chosen ones with singing. And He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil, (so) that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws. Praise the Lord!*" **The reason He brought them out of Egypt is to give them His Law (instructions) so that they could obey His laws and follow His teachings.** Obeying Him was a privilege for His set apart people.

Psalm 119:160 says, "*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*" All of God's Word is truth. His Torah is truth and it is forever. A King has a royal Law. It is the Law of His Kingdom, and it can't be changed. The Word that God spoke most to Israel was His Torah (Law, instructions). So His Law is truth! Jesus didn't come to do away with God's righteous rules and He said that He didn't come to abolish. **Israel abandoned the truth to go their own ways, and Yeshua came to show them how to live again.**

Throughout the Old Testament, we see Israel disobeying and rebelling against God (violating His Law/Torah), except for a few remnant. Most did not keep His commandments. The Torah is our foundation to understand the New Covenant. If we don't know what the Old Covenant was, we won't understand what the New Covenant is.

We have gone through many Scriptures in the Old Testament and identified the problem in the Old Testament. The people didn't KEEP COVENANT with God (the "old covenant"). They didn't obey His commandments because their hearts were stubborn. Hebrews 8:7-8 confirms this: "*He finds fault with them.*" The covenant was perfect, holy and eternal because it was from God and this is His nature. **The problem was NOT the covenant, but the people!** Could God find fault with His own covenant and then do away with His eternal Law so we can become His people? No. The problem is, this is what most churches teach, and it's a false doctrine. It's totally contrary to Scripture.

**THE PROBLEM IN THE OLD COVENANT WASN'T GOD'S LAW—
IT WAS ISRAEL'S REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAW.**

NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE NEW TESTAMENT TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON IN YESHUA'S TIME:

Yeshua rebuked the religious elite in Matthew 15 and Mark 7:6-9 "*And He said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.'* And He said to them, '*You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!*'" The problem of rebellion and disobedience still existed when Yeshua came. They were rebelling against God, disobeying His commandments and doing their own things. By this time, they had written the Talmudic/rabbinical commandments (oral traditions/law) which are a violation of the Torah commandment "*Do add to My Word or take away from it*" in **Deuteronomy 4:2.**

Matthew 12:10 "*And they questioned Jesus, asking, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?'—so that they might accuse Him.*" Why were they asking Yeshua if it was lawful? Because in order to be the Messiah, He couldn't break the Law. The Pharisees and scribes taught the Torah (Law) and they wanted to test Yeshua to see if He was keeping it. They questioned Yeshua a lot about the Sabbath. This was the 4th commandment, and Yeshua couldn't break it if He was God and the Son of God. **The Sabbath wouldn't be discussed so much in the Bible if it wasn't important.** The Sabbath is an eternal sign that we're in covenant with God according to **Exodus 31:12-17** and **Ezekiel 20:12.**

Matthew 23:1-3 "*Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.'*" The seat (chair) of Moses was the seat in the synagogue where the Torah (Law) was read. **Yeshua tells the people to do and observe from the Torah.** But He didn't want them doing what the Pharisees did because they didn't do what they taught. They had stony hearts. They **were** doing "*works of the law*", Talmudic/rabbinical commandments, trying to prove they were holy by doing these things, meanwhile they were not obeying the

Torah. This is pride and hypocrisy and the rejection of God's Law. **In examining the Law to the smallest detail and adding their own details and rules, they missed the meaning of the Law, the teaching of the Law.** Yeshua said this in **verses 13-15**: *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves."* **The Pharisees were trying to convert people to Judaism, to practice their commandments and their version of religion, but Yeshua came to restore us to our relationship with the Father, not to establish a religion. In fact, He stomped on religion. He rebuked their religious rituals and rebuked them for how they reacted to Him.** He said this to the scribes and Pharisees in **verses 27-28** *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs, **which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but **within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.****"* He was telling them they were breaking God's Law. Why? Because they had set up their own laws and liturgy. And God told us NOT to do this, because His Law ALONE is righteous judgement! **Rituals and traditions can seem beautiful, but we have to know their roots and if they are pagan, we must NOT do them! They are unclean.**

Yeshua also tells the Pharisees in **verses 29-35** that they were hypocrites. He said that they would not have shed the blood of the prophets had they lived in the days of their fathers. Yeshua said they witnessed against themselves. He called them serpents and a brood of vipers. He said He was going to send them prophets and wise men and scribes, some they would kill and crucify, some they would flog in the synagogues and persecute from town to town, and that on them would come all the righteous blood shed on the earth. **These same scribes and Pharisees along with the Sadducees were the ones that cried out for Yeshua to be crucified because they wanted religion, political power, and control more than they wanted their Messiah. They had lost their faith in God and had put their faith in men's ideas, rituals, and religion.** These religious elites were also the ones who stoned Stephen. They were practicing a form of modern-day Judaism, but in doing that they were blinded to Messiah. This is how religion gets us off course. We get so involved in participating in rituals, liturgy, and things of men that we lose sight of the One our faith is in. **God has His own order in which we are to be worshipped, but He doesn't order us to worship Him with rituals invented by men. Just like the Pharisees in His day through those things made them holy, many today think these things are what makes them holy, but following Yeshua and God's righteous ways are the only thing that makes us holy.**

We don't see Yeshua doing any liturgy. In fact, when the disciples asked Him how to pray, He didn't tell them say a type of prayer. He didn't say "Recite this Kabbalistic prayer. Pray *'Blessed are You, Oh Lord our God, King of the Universe.'*" These might be great sounding words, but they were written by Kabbalists. (You can verify what I'm saying by reading Kabbalah for Dummies or look in many siddurs, which tell you that the prayers were written by Kabbalists. I would encourage you to research Kabbalah. It's mysticism—a belief system in modern Judaism says there's hidden meaning and you can connect deeper with the spiritual real if you practice their rituals and methods, read their texts, obey their traditions and engage in mystical experiences. It's demonic and its origins are Satan himself, and it has infiltrated Judaism and Messianic Judaism in many cases). David did not pray any prayers like this either. He prayed from the heart. **NONE of the prayers of the men and women of the Bible were ritualistic prayers written by men. They all prayed from their hearts.** Praying Scripture is one thing, but praying ritualistic prayers are another thing altogether. Man-made recited prayers are not from the heart. They are liturgy. Churches like the Catholic church, Greek orthodox, Presbyterian, Methodist and others pray these types of prayers. In Judaism and Messianic Judaism there are many of them as well. When Yeshua taught on prayer in **Matthew 6:5-13**, He said *"Don't be like those people who don't know God (the pagans/Gentiles/heathen). The continue saying things that mean nothing (babble, repeat empty phrases), thinking that God will hear them because of their many words. Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him."* And then He taught them how to pray. These man-made traditions (religion) are part of Babylon (the world systems) and Yeshua tells us in **Revelation 18:4**, *"Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."*

Luke 10:25-28 *"And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, '**What is written in the Law?** How do you read it?' And he answered, 'You shall **love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.**' And He said to him, 'You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**'"* Yeshua was telling him to keep what was written in the Law. He told the man he would live if he kept this commandment. This was exactly what God said in **Deuteronomy 6:5**. It's also in **Proverbs 4:4**. Solomon writes about what David told him. *"Take my words to heart. Follow my commands and you will live."* David ruled by the Torah, and he taught Solomon God's commandments.

Luke 16:17 *"But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away **than for one dot of the Law to become void.**"* Yeshua taught this. These are exactly His words. Was He teaching that He came to change the Law? No. He was

teaching the opposite. He said not even a dot of the Law would become void. **He said it would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away. Have they passed away? Then this means that not one dot has become void. Yeshua said it and we need to believe it.** But, most Christians don't. They've been taught men's doctrines which are taught in seminaries all over the world. These doctrines come from the early Catholic church fathers primarily. They also come from modern day doctrines, "new light", "new truth" and other false teachers.

John 5:45-46 *"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. **There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*** Yeshua is telling them that they will be accused by the Law because they were breaking it. He told them if they didn't believe Moses' writings, they wouldn't believe Him. And in making their own laws and breaking God's Law, they did not believe Moses. Yeshua is telling them that what Moses wrote pointed to Him. So, Yeshua taught Moses. He was teaching them how to keep the Law perfectly, but they didn't want to believe Him because they were more interested in keeping their own ritualistic laws. They were doing their own thing, keeping their own rules. They were violating the Law by the things they did—studying and keeping the man-made commandments (what would become the Mishnah). Yeshua was confirming the teaching in **Proverbs 14:12** *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death."*

Yeshua taught the Law. He didn't teach something new. Instead, He taught the Law in a new way. He said in **John 6:38**, *"For I have come down from heaven, **not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.**"* He also said in John 14:10, *"The words that I say to you **I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works.**"* And He was teaching God's will and way, the Law. He was doing it because they had forgotten it. John 15:10 says, *"**IF you keep My commandments, (then) you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.**"* **So abiding in Him means we keep His commandments.** We see that Yeshua taught the Torah. He didn't teach the Law was done away with nor did He say it was going to be done away with. In fact, He said just the opposite. He said not one jot or tittle would disappear until ALL had been accomplished. This did NOT happen at the cross. ALL will be fulfilled when the NEW COVENANT is fulfilled. This is in Revelation 21, and it's in the future, not the past. In Yeshua's day the problem He is calling out primarily deals with the religious elites. **He is dealing with religion and He's urging them to return to the Father's ways!**

So, we see there's still a problem in Yeshua's time in the New Testament. Some of Israel is still breaking the Law. They were rejecting it in a different way--by making their own commandments which they regarded higher than God's. These things came from Babylon and the pagan nations to which they were exiled. Mixing had occurred again. We are seeing the strategies of the enemy playing out. They were still deceived, being disobedient and rebellious. They were in violation of God's covenant because He commanded them not to add to His Word or take away from it in Deuteronomy 4:2. **The religious leaders who were supposed to be teaching the people the Father's ways were out of covenant, and there was still a curse on the land and the people, but Yeshua came to redeem them from the curse!**

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING AFTER YESHUA'S ASCENSION:

Acts 7:53 *"**You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.**"* Stephen is speaking to the religious elite after Yeshua ascended. He's accusing them of not keeping the Law. **Why would he say this if he didn't keep the Law himself?** He was accusing them of being lawbreakers. If they could just be lawless after Yeshua, why would he bring this up? **The same problem existed in this time as existed prior to Yeshua's first coming. The people were stiff-necked, their hearts were uncircumcised, they resisted the Holy Spirit and killed the prophets.** The leaders were STILL out of covenant. **God's people obey His Law because they love Him (1 John 5:3).**

Acts 23:3 *"**Then Paul said to him, 'God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?'**"* Just as the verse above, why would Paul accusing them of breaking the Law if he taught that you could break it? Paul was in covenant with God. Just like Yeshua rebuked them for breaking the Law, Paul rebuked them.

Acts 21 records some Jewish men who were accusing Paul of teaching **against** the Torah. He took a Nazarite vow from Numbers 6 in the Torah **to prove that he was teaching the Law. Everyone who questions whether or not Paul taught the Law needs to read this chapter. It proves that Paul taught the Torah.** He believed in covenant, he taught covenant. He knew that people could come to faith in Yeshua in the New Covenant and learn to walk in the eternal covenant God made with Israel.

Let's look at Hebrews, because it's misunderstood. The context of the book of Hebrews is the supremacy of our High Priest Yeshua compared to Aaron as a high priest. He's the founder of our salvation, our High Priest, He's greater than Moses, God's promises are true through Yeshua, He is compared to Melchizedek, and He's the High Priest of a better covenant. It also discusses: the comparison between the earthly tabernacle and the heavenly tabernacle, redemption comes through His blood, His sacrifice is once and for all, and we have full assurance of faith through Him. **Hebrews 7:12** says, *"For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well."* **But the context of this verse isn't that the Law completely changed. It is contrasting Aaron to Yeshua. It is talking about a change from the earthly priest to the heavenly priest. It is saying that the priest in the earthly tabernacle was NOT perfect, so a change in the priesthood was needed. We needed a perfect Priest to make atonement for our sin. The teaching is that the earthly tabernacle was the shadow of the heavenly tabernacle where Yeshua is the High priest.** The Torah specified that the earthly priesthood had to come from the Levites. But a change in the Law was needed because Yeshua was NOT a Levite, but from the tribe of Judah. But this was already decided before the Law was given, and the Law pointed to Yeshua. He is now a King-Priest and the High Priest eternally, not from the tribe of Levi, but from the tribe of Judah. And Yeshua is the goal of the Torah, so the service of the High Priest was fulfilled in Yeshua. So the commandment regarding the earthly tabernacle was set aside so the promise of God (the New Covenant) could be made manifest that Yeshua would be a priest forever. Aaron and his descendants died, but now we have a high priest who has resurrected and lives and is seated on the throne!

Hebrews 10:28-29 *"Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* The writer of Hebrews is quoting the Old Testament. **He had been discussing the person who sins (breaks God's Law) deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, and he's telling them their punishment will be very bad. This is because if we're God's people we will obey His Torah because we're in covenant with Him.**

In Hebrews 11, it discusses faith. It describes faith with obedience and trusting. The people trusted God and they obeyed. Faith is the Hebrew word *"emunah"*. It means *"believe and obey."* In **chapter 12:4** it says, *"you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in the contest against sin."* He tells the people to **pursue holiness.** How do we know what holiness is without Law? **We have God's Law, which tells us how He defines holiness. This is how we're supposed to walk.** In **verses 24-25** he tells the people *"See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven."* **The writer is saying that the children of Israel did not escape when they disobeyed God, and IF we disobey WE WILL NOT escape Yeshua when He comes to judge the earth.** This is confirmed in **John 3:36** *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."* **The covenant still exists that we obey God IF we're in covenant with Him.**

In Romans 7:12, Paul taught what he thought about the Law: *"the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good."* In **Romans 3:31,** he declared that it was wrong to overthrow the Law through faith. He made a statement that **we don't make void (nullify) the Law by faith, but we ESTABLISH (uphold) it.** The Greek word is *"histemi"* and it means *"to cause or make to stand, place, put, set, to make firm, fix, establish."* **This does NOT mean that we don't keep the Law. Paul did NOT teach that we should break the Law.** We know this because in **Acts 21** he was accused of teaching against the Law. The elders of the church came to him and asked him to take a Nazarite vow to prove he was not teaching against it. The Nazarite vow is found in **Numbers 6** and is a Torah commandment for a person to consecrate themselves to God. He taught that sin would not exist except for the Law in **Romans 7:7-8.** He taught that through the Law we become aware that we're sinners in **Romans 7:13.** He taught that the curse of the Law has been removed by Yeshua in **Galatians 3:13.** The curses of the Law are found in **Deuteronomy 27-28.** He taught that the Law is spiritual in **Romans 7:14.** He talked about his carnal nature and that he was dead in his old life of disobedience to the Law. Paul taught that the Law had 2 roles: (1) to instruct us about how to live our lives righteously, and (2) to convict us of sin. He and the disciples taught that **we will be judged by the Law.** In **Romans 7:22-25,** he said *"For I delight in the Law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the Law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin."* He was teaching that in His he served the Law of God, but his flesh was still fighting the Law. Paul teaches us that the Law is a blessing, but sin is the curse. Our flesh serves sin, but with the mind of Christ, we serve the Law. Yeshua came to redeem us from the curse. He also came to redeem us from the curse of living a sinful life. Paul taught the church to put sin away! He wanted them to live in covenant with God.

Romans 10:1-4 is often mistranslated and misinterpreted. Let's look at this in detail. *"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* The word **"end"** in Greek is **"telos"**, which has several meanings. It can be interpreted as **"end"**, but it has a much deeper meaning. There are several different meanings for this word: *"to the uttermost, completely", "the end, the sense of fulfillment", "the last in a succession or series", "that by which a thing is finished, its close, issue" and "then end to which all things relate, the aim or purpose, or goal."* **"Teleiosis"** is the Greek action word of **"telos"** and it means *"the act of reaching the goal, completing, perfecting, consummation, perfection, the event which verifies the promise."* We have to study the Word of God and look at the whole counsel of Scripture and understand what Paul meant. **The other writers of the New Testament and Paul's other writings don't teach us that the Law was done away with. Paul would not contradict Yeshua, because Yeshua is the One who gave him the gospel. He would not contradict what Yeshua Himself said "I did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. One jot or tittle of the Law will no wise pass until all is fulfilled."** All isn't fulfilled until Revelation 21, when God gives us a new earth and new heavens and the New Jerusalem comes down.

Rather than trying to interpret this to mean "the end", we have to look at all of the meanings of the word and the whole counsel of Scripture. If we look at what the majority of meanings of **telos** are, we know that it doesn't mean **"end"** in this verse. If we look at it in context to what Yeshua said, we know that Yeshua was the uttermost, complete, the sense of fulfillment, the last in the succession and the end, aim, purpose or goal to which the Law related (of the Law), **NOT the termination of it.** He did reach the goal of keeping the Torah perfectly, He completed every commandment, He was the perfection of the Law, the consummation of it. **So the meaning of the word is not "end" but "goal"!** Yeshua is the One who verified the promise of the Law because in the Torah is where God first tells us about the New Covenant! He kept the Law the way it should be kept. He told us **"follow Me"**. So what does that mean? **"Do we make void the Law through faith? God forbid! We establish the Law! Romans 3:31.** So as followers of Yeshua, we are supposed to **ESTABLISH** the Law. We've discussed this word before. This is the Greek word **"histemi"** and it means we *"cause it or make it to stand, place, put, set to bid to stand by, to make firm, fix, uphold."*

What is Paul talking about when he said, "they tried to establish their own (law)?" The people of Israel began writing their own books which they called the **"oral law"**. Some people began to teach that God gave not only the written Law on Mt. Sinai, but an **"oral law"**, but this is a Jewish myth/fable. Rabbis wrote **mishnahs** (commandments) which add commandments onto God's Law. In later centuries they wrote 2 Talmuds: the Babylonian Talmud and the Jerusalem Talmud, but many of the man-made commandments already existed, and they were/are a yoke and burden on the people. They forced people to keep these laws of men which they thought were superior to God's, and Yeshua rebuked them for it because they were applying external rules, which put heavy yokes and burdens on the people. They also judged people on these rules, but we're supposed to judge by the Torah. Yeshua came to step on religion, the works of the devil. They made worship into ritual rather than worshipping God in Spirit and truth. One example of this is the tradition of handwashing we already discussed in **Mark 7:1-8.** The handwashing ritual comes from their man-made commandments. If you read the Talmud, you'll see the ridiculous rituals that are involved in washing your hands before a meal. This is a tradition that they passed down, but it was the commandments of men, not God.

Romans 10:5 *"For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them."* God gave His Law to His set apart people. It was to be kept. We also need to understand God never justified anyone in under the Law. They were justified by **faith** which produced actions. They obeyed the Law and He found them to be righteous. He chose Israel as His nation. The faithful of God (remnant) were keepers of His commandments. We don't see one time in the Bible where a righteous person was a continual lawbreaker. This doesn't change. God wanted to bring the Gentiles in by faith in the Messiah, and Messiah was the stumbling block to many of the Jews because they didn't believe that Yeshua was God or the Son of God. But this wasn't necessarily the case for all of Israel. The religious elites dismissed Him as being the Messiah. **The reason God had a veil over their eyes is because they disobeyed God and rebelled against His commandments, and established their own commandments. This is pride. Pride puts a veil over our eyes so we can't see the truth. This is happening in the church today because people disobey and rebel against God's commandments and invent their own.**

The Messiah would be the justifier of sins. His very name, Yeshua, means **"God's salvation"** or **"salvation."** **The Law's purpose is to show us how to live a righteous, holy life, and Yeshua did it perfectly. This is why He was the fulfillment of the Law. He was the Lamb without blemish.** We are saved by faith through grace." *But the righteousness based on faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it*

say? **'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart'** (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);" Here Paul is quoting **Deuteronomy 30:11-14**. God tells Israel that the Torah isn't too hard for them. They can do (obey) it. God had just told them that **IF** they paid attention to what HE said and obeyed His commandments/Torah, and turn to Him with all of their hearts/being, **THEN** He would bless them and give them success in the promised land (the covenant was conditional). Paul is saying that because Yeshua is the fulfillment of this, they could come in by faith in Yeshua, the Word made flesh.

Romans 10:6-21 "Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!' **But they have not all obeyed the gospel.** For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, 'I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.' Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, 'I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for Me.' But of Israel he says, '**All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people.**'" Paul says that Israel did understand God's conditional covenant, but even then, they did NOT OBEY the GOSPEL. The problem was they did NOT believe He would do what He said He would if they disobeyed. They thought because He delivered them, He would continue to forgive them and give them grace, even if they continued to sin (break His Law). But the terms of the covenant were: **IF** they obeyed, they would receive the blessings and life, but **IF** they disobeyed, they would receive curses and death.

1 Corinthians 10 is Paul's warning to the church at Corinth. He tells them that although their fathers were under the cloud of God's presence, passed through the sea, baptized into Moses, and at the same spiritual food (the manna from heaven, Yeshua) and drank the same spiritual drink (the water of life, Yeshua) and drank from the spiritual Rock (Yeshua), and **with most of them God was NOT pleased**. God delivered even rebels. He delivered them because He loved them. **Why was God not pleased with them?** Because in **Deuteronomy 8**, God gave them instructions that **they had to keep His commandments, walk in His ways and fear Him**. In **verses 1-2**, He says, "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not." Back in **1 Corinthians 10:6-10**, Paul says, "Now these things took place **as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did**. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer." Paul is stating what the problems with Israel were: they were idolaters, sexually immoral, testing Christ, and grumblers. And then in **verses 11-12**, he says, "Now **these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our INSTRUCTION, on whom the end of the ages has come**. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." Paul is telling us that we have an example of what we should NOT do. We should not rebel against God or disobey Him. Because the fruits of disobedience are NOT fruits of the Spirit. If we put Yeshua to the test, we are like Israel. And we are called to be light and examples to the nations of how to follow Yeshua. We don't do this by disobedience. Yeshua obeyed the Father's commandments and did the Father's will perfectly, and He said "**follow Me.**"

Paul tells us in **Romans 11** that many people of Israel were cut off because of **unbelief**. We looked at this while we were going through Jeremiah. Israel didn't believe that God would bring curses and death on them for disobedience. They were rebellious to His instructions. Isaiah prophesied that God would allow Himself to be found by those seeking Him. How would this happen? Through Yeshua and not the Law. They would be able to believe in the Messiah. They would see that they had been living contrary to God's ways. And when they saw or heard about Yeshua and what He came to do for them, they would believe. It would happen by faith, not the Law. A person was needed to help them see what they couldn't see. They needed to be saved from their sin. **But Paul doesn't say the Law has been done away with. He doesn't teach us to dispose of the Law. How did Yeshua keep the Law? He surrendered to God's will and the Holy Spirit was with Him so He could do it in love, compassion and mercy.** This is not how the Jewish religious elite did it, and it's not how they taught the people to do it. They were trying to perform the letter of the Law (not just God's Law, but man's laws) in the flesh

without the Holy Spirit and wanted people to obey their laws or do the law “their way”, and they didn’t have compassion or mercy.

James 2:8-12 *“If you really fulfill **the royal law according to the Scripture**, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, **you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors**. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law. **So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the Law of liberty.**”*

What is the Law according to the Scripture? God’s Law. What laws are James talking about? God’s commandments. He’s saying if you break one commandment, you’ve broken them all. He told the people to **speak and act like those who will be judged UNDER the Law of liberty**. Because we will be judged by the Law. It’s God’s standard. **James called the Law royal, the standard by which we’re going to be judged and the Law of Liberty.**

In **James 1:22-2**, he talks about the Law of Liberty again: *“But be **doers of the Word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But **the one who looks into the perfect Law, the Law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**”* The blessing is only for those who keep the Law. It’s only for those that “do” the Word of God. We also see this in **Psalm 103**. The Old Testament and New Testament confirms this. If God’s Law was perfect would He do away with it? NO! He is an unchanging God (**Malachi 3:6**) and His Word doesn’t change (**Isaiah 40:8**). **If His character is that He is everlasting, how could He eliminate His own Law?** Are there any Old Testament prophecies that say Yeshua the Messiah would come to abolish the Law? No. Actually two prophecies say that His Kingdom will be ruled by the Torah. **Isaiah 2:3 and Micah 4:2** say that *“the Torah will go out of Zion.”* Would Yeshua the Messiah break the Law that He will rule by in the Millennial Kingdom? No. The Jewish people and Israel understood that the Messiah would have to be perfect, blameless, without spot or blemish. This means that He could not break the Law that He would rule by.

God’s Law was not and is not bondage. The laws of man (the oral laws) were! I love it that James calls God’s Law *“the Law of liberty.”* Why would he say that? **Because he knew God’s Law brings freedom.** Yeshua taught *“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* Was Yeshua teaching the truth? **Yes, and He was teaching to keep the Torah, not man’s laws. He kept it perfectly, and He told us to follow Him. Paul and the disciples taught the Torah, so the Torah didn’t change. They didn’t see it as a burden. They saw it as a blessing.**

1 John 3:4-10 says, *“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that **He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.** No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. **Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.** By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**”* How do we practice righteousness without a Law? Righteousness is living according to God’s Law, not man’s. **Sin is defined by John as lawlessness and lawlessness is defined as breaking God’s Law. As His followers, we are supposed to follow Yeshua in obedience to the Father.** If we don’t, we’re not born of God. If we break the commandments, we aren’t His children. We are children of the devil. We have to practice righteousness to show that we are God’s children and that we are in Yeshua. **This means we put sin away from us. We practice the Torah, not the traditions of men. We keep His commandments, and they are not burdensome (1 John 5:3).**

I hope you can see that the New Testament teaches us that we are supposed to obey the Law. The Law doesn’t justify us. We have one justifier, Yeshua. But we must pursue sanctification. We must purify ourselves as John says in **1 John 3:3**. For Gentiles who come to faith, we haven’t been taught the Law. It’s God’s grace and mercy that gives us the revelation that we have to obey the Law to be in covenant, and God gives us time to learn the Law. This is why we must study diligently, to learn what the Word tells us to do so we can be “doers” of the Word and not “hearers only”. This is the problem Israel had. They heard the words of God and agreed to them, but they didn’t do them. **We see that Yeshua taught that only those who do the will of the Father will be with Him, and I believe we want to be with Him. But we must learn what it means to follow Him. We don’t follow Him in lawlessness, but in keeping and obeying the Law.**

WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY

Christianity: Most Christians today are being taught rebellion against God, because their pastors are teaching them they can be lawless. Some pastors even say if you *“go back to the Law, you are cursed.”* They teach that Jesus did away with the laws for the Jews, and that Gentile Christians don't have to keep them anymore, even though the Bible doesn't say this anywhere. They are doing *“their own thing,”* following the traditions of men instead of keeping the commandments of God. Just like the religious elites added doctrines of men onto God's Word in Yeshua's day, **the church is breaking the commandments of God today, teaching man's ways as doctrines, neglecting the commandment of God.** Today the church keeps the traditions of the Catholic church fathers. These traditions of men include: Sunday worship, pagan holidays such as Easter, Christmas and other Catholic days which are not commanded in the Bible. They see the Law as *“old”* and *“unnecessary”*, and they teach that the Law ended with Yeshua. So they replace the Law with the traditions of men. These religious practices are completely disobedient to Scripture. They set aside commandments of God and follow the apostate Catholic church rather than Yeshua. They engage in rituals and sacraments God never commanded.

Many Messianic and Jewish congregations are also following the laws and traditions of men. They perform rituals from Kabbalah (mysticism) for Shabbat, Hannukah, and other things, which are man-made rules and practices:

- They celebrate Rosh Hoshana, the Babylonian new year which is pagan.
- Some call God *“Hashem”*, which means *“the name”*, even though God gives us His name in the Bible. The rabbis teach that you can't use the name of God because you might use it in vain. He called Himself by His name, and His people called upon His name, and there is no commandment NOT to call on His name. This is a teaching of men, and Yeshua would rebuke people for this.
- They pray Kabbalistic ritualistic prayers from siddurs, although Yeshua taught us how to pray.
- They use a 9-branch candlestick for Hannukah. I won't even call it a Menorah because the Menorah of the Bible has 7 branches. The Kabbalists, rabbis, invented the 9-branch candlestick along with a ritual for each day of Hannukah where one candle is lit with the center candle. But during the Hannukah celebration, the 7 branch Menorah was lit and all 7 lights were burning.
- They wear tzitzit without a blue thread because the rabbis argued over the source of the blue dye and the color that would be used in the threads. The commandment specifies the tzitzit must have a blue thread, but they think they know better than God.
- Some wear only one or two tzitzit. God commanded us to put fringes on the 4 corners of our garments, which means we wear 4 tzitzit (fringes).

In all of these traditions, men are doing their own things. They follow traditions and teachings of the rabbis instead of following Yeshua. They THINK they are keeping the commandments, but they are keeping the commandments of men.

I think I need to take a moment to explain what Judaism is a religion is. Judaism is a mixture of Babylonian, Assyrian and other pagan rituals “mixed” with the worship of the Holy Almighty God. They take things from the mishnahs and Talmuds (commandments of men), Kabbalah (which is mysticism, sorcery, alchemy) and other things from paganism and they mix it together for “religion”. God detests this. He tells us this in the Old Testament. Yeshua came to put His foot on these things. He wanted to squash religion and restore us to our relationship with our Father which is demonstrated by our obedience to God. Yeshua said in Matthew 7:13-14 “enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” In John 14:6 He said, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” He is the WAY and the ONLY WAY. It's not through traditions, rituals, religion or man-made rules. There is no life in those things. They are not what make us holy. What makes us holy is following Yeshua, obeying the Father's Law. Yeshua said FEW would find this way. Why? Because we want to do our own thing. We want knowledge, secret knowledge and we want to think that what we do in ritualistic religion is what matters. God wants our hearts, He wants obedience, and He wants us to believe in His Son and obey and follow Him. That's the ONLY way.

On both sides people are doing these man-made traditions (non-Biblical) worshipping Him in vain, teaching the precepts of men instead of Scripture. Both think they are following Yeshua, but they are following men. Some are following Yeshua more closely based on the knowledge they have. But if we look at the roots of all of these things that we do, we will let them go if they are not of God. God says in Hosea 4:6, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* These man-made religious things on both sides are the works of the devil.

And just like after Yeshua ascended, people today are stiff-necked, uncircumcised in heart and ears, and resist the Holy Spirit. As our fathers did, so do they. They persecute prophets and pastors who speak and teach the truth. They don't want the words they speak and teach to be tested. Because Scripture will show their teachings are false. For example, if you teach the truth to a Christian about the Sabbath, you will be accused of being a

legalist, a “Judaizer”, or “going back to the Law”. They would rather hang onto men’s easy traditions than follow Yeshua and obey the Father’s commandments. On the other side if you talk to Messianics who are still worshipping with the rituals and traditions of Judaism, you’ll be accused of being wrong, not having proper knowledge and of being an anti-semite. They will try to justify their actions and would rather hang onto the traditions of Judaism than let them go to obey the Father. **These things come from the enemy, who is the accuser of the brethren.** But Yeshua told us *“the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few”* This is a lesson for us. **Just because everyone is doing it doesn’t make it right. The only thing that’s right is to obey the Father’s commandments. HE defines right and wrong, not us. Following a church or synagogue isn’t what we’re called to do. We’re called to follow Yeshua.**

Many people claim to be followers of Yeshua, but in ignorance, they are lawless in some ways. Just like the Israelites didn’t believe God when He told them He would bring curses and death if they disobeyed His Law, they don’t believe Yeshua when He said many believers will stand before Him at His coming and call Him “Lord”, but He’s not their Lord. They didn’t understand what He said, what He taught, who He was. They don’t follow Him. He is one with God, and He didn’t teach something different than God. **He didn’t teach religion, men’s rituals or lawlessness. He actually came to stomp those things out. He came to do His Father’s will (keep His Father’s commandments), NOT keep the traditions of men, and He told us to follow Him. And if we’re not following Him, we can’t be in His Kingdom. If we’re following men, we can’t be in His Kingdom. We must follow Him!**

1 John 2:24 says, *“Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.”* What abided in them? The Word of Truth. The Scripture (Old Testament), not the mishnahs of the rabbis. The Scriptures is what the disciples used to teach the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, *“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”* They shared the gospel with the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

Yeshua told us to abide in Him. **“IF you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” John 15:10** Yeshua commanded us to do everything that was taught on the seat of Moses, where the Torah was taught. He commanded us to obey the Torah.

John 8:31-32 *“IF you hold to My teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* He did NOT say *“If you hold to the teachings of men.”* Most believers today are not free because they aren’t holding to the teachings of Yeshua, but of men. They don’t know the truth and they don’t teach it. He taught people to observe the Torah, to do the commandments. He told us in **Matthew 7:21-23** that **ONLY those who do the will of His Father would enter the Kingdom of heaven. What is the will of the Father? Leviticus 18:4** says, *“You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God.”* This is the Father’s will—that we obey Him just like Yeshua His Son. This is what it means to follow Him. This is how we demonstrate we are His people.

So now that we’ve seen what was happening with Israel before Yeshua came, what was happening during His day, what was happening after His ascension, and what is happening today, we’re going to look at the differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

LET’S LOOK AT THE PROMISES OF THE ABRAHAMIC AND MOSAIC COVENANTS

In the first section, we read about God’s promises and oaths to Abraham and we learned that they spilled over into the Mosaic covenant. When He brought them out of the land of Egypt, God gave His set apart people, His holy nation that He created through Abraham (and Isaac and Jacob) His Laws and instructions. This is when He established His eternal covenant with them as a people. This was another covenant on top of the covenant HE made with Abraham. This covenant would make Israel a holy people, set apart, a light to the nations and a wise people that the other nations would look to and be astonished at their wisdom that came from God. **He made the covenant with them in the wilderness, and He made them into His nation, but this nation hasn’t seen its complete fulfillment. We’ll see this as we study the New Covenant.**

Now let’s look at what God said about the Mosaic Covenant:

Leviticus 20:22-24 *“You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. Hence I have said to you, ‘You are to possess their land (Canaan), and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples.”* God brought them out of Egypt to

take them to the promised land. Had they obeyed they would have gone into the promised land quickly. But they rebelled and disobeyed, so they spent 40 years in the wilderness because of it. **The promise was the land of Canaan. This was the promise God made to Abraham in His covenant with Him.** Now we see God tell Abraham's seed (Israel) that they had to keep all of His statutes and rules (obey), and they would possess the land He promised to Abraham.

In Deuteronomy God gives Israel His Torah (instructions) again because they are getting ready to go into the promised land. He wants them to know what they are to do when they get there. **He tells them what the promises of this eternal covenant are.**

Deuteronomy 7:9-16 *“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations, and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. **You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.**”* **And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you. And you shall consume all the peoples that the Lord your God will give over to you.”** Verse 20 *“So will the Lord your God do (wonders, awesome, mighty works) to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover, the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. You shall not be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. But the Lord your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. And He will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.”* In this chapter, God has directions for them **IF** they want these blessings. He said that **IF** they listened to his rules and did them, He would keep covenant with them. **He tells them the covenant is conditional again, just as He told Abraham.**

Deuteronomy 8:7-10 *“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. **And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.**”* Again in this chapter, God has directions for them **IF** they want to remain in the land and receive the blessings. **The blessings are conditional upon their obedience.**

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 *“And **IF** you will indeed obey My commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, (then) He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. And He will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full.”* **We see that this is conditional. They have to obey to receive these promises. Verses 22-25:** *“For **IF** you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the Lord your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him, the Lord will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours. Your territory shall be from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea. No one shall be able to stand against you. The Lord your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as He promised you.”* **The promises were only for those who obeyed, they were conditional.**

Deuteronomy 15:4-6 *“But there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess—**IF** only you will strictly obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. For the Lord your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.”* God promised there would be no poor in Israel **IF** they obeyed His commandments.

Many Christians quote several verses from **Deuteronomy 28**, but we need to look at the context of this chapter to see what God is saying. In **verses 1-2**, God says, **“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God,**

being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, ***the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, IF you obey the voice of the Lord your God.***” So, we have a condition and a promise. **IF** the people faithfully kept God’s commandments, He would bless them. Now let’s look at the verses many people quote: **Verse 7** says, “*The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*” **Verse 13** says, “*And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail.*” **But there’s more to this verse:** “*and you shall only go up and not down, IF you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, and IF you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*” **So, this was a conditional statement. The promises were for God’s people who obeyed His Law, His commands. It was NOT for those who rebelled and disobeyed.** We have to be very careful when quoting Scripture that we don’t use it in an inappropriate way. We must understand the context. We can’t use Scripture to affirm ourselves in Yeshua if we aren’t doing what He tells us to. That’s like using a plastic sword. It won’t work against the enemy.

These verses contain the specific-things God would do for them IF they were faithful to Him. The promises were conditional upon their obedience. I hope you are seeing what the Mosaic covenant is, and I hope you see it is a continuation of the covenant He made with Abraham. Abraham’s seed would be the nation God promised to Him, and God would set them apart and exalt them above all other nations. He’s also going to bless those who keep covenant with Him and curse those who break covenant with Him.

LET’S LOOK AT THE BLESSINGS OF THE OLD (MOSAIC) COVENANT

Read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. These chapters list the blessings of the covenant. These promises are conditional. Leviticus 26:3 says, “IF you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them”, and then God lists His promises, however; they are ONLY for the people who observe and do His commandments. God gives us to “IFS” to let us know things are conditional. IF they were careful to do these things, THEN He would give them all these things:

- 1) God will set them high above ALL nations of the earth (Deut 28:1)
- 2) They would be blessed in the city and in the countryside (Deut 28:3)
- 3) They would be blessed coming in and going out (Deut 28: 6)
- 4) He would remove the beasts from their land (Lev 26:6)
- 5) They would not have war in their land (Lev 26:6)
- 6) Their enemies would be defeated (Deut 28:7)
- 7) Their enemies would fall by the sword (Lev 26:7-8)
- 8) They would be prosperous within the land. He would give them great abundance (Deut 28:11)
- 9) God would open His treasury to them, give rain to the land and bless all the work of their hands (Deut 28:12)
- 10) Everything they undertook would be blessed (Deut 28:8)
- 11) He would bless them in the land (Deut 28:8)
- 12) God would give them the rains in their season (Lev 26:4)
- 13) Their land would increase (Lev 26:4)
- 14) The trees of the field would yield their fruit (Lev 26:4)
- 15) Their threshing of grain would last until the grape harvest and the grape harvest would last until the time for sowing—they would have abundant crops (Lev 26:5)
- 16) They would eat their bread to the full (Lev 26:5)
- 17) He would make them fruitful (Lev 26:9)
- 18) The fruit of their wombs would be blessed—they would be fertile. He would multiply them (Deut 28:4, Lev 26:9)
- 19) The fruit of the wombs of the cattle (livestock) would be blessed, their herds and flocks would increase (Deut 28:4)
- 20) He would establish them as a people holy to Himself IF they kept His commandments and walked in His ways (Deut 28:9)
- 21) Peoples of the earth would be afraid of them (Deut 28:10)
- 22) They would dwell in the land securely (Lev 26:6)
- 23) He would give them peace in the land (Lev 26:6)
- 24) He would confirm His covenant with them (Lev 26:9)
- 25) He would make His dwelling among them and not abhor them (Lev 26:11)
- 26) He would walk among them, be their God, and they would be His people (Lev 26:12)
- 27) God would make them the head, not the tail and they would rise up IF they obeyed the commandments of God and were careful to **DO** them, if they didn’t turn aside from **ANY** of the words He commanded them or went after other gods (Deut 28:13)

NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE CURSES OF THE OLD COVENANT:

In **Deuteronomy 27**, God lists curses for specific sins, and in **chapter 28**, God He lists specific curses He will put on people who disobey and rebel. In **Chapter 28**, God says that **IF they don't obey His voice and be careful to obey all His commandments and statutes, they will be cursed in abundance. He lays out the curses for disobedience and rebellion in these two chapters:**

- 1) They will be cursed in the city and the field (Deut 28:16)
- 2) Their baskets and kneading bowls will be cursed (Deut 28:17)
- 3) The fruit of their wombs would be cursed (Deut 28:18)
- 4) The fruit of the ground would be cursed (Deut 28:18)
- 5) Their herds and flocks would be cursed (Deut 28:18)
- 6) They would be cursed coming into the land and going out of the land (Deut 28:19)
- 7) The Lord would send curses, confusion and frustration in all they did until they were destroyed because they forsook Him (Deut 28:20)
- 8) He would bring a plague on them until He finished them and ceased letting them live on the land (Deut 28:21)
- 9) He would strike them with wasting disease, fever, inflammation, and fiery heat (Deut 28:22)
- 10) There would be drought, blight and mildew on their crops (Deut 28:22)
- 11) The heavens above them would be bronze and the earth below them would be iron (things would be VERY difficult for them) (Deut 28:23)
- 12) The rain would be powder. Dust would come down on them until they were destroyed (Deut 28:24)
- 13) **They would be defeated before their enemies** (Deut 28:25)
- 14) They would be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth (Deut 28:25)
- 15) Their dead bodies would be food for the birds and the beasts (Deut 28:26)
- 16) He would strike them with boils, tumors, scab and itch and they wouldn't be able to be healed (Deut 28:27)
- 17) He would strike them with madness (insanity), blindness, and confusion. They would grope and be unable to find their way (Deut 28:28,29)
- 18) They would NOT prosper in their ways
- 19) They would be oppressed and robbed continually and no one would be able to help them (Deut 28:29)
- 20) Men's wives would be taken (Deut 28:30)
- 21) They would build houses but not dwell in them (Deut 28:30)
- 22) They would plant vineyards but not enjoy any harvest (Deut 28:30)
- 23) Their animals would be slaughtered and seized (Deut 28:31)
- 24) Their sons and daughters would be given to other people, and they would look on with longing but be helpless (Deut 28:32)
- 25) A nation they didn't know would eat up all their labors (Deut 28:33)
- 26) They would be oppressed and crushed continually until they were driven mad (Deut 28:34)
- 27) He would strike them on the knees and legs with boils would be all over their body that couldn't be healed (Deut 28:35)
- 28) **He would bring them (scatter) to other nations and they would serve gods of wood and stone** (Deut 28:36)
- 29) And the people they're led away to would see them as a horror, a proverb, a byword, a laughing stock (Deut 28:37)
- 30) They would plant a lot of seed, but gather little because locusts would consume the harvest (Deut 28:38)
- 31) They would plant vineyards but not drink the wine because worms would consume the harvest (Deut 28:39)
- 32) The olives on their olive trees would drop off (Deut 28:40)
- 33) Their sons and daughters would go into captivity (Deut 28:41)
- 34) The cricket would take their trees and fruit (Deut 28:42)
- 35) A person living in their territory would become higher than them and they would go lower (Deut 28:43)
- 36) The person living in their territory would lend to them and would be the head, and they would be the tail (Deut 28:44)
- 37) He would bring a nation against them from far away who would not show respect to the old or mercy to the young (Deut 28:48)
- 38) That nation would eat all of the things in their land (Deut 28:51)
- 39) The nation would destroy the people of Israel (Deut 28:51)
- 40) The nation would besiege their cities and towns (Deut 28:52)
- 41) The people of Israel would eat their own sons' and daughters' flesh (Deut 28:53)
- 42) They would not be willing to share with each other (Deut 28:55)

The New Covenant

- 43) A woman will eat her afterbirth because she will lack food (Deut 28:57)
- 44) He would bring extraordinary afflictions, severe and lasting, sickness severe and lasting (Deut 28:59)
- 45) He would bring sickness and plagues that aren't written about in the Bible (Deut 28:61)
- 46) They would be few in number because they didn't obey (Deut 28:61)
- 47) They would be plucked from the land and scattered among the peoples (Deut 28:63)
- 48) They would find no relief or rest in these nations (Deut 28:65)
- 49) Their hearts would tremble, their eyes would fail, and their souls would languish (Deut 28:65)
- 50) They would be in dread and have no assurance of life (Deut 28:66)
- 51) He would bring them back to Egypt and they would be sold as slaves (Deut 28:68)

We have studied and learned that God's covenants are eternal. So, have these blessings and curses gone away? No. If we obey God, we will be blessed. If we disobey Him, we will be cursed. In **Deuteronomy 29:1**, it says *"These are the words of the covenant that the Lord commanded Moses to make."* God's words are eternal, so this means these words are as true today as they were then. Now we understand what the blessings and the curses of the covenant were.

THE COVENANT (THE LAW) IS GOD'S WORD. GOD'S WORD IS ETERNAL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ISRAEL? WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THE CURSE OF REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE: THE "SCATTERING":

The first time we see God scatter a people is in Genesis 11 after the flood. The people disobeyed God's commandment to be fruitful, multiply and spread themselves across the earth. They decided to build a city with a tower up to heaven. They were a people with one language. God saw their plans were to exalt themselves to the heavens and He decided to humble them. He brings the prideful down. So, God confused their language so they couldn't understand each other. The work on their tower stopped and God scattered them to the nations. So we see God establishing a pattern of scattering people when they disobey.

God told Israel in the covenant that if they disobeyed Him, He would scatter them to the nations. If they wanted to be like the nations instead of being holy and set apart, He would scatter them into those lands and let them be with the pagans. He wanted His land to be inhabited by holy people. He did not want His land to be defiled.

The first time we see a prophecy about God scattering is in **Genesis 49**. Jacob gathers his sons to tell them what would happen in the future. This is prophecy he received from God. In **verse 7**, he said of Simeon and Levi, (their tribes) *"I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel."* In **Leviticus 26**, God lays out the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. He tells them all the things He will do to them if they disobey. In **verses 32-33**, He said, *"And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste."*

Read Deuteronomy 4. This is the first description of the New Covenant in the Torah! God spoke through Moses and said that keeping God's commandments would be Israel's wisdom, and other nations would think they were a wise and understanding people. In **verses 25-31**, God is talking about a future time Israel would be scattered among the peoples because of their disobedience and they would be few in number. But from there (scattered in the nations), they would seek the Lord and find Him when they searched for Him with all of their hearts and souls. *"When you father children and children's children, and have grown old in the land, **IF you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, so as to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell."** But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him, IF you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey His voice. For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them." God is telling them what He's going to do if they commit adultery by worshipping idols. **He's going to move them from the land of Israel and scatter them among the pagan nations.** He does this because if we want paganism, He will give us what we want, and He will let us see what an error it is.*

He confirms this again in **Deuteronomy 28:64** *"And **the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for***

the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.” We see the curses coming upon the generations after those who commit these heinous acts.

Read 1 Kings 14. God sent the prophet Abijah to speak to Jeroboam, the king of Israel. In **1 Kings 14:15-16**, God punished Israel for the sins of Jeroboam and for the sins they committed under his leadership. God has Abijah tell this to Jeroboam’s (the king’s) wife. *“The Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and **root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim**, provoking the Lord to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.”* God brought punishment against Israel for Jeroboam’s sin and leadership because he kept the high places and the people worshipped Asheroth. The curses came upon Israel for their sins. **The problem was idolatry. It’s exactly what God told them in Deuteronomy 28. They didn’t believe Him.** This is what Paul is talking about when he says *“they were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand fast through faith (believe and obey). So do not become proud, but fear.”*

Psalm 44 is a cry to God for help: *“You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have **scattered us among the nations.**”* David knew that Israel had been scattered for their sins. David also knew there was a remnant that had not been false to His covenant.

Psalm 106:24-27 *“Then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise. They murmured in their tents, and **did not obey the voice of the Lord.** Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them that he would make them fall in the wilderness, and that He would cast their seed among the nations and **scatter them in the lands.**”* David is discussing the fact that many people fell in the wilderness due to rebellion and disobedience and the generations after them were scattered to the nations.

Jeremiah 9:13-16 *“And the Lord says: **“Because they have forsaken My Law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”*** The reason for the scattering was that they forsake (disobeyed, broke) His Law. God considers this evil.

In **Jeremiah 13**, God tells Jeremiah what He’s going to do to Judah because of their disobedience. **Verses 8-11** say, *“Then the word of the Lord came to me: **“Thus says the Lord: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.”*** And God tells Jeremiah what He’s going to do to them in **verses 24-25**: *“**I will scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert. This is your lot, the portion I have measured out to you, declares the Lord, because you have forgotten me and trusted in lies.**”* Because they forgot God’s commandments and believed the enemy, He told them He was going to scatter them.

Read Jeremiah 18:1-12. In **verses 11-12** God tells Jeremiah what He’s going to do to the house of Israel. *“Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: **‘Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, everyone from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’** But they say, **‘That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’**”* In **verse 17**, God says He’s going to scatter them: *“**Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity.**”* God says He’s going to scatter them because they would not turn from their evil ways, their stubbornness and their deeds. He’s going to give them over to their enemies. God is saying deeds matter, because He wants us to obey Him.

Read Ezekiel 5. God was against the abominations of Judah, and He explained the judgements He would execute on them, which included scattering. In **verses 5-12**, God tells Ezekiel what He’s going to do to Jerusalem: *“Thus says the Lord God: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her. And **she has rebelled against my rules by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries all around her; for they have rejected my rules and have not walked in My statutes.** Therefore thus says the Lord God: **“Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in my statutes or obeyed my rules, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you, therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations. And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again. Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your***

midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds.” God scattered His people all throughout the earth because they rebelled and disobeyed.

Read Ezekiel 12. God told Jeremiah what would happen to the rebellious house of Judah (the southern kingdom) and Jerusalem. **Verses 15-16** *“And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I **disperse them among the nations and scatter them among the countries.** But I will let a few of them escape from the sword, from famine and pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the nations where they go, and may know that I am the Lord.”* God would let a few people escape Nebuchadnezzar’s siege of Jerusalem and they would go tell the nations about the abominations of Israel. And in **verse 20**, He says He’s going to lay the city waste and it would become a desolation. He would even destroy the Temple. And that’s exactly what happened because God’s Word does not return to Him void.

Read Ezekiel 20. This chapter is about Israel’s continuing rebellion even though God was bringing the curses upon them. They still didn’t want to do His commandments. **Verses 15-16** *“Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I **would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the countries, because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers’ idols.**”* He scattered the people for a reason: because they didn’t obey His rules and rejected His statutes and didn’t keep His Sabbaths. This should show us how important the Sabbath is to God.

Read Ezekiel 22. This chapter is about Israel’s shedding of blood, sexual immorality, idolatry and false prophecies. *“I **will scatter you among the nations and disperse you through the countries, and I will consume your uncleanness out of you. And you shall be profaned by your own doing in the sight of the nations, and you shall know that I am the Lord.**”* Because of the sins of Israel, God would scatter them to the nations.

God tells Israel again and again that **He will scatter them among the nations IF they rebel against Him and disobey His commandments. This is a consequence/curse due to disobedience. It is a Law within the Torah that sin brings curses, death and scattering. . God would not allow the promised land to be defiled by their sin.** This is what we need to realize now. Because of their sin Israel was and we are now scattered among the nations. Look at a map. Israel was supposed to be light to the nations and God was going to drive their enemies out ahead of them. Israel would almost cover the entire map if they would have kept God’s commandments. But because of their rebellion, we have nations of paganism: Hinduism, Buddhism, Catholicism and many other religions. These are pagan religions. We are now scattered to the nations and haven’t been regathered because we have not sought God with all of our hearts and turned back to Him. Yeshua came to teach us this—how to walk in His ways and not the ways of man, but we continue to rebel against Him and disobey His commandments **John 3:36** says *“Those who believe in the Son will have eternal life, but those who do not obey the Son the wrath of God remains on them.”* Yeshua taught us to keep God’s commandments. The wrath of God on sin is the curse. **Yeshua came to redeem us from the curse, not just individually, but collectively.** He came to redeem us out of sin. **This is a collective promise of the New Covenant (we will learn about these collective promises).**

Hebrews 8: 7-8 says, *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For **He finds fault with them** when He says: ‘Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.’”* The writer of Hebrews tells us that the first covenant had a fault. What was the fault? Was it the covenant? Was it God? No! Was it His Torah? No! God is perfect, His Torah (instructions) are perfect. The problem was the people! They were rebellious and disobedient. They wanted to follow other men rather than following their Lord, the Messiah, even then. Then the writer quotes **Jeremiah 31:31-45**, which describe the New Covenant. God gave a New Covenant because of His grace and mercy. Because despite Israel’s disobedience and rebellion, He made a covenant that there would always be a remnant of His people, the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15) and the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12, Genesis 17, Galatians 3:29). Those in covenant with God obey Him and do His will. But the lawless, the rebellious are not His. **1 John 3** makes this very clear. Today, men are judging God’s Law saying that the problem was *“that old Law”*, but they don’t understand the Scriptures. They don’t understand the New Covenant.

**NOW WE KNOW THE REASON FOR THE NEW COVENANT. REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE.
WE HAVE A LAW THAT TEACHES US WHAT TO OBEY AND HOW TO LIVE.
IF WE ARE GOD’S PEOPLE, WE WILL LIVE BY IT.**

NOW WE’RE GOING TO LOOK AT GOD’S PROMISE OF “THE REGATHERING”

Even though God scattered Israel, He will regather them. He makes this promises in several places in the Old Testament. God gives a prophecy about the scattering **BEFORE** He took them into the promised land. God told

Israel He would remove them from the land for rebelling and disobeying His instructions. **But He gives a future promise that He will regather them from the nations where they've been scattered to Israel, the land He promised to Abraham's seed. Those who repent and return to Him will come back to the land because they are the nation of Israel, those who obey His Torah and follow Yeshua.**

The first time we see the promise of the regathering is in **Deuteronomy 4:29-31**. "***But from there (the scattering to the nations) you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him, IF you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey His voice. For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.***" He speaks a prophecy about **the last days of the regathering from the scattering**. How do we know this? Because it says the "latter days." The Hebrew word is "aharit", and it means "end, latter time/days, latter state." (his same word "aharit" is used in **Numbers 24** where God tells Balaam what Israel will do in the latter days.) **When they have been scattered in the LATTER DAYS, they will return to Him and OBEY Him. They (we are the ones living in the latter days—it's a future promise) will RETURN TO THE COVENANT! He would NOT forget the covenant with their fathers that He swore to them (this is a good indicator that His covenant is still in force).** He is talking about the covenants He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which are part of the New Covenant and His Kingdom, because they are building blocks to the New Covenant and New Kingdom. **All of these covenants work together.** He's talking about Abraham's seed. He promised Abraham that He would make his seed a great nation and that He would give them the land eternally. His Word is eternal, and his promises and covenants are eternal.

In **Deuteronomy 30**, we see another confirmation about what God promises He will do with Israel in the last days. "***And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey His voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and He will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will take you. And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. And the Lord your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments that I command you today. The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as He took delight in your fathers, when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.***" God knew the people would disobey Him. Returning to God means returning to His ways, which are His commandments. The New Testament teaches this rather than contradicting the Old Testament. Repentance means turning back to His ways. This is why John the Baptist, Yeshua and the disciples preached a gospel of repenting and returning to God, to live according to His Torah. They primarily preached to the people of Israel, and Gentiles came to hear the gospel message too.

Zechariah 2:6-11 "***Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the Lord. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the Lord. Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: 'Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.'***" Yeshua Himself is talking. He said that in a time very soon many nations will join themselves to Him. This is describing what will happen when He returns.

In **Jeremiah 16**, God tells Jeremiah not to mourn or grieve for the people, because He took His peace and steadfast love and mercy away from them. Many people in the church today teach "God loves you no matter what", "His mercy and grace are with you no matter what", and "His grace will never run out." These things aren't true. God tells us otherwise in His Word. Look at Nadab and Abihu or Ananias and Saphira. God told Jeremiah to tell the people that because of their fathers' sins, they would be exiled from the land. God's curses are individual and collective. But He talks about the future in **verses 14-15**, "***Therefore behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.***"

Do you see that the land that God promised to Abraham's seed is the land we will be returning to (the land of Israel)?

Jeremiah 31:7 says, "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'" God is speaking through Jeremiah, saying that He will gather Israel again. He will be a shepherd to them.

Nehemiah is a book about the return of the exile to Judeah from Babylonian captivity. Why was Judah taken captive? Because they rebelled against God and disobeyed His Torah (instructions). Nehemiah reminded God about His promise to gather Israel after He'd scattered them. In **Nehemiah 1:8** he says, "Remember the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, '**IF you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but IF you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make My name dwell there.**'" To those who were disobedient and rebellious (unfaithful), God would scatter them. But those who return to Him and keep His commandments, He will regather to Israel.

Zechariah 9-10 is about the coming King of Zion and the restoration for Judah and Israel. This is a fulfillment of the New Covenant. **Zechariah 10:6** says, "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back (from the scattering) because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them." **Verses 8-9** say, "I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before. **Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return.**" God NEVER says He divorces Israel to the point of leaving them. Israel is God's people, not necessarily the nation of Israel today. He is compassionate to His people. He gives them His Holy Spirit so they return to Him.

The Bible says that God scattered Israel because why? They disobeyed His commandments and violated His covenant. But one of the promises of the New Covenant is that He will regather us. Now do you see why Yeshua said He was sent ONLY for the lost sheep of Israel in **Matthew 15:24**? He came for those who had been scattered who were from the 12 tribes of Israel and those who would become Israel, the Gentiles who would be grafted in by faith in the Messiah. Because Israel disobeyed, Yeshua had to come to teach us how to live again, obeying the Father and His Law. He did this perfectly so we could learn how to live again.

This is why it's so important we study the Word of God diligently. If we aren't studied, we will believe false doctrines. Anyone who is teaching "replacement theology" (the idea that God replaces Israel with a Gentile church) doesn't understand the Bible or God's covenants. **The Bible doesn't say ANYWHERE that the New Covenant was given to a Gentile (pagan) church that replaced Israel, OR that we could be lawless and be in Covenant with Him. This doctrine rampant in the church. It's a doctrine of demons and a myth.** Satan wants to convince Christians that they don't have to keep God's Laws because He doesn't want them in the Kingdom. Just like he didn't want Adam and Eve in the garden.

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THE NEW COVENANT IS:

These verses detail the New Covenant and some of its promises. There are other verses that reference the New Covenant, but I want to give you the main ones.

Ezekiel 11:14-21 "And the word of the LORD came to me: 'Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession. Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: **I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.**' And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. **And I will give them one (collective) heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.** But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD." This is different than the first covenant, because God didn't promise to give Israel a collective heart. In the New Covenant the Holy Spirit will be put within us so that we will walk in the Father's ways.

In Ezekiel 36:16-38, God is talking to Ezekiel about Israel who has been scattered to the nations: *“The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, ‘These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land.’ But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel. Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it. Thus says the Lord God: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock. Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.” This sounds a lot like the covenant God made with Abraham. He set a part a people who would inherit the land. It was an ETERNAL promise. The purpose of the Mosaic Covenant was for God to set apart His people so the world would think they were wise and so they would be a light to the nations. That is still in place, but the New Covenant has a new purpose because of the disobedience of Israel in the Old Covenant. There are new promises in this New Covenant. One of the purposes of the New Covenant is for God to vindicate His Holy Name because Israel had defiled it in defiling His commandments.*

Jeremiah 31:31-40 *“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 by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For THIS is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My Law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD of hosts is his name. “If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus says the LORD: ‘If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel or all that they have done, declares the LORD.’ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever.” Israel was not cast off and replaced by the Gentiles. The New Covenant was not given to the Gentiles, although it is for the Gentiles also **IF** they decide to give their lives to Yeshua and follow Him. It is a conditional covenant as well. It is a covenant of faith and a blood covenant, like the Old Covenant, but with a new High Priest and the Lamb that was offered to inaugurate it was the Messiah. **It is the covenant that gives God His final people, the bride of Messiah, His holy nation. The Law that God puts within the people is the covenant He made with Israel at Sinai.***

Jeremiah 32:36-44 “Now therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’: Behold, **I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.** “For thus says the Lord: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for **I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.**” We see the New Covenant promises being repeated. Although God drove our ancestors into countries because of His anger and wrath, He will bring us back to Israel and make us dwell in safety. He talks about the everlasting covenant that He will not turn away in doing good to us. We will fear Him and not turn away from Him. He will rejoice in doing good to us, just as He rejoiced in pouring his anger and wrath out on our ancestors. He will return the land to those He gave it to.

Yeshua sent the Holy Spirit to write God’s Law on our minds and hearts in the New Covenant. But this doesn’t mean we obey a different Torah or Law or that we don’t have a Law. We don’t have some new “spiritual” law given by the Holy Spirit that is contrary to God’s Law. This would be impossible because the Holy Spirit is God! **God has one Law because He is One according to Deuteronomy 6:4.** There are differences in the covenant God gave to Israel on Mt. Sinai and the New Covenant, but that doesn’t mean the Law changes, because the Law is an eternal covenant. Each of His 7 covenants is an eternal covenant.

Micah 4:1-8 “It shall come to pass in the latter days that **the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in his paths.’** For **out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.** He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and **they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.** For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but **we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. The Lord Shall Rescue Zion.** ‘In that day, declares the Lord, **I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore.** And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, **the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.**” In the Millennial Kingdom Mount Zion will be the highest mountain in the world! The peoples of every nation will flow to His house to learn His ways and walk in His paths. We will have a covenant of peace for 1,000 years. We will have no fear. The afflicted and the lame will be in His Kingdom. God’s people become His people forever when the New Covenant is completely fulfilled. He will restore the city of Jerusalem forever. These are promises of the New Covenant!

Micah 5:7-15 “Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the Lord, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man. And **the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver. Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off.** And in that day, declares the Lord, **I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes; and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities.** And in anger and wrath **I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.**” God promises to destroy ALL people doing sorcery, fortune telling and idolatry. He’s going to execute collective vengeance on the nations that did not obey the Torah. He’s going to lift up our hands over the hands of our adversaries and cut off our enemies. **This sound a lot like the covenant He made with Abraham and Israel, because all things haven’t yet been fulfilled.**

Joel 2 describes the coming of the Day of the Lord—that is the time we will be regathered. **Verses 24-32** say **“I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And My people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.”** We will never be put to shame again. He’s going to pour out His Spirit on everyone. Everyone who calls on His name will be saved.

Isaiah 28 talks about Yeshua’s coming. **Verses 5-6** say, **“In that day the Lord of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, and a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.”** **Verses 16-18** say, **“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: Whoever believes will not be in haste. And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter. Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol (the grave) will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it.”**

Isaiah 54 talks about the future glory of Zion. In verse 3, God says Jerusalem (Yeshua’s Kingdom) will spread out, dispossess nations, and settle in their desolate cities. In verse 6 it says that **the Lord will call us back (to Jerusalem) and it will be established in righteousness.** And in verse 11, it says that **He will rebuild Jerusalem.** These are promises of the New Covenant.

We’ve looked at the problems in the first covenant: the people’s rebellion and disobedience against God. Would Yeshua come to seal a New Covenant that allows us to disobey? Did He disobey the Father? No. He obeyed the Father’s commandments perfectly. He filled the Law up to its complete meaning and taught how to keep it. He told us to follow Him. He wanted us to follow Him in obedience and submission to the Father. He told us that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. In **John 15:10** He said, **“IF you keep My commandments, (then) you will abide in My love.”** Those who are New Covenant believers will do what Yeshua commanded us to do. It will take time to learn, but they will learn and be doers of the Word.

Our ancestors disobeyed so He came to show us we could keep the commandments (just as God said in Deuteronomy 30). He came to teach us and show us and then He sent the Holy Spirit so the Law could be written on our minds and in our hearts and cause us to obey God’s statutes and rules, the ones given in the old covenant.

Scripture doesn’t tell us anywhere that obedience isn’t required in the New Covenant. In fact, it says just the opposite. It’s mediated by someone who’s better—Yeshua, the Messiah, God, the Son of God who kept the Law perfectly and commanded us to follow Him and obey Him and His commandments. He had to keep the Torah perfectly to be that mediator. He was without spot or blemish. It also has better promises. **But the purpose of the New Covenant is to bring us back into obedience to the first covenant, the commandments of God. The New Covenant restores us obedience to the Mosaic Covenant, restoring us to God. The covenant came from God through a mediator, Moses, but we have a covenant with a better Mediator, Yeshua. He gave us the Mosaic covenant as an eternal covenant and He gives us Yeshua as the bridge to restore us to the Father and the Holy Spirit to restore us to obedience. We see all three persons in the Godhead and their roles in the covenants!**

Hebrews mentions these promises of the New Covenant and describes them as “better.” Hebrews 8:8 says, **“But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.** The writer of Hebrews understood these were two distinct covenants. God gave the details of the New Covenant in the Old Testament. Israel knew He was going to give them a New Covenant, but they didn’t know when. The writer of Hebrews knew the Tanakh (Old Testament) and said it was enacted on better promises. He knew the covenants and promises of the covenants with Noah, Abraham, Israel (Moses), Aaron, Phineas and David. In **Ephesians 2:12**, Paul says this to the Gentiles who had come to faith in Yeshua **“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”** He is telling them that in Yeshua they are now part of Israel and they are the children of the covenants

of promise. They now have hope and they now have God. **What covenants is he talking about? The covenant with Abraham, with Israel, with Aaron, with Phinehas and with David, and the New Covenant.**

THE PROMISES OF THE NEW COVENANT HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANT. LET'S LOOK AT ALL OF THE "BETTER" PROMISES OF THE NEW COVENANT:

- 1) Although we've been scattered among the nations, God will gather us and put us in the land of Israel (Ezekiel 11:17). He will restore us to the land that He promised to Abraham's seed (Galatians 3:19). **This is collective restoration/redemption of the people to the land.**
- 2) He will join the two sticks together-the kingdoms of Judah and Israel (Joseph, Ephraim), , making us one nation and unifying the nation of Israel under one King, Yeshua (Ezekiel 37:15-22). **This is the collective restoration of the nation of Israel, God's Kingdom of priests.**
- 3) Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13). **This is the collective harvesting of the remnant.**
- 4) He will redeem us from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2-3). **This is the collective restoration of His people.**
- 5) We will be established in righteousness and not be oppressed and not fear (Isaiah 54:14). **This is the collective restoration of His people.**
- 6) We will remove detestable things and abominations from the land of Israel (Ezekiel 11:18). **This is the collective cleansing which we will participate in.**
- 7) We will no longer practice idolatry, do detestable things or sin, defiling ourselves. He will save us out of our dwelling places and cleanse us so we will be His people (Ezekiel 37:23). **This is collective cleansing of sin.**
- 8) He will give us one heart. He will put a new spirit within us, take the stony hearts of our bodies and gives us hearts of flesh so that we will walk in His statutes (Ezekiel 11:19). We'll be the ONE NEW MAN **This is the collective one new heart.**
- 9) He will sprinkle clean water on us and cleanse us from all uncleanness, iniquities and idolatry (Ezekiel 36:25, 33). **This is the collective cleansing.**
- 10) He will pour His Spirit out on all flesh (Joel 2:28). **This is the collective giving/power of the Holy Spirit.**
- 11) He will put His Holy Spirit within us (Ezekiel 11:19, 36:27). **This is the collective filling of the Holy Spirit.**
- 12) He will forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more (Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:12). **This is collective redemption.**
- 13) He will remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh so we will walk in His statutes, keep His rules and obey them (Ezekiel 11:19, 36:27). **This is collective spiritual circumcision.**
- 14) He will put His Law within us and write in on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33, 2 Corinthians 3:3, Hebrews 8:10). **This is collective obedience to His Law.**
- 15) No one will have to teach another. We will all know Him (Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:11). **This is collective restoration of the knowledge of God and His ways.**
- 16) We will be His people and He will be our God (Ezekiel 37:27). **This is the collective restoration of our national identity.**
- 17) We will be called by new names that the Lord will give (Isaiah 62:2). **This is the restoration of our individual identity.**
- 18) With everlasting love He will have compassion on us. He will not be angry with us or rebuke us (Isaiah 54:8-9) **This is His collective compassion for us.**
- 19) The nations will know that He is the Lord (Ezekiel 36:23, 37:28). **This is the restoration of knowledge that He is Lord.**
- 20) He will vindicate the holiness of His great name (Ezekiel 36:23). **He will be restored as the God of the earth.**
- 21) He will pass judgment on the nations that were/are enemies (Psalm 110:5-6, Jeremiah 25:31, Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:27-29, 2 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 18-19). **This is collective judgment.**
- 22) He will return to Jerusalem with mercies (Zechariah 1:17) and will establish Jerusalem in righteousness (Exodus 15:17, 2 Chronicles 6:6, Isaiah 62:7, Zechariah 2:12) and it will be safely inhabited (Zechariah 14:11). **This is the collective restoration of God's city with His name on it to Him.**
- 23) David will be our prince forever (Ezekiel 37:24-25). **This is the restoration of the kingly line of Israel. David will receive a blessing for ruling the Kingdom by the Torah and pursuing God's heart.**
- 24) Yeshua will be our King (Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 14:9) and there will be no end to His government or throne (Psalm 89:3-4, Isaiah 9:7)
- 25) We will have one shepherd, Yeshua, who will lead us by the Springs of water and guide us (Zechariah 13:1, Ezekiel 37:24, Isaiah 49:12). **This is the restoration of our King and leader.**
- 26) The Law will go out of Zion. Everyone will keep the Sabbath and the Feasts of the Lord. **This is the collective restoration to God's Law, will, and worship at His appointed times.**

- 27) He will restore the judges and counselors of Israel as at first who will rule with justice and righteousness (Daniel 7:27, Isaiah 1:26-27, 33:5-6, 54:14, 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 5:10, 20:4-6) and the Gentiles will see our righteousness (Isaiah 62:1-2). **This is the collective restoration of God's order for His Kingdom.**
- 28) Everyone left of the nations who came against Jerusalem will go up to it from year to year to worship the King and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16). If they don't come up to worship, God will send a plague on their land (Zechariah 14:17-19). **This is the restoration of collective worship.**
- 29) God will see us as a crown of beauty, take delight in us, and rejoice over us (Isaiah 62:3-4). **This is the restoration of God's steadfast love for us.**
- 30) All our children will be taught of Him, and they will have great peace (Isaiah 54:13). **This is the restoration of generational obedience.**
- 31) God will make a covenant of peace with us. There will be no war. (Ezekiel 37:26, Isaiah 2:4, 54:10, Micah 4:3). **This is the collective restoration to peace.**
- 32) Nations will beat their instruments of war into instruments of farming/harvesting (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). **This is the restoration of mankind having dominion over the earth and working the land.**
- 33) He will make all His mountains a way, and His highways shall be exalted (Isaiah 49:11). **This is the restoration of the exaltation of the God of Israel.**
- 34) The cities of Israel shall be inhabited and the waste places (ancient ruins) shall be rebuilt (Ezekiel 36:10, Isaiah 58:12, 61:4). **This is the collective rebuilding and restoration of Israel, the land.**
- 35) The land will become like the Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 36:35). **This is collective restoration of the land.**
- 36) We will increase. The cities will be filled with flocks of people. **This is the restorative filling of the earth with God's people.**
- 37) The mountain of the Lord (Zion, Jerusalem) will be established as the highest mountain and the entire city will be sacred to the Lord (Isaiah 2:2). **This is the collective restoration of Jerusalem.**
- 38) He will set His sanctuary in the midst of us for evermore. His tabernacle will be with us (Ezekiel 37:26). **This is collective restoration of the Temple, God's place of worship.**
- 39) The Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem (Zechariah 1:16) and the priesthood will be reestablished (Ezekiel 40-48). **This is collective restoration of God's place of worship, His priesthood and how He is to be worshipped.**
- 40) He will make our crops abundant and we will have no famine (Ezekiel 36:29). **This is collective abundance.**
- 41) We will not hunger or thirst, the sun will not smite us (Isaiah 49:10). **This is restoration of abundance for His people.**
- 42) We will feed in the ways and our pastures will be in all high places (Isaiah 49:9). **This is restoration of abundance for His people.**
- 43) Strangers will join with us and cleave to us (Isaiah 14:1). **This is the restoration of collective fruitfulness/dominion.**
- 44) We will spread out throughout the world and possess the nations (Psalm 2:8, Isaiah 14:1). **This is the restoration of collective fruitfulness/dominion.**
- 45) He will make the outcasts the remnant (Micah 4:7). **This is collective comforting/healing/restoration.**
- 46) Terror will not come near us, no weapon formed against us will prosper and every tongue that rises against us in judgement we shall condemn (Isaiah 54:14,17). **This is collective protection from our enemies and defeat of them .**
- 47) We will have victory over our enemies and they will be cut off (Micah 5:9). **This is collective victory over our enemies.**
- 48) We will take into captivity those that held us in captivity and rule over them (Isaiah 14:2). **This is collective victory over our enemies.**
- 49) He will contend with those who contend with us and feed our oppressors with their own flesh and they will be drunk with their own blood (Isaiah 49:25-26). **This is collective victory over our enemies.**
- 50) We will never again be put to shame (Isaiah 45:17, 49:23, 54:4, Joel 2:26-27, Romans 10:11, 1 Peter 2:6). **This is collective restoration of God's people being honored.**
- 51) We will refute every tongue that rises against us in judgement. **This is collective judgment on our enemies.**
- 52) The heathen will know that He sanctifies Israel (Ezekiel 37:28). **This is collective judgement on our enemies.**
- 53) Kings and queens will bow with their faces to the earth and lick up the dust of our feet (Isaiah 49:23). **This is collective judgement on our enemies.**
- 54) He will restore the years that the plagues and armies He sent among us destroyed (Joel 2:25) **This is collective restoration of time.**
- 55) We will rule and reign with Yeshua for 1,000 years (Revelation . **This is collective dominion.**
- 56) After the Millennial reign, the New Jerusalem (heavenly) will come to the new earth where we will live (Revelation 21:10). **This is the restoration of the earth to the garden of Eden.**

57) We will have eternal life. **This is collective restoration to the way we were created—living with God eternally.**

WOW! These are the most wonderful promises! And they are not the same promises of the Old Covenant, which means this truly is a NEW COVENANT! I never thought there were this many promises, and there are even more. There are many more verses (such as the ones that describe the New Covenant) with more promises. You may find more promises as you study the Bible, but I wanted us to have idea of the promises God give us in the New Covenant. **Because man sinned (broke God's Law), everything changed, BUT GOD will restore EVERYTHING! This is the gospel—that God restores ALL THINGS through the SON, YESHUA HAMASHIACH, THE MESSIAH! But the restoration is ONLY for those that are His followers, those who obey and conquer sin and the enemy.** Yeshua makes this clear in His warnings and praises to the 7 assemblies that are about to go through the tribulation in **Revelation 2-3**. He says, *“to him who conquers, I will...”* and gives the promises to them. This means that we have to conquer sin, the world and death, as He conquered. We can **ONLY** do this only with the help of the Holy Spirit. **We cannot trust in horses, chariots, men, world leaders, local leaders, friends, family, pastors, rabbis or anyone except Yeshua!**

Was the Law the curse? No! The Torah had a performance clause about disobedience. If Israel did not obey, they would be cursed, but if they did obey, they would be blessed. This is found in Deuteronomy 27-28. **Because most of Israel disobeyed, they experienced the curses of Deuteronomy 27-28, and those curses continued to be passed down to the generations because the people didn't return to God. Only a few of them did.** They are passed down to us because of the disobedience of our forefathers. **Romans 6:23** says, *“The wages of sin is death”*, just as God promised death as an end result to those who continued in rebellion and disobedience. **So we were redeemed from the curse of BREAKING THE LAW by YESHUA. Let's talk about what this doesn't mean:** (1) This doesn't just mean we're redeemed ONLY from our past sins. It means we're redeemed from living sinful lives. We have the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to overcome! (2) It doesn't mean we don't have to keep the law. **The New Covenant doesn't make us lawless. It restores us to obeying the Law as God commanded His holy, set apart people. If we are holy and set apart, we will do what holy and set apart people do. One of the New Covenant promises is that we will also collectively be redeemed from the curse that sin has had upon us due to the generations before us sinning!**

LIVING IN COVENANT:

Much of the New Testament is warnings about living in sin (breaking the Law). Most people don't see this or teach it because they believe we are a lawless Gentile church, and other believe that if we're following Judaism, we're following the Messiah because He was Jewish. But He wasn't in the religion of Judaism. **He was from the tribe of Judah and obedient to Torah. This is what made Him a Jew. Yeshua DID NOT come to make us lawless OR to follow the traditions of men in Judaism, but to restore us to obedience of the Law of God! This is what the New Covenant is, the restoration of our relationship with God and the collective restoration of God's people. God restores ALL THINGS in the New Covenant.**

Paul did not teach lawlessness, even though many people twist his writings, just as they do the other Scriptures. Peter warned us of this in **2 Peter 3**. In **verse 11**, he says, *“Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God.”* In **verse 14**, he warns us, *“Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”* **He is encouraging us to live holy, godly lives SO THAT we WILL BE FOUND without spot of blemish. We can't do this without keeping the commandments, because we don't have a different standard than Yeshua.** In **verses 15-18**, he says, *“Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Peter was warning us that if we listened to teachers who taught lawlessness, we would lose our stability, our salvation. **He actually told us to TAKE CARE that we were NOT carried away with ERROR. Why? Because lawlessness is error. It's from Satan.** God is a God of order and rules. His Kingdom has to be ruled by a Law, and if we want to be in His Kingdom, we will live like it now. This is how we will be prepared. The way we do the Father's will is obeying. Peter encouraged us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Yeshua. This means we study diligently to find out how Yeshua lived, what He did, what He said and taught, we study the rest of the Scriptures to see what they teach, and we follow Him. This is what it means to be a disciple. And following Him comes at a cost.

If we do this, we have a great promise from Yeshua. In **Matthew 5:10-12** He said, *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you*

and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." We will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven! We have a great reward!

Yeshua also warned us of the cost of following Him in John 16:1-4: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you." He also encourage the assembly in Smyrna, one of the two assemblies He did not rebuke but praised: "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.**" We may have to pay the cost of losing our lives, but we will be raised in the resurrection and be with Him and the Father for eternity! **Revelation 2:10.**

We have deliverance/salvation through Yeshua because of God's grace. But we obey the Law, not to earn salvation, but BECAUSE we love God, and because He loved us enough to deliver and save us from sin! **It's not FOR salvation, it's a response TO salvation.** We know the definition of loving God is that "we keep His commandments and they are not burdensome." **1 John 5:3.** Another reason we keep His Law is to declare He is God and we are not. Another reason is because we are pursuing God's heart, and His desire is that we live in relationship with Him. His Word is clear that those who continually disobey are NOT in covenant with Him. We know that God has a standard, His Law, and we aim to meet His standard. God is a perfect, holy God. He wants people who pursue His will. We understand that His Law is the Law of love and liberty. He gave us His Torah to protect us and provide for us. He wanted to demonstrate that His people would be the most wise and honored on the earth.

Do you now see how the enemy confuses people with doctrines of demons that God permits lawlessness? Yeshua redeems us from the curse of sin individually but in the New Covenant we are promised a collective redemption as well. All of the curses our sins, collectively, will be lifted when ALL THINGS are accomplished. All things weren't accomplished at the cross. Our sin was defeated. The penalty was paid for sin for all times. This is what Yeshua meant when He said, "It is finished." He finished the work He came to do the first time. But in **Revelation 21:5,** He says "Behold I am making all things new", so **THIS is when ALL IS ACCOMPLISHED** He hasn't come the second time, **which means everything hasn't been accomplished. All Old Testament and New Testament prophecies haven't been fulfilled. This won't happen until the end of the Millennial Reign. This is when the New Covenant will be fulfilled. It will be accomplished on the new earth!**

Revelation 21:1-7 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for **the first heaven(s) and the first earth had passed away,** and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.**' And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, **I am making all things new.**' Also He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' And He said to me, '**It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.**'" **This verse says something very important. The one who conquers will be in the final promised land, the Kingdom. The one who conquers what? Sin and Satan.**

Revelation 12:11 says, "And they have **conquered him** by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony,** for they loved not their lives even unto death." This verse describes God's people who conquer Satan. We conquer Satan by conquering sin. It's confirmed in **Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 14:12.** These verses describe the seed of the Woman (Israel) and the remnant/saints/people of God. They are "those who **keep the commandments of God AND have/hold to faith/testimony of Yeshua.**" This is how we conquer Satan. God gave His way and it conquers Satan. That's why Satan has been opposed to the Law of God for thousands of years. Because he doesn't want us walking in God's ways. **It began in the Garden.** Satan tempted Eve to break the commandment of the garden which was "you shall eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, you shall not eat." **Genesis 2:16-17.** He's been tempting people for over 6,000 years to break the Law of God, and he still is.

When we receive Yeshua as our Savior, God delivers us from our old sinful lives, just as He delivered Israel from Egypt. But we learn that Israel did NOT obey, and we're warned NOT to be like them. We're supposed to make Yeshua our Lord and follow Him in doing the Father's will. This is why we need to study the Word, so we

know how/what to obey. **God requires obedience rather than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).** This deliverance from our old life is not the final deliverance. **We will have a final deliverance when Yeshua returns.** This is why the Bible says, *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* It’s not saying we can save ourselves but it does say that we have work to do. We have to become sanctified so we can be pure ready for our bridegroom. This is what it means to have faith. Faith means we produce works. We have the choice to do that or continue doing the sinful things that we once did. **What we do (obedience) demonstrates if we love God. This is the testing in our wilderness.** The people of the Old Testament didn’t receive salvation from keeping the Law. They received it by faith. **God never changes how He gives salvation.** It is always through His Son The Bible says, *“the Lamb of God was slain before the foundation of the world.”* **Revelation 13:8. The Torah points to Yeshua, the prophets point to Yeshua, the Scriptures point to Him, and the New Testament confirms Him. But, it also confirms His teachings and the teachings of the Old Testament.**

We have Scriptures that support this:

Psalm 38:22 *“Make haste to help me, O Lord, my **salvation**.”* The Hebrew word for salvation is **“Yeshua”**, the name of God’s Son. **His name is ALL THROUGHOUT the Old Testament!** There are many Bible verses with the word **“salvation”**. **God is pointing us to His Son!**

Psalm 68:19 *“The God who is our **salvation** (Yeshua).”* David understood that the God of Israel, Yeshua, was his salvation. It wasn’t in his keeping of the Law, but He kept it because He loved God and pursued His heart, because he was faithful.

Psalm 79:9 *“Help us, O God of our **salvation** (Yeshua), for the glory of Your name; and deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name’s sake.”* David understood that the One who was his salvation and deliverer was Yeshua.

The Old Testament and New Testament teaches us who was faithful and who was not. The faithful/righteous ones were the ones who kept His commandments and obeyed Him: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb, Deborah, Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Samuel, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah, Ezra, Esther, Mordecai, David, Isaiah, the prophets. In **Luke 1:6**, it says Elizabeth and Zechariah *“were righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.”* **How is this possible? Many churches teach that we can’t keep the Law, but the righteous people did. If they did it, why can’t we?. It is a lie that we can’t. What did God say in Deuteronomy 30:11-14?** *“For this commandment that I command you today is **not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”*** God told us we COULD obey His Torah (all of the commandments). Who are you going to believe? God or man?

Saul and David are examples of two types of people: disobedient and obedient. Saul did not live by the Torah of God. He rebelled and disobeyed. God gave him commands about what to do in a particular situation and he kept part of the commandment, but not all. He disobeyed, so God took his kingship away from him, cursed him, and eventually allowed the Philistines to kill Saul because he went to a sorcerer (which was a violation of Torah). The wages for his disobedience was death. David, on the other hand, lived by the Torah of God and ruled his kingdom by it, was a faithful man and pursued God’s heart. He was tempted and had a fall with Bathsheba. But he repented and turned. **He didn’t continue in sin. However, God did NOT remove the consequences of His sin. He brought a curse upon his house. God gave David the curse in 2 Samuel 12:10-12** *“Now therefore **the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’”*** **All of these things happened because God’s Word is true. David repented quickly, and he was forgiven and was the greatest king of Israel!** During David’s rule is the **ONLY TIME** Israel was unified. This shows us that we can only be unified when we obey God’s Torah. God made an eternal covenant with David that his descendant would have the throne of Israel eternally. This descendant is Yeshua. **This is the Davidic covenant and another example that God’s covenants are eternal. Yeshua will be our eternal King!**

Once God gives us faith, He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey according to **Acts 5:32**. Because God’s covenants are eternal, the words He spoke in the Old Covenant are still active. One covenant does not invalidate the other. This is why Paul spends so much time talking to us about sin. How do we know what sin is? **The Old Covenant. THE TORAH.** Paul even says it in **Romans 7:7. The definition of sin doesn’t change throughout the entire Bible.** It is breaking God’s Law and the New Testament calls it lawlessness. Paul wanted us to obey the

Law and do the Father's will. He said in **Romans 3:31** "**Do we make void the Law through faith? God forbid! We establish it!**" The word establish means "to fix, to make stand." Does that sound like the Law has been done away with? **How can you make something stand that doesn't exist?**

And now because we understand the curses of the covenant, we understand what Yeshua came to redeem us from! Galatians 3:13-14 says, "**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**" The Law was NOT the curse! The curses of breaking the Law are listed in Deuteronomy 27-28 and the ultimate curse is death. Yeshua took the curse of death so we would not have to die the ultimate death. We see that God's Covenant with Abraham is fulfilled in the ones who are redeemed from the curse of the Law (the curse that is the result of breaking the Law) through Yeshua. The ones redeemed from the curse of the Law are Israel. This is God's set apart nation. Yeshua came to redeem us from living a sinful life, and **IF** we love Him and we love God, **THEN** we will keep His commandments, just as **1 John 5:3** says. **We're commanded to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.** Most Christians believe this, but if you tell them about the commandments, they say "That's been done away with at the cross" or they will acknowledge 9 of the 10 commandments but they will say "the Sabbath is for the Jews. That's a ceremonial law." **Really?** The Bible says this nowhere. **The 10 words (commandments) are His eternal covenant with Israel! If His Word is eternal, and His covenant is eternal, why have they been done away with? Yeshua came to restore us to our relationship with our heavenly Father that had been broken BECAUSE of sin (breaking the Law). He came to restore us to the Father's Torah.**

Yeshua said in **John 14:6** "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**" **Verses 23-24** "**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. Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words. And the word that you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent me**". So Yeshua's own words says that He didn't come to do His will, but the Father's. And He also says that those who do not keep His words don't love Him. **We know what the Father's will is—that we keep His commandments.** How do we know this? Because He told us. Yeshua said that the greatest commandment was "love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5) and love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:19)." He said all the commandments hung on these two things. In verse 5 it says, "**These words that I command you today shall be on your heart.**" **God's Words, God's commandments will be on our hearts IF we love Him with all of our hearts, souls and might.** So we know Yeshua didn't come to teach us something different than the Father's words. **Do you believe that Yeshua is the Word made flesh? If you do, is He not the Law made flesh also? If you believe He's the word made flesh, you have to believe He is the Torah (instructions) made flesh. You can't separate one from the other.**

John 15:10-11 "**IF you keep My commandments, (then) you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**" He said in **Luke 14:27**, "**Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.**" In **John 12:26**, He said "**IF anyone serves me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.**" Yeshua tells us what it means to follow Him. **He came to do His Father's will (not men's) and we're supposed to follow Him in doing that. He will not accept people in His Kingdom who do not follow Him.**

Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 10:1-13** that the story of Israel is for our instruction. They were an example to us of disobedience, and Paul is warning us **NOT** to disobey. "**No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**" If we are tempted with sin (breaking the Law), we are supposed to overcome it. **Verse 1-6** "**For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.**" Paul discusses what was going on with Israel and he said these things were examples for us so we wouldn't rebel and disobey.

Sin (lawlessness, iniquity) is breaking the Law of God. **1 John 3:4** describes sin as "lawlessness." Sin is the transgression of the Law. We also need to pay attention to what Paul says about the Rock they drank from—it was Christ. Why? Because **1 Peter 1:19-20** says, "**He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.**" Israel was drinking from the living water, just as we are drinking from Him today. But with most of them God wasn't pleased. God isn't pleased with people who disobey and rebel, and Israel is an example for us today. So, if we're rebelling against His Torah, we are disobedient, and He is not pleased with us because rebelling against His Law is rebelling against Him. **If we are in Yeshua, we are**

Israel. Do we want to be like the Israel of our forefathers who rebelled and disobeyed (they were cut off), or do we want to be like the remnant Israel—those who kept His commandments? Now we know that a life of obedience is what keeps us grafted to the vine. This is what being “in Him” means. .

We must live out a life of obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit. This doesn’t happen all at once, and this is the message of Acts 15. Gentiles who come to faith in Yeshua need time to learn the Law so they can keep it. This was what the Jerusalem council decided in **Acts 15**. They told the Gentiles they had to keep 4 commandments from the Torah to be in the assembly with Yeshua’s people: (1) abstain from things polluted by idols, (2) sexual immorality (all of the instructions in Exodus 18), (3) animals that had been strangled, and (4) from blood. **The reason they wanted them to keep these laws from the Torah is because these were the things that would demonstrate that they were still pagans.** Verse 21 is the reasoning of the Holy Spirit for deciding on these 4 Torah instructions: *“For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues”*, meaning they would go to the synagogue every Sabbath and learn the Law of Moses, God’s Law given through Moses. People don’t understand this chapter because they don’t understand the Torah. The sexual immorality are the laws in Leviticus 18 from the Torah. They’re not new laws. **The Gentiles they had to keep these laws in order to be in the assembly.** The context is salvation, so their proof that they had repented and were following Yeshua to the best of their ability was keeping the 4 things the Jerusalem council gave them. And then they would learn God’s other laws. **If we did this today with new believers, how much different the church would look. As we study and learn, we obey. We have God’s grace and mercy because He knows we weren’t taught these things. But He expects us to learn them. This is why Paul said, “study to show yourself approved.”**

Malachi is a very important book. In the last prophecy given through Malachi to Israel before Yeshua came, God speaks through Malachi about the great and terrible Day of the Lord, Yeshua’s second coming. **It’s very important to understand that the context is the SECOND COMING.** God says in **chapter 4:4**, *“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.”* **God wanted His people to remember His Law up to the time of Yeshua’s second coming! This means He did NOT send Yeshua to abolish it.** This **ONE VERSE** debunks most Christian doctrine about the Law. **Yeshua agreed with Malachi in Matthew 5:17-20**, but Christians today are like Israel prior to His first coming. They don’t believe Him and they don’t believe God. And Paul is clear why the branches of Israel were removed from the tree in **Romans 11:20-22**, *“They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.”* This is the character of God, He doesn’t change. He is kind, but He is also severe to those who disobey. He gives us time to learn His laws, but if we learn them and reject them, we are rejecting Him, and He will reject us. Paul is warning us to believe God, fear Him and obey Him or we too will be cut off. We receive instruction from Israel. They were delivered, but God tested them to see if they would obey Him, and those that didn’t got cut off from Israel. This is the pattern God established for salvation, and it’s still true today.

Now that we know that Yeshua is the mediator of the New Covenant, let’s see what He says about who His people will be and who will be in the Kingdom:

In **Matthew 7:21-23**, Yeshua says, *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven (keeps His commandments). On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”* Yeshua is giving a warning—many people will stand before Yeshua and think they are going to rule and reign with Him in the Kingdom. **But He’s going to tell many people that He never knew them because they didn’t obey the Law of God, they didn’t do His Father’s will.** New Covenant believers are supposed to be learning the Scripture so we know what we’re supposed to do to prepare for the Kingdom. We are supposed to please Him by obeying Him.

In **Matthew 25**, Yeshua told a parable about the **10 virgins: 5 were wise and 5 were foolish.** The wise virgins had oil and extra oil to last until the bridegroom came. They were prepared. The foolish virgins didn’t prepare. **BUT ALL 10 THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO BE WITH THE BRIDEGROOM!** Those who had oil (who had prepared), got to go with the bridegroom and the others did not. This is just like Israel. **All of them thought they were God’s people, but only those who obeyed were His people.** Yeshua didn’t teach anything new. He was teaching what His Father had already taught us. He taught in parables much of the time, but **what He taught confirmed what God had already said.**

In Revelation, Yeshua tells John who the “woman” is from Genesis 3:15. In order to understand this, let’s go to **Genesis 3:15. God tells the serpent** *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* God says there will be two people groups: the seed of the woman, who would become Israel, God’s set apart, holy people, and the seed of Satan, the wicked and lawless. **In Revelation 12:14-16,** God gives the woman wings to go into the wilderness where He nourishes her, Satan sends a flood to sweep her away, but the earth helps the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river pouring from the mouth of the dragon (Satan). Then **verse 17** says, *“Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”* **The woman’s offspring is the offspring God talked about in Genesis 3:15. Yeshua defines what this offspring does: they keep the commandments of God (the Father) AND hold to the testimony of Yeshua.** They do two things. This shows us that it’s not just about believing. It’s about obeying. In order to be God’s people, we must obey.

We have another confirmation of this in Revelation 14. In **verses 6-11,** John sees 3 angels overhead and hears their messages. The 1st angel’s message is to fear God and give Him glory because the hour of His judgement has come. The 2nd angel’s message is that Babylon has fallen. The 3rd angel’s message is if anyone worships the beast or his image and receives his mark, he will drink the wine of God’s wrath. And in **verse 12,** John says, *“Here is a call for the endurance of the saints.”* Why would he say this? Because the revelation is that the antichrist will persecute and kill Yeshua’s followers. The saints/remnant/people of God are defined in the 2nd half of this verse: *“those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”* God’s people, those who follow Yeshua, are those who keep the commandments and keep their faith in Him to the end. **The blessings and the Kingdom are for those who obey and hold to their faith in Yeshua, even unto death.**

We need to study like Bereans. We’re called to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength. If we’re not spending time in His Word, how can we love Him? If we do this, we’re going to be seeking Him with all of our hearts. And we’re going to be studying His Torah and His entire Word. We’re going to seek ALL of Scripture. We’ve been deceived that we can ignore the Old Testament, but it’s our foundation and in it we have prophecies about Yeshua’s coming. **We need to ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and teach us the truth.** Yeshua said, *“He will guide you into all truth.”* **John 16:13.** And we will not be free until we know the truth. This is why many people in the church today are struggling. They are not free: diseases, demonic oppression, depression, anxiety and other diseases are plaguing Christians because they don’t know the curses of disobedience. They have believed a false gospel, and many are living worldly lives. And many Messianics believe rituals from Judaism. They are implementing the elemental spirits of the world without knowing. But we cannot be like Israel who wanted to be like the pagans, the nations around them instead of being set apart, holy. We have to do things God’s way, not men’s way.

As we end this study we’re going to look at God’s covenants. There are 7 covenants given by God in the Bible, and each covenant is a building block to His eternal Kingdom. The Bible says that ALL of these covenants are eternal. This is God’s nature. He can’t make a temporary covenant. This is nowhere in the Bible. However, there are covenants with no conditions, and there are covenants with conditions. We should know the differences in the covenants and what the covenants are to better understand God’s Word. **God is building His Kingdom on earth, because the Kingdom of heaven is coming to earth. His covenants are part of that house.**

Below is a chart of the 7 covenants. Below each covenant is an overview of the building block for the Kingdom of God. Each number has the name of the covenant, the Bible verses that describe the covenant, the description, whether the covenant was conditional or unconditional and the sign of the covenant if there is a sign.

GOD'S COVENANTS

	Name of Covenant	Verse(s)	Description	Conditional/Unconditional	Sign of the Covenant
1	Noahic Covenant	Genesis 9:11-13	God would never again send a flood to destroy the earth. It's an eternal covenant.	Unconditional. Man didn't have to do anything.	The rainbow
<p>This is a building block for the New Covenant, because the earth will be destroyed by fire before the New Covenant is complete. It had its first baptism by water, and the second will be by fire. This covenant points to our baptism by water and by spirit, and the restoration of the earth.</p> <p>THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					
2	Abrahamic Covenant	Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 15:1-21, Genesis 17	Go from the land of his fathers and God would give him a land to possess. He would make him a great nation. God will give the land of Canaan (Israel) to his offspring as an everlasting possession. It's an eternal covenant.	Conditional. God commanded Abraham to leave the country of His father and go to the land He would give him. He commanded him to walk before Him and be blameless. Genesis 17:1-2. He established this covenant with Abraham's offspring as an everlasting covenant. He established this covenant with Isaac and Jacob, Abraham's seed also. God changed Jacob's name to Israel and the covenant was through Israel, Jacob's offspring.	Circumcision. He commanded his descendants to be circumcised as a symbol of the covenant. Any male not circumcised was not in the covenant.
<p><i>"And in your all of the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed my voice."</i> Genesis 22:18</p> <p>We are the seed of Abraham if we follow Yeshua and we will inherit the promised land, Israel in the Millennial Kingdom.</p> <p>Purpose: To give the Kingdom a people and a land.</p> <p>THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					
3	Mosaic Covenant (Sinai/Horeb/Moab)	Exodus 19:5-8, Exodus 20, Exodus 24:8, Deuteronomy 29 (Covenant renewed)	God would bring Israel into the promised land and bless them as long as they were in covenant. The land was promised to Israel (God's chosen people) forever. Exodus 32:13. It is an everlasting covenant. Psalm 105:8-10	Conditional. God commanded Israel to keep His commandments in order to have the promises and blessings of the covenant. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 27,28. Obedience to the Law is the performance clause of the covenant.	(1)The Sabbath is A SIGN Exodus 31:14-17, Exodus 31:12-18, Ezekiel 20:1-32, Hebrews 4:4-10. (2) Obedience to ALL of the commandments
<p><i>"For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah (Law), and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem."</i></p> <p>Isaiah 2:3, Micah 4:2</p> <p><i>"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel."</i></p> <p>Malachi 4:4</p> <p>The Law is the God's eternal Law and the Law of the Millennial Kingdom.</p> <p>Purpose: To give the Kingdom a Law.</p> <p>THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					
4	Aaronic Covenant	Exodus 28, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 45:1-	God made a perpetual (everlasting) covenant with Aaron that he and his descendants	Unconditional. The Levites were chosen to be the priests of Israel because of their zeal for the Law. God set apart	

		22, Numbers 3:6-10	that he would preside over worship, act as priest, bless the people, offer sacrifices, teach the Law. He is the high priest of the Levitical priesthood.	Aaron and His sons to be the priests Nadab and Abihu died when they brought strange fire before the Lord in the tabernacle. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests under their father, Aaron.	
<p>In the Millennial Kingdom there will be a priesthood under the order of YESHUA (the Melchizedek priesthood). Aaron was the High Priest and points us to Yeshua becoming our High Priest. We are priests of God in Yeshua. Purpose: To give the High Priest and priests to serve God in the Kingdom. THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					
5	Phineas (Pinchas) Covenant	Numbers 25:10-13	God gave Phinehas receives a covenant of peace and that his descendants would have a permanent right to the priesthood. It was an eternal covenant.	Unconditional. Phineas, Aaron's grandson, had much zeal for the Law of God and obeyed God's commandment, so God made an everlasting covenant with him. His line would always be priests.	
<p><i>"These are the sons of Zadok, who alone among the sons of Levi may come near to the Lord to minister to Him."</i> Ezekiel 44:15 He was a priest and descendant of Phinehas. His line will minister as priests in the Millennial Kingdom. Purpose: To establish a priesthood who will serve in the Millennial Kingdom Temple. THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					
6	Davidic Covenant	2 Samuel 7:8-16, Psalm 89:3-4, Psalm 132:11-12, Jeremiah 33:17-22	God would raise up a king of an eternal Kingdom from his offspring. His house and kingdom would be made forever . David would never lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel.	Unconditional/Conditional. God made an everlasting, unconditional covenant with David that the eternal King would come from His son Solomon's line. But there was a conditional part that David teaches us in Psalms 132:12 <i>"If your sons keep My covenant and My instructions, which I will teach them, then their descendants too, forever, will sit on your throne."</i> God's intention was that there would also be a king from his line on the throne.	
<p><i>"And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house."</i> 2 Samuel 7:10-11. <i>"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."</i> Verse 16 The King (Yeshua) of God's eternal Kingdom who will sit on the throne will be from the line of David Purpose: To establish the eternal King for the Kingdom. THIS IS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE NEW COVENANT</p>					

The New Covenant

7	New Covenant	Ezekiel 11, 36, Jeremiah 31-33, Joel 2, Micah 4-5	God will write His Law on our minds and in our hearts and put His Holy Spirit within us to cause us to obey His statutes and rules. God promises to regather us to the land, rebuild Israel and restore everything.	Conditional. We have to receive Yeshua as our Savior and obey. John 3:36. The Holy Spirit will teach us to obey His Law to be His people, His saints, the remnant. Ezekiel 36:27. Inaugurated by our High Priest and King who will have an eternal Kingdom.	We will keep the commandments of God and have/hold to the faith/testimony of Yeshua. Revelation 12:17, Revelation 14:12, We will do the will of the Father and wash our robes. Matthew 7:21, Revelation 22:14
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“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”
Revelation 21:3-5
The restoration has begun and will continue in the Millennial Kingdom when many things are fulfilled. It will be complete on the new earth.
Purpose: For our High Priest and King to complete all things, restore us to the Father, and make all things new.
THIS IS HOW THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS IS COMPLETED

We see that Yeshua is the foundation that all of the covenants are built upon, because they all point us to Him, His Kingdom and His eternal Kingship. **No covenant has been abolished because they are ALL eternal covenants, building for His eternal Kingdom!**

NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE KINGDOM COVENANTS IN ORDER STARTING AT THE BOTTOM:

Fulfillment of All Covenants
<p>7. New Covenant (blood covenant)- Ezekiel 11:14-21, 36:22-38, Jeremiah 31:31-40 We have individual and collective cleansing of sin through this covenant, ratified by the Priest and King. Our sins can be forgiven and we can have eternal salvation and eternal life. The people of God's eternal Kingdom will be His, obey Him, and love Him. THIS RESTORES US TO OBEDIENCE TO OBEDIENCE TO THE MOSAIC/OLD COVENANT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.</p>
<p>6. Davidic Covenant- 2 Samuel 7:8-16, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 2 Chronicles 6:16 David's line (seed) would produce the eternal King. AN ETERNAL KINGDOM HAS TO HAVE AN ETERNAL KING.</p>
<p>5. Phinehas Covenant- Numbers 25:1-13 Because Phinehas was zealous for the Law, He received a covenant of peace and the covenant that his seed will be the priesthood forever. PRIESTS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM TO SERVE UNDER OUR HIGH PRIEST.</p>
<p>4. Aaronic Covenant- Exodus 28 Aaron's line will be the priesthood eternally. He points us to our High Priest Yeshua. A HOLY ETERNAL KINGDOM HAS TO HAVE AN ETERNAL PRIESTHOOD.</p>
<p>3. Mosaic (Old) Covenant (blood covenant)- Exodus 20-34, Deuteronomy 29 Yeshua's Kingdom will be ruled by the Torah (Isaiah 2, Micah 4). A KINGDOM HAS TO HAVE A LAW.</p>
<p>2. Abrahamic Covenant-Genesis 12:1-3, 15, 17:1-14 His seed would inherit the land eternally. AN ETERNAL KINGDOM HAS TO HAVE AN ETERNAL LAND.</p>
<p>1. Noahic Covenant- Genesis 9:8-17 THE EARTH WAS BAPTIZED BY WATER, CLEANSSED FROM SIN. Points us to our baptism. Promise to never flood the earth again. The earth will be destroyed by fire and God will give us a new earth without sin.</p>

Notice that **ALL** covenants are **ETERNAL**. This is **VERY IMPORTANT** to grasp: The New Covenant does not invalidate the Covenants made with Noah, Abraham, Aaron, Phineas, David, or the Mosaic (Old) Covenant. It actually is built upon them. Every covenant builds on the other. I hope God is opening your eyes to these covenants.

We have learned about the covenants from the Biblical perspective, God's perspective:

- His covenants are His Word.
- God's covenants are forever/eternal.
- His covenants are established (fixed, made to stand) forever. Conditional covenants have performance clauses-If you do..., THEN God will do.....
- He will show His covenant to those who fear Him, in other words, they will be His covenant people.
- He made a covenant with His chosen: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, (and those listed above) and Israel— His chosen people. He set them apart to live in covenant with them, but most did not. There was always a few remnant keeping covenant with Him.
- People who did not keep covenant persecuted those who did, and they persecuted and killed the prophets, who were keeping covenant with God.
- He doesn't break His covenant(s). He keeps them, even if most people decide to break them. He keeps them for the sake of those he made covenant with and for the sake of His holy name.
- We have the choice to be in covenant with Him or not.
- If we choose to break His commandments, rebel and disobey, we are not His children nor followers of Yeshua and we will not be in the Kingdom.
- Keeping God's commandments and having faith in Yeshua and holding to it is the outward display that we are in covenant with God.

The New Covenant

- The New Covenant allows us to return to the Father through Yeshua. Returning means returning to relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit writes His Law on our minds and in our hearts. Obeying His commandments is how we demonstrate we love Him.

Psalm 111:5-10 says, *“He remembers his covenant forever. He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them **the inheritance of the nations**. The works of His hands are **faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness**. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His **covenant forever**. Holy and awesome is His name! **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding**. His praise endures forever!”* The very next verse, Psalm 112:1 says, *“Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man **who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!**”* If we fear Him, we obey Him.

Psalm 119:1, 112: *“Blessed are those whose way is blameless, **who walk in the Law of the Lord!** ...I incline my heart **to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**”* I hope you will incline your heart to perform His statutes. James said that we are supposed to be *“doers”* of the Word, not hearers only. Paul warned us not to be like Israel, rebellious and disobedient.

Ephesians 2:11-22 says, *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens (of Israel) with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yeshua the Messiah Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in YHVH, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit**”.*

The covenants God made with Israel are forever, eternal, unbreakable, established, His Word, and everlasting. John tells us that Yeshua is the *“Word made flesh”*. Yeshua tells us He didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. If we see what Yeshua taught, He taught Israel (us) to obey the Mosaic covenant. After His ascension, Paul and the disciples taught the same thing. The NEW COVENANT is established to RESTORE US to obedience to the OLD COVENANT. The people who are chosen (the people of God) **keep** His covenant and the other covenants are the preambles to the New Covenant. **All of His covenants work together. They are foundations of the house He is building. His Kingdom is built on truth and holiness and He is calling us to be a holy people.** The New Covenant teaches us that we are obey His Torah (Law, instructions). This is confirmed in **Revelation 12:17 and 14:12**. These are the people Yeshua is coming to redeem for the salvation of His set apart people.

I hope this study has helped you understand the New Covenant in a new way. I pray each one of you will study this and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you. He will reveal all truth. I hope you can see the Spiritual House God is building. The verses above from Ephesians tell you who you are in Yeshua. **You are Israel.**

I do not want you to be unaware of the conditions of covenant and the knowledge of the New Covenant, brothers and sisters. I pray we will remember His covenants and understand that we keep the Law (covenant), not to EARN a relationship, but because we HAVE a relationship. God's Law and will is freedom and we will be judged by it (**James 1:12**). Faith works with actions (**James 2:22**). Faith without actions is dead (**James 2:24**). We should be *“doers of the Word, not hearers only”* as we look into the perfect LAW OF LIBERTY! Yeshua said, *“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* **Do you wonder why so many Christians are oppressed and in bondage? It's because they don't know the truth, so they are not free.** They still have open doors to the enemy because they are not obeying God's commandments.

We are in the latter days, and we see the Holy Spirit returning us to God, and many people are returning to the covenant through study of the Word and searching God with all their hearts. They are discovering what the New Covenant is and their identity in Yeshua. They understand that to be God's people, we must obey

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Him! They are finding joy in studying to learn His commandments and doing them. They are finding freedom as God removes the curses and begins to bless them! God promises He will bless those who obey Him, so I pray that you will study His Laws, instructions, statutes and rules and love them like David did. I pray we will all pursue God's heart and then we will be prepared to rule and reign with him for the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom.

To better understand your citizenship, please read the study called "**IDENTITY CRISIS**" on our website, Avodahministries.org. This and other studies are available as **free downloads**, and there are also video teachings on the website.

