

A NEW COVENANT

Hebr. 8:7-13 *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.”* 8 *For finding fault with them, He says, “**BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS YAHVEH, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;** 9 **NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS YAHVEH.** 10 **“FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS YAHVEH: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND***



THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 11 *“AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW YAHVEH,’ FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.* 12 *“FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”* 13 *“When He said, (**“A new covenant.”**) He has made the first one obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old **is ready to disappear.**”*

- 1) If you look closely you will notice that the word “covenant” in 8:13 is in italics. That means it is not in the original text. The translators are making an assumption here that must be considered.
- 2) At first glance it may seem that the so-called old covenant was totally thrown away, abandoned, and a new covenant was about to replace it. This is what most clergy would have you believe, but look closely at what it really says in context to what was happening at the time this was written. At that time the writer of Hebrews was telling the Jewish people that one aspect of the old covenant regarding sacrifices and the levitical system, was about to change. This verse is found in the middle of a discussion of priestly duties,

atonement, and the sacrificial system in general. When keeping it in context, one can see that it was referring to that part of the covenant which was all about to change because Yeshua was about to become the ultimate, once and for all, sacrifice, to replace that system of atonement. The “lamb of Yah”. Yeshua’s famous words: **“it is finished”** comes into play here. The sacrificial system for atonement was near completion. This system had completed its purpose in the covenant. The book of Hebrews was written before the second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70CE. At that time the second Temple was still standing, but shortly after this was written, it was destroyed; **“it was on its way out”**, it was about to disappear. The sacrifices at the Temple were all about to be replaced by the final sacrifice of Yeshua on the stake. This verse is not referring to the Torah as a whole, but simply the old sacrificial system instructed in the Torah.

3) Who was this renewed covenant for? It was for the Jews, “The house of Israel”. Like the other covenants made before, this covenant was again made available first to the Jews. Later you can see in Acts 2:5-10, and 10:44-46, the covenant was made available to the Gentiles, with Cornelius being the first. This was about 30 years after Calvary. Peter was told to share the gospel with the unclean Gentiles. Then the Holy Spirit (baptism in the Holy Spirit), occurred for both the Jews (proselytes), and the Gentiles. For one to be a partaker of the renewed covenant it is necessary to have the Torah (first five books of Moses), otherwise known as the LAW (correctly translated; instructions/teachings), on ones circumcised heart. **Jer. 31:31** **“Behold, days are coming,” declares Yahveh, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,”** 33 **““But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares Yahveh, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their ELOHIM, and they shall be My people.”** If the Torah is on your heart, you are a renewed covenant keeper, if not, you are a wishful thinker. When Yeshua sat down for the “Last supper” who was sitting at the table with Him when He proclaimed **Luke 22:20** **And in the same way [He took] the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”** He was sitting down with 11 Jews and 1 proselyte (Luke). The covenant was first made for the Jews and then the Gentiles were grafted into the covenant, the tree. (Rom. 11:16)

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 7/16)