

Study Companion

What Is New About the New Covenant?

Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36, Yeshua, Hebrews - and the Covenant Written on the Heart

A printable companion for tracing what Scripture says changed, what continues, and why Yeshua stands at the center of the New Covenant.

Use this packet with your Bible open. Read each passage first, record the text before interpreting it, and let Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Yeshua, Hebrews, and Paul define the covenant in their own words.

Don't take my word for it - Open your Bible.

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Start With What You Believe

Do not edit your starting position yet. Record it honestly.

What was the first / Sinai covenant?

What makes the New Covenant new?

Did Torah continue into the New Covenant? Why or why not?

What changed when Yeshua established the New Covenant?

What passage most strongly shapes my current answer?

Study rule: Do not let the word "new" answer the question before the passages do. Let Scripture define what is new.

Let Yehovah Define the Covenant

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 slowly before answering.

Who says, "I will make a new covenant"?

With which two houses is the covenant made?

Which earlier covenant does Jeremiah contrast it with? What historical event identifies that covenant?

What did the people do to the earlier covenant?

Does Jeremiah say the covenant failed because Yehovah's instruction was evil - or because the people broke covenant?

Precision check: Jeremiah contrasts the New Covenant with a specific covenant connected to the Exodus. Do not use "old covenant" as a vague synonym for everything before Matthew.

What Does Yehovah Put Inside His People?

Return to Jeremiah 31:33-34. Record the actual promises.

What does Yehovah put within His people?

Where does He write it?

How is the covenant relationship described? "I will be their ____; they will be My ____."

What does Yehovah promise about knowing Him?

What does He promise concerning iniquity / sin?

What the Passage Does NOT Say

- "I will abolish My Torah."
- "I will create a covenant unrelated to Israel and Judah."
- "Nothing will change."

Which of those statements would require an additional passage and argument rather than simply repeating Jeremiah?

Know What Is Becoming Obsolete

Read Exodus 19:1-8 and Exodus 24:1-11. Identify the covenant before discussing its obsolescence.

Exodus 19:4 - What had Yehovah already done for Israel before giving the covenant terms?

Exodus 19:5-6 - What covenant identity is offered to Israel?

Exodus 24:3, 7 - What do the people promise?

Exodus 24:8 - What does Moses call the blood?

What elements of covenant structure do you see: parties, promises, obligations, mediator, blood, sanctuary, priesthood?

Key distinction: "Covenant" and "commandment" are related, but they are not identical words. Hebrews later says the first covenant is obsolete; the question is what that covenant included and how its administration changes.

The Heart Problem Was Already in the Story

Read Deuteronomy 5:29; 10:12-16; 30:1-8; then Ezekiel 36:22-28.

Deuteronomy 5:29 - What does Yehovah desire from the people's heart?

Deuteronomy 10:16 - What are the people told to circumcise?

Deuteronomy 30:6 - Who ultimately acts upon the heart, and what is the result?

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - List what Yehovah gives or places within His people.

According to Ezekiel 36:27, what does the Spirit cause Yehovah's people to do?

Compare Jeremiah + Ezekiel

Passage	Observation
Jeremiah 31	Torah / instruction written within and on the heart.
Ezekiel 36	New heart, new spirit, Yehovah's Spirit, resulting in walking in His ways.

Are Torah and Spirit presented as rivals - or as part of the same transformation?

The New Covenant Is Established Through Messiah

Read Exodus 24:8 beside Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

What covenant-blood language appears in Exodus 24:8?

What does Yeshua call the cup in Luke 22:20?

What establishes the New Covenant - human performance or Yeshua's blood?

What does Paul say believers proclaim when they take the cup?

Until when?

Mediator Check

The New Covenant is not a rule-system discussion with Yeshua added at the end. Messiah is the Mediator whose blood establishes the covenant.

In one sentence, explain why Yeshua must remain central to any New Covenant theology.

Better Covenant - Obsolete First Covenant

Read Hebrews 8:1-13. Do not soften either side of the passage.

What kind of High Priest does Hebrews describe, and where does He minister?

Hebrews 8:6 - What does Yeshua mediate? On what kind of promises is it established?

Which Old Testament passage does Hebrews quote to define the New Covenant?

Does Hebrews repeat the promise of laws / Torah written on minds and hearts?

Hebrews 8:13 - What noun does the text explicitly describe as obsolete?

Hold Both Statements Together

- Jeremiah / Hebrews: Yehovah writes His instruction on hearts.
- Hebrews: the first covenant becomes obsolete.

What interpretation could honor both statements without erasing either?

Priesthood and Legal Change

Read Hebrews 7:11-28. The immediate context matters.

Which priesthood served under the Sinai covenant?

From which tribe does Yeshua come?

With what priestly order is Yeshua associated?

Hebrews 7:12 - When the priesthood changes, what else changes?

What is the immediate subject of the chapter: food, Sabbath, murder, or priesthood?

Evidence Boundary

Evidence	Conclusion
What this clearly proves	The priesthood changes, and priestly legal administration changes with it.
What this verse alone does not prove	That every command in Torah is abolished in the same manner or for the same reason.

What features make Yeshua's priesthood better or different?

Sanctuary and Sacrifice

Read Hebrews 9:1-14 and 10:1-18. Build the contrast from the text.

First-covenant administration	New-Covenant fulfillment in Messiah
Earthly sanctuary / tabernacle	Heavenly / true sanctuary
Levitical priests	Yeshua as High Priest
Animal blood	Yeshua's own blood
Repeated sacrifices	Once-for-all sacrifice
Priests repeatedly standing	Messiah seated after His sufficient offering
Repeated reminder of sins	Forgiveness; no further offering for sin

What could repeated animal sacrifices not accomplish fully?

What does Yeshua's once-for-all offering accomplish that the repeated system could not?

Hebrews 10:15-18 quotes Jeremiah again. What is written on hearts, and what happens to sin?

Do not say "nothing changed." Hebrews will not allow it. But do not say "everything Yehovah ever taught disappeared." Jeremiah will not allow that either.

Ministry of Death - Holy, Righteous, Good Law

Read 2 Corinthians 3, Romans 7:7-13, and Romans 8:1-4 together.

2 Corinthians 3 - What contrasts do you see: ink / Spirit, stone / hearts, old covenant / New Covenant, glory / surpassing glory?

What does Paul call the ministry engraved on stone?

Romans 7:12 - How does Paul describe the law and the commandment?

Romans 7:13 - What actually produces death through the good commandment?

Romans 8:3-4 - What does Yehovah accomplish through His Son and Spirit that weakened flesh could not?

Interpretation Guardrail

Paul can call the commandment holy, righteous, and good while calling the old-covenant stone ministry a ministry of death. Distinguish Yehovah's good instruction from a covenant ministry that exposes and condemns sin without itself performing heart transformation.

Brought Near - Grafted In

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and Romans 11:13-24.

Ephesians 2 - What were Gentiles formerly alienated from or strangers to?

How are those who were far away brought near?

What new identity language appears: one body, fellow citizens, household?

Romans 11 - What happens to the wild olive branches?

Does Paul plant a separate Gentile tree - or graft Gentiles into an existing cultivated tree?

What warning does Paul give Gentile believers about boasting?

What This Supports

- Gentile inclusion through Messiah is real and glorious.
- Jeremiah's named recipients - Israel and Judah - are not erased.
- Inclusion is not permission for Gentile arrogance or replacement boasting.

In your own words, describe the New Testament picture of Gentile inclusion.

What Scripture Explicitly Says Changed

Fill the final column with the exact passage(s) you would use to support each observation.

Category	Observation	Passage
Covenant	First covenant becomes obsolete; a better covenant is mediated.	-----
Mediator	Yeshua mediates the New Covenant.	-----
Priesthood	Levitical / Aaronic administration gives way to Messiah's priesthood.	-----
Priestly law	A priesthood change brings a corresponding legal change.	-----
Sanctuary	Earthly sanctuary is surpassed by Messiah's heavenly ministry.	-----
Sacrifice	Repeated animal offerings give way to Yeshua's once-for-all offering.	-----
Access	Believers draw near through Messiah's blood and priesthood.	-----
Forgiveness	Sin is forgiven and remembered no more; no further sin offering is needed.	-----
Heart / Spirit	Torah is internalized and the Spirit transforms from within.	-----

Which change seems most central to the argument of Hebrews?

What Continues - and What Still Requires Interpretation

Separate explicit statements from conclusions that need further argument.

Scripture Explicitly Preserves / Repeats

- Yehovah's instruction written on hearts - Jeremiah 31; Hebrews 8; Hebrews 10.
- Spirit-enabled walking in Yehovah's ways - Ezekiel 36.
- Yeshua's statement that He did not come to abolish Torah and Prophets - Matthew 5:17-20.
- Israel and Judah named in the covenant promise - Jeremiah 31; Hebrews 8.
- Gentiles brought near and grafted in through Messiah - Ephesians 2; Romans 11.

Still Requires Careful Interpretation

- How individual Torah commands function under the New Covenant.
- How priestly, sacrificial, civil, and other covenantal instructions relate to Messiah's fulfillment.
- How "law written on hearts" should be applied in concrete discipleship.
- The precise relationship between Israel, Judah, and Gentile believers in the covenant people.

Statements the Study Does Not Let Us Assume Without More Work

- "Every command in Torah is abolished."
- "Nothing changed."
- "The Spirit replaces obedience."
- "Gentiles replace Israel."

Which question do I still need to study most carefully?

Make Every Claim Show Its Work

For each statement, write the passage that supports or challenges it.

"The Old Covenant is simply another name for every command in Torah." Passage(s):

"Jeremiah says the New Covenant abolishes Torah." Passage(s):

"The New Covenant changes nothing." Passage(s):

"Hebrews 8:13 says Torah itself is obsolete." Passage(s):

"Hebrews 7:12 says every Torah command was replaced." Passage(s):

"The Spirit replaces obedience." Passage(s):

"The New Covenant is for Christians instead of Israel." Passage(s):

"2 Corinthians 3 proves Yehovah's commandments were bad and deadly." Passage(s):

Answer the Study Before Reading Anyone Else

Use your evidence map, not a slogan.

1. Which covenant does Jeremiah say is being replaced?

2. What does Yehovah write on the heart?

3. What does the Spirit do according to Ezekiel?

4. What establishes the New Covenant?

5. Who is the Mediator and High Priest?

6. What happens to priesthood, sanctuary, and sacrifice?

7. What does Hebrews explicitly call obsolete?

8. How are Gentiles included?

9. What continuity do I see?

10. What discontinuity do I see?

My One-Sentence Conclusion

The New Covenant is new because...

Return to Your Starting Position

Compare these answers with page 2. Let Scripture, not pride, decide whether anything needs to change.

What changed in my understanding?

Which passage most clarified the New Covenant for me?

Which passage remains hardest for me to reconcile?

What am I now confident Scripture explicitly says?

What conclusion am I willing to hold more loosely until I study further?

A Final Heart Check

Can I honor Yeshua as the better Mediator, High Priest, and once-for-all sacrifice without erasing what Yehovah says He writes on the heart? Can I honor Torah without rebuilding the covenant structures Messiah has fulfilled and surpassed?

Keep Turning Pages

Passages, questions, cross-references, word-study notes, and conclusions to revisit.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.