Old Covenant Priesthood – Yahweh's Marriage Agreement

Summary

What if the Old Covenant wasn't primarily a legal code, but a marriage agreement? This article reads Sinai that way — and explains why the marriage ultimately broke down.

- The Old Covenant given at Sinai read as a marriage agreement between Yahweh (husband) and Israel (wife), drawing on Jeremiah 31's "I was an husband unto them."
- Israel's repeated "adultery" through idol worship as the reason the covenant ultimately failed.
- The sacrificial system and priesthood framed as terms added because of Israel's transgressions, not part of the original relationship.
- The need this sets up for a "new," better covenant, explored in the companion article that follows.

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What was Yahweh's purpose for the Old Covenant - and what was it? For many centuries now, the Bible has been divided into two great parts: the Old and New Covenants. Both parts revolve around two covenants, but few understand why. Fewer still, realize that together, the Old and New Covenants reveal ALL of Yahweh's master plan for humanity!

In Genesis 1:26 we see that man was created in the image and likeness of Yahweh; out of "dust". But John 4:24 says Yahweh is Spirit. Further Bible study reveals that man was created COMPLETE physically, but INCOMPLETE spiritually. Most people believe we were created complete physically and spiritually - already having an immortal soul - but that incorrect thinking is nowhere supported, or even suggested in the Bible.

The apostle Paul wrote: "Because the CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST Yahweh: for it is not subject to the law of Yahweh, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE" *(Rom. 8:7).* All babies, by the time they are just a few months old, begin to develop a self-centered carnal nature. That carnal nature, as Paul instructs, is AGAINST Yahweh! The last part of the verse not only says that our nature is not subject to the law of Yahweh, but rather it "NEITHER INDEED CAN BE"! In other words, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! This life we lead in carnal flesh simply CANNOT PLEASE Yahweh.

Jeremiah wrote: "The heart *[or mind of man]* is DECEITFUL above all things, and DESPERATELY WICKED: who can know it?" *(17:9)*. Physically it is impossible to follow Yahweh and His laws. There is a necessary change in our nature for that to become possible. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the

corruption that is in the world" *(2 Peter 1:4).*

We become partakers of the divine nature, or Yahweh's very nature, when we are born again as SPIRIT beings, as John wrote: "That which is born of the flesh IS flesh; and that which is born of His Holy Spirit IS spirit" *(3:6).* Yes, it means what it says. When we are finally born of His Holy Spirit (after the beginning of the Millennium), we will BE SPIRIT! At that point, we will be spirit as Yahweh is Spirit. Our final stage of creation will have been completed.

That makes this physical life we now live vitally important, because everything we do in this life, is to prepare us for when our creation is COMPLETE - when we will actually become the born SPIRIT

children of Yahweh. If you are not preparing for that fantastic future now, then you do not understand or appreciate Yahweh's incredible purpose for man.

That ultimate future begins when Yahweh imparts a portion of His Holy Spirit to us upon our BELIEF and repentance for our sins *(Acts 2:38).* From that point on, we are to grow and develop spiritually to prepare for the time when we will take on the divine nature of Yahweh. This spiritual growth plays a significant part in the New Covenant, but let us now look at the Old Covenant.

Many people misunderstand the true meanings of both the Old and New Covenants. Webster's dictionary describes a "covenant" as, "an agreement, usually formal, between two or more parties to do, or not to do something specified". This is clearly what Yahweh and ancient Israel entered into. They BOTH AGREED - the terms and conditions of the Old Covenant extend from EXODUS 19:1 THROUGH 24:8, which should be read in its entirety.

There Yahweh instructed Moses to tell the people; "Now therefore, IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and KEEP MY COVENANT, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" *(Exod. 19:4-6).* Notice Yahweh did NOT promise His Holy Spirit as part of the Old Covenant. Neither did He promise eternal life! EVERY PROMISE of the Old Covenant was MATERIAL!

IF Israel had obeyed, they would have become an exceedingly great nation, dwelling in fruitful abundance. They would be Yahweh's people and He would be their God. Yahweh would WALK AMONG THEM, but He never promised to DWELL IN THEM by the power of His Holy Spirit, which is a part of the New Covenant!

The Old Covenant was actually referred to by Yahweh as a marriage agreement! In Ezekiel 16:8, Yahweh said: "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the TIME OF LOVE: and I SPREAD MY SKIRT OVER THEE, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a COVENANT WITH THEE, saith the Lord Yahweh, and THOU BECAMEST MINE". "Spread His skirt", is an expression that is a sign of marriage*(Ruth 3:8).*

Yahweh further said in Jeremiah 31:32: "I was an husband unto them". By agreeing to the Covenant, Israel was bound to Yahweh as His wife and was forbidden to commit adultery by worshipping the gods of other nations. "Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a COVENANT with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee...For thou shalt worship no other god: for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" *(Exod. 34:12,14).*

They were forbidden to enter into a covenant with another god because they were bound to a jealous husband. In Exodus 19:8. Israel answers Yahweh's Covenant: "And all the people answered together, and said, ALL THAT Yahweh HATH SPOKEN WE WILL DO". If Israel kept their part of the agreement,

we will see that Yahweh, or that aspect of Elohim, would have been a faithful, loving husband, dwelling WITH the people.

After the Israelites agreed, Yahweh instructed Moses to tell the people to prepare for the third day, when He would Himself come down the mountain to be with the people. It was then that Yahweh began to discuss the specific terms of the Covenant.

In Exodus Ch. 20, they were given the Ten Commandments. These were even written on stone by Yahweh Himself. These were a distinct portion of the Old Covenant, being referred to in Deuteronomy 9:9,11 as "the tables of the covenant". These tables make up Yahweh's great, eternal, Spiritual Law, which itself, defines sin.

Yahweh then continued to instruct Moses, explaining the CIVIL LAW of STATUTES and JUDGEMENTS. These laws would govern and direct them as a nation. While the Spiritual Law was based on broad principles, the Statutes were very specific. Judgments were added to render a decision or verdict based on Yahweh's law, prescribing certain punishments for disobedience. Together, the Statutes and Judgments, or Civil Law *(the "Word")*, AMPLIFIED THE TEN BASIC PRINCIPLES OF Yahweh's SPIRITUAL LAW.

For example, Exodus 21:12 says, "He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death". This Civil Law detailed the punishment for breaking the sixth Commandment: "Thou shall not kill". All of the Civil Laws were based on the spiritual precepts of the Ten Commandments, and were a distinct part of the Marriage Covenant.

The Spiritual Law was written by Yahweh Himself as the Ten Commandments, while the Civil Law was given by Yahweh to Moses who wrote it into what would be referred to as the "Book of the Covenant" *(Exod. 24:4,7).* So the Israelites had to obey both the Ten Commandments AND the Book of the Covenant; the Civil Law.

This necessitates a reminder that Yahweh's SPIRITUAL LAW IS ETERNAL! As set forth in the previous chapter, it was in effect LONG BEFORE MOSES REACHED MOUNT SINAI, and it will remain IN EFFECT FOREVER!

There are numerous "no law" preachers today, all of whom are deceived! The false reasoning that when the Messiah died, the Old Covenant, including the Spiritual Laws ended, has led many astray. The Old *("marriage")* Covenant has ended! But Yahweh's Law HAS NOT AND NEVER WILL END!

Remember, a covenant is an AGREEMENT between two or more parties. True, the Law forms part of the CONTENT of the Old Covenant, but it also forms part of the CONTENT of the New Covenant! It was the Covenant, or agreement between Yahweh and Israel that ended, not the Law!

It did not take long for Israel to break the Old Covenant marriage agreement. Yahweh reminded them of their agreement about nine months later in Leviticus 26:1-3. They were already losing sight of Yahweh's promises, and Yahweh again explained what would happen if they disobeyed *(vv. 4-39)*. And that is just what they did! Then the God who became the Word, said: "Turn, O backsliding children, saith Yahweh; FOR I AM MARRIED UNTO YOU" *(Jer. 3:14).* Yahweh pleaded with Israel for over seven hundred years, to turn from their wicked ways, all to no avail!

Finally, look at what happened: "Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will make A NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers...WHICH MY COVENANT THEY BRAKE, although I was an husband to them" *(Jer. 31:31,32).*

Israel failed! They broke the Covenant and Yahweh divorced them! And because of their disobedience, as He had warned, He withdrew the many promises associated with the first Covenant. Instead of great material prosperity, Israel went into Assyrian captivity *(Ezek. 20:23-24),* and Judah, which had separated from Israel long before this time, was overthrown and went into the Babylonian captivity from 604-585 B.C. *(2 Kings 23:27).*

Man, of and by himself, cannot please Yahweh! Remember, it's impossible! Remember as well, there were no spiritual promises in the Old Covenant. But why not, if Yahweh knew that man could not please Him without His Holy Spirit? Because Yahweh was proving that very fact, with hundreds of years of recorded history about a nation which Yahweh put under the best possible conditions, PHYSICALLY, to obey Him! But because they did not, as a nation, have access to His Holy Spirit, they failed miserably.

They wanted to, and should have, kept the letter of Yahweh's Law. But they could not! They were a failure even judging by the letter of the law. What was Yahweh trying to show mankind? "O that there were such an HEART *[or nature]* in them, that they would fear *[trust]* Me, and keep all My Commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children!" *(Deut. 5:29).*

Yahweh knew that the Israelites just did not have the "heart", or nature to obey Him. We must have Yahweh's Nature, the Will, or Spirit of Yahweh within us to obey Him.

That is what the Old Covenant proves! Israel's secular and Biblical history; the proof, was the whole point and purpose of the Old Covenant!

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