New Covenant Priesthood – The Renewed Marriage Agreement

Summary

If the marriage broke down, what changed the second time around? This companion article continues the same marriage analogy directly into the New Covenant — and explains what Yah'shua's role actually was, and wasn't.

- Continuing directly from Article 65's marriage analogy: Yahweh finding fault not with the original agreement but "with them" (the people).
- Hebrews 8 and Jeremiah 31: the law written directly on the heart rather than abolished.
- Yah'shua's role as the ending of the sacrificial system specifically, not of Yahweh's law generally, and as the believer's new High Priest.
- A look ahead to the "two witnesses" of Revelation 11 confirming the covenant before the Messiah's return, when the opportunity to enter this renewed agreement is extended to everyone who has ever lived.

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Israel broke the Old Covenant, but the problem was not Yahweh's. The problem was with the people. And because of that, Yahweh purposed to make a New Covenant - a NEW MARRIAGE AGREEMENT! The terms and conditions of this New Covenant are again based on Yahweh's Spiritual Law, but the promises are this time, ALSO spiritual!

This time, Yahweh calls people out of this world, as SPIRITUAL ISRAELITES, and imparts a small portion of His Spirit; His very NATURE in them, so that they might be able to do what ancient Israel could not - PLEASE YAHWEH AND OBEY HIS VOICE!

We have seen, that from Yahweh's perspective, the Old Covenant was analogous to a marriage agreement. Yahweh actually spoke to Moses and to ALL OF THE PEOPLE of Israel when He delivered the terms and conditions of the Covenant *(Exod. 19:9).* Yet Yah'shua says that Yahweh the Father HAS NEVER SPOKEN TO MAN! "And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither HEARD HIS VOICE AT ANY TIME, nor seen his shape" *(John 5:37).*

If the Israelites heard Yahweh's voice, they had to have heard either Yahweh the Father, or His Angel that He sent to carry His message. Yah'shua's clear statement proves that it was the Angel of Yahweh, or Yahweh's "Word" that spoke with the people. It was through this Word *(the Angel of Yahweh referred to in the Hebrew Bible like the one that spoke to Moses in the burning bush)* that Yahweh agreed to enter into a marriage Covenant with Israel. That marriage Covenant was to allow the people to live by EVERY WORD OF YAHWEH'S LAW!

Because of the weakness of man, and the wickedness of man's carnal nature, there was a tremendous need for a new and better Covenant to allow the people to obey Yahweh's Law. Paul clearly defines fault in the Old Covenant: "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for a second" *(Heb. 8:7).*

Then Paul explains WHO WAS AT FAULT: "For finding fault WITH THEM *[THE ISRAELITES],* he saith, Behold...I will make a New Covenant" *(v.8).* The fault was clearly with the people. "For this is the Covenant that I will make... after those days, says Yahweh; I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MIND, AND WRITE THEM IN THEIR HEARTS" *(Heb. 8:10).*

To solve the problem, or fault with the Old Covenant, Yahweh will write His Spiritual Law in our hearts and in our minds, instead of on tablets of stone. This is what makes the New Covenant a "better"

Covenant, for it makes it POSSIBLE to obey Yahweh. It *(the New Covenant)* does not do away with Yahweh's Law, it merely writes it in a different place!

The New Covenant is also a marriage agreement; not between Yah'shua and ancient Israel, but between Yah'shua and SPIRITUAL ISRAEL; the Congregation. The New Covenant is based on a marriage agreement THAT WILL NOT FAIL! But that marriage has NOT YET OCCURRED! Its terms and conditions however, have been revealed to us through the Messiah.

This future marriage will take place at the return of the Messiah, as John plainly records in Revelation 19:7; "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB is come, and His wife *(the Congregation)* hath made herself ready". Further evidence that this marriage HAS NOT YET happened is given in Hebrews 8:10, where Paul refers to it as a Covenant that the Messiah "will make", AFTER the Messiah had already died, and AFTER the New Covenant Congregation had already been established!

Yah'shua the Messiah was the messenger of the New Covenant *(Mal. 3:1)*. In the book of Hebrews, Paul has much to say about the New Covenant. "But now hath he *[Yah'shua the Messiah]* obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT, which was established UPON BETTER PROMISES" *(8:6)*.

Daniel's prophecies concerning the Messiah make it abundantly clear that the New Covenant has not yet been consummated. Daniel 9:24-27 is referred to as the "70 weeks prophecy". Bible students know that a day equals a year in prophecy *(Num. 14:34)*. In Daniel 9:27 we see that the Messiah was to "confirm the *[New]* COVENANT with many for ONE WEEK". This is referring to the last week of the seventy weeks. Yah'shua the Messiah was to confirm the New Covenant for seven prophetic days, or SEVEN ACTUAL YEARS!

Notice verse 27: "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the MIDST OF THE WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease". In the midst of the prophetic seven day week, equals exactly three and one half years; precisely how long the Messiah's earthly ministry lasted! For three and one half years He confirmed the terms and conditions of His New Covenant. But His ministry was cut short in the midst of the week.

Yah'shua the Messiah caused "the sacrifice and the oblation to cease". Why? Because He became the sacrifice! The sacrificial laws were not originally part of the Old Covenant, but were added because of transgressions *(Jer. 7:22, and Gal. 3:19)*. "...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yah'shua the Messiah ONCE FOR ALL" *(Heb. 10:10)*. Once Yah'shua the Messiah was sacrificed, the sacrificial offerings ended, NOT Yahweh's Spiritual Law!

Yah'shua the Messiah's ministry was cut short in the midst of the week, meaning that the rest of that week HAS YET TO BE FULFILLED. In other words, He is NOT YET FINISHED CONFIRMING THE

COVENANT. The New, like the Old Covenant, will be made with Israelites *(Heb. 8:8),* but this time it will be with SPIRITUAL ISRAELITES - those who will have Yahweh's Laws written in their hearts and in their minds! It will be confirmed in the near future with those Spirit-born saints who will not break the Covenant.

Man has traditionally titled the two sections of the Bible as "The Old Testament" and "The New Testament". We have already seen that a Covenant is an agreement. A Testament, on the other hand, is a WILL in which the possessions and rights of the Testator are passed on AFTER HIS DEATH!

There is no requirement of either party to die in a Covenant, whereas a Testament is not binding UNTIL DEATH OF THE TESTATOR! The first part of our Bibles should more accurately be called the "Old Covenant", and the second part, the "New Testament containing the New Covenant"!

Yah'shua the Messiah came and began to confirm the New Covenant, and He left behind His Testament or Will, that took effect after He was crucified. Paul confirms this in Hebrews 9:15-17; "therefore He [the Messiah] is the mediator of a New Covenant, so that those who are called may receive the PROMISED ETERNAL INHERITANCE, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first Covenant. For where a WILL is involved, the death of the One who made it must be established. For a WILL takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the One who made it is alive" *(Revised Standard Version).*

Through His WILL; contained in the New Covenant, the Messiah left us the OPPORTUNITY to be co-heirs, or beneficiaries of His rights and possessions under the New Covenant *(Rom. 8:17).* But His Will requires that we meet certain conditions before we can inherit His promises. "And IF ye be the Messiah's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" *(Gal. 3:29)*. Notice the big IF! The question is, How do we become the Messiah's?

Within the Messiah's final Will, the Messiah not only gave many demonstrable examples and explained directly how the New Covenant is based on the Spiritual Law, but explained how it is predicated on "better promises". He also outlined the terms and conditions for our part in the New Covenant, in Acts 2:38; and Galatians 3:27, among others.

The terms and conditions are: BELIEVE, REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED or IMMERSED IN EVERYTHING PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF YAHWEH - leading to OBEDIENCE IN ALL THINGS PERTAINING TO THE ETERNAL, SPIRITUAL LAW!

Upon belief and repentance, Yahweh GIVES you a portion of His Holy Spirit *(His "Will")* which is a "down payment" of your eternal inheritance *(Eph. 1:13,14).* Yahweh's Spirit provides a Spiritual "thirst", drawing us into His Word *(immersing, or baptizing),* leading to spiritual growth and development as we begin to APPLY His Law in our daily lives.

This is all a prelude, or training for our future marriage to the Messiah - when the New Covenant actually begins. At that point, Yahweh's Law that is etched in our hearts and minds, will be indelibly known, and we WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FAIL!

It is true that when we come to Yahweh, we must believe in Yah'shua the Messiah and His shed blood. From there we must go on, and not only believe in the Messiah - but BELIEVE the Messiah! With the Messiah, this belief must be transformed into ACTIONS! "FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD" *(James 2:17-20)*!

Yah'shua said: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" *(Matt. 24:13).* And John wrote: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him I will give power over the nations" *(Rev. 2:26).* Many people today insist that all you have to do is believe - they don't obey Yahweh's Laws! Of course we must believe and have faith. But faith encompasses believing in the promise of rewards for obedience. As Paul wrote: "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, WE ESTABLISH THE LAW" *(Rom. 3:31)*!

When the Messiah died, He left behind a last Will or Testament, revealing terms and conditions we would need to fulfill, if we were to receive of the promised eternal inheritance of the New Covenant. Yah'shua the Messiah's Testament is in force NOW. His New Covenant will take effect AFTER His return. When that marriage finally takes place *(Rev. 19:7),* we will enter into the Covenant that will never be broken!

Yah'shua the Messiah will first complete the confirmation of His Testament, through His Divine inspiration of the "two witnesses" described in Rev. 11. The two witnesses receive "power *[from His Holy Spirit]*...and they will prophesy *[testify, confirm the Covenant]* one thousand two hundred and sixty days" *(v. 3).* When they, on the Messiah's behalf, have finished confirming His Covenant, He will return and set up His Kingdom on Earth. He will then offer salvation to all who have ever lived. Then the whole world will have an opportunity to enter into the New Covenant.

And those who have been called out of this world NOW, the "firstfruits bride"; first to be trained and taught under His Law, will have the eternal opportunity to assist Him in teaching the majority of mankind; the "worldly wise and disobedient", beginning in the Millennium. Yahweh has revealed His wonderful plan to us.

If we choose to run the race set before us, and endure unto the end, we will be the Firstfruits Bride of the Messiah.

Most of the world's population will be given an opportunity for eternal life, but they will enter the Covenant at the "daughter" or child level, to be eternally under the authority of the "mother" or parent *(bride)* level.

"Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for DAUGHTERS, but NOT BY THE COVENANT"

(Ezek. 16:61). The choice is yours!

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