

# OLD TESTAMENT LAWS: COMPARISON OF OLD AND NEW COVENANTS

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
<b>When established</b>	at Exodus	at crucifixion
<b>Parties: God and</b>	national Israel ( <a href="#">Ex. 19-24</a> )	Christians ( <a href="#">Luke 22:20</a> ; <a href="#">John 3:16-21</a> )
<b>People redeemed from bondage</b>	in Egypt ( <a href="#">Ex. 20:2</a> )	in sin ( <a href="#">Heb. 9:15</a> )
<b>Mediator of the covenant</b>	Moses ( <a href="#">Ex. 20:18-19</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 9:19-20</a> )	Jesus Christ ( <a href="#">Heb. 8:6</a> ; <a href="#">9:15</a> ; <a href="#">12:24</a> )
<b>Ratified by blood of</b>	animals ( <a href="#">Ex. 24:8</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 9:19-20</a> )	Jesus Christ ( <a href="#">Matt. 26:28</a> ; <a href="#">Rom. 3:25</a> )
<b>Promises offered</b>	prosperity, national security, become God's treasured nation ( <a href="#">Ex. 19:5</a> ; <a href="#">Lev. 26</a> )	eternal life ( <a href="#">John 3:16</a> ) children of God ( <a href="#">Rom. 8:14-17, 29</a> )  know God, law in heart, forgiveness ( <a href="#">Heb. 8:10-12</a> )  with God forever ( <a href="#">Rev. 21:3-7</a> )
<b>Initiation sign of the covenant</b>	circumcision ( <a href="#">Gen. 17:11</a> ; <a href="#">Ex. 12:48-49</a> ; <a href="#">John 7:22-23</a> )	conversion of the heart ( <a href="#">Matt. 5:8</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 15:8</a> ; <a href="#">Rom. 2:28-29</a> )
<b>Continuing sign of the covenant</b>	observance of the Sabbaths ( <a href="#">Ex. 31:16-17</a> ; <a href="#">Ezek. 20:12</a> )	new life of faith in Christ ( <a href="#">Eph. 2:4-10</a> ; <a href="#">4:17</a> ; <a href="#">5:1-2</a> )
<b>Obligations</b>	obedience to the law that was given through Moses ( <a href="#">Ex. 24:3</a> ; <a href="#">Lev. 26</a> ; <a href="#">Deut. 28</a> )	be perfect ( <a href="#">Matt. 5:48</a> ) believe, obey Christ ( <a href="#">Gal. 6:2</a> ; <a href="#">1 John 3:23-24</a> ; <a href="#">Rom. 12:1</a> ; <a href="#">2 Cor. 10:5</a> )
<b>Duration of the covenant</b>	during time of national Israel, temple and Levites ( <a href="#">Heb. 8:13</a> )	eternity ( <a href="#">John 5:24</a> ; <a href="#">6:54-58</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 9:15</a> ; <a href="#">12:22-28</a> ; <a href="#">Rev. 21:3-7</a> )
<b>Priesthood</b>	Aaron and sons ( <a href="#">Ex. 29:9</a> ; <a href="#">Lev. 8</a> )	Jesus Christ ( <a href="#">Heb. 4:14-16</a> ; <a href="#">5:5-6</a> ) believers ( <a href="#">1 Pet. 2:5, 9</a> )
<b>High Priest entered presence of God</b>	symbolically once a year on the Day of Atonement after offering the required blood sacrifices ( <a href="#">Lev. 16</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 9:7</a> )	sat down at God's right hand forever, after offering his own blood for all ( <a href="#">Heb. 7:20-8:2</a> ; <a href="#">9:11-14</a> )

<b>Holy place where God can be worshiped</b>	tabernacle in wilderness ( <a href="#">Deut. 12</a> ) temple in Jerusalem ( <a href="#">1 Kings 8:29-30</a> )	temple of the Spirit ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 3:16</a> ) wherever believers are ( <a href="#">John 4:21-24</a> ; <a href="#">Matt. 18:20</a> )
<b>Commemorations</b>	weekly Sabbath ( <a href="#">Ex. 20:8-11</a> , <a href="#">Deut. 5:12-15</a> ) seasonal festivals ( <a href="#">Lev. 23</a> )	Lord's Supper ( <a href="#">Luke 22:19-20</a> ; Cor. 11:26-28)
<b>Sacrifices</b>	continual offering of animals and food offerings ( <a href="#">Lev. 1-7</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 10:1</a> ) as a reminder of sins ( <a href="#">Heb. 10:30</a> )	Christ's one sacrifice ( <a href="#">Heb. 9:26-28</a> ; <a href="#">10:12</a> ) forgave sins, perfects the worshipper, clears conscience ( <a href="#">Heb. 8:12</a> ; <a href="#">10:1-2</a> , <a href="#">22</a> )  Christian's life of service is to be a living sacrifice ( <a href="#">Rom. 12:1</a> )
<b>Law</b>	Ten Commandments ( <a href="#">Ex. 20</a> ; <a href="#">Deut. 5</a> ) 603 additional laws governing moral, civil and religious affairs, fulfilled by adherence to the letter of numerous rules (Ex., Lev., Deut.)	Sermon on the Mount reveals Christian attitude and way of thinking ( <a href="#">Matt. 5-7</a> ) law of Christ fulfilled by loving God and humans ( <a href="#">John 13:34-35</a> ; <a href="#">Rom. 3:8-10</a> ; <a href="#">Gal. 5:14</a> ; <a href="#">6:2</a> ; <a href="#">1 John 2:3-6</a> ; <a href="#">3:7-10</a> , <a href="#">21-24</a> )
<b>Contrast</b>	the letter kills ( <a href="#">Rom. 4:14-15</a> ; <a href="#">2 Cor. 3:6</a> ) slavery ( <a href="#">Gal. 4:24-25</a> ; <a href="#">5:1</a> )	The Spirit gives life ( <a href="#">John 6:63</a> ; <a href="#">2 Cor. 3:6</a> )freedom ( <a href="#">Gal. 4:26</a> ; <a href="#">5:1</a> )
<b>Main feature</b>	the law was a shadow of the good things to come ( <a href="#">Heb. 10:1</a> )	Jesus Christ, God in the flesh ( <a href="#">Isa. 42:1-7</a> ; <a href="#">49:5-13</a> ; <a href="#">Heb. 1</a> ; <a href="#">9:11-15</a> ; <a href="#">10:5-10</a> )
<b>Contact with God</b>	through priesthood ( <a href="#">Lev. 1-7</a> )	individual comes to God's throne ( <a href="#">Heb. 4:16</a> )

## Articles About the Old and New Covenants

- [Covenant, law and God's faithfulness](#)
- [Covenants in the Bible](#)
- [The Old Covenant and the Law of Moses](#)
- [The New Covenant in a Nutshell](#)
- [Can Old Covenant Worship Laws Become New Covenant Spiritual "Shadows"?](#)
- [Comparison of Old and New Covenants](#)
- [Has the New Covenant Been Made?](#)
- [The New Covenant Is Older Than You Think](#)