

## New Covenant — Life for Life

**Brothers and sisters, we have entered a New Covenant.** The Old Covenant was the ten commandments, and the essence of that covenant — the greatest of those commandments, was to love the Creator YHWH with all your heart, soul and strength. That was the covenant that was made. They were to love Him like that. And that is reasonable because He created us and we are His creation. If you were a creator, you would expect your creation to love you with all its heart and soul and to live for you. But old Israel didn't live up to it. They failed miserably.

And that was not the only thing. That covenant also said to love your neighbor as your very own life — as yourself. That was the Old Covenant. And the New Covenant is a commandment also.

We made a covenant with the Creator. He came in the form of a man. He came to earth and His name was Yahshua. The Son of God came in the form of a human being. He took on human nature and lived here among us and told us what the New Covenant was. That covenant is in Jn 13:34. Now remember, Our Master told the Pharisees back in his day (Mt 22:37-39) what the greatest commandment in the Old Covenant was, and that was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength and your fellow Israelites as yourself. Is that what it says in Mt 22:37? Now if a person didn't do that, he didn't have eternal life — if he refused to do it he would go to death. But if he wanted with all his heart to do it, then if he failed, he would take his best lamb and take it in his house and love it and pity it and pet it. (It had to be their best, most-loved lamb, otherwise it wouldn't be any good as a sacrifice — it would just be hypocrisy, a ritual, a form.) Then he would take it to the priest and the priest would take a knife so sharp that when they slit the lamb's throat he wouldn't even feel it and that Israelite would lean himself on the lamb and all his faults and sins were transferred over into the lamb and that lamb died in his place. If he did this with all of his heart, he would go away forgiven, and he would cry and thank our Father and pray, "Father, help me to never sin again, to love you with all my heart and to love my neighbor," and he would go home and before long he would do it again. That was the Old Covenant: to love Him with all their heart, and when they would fall, to take that lamb and sacrifice it so they wouldn't have to suffer eternal death.

And our Master, He was the Lamb of God. He went to death for us — His soul went into death for us. Your soul is what is conscious in you, the very essence of your being, your intelligence. It is what is peering out of your eyeballs, using your brain and your eyes — it is an entity in itself — your soul. When Yahshua came, His soul was a sacrifice. He said, "Do not abandon My soul in Sheol," and He was not abandoned. After He paid the death penalty for us, His soul was not abandoned in Sheol, Hades, hell. His soul went there and paid the penalty for all of our accumulated sins.

In Acts 2:24,27,31, Kephah talked about that: when Yahshua hung on the cross, all of His blood came out of His body, and when the Roman soldier put that spear through His side and it pierced his heart, all the rest of the blood came out with water. He was alive until all of His blood was out, just as the lamb was alive until all of its blood had come out. So when all the blood was out of our Master's body, He paid for all of our sins — for all those who lean their entire personality on Him. His soul went into the center of the earth (Acts 2:24), into the agony of death. His consciousness, fully alive, experienced untold agony for your and my sins (Isa 53:10). He died for all, that all who live would no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf (2 Cor 5:15). And so, we are not to live for ourselves anymore.

And that is the covenant — the covenant He made now with those of us who have laid our hands on Him and let Him pay for our sins. We, just like old Israel, laid our hands on the Lamb — we laid our hands on Him and our guilt was transferred onto Him. His soul was an atoning sacrifice. Isa 53:10 says His soul went into death in agony. We are not going there because He paid for our sin. The wages of sin is death, and He paid for our sin. He made a covenant and we made a covenant. Our covenant is: You died for me, now I'm going to live for You (2 Cor 5:15) — that's the covenant.

We have made that covenant. We have given our word. If our yes was not yes, we are cursed. If your yes was

not yes, it is better if you had never known the way of truth because by knowing it and going back on it, you are worthless. Worthless things will be destroyed — they cannot inherit eternal life. Our Father believed what we said because He knew our heart and therefore gave us His Holy Spirit. That is the covenant — the New Covenant. He put the Old Covenant in other terms. In Jn 13:34, He said, “Here’s a new commandment. It’s like the old commandment, but it is a new commandment.”

Jn 13:34-35 — What kind of love are we to love one another with? The same love that He loved us with. How did He love you? He laid down His life, experienced death for three days and three nights and then He finished His term in death. We are to love as He loved. That is the covenant.

1 Jn 3:16 explains exactly what the covenant that we made is: “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us and we are to lay our lives down for one another.” Thus we do not live for ourselves anymore, but for Him. How do you know you weren’t just a hypocrite when you said that you would do that? 1 Jn 3:16 — “We know love by this...” Verse 23 says His commandment is that we believe in Yahshua and love one another as He commanded us.” How did he command us? Remember that this is John speaking again. It is the same John who wrote the gospel of John. We love as He commanded us in Jn 13:34. That is the covenant. When you married your husband, you made a covenant to respect him 100% and he to love you 100%. We made a covenant with our Master Yahshua. If anyone wants eternal life, they have to make that covenant.

As a matter of fact, it says whoever makes a covenant has to die to ratify that covenant and once you die you cannot change your will. Our Master died and He is not taking back His covenant. He sealed us with His Holy Spirit till the day of redemption. He knew us when He gave His Holy Spirit to us. He chose us even before He made the earth — He knew about us. We are thankful. He made a covenant with us and we made a covenant with Him — life for life. Our old life is gone — forgiven — gone. We ~~live~~ live by our old life, but by our new life. He said that whoever believes in Him shall live and never die.

We are His people. It is a growing nation. It is embryonic — in a state of development. Someday it is going to reach its apex — in full growth — and His Son is going to radiate His full light through us until all those in the world who hear His voice are going to be saved, rescued from this wicked world. I’m thankful I believe in Yahshua. I’m thankful we don’t believe in Santa Claus anymore. We don’t believe in a myth, but in the true living God. All of us who want to give our lives to Yahshua, we can give our bodies as a living sacrifice. We are in a covenant. The covenant is perfect peace, perfect unity, filled with His Holy Spirit, in communion with Him.