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### **What is the Gospel? Understanding ALL of the Gospel: Part 1**

The top priority of 119 Ministries is to share the full gospel with the world.

To do that effectively, the gospel, as taught in the Scriptures, must be fully understood.

So, what is the Gospel?

There are many responses you will get if you randomly ask this question.

The popular Christian definition of the gospel is "the death, burial and resurrection of Christ."

Most of us have heard a presentation of the gospel related to the cross.

So let's review what many of us have already heard.

Breaking any commandment in the Bible is defined as sin. If we have transgressed God's law, then we have sinned. (1 John 3:4)

We have all sinned, or broke God's law, all of us are guilty. (Romans 3:23)

None of us have kept God's law perfectly...thus all stand guilty before Him.

Because our Creator is a righteous judge and holy, He must judge us to the same standards that He set for Himself.

If our Creator did not hold us to the same standards of being holy, or set apart, if He did not hold us to the same standards of righteousness, then He would not be a righteous judge.

#### **Romans 2:12**

[For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.](#)

**James 2:12**

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

Because He is righteous perfection, He can only accept righteous perfection.

And none of us are righteous in of ourselves (Romans 3:10)

This renders us all into the same state, condemned to eternal death, lost and hopeless.

Because we have all sinned by breaking God's righteous law, we all deserve death. We are all cursed.

However, through our Messiah, who lived the Law of God perfectly, took on death when He did not have to.

Our Messiah can point to His death as the satisfaction for the death that we deserve.

He affords this salvation, into eternal life, to whomever believes on Him, who follows Him.

Because our Messiah, as the Word made flesh, only taught and practiced the Word of God, following our Messiah is the same as trusting and following the Word of God. (John 3:16, Revelation 19:13)

We do not deserve this salvation, and it is only by faith that this grace is extended to us. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We are afforded this salvation by faith in our Messiah, which is the same as faith in the Word of God, what He taught and what He practiced. (Ephesians. 2:10)

The Spirit of God inside of us, in our faith in the Word, leads us with a desire for truth and to practice truth. (John 16:13)

When we come to faith in the Word of God as the perfect truth from our Creator, the result is a desire to practice the Word of God, which is the truth that is to sanctify us (John 17:17), which also includes the Law of God as that truth (Psalm 119:44-45)

That is certainly good news, for without the actions of our Messiah, we are condemned to eternal death.

When we follow our Messiah, we learn the right way to walk, we learn the right way to practice the established truth in the Word of God.

This is so that we can avoid sin, because we should desire to not sin, which is the same as desiring the Law of God.

It is this desire of the law of God, to practice it and keep it, like our Messiah did practiced and kept all of God's commandments, that is the evidence of our faith, and thus the evidence of our salvation. (1 John 2:1-6)

We will certainly expound on all of these aspects of the gospel.

However, did the gospel begin at the cross?

Is that all there is to the gospel?

If that was the only aspect of the gospel that the Bible teaches, then this teaching would be rather short.

The author of Hebrews talks about Israel at Sinai receiving the same gospel we received.

**Hebrews 4:2**

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

How many of us have considered that?

Clearly, the Law of God that was received at Sinai is part of the gospel, and is apparently the same gospel that we received.

That most certainly messes up most mainstream Christian theology as it relates to the law of God.

Most do not consider what Moses wrote to be a component of the gospel.

Obviously there is more to the gospel than just the cross.

Let's consider the cross.

Why did Christ even have to die on the cross?

More importantly, what is the importance of the resurrection?

Just what is the gospel?

Yahweh preached the gospel to Abraham

**Galatians 3:8**

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

How many of us knew that was part of the gospel?

How many know that in the Hebrew, nations and gentiles are the same word?

What does the gospel have to do with blessing gentiles?

What really is the whole gospel?

It is often said that we need to accept Jesus Christ, or in Hebrew, Yeshua Ha'Mashiach, as our Messiah, meaning to follow Him.

However, it is not often really taught what it means to "follow Him."

How does one believe? What does that look like?

We have to examine and understand what following Him really means, otherwise, what's the point of saying it?

There is also the "gospel of the kingdom" which John the Baptist and Christ himself preached.

How does that relate to the cross, especially since this gospel is preached before the cross?

Also the book of Revelation refers to the end-time preaching of "the eternal gospel."

Is the gospel eternal? Is the gospel the same today, yesterday, and forever?

Has it always been the same?

If this is beginning to sound mysterious to you, and if it sounds strange that the gospel is actually much more than the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ...then consider even this.

Paul said it was mysterious.

Paul even teaches the "Mystery of the Gospel" (Ephesians 6:19)

Paul reveals the mystery of the gospel to us, but most still do not know it.

What are these gospels, and what are the similarities and differences between them?

These and other questions will be answered in this study.

## **THE GOSPEL DEFINED**

The word "gospel" is usually a translation of this Greek word (euaggelion) (pronounced "eu-angelion") in the Greek New Testament manuscripts.

Eu-angelion, according to Bauer Danker Lexicon is:

1. God's good news to humans, good news as proclamation.
2. Details relating to the life and ministry of Jesus, His Hebrew name Yeshua, the good news of Yeshua.
3. a book dealing with the life and teaching of Yeshua, a gospel account.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon more precisely renders this word as:

- A. a reward for good tidings,
- B. good tidings.

Thus, it is usually translated as good news.

If we break down the word eu-angelion even further, it is a compound word combining the Greek words, eu, which means "good" and angelion which means "message."

Similarly, an angel is a "messenger."

A eu-angelion is a message of good news which is delivered by a herald (messenger).

The gospel, then, is the proclamation of good news.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon notes that the Greek eu-angelion corresponds to the Hebrew word be-sorah, which also means tidings, messenger's reward and refers to the message that a runner brings to a king.

It means to proclaim.

There is certainly "good news" about the Messiah, as documented in the New Testament writings.

A focus of the message proclaimed the work of atonement accomplished by our Messiah on the tree, and the subsequent validation of his work by his resurrection from the dead, and his ministry accomplished in the heavenlies on the day of Shavuot (Pentecost) when he was proclaimed to be a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

But this "proclamation" of good news was not first announced by his resurrection from the dead, or at any time during Christ's ministry on earth.

This "good news" was first announced in the Law of God, the Torah.

Recall what we read from Hebrews 4 about Israel receiving the Law of Moses:

#### **Hebrews 4:2**

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

God gave his people a set of instructions regarding the set-apart (holy) times which they were to "proclaim":

#### **Leviticus 23:1-4**

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of (YHWH) the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

'There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to (YHWH) the Lord.

'These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times:

Each one of these set-apart days was to be a remembrance of something that the Lord had done to provide redemption for his ancient people Israel. And each one of those set-apart days was to be a foreshadowing of Christ's work of redemption which he was to accomplish at his first coming and will yet complete at his second coming.

The gospel is initially proclaimed in the set-apart days and is developed in their proclamation by the fulfillment of those days in the work of Christ.

The appointed times proclaim the gospel!

## **THE APPOINTED TIMES PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**

Let's review how the appointed times, the mo'edim found in Leviticus 23, relate to the historical and future work our Messiah Yeshua.

### **The Appointed Times and Good News**

The appointed time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is also "good news" in that Yeshua became our Passover sacrifice for our redemption.

In addition, He spent His ministry teaching us the Word of God, and how to live it, which is represented in the week of Unleavened Bread.

The message of the instructions of Christ and also taught in the week of Unleavened Bread, is to "follow me," ...or to put it another way, since He was the Word of God in the flesh, He is saying, "live in obedience to the commandments."

We are to follow the Messiah, which is exactly the same as following the Word of God; He is the Word of God (John 1:14)...we are not to follow the doctrines of men and the ways of the world when they compete against the Word.

We are to follow the Word, not men.

The instructions to rid our houses of leaven and to eat no leavened thing during the week of Unleavened Bread is symbolic of eliminating the false teachings and doctrines from our lives.

Christ fully preached the law of God. We are to do as He did, and walk as He walked, which was the Torah.

We are not to walk and follow the doctrine of a Pharisee, Sadducee, Pentecostal, Baptist, Catholic or any man-made religious institution.

To do so is to confuse who we follow...

We are to obey God, not men.

### **Acts 5:29**

[But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.](#)

Our Messiah came to fully teach the law of God, and destroy the doctrines and traditions that are contrary to the Word of God (Mark 7:5-15)(Matthew 5:17-19)(Matthew 23:1-3)

We are called as sons and daughters of God because we are to walk in his ways, to do His Word and to live in obedience to His commandments.

But there is more good news.

Yeshua rose on the appointed day of First Fruits, becoming the first fruits of the resurrection that is still to come.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-24**

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

But there is more "good news."

Christ also furthered the work of redemption at the appointed time of Shavuot (also called "Pentecost") when he became High Priest (in the order of Melchizedek) in the heavenlies.

At this time, he began the work of intercession for us. This work is described in the books of Romans, Hebrews and 1 John (and other places).

But there is more "good news."

The appointed time of the Day of the Awakening Blast (also called the "Feast of Trumpets" or "Day of Shouting") is to be proclaimed because it foreshadows the very day when our Messiah will come down on the clouds of heaven and with a loud trumpet blast, and with a shout, he will resurrect those who belong to him and gather all those living disciples unto Himself.

That is most certainly good news!

But there is more "good news."

The appointed time of the Day of Atonement foreshadows the day when Christ will lock up the adversary for 1000 years.

With the Deceiver locked up, the kingdom of righteousness of Christ can move forward. (Revelation 20:2-3)

It will indeed be "good news" for us when we see that day arrive.

But there is more "good news."

The appointed times of the Feast of Sukkot, also known as Tabernacles, was a celebration of the time when God "lived among men" when He tabernacled with Israel in a tent while they wandered through the wilderness.

It also was fulfilled when the Word in human flesh, in the person of Messiah Yeshua, "lived among men" because he was born on the appointed day, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

This is the day our Messiah was likely born and then circumcised on the eighth day of this feast.

And this day is "good news" for us because it is illustrated by and is fulfilled by the reign of Christ on earth, as God once again will be "living among men." At that time, we will participate in the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:9)

This is also a picture of the Sabbath day, the last 1,000 years in Yahweh's 7,000 year plan.

The 1000 year reign is a type of Sabbath, which again, is certainly more good news.

It teaches that we get to rest with Christ for 1,000 years before the new heaven and new Earth arrive.

The author of Hebrews in chapter 4 explains this as the rest we are waiting to enter.

For more on this see [Hebrews 4: In His Rest Now or Later?](#) and also the teaching [The Fourth and Seventh Day](#)

All of Yahweh's appointed days for His people teach on the different components of the gospel.

That is why Yahweh sees these days as so important for us.

This is also why the adversary has tried so hard to convince God's people that these days have been abolished.

The adversary hates the gospel.

The best way for the adversary to begin attacking what Christ has done and still plans to do, is to inject the idea into God's people that the appointed times are done away with.

As we can see, the appointed days that our Creator gave us as a remembrance of what Christ did and what Christ still must do is most certainly inclusive of the gospel.

So Paul's declaration that the gospel is the "death, burial and resurrection of Christ" is just a summary in capsule form of the gospel in the Scriptures.

In fact, elsewhere, Paul describes and defines the "gospel" in different terms.

## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL**

Paul's gospel is more than just the "death, burial and resurrection of Christ."

It also includes the message of obtaining "righteousness by faith."

In Romans 1, Paul describes the Gospel:

**Romans 1:16-17**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faithfulness".

So, the gospel that Paul preached was the one that reveals and explains the principle of "righteousness by faith."

How does the Gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

The popular Christian teaching about "righteousness by faith" is that God's righteousness is "imputed" in those who "believe" in "Yeshua."

In other words, in their view the righteousness which the believer has is a "theoretical" righteousness - you don't actually have to be living in a righteous way to be seen by God as "righteous".

They say, "When God looks at you, he sees the righteousness of Christ, because you are in Christ"

John makes it very clear about those who is considered righteous in the Almighty's sight, by making this simple to understand statement:

**1 John 3:7**

Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Yeshua is righteous.

It doesn't get any easier to understand than that.

There is no "imputing" of righteousness on those who do not practice walking in obedience to the commandments.

The declaration of truth is simple and clear: the righteous one is the one who is practicing righteousness, that is, by walking in obedience to the instructions of Scripture.

**1 John 3:7**

Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Yeshua is righteous.

Why is such a person practicing righteousness?

Because such a person believes the Word of God to be true, which is the same as believing in the Messiah since He was and is the Word of God in the flesh (John 1:14; Revelation 19:13)

He who believes the Word of God to be true, will do the Word of God, that person will practice the righteousness by practicing the law of God.

So it is the believing in the truth of the Word of God, or Yeshua, that saves us, which is by grace through faith.

We then do what we believe to be truth, the Word of God.

In Paul's statement in Roman's 1, he explains how the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God.

### **Habakkuk 2:4**

"the righteous will live by faithfulness."

The righteousness of God is obtained by "living by faithfulness." This principle of "living by faithfulness" is a reference to remaining loyal to God.

Using the analogy of marriage, we remain faithful through fidelity, which means "not fooling around with someone else."

Faithfulness to God means to have a desire to be walking around in obedience to the commandments.

So if the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God, then the Gospel must be the message of Scripture which tells us to obey the commandments!

Listen to what Paul says about righteousness.

Paul compares the righteousness of God as taught in the Torah (books of Moses) with the righteousness of God as he (Paul) is teaching it:

### **Romans 10:5-8 (Quoting Deuteronomy 30:11-13)**

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is by the Torah (law): "The one who does these things will live by them." So the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach)

The righteousness of God as taught by Torah is one and the same as the righteousness which Paul preached!

Let's take a look at what Moses teaches about righteousness.

First, he talks about the commandments of the Covenant.

He does not describe them as "difficult or impossible to keep" as some Christian denominations teach today.

### **Deuteronomy 30:11-16**

On the contrary, this commandment (Covenant) I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it too remote. It is not in heaven, as though one must say, "Who will go up to heaven to get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" And it is not across the sea, as though one must say, "Who will cross over to the other side of the sea and get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" For the thing is very near you--it is in your mouth and mind so that you can do it. Look! I have set before you today life and prosperity on the one hand, and death and disaster on the other. What I am commanding you today is to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments, his rules, and his right-rulings. Then you will live and

become numerous and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are about to possess.

The commandments under the "Old Covenant" (as it is often called) are NOT too difficult to keep.

In fact, it is described as "very near you - in your mouth and in your mind - so that you CAN do it."

If anyone ever tells you that keeping the law of God is too difficult, then simply quote Paul:

**Philippians 4:13**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

This should all ring a bell for anyone who has read and studied the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans (you know, the book that is so often quoted as being the case for "righteousness by faith alone").

Paul writes about righteousness by faith(fulness),

**Romans 10:6-8**

But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach).

Keep in mind that Paul is here describing "righteousness by faith." Paul is describing the righteousness by faith as "near you" and "in your heart" by quoting that portion of Scripture that is describing the righteousness of God as revealed through the Law!

This righteousness that was revealed through the Law is that one and the same righteousness by faith.

Paul then asks concerning "righteousness by faith":

**Romans 10:8-10**

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach), because if you confess with your mouth that The Lord is Yeshua and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation.

Listen and pay attention, because this is important.

Paul's message of "righteousness by faith" is one and the same as the message given by Moses to the children of Israel!

He quotes Deuteronomy 30:14 where he notes that "it is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart"

He is talking about the righteousness that was revealed at Sinai!

That righteousness that was revealed through the Law at Sinai is the righteousness by faith that Paul is speaking of!

It is near you and in your mouth and in your heart. Righteousness is attained by faithful obedience to the Creator.

Faith, by its very definition, means "fidelity/faithfulness" to the God that we serve.

This is the message that brings us life!

Going back to the Torah - the Law teaches that life and righteousness are attained through fidelity to the Covenant:

**Deuteronomy 30:15-16**

"Look! I have set before you today life and prosperity on the one hand, and death and disaster on the other. What I am commanding you today is to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments, his rules, and his right-rulings. Then you will live and become numerous and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are about to possess.

The message of the covenant given at Sinai, and the message given by Paul in the book of Romans are one and the same.

The law of God is our marriage vows to our Creator.

Now what we are going to say is going to sound a lot like works-based salvation. Please understand that is not the case.

This is especially important to hear, because Hebrew Roots is often accused of being a works-based doctrine.

We need grace. We have sinned, and we will sin again. Grace covers those instances, and praise God for His love despite our shortcomings.

But we also must understand what Paul is teaching.

Salvation is by faithfulness (obedience to the commandments) and life is obtained by obedient fidelity to The Lord.

But the converse is also true.

Life is forfeited through disobedience to the commandments which is "unfaithfulness" to the Lord.

Death is the result of disobedience.

Also note that not obeying is the same as turning aside to other gods.

God makes it clear that disobedience to Him is equated to obedience to Satan (1 John 3:8).

**Deuteronomy 30:17-20**

However, if you turn aside and do not obey, but are lured away to worship and serve other god, I declare to you this very day that you will certainly perish! You will not extend your time in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess. Today I invoke heaven and earth as a witness against

you that I have set life and death, blessing and curse, before you. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live! I also call on you to love the Lord your God, to obey him and be loyal to him, for he gives you life and enables you to live continually in the land (YHWH) the Lord promised to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

The call to all who will hear his voice is to "choose life" by "obeying him and being loyal to him" because "he gives you life and enables you to live...."

Thus, Paul's gospel of "righteousness by faith" is the eternal, unchanging message that "the revealed righteousness of God" is attained by "faithfulness" to his covenant and expresses itself through obedience to his commandments.

So our life should be a life of faithfulness, which is expressed inwardly as a desire to keep the commandments, and outwardly as the keeping of His commandments.

Remember, the keeping of His commandments is the same as not sinning. (1 John 3:4)

Does that mean that we will do this perfectly? No, of course not. When we fail in sin, we have grace.

John summarizes well what we are attempting to teach, so if we have confused you we apologize.

### **1 John 2:1-5**

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin (which means to keep the commandments). And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, (Yeshua Ha'Mashiach) Jesus Christ the righteous (meaning keep the commandments, but when we fail, we have grace). And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Now by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments**. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (which means that living a life of intentional sin and abandoning His commandments is living outside of his faith and grace). But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

### **The Gospel is a Message of Obedience**

This gospel message which calls all people to obedience to the commandments of the Covenant is alluded to in Paul's writings in other places.

For example Paul opens his letter to the Romans by connecting his gospel to the message calling Gentiles to obedience:

### **Romans 1:1-3, 5**

From Paul, a slave of Messiah Yeshua, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God. This gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son .... Through him we have received favor and our apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faithfulness** among all the Gentiles on behalf of his name.

Again, Paul points out that his gospel is the same gospel that is proclaimed by the prophets in the holy, or set-apart Scriptures.

We saw that Moses taught the gospel of the righteousness of God in Deuteronomy 30.

The goal of the gospel is to bring about "the obedience of faithfulness among all the Gentiles."

This is in agreement with Paul's description of the gospel in Romans 10 where he ties the gospel as preached in Torah with the message of righteousness through faithfulness as defined in Deuteronomy 30.

In Deuteronomy 30, the goal of the gospel is to bring about the obedience of all who join God in covenant relationship:

### **Deuteronomy 30:18-20**

Today I invoke heaven and earth as a witness against you that I have set life and death, blessing and curse, before you. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live! I also call on you to love the Lord your God, to obey him and be loyal to him, for he gives you life and enables you to live continually in the land the Lord promised to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob".

In the gospel, "righteousness of God" is obtained through faithfulness (meaning inward belief in the truth of the Word resulting in obedience to the commandments).

Going back to Romans 10, we see Paul describing the source of "faith" (faithfulness):

### **Romans 10:16-17**

But not all have obeyed the good news, for Jeremiah says, "Who has believed our report?" Consequently faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ.

Here, Paul notes, that the "good news" is not always obeyed. The relationship between "obeying" and "believing" is here established.

If one truly "believes" the good news, it is the one who "obeys" it.

There is no such thing as believing the Word of God, and at the same time refusing to do the Word of God.

Think about that for a minute.

There is no such thing as believing the Word of God, and at the same time refusing to do the Word of God.

We do what we believe, and believe what we do.

Paul later closes his letter to the Romans with a similar declaration:

## **Romans 16:25-27**

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Messiah Yeshua, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages, but now is disclosed, and through the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all the nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Messiah Yeshua, be splendor forever! Amen.

Paul's gospel is a proclamation about Christ which was disclosed through the Scriptures (the Law and the Prophets) and results in the Gentiles coming to the obedience of faithfulness.

What is this obedience?

And what is to be obeyed?

Clearly, "faith" comes from what is heard; that is, the commandments which proceed from the mouth of God.

Therefore, the commandments are the part of the gospel that is to be obeyed, and faithfulness in obeying the commands is the prerequisite to righteousness.

This is the natural progression: One who comes to God to join him in covenant hears the stipulations of the covenant (the commandments), practices them, and thereby is participating in righteousness, because the commandments are what sets us apart unto God in righteousness.

The one who is doing the commandments is righteous because he is obeying the commands. Just as John says,

## **1 John 3:7**

Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Yeshua is righteous.

Note that he doesn't say that we are righteous because we are in Christ.

Instead, he says, the one who practices righteousness (meaning the commandments) is righteous as Yeshua is righteous.

Consider Zechariah and Elizabeth...

## **Luke 1:6**

And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

So what was righteous according to our Creator?

Answer...walking blamelessly in all of the commandments and statutes of YHWH.

ALL of the commandments blamelessly.

ALL of the commandments.

Those who are in Christ are righteous, not because Christ is righteous, but because those who are "in Christ" are following Christ, the Word of God, by obeying the commandments, in the Word of God.

Not just some of the commandments...but ALL of the commandments.

Therefore, "*righteousness by faith*" is fulfilled when we practice doing the commandments as the proper faith walk.

**James 2:21-24**

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" – and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Did James not teach that just as Abraham was righteous and demonstrated his faith through His obedience and was thus justified?

From a Hebraic point of view, there is no difference between faith and works.

If one has faith, it will be evident in their works.

**James 2:18**

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Likewise, one cannot perform good works in God's eyes without having faith.

**James 2:17**

Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.

**James 2:26**

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

**Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Paul claims as "my gospel" the message which calls all Gentiles to obedience to the commandments:

**Romans 16:25,26**

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Yeshua Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages, but now is disclosed, and through the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all the nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faithfulness.

Paul's gospel is the one that is revealed "through the prophetic Scriptures," which is to say, the Law and the Prophets present this righteousness. This is the gospel message given through Moses that we are to

## **Deuteronomy 30:20**

"love The Lord your God, to obey him and be loyal to him, for he gives you life and enables you to live continually"

Is this not the same that is proclaimed in 2 Timothy 3:15-17?

## **2 Timothy 3:15-17**

And that from a child you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yeshua. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Through God's Word (all of it, not just some of it) we receive the instructions for righteousness and through that and that alone we are fully equipped or furnished for any and all good works!

Be cautioned against those who teach that some of God's Word is no longer profitable for doctrine and no longer relevant for instructions in righteousness.

The whole Bible is Truth!

This includes such Scripture as Leviticus 11 and 23!

## **The Gospel in the Blessings and Curses**

We have already seen above that Paul's gospel message of righteousness by faith is revealed and explained in Deuteronomy 30, where the righteousness of God consists in the commandments of the Covenant which are regarded by Moses as "not too difficult" nor is it "too remote." Rather, the call to obedience to the commandments of the Covenant are described as "near you, in your mouth and in your heart."

## **Romans 10:6-8, citing Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach).

Let's take a closer look at the gospel as revealed in Deuteronomy 28-30 so that we may more fully understand what previous generations of popular Christian theologians and teachers have not grasped.

As the second generation from the exodus from Egypt of the sons of Israel were preparing to enter into the Promised Land, Moses was reiterating the Covenant given to all Israel at Sinai.

He was reviewing the Covenant which God has offered their fathers, who subsequently forfeited the promises through unbelief (disobedience).

The offering of the covenant relationship could be a blessing or a curse to Israel, depending upon their response to it.

If they were to choose to obey the covenant and walk in the Lord's ways, all manner of blessing was promised them.

But if they choose to disobey Him and go their own way, the offering of the Covenant was to become a curse to them, because the Lord promised them all manner of curses if they were to disobey.

The blessing of obedience is stated as follows:

**Deuteronomy 28:1-13**

If you indeed obey the Lord your God and are careful to observe all his commandments I am giving you today, the Lord your God will elevate you above all the nations of the earth.

All these blessings will come to you in abundance if you obey the Lord your God:

You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the field.

Your children will be blessed, as well as the produce of your soil, the offspring of your livestock, the calves of your herds, and the lambs of your flocks.

Your basket and your mixing bowl will be blessed.

You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

The Lord will cause your enemies who attack you to be struck down before you; they will attack you from one direction but flee from you in seven different directions.

The Lord will decree blessing for you with respect to your barns and in everything you do; yes, he will bless you in the land he is giving you.

The Lord will designate you as his set-apart people just as he promised you, if you keep his commandments and obey him.

Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you belong to the Lord, and they will respect you.

The Lord will greatly multiply your children, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil in the land which he promised your ancestors he would give you.

The Lord will open for you his good treasure house, the heavens, to give you rain for the land in its season and to bless all you do; you will lend to many nations but you will not borrow from any.

The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always end up at the top and not at the bottom, if you obey his commandments which I am urging you today to be careful to do

These blessings with which the Almighty promised to bless all Israel were conditional.

Only those who continue in obedience to his commandments were to receive these blessings.

But the Lord also promised curses to those who would choose to disobey the commandments and go their own way:

**Deuteronomy 28:16-34**

But if you ignore the Lord your God and are not careful to keep all his commandments and rules I am giving you today, then all these curses will come upon you in full force:

You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the field.

Your basket and your mixing bowl will be cursed.

Your children will be cursed, as well as the produce of your soil, the calves of your herds, and the lambs of your flocks.

You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

The Lord will send on you a curse, confusing you and opposing you in everything you undertake until you are destroyed and quickly perish because of the evil of your deeds, in that you have forsaken me.

The Lord will plague you with deadly diseases until he has completely removed you from the land you are about to possess.

He will afflict you with weakness, fever, inflammation, infection, sword, blight, and mildew; these will attack you until you perish.

The sky above your heads will be bronze and the earth beneath you iron.

The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust; it will come down on you from the sky until you are destroyed.

The Lord will allow you to be struck down before your enemies; you will attack them from one direction but flee from them in seven directions and will become an object of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Your carcasses will be food for every bird of the sky and wild animal of the earth, and there will be no one to chase them off.

The Lord will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, eczema, and scabies, all of which cannot be healed.

The Lord will also subject you to madness, blindness, and confusion of mind.

You will feel your way along at noon like the blind person does in darkness and you will not succeed in anything you do; you will be constantly oppressed and continually robbed, with no one to save you.

You will be engaged to a woman and another man will rape her. You will build a house but not live in it.

You will plant a vineyard but not even begin to use it.

Your ox will be slaughtered before your very eyes but you will not eat of it.

Your donkey will be stolen from you as you watch and will not return to you.

Your flock of sheep will be given to your enemies and there will be no one to save you.

Your sons and daughters will be given to another people while you look on in vain all day, and you will be powerless to do anything about it.

As for the produce of your land and all your labor, a people you do not know will consume it, and you will be only oppressed and crushed for the rest of your lives.

You will go insane from seeing all this.

Note that it is the Lord who is causing all these curses to come upon all those who reject His ways and refuse to walk in His commandments.

To drive home the point and to be very clear about the consequences of disobedience, the list of curses continues:

#### **Deuteronomy 28:35-48**

The Lord will afflict you in your knees and on your legs with painful boils that you will be unable to heal--from the sole of your feet to your head.

The Lord will force you and your king whom you will appoint over you to go to a people whom you and your ancestors have not known and you will serve other God of wood and stone there.

You will become an occasion of horror, a proverb, and an object of ridicule to all the peoples to whom the Lord will drive you.

You will take much seed to the field but gather little harvest, because the locust will consume it.

You will plant vineyards and cultivate them, but you will not drink wine or gather in grapes, because the worm will eat them.

You will have olive trees throughout your territory but you will not anoint yourself with olive oil, because the olives will drop off the trees while still unripe.

You will bear sons and daughters but not keep them because they will be taken into captivity.

Whirring locusts will take over every tree and all the produce of your soil.

The foreigner who resides among you will become higher and higher over you and you will become lower and lower.

He will lend to you but you will not lend to him; he will become the head and you will become the tail!

All these curses will fall on you, pursuing and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping his commandments and rules that he has given you.

These curses will be a perpetual sign and wonder with reference to you and your descendants.

Because you have not served the Lord your God joyfully and wholeheartedly with the abundance of everything you have, instead in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and poverty you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you.

They will place an iron yoke on your neck until they have destroyed you

The Almighty promises to cause all these horrible things to come upon those who claim to be his, but who refuse to serve him by obeying his commandments.

The end result of these curses is exile, a scattering of Israel among the nations of the world:

### **Deuteronomy 28:63-66**

This is what will happen: Just as the Lord delighted to do good for you and make you numerous, he will take delight in destroying and decimating you.

You will be uprooted from the land that you are about to possess.

The Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other.

There you will worship other god that neither you nor your ancestors have known, god of wood and stone.

Among those nations you will have no rest nor will there be a place of peaceful rest for the soles of your feet, for there the Lord will give you an anxious heart, failing eyesight, and a spirit of despair.

Your life will hang in doubt before you; you will be terrified by night and day and will have no certainty of surviving from one day to the next.

We have seen in history how that this is exactly what happened to Israel.

The northern kingdom of Israel, which was always following an idolatrous path, was taken into exile by the Assyrians around 740BC.

These 10 tribes of Israel (also called the House of Israel) were scattered over all the nations of the world, and to this very day, they have not yet returned as an identifiable people to the Promised Land.

The House of Judah (and some of the Levites) experienced a different history.

Though exiled to Babylon around 586BC, they, in part, returned to the Land and have maintained to this day their unique identity as "Jews."

This is why we have Jews today.

Jews, as the house of Judah, are of Israel, but not all Israel are Jews.

The northern kingdom, the 10 tribes, were generally not considered Jews because they were not from the House of Ju-dah...which is where the term Jews originated, as shortened slang for Ju-dah.

The nation of Israel today consists mostly of the southern Kingdom, the House of Judah, Jews.

Though just like Mark 7 in the first century, they are still not living in obedience to the written Scriptures (they obey their own Oral Torah made up of Rabbinic law and tradition, not Scriptural Law), they have laid claim to the land of Israel.

We see in the Jewish history that they, as a people, have experienced all the curses which the Lord has promised his disobedient people.

But, even in spite of all these curses which do fall upon the disobedient, there is good news!

The gospel is proclaimed, even to the disobedient:

#### **Deuteronomy 30:1-10**

When you have experienced all these things, both the blessings and the curses I have set before you, you will reflect upon them in all the nations where the Lord your God has banished you.

Then if you and your descendants turn to the Lord your God and obey him with your whole mind and being just as I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will reverse your captivity and have pity on you.

He will turn and gather you from all the peoples among whom he has scattered you.

Even if your exiles are in the most distant land, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back.

Then he will bring you to the land your ancestors possessed and you also will possess it; he will do better for you and multiply you more than he did your ancestors.

The Lord your God will also cleanse your heart and the hearts of your descendants so that you may love him with all your heart and soul and so that you may live.

Then the Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies, on those who hate you and persecute you.

You will return and obey the Lord, keeping all his commandments I am giving you today.

The Lord your God will make the labor of your hands abundantly successful and multiply your children, the offspring of your cattle, and the produce of your soil.

For The Lord your God will once more rejoice over you just as he rejoiced over your ancestors, if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commandments and rules that are written in this scroll of the instruction.

But you must turn to him with your whole mind and being

There is a very clear declaration of the gospel.

Here, then, is the Gospel as it is delivered in the Torah:

If you repent and return to the Lord with your whole being and keep his commandments (the ones He gave today-Sinai), all the blessings of God will come your way as he cleanses your heart and forgives all your sins.

Thus as the House of Israel (Gentiles) are grafted in they are to obey ALL of the commandments that were originally given to them.

It is at this point in the narrative where Moses describes this offer as "*not too difficult to do*" and "*near you.*"

#### **Deuteronomy 30:11-16**

This commandment I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it too remote.

It is not in heaven, as though one must say, "Who will go up to heaven to get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

And it is not across the sea, as though one must say, "Who will cross over to the other side of the sea and get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

For the thing is very near you--it is in your mouth and mind so that you can do it.

Look! I have set before you today life and prosperity on the one hand, and death and disaster on the other.

What I am commanding you today is to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments, his rules, and his right-rulings.

Then you will live and become numerous and The Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are about to possess.

And this is the Gospel as Paul describes it in Romans 10!

Life, blessing and peace (forgiveness of sins) are obtained when we repent and begin living in obedience to the commandments of Scripture, all of them that He gave us on that day!

And this was offered to the House of Israel, that became Gentiles, or scattered in the nations, through our Messiah.

Even Yeshua declared this Himself:

**Matthew 15:24**

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (the 10 tribes)

This is a part of the gospel of Christ.

The same gospel that Paul taught. Paul, in his warning to the Galatians, accused them of perverting the gospel because the Galatians began to believe they could be saved by being circumcised, and once they were circumcised, they could go back and practice their pagan sun god holidays.

**Galatians 1:7-8**

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Paul then continues by issuing a strong statement to those who teach a different gospel:

**Galatians 1:8-9**

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

In Paul's writings, Paul teaches how the Gentiles, more specifically, the scattered House of Israel, can now come back into the faith, receive salvation by grace, and then practice all of God's Word in obedience...not for salvation, but because it is the perfect way to live, and a means to blessings.

The Jewish Circumcision Party in Galatians was teaching those in Galatia that once they were circumcised that it guaranteed their salvation. This of course prompted the Galatians, thinking that they were secure in their salvation, to go back to their old gods and keep the pagan holidays, such as Saturnalia, which is known today as Christmas.

Watch how Paul accuses the Galatians of going back to their old gods:

**Galatians 4:8-11**

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

Paul was concerned that the Galatians were going back to those false god days, perverting the gospel, which is intended to bring the House of Israel back into Yahweh's holidays, which are found in Leviticus 23.

The Galatians fell into a legalistic and twisted perception of the intent of circumcision and leveraged it as an excuse to abandon God's holidays, and return to the pagan ones, contrary to Deuteronomy 12:31.

They decided to do their own ways again, which according to Jeremiah 3:8, was the whole reason why the House of Israel was divorced from God in the first place.

Now that we realize that Christ and Paul taught about the House of Israel being renewed to the covenant of Yahweh, in obedience to all of God's commandments, perhaps we should now examine this aspect of the gospel in more detail....

### **The Re-gathering of the House of Israel**

The Prophets have much to say about the end times re-gathering of the lost tribes of the house of Israel.

The prophesy of Deuteronomy 28-30 plainly delineates the exiling of Israel due to their disobedience to Covenant.

And this is where we find them, literally on the earth, today.

The Lord explains through Ezekiel why he scattered the House of Israel:

#### **Ezekiel 20:19-25**

I am The Lord your God; follow my rules, observe my laws, and obey them.

Treat my Sabbaths as set-apart and they will be a reminder of our relationship, and then you will know that I am the Lord your God."

But the children rebelled against me, did not follow my rules, did not observe my laws by obeying them (the one who obeys them will live by them), and desecrated my Sabbaths.

I announced that I would pour out my rage on them and fully vent my anger against them in the wilderness.

But I refrained from doing so, and acted instead for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

I also solemnly vowed to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the lands.

I did this because they disobeyed my laws, rejected my rules, desecrated my Sabbaths, and looked longingly at their fathers' idols.

I also gave them over to decrees which were not good and laws by which they could not live.

In verse 20, The Lord restates his requirements as stipulated in the Covenant: "follow my rules, observe my laws, and obey them."

He then brings his case against Israel: they "rebelled against me, did not follow my rules, did not observe my laws by obeying them."

For this reason, he vowed to "scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the lands." And the rest is history.

The two-stick prophesy of Ezekiel 37 tells of the time in our near future when the Lord will bring back the exiled but now repenting sons of Israel back to the Land to reunite them with a repenting house of Judah:

**Ezekiel 37:15-28**

The word of the Lord came to me: "As for you, son of man, take one branch, and write on it, 'For Judah, and for the sons of Israel associated with him.'

Then take another branch and write on it, 'For Joseph, the branch of Ephraim and all the house of Israel associated with him.' Join them as one stick; they will be as one in your hand.

When your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what these things mean?' tell them, 'This is what the Lord says: Look, I am taking the branch of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel and his associates, and I will place the stick of Judah on it and make them into one stick, they will be one in my hand.'

The sticks you write on will be in your hand in front of them.

Then tell them, 'This is what the Lord says: Look, I am taking the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone.

I will gather them from round about and bring them to their land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over them all.

They will never again be two nations and never again be divided into two kingdoms.

They will not defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, and all their rebellious deeds.

I will save them from all their unfaithfulness by which they sinned.

I will purify them; they will become my people and I will become their God.

'My servant David will be king over them; there will be one shepherd for all of them.

In my right-rulings (mishpatim) they will walk and my rules (chukot) they will keep and they will do them.

They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; they will live in it, they and their sons and their grandsons forever.

David my servant will be prince over them forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be a perpetual covenant with them.

I will establish them, increase their numbers, and place my sanctuary among them forever.

My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then, when my sanctuary is among them forever, the nations will know that I, the Lord, set-apart Israel.'"

A quick note... "stick" in Hebrew-`ets- also means "tree" or "branch" or "wood" which should be kept in mind in the reading of Romans 11.

Scripture teaches that Israel is an "olive tree" in the context of its branches being broken off –

### **Jeremiah 11:16**

The LORD (YHWH) called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah have never been united since the days of King Solomon.

The Lord sent the Northern Kingdom into exile by the Assyrians and scattered them among the nations of the world.

But this prophesy states that the Lord will bring back the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone and gather them back to their land.

At that time, those repented and re-gathered sons of Israel will obey the commandments of the Lord by walking in the right-rulings and keeping the rules.

These people will then be obeying the Covenant which the Lord offered the people of all generations, just as the prophesy of Deuteronomy 30 tells us.

In another word of the Lord to the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord explains the conditions by which he will forgive his rebellious people and re-gather them from all around the world where he has scattered them:

### **Jeremiah 29:11-14**

For I know what I have planned for you,' says the Lord.

I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.

When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers.

When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you.

If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you,' says the Lord.

'Then I will reverse your fortunes and will regather you from all the nations and all the places where I have exiled you,' says the Lord.

I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

When his rebellious people repent of their wayward ways and agree to obey the commandments of the Covenant, YHWH will then forgive them and re-gather them back to their homeland:

Moses instructed that second generation of Israel to come out of Egypt that one day the nation would go astray from the Lord.

But the Good News is that in the distant future, when they repent and turn back again to the Lord, then he would be faithful to keep his promise to them:

**Deuteronomy 4:25-31**

After you have produced children and grandchildren and have been in the land a long time, if you become corrupt and make an image of any kind and do other evil things before the Lord your God that enrage him, I invoke heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that you will surely and swiftly be removed from the very land you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.

You will not last long there because you will surely be annihilated.

Then the Lord will scatter you among the peoples and there will be very few of you among the nations where the Lord will drive you.

There you will worship God made by human hands--wood and stone that can neither see, hear, eat, nor smell. But if you seek the Lord your God from there, you will find him, if, indeed, you seek him with all your heart and soul.

In your distress when all these things happen to you in the latter days, if you return to the Lord your God and obey him (for he is a merciful God), he will not let you down or destroy you, for he cannot forget the covenant with your ancestors that he confirmed by oath to them.

And the Prophets confirm this scattering of Israel and their eventual re-gathering back into the Land.

**Ezekiel 11:16-20**

Therefore say: 'This is what the Lord says: Although I have removed them far away among the nations and have scattered them through foreign lands, I have been a sanctuary for them for a short while among the lands where they have gone.'

Therefore say: 'This is what the Lord says: I will regather you from the peoples and will assemble you from the lands where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel.'

When they return to it, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations.

I will give them one heart and I will put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their bodies and I will give them a heart of flesh, so that they may obey my rules and keep my right-rulings and observe them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God.

We must note that the purpose of the new covenant, as outlined by the prophets is to bring the House of Israel back into covenant, to renew them into covenant with our Creator.

The prophets note that this will be through the same eternal law written down by Moses at Sinai. There is no mention of a new law, only a new covenant.

Why is a new covenant required?

Because the House of Israel broke the previous covenant.

Yet, this covenant is different, not in the sense that there is a new law, but that the House of Israel will have a heart to keep the law of God. This covenant is not like the covenant that was made with the House of Israel before:

**Jeremiah 31:31-32**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt**, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

So, how is this covenant different?

Because of a new law?

No...that is not what is said...

**Here is what will be different:**

- The law will be written on our hearts, meaning we will want to do the law of God
- We will no longer have to teach each other the Word of God

**Jeremiah 31:33-34**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

The difference is that we will want to do the law of God, because of His Spirit:

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

We will not walk in new rules, new statutes, or a new law...but the same instructions that Ezekiel and Jeremiah followed...the same instructions we find written down at Sinai.

The very fact that we still need to teach each other the Word of God means that the New Covenant, though it has been started, has not fully taken effect yet:

**Jeremiah 31:34**

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.

That...is still to come...something to look forward to in the New Covenant. According to the prophets, this appears to occur at Yeshua's coming in the end of days...when we are gathered out of the nations and resurrected incorruptible.

In another proclamation of the Good News, the re-gathering of the scattered House of Israel is announced:

**Jeremiah 31:10-12**

Hear what the Lord has to say, nations. And proclaim it in the faraway lands along the sea. Say, "The one who scattered Israel will regather them.

He will watch over his people like a shepherd watches over his flock."

For the Lord will set the descendants of Jacob free. He will secure their release from those who had overpowered them. They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion.

They will be radiant with joy over the good things the Lord provides, the grain, the fresh wine, the olive oil, the young sheep and calves he has given to them.

They will be like a well-watered garden and will not grow faint and weary any more.

And again,

**Jeremiah 32:37-39**

I will certainly regather my people from all the countries where I have exiled them in my anger, fury, and great wrath. I will bring them back to this place and let them live here in safety.

They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them a single-minded purpose to live in a way that always shows respect for me.

They will want to do that for their own good and the good of the children who descend from them.

And yet again,

**Jeremiah 23:3**

Then I myself will regather those of my people who are still left alive from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their homeland.

They will greatly increase in number.

The Good News of the New Testament is that Christ has accomplished the work of redemption such that those who repent and obey the Law of Moses will be brought back to the Promised Land which is the inheritance of the people of God.

At this point, we would like to offer a break in the teaching.

The next part in this teaching will begin examining Paul's teaching on the mystery of the gospel, which contains some of the most interesting and amazing aspects of the gospel that you will certainly not want to miss.

For your benefit, when you continue on to part 2 of this teaching, make sure the foundation of part 1 is still fresh in your mind, so that the teaching will flow.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

**EMAIL:** [Info@119ministries.com](mailto:Info@119ministries.com)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/119Ministries](http://www.facebook.com/119Ministries)

**WEBSITE:** [www.TestEverything.net](http://www.TestEverything.net) & [www.ExaminaloTodo.net](http://www.ExaminaloTodo.net)

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