

Is The Renewed Covenant Totally in Effect Today?

To answer this question, it is necessary to find out exactly what the Renewed Covenant is all about. The reason I use the term “renewed” Covenant is because in ancient Israel, previously existing covenants were amended in a principle known as “stacking.” Only the parts of the covenant that changed were affected. All other provisions of the Covenant remained the same. This is the situation with the Renewed Covenant Yahshua made with us. YHWH communicated His Covenant in a way that Israel could understand by following the outline of the ancient Suzerainty treaties. In it was stated the parties to the Covenant, the history, the terms and conditions, the duration and the witnesses.

The covenant at Sinai was in reality, a marriage contract, or Ketubah in Hebrew. Yahweh’s proposal to Israel is found in Exo. 19:3-7, and the people’s acceptance is in verse 8. The duration was to be forever, and the two witnesses were the “heaven and the earth.” However, Israel disobeyed and broke the terms of the contract, so Yahweh divorced her.

Once a person divorced and remarried someone else, it was and still is forbidden by Torah for him to remarry his original spouse (Deut. 24:1-4). Israel committed spiritual adultery by going after the foreign gods of her neighbors, primarily Ba’al of the Canaanites. Israel, in effect, married these false gods. Now, there was no way that Yahweh could remarry his former bride. Both the bride and the groom had to die and be reborn for this to happen.

We are all aware that Yahshua, which I believe to be Yahweh of the Tanakh (Old Testament), came to earth as a man, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, shed his blood and died on a crucifixion stake as payment for our sins. He was raised from the dead by Yahweh, the Father on the third day, and now has proposed to his bride, Israel. When we accept his proposal, the terms of the Ketubah are set, and upon our acceptance of them, we are then betrothed to him and are considered “born again.” We become new creations. However, the marriage process is not yet complete. We are only betrothed at this point. The marriage price has been paid for the bride, which was the shed blood of Yahweh’s only begotten Son, Yahshua. This was the most precious price of all.

The next step in the betrothal process is for the prospective groom to go to prepare a place for his bride, usually at his Father’s house.

Joh 14:2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

Joh 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

We are not there yet. We are still in the betrothal stage, and the provisions of the renewed covenant are not yet totally in effect.

Jer 31:31 *Behold, the days come, saith YHWH, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

The word translated “new” is “chadash” in Hebrew. The “*Etymological Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew*” by Matityahu Clark gives the definition of this Hebrew word as “renewed.” It is a renewed or expanded covenant with all the provisions of the old with some changes. These changes are spoken of in Hebrews chapters 7- 10 and deal primarily with changes to the Priesthood.

Another important thing to notice here is that the Renewed Covenant is made **ONLY** with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. If you do not belong to either of these two groups of people, there is no sense worrying about it. **It doesn’t pertain to you.** The “Church” does not replace Israel and must be grafted into Israel to have a part in this Renewed Covenant. This is done as explained in Romans 11.

Jer 31:32 *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith YHWH:*

Jer 31:33 *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith YHWH, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people.*

After what days? Chapters 30 and 31 are dealing with the re-gathering of all of Israel back into her land. The days spoken of here are the days when Israel is restored to her land. Those are the days when YHWH will watch over her, to build, and to plant. (v.28)

Jer 31:34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know YHWH: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith YHWH: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

I had long been puzzled at to why no one seemed to have the Torah written upon his heart such that no man needs to teach him. We still have to be taught these things today. What is in view here is a perfect knowledge of Torah. Paul alludes to this in 1 Cor. 13:9-12. “For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. We now see through a glass darkly.” Paul is speaking about not having a perfect knowledge of things, but when that perfection comes, we won’t have to be taught, as we will all know Yahshua, the living Torah, from the least to the greatest of us.

As I studied Jeremiah Chapters 30 and 31, I began to realize that the Renewed Covenant spoken of in Jer. 31:33-40 is still a future event. These chapters are speaking about the restoration of all of Israel to her land. The Renewed Covenant is described as taking place afterwards. Other scriptures also bear this out.

Eze 11:17 *Therefore say, Thus saith Master YHWH; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.*

We will be re-gathered first.

Eze 11:18 *And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.*

Eze 11:19 *And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

Eze 11:20 *That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim.*

We are given a new heart and a new spirit to keep YHWH's Commandments. A few chapters later the same illustration is made.

Eze 36:24 *For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

Eze 36:25 *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

Eze 36:26 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

Eze 36:27 *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Do many people keep His Torah now? No! The non observance of His Feasts and Sabbaths are notable examples of willful disobedience of Torah.

Eze 36:28 *And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your Elohim.*

We are not back in the land yet and will not be until the bride groom returns for His bride and takes her to be with Him forevermore. Judah is returning to the land now, but Israel has not yet returned and won't until Yahshua returns.

When Yahshua comes for his bride, which is Israel, the marriage ceremony will take place, and the marriage will be consummated. I believe the 3rd cup of the Passover ceremony, the cup of redemption, is what Yahshua referred to when he said he would no more drink of the fruit of the vine until he could drink it anew with us in his kingdom. Yahshua instituted the Renewed Covenant with his blood, but it won't be ratified or consummated until we are with him in his kingdom and drink the cup of redemption with him there.

Another thing that leads me to believe the Renewed Covenant is not yet in full effect is that all parties have to agree to it. The House of Judah has never signed on to it. They do not yet believe that Yahshua is the Messiah. But Scripture tells us that there will come a day before Yahshua returns when Judah will say "Baruch Haba B'shem YHWH" or "Blessed is He who comes in the name of YHWH." This will happen when they are in dire straits, and no one can save them except Yahshua. They will cry out to Him and Scripture indicates that when He does return, they will weep loudly when they recognize the nail scarred hands of their Savior (Zec. 12:10). When this siege of Judah and Jerusalem

occurs, Ezekiel tells us in Eze. 4:3 this will be a sign to the House of Israel. We will lift up our heads at that point, because we will know our redemption draws nigh.

Yahshua will then rejoin the two “trees” of Ezekiel 37, the wild and the natural olive trees, into the one olive tree of Israel. Another clue we can see from Scripture that this will take place after Yahshua returns is by looking carefully at the wording of Jer. 31:31 and comparing it with Jer. 31:33. This is also true of Heb. 8:8 and 8:10. Notice, verse 31 tells us that the Renewed Covenant is made with both, the house of Israel and the house of Judah, and in verse 33, only the House of Israel is mentioned. Why? It is because the two have been joined into one tree as per Eze. 37 and are now the reunified House of Israel, all 12 tribes. Jerusalem shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever. (Jer. 31:40). This alone indicates the Renewed Covenant is not fully in effect, as Judah was thrown out of Jerusalem and the land in 70 A.D. They will one day dwell safely in the land of Israel as one unified kingdom under Yahshua, the Messiah, sitting and ruling upon the throne of David.

What about the New Testament references to the law being written upon our hearts? I believe this can be answered by the following Scriptures:

2Co 1:22 *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

2Co 5:5 *Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is Elohim, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

Eph 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.*

Eph 1:14 *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Eph 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of Elohim, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We have the “earnest” or down payment of the Spirit but not yet the fullness. Our present bodies could not withstand nor contain the fullness of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). As is stated in Ephesians 1:13-14, we have the down payment of our inheritance until our redemption. We have just enough of this earnest to cause us to love the Torah and search out and hide in our hearts the things that please the Father.

We have badly misunderstood the concept of the Renewed Covenant for many years. This is why it is so important to study the whole counsel of Scripture. There is nothing new in the apostolic writing that is not found in the Tanakh (Old Testament). All of the writers of the New Testament quoted and drew heavily from the Tanakh. Yahshua, Himself, called our attention to the perpetuity of the covenant by reminding us that as long as the two witnesses (heaven and earth) exist, that one jot or one tittle will in no wise pass from the law until all has been fulfilled.

To study only the “New Testament,” one will not come away with a proper understanding of many of the precepts taught there. The Scriptures were written from a Hebrew mindset, which is alien to the Greco/Roman thought patterns we try to apply to it. To ignore this is to do so at great peril to our eternal well being and standing in eternity.

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