

Why Two Testaments?



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Testament = A covenant; meaning an agreement, promise or pledge between two parties



The Covenant With Adam

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Genesis 2:16-17



Penalty for Breaking Covenant

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:17-19



The Old Covenant

Law of Moses

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- Under the Old Covenant sins could not be forgiven – they could only be covered
- A “New” Covenant was required to forgive and take away sins





Law of Moses

Only One Sin Brings Guilt

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law (of Moses).

James 2:10-11



Old vs. New Testament?

Therefore he (Jesus) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called (those that respond to the Gospel message) may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death (Jesus) has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:15



Old vs. New Covenant



*For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus our
Lord.*

Romans 6:23

New Covenant

Forgiveness Granted For Past Sins

...whom God put forward as a propitiation (sacrifice of atonement) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Romans 3:25



Harmony of the Two Testaments

The Promise of God to Abraham



The Gospel Preached To Abraham?



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”.

Galatians 3:8



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So, what is the gospel message preached to Abraham?



Genesis 12:1-3



Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

Compared with Genesis 13:14-17



What Was the Promise?

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever. I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your seed also can be counted.

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Has Abraham Received the Promise?

...and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his seed after him, though he had no child.

Acts 7:3-5

Abraham's only possession was a cave he bought to bury his wife



Who, Then, is the Seed?

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:16



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An example of the Apostle Paul encouraging us to read the Bible carefully!



The Gospel “Good News”

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:26-29



Harmony of Scripture

- The Old Testament details the promise extended to Abraham – and his seed



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- The Old Testament details the promise extended to Abraham – and his seed
- The New Testament tells us who “the Seed” is – Jesus Christ
- The New Testament tells us how we can be part of the promise - through baptism into Christ

