

Study 0063

The Fundamentals of New Covenant Era Worship (1)

So far, we have seen that there are so many similarities between today's New Covenant worshipper and the Old Covenant worshipper in Israel of old. So great are the similarities that one could easily conclude that New Covenant Era worship and Old Covenant Era worship are the same. This assertion is, however, not true!

Indeed, the difference between New Covenant Era worship and Old Covenant Era worship are so divergent that it is obvious that they are indeed quite different. This difference notwithstanding, there are concepts which are common to both. For example, both Old and New Covenant worship operate within the ambit of a Covenant and a covenant relationship initiated by God, even though the Covenants are different, as are the relationships. Also, both Covenants involve blood and non-blood sacrifices, feasts and holy days, and ordinances and regulations, among others, even though each of these aspects or concepts is different in both Covenants. We thus find that even though both Old Covenant Era worship and New Covenant Era worship share similar concepts, their contents are quite different. Nonetheless, we are better able to understand the contents of New Covenant Era worship through the contents and context of Old Covenant Era worship. The intention of the next series of studies under the heading "*The Fundamentals of New Covenant Era Worship*" is therefore, to bring us to a better understanding of how we, today's New Covenant believers, should worship God in spirit and in truth.

Based on our observations of New Covenant Era worshippers behaving like Old Covenant Era worshippers, we noted that the Old Testament, which for the most, documents Old Covenant Era worship, foretold, spoke about, foreshadowed or modelled the New Testament, under which the New Covenant Era worshipper takes his compass on the worship of God. By looking at the Old Covenant therefore, we can see the pattern, shadow, or model of the reality, substance, or actuality of the New Covenant. This is where the similarities in concepts between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant become very helpful and useful. It is our prayer that as we study together, the Lord will open us up to the realities of the New Covenant.

Text: Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-23

One final observation which we now make about New Covenant worshippers behaving like Old Covenant worshippers is that many of the people in our churches today, are either unaware that there is a covenant under which they are supposed to relate with God, or are not at all in a covenant relationship with God, on one hand; while some others who claim to be aware that they are indeed in a covenant relationship with God, are either unaware of the significance or meaning of that covenant relationship, or are not living in accordance with the terms of that covenant relationship, on the other hand. This is thus a very good place to begin our studies on the fundamental of New Covenant Era worship.

Our texts above speak to us about the run up to the initiation of, and, the actual enactment and establishment of the Old Covenant. Our assignment is to study these verses of scripture, and use some other passages provided, to answer pertinent questions about the New Covenant, and how we relate to these things. May the Lord help us as we study, in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSIGNMENT

1. What were the events that occurred before the initiation, enactment, and establishment of the Old Covenant? (**Exodus 3:7-10; 6:1-9; 18:8**)

2. There were similar events which occurred before the initiation, enactment, and establishment of the New Covenant. What were these events? (**Acts 10:38; Matthew 4:12-17, 23; Acts 2:22-23**)

3. In the same vein, there are events which must occur before a New Testament believer can partake of the Covenant which God has cut with him. What are these events? (**John 3:16-21**)

4. From what we have studied thus far, what would you say is the role of preaching, miracles, healing, etc. in Christendom?

Conclusion

We can conclude that the New Covenant, like the Old Covenant, was prefaced by

Therefore, it is imperative that everyone who comes into a relationship with God through Christ would be made aware of aspects of the covenant, both before and after he has entered into that relationship, and must continue to maintain that relationship for the promises of God to remain effectual in his life. Is this your experience? If “No”, then it is time you availed yourself of the significance of the New Covenant; or, where necessary, come to God in repentance, and receive forgiveness through Christ.