

## Are Christians Under The Old Covenant

By Ollie Bostic

**Fact or Fiction?** Are Christians under the Old Covenant as well as the New Covenant?

**Fiction** - The Old Covenant was made only for the nation of Israel, of which Moses was the mediator of that Covenant. The New Covenant was made for both Israel and the Gentiles (with Jesus as Mediator) but was offered to the children of Israel first. They, as a whole, rejected it although there is a remnant being saved by grace. Then God took it to the Gentiles. The Apostles Peter and Paul were sent to the Gentiles first with the Gospel message.

The New Covenant is built upon the promises originally given to Abraham. He received them by faith. He believed these promises were to go to his Seed, which is Jesus Christ. (*Genesis 17:7, Galatians 3:6-16, Romans 4:3, 16*) The Old Testament Law had to be fulfilled by Christ and set aside so that the new order of priesthood could come, and that the promises of Abraham could come by faith, not by law. In order to do this, God had to change the law. **Hebrews 7:12** - **“For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.”**

God has made a new covenant and is not like the old or previous covenant that He made with the nation of Israel. **“Because finding fault with them, he says, Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in my covenant, and I did not regard them, says the Lord.”** (*Hebrews 8:8-9 NKJV*)

Abraham received the promises by faith and so we must receive them by faith also. The promises of God cannot be received by law. (*Romans 4:13-15*) We are not under law, but grace. The New Covenant can only be received by faith. **“Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the deeds of the law.”**(*Romans 3:28*) We are to be dead to the law and are delivered from it. **“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”** (*Romans 7:4*) (To be married is to be in Covenant.) **“But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter”** (of the law). (*Romans 7:6*)

The Apostle Paul declared that salvation and righteousness do not come by law, but by faith in Christ. **“Brethren my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God... For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes.”** (*Romans 10:1-4*) Paul explains in the previous chapter why Israel did not obtain the righteousness of God. **“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained unto righteousness, even the righteousness of faith. But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were by the works of the law, for they stumbled at the stumbling stone.”** (*Romans 9:30-32*)  
\*Remember the Lord says, “ you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.” (*Romans 9:6-24*)

We are not justified by the law before God. **“By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the**

law is revealed, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe, for there is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”(*Romans 3:20-23*)