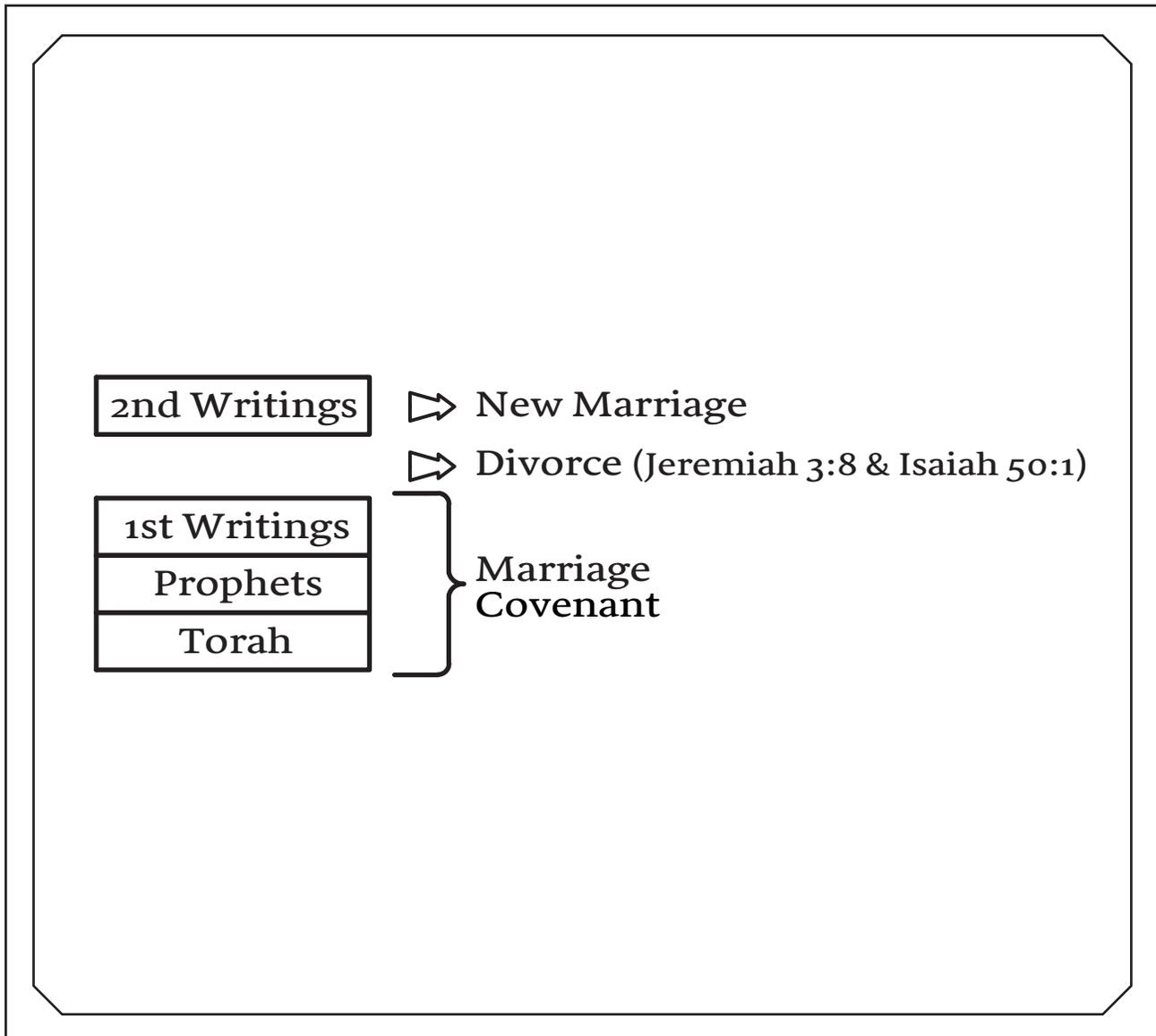




Lesson 15 (b)

The “Law”... ...when representing “the Scriptures”



Part 1: The Parts of the Scriptures

Part 2: The Torah

Part 3: The Covenant

Part 4: Old vs. New

Part 5: Testaments or Covenants?

(Total of 9 Pages)

Eric J. Ellis

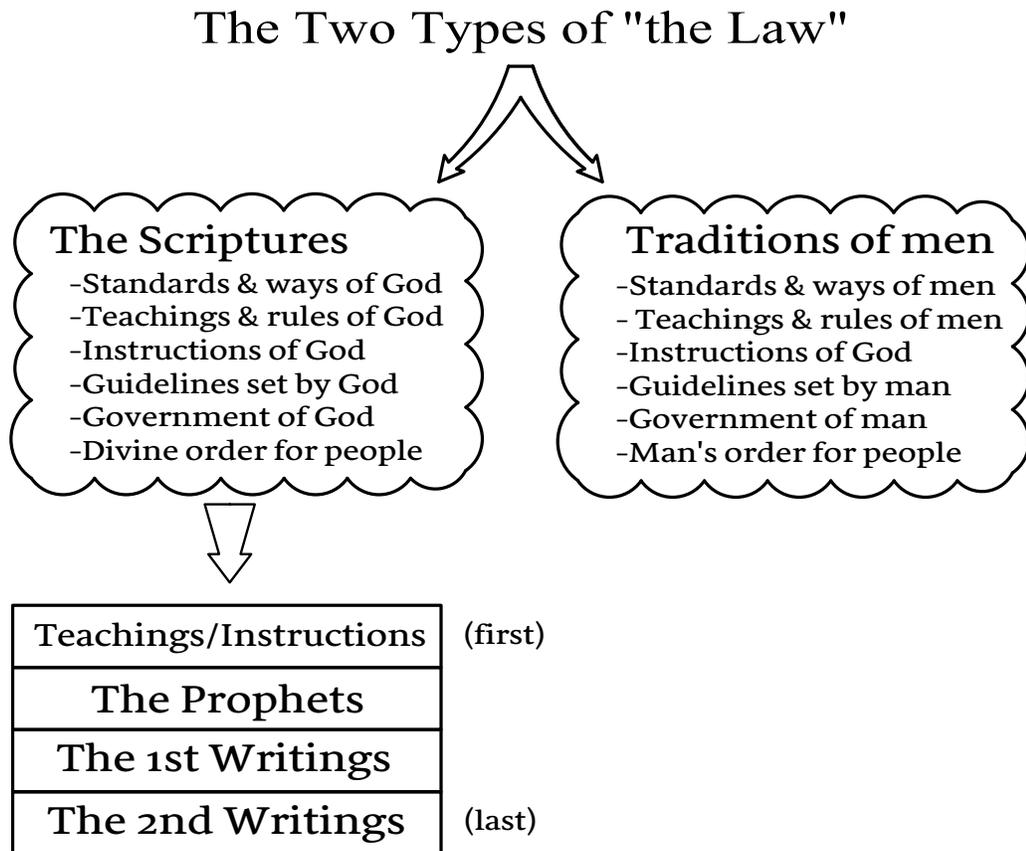
Editorial Review by Mary Elizabeth Ellis

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Part 1: The Parts of the Scriptures

To recap so far, we've just seen that whether Jew or Christian, when immersed in the traditions of men, there is a cluttering, obscuring, or distraction from the Word & from hearing the Spirit. When "the Law" that refers to the traditions of man & their church systems take the lead, the way for spiritual growth is limited, and a great deal of the growth is not by the pure stream of the Word & the Spirit. ¹ Now let's move along and see about "the Law" that refers to the scriptures.

This diagram helps us to see the big picture of what makes up the scriptures.

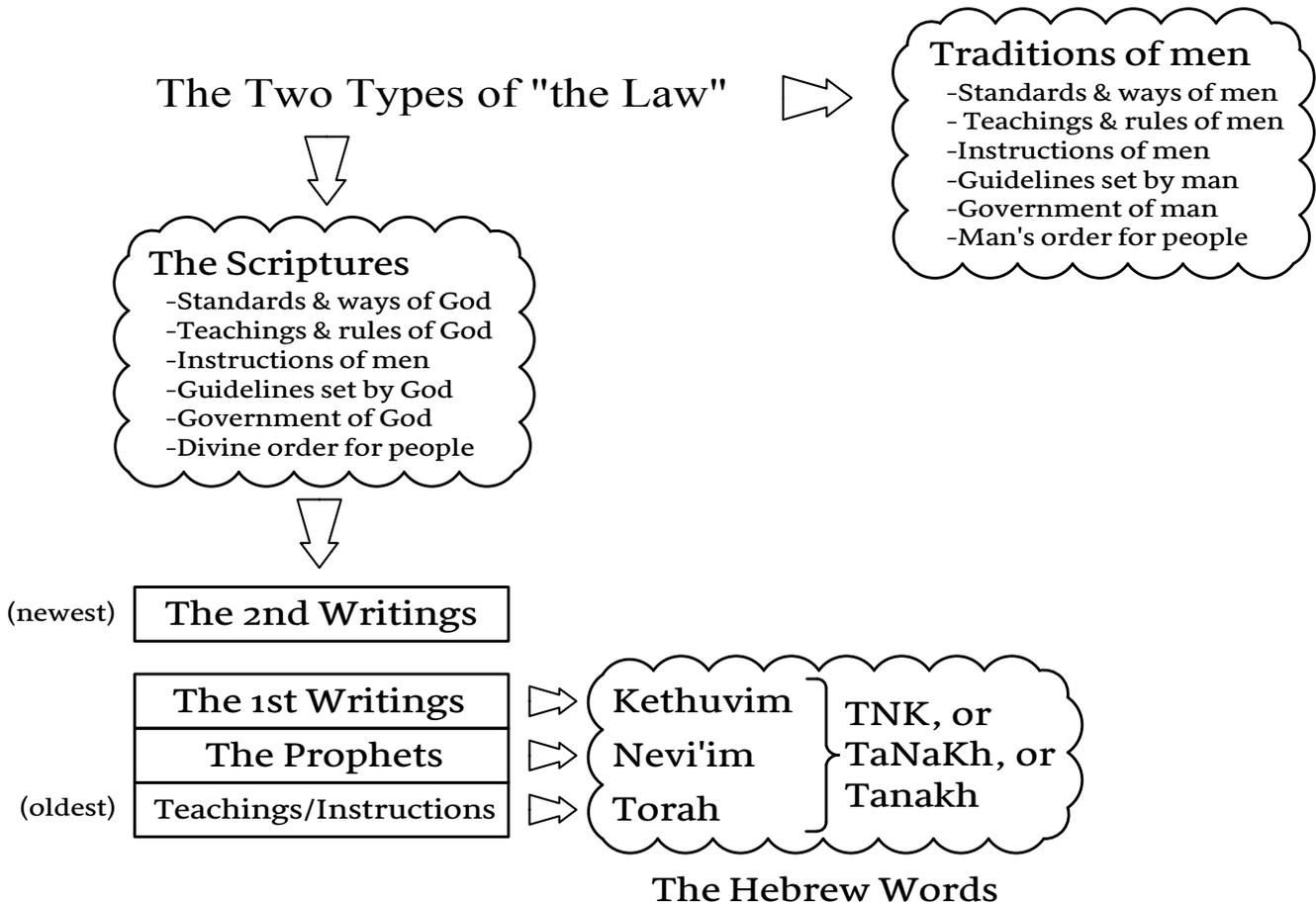


The next diagram will help us to see how these four parts of the Scriptures fit together, and begins to explain what they are.

1. With "the Laws" of men, other things seem to be leading the way, forming a mixture, (of the ways of God laced with the ways of man). The other sources of truth that the traditions-of-men offer may have many great scriptural truths in them, but are corrupt with mixture. The laws/traditions of men may provide some valuable insights & help us with initial spiritual growth; however, they should be filtered & questioned, using the Word & Spirit as our standard for comparison.

Part 2: The Torah

Here again, we see the Scriptures divided into four parts. These labels for the oldest three parts have always been used by those who wrote & read them.



Here we have reversed the order of the 4-parts of the Scriptures, placing the first, the oldest on the bottom. This is done to show that the Torah (at the bottom), is the foundation for the Prophets & the Writings. The Torah as shown here refers to the first 5-books of the Scriptures, all written by Moses. The core of that is the Marriage Covenant given to Israel at Mount Sinai on the day of Pentecost (Shavuot), 50-days after their escape from Egypt. And the heart of that is the 10-Commandments, all summed up as love God & each other. ²

The "Law" when referring to the Scriptures is translated as "Torah" in some recent Bible translations, in order to accurately distinguish it from the traditions-of-men. ³

2. From Deut. 6:4 & Lev. 19:18, which Yahshua quoted when asked for the greatest commandment.

3. Some of these translations are: Rood's "Chronological Gospels," "The Aleph-Tau Cephher," "The Aramaic-English New Testament," & "The Complete Jewish Bible." Their sources are copies of the most ancient manuscripts available, which are those written in Hebrew & those in the Aramaic (Peshitta). These translations also reflect the context of the Hebrew culture, mindset, & language in which we now know they were first written. For more info see footnote 5 in Lesson 15 (a).

Most other English translations use the word “Law” instead of “Torah.” Doing so makes for a sad misrepresentation of the meaning of “Torah,” and is very misleading at best. So what does “Torah” mean? According to two Hebrew Lexicons ⁴ “Torah” means:

- to show a direction to walk or live, (from Benner’s Lexicon)
- teaching: the direction one is to take in life, (from Benner’s Lexicon)
- instruction, teaching (primary meaning from Klein’s Lexicon)
- the Book of Laws, (secondary meaning from Klein’s Lexicon)
- the Five Books of the Torah (third meaning from Klein’s Lexicon)
- instruction, teaching (Aramaic & Syrian sources as mentioned by Klein)
- even Strong defines this as “precept” or “statute”

The definition of “precept” is “instruction or direction for a course of action”

- and Funk & Wagnalls Dictionary defines “Torah” as “counsel or instruction”

Knowing what “Torah,” means, we can see “Torah” is used according to context as:

- the 10 commandments (in its most specific use) (love God & man)
- commonly as the teachings of Moses in the first 5-books of the Scriptures
- the teachings & the prophets
- the teachings & the prophets & the 1st writings
- the teachings & the prophets & the 1st & 2nd writings (broadly)

Basically, ***“Torah” refers to the teachings, instructions & ways of righteousness of God. And the purpose of hearing & obeying the Torah is to know how to walk so as to not be robbed of the fullness of life (His Life), in the land of the living!*** For confirmation:

“23. But this is what I commanded them, saying,

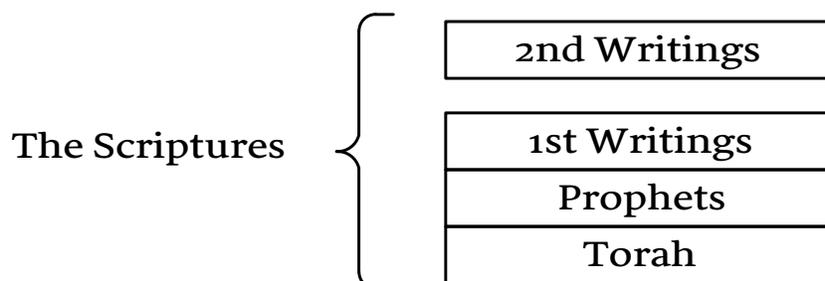
‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people.

And WALK IN ALL THE WAYS that I have commanded you,

THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU.’”

Jeremiah 7:23 New King James Version

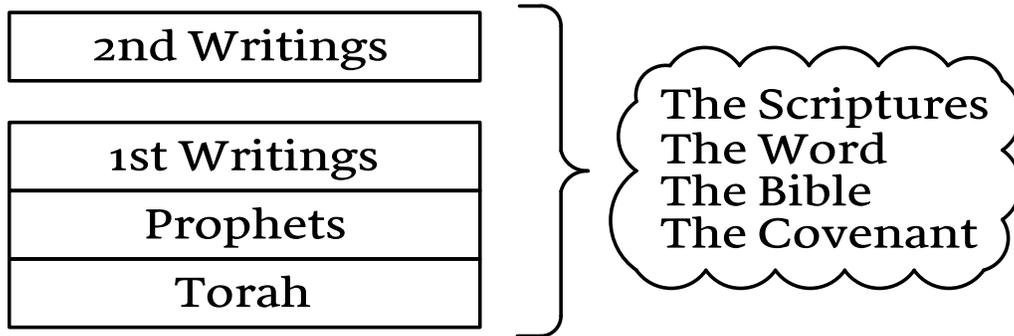
We can summarize with this diagram before going on to the next part:



4. Jeff A. Benner’s “Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible,” pg 143, H, i, from Strong’s No. 8451, pg 575. Also, Ernest Klein’s “A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language,” pg 696.

Part 3: The Covenant

In this diagram we see the big picture of the type of “the Law” known as “Scriptures.”



Some may be thinking, “But there are two different covenants, the old & the new!” Well, what does scripture say about that?

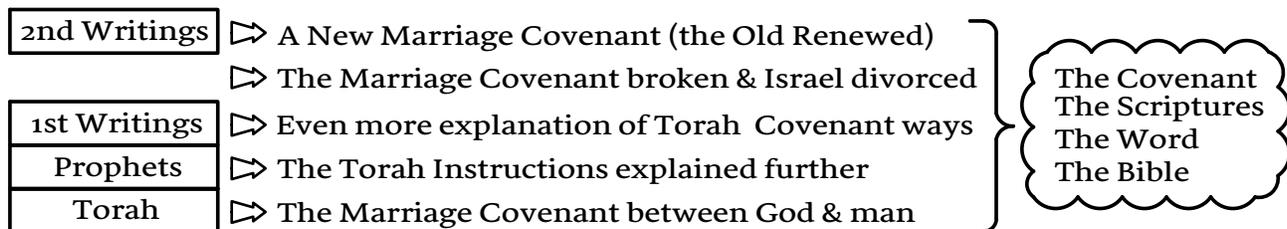
“44. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law [teachings] of Moses [the Torah] and the Prophets and the Psalms ⁵ [Writings] concerning Me.”

Luke 24:44 The New King James Version

“17. Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17 The New King James Version

Were the Scriptures fulfilled at the end of the 1st-Writings? No, certainly not! And when are all things written in the Torah, Prophets, & 1st-Writings fulfilled? They are fulfilled by the end of the 2nd-Writings. The fulfillment of the Covenant can be seen in “one new man,” Yahshua in the beginning of the 2nd-Writings. By the end of the 2nd-Writings, a huge company of others who are mature in Him follow. In other words, Yahshua, as the Word-made-flesh is what the Torah looks like when lived out in a person, (with others to arise like Him, because of His first work). All four parts of the Scriptures (the Law), are about a marriage covenant that gets fulfilled between God & man as shown here:



5. Psalms are the first & largest book in the 1st Writings, so in context here, represents all of them.

Part 4: Old vs. New

It is a fundamental religious tradition in “Christianity” that we have a “New Covenant” with the atonement of Yahshua on the cross; which replaced the “Old Covenant”. This tradition however is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. Why? Well, this mixture of truth & error leads one to believe that the Torah, Prophets, & 1st-Writings are now irrelevant. Even worse, that they are relegated as to no longer applying, being seen as bondage & legalism.

To unravel the error, we first must understand that the ekklesia of true believers began to be persecuted by the church systems beginning with Marcion, during the life-time of a disciple of John. The church systems grew as the ekklesia ⁶ began to be eliminated. ⁷

The truth however is that the 2nd-Writings truly are about “New Covenant,” as prophesied in **Jeremiah 31:31**, then quoted in **Hebrews 8:8-10**; the Marriage Covenant.



This “New” Covenant was to be better, with better promises, because it was to have a New Mediator, Yahshua. This mediator of the New Covenant was going to put the Torah of God into the hearts & minds of His people,⁸ not do away with it or replace it. What was replaced was the mediator, and thus the terms shifted from an external government to an internal government into hearts & minds.

6. See our recent mistranslation study on the ekklesia (Item No. 19 found in “Eric’s Library” on our Bible Concepts website). for this Lesson. I highly encourage you to read it since it fits here.

7. This trend went into full-swing when the sun-worshiper Constantine used the military force of an Empire to speed up the transition, along with further introduction of pagan beliefs & practices. As such, not only were the ekklesia murdered, but the early manuscripts were destroyed as soon as edited copies were made by the church system. However, a few of the early manuscripts survived, and have recently been discovered. Now we’ve found for example that the book of John has 60 additions/changes made by the church system to cloud the truth, as recently revealed by Miles Jones, Nehemia Gordon, Michael Rood, & others based on recent archaeological discoveries. See the you-tube, “This Changes Everything - Shabbat Night Live- 2/06/19” to clearly see these changes.

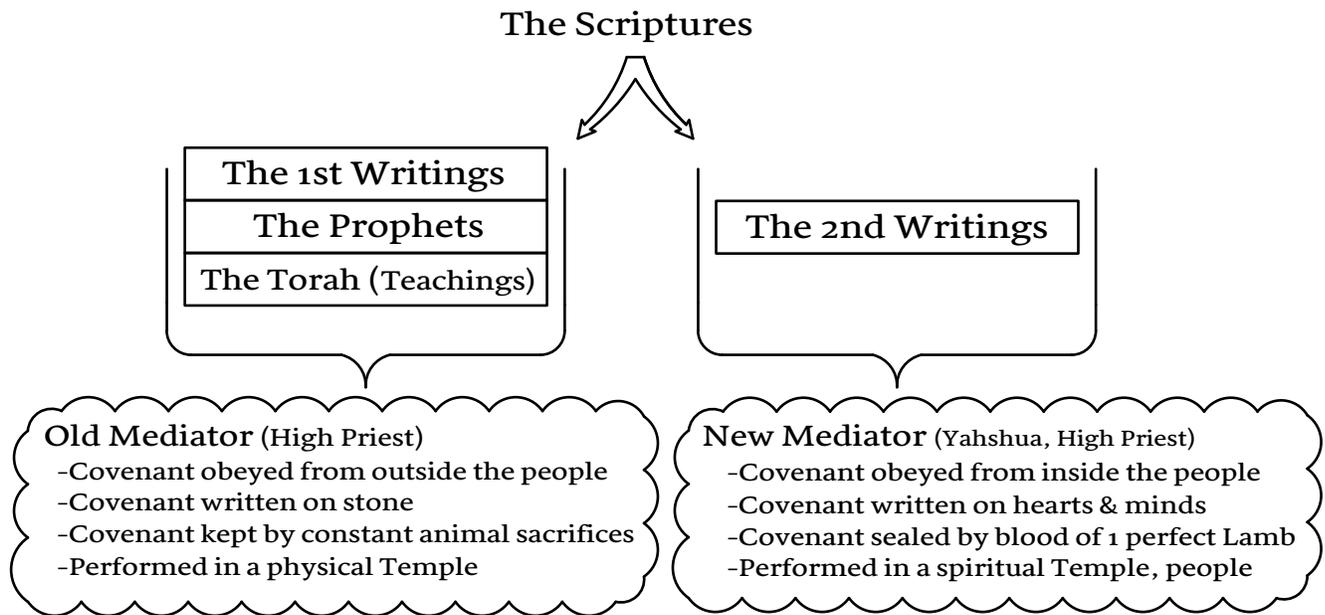
8. This is made possible because Yahshua atoned for our sinful nature & actions by His blood. Once we were atoned for, then He could place the seed of His Spirit into us. His atonement for us was the fulfillment of Passover. His Spirit dwelling in us was the fulfillment of Pentecost (Shavuot). These were both spring Feasts (the early rains), together representing the first work of Messiah. The fulfillment of the last major Feast, Sukkoth (Tabernacles), is in the fall at the time of the latter rains. It is His second work, at the end of the age...happening now!

Although most English translations use “the Law” instead of “the Torah,” not all do. ⁹ So we see that the scriptural definition of the New Covenant is to have the Torah, the basis of the “Old” Covenant, written upon our hearts. So how do we reconcile with this?

“13. In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete.
 Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

Hebrews 9:13 The New King James Version

Obviously something has been done away with! So what goes if the Torah stays? The context of chapters 7, 8, & 9 of Hebrews makes it clear that under the New Covenant we have a new Mediator. The mediator is the middle-man who is the “go-between” ¹⁰ of the 2-parties of the covenant. Yahshua is the one who brings God & Man together. He is the ladder between heaven & earth that makes a new people possible. These new people are those in whom is seen the Spirit of the Living God. The old mediator of the covenant was the High Priest. But Yahshua is the new mediator, the new High Priest, and He’s of a new order of priests. The order and rituals of the old mediator have also gone away. It looks like:



This Old-Mediator portion of the Torah has been replaced with a better way, the New Mediator. So in one sense, the Covenant has been made new (since it has new terms), yet in another sense the Covenant has been renewed.

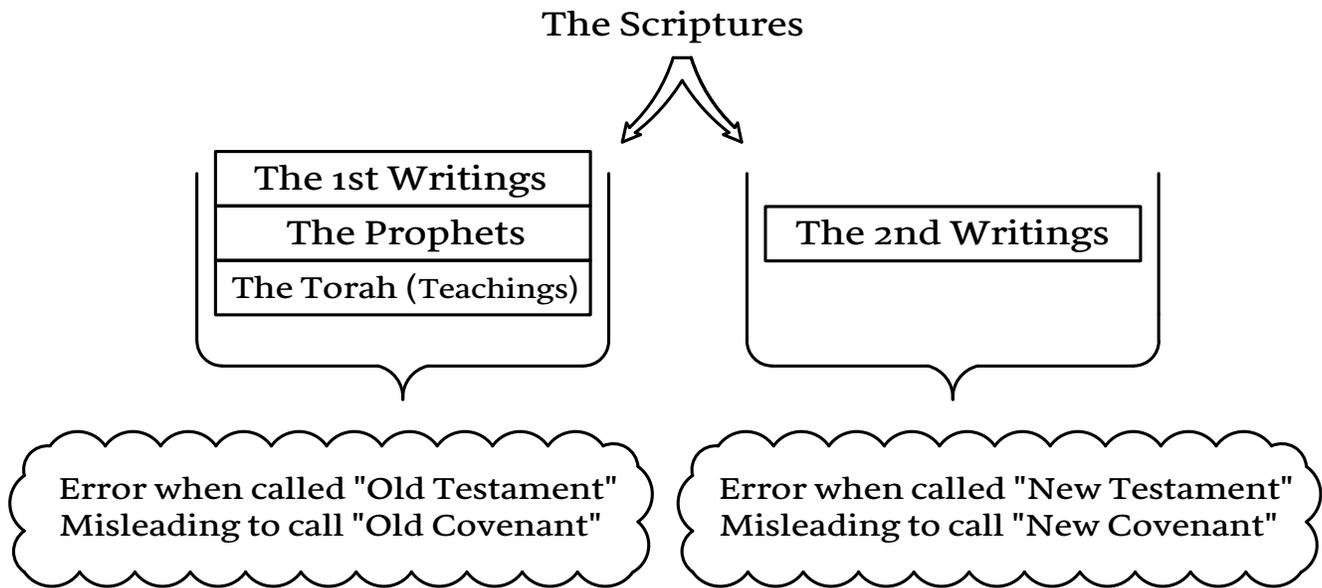
The whole covenant was not scrapped, only the means by which it could be fulfilled.

9. The Complete Jewish Study Bible, The Aleph-Tav Cephher, & The Aramaic-English New Testament all use “the Torah,” which is an accurate summation of the definition of the Greek word from which it was translated, (Strong’s No. 3551).

10. This is the actual definition of the Greek word (Strong’s No. 3316), which is the basis for using the English word “mediator.”

Part 5: Testaments or Covenants?

In summary we have the same Torah (instructions, teachings, ways of God), but with select portions replaced due to the New Mediator (Yahshua), providing a new way. This New Mediator is the Living Word & the Spirit, and now dwells in a people. The Kingdom of God is within us. The Torah is today written on our hearts & in our minds. We'll show some verses to further sort this out, but first let's clear up some more error from religious traditions that incorrectly branded "Covenant" as "Testament," since each of these words have very different meanings.



The words “New Testament” are used 14 times beginning with (in most English translations) this verse below. This verse of course implies that all Scriptures written before the Gospels is thus the “Old Testament,” (which we’ll come to see is also a myth).

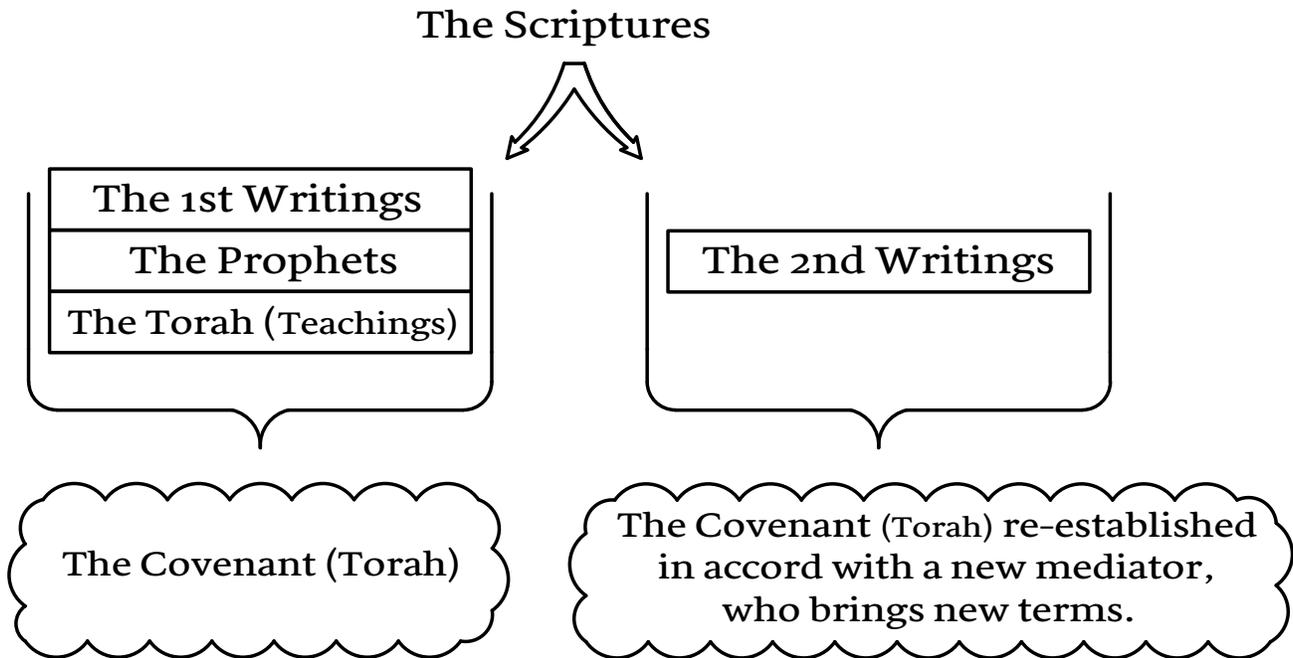
*“28. For this is my blood of the NEW TESTAMENT,¹¹
which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

Matthew 26:28 King James Version

Here’s the serious problem. The word “Testament” is translated from Strong’s Greek word 1242. Strong’s definition of this word is “contract,” which then shows the two types of contracts that can be used for this word. One type is “covenant” and the other type is “testament.” The thing to note is that they mean very different things! A “testament” is a person’s will, while a “covenant” is an agreement between two parties.

11. At least 2-interlinears, 4-literal translations, 3-amplified versions, and some recent translations based on the Aramaic/Hebrew translate this Strong’s No. 1242 as “covenant.” Context always verifies that “covenant” is more accurate.

Now, let's put our attention on whether or not the Covenant is "new" or "renewed."



Our new Mediator is Yahshua. He forgives all our sins. He fills us with His Spirit. He gives us a new mind & a new heart as a result of a new Spirit within. Under the old terms of the old mediator we could never obtain perfection. With the old order of animal sacrifices our hearts and minds and spirits could not be made new. And under the external temple rituals we could not have our inner fallen nature changed into Yahshua's nature. Never.

So if we could not keep the covenant under the old order, why did God set it up that way? That was exactly the main point; to show us that we never could keep the Torah apart from Him making a way. It was also set up that way to be a prophetic representation of the Messiah who would come to fulfill the Torah. These prophetic representations are called "types" and "shadows." The old order of animal sacrifices, rituals, buildings, furniture, and priesthood were all patterns & signs that pointed to the Messiah. Once the Messiah came and fulfilled these "types," then the old order was no longer needed. A new order was established.

Yahshua fulfilled these types & shadows. Yahshua fulfilled the Covenant, the Torah. He was the perfect sacrifice, the perfect Lamb. Now, under the "Renewed Covenant" with a New Mediator, under His new Melchizedek priestly order, with His perfect atonement for us, we can receive of His Spirit and walk in the newness of His Life, by grace through faith. The Covenant, the Torah, His ways, become who we are when we are found in our Redeemer, our Messiah, Yahshua, the Word made flesh.

Let's close by backing off to see the really big picture in which these 3-Lessons are framed. The "really big picture" is God's Plan.¹² From before Creation, God has always planned to marry the divine spiritual realm (heaven), with the natural realm (earth). He would do this through a perfect man with His mind & heart. This man filled with His Spirit would be the ladder that connects heaven & earth. This man would then multiply to fill the earth. Once Yah had a team who were mature in Him, then He would rule firmly in both realms through them.

This was first fulfilled in Yahshua, the head, and now is being fulfilled in Yahshua, the body. This team of people will have the "Law" (Torah), written on their hearts, and in their minds. They would know what He wants them to do, and they would want to do it.

We are witnessing this happening now. This transition will be complete when His company of saints are resurrected. Meanwhile, by grace through faith, they will overcome while in mortal bodies. Our next Lesson brings in the last major concept, and ties all 3-Lessons together.

To be continued...

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12. For this we refer to the introductory Lesson, "God's Plan."