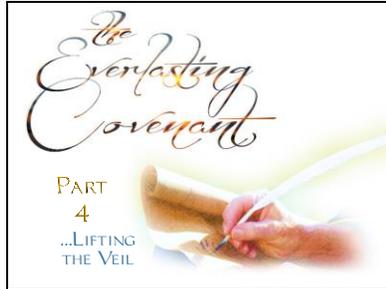
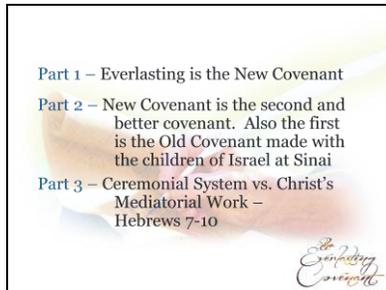


Slide 1



The Everlasting Covenant – Part 4
Lifting the Veil
2 Corinthians 3:18
286 Wonderful Words of Life
316 Live Out Thy Life Within Me

Slide 2



Previously in:

Today – we will look at... the second of two places... in scripture
Where there is a... head to head comparison... of the Old and New Covenants

How I found it:

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It was a very busy week... but I wasn't worried
I new what I was going to preach... and I had done bible studies on it many times

One might say I was over confident!
So on Friday morning when I finally had time to sit and formulate my approach

I prayed a simple prayer... God help me to... share this in its simplicity and its truth

When I opened my eyes... I had an interesting thought
I wonder if the phrase "Old Covenant" ... is used in scripture?

I typed it into the my bible software search in the KJV

A: No

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Thus our last will and Testament... is a Covenant... with our to be inheritors
As Paul notes in Hebrews 9:16

Heb 9:16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

The Question:
Why the difference... between the RSV and KJV? ...was simple enough to solve

So then being led... to the text... by my initial wondering...
It seemed prudent... to read the immediate context

Let's read it together... 2 Cor 3:1-18

Did you see... the clear contrast... going on between... the Old and New Covenants?

Then I had another interesting thought
I wonder if it is found in the RSV
A: Yes... one place

Then I wondered why it wasn't in the KJV

Here's why:

The RSV translates... diatheke as... Covenant while
The translators of the KJV... chose the English word Testament

As we discussed earlier... this is a viable translation... rendered thus
13 times in the KJV of the 33 NT uses of diatheke

Although I had read this... many times before... This time... Verse 7... stopped me in my tracks:

Translation Note:

KJV: vs. 6 ...ministers of the new testament...
vs. 14 ...in the reading of the old testament...

RSV / ASV: vs. 6 ...ministers of a new covenant...
vs. 14 ...when they read the old covenant...

NKJ: vs. 6 ...ministers of the new covenant...
vs.14 ...in the reading of the Old Testament...

1. The KJV and RSV are consistent in their translation of diatheke
2. The RSV uses the article “a new covenant” while the KJV and NKJ read “the new covenant”
3. Neither the KJV or the RSV capitalize “new covenant” or “old covenant”. While the translators of the NKJ chose to leave “new covenant” un-capitalized and to capitalize “Old Testament”

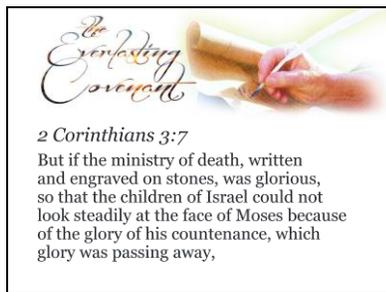
a. Un-capitalized the terms refer to the covenant or testament made by God rather than to the NT books of Matthew-Revelation or OT books of Genesis-Malachi.

b. While both the choice to translate diatheke two different ways i.e. “new covenant” and “Old Testament” combined with the later being capitalized seems to refer in the first as the new covenant or contractual agreement while the later seems to imply not to the old contract but specifically to the reading of books of Genesis-Malachi.

This is not to say that one version is more right than the other. Although, the NKJ does appear to take a liberty that the others did not. This reveals both the liberties sometimes taken by the translators and the value in our comparing versions.

Also Note: To refer to the books of Genesis-Malachi as the “Old Covenant” or “Old Testament” is an unfortunate misnomer. There are at least 7 covenants in these books only one of which is referred to as the “old” (2 Cor 3, Heb 7-10) and this is the Sinai covenant made through Moses. While the books of Matthew-Revelation contain the definition (repeated from Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36) and distribution of the “new covenant” the books are not themselves the “new covenant”. Thus the misuse of these terms has led some to believe and preach that the OT as books were for the Jews and the NT is for us. Producing a gross ignorance of the OT scriptures as a whole not to mention the undue prejudices.

Slide 5



Do you see what I saw then?

What was it that was... written and engraved by stone?

A: The 10 commandments

What does Paul call it?

A: “the ministry of death”

What does he say was to happen to it?

A: it’s “glory was passing away”

The Greek word... translated here in the NKJ... as “passing away” is:

Slide 6

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o
from 2596 and 691; v
AV- destroy 5, do away 3, abolish 3, cumber 1, loose 1, cease 1, fall 1, deliver 1, misc 11; 27
1) to render idle, unemployed, inactivatē, inoperative
2) to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish



Its a compound phrase... kata – “toward” and... argeo – “inactive”

It is found 27 times in the NT... 26 times - used by Paul

4 of these are in 2 Cor 3... verses 7, 11, 13, and 14

The KJV renders verses 7... “was to be done away”

Vss. 11, and 14 as.... “is done away”

And vs. 13 as... “that which is abolished”

Story: Well misery loves company... so I called an elder friend

Have you ever read... 2 Cor 3? ...I asked I’m sure I have... as he turned to it... an read it aloud

Is that saying... what I think it’s saying... he asked

Yes I think so... I replied

That the 10 commandments... are or have passed away?... he bemoaned I believe so... I responded

That’s not funny... I’m not sure I believe that

Me either... I said

How did you come across this? ...he inquired

So... I told him... what I intended to preach... how I had prayed... and the question I then had

So your going to preach this tomorrow? Yes... at least that was my plan!

Now that’s funny!!! ...he ribbed So much for my... company in misery.

My friend was laughing... perhaps God was even chuckling... But I wasn’t laughing at all!

Let’s look more carefully... at what Paul says:

Slide 7

2 Corinthians 3:3
clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.



2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

Slide 8

2 Corinthians 3:6
who also made us sufficient as ministers
of the new covenant, not of the letter
but of the Spirit; for the letter kills,
but the Spirit gives life.



4 And we have such trust through
Christ toward God.

5 Not that we are sufficient of
ourselves to think of anything as being
from ourselves, but our sufficiency is
from God,

Slide 9

2 Corinthians 3:7
But if the ministry of death, written
and engraved on stones, was glorious,
so that the children of Israel could not
look steadily at the face of Moses because
of the glory of his countenance,
which glory was passing away,



Slide 10

2 Corinthians 3:8,9
how will the ministry of the Spirit
no be more glorious? ⁹ For if the
ministry of condemnation had glory,
the ministry of righteousness
exceeds much more in glory.



Slide 11

2 Corinthians 3:10,11
For even what was made glorious had
no glory in this respect, because of the
glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is
passing away was glorious, what
remains is much more glorious.



Slide 12

2 Corinthians 3:13
unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.



12 ¶ Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-

Slide 13

2 Corinthians 3:14
But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.



15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.
16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

So is that unexpected?
What does it mean?

It through me for a loop!
After all... we teach that... it was the Ceremonial law (only) that expired... not the 10 Commandments

Yet this clearly lays out... the 10 as “passed away”
What ever could this mean?

Now let’s look more closely at... the contrasting points:

Slide 14

2 Corinthians 3:3
clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.



Turn back to verse 3:

Notice that the conjunction... “but” ...forms the contrast... between the Old and the New

Written with... Ink... vs... by the Spirit
On tablets of stone... vs... tablets of the heart

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2 Corinthians 3:6
who also made us sufficient as ministers
of the new covenant, not of the letter
but of the Spirit; for the letter kills,
but the Spirit gives life.



Slide 16

2 Corinthians 3:7
But if the ministry of death, written
and engraved on stones, was glorious,
so that the children of Israel could not
look steadily at the face of Moses because
of the glory of his countenance,
which glory was passing away,



Slide 17

2 Corinthians 3:8,9
how will the ministry of the Spirit
not be more glorious? 9 For if the
ministry of condemnation had glory,
the ministry of righteousness
exceeds much more in glory.



Slide 18

2 Corinthians 3:10,11
For even what was made glorious had
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glory that excels. 11 For if what is
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Slide 19

2 Corinthians 3:13
unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face
so that the children of Israel could not
look steadily at the end of what
was passing away.



Slide 20

2 Corinthians 3:14
 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

Galatians 3:24



Verse 15 says Israel... has a veil... on their heart.

What does this mean?

It is similar to us saying... they have blinder on their eyes... or stuffed ears They can't see... or hear... or understand... the truth

They see the OT commandment... and the sacrificial system... as a means of salvation

Instead of a tutor... to bring them to Christ (Gal 3:24)

16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

So let's lay it out... in a chart... just like with Hebrews:

Slide 21

2 Corinthians 3



External Condemnation vs. Internal Conversion

Old Covenant		New Covenant	
Of the Letter	vs. 6	Of the Spirit	vs. 6
Kills	vs. 6	Gives Life	vs. 6
Ministry of Death	vs. 7	Ministry of the Spirit	vs. 8
Written on Stone	vss. 3/7	Inferred: Written in the Heart	vs. 3
Was/Be/Made	vss. 7,11/9/10	More Glorious	vs. 11
Passing/Done away/Abolished	vss. 7/11/13	Exceeds / excels	9/10
Of Condemnation	vs. 9	Remains	vs. 11
		Of Righteousness	vs. 9

The contrast... and content... of the Old and New... are clear:

The Old - (here) is... the letter... on stone... the ministry of death and condemnation... that was to pass away

The New - (both here and Hebrews) is... the law written in our heart... The Promise of the New Covenant (Jer 31 and Ezel 36)

This is the Everlasting Covenant... that gives life and righteousness... by the ministry of the Spirit

Let's go back... to this word... kata-argeo... and look at... a few more places Paul use it:

Slide 22

Galatians 3:17

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make <2673> the promise of no effect <2673>



Note the uses... of kata-argeo twice... this is for emphasis

We only translate it once... for ease of reading... but the Greek would say

Make... kata-argeo... void / inoperative / to cease... the promise... kata-argeo... of no effect

What law is Paul referring to?

A: That given at Sinai (as is clear by the context of Galatians)

430 years later than what covenant?

A: Israel was in Egypt... 400 years... and the Promise was given... previously to Abraham (Gen 15:13)

So the law at Sinai... did not annul... the Everlasting Covenant... made with Abraham

Paul asks this... all important question:

Slide 23



Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

What law is this?

The 10 teach... what constitute transgression... or sin and

The Ceremonial... teach the means of salvation... from penalty of transgression

i.e. the blood of the lamb... the ministry of the High Priest... Jesus the Messiah

Another use of kata-argeo is found here:

Slide 24

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Galatians 5:4
You have become estranged <2673> from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.



The false concept... that somehow... keeping the law... pays for or... makes amends for transgression

This false Theology:

Kata-argeo... separates us... estranges... make our relationship... with Christ to cease

Because... we are no longer trusting... in His sacrifice on our behalf... by faith

Thus... We fall from grace

Slide 25

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Ephesians 2:15
having abolished <2673> in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace



What was that enmity?

Slide 26

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Romans 3:31
Do we <2673> then make void <2673> the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.



The law is not abolished... rather is established... into its rightful place

It serves as an indicator... of transgression... defining what constitutes sin

Remove the law... you remove the definition... and even more

Ro 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

Where there is not transgression... there is no sin... no sin... who needs a savior?

Then the whole message... of the gospel is foolishness

Thus the Law... on stone is established... as the harbinger of death

Ga 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Slide 27

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Romans 4:14
For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect <2673>



If having... knowing... or keeping the law... saves you

Then what of God's promise... to Abraham?

I will... I will... I will...

Jer 31:34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Slide 28

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Romans 6:6
Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed <2673>, that henceforth we should not serve sin.



Here it is surrender... through faith
The Oldman is dead... the new heart...
the promise of Everlasting Covenant...
The New Birth... the Spirit of righteousness... now dwells within

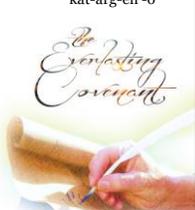
The body is sin... is kata-agreo...
destroyed... abolished... ceasing
That we might... no longer serve sin

This is the Everlasting Gospel!

Slide 29

2673 καταργέω
kat-arg-eh'-o

Romans 7:6
But now we are delivered <2673> from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.



For the law kills... but... the Spirit gives life

Slide 30

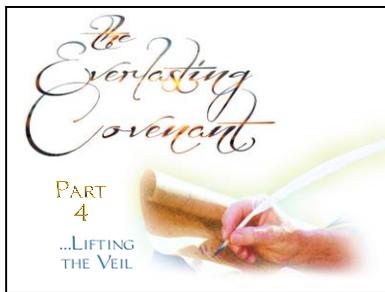


God has a sense of humor...
He was saying... OK mister confident...
let me throw a monkey-wrench in the
mix

It through me for a loop... but it caused
me to study... and broaden my
understanding
God was doing me a favor... by
knocking me off my high-horse

Next time we will... explore these
ideas... even fuller... as we seek to
understand... and apply the Everlasting
Covenant

Slide 31



316 Live Out Thy Life Within Me