

by Bill Crews

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.... *brought them out of the land of Egypt*" (1 Kings 8:21; see Heb. 9:4 again). Now compare this with Jeremiah 31:31-34 where the prophecy of a new covenant is made.

In 2 Corinthians 3:6 Paul refers to himself and the other apostles as *"ministers of a new covenant."* Now please read the rest of the chapter. He speaks of the old covenant as *"the ministration of death"* and *"the ministration of condemnation"* because it condemned those who transgressed it and contained no real remedy for sin. The new covenant is able to give life and is called *"the ministration of righteousness."* The old covenant that was engraven on stones and came with such glory that the children of Israel could not look upon *"the face of Moses for the glory of his face."* For that reason Moses put a veil over his face. Now go back to Numbers 34 and read verses 29-35 again. Paul is clearly referring to the covenant written on the two tables of stone, namely the ten commandments, including the command to keep the sabbath. The new covenant is *"that which remaineth";* the old covenant is *"that which passeth away."*

And, finally, we close with Colossians 2:14-17. (Remember that Paul was addressing some problems that had arisen in Colossae among the saints, problems caused by false teachers and their false teaching, part of which was an effort to bind the law of Moses upon those people of God under the new covenant.) *"Having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's."* Since the old covenant had been *"blotted out,"* *"taken ... out of the way,"* and *"nailed to the cross"* (because unable to justify, thus being *"against us"* and *"contrary to us"*), the saints at Colossae were not to allow anyone to judge them by the tenets of that covenant such as regulations involving *"meat," "drink," "feast day," "new moon" or "sabbath day."* These were but *"a shadow of the things to come, which things are now found in Christ."*

Friend, we have a perfect new covenant, and the observance of the seventh day sabbath is not a part of it.

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