

The chapter, "How Were the Covenants Confirmed?" taken from:

CONFRONTATION
THE BATTLE BETWEEN
THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST
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HOW WERE THE COVENANTS CONFIRMED?

Since Jesus came to confirm a New Covenant, it is important to understand how this Covenant was confirmed, and the Bible does not leave us ignorant as to how a covenant is confirmed. The “Old Covenant” which was confirmed between the LORD and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, reveals what had to be done for the covenant to be counted as valid. Moses had to follow “I AM’s” instructions closely. Later, the same method was observed whenever entering into other kinds of covenant. This biblical method of confirming an agreement, or a covenant, is now the basis for traditional, modern methods of confirming agreements. Not only was Jesus to confirm a New Covenant on the cross, but He was also going to buy us our freedom, “Ye are bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 7:23).

At one point in history, Jeremiah was told by God to buy up land. Jeremiah wrote, “And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle’s son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. And I charged Baruch before them, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.” (Jeremiah 32:10-14).

The main points in making the purchase, or agreement valid were:

- 1) First the agreement is proposed.
- 2) Then the agreement is written down.
- 3) Then the written agreement is signed and sealed.
- 4) And then, when the agreement is valid, it is carried out.

How is a covenant confirmed?

When Nehemiah and the people renewed a covenant with God, it is written, “And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it” (Nehemiah 9:38). What happened at the confirmation of the Old Covenant at Mount Sinai was, “...Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.” “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you” (Exodus 24:3-8 & Hebrews 9:19).

The main points in the confirmation of this covenant are:

- 1) First the agreement is proposed.
- 2) Then the agreement is written down.
- 3) Then the written agreement is sealed with blood (and water).
- 4) And then, when the agreement is valid, it is carried out.

We are told that Jesus came to “buy us” back, and confirm a New Covenant. So, did He follow the same biblical method when confirming the New Covenant? The very same method that He Himself told Moses and Jeremiah to do? Jesus said Himself that He had come to fulfil the law and the prophets.

If He did so He must have done following:

- 1) Propose the agreement.
- 2) Write down the agreement.
- 3) Seal the written agreement with blood (and water).
- 4) Then, the New Covenant was validated, and He must carry it out.

Did Jesus do this? Let us see...

1) Propose the agreement: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

2) Write down the agreement: "And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Exodus 34:28).

3) Seal the written agreement with blood (and water): "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already... one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." (John 19:33-34) "and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent..." (Matthew 27:51).

4) Then, when the written covenant was valid, He carried it out: "For a testament is of force after men are dead..." (Hebrews 9:17).

Since Jesus had said what the covenant was, "My law" and to "forgive" (Jeremiah 31:33 & 34), and we know that this is the only covenant He wrote down, and that this covenant had to be sealed with blood and water, it is not difficult to understand where the blood of Christ had to flow down to, after the "earth did quake, and the rocks rent" under the cross. The Ark of the Covenant with the Tables of the Law had to be its final resting place, and the Mercy Seat (the place of atonement which by receiving the blood of Jesus can offer forgiveness from breaking the law) had to be the place where Christ's blood was sprinkled to seal the covenant. Thus, when the rocks were rent apart, they opened the way for Jesus' blood to reach where the Ark was hidden. Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" (Matthew 5:17). If Jesus came to fulfil the law and the prophets, He also had to fulfil this requirement, and that He has done.

Paul leaves no doubt that the mission of Jesus on the cross was to be exactly like the ceremony performed by Moses. He identifies the antitype for us. "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions... For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water... and sprinkled both the book (the book of the covenant), and all the people..." (Hebrews 9:15-19).

"...to be testified in due time."

So what was the purpose of confirming the covenant in this way? For the same reason that we make contracts and confirm them today. If a person buys a house, why is a mere verbal agreement not enough? A verbal agreement is not even enough if we move into the house straight away, because later anyone can come and claim that the house is in fact theirs, or perhaps that you only own one of the floors. They may even claim that a completely different agreement was reached regarding the house. Much can happen in different types of purchases, or in different kinds of agreements. If you had to stand trial because someone said that the house you bought is not yours, or that a different agreement was made, you can forget about trying to win that case if you do not have a signed contract that proves what agreement was actually made. Therefore we make written contracts, and sign, or seal them. They give us the ability to show what the agreement was, and when or if it is currently in force.

This was also God's purpose. When God told Jeremiah to buy the land, he was told to do following, "Take

these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed... and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.” (Jeremiah 32:14).

Today, there is total confusion in the Christian world. Several hundred different Christian denominations have arisen, and the reason behind it is just one; there are different opinions as to which covenant Jesus confirmed at the cross, and what that covenant involves. In times past, God knew how to hide the “contract” in a safe place, in order to have it available to produce in case of confusion. When the first covenant was confirmed, God’s part of the covenant and the Israelite’s promises were both written down in a book. This book was sealed with blood and water, and it became a sealed “contract”. This covenant was invalidated when one of the parties broke their side of the agreement, but many years later, the people renewed the covenant with God. The Israelites experienced a great apostasy, partly because they misunderstood the covenant they had made with God. They began to mingle sun worship with the worship of God, and thus they again broke the covenant they made with God. Although mistaken, many believed that they had the right understanding of the truth. Such theological chaos became part of daily life for the Israelite’s, when King Josiah was on the throne. In cases like this there was only one thing that could be done in order to show the confused people what really was true, and what was the actual covenant that had been confirmed.

The book of the covenant had been missing for a long time, but now it had been found. It was found while certain rooms around the Temple were being cleaned out, “And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD... And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes... saying, Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of his book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.” King Josiah asks God humbly for forgiveness, and God accepts his prayer. “And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of THIS COVENANT THAT WERE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK. And all the people stood to the covenant.” (2 Kings 22:8-23:3).

God knew to hide “the contract” documenting the agreement, or the covenant that was made in both Jeremiah’s time, as well as in the time of the Israelites. Today, no one can deny, that all of Christianity is divided because it is confused as to what the covenant involved when it was entered into at the cross. What is the actual contents of Christ’s testament? Has God changed, or does He use the same methods today, as He did with His people in ancient times? Has God hidden “the contract” and “the evidence” of history’s most important covenant ever?

The “sealed covenant” from Christ was once hidden away, and will now be shown to the world, in the same way as Jeremiah’s contract, and the Israelites’ Book of the Covenant were. The Book of the Covenant was discovered at the relevant time, when it was needed as evidence as to what God requires of the people. In the same way, evidence of what happened on the cross, is according to Paul, to be produced to the world at the relevant time, “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Timothy 2:6). “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood... for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son” (1 John 5:8-9).

The covenant cannot be invalidated

We see that the confirmation of the New Covenant happened on the cross. By accepting the law’s requirements and therefore the law itself, Jesus had to die if He was to save us from the curse. “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto” (Galatians 3:15). Therefore nothing in the covenant can be changed after it was confirmed on the cross; not the law, nor the promise, nor the Mediator or the blood. The seventh day Sabbath (from sunset Friday to sunset on Saturday) is one of the Ten Commandments, and was also confirmed on the cross, so nor could it be changed to another day. If there was a new or different law brought into effect, then Jesus would have had to die again to confirm it and to die for our violation of this new law. But He has not done that and He is not to do that. Just as the Mediator in the New Covenant cannot be

changed once the covenant was confirmed by the blood of Christ. Thus popes, priests, or religious leaders alike cannot take Jesus' place as Mediator between God and man.

It is the same with us today. As long as a covenant, or an agreement is not signed, the contents can be changed. A will is a covenant agreeing how the dead persons finances should be distributed. No-one can change a persons will after it has been signed, and the person has died. That would be a crime against the deceased. "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." (Hebrews 9:16-17). God could have changed the covenant or His testament/will if He wanted to before He confirmed it, but prior to it's confirmation He said, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." (Psalm 89:34). "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." (Romans 3:31).

More things fulfilled...

The confirmation of the Old Covenant also contained several details which Jesus fulfilled.

- "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD". In addition to telling them the law at Sinai, Jesus preached God's law in His work here on earth in over approximately three and a half years. He said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." (John 7:16). He taught God's commandments, both in word and in act, "I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." (John 15:10).

- "... and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do..." Paul let us know that these promises were not good enough. In the New Covenant it was Jesus that was going to give the promises. "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Hebrews 8:10).

- "... and (Moses) rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill...". The Mercy Seat was an altar to receive blood. God saw to it that the Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat was hidden in a cave under the mountain Jesus was going to be crucified in.

- "... and twelve pillars...". "And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14). The disciples were going to be "pillars" in remembering the crucifixion and death of Jesus, by bringing it to the world. "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:14).

- "...he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book..." For more on this, see earlier in this chapter, and the following chapter, "Scarlet wool and hyssop"

- "Saying (Moses), This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you..." "And he (Jesus) took the cup... saying... For this is my blood of the new testament..." (Matthew 26:27-28).

The testament

So far we have covered many parts of the death of Jesus and the blood on the Mercy Seat. Some of the points:

- 1) The law had to *witness* that the violations of the law were paid for. In this way the demands of the law were fulfilled.
- 2) The blood and water of Jesus on the Mercy Seat was also a fulfilment of the confirmation of the New Covenant.
- 3) The blood and water of Jesus on the Mercy Seat *sealed* God's *contract* which is shown in times of confusion.

Another essential point should here be mentioned.

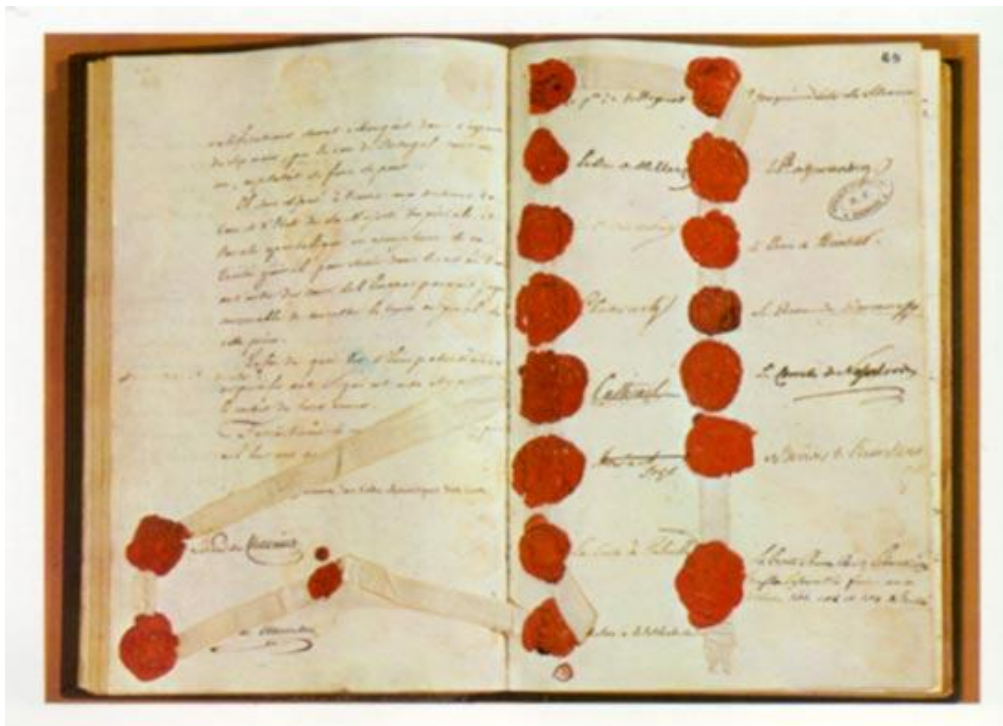
4) The blood of Jesus on the Mercy Seat carried into effect Jesus' testament. A testament does not come into force before the death of He who made it. The blood that was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat therefore makes the testament valid. Jesus could not offer mankind forgiveness and eternal life before the law's requirements were paid. The testament of Jesus, granting us life by His death, could not be carried into effect before His death. "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead..." (Hebrews 9:16-17). "Therefore", Paul explains, "Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood" (Hebrews 9:18).

This is an important part of the study. The New Covenant was going to be sealed with blood for more than one reason. In order for Jesus to be able to fulfil every part of the covenant all in one single act (giving His life on the cross), enormous planning was required. Paul compares the shedding of Jesus' blood to a deceased person's will for one simple, but extremely important reason. The New Covenant was to be a gift from God. The promise of a Saviour, the promise that He would write the law in our hearts and give us victory over sin. The New Covenant was a free offer to mankind. It was not a covenant that required anything from the other party (mankind) except to simply freely receive the gift. A will is written down, and by the person's death it is carried into effect, and what is left in the will is then freely given to the beneficiary. They cannot buy it, they receive it freely by the person's death. But they can choose not to receive the gift that is offered. People today also have this option. Jesus has left His testament, or will. It is a testament that offers us eternal life by His death. The blood was shed and the testament is now valid. Now, the only factor remaining is for us to choose to either receive the gift (Jesus' offer) or refuse it.

Therefore the covenant could not be carried into effect before the death of Jesus was witnessed. So the new and everlasting covenant had to be sealed with blood, unlike other ordinary covenants made between men. To fulfil all that had to be fulfilled, Jesus had to succeed in the following objectives on the cross:

- die for our violations of the law (sins)
- acknowledge the law's right that requires the death of the sinner (fulfil the law's demands)
- fulfil the types of all the sacrificial animals
- fulfil the type of the Passover lamb
- fulfil the type of the goat that was killed on the Day of Atonement
- fulfil the type of the brazen serpent that was held up in the desert by Moses
- fulfil the high priest's ministry
- leave sealed documentation of the New Covenant for all times
- die so that Jesus' testament/will could be carried into effect

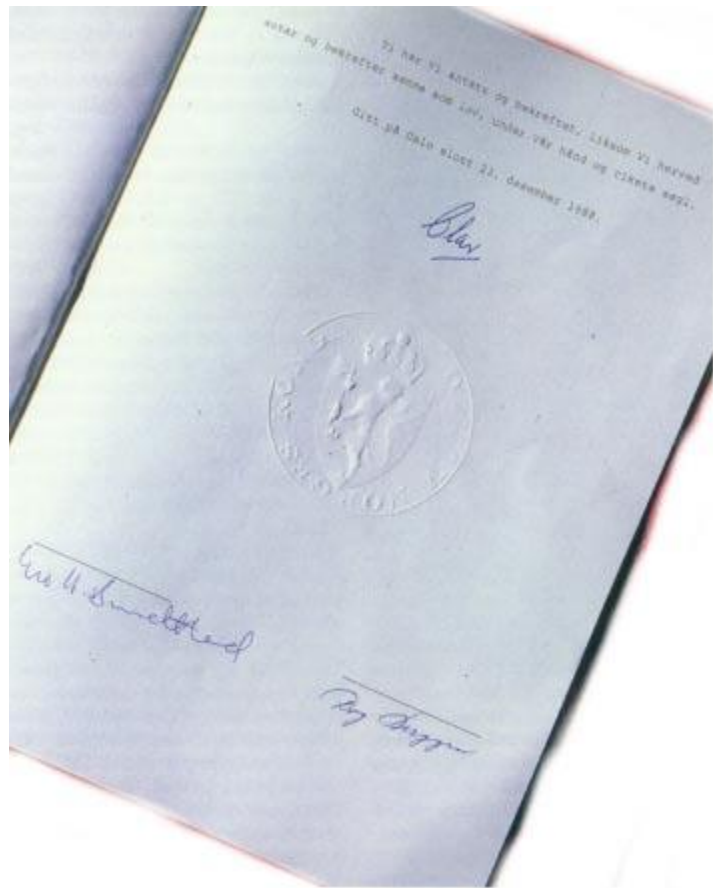
The Bible is full of symbols, and the closer you investigate the Scriptures the more types and antitypes you will find. By studying these, you'll see why it all happened the way it did. No human being will ever be able to exhaust their study of the Scriptures. Everything has a deep and profound meaning. Often we will find simple Bible texts that tells more than one truth, but that does not make them inconsistent with each other. Everything within each Bible text is in perfect harmony with itself, and with the rest of the Bible.



A new agreement between European countries in the Wien congress 1815. Next to each country that had signed, was their seal (informing who they were and the area which they ruled) and the signature was to be put next to the seal.

This document is stamped with Norway's seal and is signed by both the prime minister and the king. All contracts, past and present have to contain:

- 1) A verbal agreement which has to be written down.
- 2) A seal which has the title and the identity of the party entering into the covenant.
- 3) The contract has to be signed so it can be validated.



“And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses...” (Jeremiah 32:10).

“And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it. Now those that sealed were, ... (several names are then mentioned)” (Nehemiah 9:38, 10:1).





Moses confirms the Old Covenant.

In the covenant between God and the people, blood and water sealed the "contract" or the contents of the covenant. It was not Moses who entered into the covenant with them, it was I AM". So it was not Moses who had to sign the agreement with his signature. Instead, Moses sprinkled the blood of sacrificial animals (which symbolized Christ) on the agreement.

The blood was a type of Christ's blood indicating that no agreement can be made between God and man without Christ's intercession. Only by the death of Christ could the testament, or the covenant, be brought into effect.

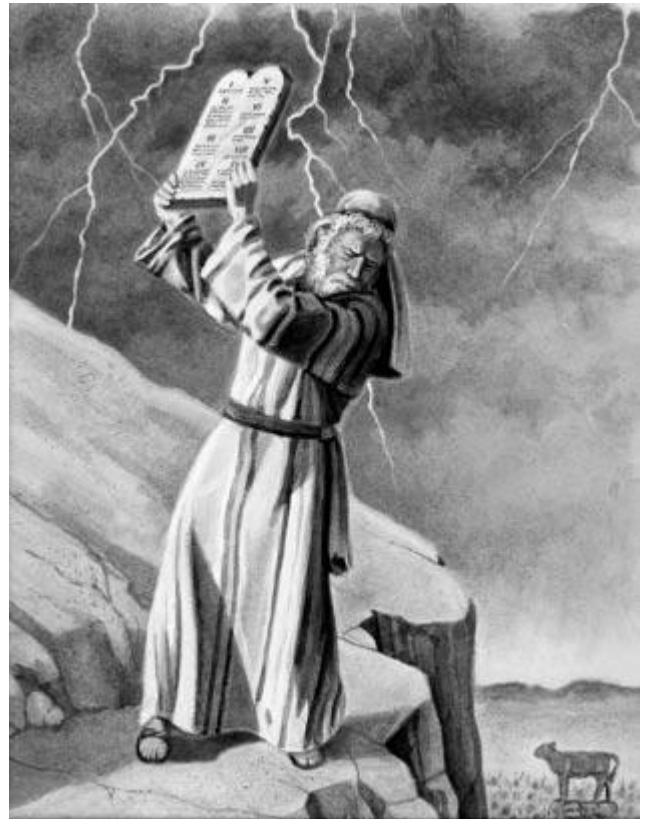
“I AM” sealed the New Covenant on the cross. A covenant that contained forgiveness for sins (by Him dying instead of us) and the law which He said He would write in our hearts. Just as Moses used the blood of sacrificial animals to seal the Old Covenant, I AM’s blood was used to seal the New Covenant. But in order for an agreement to be validated around the whole world, it was not enough that it was only sealed by the One entering into the agreement. There must also be a seal in the agreement that reveals the title and the name of the One that enters into the covenant.

If we take a closer look at the only thing I AM wrote down, we find only one place where the title and the area of His reign is mentioned... In the fourth commandment. “...But the seventh day is the sabbath of “I AM” thy God... For in six days “I AM” made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day”. (Exodus 20:8-11).

The Sabbath commandment is the only one that reveals:

- His name: “I AM”
- His title: “thy God” (Creator)
- His area of reign: “...heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is”.

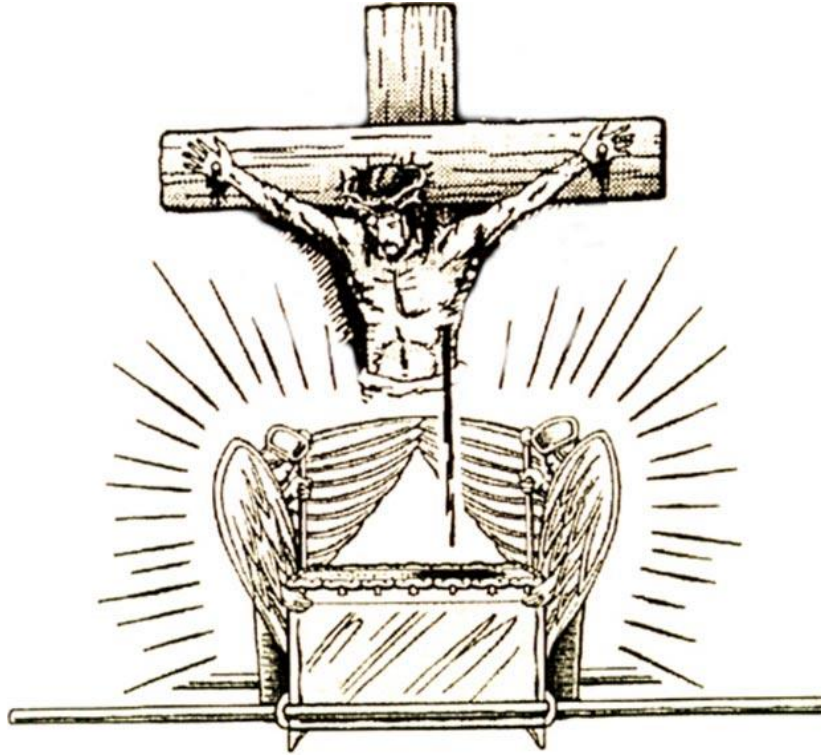
No contract throughout history was considered valid unless the person’s title was included. Therefore, the Ten Commandments, when sealed with I AM’s blood, became a valid contract.



“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy... But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and

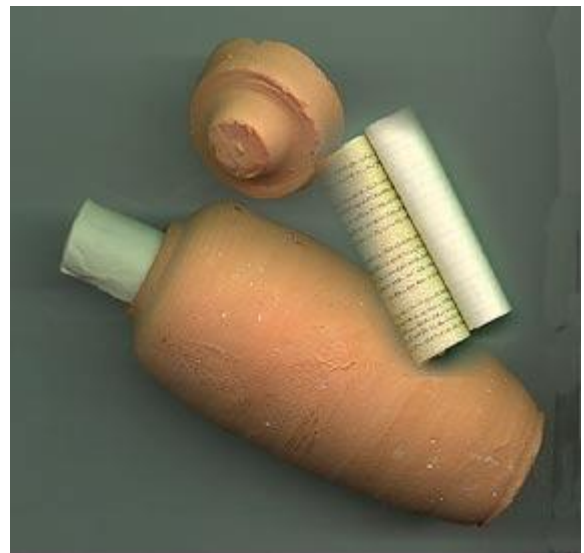
all that in them is, and rested the seventh day”.

By showing the world the discovery of Jesus' blood and the Tables of the Law, written with His own finger, God will have produced a contract revealing who He is and what His government's requirements are, and that it is sealed, or validated with Jesus' own blood. By the Testator's death the covenant is carried into effect and can never be changed. The covenant states that Jesus' inheritance to us is that He died instead of us, and that He will give us His Spirit to recreate our hearts so we can keep His law and no longer be under the curse of the law which demands our death. (Ezekiel 36:26-27 & Galatians 3:13). The only remaining factor, is for us to choose to receive the inheritance which is freely offered to us... or to reject it.



The land that Jeremiah bought by God's instruction.

Jeremiah was told to hide the contract, so that it could be a witness of the purchase for a long time afterwards, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days." (Jeremiah 32:14).



The Book of the Covenant was found and read to King Josiah and all the people to show them the covenant God had made with them. It was a time of confusion among the religious communities, just as it is now. So God will do exactly the same now, in this time of confusion, and let everyone see the New Covenant's sealed contract.

The Ark of the Covenant is to be shown, with the Tables of the Law and the fourth commandment. All a witness as to who God is (the Creator), the requirements of His government, His title (in His own handwriting), and His blood which sealed the Covenant and made it valid.

