Grade 6, Lesson 2 The New Testament Bible Background

Paul wrote that "all Scripture is inspired by God" (II Timothy 3:15). Therefore what we know as the "old" and "new" testaments are equally necessary to understanding all of God's plan of salvation for mankind. That plan is seen in the covenants He has made with his people.

"A covenant is a contract that guarantees the fulfillment of what has been promised." [Jacob Tanner, Senior Conf, p 5] God made covenants with Noah (Genesis 9:8-17) and with Abraham (Genesis 17:1-14). God made a covenant with his people at Sinai where He promised to be their God and make them a holy people through whom would come the promised Savior (Genesis 3:15). The covenant was sealed with the "blood of the covenant" (Exodus 24:3-8). Like all the promises and gifts of God to Israel, it is wholly one-sided. It is always God's covenant, not Israel's. It is never a mutual agreement. They promise to keep it (Exodus 24:7), but it all depends on God's promise.

The Septuagint translated "covenant" as "testament," and they are basically the same thing. For us, a last will and testament is one-sided, the product only of the testator, and becomes effective only on his death. Christ fulfilled the Old Testament covenant so the New Testament covenant becomes the "last will and testament" of Jesus (Hebrews 9:16-20) by which God's people have the inheritance and "heirs of God and fellow-heirs Christ" (Romans 8:17).

The old covenant does not end to be replaced by a new one. The covenant at Sinai should not be seen merely as a set of laws to be obeyed while the New Testament is gospel and forgiveness to be received by faith. The Jews did not have to "keep the law" in order to be saved. In fact, God provided abundantly for forgiveness through the blood sacrifices which pointed to Christ. God said "I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12; Jeremiah 31:34). Christ's expiation of sin on the cross was just as effect for repentant sinners who lived before Calvary as it for those of us who live now.

The old covenant was intended only for Israel. Its laws regulated the entire religious, political, social, and home life of every citizen, and became an unbearable yoke of bondage (Acts 15:10; Galatians 5:1). The new covenant is for "neither Jew nor Greek,...slave nor free man,...male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). The old covenant was impossible to keep, and the people broke it again and again. In the new covenant God says, "I will write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). "And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to talk in my statutes...." (Ezekiel 36:27).

Answers for Quarter 1, Lesson 2

- 1. So that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and in believing may have life in His name.
- 2. The Holy Spirit
- 3. Power to bear witness to and live for Jesus.
- 4. In Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
- 5. We live in the area referred to as "the remotest part of the earth."
- 6. They proclaimed Christ so that the Christians could grow spiritually strong and become mature in Him.
- 7. The river of the water of life with water as clear as crystal and pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing down the middle of the street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit.
- 8. Light from a lamp or light from the sun will not be needed because the Lord God shall illumine them forever and ever.
- 9. (If space allows) The Old Testament describes history before Christ and contains the giving of the Law and the promise of the Messiah. The New Testament describes the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies regarding Christ and the fulfilling of the Law through Christ. It describes history at the time of Christ and the period of the New Testament Church.

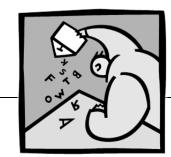
Catechism Corner

1. "Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me.'

"In the same manner, also, when He had eaten, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- 2. It is the new covenant which God has made and sealed with the blood of Jesus.
- 3. The "new covenant" is based upon the forgiveness of sin.
- 4. Jesus wants me to heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who may sin against me.

Word Scramble



Unscramble the following words found in lesson two.

ntaveocn	
somsiepr	
saemnttte	
ntivsaloa	
metoermcsaom	
logpes	
tlesepis	
esjus	
yhrcpope	
talevioner	



Word Scramble

Unscramble the following words found in lesson two.

ntaveocn	Covenant		
somsiepr	Promises		
saemnttte	Testament		
ntivsaloa	Salvation		
metoermcsaom	Commemorates		
logpes	Gospel		
tlesepis	Epistles		
esjus	Jesus		
yhrcpope	Prophecy		
talevioner	Revelation		



Memory Verse Review



This week's memory verse is all scrambled up. Using your memory put the verse in order by numbering them 1-20 in the corner of each box. Then write it out on the lines provided below.

you	eternal	them	it is
that in	think	John 5:39	search
that	Scriptures	have	Me.
you	because	about	the
life;	testify	You	these

Memory Verse Review



This week's memory verse is all scrambled up. Using your memory put the verse in order by numbering them 1-20 in the corner of each box. Then write it out on the lines provided below.

6 you	12 eternal	⁹ them	it is
⁸ that in	⁷ think	²⁰ John 5:39	² search
16 that	⁴ Scriptures	¹¹ have	¹⁹ Me.
10 you	⁵ because	18 about	³ the
13 life;	17 testify	¹ You	15 these

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me." John 5:39