

1. God promises the _____ and _____ of Israel. (Jer. 31:38-40; Ezek. 34: 25-30; 36:30-38)

D. The PURPORTED PROOFS that the Church Fulfills the New Covenant

1. CLAIM #1: The blessings of the New Covenant so closely parallel the blessings of the Church age that the Church must be fulfilling the New Covenant.

ANSWER: Similarity of some blessings does not mean equality.

2. CLAIM #2: When Christ instituted the Lord's Supper, He inaugurated the New Covenant for the Church age by saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in My blood.*" (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25) or "*This is the blood of the new covenant*" (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24).

ANSWER: The sacrificial death of Christ provided the basis for both the Church's present redemption and the fulfillment of Israel's future New Covenant. The phrase, "*This is the blood of the new covenant*" does not mean "This is the new covenant."

3. CLAIM #3: According to the Epistle of Hebrews, Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant, and since He is also the Church's Mediator, the Church must be under or fulfilling the New Covenant. (Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:22-24)

ANSWER: The Church truly is related to the Mediator of the New Covenant, but this is not equivalent to being participants in the New Covenant. The Church is also related to the King of Israel, but this does not make the Church Israel.

4. CLAIM #4: Since Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:6 that “*God has made us ministers of the new covenant*” this must mean that the New Covenant is operative as a covenant today and being fulfilled in and through the Church.

ANSWER: The context and grammar of the passage indicate that Paul was defending the *character* of his ministry to the Corinthians by showing a contrast between the *kind* or *quality* of his ministry (along with his companions Timothy and Titus, “*us*”) versus the kind or quality of ministry that characterized his antagonists (i.e., the Jewish legalists: 2 Cor. 11:1-15).

E. SUMMARY of REASONS Why the Church is NOT Under the New Covenant

1. Because the New Testament mentions the “new covenant” _____ and yet _____ says that this covenant is operative today.
2. Because the new covenant was originally made _____ with _____ and when later New Testament passages have the opportunity to qualify that the Church is fulfilling the New Covenant, they only _____ that the covenants belong to Israel. (Rom. 9:4; Eph. 2:12).
3. Because the promised spiritual blessings of the New Covenant are not _____ to the spiritual condition of the Church today.
4. Because Hebrews 7:22 says that Jesus Christ has become a _____ of a better covenant (i.e., the New Covenant, cf. Heb. 8:6), and this is only necessary for things that are yet _____ and _____ (Rom. 8:23; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).