

**THE TWO COVENANTS COMPARED: THE SINAI COVENANT AND THE
NEW COVENANT IN CHRIST**

Jeremiah 31:31-34: “Look, the days are coming, Yahweh declares, when I shall make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt, a covenant which they broke, even though I was their Master, Yahweh declares. No, this is the covenant I shall make with the House of Israel when those days have come, Yahweh declares. Within them I shall plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I shall be their God and they will be my people. There will be no further need for everyone to teach neighbor or brother, saying, ‘Learn to know Yahweh!’ No, they will all know me, from the least to the greatest, Yahweh declares, since I shall forgive their guilt and never more call their sin to mind. ”

THE OLD (SINAI) COVENANT (Hebrews 9:1-10)	THE NEW COVENANT (Hebrews 9:11-28)
Obsolete now that Christ has come Romans 10:4; Hebrews 8:13 CCC# 1963-64	A perfect covenant brought about by Christ Hebrews 7:19; 8:6-7; CCC# 1965; 1967
Originated at Mt. Sinai Galatians 4:24-25	Originated from the heavenly Jerusalem Galatians 4:26-27
Blessings and punishments were temporal: brought judgment, death, condemnation 2 Corinthians 3:7-9	Blessings and punishments are eternal: brings eternal life Ephesians 2:1-13; Revelation 20:11-21:4
Impossible to obey perfectly because of human weakness and slavery to sin Romans 8:3; Galatians 3:23-24	Fulfilled perfectly by Christ Romans 10:4; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Galatians 3:25-27; CCC# 580-81
Established in the blood of sacrifice: In animal sacrifice the blood of the animal was separated from the body and both are offered in sacrifice. Required continual daily atonement for unintentional sins. There was no remedy for intentional sin because no animal was perfect enough to forgive mortal sin. With the exception of the whole burnt offerings other sacrifices are eaten: Exodus 2:7; 24:5-11; 29:10-18; Leviticus 1:1-13; 6:17-22; 19:17; 7:6-7; Numbers 15:27-31; Hebrews 9:7; 10:1-4;	Established in the blood of sacrifice: In the celebration of the first Eucharist Jesus separated His Body from His Blood [Luke 22:19-20]—the sacrifice must be eaten [John 6:53-56]. Christ atoned for all sin once for all time and all humanity and His sacrifice has the power to cleanse the conscience. The application of His sacrifice is on-going as He stands before the Father as both our High Priest and the perfect Lamb of Sacrifice Hebrews 9:12; 10:2, 22; Revelation 5:5-6; CCC# 1364-68
Restricted access to God Hebrews 9:7-8	Christ opened access to God for all humanity Hebrews 9:15-16; CCC# 536; 1026

THE VIRGIN MARY AS THE ARK OF THE NEW COVENANT

“Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the Ark of the Covenant, the place where the glory of God dwells. She is ‘the dwelling of God [...] with men.’” CCC#2676

God the Holy Spirit overshadowed and then indwelt the Ark. The Ark became the dwelling place of the presence of God (Ex 40:34-35)	God the Holy Spirit overshadowed and the indwelt Mary. At that time Mary’s womb became the dwelling place of the presence of God (Lk 1:35)
The Ark contained the 10 Commandments [the word of God in stone], a pot of manna, and Aaron’s rod that came back to life (Ex 25:16; Dt 10:2, 5; Heb 9:4)	The womb of the Virgin contained Jesus: the living Word of God enfleshed, the living bread from heaven, “the Branch” (Messianic title) who would die but come back to life (Lk 1:35)
The Ark traveled to the hill country of Judah to rest in the house of Obed-edom (2 Sam 6:1-11)	Mary traveled to the hill country of Judah (Judea) to the home of Elizabeth (Lk 1:39)
Dressed in a priestly ephod, King David approached the Ark and danced and leapt for joy (2 Sam 6:14)	John the Baptist, son of a priest who would himself become a priest, leapt for joy in his mother’s womb [Elizabeth] at the approach of Mary (Lk 1:43)
David shouted for joy in the presence of God and the holy Ark [2 Samuel 6:15]	Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry of joy in the presence God within Mary [Luke 1:42]
David asked, “How is it that the Ark of the Lord comes to me?” (2 Sam 6:9)	Elizabeth asks, “Why is this granted unto me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Lk 1:43)
The Ark remained in the house of Obed-edom for 3 months [2 Samuel 6:11]	Mary remained in the house of her cousin Elizabeth for 3 months [Luke 1:56].
The house of Obed-edom was blessed by the presence of the Ark (2 Sam 6:11)	The word “blessed” is used 3 times in Luke 1:39-45 concerning Mary at Elizabeth’s house.
The Ark returned to its sanctuary and eventually ends up in Jerusalem where the presence and glory of God is revealed in the newly built Temple (2 Sam 6:12; 1 Kings 8:9-11)	Mary returned home from visiting Elizabeth and eventually comes to Jerusalem, where she presents God the Son in the Temple (Lk 1:56; 2:21-22)
God made Aaron’s rod (which would be kept in the Ark) return to life and budded to prove he was the legitimate High Priest (Num 17:8)	God would resurrect His Son, who had become enfleshed in Mary’s womb and born to bring salvation to all mankind, to prove He is the eternal High Priest (Heb 4:14)
When the Ark was outside the Holy of Holies [when it was being transported] it was to be covered with a blue veil (Num 4:4-6)	In Mary’s appearances outside of heaven visionaries testify that she wears a blue veil.
In Revelation 11:19 John sees the Ark of the Covenant in heaven (this is the last verse of chapter 11)	In Revelation 12:1 John sees Mary in heaven. It is the same vision Juan Diego saw of Mary in 1531—the Woman closed with the sun and standing on the moon.