

MONOPOLY VS WORLD OF WARCRAFT

Games have sure changed since I was growing up. We had such high-tech fun as Rock-em Sock-em Robots and the ever popular vibrating football field with plastic football players that would bounce and dance around with no ambition to score whatsoever. In Monopoly we desired to take over a 2 inch square called Park Place. Nowadays, kids have video games to take over the world. Fantasy Football and streaming video games utilize either the exact football player or practically indistinguishable memes.

Similarly, things have changed over time related to the way God has dealt with humans and how He has revealed Himself to us. This is a theological term called Progressive Revelation. The greatest example is the contrast between the OT law utilizing sacrifices and the grace we see in the NT as a result of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us. The entire Bible is the inspired Word of God; however, all of it does not apply to us in the same way it applied to someone living in OT times. As you saw in the examples in the Bible quiz above, thankfully we do not live under the same requirements of the law to put to death a rebellious teenager or adulterer (John 8:7).

I believe one of the missing ingredients to interpreting the Bible correctly is the understanding of covenants. A synonym for the word testament is covenant, so we could easily say the Bible is made up of an Old Covenant and a New Covenant. As I like to joke when some people want to apply parts of the OT to today, there is a reason it is called OLD! A covenant is basically an agreement or contract, in this case between God and humans. There were many covenants in the OT like the Davidic and Mosaic covenants. Because of space limitations and for the purpose of this article, I will simply combine them into the Old and the New, like the Bible division.

Again relating to the quiz above, did you know there is NO place in the NT that says Christians have to observe the Sabbath? Why? Exodus 31:16-17 states it was specifically a sign of the covenant between the Jewish people and God. There is nothing wrong with worshipping God on Saturday; in fact, we should be worshipping God EVERY day! However, it is not a "legal" requirement like it was in the OT (Old Covenant). *"So don't let anyone condemn you . . . for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths"* (Col. 2:16 NLT).

One of my SDCC students last summer asked why there was war, fighting, and killing in the OT but not in the NT. Why doesn't Jesus lead an army against the evil Roman Empire? As I was developing this new and improved Biblical Doctrines class, I decided to create a chart to help illustrate the differences and how they relate to the covenants.

Read Hebrews 8:6-13 (NLT) ... 7. *If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. ... 13. When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means He has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon*

disappear.

This chart is usually (not always) representative of each covenant:

OT (Covenant)	NT (Covenant)
*Theocratic rule	*Imperfect men rule
*Standard = Law	*Standard = Grace
*Immediate judgment	*Delayed judgment
*Relates mainly to nations	*Relates to individuals

In addition to the *Sabbath* and *Sacrifice* examples: OLD COVENANT Lev. 24:17-20
"Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death. Anyone who takes the life of someone's animal must make restitution—life for life. Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury."

NEW COVENANT Matt 5:38-39, 44

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also ... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ..."

Hebrews 8:12 states one of the results of the New Covenant. *"And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."* Aren't you glad?!?! Because of Jesus' ultimate, final New Covenant sacrifice (unlike the OT sacrifices) we can now be forgiven forever when we agree to this new covenant and allow Him to be our #1 highest priority! He signed and guaranteed this covenant with His blood. In exchange, we simply give Him back the life He created and paid for on the cross. My life is His!