



What Did Paul Teach About the New Covenant

HT-103 Lesson 3 Text

Moses' ministry resulted in death. When the people disobeyed Moses, many of them died. There was a plague with the golden calf. The glory was veiled so they could not see the glory. Therefore, his ministry was less glorious than the ministry of Paul's because it was met with hardened hearts. Paul's ministry brought about life, righteousness before God, the Glory of the Messiah was seen and not veiled, and it was characterized by believing hearts led by the Spirit of God. You can see Paul is winning his argument.

The question is why was Moses' ministry less effective than Paul's? Moses and Paul preached the same message. Who wrote Deuteronomy 30? Moses. Moses says that you are not to believe you have been given a commandment by God that you can't obey. It is not out of your reach. It is interesting that Paul quotes this very text in Romans 10. Paul adds nice Midrash. Romans 10:6, this is the message of righteousness based on faith. He quotes Moses. The Messiah is the embodiment of the Torah. If Moses is talking about the coming down of the Torah, this reminds me of the ultimate coming down of the Word of God, the Word of God incarnate. The Word of faith, which we are preaching. The same message which Moses was giving his people in the wilderness. It wasn't less effective because it had two different messages. It is the Word of faith, which we are preaching. The glory that was shone on Moses' face was veiled so the Israelites could not see it. That's why Moses' ministry was less effective. In Numbers 17:11 it talks about how God will put His Spirit, which is upon Moses, upon the 70 that were to help Moses. So the Spirit was available then. Moses and Paul had the same message, the message of faith. Moses and Paul had the same Spirit helping them in their work. The only difference was the glory was veiled with Moses and with Paul it was not. The difference is the veil.

What are some of the reasons you have heard that Moses put a veil on his face? It's too bright and we can't look at it. Another was that they were afraid. Another was the glory was beginning to fade away so Moses put a veil over his face because he didn't want to lose his "clout" with the people. To find the answer let's go

back to Exodus 34 and read. He didn't know his face was shining. Moses said don't be afraid and come back and let's talk. They were afraid and came near and they talked. He speaks to the Lord and takes the veil off. Then with the veil off he speaks to the people and then puts the veil over his face again. Does it say why he uses the veil? No. It doesn't tell us why. The people start to fear when he talks to them and tells them what the Lord says. He puts the veil over his face to hide the glory. Nothing indicates that the glory was fading. But Paul indicates the glory was fading. Where did Paul get that the glory was fading?

The Greek word is *katargeo* for fading. It is used 27 times in the Apostolic scriptures and 25 times in Paul's epistles. In every case it means to abolish, to annul, to render ineffective or to bring to nothing, but it never means to fade. It also doesn't mean to fade in even the writings of the secular authors of the first century. So beware of the translators. Paul says do we then nullify the Torah through faith? May it never be. On the contrary, we establish the Torah. The word nullify is the same word they translate fading. Paul uses this verb *katargeo* to describe the veil's purpose. The veil was put on Moses' face so they would not see the glory. So the glory would be ineffective. The glory shining from Moses face was the very glory of Messiah. Exodus 24:10 - And they saw the God of Israel and underneath his feet was a sea of glass. I thought the God of Israel was invisible and Spirit and cannot be seen. I thought John teaches that no man has seen God at any time. He goes on to say that it is the Son, the Messiah who has revealed Him. So why would God want the Son's glory veiled?

The purpose of the glory was so that the people might know Him (Jesus) and believe in Him, but that purpose was nullified by that veil. The end of the glory is not the fading, but the goal of the glory. What was the goal of the glory? It was the revelation of the Messiah. So instead of Yeshua being revealed in the glory, He was hidden in the glory being veiled.

So the puzzle pieces start to get put together. When they read Torah, or when they read Moses, it is veiled. What is veiled in the Old Covenant? Yeshua, just like He was veiled in Moses. They read it, but they don't see it. So the letters on parchment remain.... letters on parchment. They have no eternal effect on the hearts to those who read it because it is veiled. But why would God hide Yeshua's glory? One reason was that the people demonstrated a heart of idolatry, that's one reason. And God has a plan of salvation, one that encompasses all nations. In some way the hardening of Israel's hearts was necessary to send the gospel to all Nations. We don't understand it. Even Paul says it is a great mystery. So the breaking off of the branches was so other branches could be grafted in, right? God intends to save Israel in the last days, but in His infinite wisdom He has put hardness and blindness on Israel for a time until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. Isaiah 6 and Mark 4 it teaches us this.

The veil was put over Moses face so the glory would be hidden. Only when the Spirit opens the eyes of faith is Yeshua seen. Only when the veil is taken away from the Torah is Yeshua seen there. So when the Torah is veiled, that is when there is no faith, Yeshua is not seen. But when the Torah is unveiled (how is the Torah unveiled? By the gift of faith) faith is given and Yeshua is seen. That is exactly what happened

to Paul on his road to Damascus. Paul had even seen Jesus and missed Him. How was this possible? He was a student of the Torah and zealous for God and His Word. It was possible because his eyes had been dimmed. The Messiah was veiled for Him. The glory of the Messiah was not shining through in his studies. Why? Because he had not been given the gift of faith by the Spirit of God. In the desert when he went to study He saw Messiah everywhere. He probably wondered did I ever read Genesis 15:6? *"Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."* He did, but now with new eyes.

Now reread 2 Corinthians 3 again.

In 2 Corinthians 4:3 we read...*and even if our gospel is veiled.* Now Moses is veiled, Jesus is veiled, the glory is veiled and now the gospel is veiled. Where is the gospel in the Torah? It is in the revelation of Yeshua. For Paul the gospel was veiled if Yeshua was veiled. When you see the glory of God like Moses did, your face is going to shine and then transfer to others.

So let's summarize. The glory shining on Moses' face was the very revelation of Messiah. The glory was rendered ineffective in terms of teaching Israel about the true Messiah by covering his face with a veil. That's why he did it. When God sovereignly takes away the veil, the glory of Messiah is seen in the Torah. Otherwise, the Torah is mere letters and stone. Without the Spirit of God the Torah can only do one thing: in terms of eternal values...it can only condemn. If the Spirit does not write the Torah on the heart, the Torah can never bring life in and of itself. It remains letters upon the stones.

What does he mean by old then when he refers to the Old Covenant? The old self is the old person before coming to faith in Messiah. 1 Corinthians 5, *clean out the old leaven that you may be a new lump.* It is a way of life without faith before faith as opposed to life after faith. When Paul uses the word old, he always refers to life before faith in Yeshua. Old is marked by disobedience and faithlessness. Old is that which dies with Messiah. When one reads the Torah without faith it is an Old Covenant to him. It is a covenant of pre-faith. It is a covenant of death and condemnation. Why? Because it can never do anything for you. It can never save you or make you righteous. As long as it remains letters on the stones or the parchment, as long as it is not written on the heart, then it is no different than the covenant He made with Israel when she came out of Egypt, which she broke. Paul uses Old Covenant to describe the covenant which they broke (Jeremiah 31). It's a reliance on the flesh. For Paul it always condemns. It is mere letters. If a person believes they are a covenant member based on genealogies and based on just letters, what's going to happen when they stand before the Almighty as the Judge? They are going to say, "please let me in because my mom or dad were Jewish." I got into the club through the ceremony. It's a ministry of condemnation apart from the Spirit. I am not saying there may not be some value in this temporal life. But in terms of eternal salvation, it has no value. All who think there is life in the Torah apart from Yeshua are part of the Old Covenant. So when Paul says they read the Old Covenant what is he saying? The Torah is veiled. If the Torah is veiled it's an Old Covenant. It is a covenant that they break. It's a covenant that condemns. It's a covenant that does not make you righteous. It's a covenant that does not save.

Let's look at the New Covenant verses Old. The New is Torah on the heart; it brings about faithfulness; it brings about deliverance from bondage; the Spirit is active; it brings about forgiveness of sins; Yeshua is known, He is seen and revealed.

In the Old Covenant it's the letter only, not the Torah on the heart; it's a covenant that was broken; it talks about perishing, not being delivered; it has no work of the Spirit of God, the Spirit is inactive in this case; they are not forgiven, they are condemned because Yeshua is veiled.

Do you see why I don't believe anyone can be saved who is part of the Old Covenant? The Old Covenant is looking at the Torah without faith. Old Covenant is believing there is something innate within the culture or within the Torah, which can bring about life. Only the Spirit can bring life as He writes the Torah upon the heart. So the Old Covenant is not related to time. At any time, whenever the Torah is separated from faith, the Old Covenant exists. I know many people who read the Old Covenant and love it, but they never see Yeshua there, because they are still part of the covenant that was broken and is not written on the heart. If they did, they would be espousing Yeshua because He is the goal of the Torah. The goal of the Torah is Yeshua. His glory is veiled in the Torah whenever the Spirit is not actively applying the Torah to the heart. The Old Covenant always condemns. The Old Covenant is marked by the letter, the New Covenant is the letter written on the heart by the Spirit of God.