

New vs. Old Covenant: Specifically, How Does Each Impact Man's Spirit, Soul and Body?

by Roy A. Reinhold, October 29, 2007 ©

Premise: That the Bible supports a recognizable difference between how the Old Covenant affected spirit, soul and body, and how the New Covenant affects the spirit, soul and body. Secondly, that knowledge of the differences is helpful and beneficial to know, especially to people who are investigating Christianity, along with the people helping these unsaved ones understand (includes all the rest of us).

We humans are a tri-unity of spirit, soul and body; and we are not merely a duality of the seen and unseen from Greek philosophy. The duality teaching is insufficient in light of the scriptures—there is a difference between soul and spirit. In the Torah and Tanach (Old Testament) in Hebrew, the word for **spirit is ruach (roo-akh)**, while the word for **soul is nefesh**. Many times the translators of the Bible to English did us a disservice by using these words interchangeably—they are different. The translators intentionally inserted their biases by not reliably translating literally, and the cause is likely that the translators who did this were Dualists. However, the Bible clearly shows the tri-unity nature of man. Here's one example:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify all of you perfectly and whole; and may He keep **your spirit and your soul and your body** without faults for the arrival of our Lord Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. (translation from the Peshitta Aramaic NT).

Although I translated the verse above directly from the Peshitta Aramaic NT, a quick check shows that the KJV, NASB, Amplified, Living New Testament, and Revised Standard translations also all clearly show the tri-unity nature of mankind in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. If the spirit and soul were the same thing, then Paul, and God who inspired him to pen the epistle, were both hopelessly less informed than the Dualists. Of course that's nonsense, since it is apparent that the Dualists are the ones who have insufficient knowledge of the nature of humans. I previously wrote a well-received article (30 pages, PDF) on [The Nature of Man](#), that has extensive scriptural support to conclusively bury the dualist concept forever. Please download that widely read and popular article for a more indepth look at the nature of man as a tri-unity of spirit, soul and body.

Any longtime reader of the Bible has noticed that it frequently talks of the heart. There is a physical heart in our body of flesh; and there is a heart that is part of the our unseen nature. The article mentioned above shows that the unseen heart is part of the spirit of man and not part of the soul. In fact, the conscience of man is in the spirit and is part of the spiritual heart. This is an important background concept for this article, since we shall see that the unseen heart and conscience are impacted differently under the Old and New Covenants.

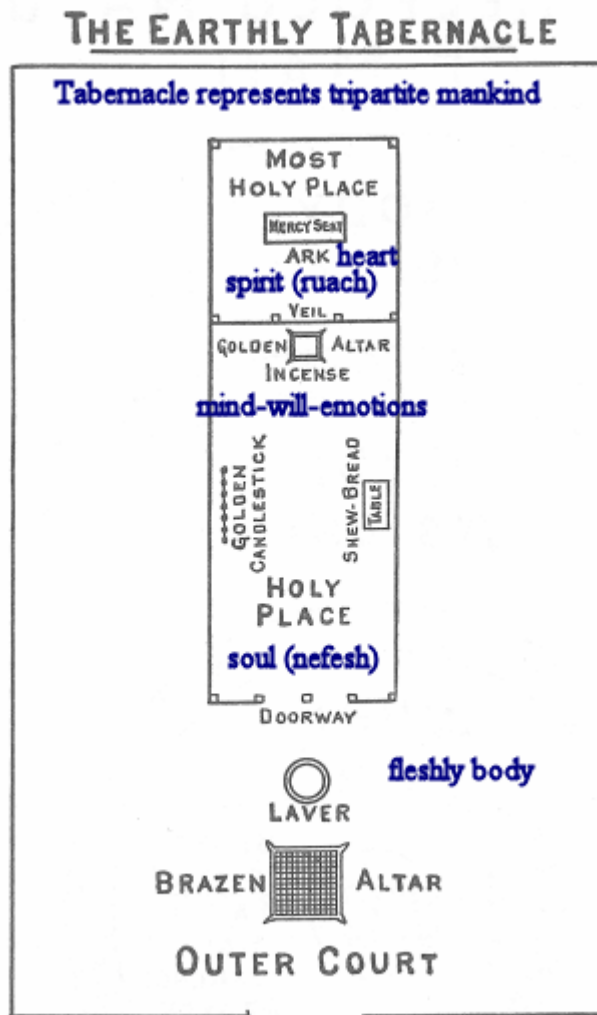
The final background element needed is that the Tabernacle and later Temple were designed in a specific way to show the nature of mankind. At the Tabernacle, there was an outer courtyard with the altar and water basin. There was a 7.5 foot high screen wall all around the courtyard, so that it was separate from the rest of the camp of Israel in the wilderness. The tent of the Tabernacle was in the courtyard and had two rooms called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. There was a screen or

veil doorway to go from the courtyard inside the tent, and there was a heavier veil between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

The courtyard with the altar represents the body/flesh of man. Just as the body has limits of size, height, etc. so did the courtyard have limits. The common people could see through the wide entranceway all that was taking place in the courtyard, and they themselves entered the courtyard for sacrifices of various kinds. In the same way, others can see the actions of our body and touch it.

The initial room in the tent of the Tabernacle was the Holy Place, and it represents the soul of man. In the Holy Place were 3 elements—the menorah, the altar of incense and the table of showbread. They directly correspond to the 3 parts of the soul of mankind—mind, will and emotions. The common people could not enter the tent of the Tabernacle, it was hidden from their view. In the same way, other people cannot see the soul of man in action (mind, will and emotions). Only the priests could enter the Holy Place to minister there.

Likewise, the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle tent was unseen by the common people. In it was the ark of the covenant, behind the veil/curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only on one day of the year—Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). The Most Holy Place represents the spirit of man, and the ark of the covenant represents the heart/conscience of man. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night was over the ark of the covenant and was the presence of God. God spoke to Moses and Aaron from the pillar of cloud while they were in the Holy Place standing before the presence of God. As we shall see, the normal way for God to speak to us is in our spirit—Spirit to spirit. The cloud of the presence was not normally in the Holy Place, and the normal way for God to speak to us is in our spirit and not to our soul (mind, will and emotions), and not to the 5 physical senses of our body. As you can see from these things, the Tabernacle and its procedures are a direct example to us in this day and time, and not some dreary historical teaching. And not only that, but there are allusions to man as a tabernacle/temple throughout the Bible.



Old Covenant as it affects spirit, soul and body

I think you'll find the concepts easier to understand if we separately discuss the Old Covenant and then the New Covenant. As a gesture of respect, since the Old Covenant came first, our discussion will begin there.

Moses received the Torah directly from God and spoke to Aaron and the entire community of Israel

in order to teach them God's commandments, statutes and instructions. A system of sacrifices was set up, consisting of a sin offering, a burnt offering and peace offerings. There were also other specialized offerings (for healing, etc.). What were the purposes of the sacrifices, and what did they accomplish?

Leviticus 1:2-4 If any man of you brings an offering to YHVH (Yahweh), you shall bring your offering of the cattle, of the herd or of the flock (cattle, goats or sheep). If his offering is a **burnt offering** from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall offer it at the door of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before YHVH (Yahweh). And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt of the burnt offering; and **it shall be accepted of him to make atonement upon him.**

The person lays his hand on the head of the animal before it is killed and confesses his sins. The burnt offering is promised to make atonement for his confessed sins. There was a procedure for the entire congregation if they sinned through ignorance; and it too resulted in their sins being forgiven.

Leviticus 4:13-20 And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance...the elders will lay hands on the young bull before YHVH (Yahweh)...and **the priest shall make atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.**

Throughout Leviticus, in all the sacrifices, the concept that their sins are forgiven is stated clearly. But, in regards to this article, what does that mean under the Old Covenant?

Leviticus 17:11 For the soul of the flesh is in the blood. **I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for your souls.**

Leviticus 14:19-20 (cleansing of person's flesh who had zara'at/leprosy) And the priest shall offer the **sin offering**... and the priest shall offer the **burnt offering** and the **meal offering** upon the altar... and **the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean** (in body, freed of the disease).

Hebrews 9:13 For if the **blood** of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, **sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh**,...

The atonement and forgiveness of sins was real under the Old Covenant, and not make-believe as some Christians think. However, the distinction is that the sacrifices led to **forgiveness to the soul and to the body of the person, but NOT TO THE SPIRIT of the person**. There is no place in the Tanach where sacrifices resulted in a change of the heart of man or perfected their spirit. It did not cleanse their conscience (heart).

Old Covenant sacrifices resulted in forgiveness for the soul and body and NOT for the spirit or conscience.

What the system of sacrifices and commandments, laws and statutes taught was a way to live according to God's ways and be in right standing before God, as opposed to the pagan practices in the

nations around them which resulted in judgments and condemnation. It resulted in forgiveness, healing and prosperity according to the promises of God. The purpose was then to build faith in the person who saw the blessings of the unseen God. Faith was goal of God for each individual, and not just rote observance of the commandments, laws and statutes.

Under the Old Covenant, then how were people supposed to change their heart/conscience and renew their spirit?

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 And now Israel, what does YHVH (Yahweh) your God require from you, but to reverence YHVH your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him. And **to serve YHVH your God with all your heart (spirit) and with all your soul**; and to keep the commandments of YHVH and statutes which I am commanding you today for your good.

Deuteronomy 10:16 **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart (spirit)**, and be stiffnecked no more.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear O Israel, YHVH (Yahweh) is our God, YHVH (Yahweh) is One. And **you shall love YHVH (Yahweh) your God with all your heart (spirit), and with all your soul, and with all your bodily might (body)**.

The above are just a few examples of how the Israelites were told to love God with both their heart (spirit) and soul. Sacrifices did not cleanse the heart, but hearing the Word of God and studying it brings faith and renews their spirit from a bottom's-up approach. This is far different than the New Covenant as we shall later see from scriptural evidence. They were not to merely obey the commandments and statutes, they were to talk about the scriptures in their houses, with their children, and when they were in public. By immersing themselves in the Word of God, it worked to strengthen their spirit and change their conscience (heart).

Romans 3:27-31 Where then is pride/boasting? It has been eliminated. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but **by the Law of Faith**. Therefore, we maintain that **a man is justified by faith and not by works of the written law. For is He the God of the Jews only?** Is He not also the God of the non-Jews (Gentiles)? **Yes, of the non-Jews also.** Because **there is One God who justifies the circumcised (Jews) by faith and also the uncircumcised (non-Jews) through faith. Do we then nullify the written law through faith?** May it never be! On the contrary, **we are establishing the written law.** (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

The downside of the sacrifices system is that it provided real forgiveness of sins for their body and soul up until the point of the sacrifice. Any sin after that day left them guilty before God until they repeated the sacrifices. In other words, the forgiveness was not universal for the future, and the sacrifices had to be continually offered for new sins and trespasses. Historically, the Bible shows that the people generally did not do what was required in regards to sacrifices and studying the Word of God. In this way, they brought judgment upon themselves because they sinned and it was not taken care of with repentance and the proper sacrifice. They did not, in general, operate in the Law of Faith.

New Covenant as it affects spirit, soul and body

In the New Covenant, a completely new and different way emerged to reconcile people to a holy God. The words out of Yeshua's (Jesus') own mouth stated that a person "**must be born again**".

John 3:3-8 Yeshua (Jesus) answered and said to him, “Truly, truly I say to you, **unless one is born again (born from above), it is impossible to see the kingdom of God.**” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a person be born again when he is old? It is impossible for him to enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

v5 Yeshua answered and said to him, “Truly, truly I say to you, if a person is not born from water and the Spirit, it is impossible that he shall enter the kingdom of God. That which is born from the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born from the Spirit is spirit.** Do not be surprised that I said to you, that **it is necessary for you to be born again.** v8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is every one who is born from the Spirit.”

(alternate translation of v8 above from the Interlinear Peshitta Aramaic-English NT by Pastor Dave Bauscher, pg 282) **The Spirit breathes where He will, and you hear His voice; but you do not know from where He comes and where He goes; thus is everyone who is born from the Spirit.**

When I was growing up, my family attended a Missouri Synod Lutheran church and the kids all attended the Lutheran day school for grades 1-8. I can remember clearly the Pastor saying when asked, that we don't need to be born again because we all grew up being taught the Word of God. Lutherans resisted this being “born again” concept for a long time. Now it has changed and they, for the most part, accept that every person must make the choice as an adult on whether they believe and ask Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) into their lives. Dedicating a baby to the Lord has merit; and confirmation at 13 years of age has merit; but unless the person as an adult (or late teens) makes a quality decision to believe, then they might not be born again (and might become one of many who leave the church as adults).

The above verses from John 3:3-8 clearly states that a person must be born again, and that the process involves the Spirit (Holy Spirit of God) making the person's human spirit new (reborn). Is this corroborated? Yes.

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ) who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again from the top,** to the hope of life through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. And to obtain an inheritance that is not destroyed nor defiled nor will fade away, which is prepared in heaven for you. (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; and **everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God.**

Under the New Covenant, a born-again person has a new spirit from God; and he or she is created from the top and not from the bottom's-up approach of the Old Covenant. However, we can see more of this process as it affects the spirit, or soul or body by examining the New Covenant sacrifice.

Romans 3:24-25 And they are justified by grace without charge and by the redemption that exists in Yeshua the Messiah. This One, who God displayed **Him as the atonement (propitiatory sacrifice), by the faith in His blood, for the sake of our sins** which formerly we had committed.

Under the Old Covenant, the sinner brought the sacrificial animal to the doorway of the Tabernacle and laid his hands on the head of the animal, and confessed his sins. The atoning sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah in the New Covenant is similar except that we as believers have faith in the shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The difference between the Old and New Covenants is that the shed blood of Yeshua the Messiah is a one-time permanent sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:10 For in this, His will, **we are sanctified (made holy) by the one-time offering of the body of Yeshua the Messiah.**

Hebrews 10:14 For **by one offering, He has perfected those who are being sanctified by it, for eternity.**

In the Old Covenant, the priest sprinkled the blood on the horns of the altar for forgiveness of sins; and once a year on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the ark of the covenant for forgiveness of sins for the entire congregation of Israel. Does the New Covenant do a similar thing?, and where is the blood sprinkled?

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Yeshua the Messiah...to those...who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that **you may obey Yeshua the Messiah and be sprinkled with His blood...**

Hebrews 9:14 Therefore, how much more will the **blood of the Messiah (Yeshua)**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse our conscience** from dead works, that we may serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:21-22 And since we have the great priest (Yeshua the Messiah) over the house of God, therefore let us **draw near with a sincere heart and confidence of faith, having our hearts sprinkled and purified from an evil conscience**, and our body washed with pure water. (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

We repent and confess our sins and believe that Yeshua the Messiah died for our sins by faith. In doing so, the New Covenant process is that our heart (conscience) is sprinkled with the blood of Yeshua our Messiah. It is a one-time sprinkling that cleanses the heart/conscience for eternity. Our spirit is made new; and the Spirit of God inhabits our heart.

The New Covenant sacrifice of Yeshua results in forgiveness by the blood of Yeshua. The blood of Yeshua is sprinkled on the person's heart to cleanse the conscience. The Holy Spirit creates a new and pure spirit in the person.

The Tabernacle design of the Old Covenant is a metaphor or picture of a human being. Moses anointed the entire Tabernacle edifice including the courtyard, and when finished the cloud of God inhabited the Tabernacle. In the same way, when a person is born again by faith, that person's heart is sprinkled with the blood of Yeshua to cleanse the conscience and their spirit is made new. The Spirit of God inhabits the person's spirit just as the cloud inhabited the newly sanctified Tabernacle tent.

Completing the Tabernacle metaphor, the spiritual heart of man is the ark of the covenant. The High Priest sprinkled the blood on the ark of the covenant once a year on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement); and our High Priest Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) sprinkles His own blood on our spiritual heart. Lastly, just as Moses put the original written Torah scroll of the Word of God inside the ark of the covenant, so the Word of God is written on the person's heart under the New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (and Hebrews 8:10-11) But this shall be the covenant (the New Covenant) which I will make with the House of Israel after those days, declares YHVH (Yahweh), **I will put my Torah in their inward parts; and I will write it upon their hearts;** and I will be their God; and they, they will be my people.

v34 And they shall no more teach every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying, Know YHVH (Yahweh). For they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says YHVH (Yahweh). For **I will forgive their iniquity; and their sin I will remember no more.**

Under the New Covenant sacrifice, the blood of Yeshua is sprinkled on the person's heart to cleanse the conscience. The heart is the ark of the covenant, and God writes His Words/Torah upon the heart, just as the Torah scroll of Moses was in the ark of the covenant.

One should not conclude that the Old Covenant and New Covenant are merely the same thing. It is not so. The New Covenant is a one-time sacrifice/offering that suffices for all eternity, whereas the Old Covenant was temporary in the sense that the sacrifices/offerings had to be repeated daily and yearly.

Another difference is that the New Covenant made the person's heart clean and resulted in a new recreated spirit within them; but it does not perfect the soul (mind, will and emotions) and physical body. If it did, then all Christians would be in perfect health with perfect bodies and would never sin. Obviously, that is not the case. Here are some powerful New Covenant truths:

1 John 1:6-10 (speaking to believers) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Yeshua (Jesus) cleanses us from all sin.**

v8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves,** and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Under the Old Covenant, a person who sinned needed to go to the Tabernacle and repeat the sacrificial process to be forgiven—laying hands on the head of the animal and confessing his sins. **Under the New Covenant, we also must get rid of sins after salvation,** and we do it by confessing

our sins and asking for forgiveness. The blood of Yeshua sprinkled on our hearts cleanses us again from sin after our confession of sins, and we are forgiven. Unconfessed sin works to the detriment of the believer/Christian by bringing judgment on the person (bitterness and unforgiveness for example, often bring about health problems). The important point is that there is a lifelong sanctification process for the believer under the New Covenant too, just as there was a lifelong process under the Old Covenant. The difference is that God our Father has made it far easier to be forgiven under the New Covenant. (We don't have to travel to a Tabernacle or Temple, buy a sacrificial animal, and go through the Old Covenant process. We can at any time and any place, turn to God and confess our sins to Him and receive forgiveness.)

Before you as a believer get smug about the New Covenant process of forgiveness of sins being easier and less costly than under the Old Covenant, be aware that we all as humans still have free will. It is no easier for a person today to choose to forgive others who have hurt us, or spoken angrily to us, or mistreated us than it was 2000 or 4000 or 6000 years ago. As a believer/Christian for many years, I see it in myself and in many other believers that it is possible to retain unforgiveness toward others because the hurt/pain/mistreatment is real as are the emotions which sustain it in our soul—especially in our emotions; where the soul is mind, will and emotions. The truth is that we forgive others in order to have our own sins forgiven; and we actually benefit, since retained unforgiveness cuts off the power of God in our life and can lead to ill health, financial problems, etc. When we forgive others, we do the will of God and open ourselves to His blessings rather than reaping judgment.

Matthew 6:14-15 (from Yeshua our Messiah's own lips) For **if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

The Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance where you need to forgive others; but we still have free will, and He will not force you to forgive. It is this specific area in which many believers/Christians fall short; and they by their own choice bring about repercussions in their own lives. They reap what they sow by harboring unforgiveness; and this affects believers from those new in the faith even to those in ministry for a long time. Asking for forgiveness from God our Father is easy under the New Covenant, while casting away all unforgiveness is not so easy. However, God's word stands—if we do not forgive, then we are not forgiven. My advice is to periodically examine your own life; and if there is unforgiveness, be quick to forgive so that your prayers are not hindered and your own sins are forgiven.

What about the physical body and the soul (mind, will and emotions) of believers under the New Covenant? Yes, we understand that there is a lifelong process of sanctification after initial salvation; but is there a promise from God our Father for the physical body and soul? Salvation or being born-again perfects our spirit. It is a down payment for a future perfection of the soul and body to be rejoined to the already perfected spirit. In heaven right now, there are those believers who have died, who are part of the great cloud of witnesses.

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and **to the spirits of righteous men made perfect**, and to Yeshua (Jesus) the mediator of the new covenant, and **to the sprinkled blood** which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

It is a tangential point, but the above verses says that the blood of Yeshua (Jesus) was sprinkled in the heavenly Tabernacle, of which the earthly Tabernacle was a copy shown to Moses. In the earthly Tabernacle, the High Priest sprinkled the blood once a year, on Yom Kippur, on the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place. The one-time sacrifice of Yeshua's body led to His blood being sprinkled in the heavenly Tabernacle, which is what Hebrews 12:24 states. Exactly how His blood can be sprinkled in heaven, and exactly how a person's heart is sprinkled with the blood at salvation is beyond my ability to explain. You will have to accept it by faith, based on the clear NT words of God, that it is so. The heavenly Tabernacle is under the throne of God our Father, and has a Holy Place and Most Holy Place as did the earthly Tabernacle. In the heavenly Tabernacle, the Most Holy Place has an ark of the covenant, which is where the sprinkled blood of Yeshua is at. The throne of God our Father is above the mercy seat of the heavenly ark of the covenant.

Back to the main point, we have a sure promise that one day our physical body and soul will be made perfect, to be re-united (if we die) with our already perfected spirit body. The salvation event (being born again) does not yet perfect our body and soul.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of despondency which leads to destruction, but of **those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not appointed us to wrath, but **to the possession of life (eternal life)** in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ). Him who died for our sake, that **whether we are awake (now living) or asleep (dead), we may live together with Him.**

1 John 2:25 And this is the **promise** which He Himself (Yeshua) promised us: **eternal life.**

The overt text explaining the future perfecting of the soul and body of the believer at the rapture is in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. It begins with a question and proceeds through a thorough explanation.

The Question, 1 Corinthians 15:35 But some one will say to you, “**How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?**”

The Answer, 1 Corinthians 15:42-43 So also is the **resurrection of the dead**. They are sown as a perishable body; **they rise with an imperishable body**. They are sown in dishonor; **they rise with glory**. They are sown in weakness; **they rise in power**. (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

1 Corinthians 15:44 ...If there is a natural body, **there is also a spirit body.**

The timing when the full salvation process is done (when we receive a perfected body and perfected soul to go along with our already perfected spirit), follows a few verses later:

The Timing, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be transformed (changed)**, suddenly, like the blink of an eye, **at the last trumpet. When it sounds, then the dead will rise with an imperishable body; and we shall be transformed (changed).** (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

v53 For this perishable (destructible) is going to wear **the imperishable** (indestructible); and this mortal is going to wear **immortality**.

The above verses in 1 Corinthians 15 relate an important concept. First, it explains that the dead will rise with a perfected body; then the mystery that not all will sleep (die), but those believers alive when the dead are raised will themselves be instantly changed in a micro-second to have a perfected immortal body and perfected soul to go along with their already perfected spirit. **It gives the prophesied sequence of the dead rising first, then those believers alive at the time are perfected without dying.** The same exact sequence is shown in the classic rapture text in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I want you to know, my brethren, that you should not be sorrowing (grieving) for those who sleep (who've died), as do the rest of mankind who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Yeshua (Jesus) died and rose again, in this way also, **God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yeshua (Jesus).**

1 Thessalonians 3:13 And may He establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God our Father **at the coming (arrival) of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) with all His saints (all of them).**

At the rapture (coming of Yeshua), He will bring with Him all those believers who have previously died.

I suppose the concept of Yeshua bringing the dead believers with Him when He comes at the rapture bends the mind of those with the mistaken Dualist beliefs. Why? Because a few verses later it says that the dead in the Messiah will rise first. How can He bring with Him from heaven those who previously died, when they are then raised to life after the arrival of Yeshua with them? The answer is that believers who have died are in heaven right now in their spirit bodies only, not having received the full promise of an immortal body and an immortal soul to go along with their perfected spirit. In heaven, they are in a different dimension where the spirit has substance like the human body on earth—**the spirit body is solid in the heaven dimension.** They are not wispy see-through entities in heaven right now, floating around waiting for the rapture. They live in the heaven dimension with substance, and can eat and walk and talk, etc. However, ALL believers for all time will receive the full salvation promise at the same time, at the rapture. The rapture is the “catching up/away” of believers at the time when they put on immortality in the blink of an eye. Of course, the 1 Thessalonians 4 rapture text corroborates what was shown above in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 concerning the order of things (dead rise first, followed by: we who are alive and remain).

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 But this we say to you by the word of our Lord, that **we who are alive and remain** at the coming (arrival) of the Lord, **shall not precede those are asleep.**

v16 Because **our Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a voiced command, with the voice of the archangel (actually, the head angel), and with a trumpet blast of God; **and those who have died, who are in the Messiah (believers), they will rise first.**

v17 And then **we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together to them in the clouds to meet our Lord in the air**, and in this way and throughout all time we shall be with our Lord. (Peshitta Aramaic NT)

At the rapture (arrival/coming of Yeshua), all believers for all time will receive their immortal body and immortal soul to go along with their already perfected spirit.

Having read this article, you can see that there was and is a continuity and cohesiveness concerning the Old and New Covenants (and Old and New Testaments). The Torah with the Tabernacle is a direct example to us concerning the nature of man and the salvation process. In fact, its design and procedures foretold what would come later in the New Covenant salvation process.

So...if anyone asks you, “How is the New Covenant different and better than the Old Covenant?”, now you know the answer and can clearly tell them. Under the Old Covenant the sacrifices led to forgiveness of sins for the body and soul (mind, will and emotions); and under the New Covenant the sacrifice of Yeshua our Messiah leads to forgiveness of sins with a heart sprinkled by His blood and the conscience cleansed. It leads to being born-again, which results in a new perfected spirit in the individual. The New Covenant method of restoring a relationship with our Creator is available to anyone through repentance and believing in the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that He gave up His only begotten Son (Yeshua the Messiah), that **whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.** For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world; **but that the world should be saved through Him.**

Bonus Section: What happens to the unsaved person's body and soul?

It is fashionable among many Christian denominations today, that they have come to think that there is no Hell and no eternal punishment. Here are a few verses to dispel that notion.

Hebrews 10:30-31 We know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, and I will repay. And again **MarYah (Lord YHVH/Yahweh) shall judge His people. It is very terrible to fall into the hands (be subject to His power) of the living God.**

Yeshua (Jesus) said in Luke 12:4-5 But I say to you My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you that One whom you should fear: **Fear the One who after He kills is authorized to cast into Hell (Gehenna, the place of burning fire); yes, I say to you, of this One be afraid!**

Yeshua (Jesus) said in Matthew 10:28 You should not be afraid of those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; **but rather be afraid of Him who can destroy both the soul and body in Hell (Gehenna, the place of burning fire).**

It's interesting that Yeshua states that the soul and body can be destroyed in Gehenna (Hell, the place of burning fire), and did NOT say that the spirit of man can be destroyed there. What does this mean that the body and soul can be destroyed in the place of burning fire, since when a person dies their body is buried and returns to dust while their soul dies? The answer lies in the last part of

Revelation 20, at the Great White Throne Judgment of God, where those condemned experience the second death in the place of burning fire.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a **Great White Throne and Him who sat upon it**, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw **the dead, the great and the small, standing before the Throne**, and scrolls/books were opened; and another scroll/book was opened, which is The Judgment; and **the dead were judged from the things which were written in the scrolls/books, according to their deeds/works**.

v13 And **the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and Sheol (Hades) gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged**, every one of them according to their deeds/works.

v14-15 And death and Sheol (Hades) were thrown into the lake of fire. **This is the second death**. And **whoever was not found, whose name was not inscribed/written in the Book of Life, he was thrown/cast into the lake of fire**.

The above climax of all things is a judgment before the throne of God, after the 1000 year reign of Yeshua our Messiah upon the earth. All who have ever lived are raised to life, and stand before the throne of God for judgment based on their deeds. Those whose names are written in the Book of Life receive favorable judgment, and all others are thrown into the lake of fire. This second death in the lake of fire is what Yeshua was referring to in Luke 12:4-5 and Matthew 10:28. At the second death, those cast into the lake of fire have their body and soul destroyed; but not their spirit. The spirit is the eternal part of us, and therefore those who teach that at the lake of fire there is a cessation of existence of the person are incorrect. Actually, let's say they are partially correct, in that the body and soul are destroyed (cease to exist) at the second death. However, just as at the first death (normal dying process) the spirit lives even though the body and soul die, so at the second death the spirit continues to live even though the body and soul are permanently destroyed forever.

In summary, the choice everyone has is eternal life by choosing God's way of salvation and getting their name written in the Book of Life, and their body and soul are perfected forever at the rapture; or rejecting God's way of salvation, and their body and soul are permanently destroyed at the second death in the lake of fire.

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Throughout this article, I have referred to the Peshitta Aramaic NT for insightful translations to English. Often, I used the Interlinear Peshitta Aramaic-English NT by Pastor Dave Bauscher. The Interlinear is available as a low-cost, full-color download in PDF for only \$9.99 and can be purchased at: <http://aramaicnt.com>

Another excellent option is the 5 books on CD for only \$19.99. The CD includes the Interlinear NT, an English-Aramaic Dictionary, a book on evidence of Peshitta Aramaic NT primacy, and two other helpful books—all by Pastor Dave Bauscher. I strongly recommend this Interlinear Peshitta Aramaic NT to everyone.