

# **The New Realities of the New Covenant**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**



## Jeremiah 31:31-32

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant  
which I made with their fathers in the day I took them  
by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt,  
My covenant which they broke,  
although I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.



## Jeremiah 31:33-34

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

# Main Point

In the New Covenant,  
the LORD promised a new reality  
that is substantially different from  
that found in the Old Covenant,  
ensuring a sure salvation for all in it.



# **New Realities in the New Covenant**

## **Universal Regeneration**



# Universal Regeneration

The old reality:  
*Stone Tablets*

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to them,” declares the LORD.

This refers to what is called the Old Covenant.

*This* is the contrasting covenant.

**Jeremiah 31:31-33**

**“Not like the covenant** which I made in the day  
I took them out of the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make with  
the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD,  
“I will put My law within them  
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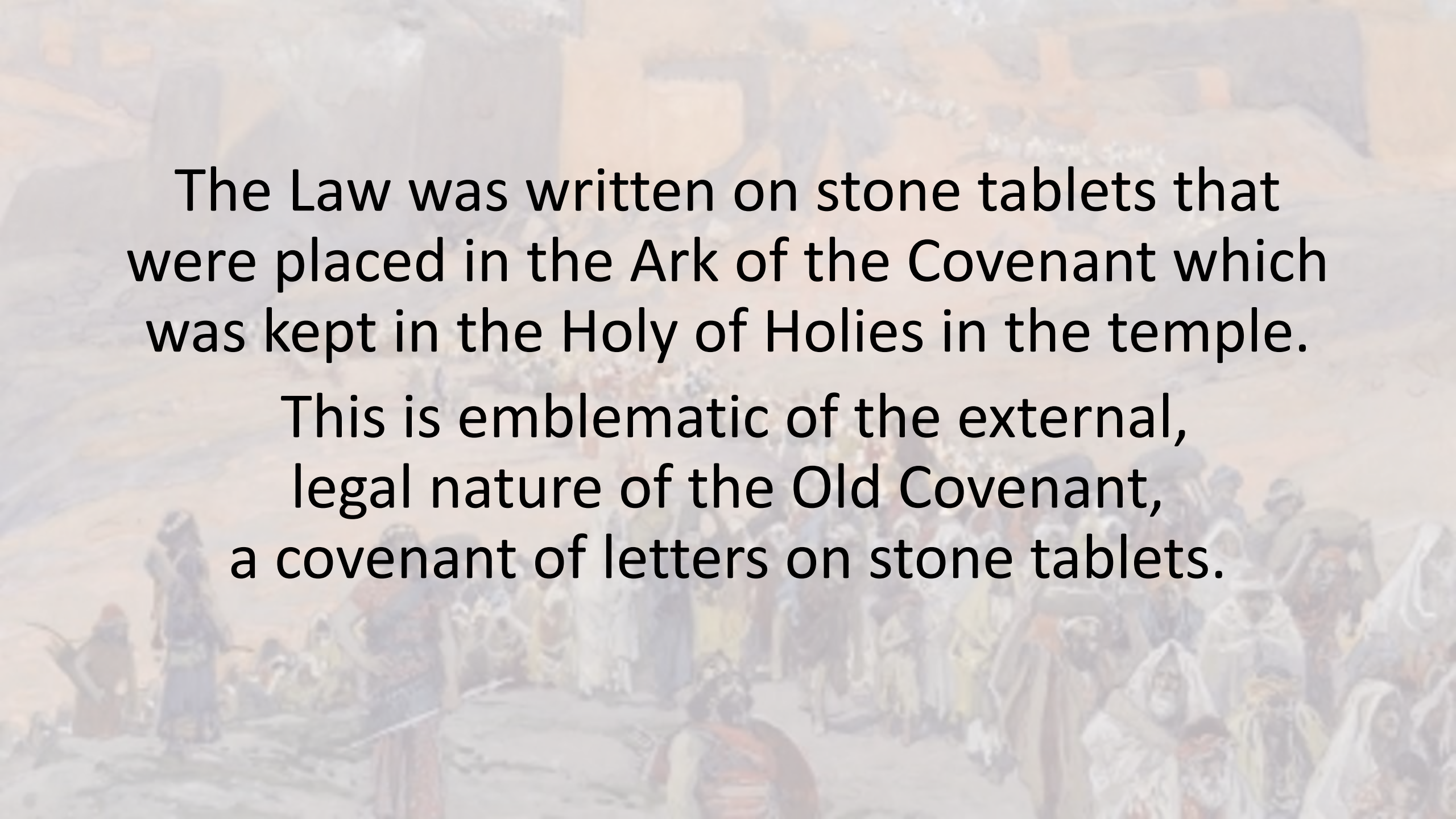
**“I will put My law within them  
and on their heart I will write it.”**

So what’s the background?

## **Deuteronomy 10:1-2**

At that time the LORD said to me,  
“Cut out for yourself two tablets of stone like  
the former ones, and come up to Me on the mountain,  
and make an ark of wood for yourself.  
I will write on the tablets the words that were  
on the former tablets which you shattered,  
and you shall put them in the ark.”





The Law was written on stone tablets that were placed in the Ark of the Covenant which was kept in the Holy of Holies in the temple.

This is emblematic of the external, legal nature of the Old Covenant, a covenant of letters on stone tablets.

# Universal Regeneration

The old reality – written on stone.

The new reality:  
*Tablets of the Heart*



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This promise refers to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit to bring dead sinners to life and awaken souls to love the LORD and His law.

## **Ezekiel 11:19-20**

“And I will give them one heart,  
and put a new spirit within them.  
And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh  
and give them a heart of flesh,  
that they may walk in My statutes  
and keep My ordinances and do them.”

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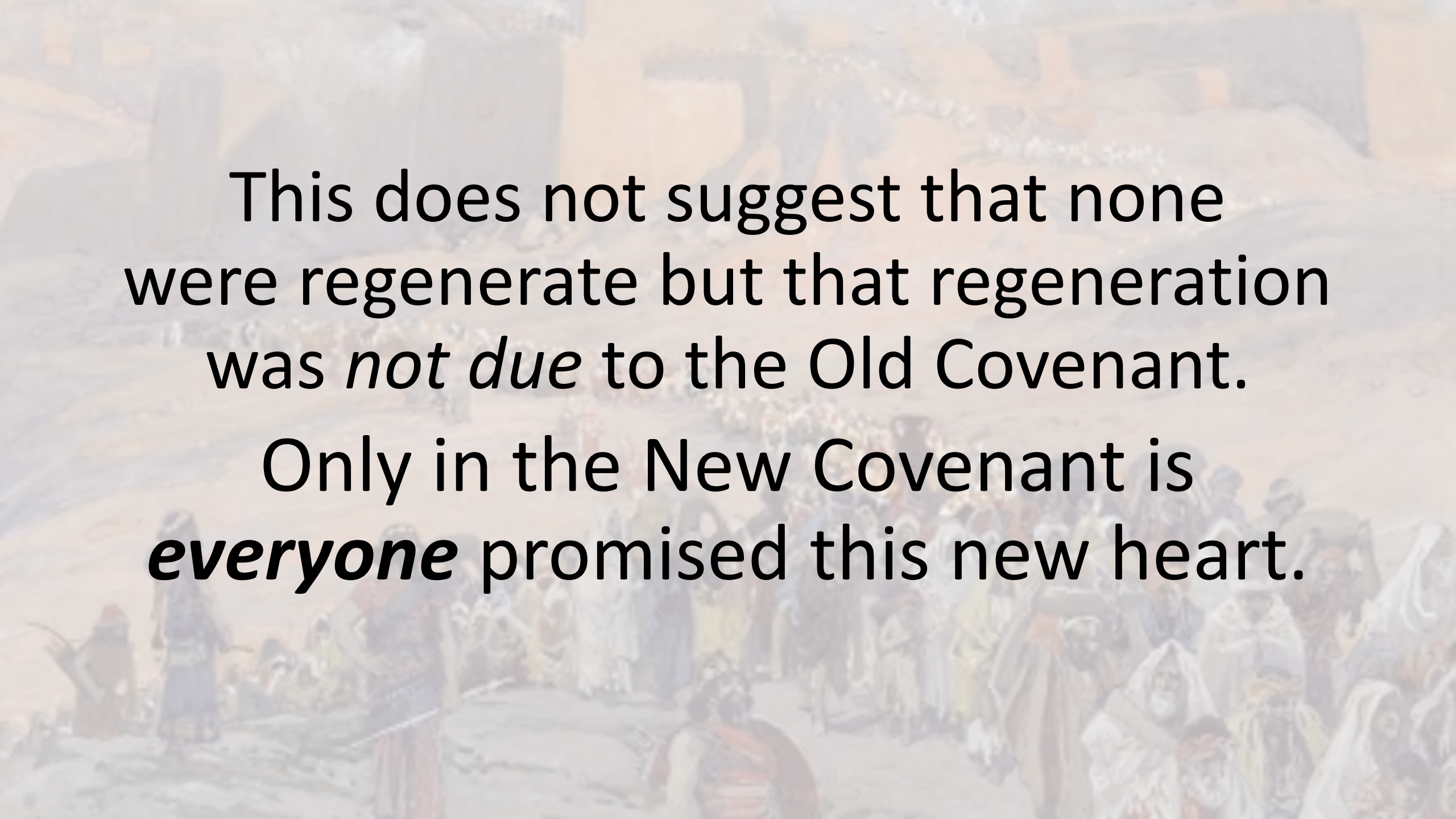
## **Ezekiel 11:19-20**

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This does not suggest that none were regenerate but that regeneration was *not due* to the Old Covenant.

Only in the New Covenant is *everyone* promised this new heart.

## **2 Corinthians 3:3**

“You are a letter of Christ, cared for by us,  
written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,  
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”



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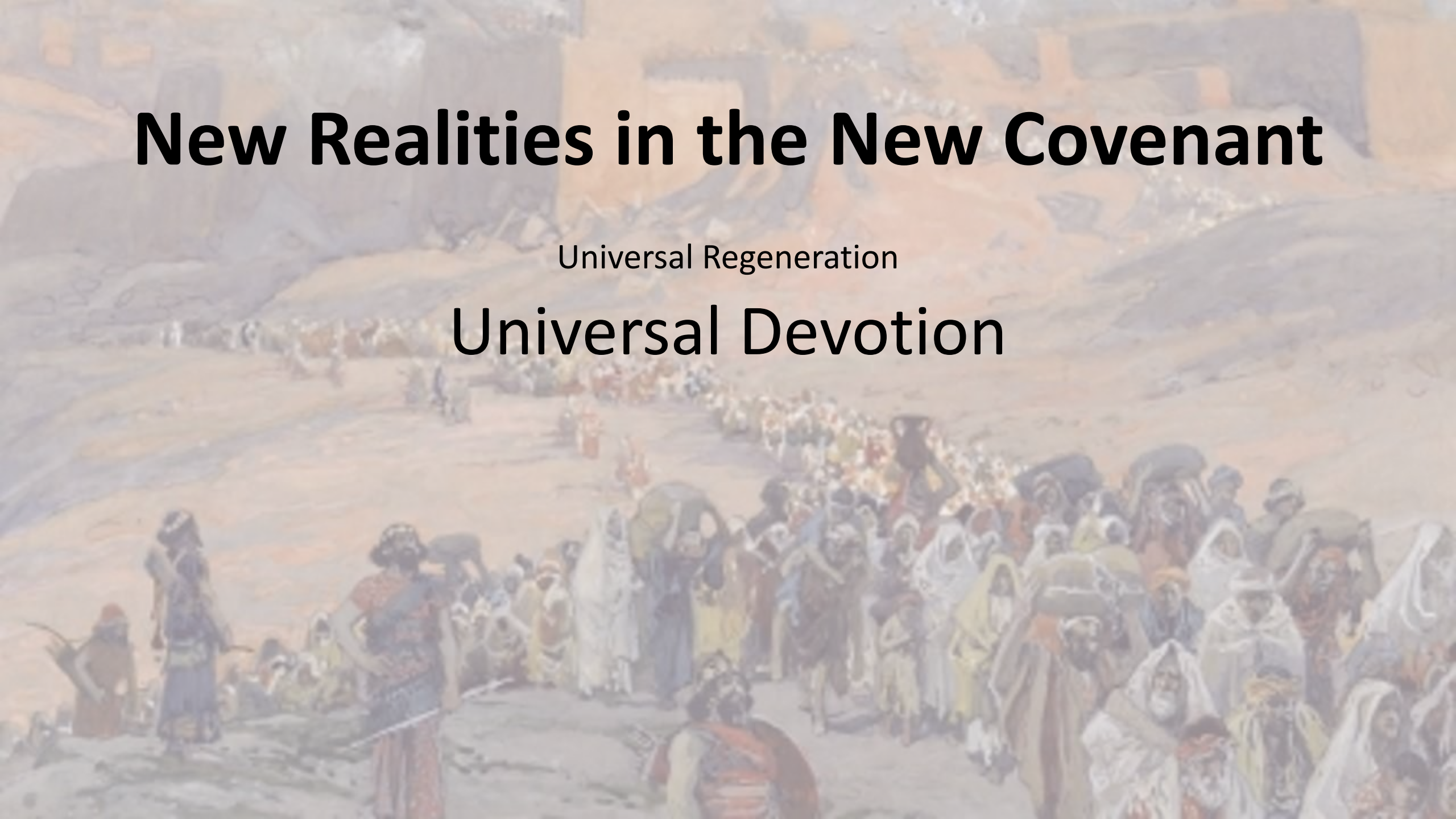
## 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

But our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

# **New Realities in the New Covenant**

Universal Regeneration

## **Universal Devotion**



# Universal Devotion

The old reality:

*Most did not know the LORD.*



## **Jeremiah 31:34**

“They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD.”

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**Most did not know the LORD  
and needed instruction.**



## **Jeremiah 4:22**

“For My people are foolish, **they know Me not**; they are stupid children and have no understanding.”

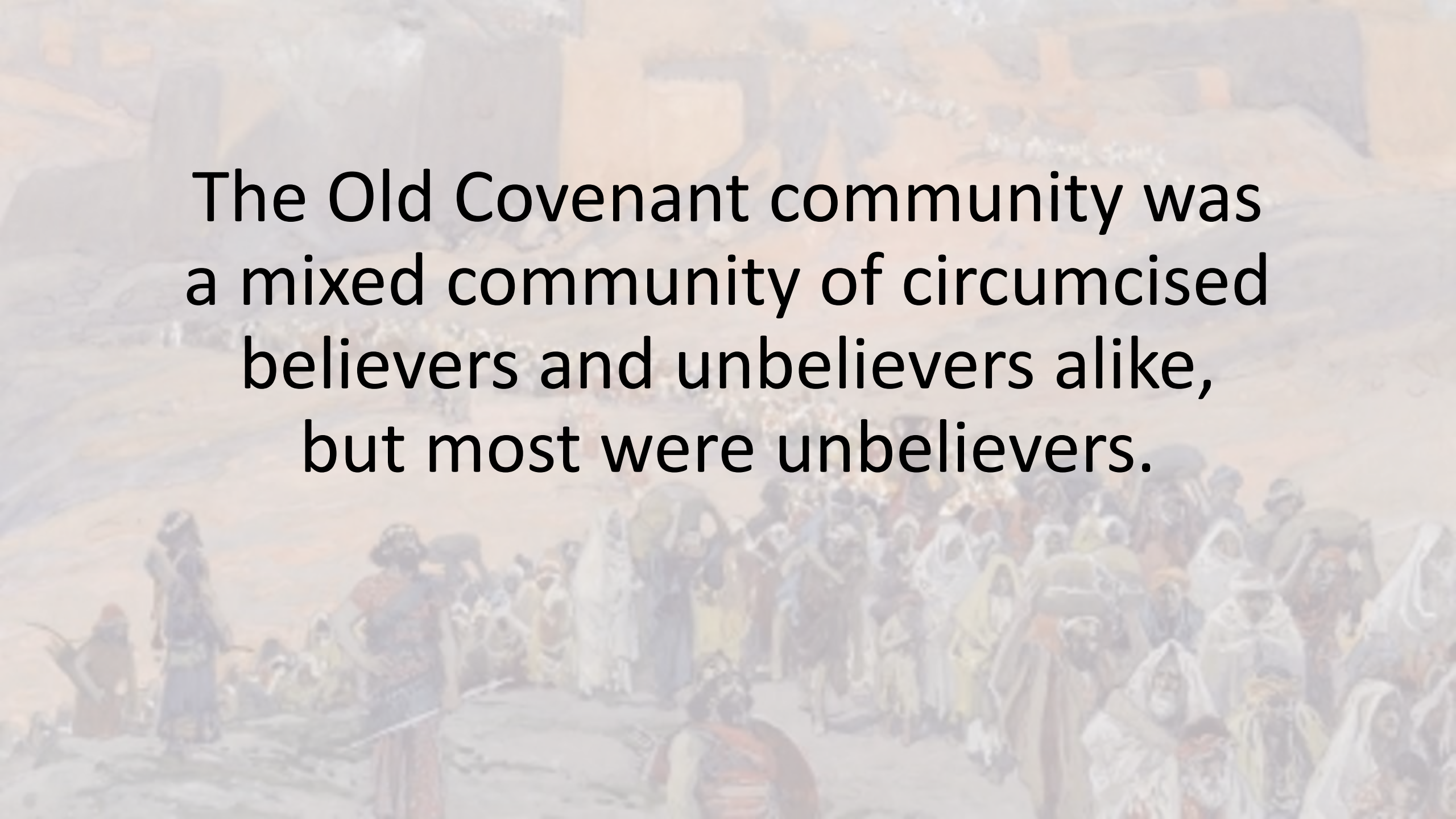
## **Ezekiel 3:7**

“Surely **the whole house of Israel** is stubborn and obstinate.”

**This remained the case.**

## 2 Corinthians 3:14

But their minds were hardened;  
for **until this very day** at the reading  
of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted,  
because it is removed in Christ.



The Old Covenant community was a mixed community of circumcised believers and unbelievers alike, but most were unbelievers.



# Universal Devotion

The old reality – most did not know the LORD.

The new reality:

***Everyone will know the LORD.***

## Jeremiah 31:34

**“They will not teach again,** each man his neighbor and each man his brother, **saying, ‘Know the LORD,’** for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD.”

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To *know the LORD* is to love Him,  
to be devoted to Him in faithfulness.

## **Hosea 2:19-20**

“I will betroth you to Me forever;  
Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice,  
In lovingkindness and in compassion,  
And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.  
Then you will know the LORD.”



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**Then you will know the LORD.”**



The New Covenant community is *not* a mixed community in which some know and love the LORD, and some do not.

***Everyone*** in this covenant will know and love the LORD.



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and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’

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# **New Realities in the New Covenant**

Universal Regeneration

Universal Devotion

## **Universal Remission**



# Universal Remission

The old reality:  
*Perpetual sacrifices.*



**Jeremiah 31:34**

“I will forgive their iniquity,  
and their sin I will remember no more.”

**Jeremiah 31:34**

“I will forgive their iniquity,  
and their sin I will remember **no more.**”

This points to their need for ongoing sacrifices and the ultimate inadequacy of animal blood.

## **Hebrews 10:1-4**

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.



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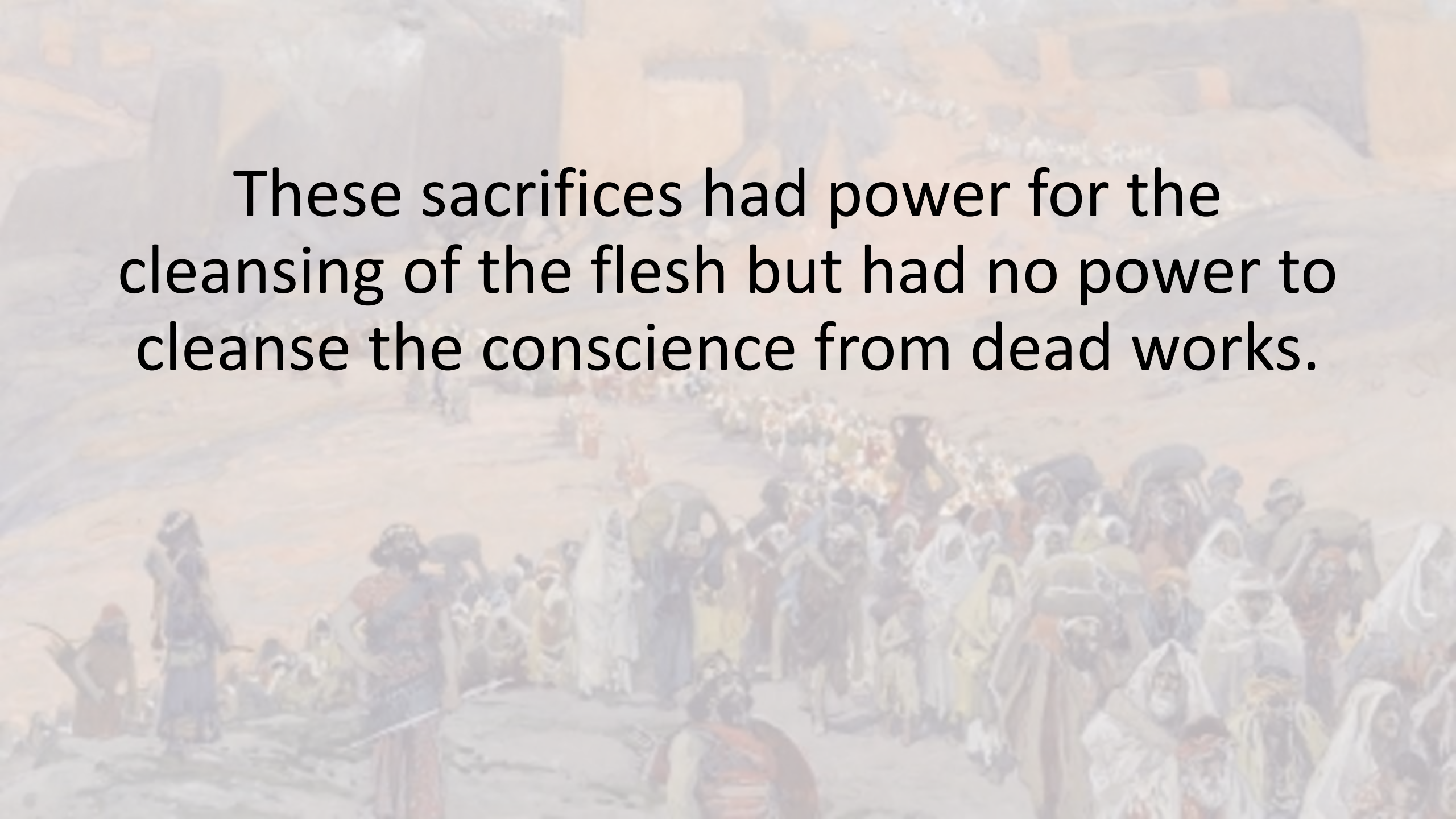
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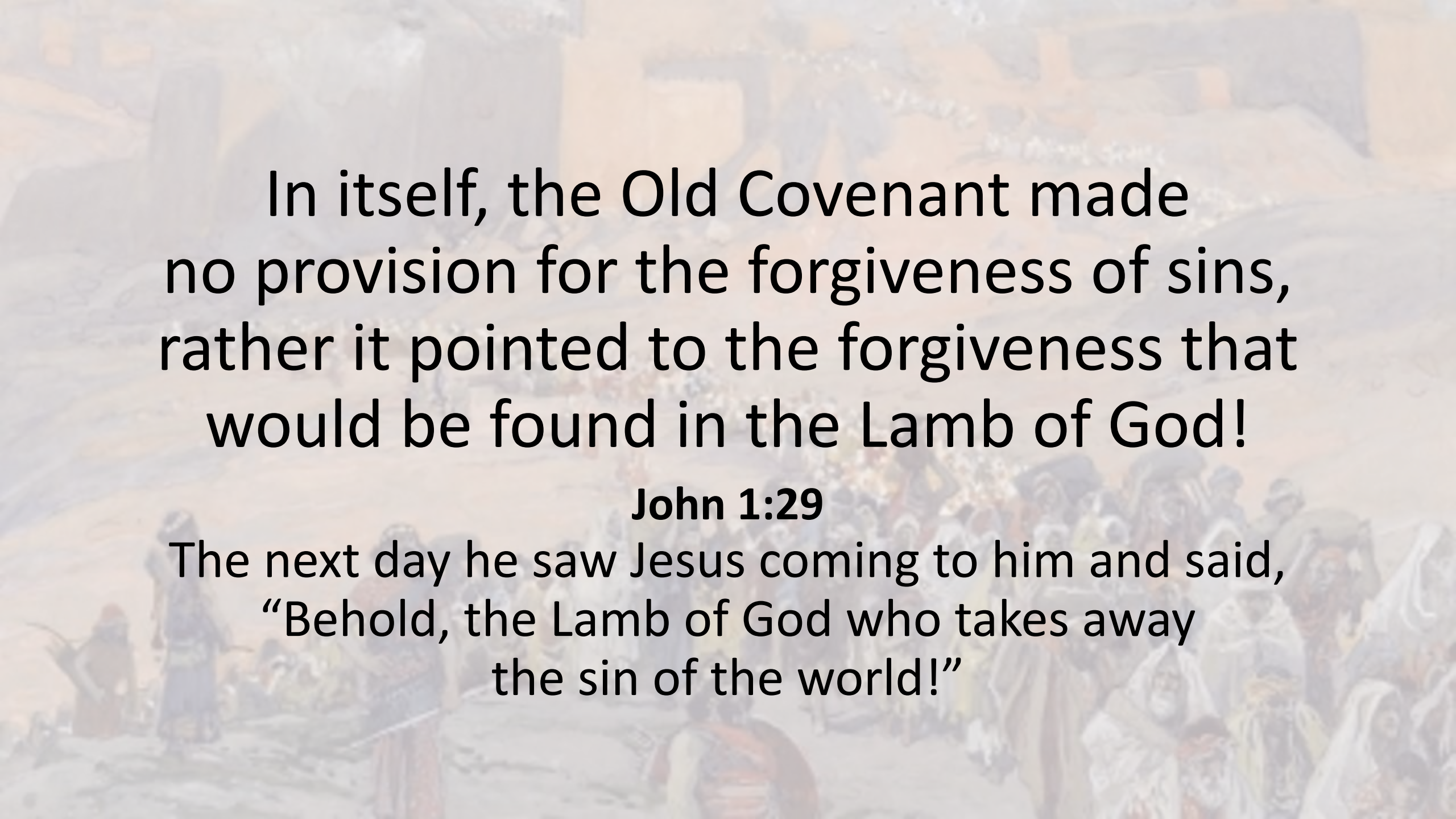
The background is a faded, sepia-toned illustration of a large crowd of people in a desert setting. The figures are dressed in traditional, simple clothing, and some appear to be carrying items on their heads or backs. The scene is set in a hazy, open landscape with some distant structures or hills. The overall tone is historical and somber.

These sacrifices had power for the  
cleansing of the flesh but had no power to  
cleans the conscience from dead works.



## Hebrews 9:13-14

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**, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?



In itself, the Old Covenant made no provision for the forgiveness of sins, rather it pointed to the forgiveness that would be found in the Lamb of God!

**John 1:29**

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said,  
“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world!”

# Universal Remission

The old reality – perpetual sacrifices.

The new reality:  
*Perfect forgiveness.*



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**Jeremiah 31:34**

“I will forgive their iniquity,

and **their sin I will remember no more.”**

This is the promise that ensures a sure salvation  
for all who belong to Christ!



God does not *forget*,  
but He promises to *remit*.

Because Christ fully paid the sin-debt  
of His people, no charges remain against  
them – *they have been remitted* –  
and this makes salvation a sure thing  
for all who belong to Him.



# Concluding Questions:

Do you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ...  
are you believing on Him for your salvation?

Do you *know* the Lord;  
do you love Him and His Word?  
Are you receiving His forgiveness  
and resting in His promise?