

Chapter 1: "The New/Renewed/ **שׁוֹדָשׁ** (chadash) Covenant Through Y'shu'ah: A Divine Renewal of the Ancient Promises"

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The New Covenant isn't about replacing Elohim's promises but renewing them! Through Y'shu'ah HaMashiach, Elohim writes His Torah on our hearts, empowering believers to walk in Spirit-led obedience. Discover how the bread and wine shared at the Last Supper connect to Melchizedek and Abraham, how Y'shu'ah's blood ratifies this eternal covenant, and how Yahudim and Gentiles are united in one body under Y'shu'ah's priesthood. Let's dive deep into the covenantal renewal that transforms our lives and brings us into intimacy with Elohim.

Introduction

The New Covenant, inaugurated by Y'shu'ah HaMashiach, is not merely a replacement of the old but a profound restoration of Elohim's promises to Israel. This covenant is deeply personal—Elohim writes His Torah on the hearts and minds of believers, empowering them to walk in Spirit-led obedience. With Y'shu'ah as our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, the relationship between Elohim and His people is restored and energized with eternal power through His once-for-all sacrifice. This chapter explores how the New Covenant bridges ancient promises and their ultimate fulfillment, uniting Yahudim and Gentiles into one covenantal family.

1. The New Covenant as Restoration and Renewal

The New Covenant introduced by Y'shu'ah fulfills Elohim's promises to His people, as prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-33:

“Behold, the days are coming, says Yahu'ah, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Word Study: "New" in Jeremiah 31:31

The Hebrew word for "new" is **חדש (chadash)**, which can also mean "renewed" or "refreshed." In Paleo-Hebrew, its letters symbolize:

- **ח (Chet):** A fence, representing separation or protection.
- **ד (Dalet):** A door, symbolizing a pathway or entry.
- **ש (Shin):** Teeth or fire, representing transformation or renewal.

Together, *chadash* conveys a process of renewal and transformation through separation and entering a new pathway. This underscores that the New Covenant restores and renews Elohim's original intentions rather than replacing them.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern covenants, the Mosaic Covenant established Israel's identity as Elohim's chosen people. However, their repeated failures highlighted the need for an internal transformation. Jeremiah's prophecy promised a covenant that would restore intimacy with Elohim by inscribing His Torah directly on the hearts of His people.

Practical Application

The New Covenant invites believers into a personal relationship with Elohim, where obedience is an act of love rather than obligation. How does this understanding of renewal challenge your perspective on obedience to Elohim's commands?

2. The Blood Ratification of the Covenant

Blood has always been central to covenantal relationships in Scripture, symbolizing life, atonement, and the binding nature of Elohim's promises. At the Last Supper, Y'shu'ah declared:

“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (**Matthew 26:28**).

This profound statement draws a direct connection to the covenant ratified at Mount Sinai, where Moses took the blood of sacrifices and sprinkled it on the people, proclaiming:

“This is the blood of the covenant which Yahu'ah has made with you in accordance with all these words” (**Exodus 24:8**).

Through His atoning death, Y'shu'ah establishes the Chodesh Covenant, not by abolishing the original covenant but by fulfilling its ultimate purpose through His perfect, once-for-all sacrifice.

Significance of Blood

1. Life and Atonement

Blood represents life, as described in **Leviticus 17:11**:

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

This underscores the sacredness of blood as the means of reconciliation between Elohim and humanity.

2. Forgiveness Through Sacrifice

The author of Hebrews highlights the necessity of blood in the process of forgiveness:

“Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” (**Hebrews 9:22**).

While the Levitical system required repeated animal sacrifices, Y’shu’ah’s sacrifice transcends these limitations, offering eternal atonement and access to Elohim.

3. Covenantal Binding

Just as the blood at Sinai sealed Israel’s covenantal relationship with Elohim, Y’shu’ah’s blood seals the Chodesh Covenant, binding believers to Elohim in an eternal relationship of grace, forgiveness, and love.

Historical Context

Under the Mosaic Covenant, animal sacrifices were central to worship and atonement, reminding Israel of the cost of sin and the holiness of Elohim. The sprinkling of blood during covenant ceremonies symbolized the sacred and binding nature of these agreements.

1. The Temporary Nature of Animal Sacrifices

The Levitical system required continuous offerings, highlighting its inability to fully address humanity’s sin problem. These sacrifices pointed forward to a greater, ultimate sacrifice—Y’shu’ah HaMashiach.

2. Y’shu’ah’s Fulfillment

Y’shu’ah’s death fulfills the sacrificial requirements of the Torah and inaugurates a covenant of eternal power. His blood doesn’t merely cover sins temporarily but removes them completely:

“By one sacrifice, He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy” (**Hebrews 10:14**).

Practical Application

1. Confidence in Forgiveness

Y’shu’ah’s blood assures complete forgiveness, offering believers the confidence to approach Elohim without fear or shame. This truth invites deep trust in Elohim’s mercy and faithfulness:

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience” (**Hebrews 10:22**).

2. Living in Gratitude

Recognizing the cost of Y'shu'ah's sacrifice inspires a life of gratitude and obedience. How does the assurance of complete restoration shape your response to Elohim's love?

3. Extending Grace to Others

Just as Y'shu'ah's blood offers forgiveness, believers are called to extend grace and forgiveness to others, reflecting Elohim's character in their relationships.

Key Takeaways

- **Blood as Life and Atonement:** Y'shu'ah's sacrifice fulfills the ultimate requirement for forgiveness, offering eternal reconciliation.
- **Covenantal Power:** His blood seals the Chodesh Covenant, transforming and internalizing Elohim's Torah in the hearts of believers.
- **Practical Faith:** Living under the Chodesh Covenant means walking in forgiveness, gratitude, and Spirit-led obedience.

Through the blood of Y'shu'ah, believers experience the depth of Elohim's love, the assurance of complete restoration, and the invitation to live in the power of His covenant promises.

3. Bread, Wine, and the Connection to Melchizedek and Abraham

The bread and wine Y'shu'ah shared with His disciples at the Last Supper draw directly from the covenantal and priestly imagery in **Genesis 14**, where Melchizedek, the "King of Righteousness" (*Malki-Tzedek* - מַלְכִי־צְדֵק), brought bread and wine to bless Abraham:

"Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him..." (**Genesis 14:18-19**).

This moment establishes a deep connection between the priesthood of Melchizedek and Y'shu'ah's ultimate priestly role, bridging the Torah's promises with their fulfillment in the Chodesh Covenant.

Melchizedek's Role

Melchizedek, whose name means "King of Righteousness," served as both king and priest—a unique combination of offices rarely seen together in biblical tradition. He ruled over Salem (often identified with Jerusalem), representing peace and righteousness. Melchizedek's priesthood foreshadows Y'shu'ah's eternal priestly ministry in several key ways:

1. King-Priest Authority

Melchizedek held dual roles as king and priest, prefiguring Y'shu'ah as the ultimate King of Kings and eternal High Priest.

- **Hebrews 7:3** describes Melchizedek as having "neither beginning of days nor end of life," a figure pointing to the eternal priesthood of Y'shu'ah.

2. Offering Bread and Wine

Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abraham as a blessing, symbolizing fellowship, sustenance, and covenantal provision. This act foreshadows the elements of the Last Supper, where Y'shu'ah identified bread with His body and wine with His blood.

3. Blessing Abraham

Melchizedek blessed Abraham, affirming Elohim's promises to him and recognizing his covenantal role in bringing blessings to all nations (**Genesis 12:3**).

Y'shu'ah's Fulfillment

The connection between Melchizedek and Y'shu'ah is solidified in **Psalm 110:4**:

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Y'shu'ah embodies and surpasses the Melchizedekian priesthood in the following ways:

1. Eternal Priesthood

Unlike the Levitical priests, whose service was temporary and passed down through lineage, Y'shu'ah's priesthood is eternal and divinely appointed. **Hebrews 7:24-25** explains:

"But because He continues forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him."

2. The Bread and Wine of the Chodesh Covenant

At the Last Supper, Y'shu'ah redefined the bread and wine as covenantal symbols:

- **The Bread:** "This is My body, broken for you" (**Luke 22:19**).
- **The Wine:** "This is My blood of the new covenant" (**Matthew 26:28**).
By identifying these elements with His sacrifice, Y'shu'ah connected His atoning death to Melchizedek's blessing, establishing a covenantal bond that spans generations and unites Yahudim and Gentiles.

3. Perfect Intercession

Y'shu'ah's priesthood bridges the divide between humanity and Elohim. He intercedes on behalf of believers, fulfilling the role of the ultimate High Priest who mediates a better covenant.

Practical Applications

1. Communion as Covenant Renewal

- Participating in the bread and wine of communion recalls Y'shu'ah's sacrifice and renews our covenantal relationship with Elohim.
- Just as Melchizedek's offering affirmed Elohim's promises to Abraham, communion reminds believers of Y'shu'ah's fulfillment of those promises through His eternal priesthood.

2. Walking in Faith Like Abraham

- Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek marked a moment of faith and trust in Elohim's promises. Similarly, believers are called to live in faith, trusting in the sufficiency of Y'shu'ah's priesthood and walking in obedience to Elohim's Word.

3. Living as Covenant Representatives

- As recipients of the Chodesh Covenant, believers are tasked with reflecting Y'shu'ah's righteousness and peace, embodying the values of the eternal priesthood in their daily lives.

Key Takeaways

- The bread and wine shared by Melchizedek with Abraham foreshadow Y'shu'ah's covenantal offering at the Last Supper.
- Melchizedek's dual role as king and priest prefigures Y'shu'ah's eternal priesthood, which transcends the limitations of the Levitical system.
- Through Y'shu'ah's fulfillment of the Torah and His perfect intercession, believers are united with Elohim under the Chodesh Covenant.
- Communion serves as a powerful reminder of Y'shu'ah's atoning sacrifice and invites believers to live in faith, trust, and obedience as Abraham did.

By understanding the connection between Melchizedek and Y'shu'ah, believers gain a deeper appreciation of the covenantal continuity that ties the Tanakh and the renewed covenant together, highlighting Elohim's faithfulness throughout generations.

Reflective Discussion Questions

1. How does Melchizedek's role prefigure Y'shu'ah's eternal priesthood?
2. What does it mean for the Torah to be written on your heart?
3. How does understanding the connection between Melchizedek and Y'shu'ah deepen your appreciation of communion?
4. How does Y'shu'ah's once-for-all sacrifice shape your relationship with Elohim?
5. In what ways can you reflect Abraham's faith in your daily walk?

Fill-in-the-Blank Study Questions

1. Melchizedek brought out _____ and _____ to bless Abraham.
2. The Hebrew term *chadash* also means _____.
3. Y'shu'ah is a High Priest in the order of _____.

4. The bread represents Y'shu'ah's _____, broken for us.
5. The wine symbolizes Y'shu'ah's _____, shed for the remission of sins.
6. Hebrews 9:22 states: "Without the shedding of _____, there is no forgiveness."
7. The New Covenant writes the _____ on our hearts.

Answer Key (Reflective Discussion Questions)

1. Melchizedek prefigures Y'shu'ah through his eternal priesthood and role as both king and priest.
2. The Torah becomes a guide written on the heart, transforming obedience into a Spirit-led response of love.
3. Bread and wine represent Y'shu'ah's body and blood, uniting believers in His sacrifice.
4. Y'shu'ah's blood fulfills the requirement for atonement and seals the eternal covenant.
5. Believers can live like Abraham by trusting Elohim's promises and walking in faithful obedience.

Answer Key (Fill-in-the-Blank Study Questions)

1. Bread; wine
2. Renewed
3. Melchizedek
4. Body
5. Blood
6. Blood
7. Torah

Glossary of Terms (Expanded with Paleo-Hebrew Insights)

The **Chodesh Covenant** (New Covenant) doesn't replace Elohim's promises—it renews and restores them! Through Y'shu'ah HaMashiach, Elohim inscribes His Torah on the hearts of believers, empowering them to walk in Spirit-led obedience. This profound transformation unites Yahudim and Gentiles, fulfills the eternal promises made to Abraham, and is sealed with the blood of Y'shu'ah. Key symbols such as the bread and wine tie Y'shu'ah's priesthood to the eternal order of Melchizedek, demonstrating Elohim's faithfulness and ultimate redemption. Below is an in-depth glossary highlighting the key terms and their rich Paleo-Hebrew meanings.

1. Chodesh (חֹדֶשׁ)

- **Definition:** Hebrew for "new" or "renewed." In the context of the Chodesh Covenant, it reflects renewal and restoration, emphasizing Elohim's intent to refresh His original promises rather than replace them.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Chet (ח):** A fence, symbolizing separation or protection.
 - **Dalet (ד):** A door, representing a pathway or access.
 - **Shin (ש):** Teeth or fire, symbolizing transformation or purification.
 - **Meaning:** A process of renewal through separation and entering a pathway that leads to transformation.

2. Y'shu'ah (יְהוּשָׁע)

- **Definition:** The Hebrew name for Jesus, meaning "Yahu'ah is salvation." It highlights Y'shu'ah's role as Savior and Redeemer, fulfilling Elohim's promises.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Yod (י):** A hand, representing action or power.
 - **Hey (ה):** A man with raised arms, symbolizing revelation or awe.
 - **Vav (ו):** A nail or peg, symbolizing connection or securing.
 - **Shin (ש):** Teeth or fire, representing destruction or purification.
 - **Ayin (ע):** An eye, symbolizing insight or understanding.
 - **Meaning:** Y'shu'ah represents Elohim's revealed power, connecting and purifying humanity to bring salvation.

3. HaMashiach (הַמָּשִׁיחַ)

- **Definition:** Hebrew for "the Messiah" or "the Anointed One," referring to Y'shu'ah's divine role as King and Savior.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Hey (ה):** A man with raised arms, symbolizing revelation or awe.
 - **Mem (מ):** Water, symbolizing abundance or cleansing.
 - **Shin (ש):** Teeth or fire, representing purification or transformation.
 - **Yod (י):** A hand, representing action or power.
 - **Chet (ח):** A fence, symbolizing separation or protection.

- **Meaning:** HaMashiach signifies the revealed One who purifies, transforms, and guides His people into Elohim's protection.

4. Melchizedek (מלכיצדק)

- **Definition:** The "King of Righteousness," a priest-king who blessed Abraham and prefigured Y'shu'ah's eternal priesthood.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Mem (מ):** Water, symbolizing abundance or chaos.
 - **Lamed (ל):** A shepherd's staff, symbolizing guidance and leadership.
 - **Kaph (כ):** An open palm, representing blessing or atonement.
 - **Yod (י):** A hand, symbolizing action or divine power.
 - **Tsade (צ):** A man lying down, representing righteousness or humility.
 - **Dalet (ד):** A door, symbolizing access or entry.
 - **Qoph (ק):** The back of a head, symbolizing finality or authority.
 - **Meaning:** Melchizedek embodies abundant, righteous guidance, granting access to divine authority and peace through priestly intercession.

5. Elohim (אֱלֹהִים)

- **Definition:** A Hebrew name for God, emphasizing His majesty, sovereignty, and power.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Aleph (א):** An ox, symbolizing strength and leadership.
 - **Lamed (ל):** A shepherd's staff, representing authority and guidance.
 - **Hey (ה):** A man with raised arms, symbolizing revelation or awe.
 - **Yod (י):** A hand, representing action or power.
 - **Mem (מ):** Water, symbolizing chaos or abundance.
 - **Meaning:** Elohim reveals Himself as the strong, guiding leader who brings order out of chaos through divine action.

6. Torah (תורה)

- **Definition:** Often translated as "Law," Torah means "instruction" or "teaching," reflecting Elohim's guidance for righteous living.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Tav (ת):** A mark or covenant, symbolizing a sign or cross.

- **Vav (ו):** A nail or connector, symbolizing securing or joining.
- **Resh (ר):** A head, symbolizing leadership or authority.
- **Hey (ה):** A man with raised arms, symbolizing revelation or awe.
- **Meaning:** The Torah represents Elohim’s covenantal teaching, secured in His authority, and revealed for righteous living.

7. Covenant (ברית)

- **Definition:** A sacred, binding agreement between Elohim and His people, often sealed with blood.
- **Paleo-Hebrew Insight:**
 - **Bet (ב):** A house, symbolizing relationship or family.
 - **Resh (ר):** A head, symbolizing leadership or authority.
 - **Yod (י):** A hand, symbolizing action or work.
 - **Tav (ת):** A mark or covenant, symbolizing a sign or cross.
 - **Meaning:** A covenant establishes a household guided by divine authority and sealed with a binding sign.

Key Takeaways

- The Chodesh Covenant renews Elohim’s promises by internalizing the Torah on believers’ hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).
- Y’shu’ah’s priesthood fulfills and surpasses the Levitical system, connecting believers to Elohim eternally through His sacrifice.
- Symbols like bread, wine, and Melchizedek link the Tanakh and the Renewed Covenant, showcasing Elohim’s continuity and faithfulness.
- Understanding the Paleo-Hebrew insights deepens appreciation for the timeless truths embedded in Elohim’s Word.

This glossary serves as a bridge, connecting ancient Hebraic concepts to their profound fulfillment in the Chodesh Covenant, empowering believers to live Spirit-led lives that glorify Elohim.