

### ***Yahwism***

is a call out of Paganism into an ethical religion lived out as a covenant loyalty and on a mutual assistance level. On a socio-political level, the significance of Yahwism was in the part it played as an anti-feudal movement. Equally it was in its call for an egalitarian society where the only king was to be Yahweh. Through the practice of Social Justice, and the concept of one law and one people under one God, the movement towards monotheism became a natural and logical development. As long as the principles of the covenant were observed, the people were prosperous and lived in relative peace and security.

The following references are a few samples that show the development of covenant understanding. Starting with Joshua, and the formation of Israel as a new Nation or a Confederation of Tribes bound together by a common Law and worship of one Dynamic God that chose them to be his people. How after the decline of the kingdom a copy of the law is found in the Temple and accepted again as the basis of their faith and nation. In the exile times the new understanding of salvation develops into a hope in the day of the Lord or the end times. The coming of a Messiah who will restore the nation to the Promised Land, takes on new significance. The hope in a new covenant not written in stone but on the hearts of people, and a new awareness that God is always with them grows and takes shape. Peace is the hope and promise of the covenant. A New Jerusalem where war will no longer be known is a vision that everyone hopes will be the result of the coming of the Christ.

Jos 24:1-, See the formation of Israel under Joshua and the ratification of the Covenant by the tribes.

2Kgs.22:8., The solemn reading of the Covenant and Law which had been discovered in the Temple, to the people by the High Priest

Is.11:6; The prophesy of a saviour who will ransom the people in exile and gather all together.

Is.55:3; The promise of an everlasting covenant fulfilling the promise to David. An earthly paradise.

Is.60:1-22, The new Jerusalem after the exile, as a place of peace and justice.

Jr.31:31, A new covenant to be written on the hearts of the people.

Ezk.36:27, Clean water will cleanse them. The hearts of stone will be removed from the people and replaced by hearts of flesh. God's spirit will be place within them. Salvation from what defiles them.

Hos.2:20, A new treaty with creation, all creatures and animals. An end to war and weapons. God is betrothed to us in uprightness and justice, faithful love and tenderness with the promise of knowledge of God.

Zec. 2:15, The day of Yahweh many nations will be converted to become his people and live among the chosen.

Mal.3:1., The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple; yes, the angel of the covenant, for whom you long, is on his way.

Jn.15:9-17 The Commandment of Jesus to remain in his love by keeping the commandments of God. The Commandment is to Love one another. This is not a rejection of the Mosaic Law or the Decalogue, rather it is only a more concise statement of all that it contains.

Lk.10:25-28 The commandment to Love God and one's neighbour (Dt.6:5 and Lv.18:5) That is the response to the

Mt.26:28, The Eucharist as the new covenant, the bread and wine as the body and blood of Jesus poured out for the forgiveness of sins. So what is the New Covenant? What is promised,

Rm.5:5. The love of God is made known through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Heb.9:15; Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant. The redemption of sin and the call to eternal inheritance.

Rv.21:3 Look God lives among human beings. He makes his home among them, they will be his people, and he will be their God, God with them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone.