

Book Review: 'The Forgotten Feast and the Covenant of Grace' by Michael Arnold. Vineyard International Publishing, Cape Town 2017.

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The Forgotten Feast of the title is the Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread. In this book Michael Arnold, a classical scholar, theologian and experienced Anglican school chaplain, focuses on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Old and New Covenants in the Bible.

Many Christians feel a sense of hopelessness at their inability to live up to what they see as the 'demands' of the New Commandment and the Sermon on the Mount. Some give up altogether, and lose their faith. There are other people, taking the first hesitant steps towards a Christian commitment, who find the requirements just too demanding. People in all these categories should find Arnold's book a source of comfort and encouragement.

Controversially perhaps, it is Arnold's argument that they have got it all wrong, and they are not supposed to attempt to live up to any demands. They must just accept that the New Covenant has been made on their behalf by Jesus Christ. To find out why this is not a licence to sin, you need to read the book! It is biblically based, scholarly but easy to read. The product of decades of study and reflection, it is filled with helpful quotations, both from the Bible and from a variety of Christian writers.

A Grahamstown link is that Michael Arnold took his first degree at Rhodes University, and taught Latin at St Andrew's College before his ordination.

By Maggy Clarke