

The New Covenant

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Hebrews 8:6-13 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with **them**, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they continued not in my covenant**, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. **In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.**

- I. The book of Hebrews spells out the differences between the old covenant and the new.
 - A. Chapters 7-10 deal specifically with the differences and show how the new covenant is much better.
 - B. We learn that the whole thing is a process by which God has revealed himself and his plan of redemption to mankind.
 1. Because we live in time it had to be a process and not a sudden miracle of divine revelation.
 2. Because of the hardness of man's heart because of his sin it must be a process that occurs over a period of time.

Hebrews 9:8-10 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

3. Salvation comes about the same way; it happens instantly after the process of hearing the word of God, the drawing of the father, and the conviction of the Spirit of God. – it is simply an intellectual agreement with certain facts of Scripture, but a work of God in the heart and mind.
 - C. At the same time God has dealt justly with the whole human race since the beginning so that no one has been left with less hope than others.

Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

1. Divine wisdom and love has tied both the old and new covenants together so both are dependent upon the other: their perfection depends upon us and our perfection is owed in part to those who truly believed God under the old covenant.
 2. Those who lived under the old covenant had the promise of the new to believe in – God's oath on it.
 3. This is the same hope that we have under the new covenant.

Hebrews 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 6:17-19 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

- D. Those who had true saving faith under the old covenant understood that the tabernacle and the sacrifices and all the carnal ordinances were all a temporary, transitional thing and when they looked at the veil of the temple they knew that one day it would be open to everyone who believed – not just the high priest one time a year.
 - 1. When that veil was rent the day Jesus was crucified, it was to them like it will be for us when Jesus rends the heavens and comes with a shout for his bride!

- II. The thing that makes the major difference between the old and the new covenants is that the Holy Spirit of God indwells every true believer in Christ.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will **put my laws into their mind**, and **write them in their hearts**: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:16-17 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will **put my laws into their hearts**, and **in their minds will I write them**; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

- A. This is more than a conscience – it is God himself living in you.
- B. Jesus called him the Spirit of Truth and said he would guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)
- C. This makes it possible for every person have true communion with God and not just live according to carnal ordinances and religious observations.
- D. This is why true Bible Christianity is about a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and not just some more religion.
- E. There were certain ones in the Old Testament who walked with God and communed with Him this way:
 - 1. There was Enoch, who walked with God, Noah, who found grace in eyes of the Lord, Abraham, who was the friend of God, Moses, the servant of God, David, the man after God's own heart, and all the prophets.
 - 2. God did not have his door shut to those under the old covenant, but the hearts of the people were hard toward God.
 - 3. All they had to consider were the many miracles God had done for his people through the ages, and the words of the prophets and priests, which obviously were not sufficient for them.
- F. It took the incarnation of the Son of God, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the preaching of the Gospel to give man the final revelation of God and his plan of

redemption before He reaps the harvest of the human race and brings to an end the Creation as man has always known it.

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:23-26 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.