

# The Promises Of God's New Covenant

## *Hebrews 8:7-13*

### INTRODUCTION

1. With the transition in He 8:1-6, the focus shifts to the New Covenant...
  - a. A new covenant in which Jesus has already been described as:
    - 1) The "surety" (guarantee) - He 7:22.
    - 2) The "Mediator" (one who intervenes) - He 8:6.
  - b. In both passages, this covenant was described as a "better" covenant.
2. Better than what? Better in what way? In Hebrews 8, we learn the answer...
  - a. Better than the "first covenant" - cf. He 8:7
  - b. Better because of the "promises" contained in it - cf. He 8:6

## **I. GOD'S PROMISE OF A NEW COVENANT (7-9, 13).**

### A. THE FIRST COVENANT WAS NOT FAULTLESS... (7).

1. Otherwise, there would have been no need for a second covenant.
2. We have already seen concerning the first covenant that...
  - a. The Levitical priesthood could not bring perfection - He 7:11.
  - b. The Law made nothing perfect, and was therefore annulled due to its weakness and uselessness - He 7:18-19.
3. This inadequacy has special reference to the sacrifices of the first covenant...
  - a. They could not make those who approach perfect - He 10:1-3.
  - b. The blood of animals offered by the priests could not take away sins - He 10:4,11.

### B. THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST COVENANT WERE ALSO AT FAULT... (8-9).

1. God found fault because they did not continue in His covenant - Jer. 11:7-10.
2. For this reason He disregarded them, allowing them to be taken away by their enemies - Jer. 11:11-14.

### C. GOD PROMISED A NEW COVENANT... (8-9).

1. Promised in Jer. 31:31-34.
2. In which God would make a "new covenant" with Israel and Judah.
3. A covenant different than the one made at Mt. Sinai (how, we shall see in a moment)

### D. THE NEW COVENANT HAS MADE THE FIRST "OBSOLETE"... (13)

1. By even calling the promised covenant "new", God made the first covenant obsolete.
  - a. The old covenant actually continued on for about 500 years after Jeremiah.
  - b. But with the promise of the new, attention would be taken away from the old covenant and directed toward the new one that was coming!
2. Its obsolescence was especially seen in the days of the Hebrew writer...
  - a. It was "becoming obsolete and growing old."
    - 1) The death of Jesus rendered the sacrifices of the first covenant unnecessary.
    - 2) Before long, the temple itself would be destroyed, and along with it, the last vestiges of the Levitical priesthood.
  - b. Truly, it was "ready to vanish away"

## II. GOD'S PROMISES INVOLVING THE NEW COVENANT (10-12).

### A. IT WILL BE INWARD AND SPIRITUAL... (10).

1. "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts."
2. The first covenant had its laws written on tablets of stone; the new covenant is one that requires God's laws be written in our hearts.
3. It is not enough to have God's Word in our hands, on our coffee tables, etc.
  - a.. We must plant God's Word into our hearts -  
**James 1:21** Therefore putting aside all filthiness and [all] that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (NASB)
  - b. For only then can we truly be born again by the incorruptible seed, the word of God -  
**1 Peter 1:22-23** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, [that is,] through the living and abiding word of God. (NASB)

### B. IT WILL PROVIDE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... (10).

1. "I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
2. The actual terms of this promise is really nothing new -  
**Exodus 6:7** 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (NASB)  
**Leviticus 26:12** 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. (NASB)
3. But in each successive "age", its promise is filled with fresh meaning; for example...
  - a. In "this age", we enjoy a closer relationship with God - 2 Cor. 6:16-18; 1 Pet. 2:9-10.
  - b. But even more so, in the "age to come", which is in eternity - Rev. 21:1-7.

### C. IT WILL BE WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE LORD... (11).

1. "None of them shall teach... saying, 'Know the Lord', for all shall know Me..."
2. The New Covenant will be with people who have already come to know the Lord.
  - a. Unlike the first covenant, in which people entered it at birth; as they grew up, they needed to be taught about the Lord.
  - b. In the new covenant, one must come to know the Lord before they can enter the covenant.
3. So it is that one must believe in Jesus before they can enter into a covenant relationship with their Lord through baptism.  
**Acts 8:36-38** And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 (And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.") 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. (NASB)

### D. IT WILL PROVIDE TRUE FORGIVENESS FOR SIN... (12).

1. "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
2. Here is the ultimate basis of the blessing previously described; by virtue of the forgiveness of sins can we truly be God's people, and He our God!
3. Thus the N.C. provides what the first covenant could not: true forgiveness of sins! - Heb. 10:1-4, 11.