

The Better Covenant & It's Guarantor
Hebrews 8

7:22 - *This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.*

What does?

3 – He continues a priest forever

7 – He is superior to Levi who was in Abraham's loins (10) when Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek and Melchizedek blessed Abraham

15 – He has an indestructible life

18 – The law was weak and became useless when Jesus arrived

20 – The Father has sworn that Jesus is an eternal priest

23 – Death prevented the priests before Jesus from serving continuously

24 – Jesus holds the office of a priest permanently because he continues forever

25 – He is able to "always" make intercession for us

26 – He is holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens

27 – He did not have to sacrifice for his own sins

27 – He made a "once for all" sacrifice of himself

28 – Jesus is not weak but is "perfect forever."

Summary: 8:1-2 - *Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.*

8:3-6 – Point = 8:7 - ⁷ *For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.*

8:8 – For he finds fault with them when he says,

Romans 8:3 - ³ *For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.*

Hebrews 8:8-12 quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34

8b – Calvary - *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,*

Two Greek words that describe the concept of "new." *Neos* described newness in regard to *time*. Something may be a copy of something old but if it recently made, it can be called *neos*. *Kainos* (the word used here) describes something that is not only new in reference to time, but is truly new in its quality. It isn't simply a new reproduction of something old.

- Abrahamic Covenant promised a blessing to all nations through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)
- Mosaic/Sinai Covenant gave Israel the law, sacrificial system and the choice of blessings or curses (Exodus 19)
- Davidic Covenant promised an everlasting dynasty, a perfect ruler and promised Messiah (2 Samuel 7)

In various places in the Old Testament passages that announce the new covenant (especially Ezekiel 11, 36 & 37; Jer 31). God's plan of redemption through the covenants is completed and perfected in the New Covenant.

God made it clear, however, that this covenant would originate with God, and not with man. At Sinai under the Old Covenant the key words were *if you* (Exodus 19:5), but in the New Covenant, the key words are ***I will***.

Jesus instituted this New Covenant by His death on the cross, and He called attention to it at the Last Supper with the bread and cup of communion as a symbol of the Old covenant which was symbolized at the Passover (Matt 26:28; Mk 14:24; Luke 22:20).

Luke 22:20 - *And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

9a – Sinai - *not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.*

In the New Covenant, obedience to the Law is not a prior condition for entering the New Covenant. Rather, it is one of the promised blessings of the New Covenant.

Things required by the law are bestowed by the gospel. God demands obedience under the law: God works obedience under the gospel. Holiness is asked of us by the law: holiness is wrought in us by the gospel.
(Spurgeon)

Why not? Because Israel did not and could not keep the Old Covenant.

Acts 15:10-11 – [Peter] *Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."*

9b – OT - *For they did not continue in my covenant, Babylonian captivity - and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.*

10 - *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Romans 8:1-11- *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

2 Corinthians 3:3 – *And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not*

with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

11 - *And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.*

One of the most important aspects of the New Covenant is the way in which the Spirit of Jesus baptizes us into his body such that we are all directly related to Jesus. We do not need a priest because a) we are priests and b) Jesus, the head of the body of which we are a part, is our priest. This is an entirely new aspect of any previous covenant.

As opposed to a corporate faith by natural, first birth, salvation is an individual faith through supernatural, second birth.

Matthew 6:9 - "Our Father in heaven..."

Matthew 20:17 - *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"*

- My Father = *ego* pater = primary pronoun of the first person (emphatic)
- Your Father = *su* = personal pronoun of the second person

- My God = *ego*
- Your God = *su*

Jesus is personalizing the God of the Old Testament as a Father.

12 - *For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.*

The New Covenant doesn't just expiate sins, it propitiates them.

Think about the scapegoat in Leviticus 16:7-10 - *Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. ⁹ And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, ¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.*

- (**Azazel**, in Jewish legends, a demon or evil spirit to whom, in the ancient rite of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), a scapegoat was sent bearing the sins of the Jewish people. Two male goats were chosen for the ritual, one designated by lots "for the Lord," the other "for **Azazel**." – Britannica Encyclopedia)
- Tyndale translated "Azazel" as the word he invented, "scapegoat"

- Expiation = cleansing and removal of guilt – the goat sent into the wilderness
- Propitiation = assuaging of God's wrath and gaining his favor – the goat killed

Jesus fulfilled the Levitical system of sacrifice only because He offered Himself up to God on the cross as One who had fulfilled the law and, as such, did not have to die nor could remain dead but now ever-lives, his work credited to those who believe in him.

13 - *In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

Some differences between the covenants -

1. They were instituted at different times.

- The Old Covenant around 1446 B.C.
- The New Covenant around 33 A.D.

2. They were instituted at different places.

- The Old Covenant at Mount Sinai
- The New Covenant at Mount Zion

3. They were spoken in different ways.

- The Old Covenant was thundered with fear and dread at Mount Sinai
- Jesus Christ, God the Son, declared the New Covenant with truth and grace

4. They have different mediators.

- Moses mediated the Old Covenant
- Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant

5. They are different in their subject matter.

- The Old Covenant *demand*ed a covenant of works
- The New Covenant *fulfills* the covenant of works through the completed work of Jesus

6. They are different in how they were dedicated.

- The Old Covenant was dedicated with the blood of animals sprinkled on the people.
- The New Covenant was dedicated with Jesus' blood spiritually applied to His people

7. They are different in their priests.

- The Old Covenant is represented by the priesthood of the Law of Moses and high priests descended from Aaron
- The New Covenant has a priesthood of all believers and a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek

8. They are different in their sacrifices.

- The Old Covenant demanded endless repetition of imperfect sacrifices
- The New Covenant provides a once and for all, perfect sacrifice of the Son of God Himself

9. They are different in how and where they were written.

- The Old Covenant was written by God on tablets of stone
- The New Covenant is written by God on the hearts of His people

10. They are different in their substance.

- The Old Covenant has vivid shadows
- The New Covenant has the reality

11. They are different in the extent of their administration.

- The Old Covenant was confined to the descendants of Abraham
- The New Covenant is extended to all nations and races under heaven

12. They are different in what they actually accomplish.

- The Old Covenant made nothing perfect
- The New Covenant gives people a perfect standing before God

13. They are different in their duration.

- The Old Covenant was designed to prepare the way for the New Covenant
- The New Covenant was designed to last forever

(This is a partial list is from Enduring Word ministries)