

TEXT- Hebrews 8:1-13

INTRO- There are several covenants or promises in the Bible. Here are the most prominent.

Noahic Covenant. This general covenant was made between God and Noah
Gen 9:11-16 *And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood;*

Abrahamic Covenant. This **unconditional** covenant, first made to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**, promised God's blessing upon Abraham, to make his name great and to make his progeny into a great nation.

Palestinian covenant,; The covenant regulating Israel's tenure of the land of Canaan. **Deut 30:1-10** Its blessings are conditioned upon obedience (**30:8,10**), but fulfillment is guaranteed by the new covenant.

Mosaic Covenant. This **conditional** covenant, found in **Deuteronomy 11** and elsewhere, promised the Israelites a blessing for obedience.

Davidic Covenant. This **unconditional** covenant, found in **2 Samuel 7:8-16**, promised to bless David's family line and assured an everlasting kingdom.

New Covenant. The promise of salvation through the Messiah Jesus Christ
Jer 31:33 *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.* Having proved that Christ's heavenly priesthood is of a better order, the writer now shows that this priesthood is ministered through **a better covenant.**

The New Covenant better than the Old.

I. The New Covenant's High Priest Heb. 8:1

Heb. 8:1 is the "summing up" of the previous arguments. "We have such an high priest" already proved to be superior to Aaron. Christ, our High Priest, has sat down, since His work of redemption is finished. Christ is our King-Priest in heaven; and because He is a better High Priest, He mediates for us a better covenant. Certainly He would not minister an Old Covenant from heaven; a new High Priest demands a new and better covenant.

II. The New Covenant's Heavenly Place Heb. 8:2-5

Since Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, not Levi, He would not have been considered to minister as a priest. The earthly tabernacle (and temple) were but copies of the heavenly tabernacle. Moses copied the tabernacle from the pattern God revealed to him on the mount **Exo. 25:9, Exo. 25:40** The Jews revered their temple and its furnishings and ceremonies; yet these things were merely shadows of the reality in heaven. How much greater it is to have a heavenly high priest ministering in a heavenly sanctuary.

Acts 7:48-49 *Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, 49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?*

III. The New Covenant's Helpful Promises Heb. 8:6-13

The promises of the New Covenant are far better than those of the Old Covenant. Consequently, the priesthood of Christ, which is based on better promises, must be itself a better priesthood. **Jer 31:33** *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

A. The promise of grace Heb. 8:6-9

Six times in **Heb. 8:8-13** God says "I will." This is grace!

- The Old Covenant was a yoke of bondage, demanding perfect obedience.
- The New Covenant emphasizes what God will do for His people.

God does not find fault with the Old Covenant, but with the people themselves. The Law is spiritual, but men are carnal, "sold under sin," says **Rom. 7:14; Rom. 8:3** makes it clear that the Law was "weak through the flesh." In other words, the failure of Israel could not be blamed on any weakness in the Old Covenant, but on the weakness of human nature. It is here, then, that grace steps in; what the Law could not do because of man's weakness, God accomplished through the Cross.

B. The promise of an inner change Heb. 8:10

Jer. 31:31 it involves an inner change of the heart.

2 Co. 3:1-18 for additional light on this topic.

- The Old Covenant was written with the finger of God on tablets of stone
- The New Covenant is written by the Spirit on the human heart.

An external law can never change a person; it must become a part of the inner life if it is to change our behavior. Deu. 6:6-9 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

This is the meaning of **Rom. 8:4** *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Rom 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Rom 7:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

Rom 7:6 *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

C. The promise of unlimited blessing Heb. 8:11

The day will come when there will be no need for personal witnessing, for all people will know the Lord. Of course, the ultimate fulfillment of this promise awaits the establishing of the kingdom. "All shall know Me"

Heb. 8:11 parallels the repeated promise of the OT that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God" **Isa. 11:9** Gentiles and Jews alike.

D. The promise of sins forgiven Heb. 8:12

Heb. 10:1-39 and you will see that, under the Old Covenant, there was a remembrance made of sins but no remission of sins. The blood of bulls and of goats could cover sins, but only the blood of the Lamb of God could "take away the sins of the world"

John 1:29 What a wonderful promise the New Covenant gives to the burdened sinner: his sins will be forgiven and forgotten forever!

E. The promise of eternal blessing Heb. 8:13

The very fact that God calls it a "New Covenant" means that the Old Covenant is obsolete and will pass away. About the time Hebrews was being written, the Roman legions were being readied for their invasion of Palestine, which occurred in A.D. 70. The phrase "ready to vanish away" indicates that but a brief time would elapse before the temple would be leveled and the priestly activities cease. But the New Covenant, like the priesthood of Christ, would endure forever.

When did this New Covenant come into being? **Luke 22:20** and **1 Co. 11:23-26** make it clear that the New Covenant was established by the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross.

CONCL – We have a better and life changing covenant with God through Jesus Christ.