

Jesus Has Become the Guarantee of a Better Agreement

Hebrews 7:11-22

This is a lengthy passage that explains why the Old Testament system of worship is imperfect. The Hebrews worshipped at a Temple, offered sacrifices, followed rituals, but it was all ending. Read the text using the first verse (v. 11), a middle verse (v. 18), and then the last verse (v. 22). *“Now if the Levitical priesthood were perfect, what further need was there for another priest [Jesus]? ... for the Law [the Old Covenant] made nothing perfect, but on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope [the New Covenant], through which we draw nigh [close] to God. So much the more also **Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant** [agreement].”*

I. The only way people draw close to God is through God making an agreement.

The person with the highest authority makes the arrangements and conditions for meeting. You don't tell the judge when you would like him to appear. You don't tell the police officer to wait in his car. You don't tell your teacher to give you an 'A' despite your refusal to work. When God condescended to sinful man and chose to enter into relationship with a people (the Hebrews), He drew up an agreement with them, called the Covenant of Law, or simply Law. When God gave to Moses the Law, the people responded to their agreement to it by saying, *“All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!”* (Exodus 24:3). It was an agreement.

A. The Old Covenant was conditional ... God performed when the Hebrews obeyed.

In short, it was an “If you, then I” kind of agreement God made. *“But if you truly obey My voice and do all that I say, then I ...”* (Exodus 23:22).

B. The Old Covenant was national ... meaning the nation of Israel was “God’s chosen people.” The covenant was for national blessings, national protection, national identity. In the Old Testament you were part of God’s people because of your ethnicity. God made provisions for “the alien” among the Hebrews, but the Covenant was national.

C. The Old Covenant was typical ... meaning every civil law for the nation, every ceremonial law for the Temple, every festival law for the people pictured Jesus Christ. *“I have come ... to fulfill the law”* (Matt. 5:17). **Fulfill:** (1) To accomplish or to carry into effect, as a Prophecy or a Promise; (2) to meet or satisfy the requirements; (3) to bring to a finish or completion; (4) to bring the conditions of a law to realization; (5) to bring to a consummation. Christ fulfilled the Law, then abolished the Old Agreement.

II. The New Agreement (Covenant) is guaranteed by the person and work of Jesus.

Notice the language of Hebrews 7:22: *“a better covenant.”* It doesn't say “different” or “second” or even “new” (though it is). The word is better. I would add “so much better!” It is a better agreement on how you “draw near to God” (7:19). Why draw near to God? Intimacy, favor, comfort, protection, love, closeness, strength, etc. How do we draw near?

A. Jesus is our guarantee that we *can* draw near ...

It is our faith in His righteousness, our trust in His performance, our confidence in Him.

B. Jesus is our guarantee that we *will* be blessed ...

“God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Too many look for earthly blessings, but the real riches are the blessings in Christ.

C. Jesus is our guarantee that we *will never* be rejected ...

Whereas the Old Covenant was conditional, the better covenant is unconditional.