

Better Promises for Broken People

Hebrews 8:6-12

The Old Covenant agreement between God and Israel was a come see religion. Come see the Temple. Come see the rituals. Come see the festivals. The New Covenant is a go tell religion. Go tell sinners of the Savior who has guaranteed the Creator's goodness to those who trust Him. Christianity is radically *spiritual, internal, personal, and trans-cultural* (all the world's people).

The greatest difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is described in (v. 6).
*"Jesus is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been **enacted on better promises.**"*

I. Both covenants have promises attached to them.

The word covenant means "agreement." The Old Covenant was God's agreement with Israel. **The Old Covenant**, called "Law" in Scripture, or the "first covenant" had a promise with it. God said to Israel *"If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, **then** you will be My royal treasure ... and you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"* (Ex. 19:5-6).

a. There was a fault in this first covenant (see v.7).

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would be no need for a second" (v.7).

But notice carefully where the fault lies: *"For in finding fault with **THEM** . . ."* (v. 8).

In Moses' song of Deuteronomy 32:18, Israel *"neglected the Rock ... and forgot God."*

Then God ... *"spurned them and said, 'I will hide my face from them'"* (Deut. 32:20).

b. Sinners *deserve* for God to hide His face from them.

The Law was designed to show people the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man.

Rebellion to the Creator, our good God, causes sinners to be cut off from His goodness.

The question for all of us is: Who is right with God through obedience to His laws?

"By the works of the Law, no person will be justified in His sight" (Romans 5:20).

The New Covenant, called the Gospel ('good news'), is God's agreement with lawbreakers. Christ saves those who trust Him from ever being cut off from God's goodness (Heb. 7:25).

"I will be merciful to their iniquities and I will remember their sins no more" (Heb. 8:12).

This New Covenant is so much more than heaven. It is living life on earth at peace with God.

II. The second covenant promises a change within.

In the Old Agreement, the Law demanded obedience. In the New, the Spirit changes desires.

a. First, the will of God is imprinted on our minds and on our hearts (v. 10a).

b. Second, the love of God will prevail in our lives. *"I will be their God"* (v. 10b).

c. Third, the knowledge of God will be personal and intimate (v. 11).

These three promises are some of "the better promises" referred to in verse 6 of Hebrews 8.

III. Living under the second agreement (grace, not law) changes everything.

By faith in Christ we ARE a *"royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's treasure"* (I Pet. 3:9).

Christianity is not forced, it's desired; it is initiated by God's love for us, and it is personal.

a. Living under the new agreement changes how you respond to God.

b. Living under the new agreement changes how you love people.

c. Living under the new agreement changes how you present yourself to people.

d. Living under the new agreement changes how you face adversity in this life.