

Lesson 7

The Mediator of a New Covenant

Hebrews 8:1-13

We saw in Lesson Six that God is a God who is faithful to His Word. As you open His Word today, ask the Lord to reveal the truth about Himself and His promises, and be assured that you can trust what He says.

A More Excellent Ministry

Read Hebrews 8:1-13.

1. Referring to Hebrews 8:1-2 and remembering all we've learned about Jesus in the past few lessons, summarize the main points of Jesus' priesthood. What can we do as a result of all He has done?
2. According to Hebrews 8:3, what did Christ need as the high priest?
3. What did Christ offer according to Hebrews 7:27?
4. Hebrews 8:4 says that if Christ had remained on earth (if He had not died on the cross), then He would not be a high priest at all. Where does Christ serve (refer back to Hebrews 8:2)? According to Hebrews 8:4-5, how does it differ from where the earthly high priests served?

“‘After those days,’ says the Lord: ‘I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’”

Hebrews 8:10

Hebrews 8:5 quotes God speaking to Moses at the time that He commanded Moses to build the earthly Tabernacle. The original quote is found in Exodus 25:8-9.

5. In Exodus 25:8, what was the purpose of the Tabernacle?

Through Moses, God told the Israelites to construct the Tabernacle at the same time He gave them the Law and established the Old Covenant (the Mosaic Covenant or the First Covenant). Remember, though, that this was not actually the first covenant that God made with man. Prior to the covenant with Moses, God had established a covenant with Abraham, which is referenced in Hebrews 6 and is often called the Abrahamic Covenant.

6. Read Genesis 17. How does God describe His covenant with Abraham in verse 7?
7. God made several promises to Abraham as part of His covenant with him. What is one specific promise God gave Abraham in Genesis 12:3b?
8. Who did God swear by when He made this covenant with Abraham according to Hebrews 6:13?

The Abrahamic Covenant is an everlasting covenant and is still in effect. Both the Old and New Covenants we will look at in this lesson can be seen as the working out and application of God's covenant with Abraham. *None* of God's promises to Abraham are voided by either the Old or the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant

The First or Old Covenant referred to in Hebrews 8 was introduced in Exodus 19-23 and ratified in Exodus 24.

9. What is Jesus' relation to the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:6? How is that covenant described?
10. Who was the mediator of the First Covenant? See Exodus 20:19-22 and Deuteronomy 5:4-5.

11. With what group of people did God make the Old Covenant?
12. On what were the laws and ordinances recorded? See Exodus 34:1.
13. What were the conditions of the covenant established at Mount Sinai? See Exodus 19:5-6.
14. According to Deuteronomy 28:58-68, what were some of the consequences of man's breaking the covenant?
15. Why was the house of Israel sent into exile? See Ezekiel 39:23.
16. Read Ezekiel 11:14-21. How did God remain faithful even though His people did not? What else does God promise to do for them in Ezekiel 36:24-28?
17. Why was there need for a new and better covenant according to Hebrews 8:7?

The Old Covenant did not “fail” in the sense that God made a mistake. Rather, the Old Covenant served its purpose but could not produce a changed heart. In God’s perfect time, He introduced a new and better covenant.

The New Covenant

18. Jeremiah 32:37-44 describes the New Covenant. Who is responsible for taking action in this New Covenant? How long will this covenant last (verse 40)?

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

19. In Hebrews 8:10, where does God say He will write His laws under the New Covenant?

20. According to John 14:16-17, Who now dwells within us? See John 16:13-15. What does He do and how does that relate to Hebrews 8:11?

21. How does Jesus describe His blood in Matthew 26:26-29? How does His blood fulfill the promise of the New Covenant seen in Hebrews 8:12 and 9:13-14?

22. When and how do you think the New Covenant took effect?

23. With whom was the New Covenant made originally (Hebrews 8:10)? Who are “fellow heirs and fellow members of the body” according to Ephesians 3:4-6?

24. Read Ephesians 2:11-22.
 - ❖ How are the Gentiles described in verses 11-12?
 - ❖ How does God refer to the Law in verses 14-15?
 - ❖ How are Gentiles brought near to God?
 - ❖ What are all the members of the New Covenant being built into?

25. Remember that Jesus was Jewish and therefore His blood could be traced to Abraham through Judah, Jacob and Isaac (Matthew 1:1-2). How does that relate to the promise to Abraham that *all* nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3b)?

26. According to Hebrews 8:13, how is the Old Covenant (the Law) affected by the institution of the New Covenant?

Prepare for Life Question:

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” Ezekiel 36:25-27

27. Meditate on Ezekiel 36:25-27. Ask Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant, what it means that you have a heart of flesh and His Spirit within you.

Lecture Notes:
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