

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

A Better Covenant with Better Promises

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 17, 2023



- **A covenant is a relationship between two partners who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal.**

- **Old Covenant = LAW** (We receive God's **L**ove **A**fter **W**ork)
- **New Covenant = GRACE** (We receive **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense)

- **The Old Covenant was a shadow.**
- **The New Covenant is the real thing!**

Hebrews 8:1-5 (NLT) Here is the main point: We have a High Priest [Jesus] who sat down in the place of honour beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. ² There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. ³ And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. ⁴ If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law.⁵ They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven.

- **The Old Covenant has basic promises.**
- **The New Covenant has better promises!**

Hebrews 8:6-8 (NLT) But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises. ⁷ If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. ⁸ But when God found fault with the people, he said: "The day is coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah..."

- **The Old Covenant was broken by people.**
- **The New Covenant is fulfilled by God.**

Hebrews 8:9-12 (NLT) ...¹⁰ But this is the new covenant **I will make** with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: **I will put** my laws in their minds, and **I will write** them on their hearts. **I will be** their God, and they will be my people. ¹² And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

- **The Old Covenant had restricted access to God.**
- **The New Covenant provides universal access to God.**

Hebrews 9:2-12 (NLT) ...Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place...⁷ But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year... ⁸ By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open...

- **The Old Covenant had continual sacrifice.**
- **The New Covenant has a conclusive sacrifice.**

Hebrews 9:13-22 (NLT) ...¹⁴ Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. ²² In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

- **The Old Covenant of Law is about what we do for God.**
- **The New Covenant of Grace is about what has been done for us by Christ.**

Hebrews 9:24-28 (NLT) For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. ²⁵ And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. ²⁶ If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. ²⁷ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

Big Idea: Embrace your true and better life in Jesus Christ.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

A Better Covenant with Better Promises

#1 of 1 - April 17, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at the resurrection story from Luke 24:1-53. How has the Lord been speaking to you this week about being “rescued for a reason”. What have you been applying from this passage?
- 2) Read Hebrews 8 & 9. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage? How is the Old Covenant different from the New Covenant?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about what Christ has done for us? Read Hebrews 9:22. Why does forgiveness require blood?
- 5) Read and reflect on Hebrews 9:24-28. What implications does this passage have for you and others you know and love?
- 6) **Application:** Which of the 6 aspects about the New Covenant from the message is most significant for you and why? What action step can you take today?
- 7) How is God speaking to you through this study? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). What does it mean for you to “embrace your true and better life in Jesus”?



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