

The Book of HEBREWS

Chapter 8

“Jesus, Mediator of a Better Covenant”

Intro: Jeremiah 31:31-34- *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

I) JESUS—OUR HIGH PRIEST & MINISTER (v1-5)

(v1-2) Jesus our High Priest in Heaven who ministers for us! - Romans 8:28-39

(v3-5) Christ higher than the earthly Priests & Tabernacle

II) JESUS—OUR MEDIATOR (v6-13)

(v6-7) He mediates a better Covenant with better promises.

➤ **There are EIGHT COVENANTS found in the Bible:**

- (1) **The Edenic Covenant (Gen. 2:16)** - Conditions the life of man in innocence.
- (2) **The Adamic Covenant (Gen. 3:15)** - Conditions the life of fallen men & gives promises of a Redeemer.
- (3) **The Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:16)** - Establishes principle of human government.
- (4) **The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:2)** - Founds the nation of Israel & confirms, with specific additions the Adamic promise of redemption.
- (5) **The Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 19:5)** - Condemns all men, “for all have sinned” (Romans 3:23; 5:12).
- (6) **The Palestinian Covenant (Dt. 30:3)** - Secures the final restoration & conversion of Israel.
- (7) **The Davidic Covenant (2Samuel 7:16)** - Establishes the perpetuity of the Davidic family & of the Davidic kingdom over Israel and over the whole earth, to be fulfilled in and by Christ.
- (8) **The New Covenant (Heb. 8:8)** - Rests upon Christ & secures the eternal blessedness.

➤ **Every Covenant was fulfilled through Jesus, who is the Christ (the Messiah):**

- (1) **Edenic** - Christ the “Second man . . . last Adam” (1Cor. 15:45-47).
- (2) **Adamic** - Christ is the Seed of the woman of the Adamic Covenant. (Gen. 3:15; Jn 12:31; Gal. 4:4).
- (3) **Noahic** - Christ fulfilled the promise to Shem (Gen. 9:16, 26; Col. 2:9).
- (4) **Abrahamic** - Christ the Seed of Abraham, obedient unto death (Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16; Phil. 2:8).
- (5) **Mosaic** - Christ lived sinlessly & bore for us the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:10-13).
- (6) **Palestinian** - Christ lived obediently as a Jew in the Land and will yet perform its gracious promises (Dt. 28:1 - 30:9).
- (7) **Davidic** - Christ is Seed, Heir, and King (Mt. 1:1; Lk. 1:31-33).
- (8) **New** - Christ bloody sacrifice is the foundation of the New Covenant (Mt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25).

➤ **UNDERSTANDING A COVENANT:**

An agreement between two people or two groups that involves promises on the part of each to the other. The concept of covenant between God and His people is one of the most important theological truths of the Bible. The word for covenant in the Old Testament comes from a Hebrew root word which means "to cut." This explains the strange custom of two people passing through the cut bodies of slain animals after making an agreement with each other (Jer 34:18). A ritual or ceremony such as this always accompanied the making of a covenant in the Old Testament. Sometimes those entering into a covenant

shared a holy meal (Gen 31:54). Abraham and his children were commanded to be circumcised as a sign of their covenant with God (Gen 17:10-11). Moses sprinkled the blood of animals on the altar and upon the people who entered into covenant with God at Mount Sinai (Ex 24:3-8).

The New Testament makes a clear distinction between covenants of Law and covenants of Promise. The apostle Paul spoke of these "two covenants," one originating "from Mount Sinai," the other from "the Jerusalem above" (Gal 4:24-26). Paul also argued that the covenant established at Mount Sinai, the Law, is a "ministry of death" and "condemnation" (2 Cor 3:7, 9)-a covenant that cannot be obeyed because of man's weakness and sin (Rom 8:3).

But the "covenants of promise" (Eph 2:12) are God's guarantees that He will provide salvation in spite of man's inability to keep his side of the agreement because of his sin. The provision of a Chosen People through whom the Messiah would be born is the promise of the covenants with Adam and David (Gen 3:15; 2 Sam 7:14-15). The covenant with Noah is God's promise to withhold judgment on nature while salvation is occurring (Gen 8:21-22; 2 Peter 3:7, 15). In the covenant with Abraham, God promised to bless Abraham's descendants because of his faith.

These many covenants of promise may be considered one covenant of grace, which was fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. His death ushered in the new covenant under which we are justified by God's grace and mercy rather than our human attempts to keep the law. And Jesus Himself is the Mediator of this better covenant between God and man (Heb 9:15).

Jesus' sacrificial death served as the oath, or pledge, which God made to us to seal this new covenant. He is determined to give us eternal life and fellowship with Him, in spite of our unworthiness. As the Book of Hebrews declares, "The word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever" (Heb 7:28). This is still God's promise to any person who turns to Him in repentance and faith. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

➤ **Jesus proclaims the "New Covenant" at the Last Supper:**

Matt 26:26-29 - *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***

Matthew 26:28 - ***For this is My blood of the new covenant** - Covenants were ratified with the blood of a sacrifice (Gen. 8:20; 15:9, 10). The words of Jesus reflect the pronouncement of Moses in **Exodus 24:3-8** - *When Moses went and told the people all the LORD 's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD . Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." The blood of the New Covenant is not an animal's blood, but Christ's own blood, shed for the remission of sins.**

➤ **(v8-13) In the "New Covenant" we find five "I WILLS" of God:**

#1- I will make the new covenant.

#2 - I will put My Laws in their mind & write them on their hearts.

#3 - I will be their God & they shall be My people.

#4 - I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, sin & lawless deeds.

#5 - I will remember them (unrighteousness, sin, lawless deeds) no more.

➤ **What's NEW?**

- **Col 3:10**- *put on the **new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

- **2 Cor 5:17-18**- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- **2 Peter 3:13**- *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.*

- **Rev 2:17**- *I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a **new name** written which no one knows except him who receives it." '*

- **Rev 5:9-10**- *And they sang a **new song**, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

- **Rev 21:1-6**- *Now I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make **all things new**." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done!"*