

"The Better Covenant"

Part 3

Hebrews 8:6-13

Introduction: In our study of the book of Hebrews we are currently looking at the New Covenant which the writer is talking about in chapter 8.

In our study last week we looked at Hebrews 8:6-8.

Notice Hebrews 8:6-7

In these verses the writer has pointed out several points which we looked at. We saw the New Covenant is established upon better promises. The Old Covenant was flawed in several ways.

1. **It could not take away sin.**
2. **It could not bring man into the presence of God.**

We also looked at how the Old Covenant was never designed to save anyone. But there were 3 purposes of the Law.

1. **To reveal the righteousness of God.**
2. **To reveal the sinfulness of man.**
3. **To bring men to Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 3:24-25

²⁴ *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

²⁵ *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Now as we move on to verses 8-12 the writer reaches back to the Old Testament into the book of Jeremiah and he quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34.

I. The Better Covenant

Part 2

Notice Hebrews 8:8-12

In these verses we can see the why the New Covenant is better.

1. It is better because it is based upon the faithfulness of God.

Part 2

Notice Hebrews 8:8a

The word "covenant" here does not mean it is an equal agreement between 2 people such as a marriage covenant. This word has the idea of a will and testament. When a will is made those who are the recipients have the responsibility to either reject or accept what the deceased has willed. The will of God in the New Covenant is that all would repent and accept the free Gift of eternal life.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Last week we also looked at how this New Covenant was made with Israel and Judah. It was not made with the church. But when we come to Jesus Christ and we receive Him we then become the spiritual children of Abraham and we become recipients of the blessings.

Galatians 3:7-9

⁷ *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

⁸ *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

⁹ *So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

This brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

Notice Hebrews 8:9

There is much in this verse that we need to consider. First of all the writer tells his readers that the New Covenant is different than the Old Covenant. There are many differences which we could consider but there is one way to see the 2 covenants that show the true contrast.

The Old Covenant was a SHADOW of the New Covenant and this means the New Covenant contains the substance. When I say that the Old Covenant was a shadow I mean that everything in the Old Covenant was a TYPE of what is actually contained in the New Covenant. Let me illustrate this so that we can better get our minds wrapped around the thought.

If you are outside on a sunny day you will cast a shadow on the ground. Your shadow has no substance. Your shadow is just a manifestation that you exist. The substance is in you. There is no substance in your shadow. When you see a shadow you automatically know that there is something with substance that is casting the shadow.

This is one way to see the overall differences between the 2 covenants. The Old Covenant was a shadow of the New Covenant. The Old Covenant was full of TYPES and PICTURES of the New Covenant.

Notice Hebrews 8:9 again.

Another way we see a contrast between the 2 covenants is that the Old Covenant was conditional. In this verse we can see that God gave the Old Covenant back when Israel came out of the land of Egypt. But they refused to CONTINUE in God's Covenant. Let us remember that under the Old Covenant Israel was required to walk in obedience to God commandments.

Exodus 19:1-6

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

² *For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.*

³ *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;*

⁴ *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*

⁵ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

⁶ *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

Israel agreed to walk in obedience but fell way short. Now the word "CONTINUE" here in Hebrews 8:9 shines much light upon what really transpired within the Nation of Israel.

The word means they deliberately neglected to walk in obedience to the commandments which God had given them. It was not that Israel slipped and fell into sin but it was by choice that they walked away from God's blessings. This is clearly seen in the book of Judges and the sin cycle which is found throughout the book. Israel would step into sin, God would send an oppressor, Israel would cry out to God for deliverance, God would raise up a Judge to deliver them, and then Israel would go right back to lawlessness and idolatry again and each time this happened they went further and further away from God.

Judges 2:13-19

¹³ *And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.*

¹⁴ *And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.*

¹⁵ *Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.*

¹⁶ *Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.*

¹⁷ *And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.*

¹⁸ *And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.*

¹⁹ *And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.*

Now let me show you the result of this.

Notice Hebrews 8:9 again.

Because Israel chose to walk in disobedience we see here that God REGARDED them not. The word "REGARDED" means "to be without care or without concern". In 1 Timothy 4:14 the word is translated "NEGLECT". So here is the idea, because of Israel's choice to walk away from God's blessings God would not care for them. God allowed them to sink lower and lower into sin, He allowed them to suffer at the hands of oppressors and it was all

because they **CHOSE** to walk away from His promises and His blessings. This reminds me of what Paul recorded Romans.

Romans 1:18-22

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

This is the very thing that happened to Israel. They suppressed the Truth of God and God lifted the moral restraints from the nation and allowed them to sink deeper into sin.

Application:

I need to just take a moment and remind you that this is what we are seeing in our nation today. Our nation has suppressed the Truth of God and for that reason God has lifted His care from our nation. Now I know that some people would push back against this thought and respond by claiming that the USA is exempt from God's judgment. But my response would be that if God lifted the restraints from the His chosen people why would our nation be exempt? There was a day when God had His hand on our nation and He restrained the depravity of the people. But those days are over and the restraints have been lifted.

Notice Hebrews 8:10

I want to point out something that can be seen here that is very important. As we looked at earlier the word "covenant" refers to "a will". Under the Old Covenant we hear the people say, "We will".

Exodus 19:8

⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Under the New Covenant it is far different.

Notice Hebrews 8:8, 10, 12

Here in these verses we see 6 times God says, "I will". This helps us to see that the New Covenant is based upon the promises of God and His faithfulness. It is not like the Old Covenant where the blessings were dependent upon the obedience of the people. God does not say, "I will, **if** you do this or that". He simply promises that HE WILL fulfill His promises.

Back to Hebrews 8:10 again, God promises to write His Laws in their hearts and in their minds. This is looking ahead to the Kingdom Age which will take place after the Great Tribulation. The Laws of the Old Covenant were written on stone tablets. But in the Kingdom they will be written on the heart and placed into the minds of God's people.

Notice Hebrews 8:11

In the Kingdom Age there will be no need for God's people to be taught the Truths of God because his Word will be written within their hearts.

Now let me raise a few questions here. Since we are brought into this Covenant when we accept Jesus Christ then how do the blessings and the promises of the Covenant pertain to us today? Why do we need Bible teachers today?

The fulfillment of the Covenant will not be fully understood until the Kingdom Age. In our lives today we "TASTE" of these blessed promises but we do not know to the full extent the complete fulfillment.

Hebrews 6:4-5

⁴ *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,*

⁵ *And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.*

The word "world" here means "age" and it refers to the Kingdom Age. In our lives today we need Bible teachers and as we listen, study, and grow we are permitted to TASTE of the Age to come. But when we get to the Kingdom we will have the knowledge of God and He will be our Teacher.

John 6:44-45

⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

⁴⁵ *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*

⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Let me show you what is happening now.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Conclusion:

Next week we will finish this chapter. For now let me leave you with a few thoughts:

I do not know the depth of your walk but I do know if you are walking in fellowship with the Lord then you have tasted of the fullness of the New Covenant. The closer we walk with Him the more we taste of the fullness of the New Covenant and this does 2 things:

1. **It makes us long for home.**
2. **It makes us hate this world and the sin which exists within it.**