



Lesson 38

Lesson 38: A New and Better Covenant

Theme: Let's Go on to Perfection (Part 2)

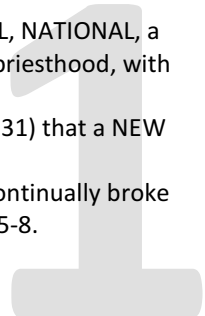
Scripture: Hebrews 8:6-13

A Better Covenant and Better Promises (v. 6)

- "He obtained . . ." Christ obtained this excellent ministry by inheritance as being the Son (see Hebrews 1:4)
- "He is Mediator of a better covenant . . ."
 - A mediator is one who stand between two opposing parties to effect RECONCILIATION.
- "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." (2 Cor 5:18-20)
- The message of the Gospel is: "Be ye reconciled to God!"
- Christ is OUR PEACE! (Ephesians 2:14-15; Colossians 1:20)
 - NO MAN can have PEACE with God apart from Christ.
- The Gospel is called the "gospel of peace." (Rom. 10:15; Eph 6:15)
- **JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.** (1 Timothy 2:5)
- This better covenant was established (legally established) on better promises.
 - All of God's promises are YES in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
 - This covenant . . . is for the "heirs of the promise." (Hebrews 6:17)

New and Different (vv. 7-9)

- The first covenant was EXTERNAL, mainly TEMPORAL, NATIONAL, a SHADOW of the REAL, executed by an imperfect priesthood, with sacrifices that could not secure eternal salvation.
- The prophet Jeremiah had prophesied (Jeremiah 31:31) that a NEW COVENANT was yet in the future.
- (v. 8) Finding fault with them - the Israelites - who continually broke the covenant that they agreed with in Exodus 19:5-8.
- (v. 8) **BEHOLD!** Be AMAZED!



- (v. 8) "the days are coming" - and are HERE! The advent of Jesus Christ initiated "these last days." (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- (v. 8) "says the LORD" - Prophets could say no more!
 - We are AMBASSADORS for Christ and we are to preach, teach, and live ONLY the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- (v. 8) "I will make . . ." Literally "to effect" - God alone will set the terms of the covenant!
- (v. 8) "with the house of Israel and Judah" - Israel here must be taken as all of God's elect people - both Jews and Gentiles. (See Galatians 6:16)
- (v. 9) This new covenant will NOT BE LIKE the one God made with His people in the wilderness.

Seven Points of God's New Covenant (vv. 10-12)

① I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND.

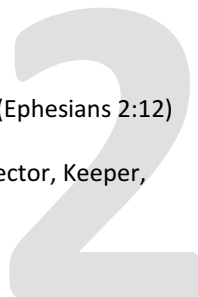
- Our darkened understand will be enlightened. (Ephesians 4:18; 5:8)
- By this we will be able to understand the things of God. (1 Cor. 2:14)
- The Law of God becomes the RULE of LIFE.
- The carnal mind is enmity against God and is NOT subject to God's law. (Romans 8:7)
- By having the Law in our minds it is ever before us!

② I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.

- The "heart" is distinguished from the "mind" and is the seat of affections and the will.
- First, our understanding is enlightened and then our hearts are reformed.
- Our desires, affections, emotions and our DOINGS are regulated by the law which is written on our hearts.
- We have a genuine desire to please God. (Psalm 42:1; 63:1)
- We become zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

③ I WILL BE TO THEM A GOD.

- This is an expression of a covenant relationship.
- Unbelievers live "without God, and without hope." (Ephesians 2:12)
- See Genesis 15:1; Psalm 144:15.
- God promises to be their Lawgiver, Counselor, Protector, Keeper, Guide, Comforter, and all that is GOD.



④ I WILL MAKE THEM MY PEOPLE.

- We are a PURCHASED people. We belong to God. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- We are HIS PECULIAR people. (1 Peter 2:9 - see Handout)

⑤ I WILL CAUSE THEM TO KNOW ME.

- The ONLY way to intimately KNOW God is for Him to reveal Himself to us.
- Christ reveals the Father to whom He desires. (Matthew 11:27)
- It is a GREAT PRIVILEGE to KNOW God!
- Salvation (eternal life) is KNOWING GOD. (John 17:3)
- One can only know God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.

⑥ I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

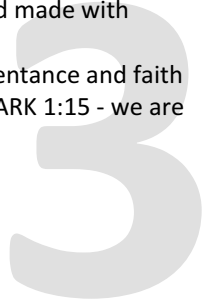
- "merciful" is ἱλεως hileos {hil'-eh-occe} which means "propitious"
- God can be merciful only to those for whom Christ was a PROPITIATION - Romans 3:24, 25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

⑦ I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.

- God SAVES for His own sake! (Isaiah 43:25)
- God has promised to FORGIVE our sins and to FORGET them.
 - This is the meaning of PARDON. (Jeremiah 33:8)
 - Only God can FORGIVE and FORGET! (Mark 2:7)
- God PROMISED through the prophet Micah to cast all of our sins into the sea! (Micah 7:19)
- The Gospel message is FORGIVENESS of SINS - see Acts 13:38 and "by Him" (Christ) we are JUSTIFIED (declared righteous; pardoned) for ALL things - Acts 13:39.

NO CONDITIONS!

- Read God's covenant with the nation Israel in Exodus 19:5-8.
- This NEW and BETTER Covenant has NO CONDITIONS! It is an UNCONDITIONAL covenant - just like the one God made with Abraham!
- BUT someone might object and say, "Certainly, repentance and faith are required?" And we answer as Christ did in MARK 1:15 - we are commanded to REPENT and BELIEVE!



- BUT the same God who has made this covenant has also promised to work, faith and repentance in those whom He made this covenant with!! (See Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25; Acts 13:48; Philip 1:29)

The Old Is GONE (v. 13)

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you."

Luke 22:20

