

Hebrews 8:1-13

LESSON 15

A New and Better Covenant

1. Hebrews 8:1-2 – The Summary

- a. *“which we have spoken”* – in Hebrews 1-6 about the person of Christ
- b. *“this is the sum”* - The Bible is its own best commentary, listen to it.
- c. Jesus is gone, the temple is off limits, the priests have condemned them, but...
- d. They have a high priest, who needs to be in heaven, in the true tabernacle of God.

2. Hebrews 8:3-5 – The Shadow of the True

- a. 8:3 – *“every high priest”* – we read about high priests before in 5:1-3 & ch. 7
- b. Priest *def. ISBE* one chosen of God (5:5,10; 7:20-22) to represent (1:2, 2:17; 4:15, 5:1, 7:26) and offer sacrifice (5:1, 7:27, 8:3) in intercession (4:14-16; 7:25; 8:3)
- c. *“it is of necessity”* – that Christ die, resurrect, go to heaven (cf Luke 24:46 & Ac 3:18)
- d. *“if he were on earth”* – which he is not – His priestly work was in heaven – John 14:3
- e. 8:5 – Shadows of heaven in the OT – see Exo 25:40, 1Chr 28:19
- f. 100+ chapters of the OT dealing with the priests, sacrifice, tabernacle, etc.

3. Hebrews 8:6-7 – A Better Covenant

- a. *“more excellent ministry”* – Where people mess up Hebrews by making it the mystery
- b. There are things that excel: < OT < NT < Mystery –Phil 1:10, Ro 2:18, Heb 8:6, Isa 60:15
- c. Paul’s more excellent way -1Co 12:31;Eph 1:10,19-23;Eph 2:7;Phil 3:8;1Ti 1:14, 2Ti 2:8
- d. The better promise is immutable (6:17-18), excellent ministry is in heaven – 2 Pe 1:17
- e. *“better covenant”* – but remember Gentiles never had covenants – Eph 2:12
- f. There was a fault in the first covenant (God already knew) – Heb 7:18-19, 10:1
- g. A second covenant was prophesied which means it is not the subject of the mystery
- h. Note: there were other covenants made, but these concerned Israel’s glory

4. Hebrews 8:8-13 – The New Covenant

- a. A quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 – 2 of 3x “new covenant” shows up in the NT
- b. *“I will make”* – It was future from Jeremiah 31, Heb 9 explains how it is made
- c. *“with the house of Israel and ... Judah”* – The same people who got the first covenant
 - i. The only way to apply this to you is to make yourself Israel and Judah
- d. *“after those days”* – which days? Read context: Jer 30:3,6-7,10,30; 31:1-2,6,11, 27-30
- e. What is the New Covenant? God will put his laws in Israel’s hearts –Deu 5:28-29, 6:5-6
- f. The new covenant was Israel’s salvation, the fulfillment of their promises of blessing
- g. The new covenant is spoken of in other places also – e.g Deu 30:1-6, Eze 36:24-38
- h. *“I will be to them a God”* – Them, who? Israel, God’s only nation – Exo 4:22
- i. *“sins will I remember no more”* – Paul says this happens in the future! Rom 11:27
- j. 8:13-*“ready to vanish away”* – The new covenant is not complete yet, neither is Israel

Dispensational Comments on the New Covenant and the Church

Both of these dispensational forefathers knew that the gospel given to Paul that creates the Body of Christ was not the teaching of the New Covenant made with Israel.

"...it [New Covenant] also relates to the people of Israel as we shall soon learn from this chapter. Strictly speaking the gospel, the proclamation of the salvation of God, is not a covenant. Still those who accept the gospel possess all the spiritual blessings of this new covenant, and much more than Israel can ever possess, when at last as a converted nation this new covenant will be established with them." – A. C. Gaebelien on Hebrews 8

"The first covenant was made with Israel; the second must be so likewise, according to the prophecy of Jeremiah.... Although there is no difficulty here, it is important to have light with regard to these two covenants, because some have very vague ideas on this point, and many souls, putting themselves under covenants -- that is, in relationship with God under conditions in which He has not placed them -- lose their simplicity, and do not hold fast grace and the fulness of the work of Christ, and the position He has acquired for them in heaven." – J. N. Darby concerning Hebrews 8

A comparison of the Old Covenant, New Covenant, and the Fellowship of the Mystery can be found on the Grace Ambassadors website here:

<http://graceambassadors.com/mystery/differences-between-the-old-covenant-new-covenant-and-the-fellowship-of-the-mystery>

Old Covenant	New Covenant	Fellowship of the Mystery
Israel must perform on their own	God's grace for Israel to perform by the Spirit	God's grace to all <i>without</i> Israel
Israel is a nation separate from the Gentiles	Israel is a nation separate from the Gentiles	Israel is fallen; no Jew nor Gentile in the Body of Christ
The law given to obey	The law written on their hearts to obey	Blessing <i>without</i> the law; Not under the law; walk by the Spirit
Covenant to make Israel the channel of blessing to the world	Covenant to make Israel the channel of blessing to the world	All spiritual blessings in Christ <i>without</i> covenants for a kingdom, nation, circumcision, or priesthood.