

# A New and Better Covenant

Hebrews 8:7-13



# Hebrews 8:6 raises some questions...

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- ❖ What is this “better covenant”?
- ❖ How is it better than the original covenant?
- ❖ In what way is Jesus the mediator of this new covenant?

# The Old Covenant

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- ❖ Established as a covenant of law
- ❖ The covenant presented: Exodus 19:1-6
- ❖ The covenant obligations: Ten Commandments; detailed statutes and ordinances: Exodus 20ff.
- ❖ The covenant ratified: Exodus 24:3-8
- ❖ Terms of the covenant summarized: Leviticus 26
  - ❖ Blessings for obedience: Leviticus 26:1-10
  - ❖ Penalties for disobedience: Leviticus 26:14ff
  - ❖ God's unconditional promise: Leviticus 26:11-13, 44-46

# Promises of the New and Better Covenant

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## ❖ PROMISE #1: God's Law Will be Implanted in the heart (10)

*"I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God." Ezekiel 11:19-20*

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." Ezekiel 36:26-27*

# Promises of the New and Better Covenant

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❖ PROMISE #1: God's Law Will be Implanted in the heart (10)

❖ PROMISE #2: The personal experience of knowing God (11)

Israel's history – knowing about God but not knowing God

- Hebrews 3:8-10
- Judges 2:10 *"All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel."*
- Hosea 4:1 *"Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land."*

But now, every member of the new covenant community would know God directly and personally!



# Promises of the New and Better Covenant

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- ❖ PROMISE #1: God's law will be implanted in the heart (10)
- ❖ PROMISE #2: The personal experience of knowing God (11)
- ❖ PROMISE #3: The complete forgiveness of sins (12)

Under the Old Covenant, sins were not forgotten. In fact, it was designed to provide a perpetual reminder of sins.

Under the sacrificial system, *"sins were covered, foreshadowing and anticipating true forgiveness in Jesus Christ."* - John MacArthur

# Promises of the New and Better Covenant

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- ❖ PROMISE #1: God's law will be implanted in the heart (10)
- ❖ PROMISE #2: The personal experience of knowing God (11)
- ❖ PROMISE #3: The complete forgiveness of sins (12)
- ❖ In graciously giving us these great and wonderful promises, the LORD has made the Old Covenant obsolete! (13)

# Implications/Application

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1. **God is faithful to His promise.** In spite of Israel breaking their Old Covenant commitment to obey God, God did not reject them as His people and His promise still stands and will be fully realized in the New Covenant.
2. **God is wise.** The Old Covenant achieved God's designed purpose of exposing Israel's sin and her need for a Savior.
3. **God is gracious!** The Old Covenant was "faulty" because sinful people could never keep God's just demands. But under the New Covenant, it is God Himself who ensures it will be fulfilled. It is based on God's work, not ours.
4. **The New Covenant is the only path to life.** We must respond to God's gracious gift; we must repent and believe in the atoning work of Jesus Christ and follow Him as Lord.
5. **Worship Jesus,** who is the Mediator of the New Covenant