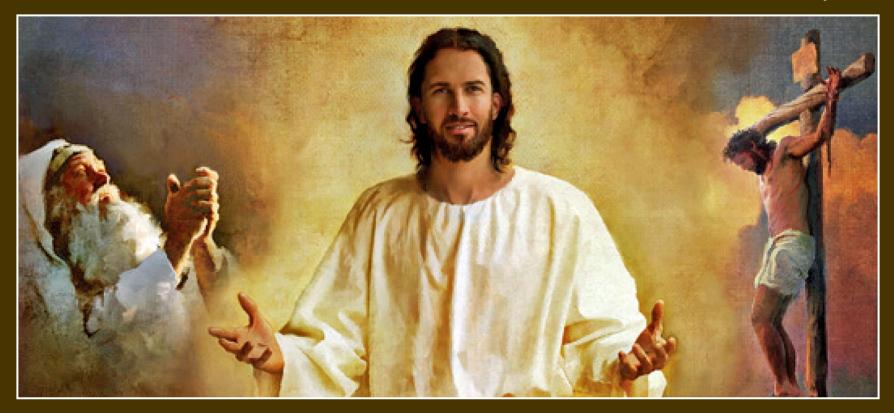
Lesson 8 for February 19, 2022



JESUS, THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT



In Hebrews 7:22 and 8:6, Paul introduced Jesus as "surety" and "Mediator" of a "better covenant."

Is this a new and better covenant? Or is it an improved version of the old one?



Was God's covenant with Israel imperfect? Does the new covenant replace the Ten Commandments with a different law?

- A new covenant
 - New aspects
 - Renewed aspects
- A better covenant
 - A better Mediator
 - Better promises
 - A better heart

NEW ASPECTS

"For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness," (Hebrews 7:18)





The basis of the new covenant is a change of law (Heb. 7:12, 19, 22). So which commandment was abrogated by the new covenant?

The sacrificial law was weak and unprofitable, as seen in the verses referenced before. It was weak because the mediators were weak (Heb. 7:28). It was unprofitable because it could not make the worshippers perfect (Heb. 10:1, 4).

The new covenant is based on a new sacrifice and a new priesthood (Heb. 10:10). A perfect sacrifice and an eternal priesthood that can give us eternal life (Heb. 7:25).





RENEWED ASPECTS

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Hebrews 8:10)

Which aspects are new in this covenant?



God's covenant with us is a renewed relationship. It's an eternal covenant that's been sealed with Jesus' blood. It's full of blessings and it contains no curses.

A BETTER MEDIATOR

"Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant." (Hebrews 7:22 NIV)



Moses was the faithful mediator in the old covenant (Heb. 3:5). He spoke with God face to face, and he reflected His glory (Ex. 33:11; 34:29).

Jesus is the mediator in the new covenant (Heb. 8:6). He *IS* the Word of God; He *IS* the glory of God (Jn. 1:14).

Jesus mediates between God and humankind. He guarantees that both God and humankind will fulfill the covenant.



We couldn't meet the requirements of the covenant, but His death did (Heb. 9:26)
He guarantees that God's promises will be fulfilled (2Co. 1:19-20)





BETTER PROMISES

"But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises." (Hebrews 8:6)

God's covenant with Israel was based on promises. Both human and divine promises that were sealed with blood (Ex. 24:7-8; Dt. 7:13).

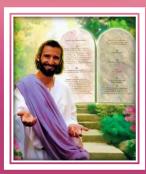
Israel had promised to fulfill them, but they failed. However, Jesus fulfilled His promises (Heb. 10:7). When we accept the blood of the new covenant, we are fulfilling its promises through the One who fulfilled them in our place (Heb. 10:10).





The eternal covenant (both old and new) is based on obeying the Law of God. Therefore, God's blessings are given to those who obey.

Jesus obeyed the Law, so He receives God's blessings and gives them to those who are "in Christ" (Ro. 8:1).



A BETTER HEART

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

In the new covenant, God's laws are put in the mind and written on the heart (Heb. 8:10).

However, our own thoughts and decisions keep us from keeping the law. How can we solve this? Should we change the law, or change our minds and hearts?

Some people think that God removed the law so we could enter His covenant. But Paul clearly explained that the law is not the issue, but our minds and hearts are. Thus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to transform and improve our minds and hearts (Ezekiel 36:27).





"Under the new covenant, the conditions by which eternal life may be gained are the same as under the old—perfect obedience... In the new and better covenant, Christ has fulfilled the law for the transgressors of law, if they receive Him by faith as a personal Saviour..."

E. G. W. (God's Amazing Grace, May 8)