

Topic: The Old and the New Covenants Compared (Part 2)

Text: Hebrews 7:11-8:6 (NIV)

Theme: “Reasons why the New Covenant is far better than the Old Covenant”

Introduction

- Continuing from Part 1, you have learned that the New Covenant (NC) has better conditions of priesthood than the Old Covenant (OC). This is just the tip of the iceberg.
- Part 2 advances to prove that the NC has better, unlimited access to the Father; thanks to what Jesus has done at the Cross. How fortunate we are to have a Saviour, a High Priest, an Intercessor, a Prophet, and a King, rolled into one.
- And what is more, God has a bagful of promises (33,000), and He gave them away to Christians who belong to the New Covenant.

I. BETTER ACCESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

v7: 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

v8:1 ... We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven

v 2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

A. The accessibility of the Old Covenant to God's presence was limited.

1. God's presence was external – pillars of cloud that guided the Hebrews in the wilderness; their bodies were never the temple of the Holy Spirit.
2. God spoke ONLY to the leaders—prophets, priests, kings; unlike in the NT the Holy Spirit bears witness to the believers.

3. The Holy Spirit's ministry wasn't fully manifested yet. (He was still in Heaven, not in Earth, as Jesus commanded Him to come down.)
4. The ministry of Jesus wasn't in placed yet. They did not enjoy the power of the Name above all Names.

B. The accessibility of the New Covenant to God's presence is unlimited.

1. God's presence is "sky is the limit."
2. Christians don't need an earthly priest, can pray directly to the Father 24/7, without any sacrificed animal.
3. There is no more barrier between God and men as the curtain was rent into two when Jesus shouted "It is finished."

C. Permanent duties of Jesus

1. As our Saviour -- He saves completely.
v25a Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him,
2. As our High Priest of the New Covenant – He is appearing before God in our behalf.
v26 Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
v8:1 We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.
3. As our busy Priest -- He serves in the sanctuary everyday.
v8:2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.
4. As our Intercessor -- He intercedes for us forever.
Hebrews 7:25b ... because he always lives to intercede for them.
Romans 8:34 ... Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

II. BETTER PROMISES

V8:6 *But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*

A. **The Old Covenant had limited promises; limited forgiveness (to be done over and over).**

Leviticus 26:3 "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands,

v4 "I will send you rain...

v5 "Your threshing will continue until grape harvest... and you will eat all the food you want...

v6 "I will grant peace in the land...

v7 "You will pursue your enemies...

v9 "I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers...

v10 "You will still be eating last year's harvest...

v11 "I will put my dwelling place among you...

v12 I will walk among you and be your God...

v14 "But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands,

v15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fails to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant,

v16 then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever... You will plant seed in vain...

v17 I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you...

v18 If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over.

v19 I will break down your stubborn pride...

v20 Your strength will be spent in vain...

v21 If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over...

v22 I will send wild animals against you...

v23 If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction...

v24 I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you...

B. The New Covenant has unlimited promises; permanent solution.

V8:6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

1. In some Bible statistics it is claimed that there are 33,000 promises in the Bible, but it must be remembered that there are only 33,214 verses in OT, while 7,959 verses in NT (total of 41,173 verses).
2. The NT has 750 promises all in all, but many of them were repeated in different NT books, so there are only 250 separate promises.

Earth as inheritance	Mat 5:5
Rewards according to works	Mat 16:27
Unlimited power	Mat 17:20
No marriages among people in Heaven	Mat 22:30
Be ready to face Jesus	Luke 21:36
Mansions	John 14:1-3
Rebuilding Israel	Acts 15:16-17
Jesus is the end of the Law	Rom 10:4
Satan's defeat	Rom 16:20
NT as a better covenant	Heb 8:6
New heaven and New Earth	Rev 21-22
Blessing by reading Revelation	Rev 1:3
A new name	Rev 2:17

C. The Old and the New Covenants contrasts

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
First covenant	Second covenant
Ended by Christ	Started by Christ
A shadow/model	A reality
Abolished	Remains
Under law	Under grace
Came by Moses	Came by Christ
Of Levi	Of Judah
Made at Sinai	Made at Calvary
Brought death	Brought life
Makes guilty	Makes free
Remembers sins	Forgets sins
Covers sins	Washes away sins
Forgiveness earned	Forgiveness freely given
Cannot justify	Can justify
Powerless to save	Powerful to save
No mercy	Complete mercy
Demands righteousness	Gives righteousness
Many sacrifices	One sacrifice
Animal sacrifices	Human sacrifice
Temporary priests	Eternal priest
Many priests	One priest
Sinful mediator	Sinless mediator
No intercessors	Two intercessors
Circumcision	No circumcision
Faulty	Perfect
Weak	Strong
No personal access to God	Personal access to God
Good but limited promises	Better, limitless promises
Based on fear	Based on love & forgiveness
For Israel only	For all men