

The Supremacy of the New Covenant

Hebrews 8







Recap of Hebrews 7

JESUS: OUR PERFECT PRIEST AND KING

- He lives forever so He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them
- Come to Him, Call on Him, Count on Him.



V:1-5: Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

V:1-5: Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

¹Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. ³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer

V:1-5: Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

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Main Point

Jesus is the ultimate perfect High Priest

Jesus serves where it matters most – in the true tabernacle in heaven

 His intercession is more effective than any earthly priests'





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Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' V:1-5: priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

⁶But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. ⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

V:1-5: Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

"The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' V:1-5: priesthood

Supremacy of the new covenant V:6-13:

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel

after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Confirmation on supremacy of Jesus' V:1-5: priesthood

V:6-13: Supremacy of the new covenant

¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." ¹³ By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

Hebrews 8:6

⁶But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.



RECAP: What is a covenant?

Agreement between parties, where one party promises to do something if the other party does something else

RECAP: What was the old covenant and what were the promises it was based on?

On Israel's side:

- Israel promised to obey all that God told them to do
- Israel promised that God will be their only God

On God's side:

- God promised to prosper and protect Israel
- God promised Israel that they would be His special people among all others on the earth



⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

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Key things to note

There was nothing wrong with the old covenant – it was the people that were the problem

Verses 8 to 12 are a direct quotation from the book of Jeremiah, Chapter 31: 31-34

Hebrews 8

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Timeline of the old and new covenants

Israel















Old Covenant

Tabernacle to house the Ark built

First temple built



Jeremiah writes about the New Covenant

Jesus Letter of inaugurates Hebrews the New Covenant





written

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wickedness and will remember their sins no more."





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What was the new covenant and what were the promises it was based on?

On Israel's side:

NOTHING

On God's side:

- God promised to prosper and protect Israel
- God promised Israel that they would be His special people among all others on the earth
- **B NEW FEATURES**



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New Feature #1 A new heart

- God would empower Israel to keep His laws
- Done through the work of the Holy Spirit
- Put vs write
- Our role to live in faithful dependence on the Holy Spirit



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New Feature #2 A personal relationship

- No more gatekeepers
- Done through Jesus coming down to earth in human form
- Our role partake of the Word and listen to the Holy Spirit



New Feature #1 A new heart

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New Feature #3 A clean slate



- Jesus died once and for all to atone for all sins
- Number of sins does not matter
- Type of sins does not matter
- Our role come confidently and boldly before God



New Feature #1 A new heart

New Feature #2 A personal relationship



¹³ By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.





Why would anyone go back to the old covenant once they had the new?

CONTROL

Stemming from an overestimation of our own work and an underestimation of God's work.



Romans 10:3

For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Philippians 3:9

...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.



What do we find pride and joy in? Our service unto the Lord? Or our salvation?

Luke 10:20

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."



Reflection 1

What do we find pride and joy in? Our service unto the Lord? Or our salvation?

Reflection 2

Do we feel like we need to perform in order to receive God's acceptance?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Reflection 1

What do we find pride and joy in? Our service unto the Lord? Or our salvation?

Reflection 3

Do we feel the need to punish ourselves when we sin? Do we struggle to forgive ourselves?

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.





Do we feel like we need to perform in order to receive God's acceptance?



BOTTOM LINE Our work vs God's work God's work is far superior

Control vs Faith Trust God. He said it. He will do it.

God has said: will empower you to obey Me will enable you to know Me personally will forgive your sins and remember them no more



Faith is the key to receiving and experiencing the new covenant



Trust God. God said it, He will do it.

