

COVENANT

Prairie Rose EMC, Dec. 27, 2020

Pastor Mike

Hebrews 8, 9, &10

Hebrews 8

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 time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers 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.

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will make with the house 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. ¹¹ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 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¹³ By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

What does it mean to live in a covenantal relationship with God?

A three part definition of what a biblical covenant is:

1. It is a sacred bond.
2. It is made in blood.
3. It is sovereignly initiated.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. Deut. 7:6

The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a 1000 generations of those who love him and keep his commands. Deut. 7:7-10

“Take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today. If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.” Deut. 7:11

Why this covenant is better:

1. It is inward

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.

2. It is intimate

I will be their God, and they will be my people.¹¹ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

"The best way to make a man keep a law is to make him love the law-giver." Spurgeon

3. It is absolute

¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship."

² *If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.* ³ *But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,* ⁴ *because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.* Hebrews 10:1-4

"Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices which can never take away sins.

¹² *But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.* ¹³ *Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool,* ¹⁴ *because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."* Hebrews 10:11-13

The following illustrates that the essence of the covenants remains the same:

CONTRAST and COMPARISON of THE OLD and THE NEW COVENANT in the Book of Hebrews

The CONTENT of the two Covenants

Old Covenant	New Covenant
<i>Ex. 19:5ff—If you obey me and keep my covenant, you shall be my possession. Affirmed by the people in Ex. 24:1-8</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 6:16—I will be their God and they shall be my people. Cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10</i>
<i>Jeremiah. 7:23—I will be your God and you shall by my people.</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34—God's law will be in their hearts, knowledge of God as personal experience, and their sins will be blotted out.</i>

THE ESSENCE OF THE TWO COVENANTS IS THE SAME

The DIFFERENCES between the two Covenants

Old Covenant	New Covenant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an earthly sanctuary • continuous offerings • shadow of the real • many priests, succession necessary • sprinkling of animal blood • cleansed the external, symbolic • animal sacrifices did not bring forgiveness • only High Priest annually enters Holy of Holies, • bulls & goats couldn't do God's will • testator of will still alive, so will not in effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heavenly sanctuary, hearts of people • Christ the once for all offering • the real • Christ High Priest, no succession needed • Christ's blood • cleansed the heart from sin • Christ's sacrifice brought forgiveness • curtain of Holy of Holies torn, altar open • Christ came to do, and did God's will • testator died so will of God in effect

