

Hebrews 8: 6-9

Last week we discussed the conditional “If I will Then You must” Mosaic Covenant. We learned from Paul in Romans 8:3-4 that the faultiness was the weakness of the flesh of the people to whom it was given. Having faults implied that it was not an eternal covenant because God, in His grace and mercy, would not continue in such a covenant. We discussed the purposes of the covenant:

- to reveal the Holiness of God,
- to reveal our sin,
- to reveal our utter failure to keep His Law and then also,
- to drive us to Messiah for forgiveness and eternal salvation
- to live a life worthy of such a great salvation.

Hebrews 8:7 NKJV For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

Paul recognized the issue of our weaknesses when he taught that “the **letter** of the law kills but the Spirit of the law gives life” (**2 Corinthians 3:6**), for that’s how the Rabbi’s interpreted the Law – it must be followed to the letter. This has not changed for even today there is a heavy legalistic attitude among the Orthodox Jews.

Paul even called it a “ministry of death” and the “ministry of condemnation”. Harsh words...but listen to Paul in (**2 Corinthians 3:7-11**).

2 Corinthians 3:7-11 NKJV (7) But if the **ministry of death**, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, (8) how will the **ministry of the Spirit** not be more glorious? (9) For if the **ministry of condemnation** *had* glory, **the ministry of righteousness** exceeds much more in glory. (10) For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. (11) **For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.**

Before we discuss the New Covenant, I want to review how each was given for even in the giving there are many differences :

The Mosaic Covenant:

The children of Israel came to Mt Sinai just 3 months after the Exodus from Egypt:

(Exodus 19:9 NKJV) And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come **to you in the thick cloud**, that the people may **hear** when I speak with you, **and believe you forever.**" So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. **(Exodus 19:10 NKJV)** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and **consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.** **(Exodus 19:11 NKJV)** And let them be ready for the **third day**. For on **the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.** **(Exodus 19:12 NKJV)** **You shall set bounds for the people all around**, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves *that* you do *not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. **Whoever touches the**

mountain shall surely be put to death. (Exodus 19:13 NKJV) Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot *with an arrow*; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' **When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."**

(Exodus 19:15 NKJV) And he said to the people, "**Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.**" (Exodus 19:16 NKJV) Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were **thunderings and lightnings**, and a **thick cloud** on the mountain; and the sound of the **trumpet was very loud**, so that all the people who *were* in the camp **trembled.** (Exodus 19:18 NKJV) Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in **smoke**, because the LORD descended upon it in **fire**. Its smoke ascended like **the smoke of a furnace**, and the whole mountain **quaked greatly.** (Exodus 19:19 NKJV) And when the **blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder**, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. (Exodus 19:20 NKJV) Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Hebrews 12:21 NKJV *And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I AM EXCEEDINGLY AFRAID AND TREMBLING."*)

That’s an awesome but terrifying way to meet your God! But it had to be that way. The Israelites had to understand that this was the LORD God Almighty and truly whatever they thought about the “gods” in Egypt, this was The Most High God.

Now, compare that to the way the new covenant was given by Jesus:

Old Covenant	New Covenant
A smoking, quaking mountain	a quiet upper room
masses of people; upwards of 2 million	12 disciples (perhaps some others)
fear and trembling	Trust born of living with Him for over 3 years and seeing His works and listening to His Words
barriers and rules; God kept at a distance;	Freedom;
After 3 days of consecration, God came down	God washed their feet!
No visible God; only His Voice was heard	Face to Face with God; they were sharing a meal.
For the Jews only	To the Jew first, then the world

What is so amazing to me is the lack of fanfare, so to speak. The greatest, the most powerful, the most life-changing covenant was delivered with just a few words:

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV)

remission = freedom; pardon; deliverance, forgiveness, liberty

Now, I just compared these two in terms of their “presentation”, not their substance!

For that we need to look at the words of the writer of Hebrews as recorded in chapter 8 in verses 6 and 7:

Hebrews 8:6-7 NKJV 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. (7) For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

So, we have a great High Priest who is the Mediator of a better covenant because it was established on better promises.

The writer then takes us back to the Prophet Jeremiah in chapter 31 starting in verse 31. God had planned what was to take place with His people before He created anything that was created. Because of their attitudes, their sin and especially their idolatry, He made a great promise:

(Hebrews 8:8 NKJV) Because finding fault with them, He says: "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH—

Again, as we discussed on Wednesday night, just as the vision in Chapter 9 was for the Nation of Israel, the new covenant was first made to the Jews as well. **That's a fact...but the entire truth was not revealed at that time. The True nature of this covenant would not be understood for a very long time.**

(Hebrews 8:9 NKJV) NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

This future covenant would NOT be like the Mosaic covenant; Because of their fleshly desires (sin) the Jews broke that covenant and God was forced to pour out the promised curses contained in the Law for disobedience. *[the LAW is not a curse; the LAW contained them]*. This was done during the time of the Babylonian Captivity when disobedience and idolatry was running unchecked. The people were warned and warned and warned again. They chose to ignore God's warnings given by His prophets. And the price they paid was steep: the city and the Temple were destroyed and the captives were taken to Babylon – a kingdom as pagan as they come.

(Hebrews 8:10 NKJV) 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. (11) NONE OF THEM SHALL TEACH HIS NEIGHBOR, AND NONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. (12) FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND

THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

After those days: God already knew that the Nation as a whole (but not every individual) would reject the One who brought the Covenant from Heaven. However, the Plan moved forward and was offered to any Jew who would accept and therefore enter into the Covenant of Christ. The faithful Jews who received the New Covenant would be the ones to spread the Good News to Judea, Samaria and to the world. Yes, it was to be spread to the Jews first, and then the Nations!

I'm of the opinion that, at first, the only thing the believers understood was that the New Covenant was a covenant of forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. The full impact of this covenant was not understood until after the promised Holy Spirit came and baptized the apostles and others in Jerusalem.

It was given so simply and the words were few:

Matthew 26:28 NKJV For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Now, the Calvinist might say "for many of the elect"; the Jews might think, "for many of the Jews". **But God is bigger than that!**

He had the 'world' in mind when He inaugurated the New Covenant. He had the world in mind from the beginning:

John 3:16-18 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (18) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And at the end:

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

Mark 16:15 NKJV And He said to them, "**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature.

Luke 24:46-47 NKJV Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, (47) and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name **to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

Acts 1:7-8 NKJV And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth**."

Miraculously, instead of stone tablets, God's Law would be put in our minds and hearts. This is His gracious act because it was done without subsequent conditions. Once a believer says "YES" by the faith given him or her, the Holy Spirit comes into their heart so that they are empowered to obey the Law of Christ.

John 13:34-35 NKJV A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

God still expects people to behave! We are not to sin just because God's Grace is poured out. No, the Spirit of Christ in us expects us to love as Christ loved all of us! The only **test** of being His disciple and a child of God is loving others in the same manner as He loved us – willfully and sacrificially!

We learned in chapter 7 verse 19 that "the law made nothing perfect"

In this covenant, by His grace, we humbly accept that our perfection awaits us in Heaven. But we also have a better hope and better promises:

Philippians 1:6 NKJV being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 2:13 NKJV for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

So therefore, the **better promise** was that God would always be our God and we will always be His people. The sin that separated us from God would no longer keep us separated. Yes, our fellowship with Him might be affected for a while, but sin would not.

Jesus went outside the camp and bore the weight of our sin - He even bore the crushing of His every being when His Father turned away, for He could not look on the sin that His Son took on his shoulders because He loved us, He loves us today and He will always love us, not as a people or nation, but as His children!

Like the Old Covenant whose description was laid out over 4 of the 5 books of Moses, this covenant was described in the entire New Testament. But I can describe this covenant in just one word:

Peter

The covenant was given; the disciples shared the Cup of Redemption with their Master. The

covenant was made for the remission of sin.

But shortly afterwards, the man Peter kept falling asleep when asked to pray;

And while all of the disciples forsook Jesus and fled at His arrest, Peter went to the High Priest's courtyard and proceeded to deny the Holy One of Israel, the King of the Jews, the Son of God 3 times.

He then wept bitterly.

But Jesus came to him and unfathomable grace, restored him with a simple question:

“Do you love me?”

And Jesus accepted his answer and the man who was once called ‘satan’ was restored to the Son of God.

When we come to Jesus and accept this covenant, ultimately, what He desires is for us to say, “I love You, My Lord and My God”. That simple confession brings us into a relationship that cannot be broken.

He is so faithful, so gracious, so merciful in this bond of love, that He made the OLD obsolete for all believers. We are under Grace and under its power to keep us until we reach home. (Verse 13)wsw

Perhaps you'd like to hear more?

This is a unilateral unconditional covenant, made by the sovereign and free will of God. This covenant brings salvation, justification, sanctification, redemption, righteousness, and the power to do His will thru the Holy Spirit. This covenant brings us into the very throne room of God in our time of need. This covenant comes with supernatural gifting that will build up the Body of Christ who we are. And the desire to witness to this great salvation. This covenant will bring forth the fruit of the Spirit if we yield our lives to Him. This covenant is sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise so that its fulfillment is guaranteed until we go to be with the LORD.
