

Christ: Superior to the Old Covenant

Hebrews 7:22; 8:6,7,8,10,13; 9:1,4,15,18,20; 10:16; 12:24; 13:20

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We are covering the theme “superior” or “better” in the book of Hebrews

Outline on the Book of Hebrews By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1983 (Rev. 92,01,09)		
Christ is “Superior” to...	Christ is a “Better...”	Passage
Prophets	Revelator	1:1-3
Angels	Name	1:4-2:18
<i>Interlude (2:1-4) (2:10-18)</i>		
Moses	Household	3:1-13
<i>Interlude (3:7-19)</i>		
Joshua	Rest	3:7-4:10
<i>Interlude (4:11-16)</i>		
Aaron	High Priest	4:14-5:10
<i>Interlude (5:11-6:3; 6:4-20)</i>		
O.T. System (Reformation)	Giver of things	9:6-11
Levitical Priesthood	Priesthood	7:1-28
Tabernacle	Ministry/covenant	8:1-5; 9:2-10,23-28; 10:20
The Law	Hope	7:19; 8:19; 10:1
The Covenant	Surety/promises	8:6-9:1,15-22; 10:15
Sacrifices	Mediator/blood	10:2-14
<i>Interlude (10:26-39)</i>		

We are still in the core of the book (5:1-10:26), which deals with the major details of the Jewish religion and more details of the high priest. These are the deeper things, (6:11). These are the hard to explain things, (5:11). These things are the solid food of the mature, (5:14). The reason I state this again is to encourage you because you can handle these truths and you are growing enough to understand these truths.

Introduction:

Today we are looking at the “Covenant.” Remember that the “Old Testament” is a “package” that can’t be split up. The “Covenant” = the “Law” = the “Tabernacle” = the “Feasts” = all the individual parts, (Rom. 3:19; Gal. 3:12; 5:3; Ja. 2:10). They can’t be broken up because they are a unit.

There is an old Evangelical poem that reads:

The New is in the Old contained, The Old is in the New explained,
The New is in the Old concealed, The Old is in the New revealed.

The English word “testament” normally refers to a person’s “will.” This is a document which bequeaths property to those who will inherit it after the owner’s death. However, the word “testament,” in referring to the two divisions of the Bible, has a little different application. “God sets the terms which man can accept or reject but cannot alter, and when man accepts them, both man and God are obligated to fulfill their requirements.” (Tenney)

The Greek word “testament” (Gr. “diatheke”) means a “will,” (Heb. 10:16-17); a “covenant,” (Heb. 8:6-10,13; 9:1,4); a “treaty;” or a “settlement.” (Davis; Lockyer)

The Hebrew word for “testament” (Hb. “berith”) means the same as the Greek word. (Davis; Lockyer)

When did the Bible start having an Old and New Testament (Covenant) division? “By the end of the second century, the Old and New Testaments became permanent names for the Jewish and Christian Scriptures.” (Dake)

“These terms have come into use since the close of the 2nd century to distinguish the Jewish and the Christian Scriptures.” (Unger, 144; Gromacki, p. 42)

1. THE OLD “COVENANT” (TESTAMENT)

What is the “Old Covenant?”

(1.) The Old Covenant started with the giving of the Mosaic Law or Covenant, (Ex. 34:27-28; 19:5; 24:7; 31:6; 34:10). The Old Covenant is related and connected to the Sabbath, the Law, the Commandments and the Tabernacle.

(2.) The Old Covenant is related to Israel, (Ex. 34:27).

(3.) Archaeology has confirmed that the covenant made by God with his people at Sinai is very unique. This covenant is at the heart of the Old Testament. "Nothing similar and no covenant direct from any god to man is found among ancient near Eastern texts or any with purely moral subject matter.

(Donald Wiseman)

(4.) "The Old Covenant involved a revelation of the holiness of God in a righteous standard of law which those who receive it were solemnly enjoined to keep." (Tenney)

(5.) The ending of the "Old" Covenant formerly took place at the cross and in reality at Pentecost.

"...the Mosaic covenant and the legal dispensation were still in operation throughout the lifetime and up to the death of Christ when 'the veil of the temple' was rent in twain from top to bottom. This momentous event signified that 'a new and living way' was opened for all believers into the very presence of God with no other sacrifice or priesthood necessary other than Christ's. (Heb. 9:1-8; 10:19-22)." (Unger, 144)

(6.) Many of the writers of Scripture (Jeremiah in Jer. 31:31; Paul in 2 Cor. 3:14; Jesus in Matt. 26:28) continued the contrast between the Old Covenant made with Israel and ratified by animal blood, and the New Covenant made with the church through Christ's blood (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Heb. 8:6-8). It was only natural that the two sections of the Bible would come to be known as the Old and the New Testaments. (Gromacki, p. 42)

2. CHRIST AND THE NEW "COVENANT" (TESTAMENT)

(1.) The New Covenant was announced by Jesus to His disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem when He took the cup of wine to drink using the cup as a symbol of the up coming New Covenant of His shedding of blood and death, (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25).

(2.) "The New Covenant embodies a revelation of the holiness of God in an utterly righteous Son, who empowers those who receive the revelation to become sons of God by making them righteous (John 1:12)." (Tenney)

(3.) It was the result of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) and the preaching of the gospel of grace, that actually brought about the New Covenant. (Unger, 144)

(4.) There are two applications to the "New Covenant" which many Christians miss. (See our charts for today)
The first "New" Covenant application which is now, is for the Church, (Heb. 8:8,13; 9:15; 12:24; 13:20).
The second "New" Covenant application which is future, is for Israel, (Heb. 10:16; 8:10).

The Christian's relationship to the Old Covenant (Testament) while living under the New Covenant (Testament)

1. The Christian is dead to the Old "Covenant" which was tied to the Law, (Rom. 7:4).
2. The Christian is delivered from the Old "Covenant" which was tied to the Law, (Rom. 7:6,25).
3. The Old "Covenant" which is tied to the Law is ended for the Christian, (Rom. 10:4).
4. The Christian has righteousness apart from the Old "Covenant: which is tied to the Law, (Rom. 3:21).

The Christian's use of the Old Covenant (Testament) while living under the New Covenant (Testament)

1. Things "written before" were written for our learning, (Rom. 15:4).
2. Things "written" for our example, (1 Cor. 10:11).
3. "All Scripture" is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness, (2 Tim. 3:16).
4. Enter the rest lest we fall according to the same example, (Heb. 4:11).

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