

“A Better Covenant, Pt. 1” (Hebrews 8:7–13)
GCC, Sunday School, 12/24/23

Introduction—This text is foundational for understanding how the author to the Hebrews, understands six things:

1. The relationship between the Old and New Covenants
2. The identity of the people of God in the Old Covenant as opposed to the New Covenant
3. An implication is the proper recipients of baptism
4. The distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Covenant as opposed to the New Covenant
5. The typological nature of the Old Covenant and how it points, like a teacher, to the realities of the New Covenant.
6. A Baptist Covenant Theology

Main Idea: The New Covenant is superior to and more efficacious than the Old Covenant. No one who was ever saved has ever been saved by anything other than the New Covenant. They were either saved *prospectively* (i.e., by looking forward to it) or *retrospectively* by looking back to it.

- I. There is *clearly* a deficiency and inferiority in the Old Covenant which necessitates a New Covenant
- II. What IS the Old Covenant?
 - A. The Old Covenant was *cumulative* (Heb 9:15)
 - B. Abrahamic Covenant is the foundation for the Mosaic Covenant (Gen 18:17–19).
 - C. Abrahamic Covenant involves a duality of both physical and spiritual promises and they are NOT the same thing (Gal 4:21–31)
- III. What are the Specific promises of the New Covenant and are they *Different* than the Old Covenant?
 1. The People of God will go from a geo-political, national, ethnic people of God to a regenerated people of God
 2. The Law of God will be in the hearts of all God’s people (v. 10a)
 3. The people of God will go from a *mixed* people to a *pure* people (8:11; cf. Isa 54:13; John 6:45; 1 Jn 2:18–21, 26, 27)
 4. The *substance* of forgiveness is given in the New Covenant (Heb 8:12; cf. Isa 1:11; Heb 9:13, 10:4; Rom 3:21–26; Col 2:17)
 5. God puts His Spirit within us (Ezek 36:27; John 14:17)
- IV. Three Hermeneutical Principles for Properly Understanding the New Covenant
 - A. The Promise is NOT the Fulfillment
 - B. The Type is NOT the Antitype
 - C. EVERYTHING points to Jesus