

## **THE NEW COVENANT IN HEBREWS**

The theme of the book of Hebrews is “*The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*”. Hebrews shows that the new order under Christ is better than the old order under Moses. Jesus brings in a BETTER priesthood and a BETTER covenant. The Old Covenant has now been superseded by the New Covenant (cf. Heb. 8:13).

The Mosaic Law was a unit of 613 laws, and to break one law was to break the whole Law (cf. Ja. 2:10). It was a particular code the people lived under during that time. Today, that Mosaic code in its entirety has been annulled in terms of a rule of life. In terms of a code, we are no longer under any of the 613 laws of the Mosaic code, because the entire code has been annulled.

### **Romans 6:14 (NKJV)**

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

### **Romans 10:4 (NKJV)**

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

We are no longer under the Law of Moses. Instead, we are now under a new code called the NEW Covenant or the law of Christ.

Under this new code, the Spirit now governs and the chief fruit of the Spirit is love (cf. Gal. 5:22-23). We now live under the law of Christ (cf. Gal. 6:2), which includes all the commandments in the New Testament this side of the cross in which a new standard of love and holiness are prominent (cf. Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 3:10).

The old code has been entirely annulled, but the new code incorporates some commandments previously given under the old code. What we are under today is what has been restated or revealed in the new code. Today, we are accountable to live by the Spirit in accordance with the new code, not the old code.

The word **covenant** (*distheke*) is found a total of 33 times in the New Testament, with 17 of those times being found in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews develops the theme of covenant more fully than any other New Testament book.

## ***The NEW and BETTER COVENANT – Hebrews 7-10***

Jesus is the guarantee of a BETTER covenant – Heb. 7:22.

The New Covenant has BETTER promises – Heb. 8:6-13.

The New Covenant relates to a BETTER sanctuary – Heb. 9:1-14.

The New Covenant is ratified with a BETTER sacrifice – Heb. 9:15-28.

The New Covenant achieves BETTER results – Heb. 10:1-18.

The New Covenant is shown to be UNCONDITIONAL. God promises that He will bring this to pass. Quoting from Jeremiah 31, Hebrews 8:10-12 emphasizes 4 times that God WILL do this.

### ***God's unilateral, unconditional New Covenant Promises:***

“For this is the covenant that *I will make...*” – Heb. 8:10

“*I will put My laws in their mind...*” – Heb. 8:10

“*I will be their God...*” – Heb. 8:10

“*I will be merciful... their sins... remember no more.*” – Heb. 8:12

If God can't be counted on to fulfill His New Covenant promises to Israel, why would we think He would be faithful to fulfill them to us?

After all, they are given first and foremost to Israel and we are merely grafted in (cf. Rom. 11) and participate in some aspects of it.

As Gentiles, our motto should ever be, “*Grafted in, but humbly grateful!*”

In Jeremiah 31, God says that if it would be possible for someone to stop the sun, moon, and stars from shining; if it would be possible for someone to measure the heavens or to search out the foundations of the earth, then it would be possible for God to cast off Israel.

This is spoken in the context of the New Covenant promises. And the point is that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God not to fulfill His promises to Israel. His covenant commitment to Israel stands forever, and He will yet fulfill all His New Covenant promises to her.

A little boy and his father were crossing a river. The little boy was afraid and said, “*Father, I want to hold your hand.*” The father responded, “*No, let me hold your hand.*”

The boy said, “*What difference does it make whether I hold your hand, or whether you hold mine?*”

The father said, *“If you hold my hand and something happens, you may let go of my hand; but if I hold your hand, I know for sure that I will never let you go.”*

In the New Covenant, God has hold of us and He will never let us go. That is our position right now under the New Covenant and that will be Israel’s future position under the New Covenant.