

A BETTER COVENANT

BETTER: The key word in Hebrews.

BETTER; How used: in New Testament:

1. TO BE DIFFERENT: How much then is a man better than a sheep? Matt. 12:12
2. TO BE ADVANTAGEOUS: OR PROFITABLE: It were better for him (more advantageous...profitable) that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Matt. 18:6
3. STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL: It is used in this sense in Hebrews at least 12 times. In this sense it used to point up that Jesus in rank, dignity, and authority, is superior to the angels and all the worthies who lived before him.

JESUS COMPARED WITH OTHERS

1. Jesus is GREATER-BETTER than the prophets.
 1. In these last days it is through him that Jesus has spoken to us. Heb. 1:1-3
2. Jesus is GREATER-BETTER than the angels, "as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they, Heb. 1:4
3. Jesus is BETTER-GREATER than Moses. Heb. 3:1-19. Consider how great Moses was:
 1. Moses had the wisdom of Egypt, and the faith of a child.
 2. Moses was tempted with the pleasures of sin but elected to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Heb. 11:25
 3. Moses was born in a hut, and lived in a palace.
 4. Moses inherited poverty, and yet he enjoyed unlimited wealth.
 5. His lips have been silenced by death, but his voice still speaks today.
6. CONSIDER HOW CHRIST WAS YET GREATER:
 1. Moses stamped the name JEW-ISRAEL on the world....JESUS stamps the name CHRISTIAN on the world.
 2. Moses was great as a faithful servant...But Jesus is great as a loyal SON over His own house.

A BETTER COVENANT. This assertion introduced by a time-mark: BUT-NOW...At this season.

1. In order to have a BETTER anything some BETTER things must of necessity be forth coming. Three things that give us a better covenant: These three BETTER things all show up in Hebrews 8:6:
 1. A MORE EXCELLANT (BETTER) MINISTRY.
 1. The priests of old had a ministry, and an excellent one, for it was by Divine appointment that they served at the earthly alter. Heb. 8:5
 2. Christ has a ministry, and "a more excellent" ministry because he is designated as "A Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Heb. 8:2
 3. Christ's ministry is "A more excellent" ministry because it is the real and substantial one pertaining to things in heaven, enduring forever...while the Aaronic ministry was restricted to the earthly tabernacle and was but temporary...a shadow of that which was to come and did come.
2. A MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT.
 1. The essence of a covenant is the establishment of a relationship.
 2. A mediator stands between two parties.
 3. The old covenant was good, as our text implies. It too originated in the grace of God.
 1. The old covenant pertained largely to the visible and the temporal.
 4. The new covenant is better because it is a fuller expression of the grace of God.
 2. The new has been introduced by Christ and concerns all things of this Christian dispensation.

A BETTER COVENANT, continued: Three Better Things of Hebrews 8:6:

3. ESTABLISHED UPON BETTER PROMISES.

1. Of the two things involved the word "BETTER" points up the contrast for us. What specifically makes the PROMISES of the last covenant "BETTER" than the promises of the first covenant?

1. The promises of the first covenant pertained mainly to the present life.
2. They were promises of length of days; of increase of numbers; of seed time and harvest; of national privileges; of abundance and prosperity; and finally, the promise of temporal life in Canaan.

2. BETTER PROMISES; THEIR ADVANTAGES:

1. Under the "BETTER PROMISE" we have: For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 1 Tim. 4:8
2. In contrast to the promises of the Old covenant which promised blessings to the obedient; the new promises blessings to enable us to render obedience.

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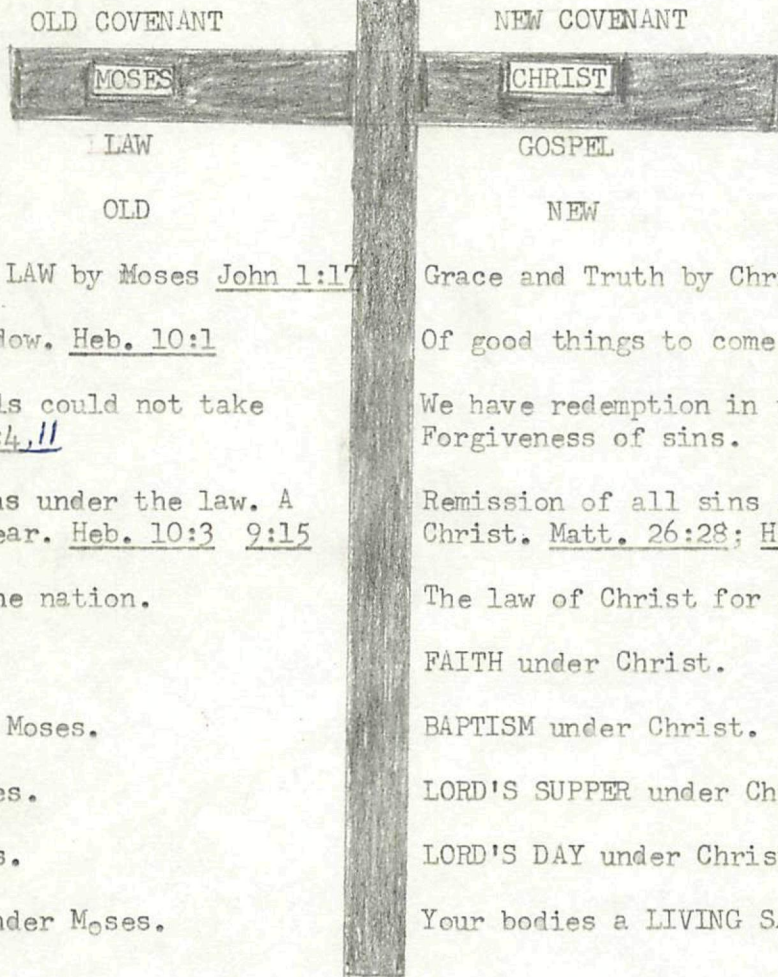
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A. BETTER COVENANT



THE NEW COVENANT MADE THE
FIRST OLD. Heb. 8:13

THE NEW COVENANT GREAT-
ER THAN THE OLD.

LAW by Moses John 1:17

Grace and Truth by Christ. John 1:17

The LAW a mere shadow. Heb. 10:1

Of good things to come. Heb 10:1

The blood of animals could not take
away sins. Heb. 10:4, 11

We have redemption in the blood of Christ.
Forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:14

No remission of sins under the law. A
remembrance each year. Heb. 10:3 9:15

Remission of all sins in the blood of
Christ. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 10:16-18

Law of Moses for one nation.

The law of Christ for all nations. Matt. 28:19

WORKS under Moses.

FAITH under Christ.

CIRCUMCISION under Moses.

BAPTISM under Christ.

PASSOVER under Moses.

LORD'S SUPPER under Christ.

SABBATH under Moses.

LORD'S DAY under Christ.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE under Moses.

Your bodies a LIVING SACRIFICE under Christ. Rom. 12:1

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