

The Superior Covenant

Text: Hebrews 8:6-9

Date: 9-1-24

The word *covenant/testament* (diatheke) means covenant, contractual agreement between two people or parties which requires binding action by one or both parties.

Neither covenant (agreement b/t two parties suggesting negotiation) nor testament (one-sided legal agreement which necessitates death) covers the scope of the word. The best descriptor is a one-sided covenant.

I. The far-superior ministry of Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:6)

****A better mediator – Heb. 8:6a**

mediator: means *a go between, a negotiator between two parties, arbitrator*. This is like a middleman who gets two sides together to put together an agreement.

But Christ is the mediator in that by His very person and death He accomplished the reconciliation that was needed” (Kent 150).

This mediator negotiated the terms based on the fact that His very Person and death accomplished reconciliation between God and man.

Christ as mediator is the rightful negotiator between two parties to set the terms of the covenant. Christ as surety is the promise of Himself that every term will be fulfilled according to the conditions.

A superior Mediator brings a superior covenant.

****Better promises – Heb. 8:6b**

Under the old covenant, man broke his word towards God and God had to punish Him. Under the new covenant, the man Jesus Christ fulfilled and kept the whole first law while dying on behalf of mankind’s sins.

II. The faults of the Old Covenant: Good but not good enough (Heb. 8:7-8a).

“The Old Covenant failed because of the sinfulness of the nation, for which it had no remedy. The New Covenant, however, has such a remedy”.¹

III. The foundations of the New Covenant (Heb. 8:8b-9; Jer. 31:31-33).

• **Unconditional, created, and announced by God (Heb. 8:8)**

New: “It is the exact opposite of the old covenant. Its promises are much better, and it is an unconditional covenant, dependent only on God’s faithfulness” (Small – used with permission).

• **Something new as opposed to old (Heb. 8:9a)**

Old: The temporal, conditional, Levitical covenant or the Law. This was a conditional covenant based on whether the people would obey it or not.

• **Given to God’s people (Heb. 8:8; Jer. 31:31; 33)**

This promise by Jehovah Himself demonstrates that there is a future for the nation of God’s people.

• **Not be dependent on the people keeping the law (Heb. 8:9)**

¹ Hodges, Z. C. (1985). [Hebrews](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 800). Victor Books.