

**“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”\**

**(Hebrews 8:6)\**

### **Better Covenant**

For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17

Did you know that the New Testament, covenant, was prophesied in the Old Testament in the book of Jeremiah?

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Juda: not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they abode not in my covenant, and I disregarded them, saith the Lord. For this is my covenant which I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will surely put my laws into their mind, and write them on their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. And they shall not at all teach every one his fellow citizen, and every one his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them: for I will be merciful to their iniquities, and their sins I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 38 (Jeremiah 31:31-34 KJV)

Paul quotes these same verses in the book of Hebrews, chapter eight. The Thompson Chain Reference Bible expounds that, “The epistle was apparently written primarily to Hebrew Christians. These converts were in constant danger of relapsing into Judaism or at least of attaching too much importance to ceremonial observances. The chief doctrinal purpose of the writer was to show the transcendent glory of Christian dispensation, as compared with that of the Old Testament.”

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established upon better promises. For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. This [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new [covenant,] he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [is] ready to vanish away.” Hebrews 8:6-13

Paul in the books of Romans and 1Timothy speaks of the Law in the Old Testament as being good.

“Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. But we know that the law [is] good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.” Romans 7:12 1Timothy 1:8-10

It is interesting that Paul says of the Law of the Old Testament that it was good. Then he says of the new covenant it is a better covenant. He didn't say best covenant but better covenant.

Could there be coming the best covenant, perhaps after the thousand year reign of Christ on the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1), which will usher in the fulfillment of 1 Timothy 4:10? “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

After the complete destruction of the old heaven and the surface of the old earth and the establishment of a new heaven and new earth there are still individual nations living outside the gates of New Jerusalem.

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner] of fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.”

Revelation 22:1-2

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