

# *The Superior Contract!*

**Hebrews 8:7-13; Jeremiah 31:33-34**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Living and working under a contract.
- God has always had a contract, an understanding, a governing arrangement with man.
  - With Adam, the contract was simple. Tend the garden. Eat whatever except for the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
  - After Adam, God sought to govern mankind through man's conscience,
  - With Noah, God sets up the Noahic Covenant that established the foundation of human government
  - With Abraham, God made an unconditional covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant promising a land, seed, and blessing.
  - With Moses, the Mosaic Law, the Old Covenant
- The Jews thought that the Old Covenant was perfect, and thus they needed nothing new.
- But if perfection was possible through the Levitical system, then why the need for another priest of a different order?
  - Hebrews 7:11-- *"Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?"*
- The Levitical priesthood and sacrifices could not achieve "perfection" for the common man. They could never bring a man fully to God.
- Since the Levitical Priesthood and the Mosaic Law are so closely tied together, a change or replacement of the priesthood means also a change in the law.

## *The Superior Contract!*

- Hebrews 8:7-13-- *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says 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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."*

### **A. The Need for a New Contract**

- Hebrews 8:7-- *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second."*
  1. **The Old Covenant, though perfect when given by God, was deficient in that it did not provide a means for full forgiveness of sin.**
    - Romans 7:12-- *"Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."*
  2. **The Old Covenant fault lies with us.**
    - Hebrews 8:8a-- *"Because finding fault with them, He says...."*
      - a. We could not perfectly keep the Law.

- Galatians 3:14-- *"Law was added because of transgressions."*
- Romans 7:7-- *"I would not have known sin except through the Law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'*

b. The Law revealed how short we fall of God's standard and glory.

3. **The Old Covenant failed because of the sinfulness of the nation for which it had no remedy.**

**B. The Description of the New Contract. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

- Hebrews 8:8-12-- *"Behold, the days are coming, says 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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none 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 unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

1. **It is an unconditional grace covenant resting on the "I will" of God.**

- Jeremiah 31:34-- *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*
- Ezekiel 16:60-62-- *"Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."*

2. **The New Contract is made with the Jewish people, not Gentiles.**

- It is to be made with both the houses of Judah and Israel, that is, the entire nation
- It is not made with the Church. The church does not replace Israel.
- The contract is made with the same people group with whom the early contract was made.
- Gentiles can be beneficiaries of the contract, but both the old and new contracts are made with Israel

3. **The New Contract is radically different from the Old!**

- Hebrews 8:9-- *"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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD."*
- The Old Contract was conditional with many "ifs" connected to it.
  - The New Contract is unconditional, no "ifs" but relies only on God to fulfill the tenets of the contractual agreement.
  - The Old engraved on stone; The New written on the hearts of men
  - The Old was external; the New internal.

4. **The New Contract promises the impartation of a renewed mind and heart, what we today call regeneration"**

- Hebrews 8:10-- *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

**Included is the...**

- Power to obey God through the indwelling of God's Spirit.**

- Ezekiel 36:25-27-- *“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”*
- Isaiah 59:21-- *“As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “from this time and forevermore.”*

**b. The forgiveness of individual and national sins.**

- Hebrews 8:12-- *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*
- Jeremiah 31:34-- *“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*
- Micah 7:18-19-- *“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”*
- Isaiah 44:21-23-- *“Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel.”*
- Jeremiah 50:19-20-- *“But I will bring back Israel to his home, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan; His soul shall be satisfied on Mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days and in that time,” says the LORD, “The iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; And the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found; For I will pardon those whom I preserve.”*

**5. The New Contract promises a clear apprehension of God and His will by believers without human mediation.**

- Hebrews 8:11-- *“None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.”*
- a. God will be known instinctively and His will done spontaneously.**
- Isaiah 54:13-- *“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.”*
- b. Experience of God will be direct, not dependent upon external instructions**

**6. Under the New Contract everyone will have an intimate, personal, life-transforming relationship with the Living God**

- Jeremiah 24:7-- *“Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.”*
- Ezekiel 11:19-20-- *“Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”*

**C. Our Relationship to the New Contract**

- Hebrews 8:13-- *“In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”*

**1. God has rendered the Old Covenant void, obsolete, dead, no longer valid for today.**

2. **The New Contract was signed in blood by Jesus Christ**
  - Matthew 26:28-- *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*
  - Hebrews 9:18-20-- *"not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."*
  
3. **Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the foundation on which the New Contract is built.**
  - a. Provides the means for the forgiveness of our sins
  - b. Produces a new heart, new mind, a transformed life by the indwelling Spirit of God
  - c. His death made it possible for us to be reconciled to God, and thus experience a vital, personal, intimate relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - d. At His death, when the veil in the temple was torn in two, Jesus made it possible for us to have access into God's presence!
  
3. **When we embrace Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we participate in the spiritual blessings of the New Contract.**
  - Ephesians 2:12-13-- *"at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."*
  - Ephesians 2:19-- *"you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"*
  
4. **We become "members of the household of God", not the "commonwealth of Israel".**
  
5. **We are grafted into the vine of Abrahamic blessing (Romans 11)**
  
6. **The New Contract ultimate fulfillment will be with the Jewish people in the Messianic Kingdom here on earth.**