

# Are We Under The Old Testament?

# Hebrews

“The Epistle was prompted by the desire to strengthen and comfort the readers in their trials and persecutions (10:32-39; ch. 11 and 12), but **especially** to warn them against the **danger of apostasy to Judaism** ... And this could be done best by showing the **infinite superiority** of Christianity, and the **awful guilt** of neglecting so great a salvation.”

– P. Schaff, History. . .1:814-815

# I. What Is A Covenant?

# Covenant

Contract / agreement made between two parties who mutually bind themselves to fulfill conditions of contract.

OT: a pact, compact, covenant.

# God's Covenant With Israel

1. Nature: God commands / prohibits; Israel obeys. Unilateral
2. Form: declaration.
3. Preservation: tables of covenant.
4. Location: ark of covenant, 1 K.8:9.
  - Cut / make covenant: cutting up, distributing flesh of victim.
  - Jer.34:18

I. What Is A Covenant?

II. The New Covenant

# New Covenant: prophesied in OT

Five major passages of OT:

1. Gn.3, fall
2. Gn.12, Abraham
3. Ex.24, old covenant ratified
4. 2 Sm.7, covenant with David
5. Jer.31, new covenant

# Significance of Jer.31:31-34

1. First clear statement that Ex.24 covenant is temporary.
2. Jer.30-33 –Israel exiled; Judah next.
3. God's love would not let this be His last word...



# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

Covenant (6-7): Jesus, Mediator of better covenant [Job 9:32-33; 1 T.2:5]

- ‘For’: new reason for better covenant
- ‘Place’ – occasion, opportunity, Ac.25:16

Jeremiah foretells an event as significant as Exodus: God will again give laws to His people

## Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

'New' Cov. (7-8): kind, quality, Mt.26:29

- 'Lord says' (three times, vv.8-10)
- 'New' – not like old:
  - Better covenant, Hb.7:22
  - Better promises, Hb.8:6
    - OT: accomplished purpose, Ro.7:12; could not justify, Ga.3:11, 21
    - NT: blameless (7-8); eternal, Hb.13:20

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

House of Israel...Judah (8)

- 'Fault' – Israel did not keep covenant
- 'Days are coming' (8, 10). Hb.1:1-2
  - 'New covenant' – Lk.22:20
  - 'New people of God' – no longer a division between Israel & Judah.  
Ga.3:28

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

As a father (9)

- 'Not according to...' [New covenant avoids 'defects' of Old].
- 'Took them by hand...did not continue'

Israel treated covenant as  
agreement between equals

- 'And I disregarded them...' as Ro.1.

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

Characteristics of new covenant –  
four promises (cf. v.6)

## 1. Laws in mind, written on hearts, 10

- Israel: Jew & Gentile, Ga.6:16;  
Mt.28:19

- Not mere memorization compulsion

Old covenant  
was inferior;  
new is interior

mechanical observance

Gal.2:20...1 Jn.4:19

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

Characteristics of new covenant –  
four promises (cf. v.6)

## 2. I will be their God, they...My People

- 2 Co.6:14-7:1

- Language of Sovereign to vassal

- Sole allegiance

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

Characteristics of new covenant –  
four promises (cf. v.6)

3. Will not teach every man...; all will know, 11
- OT: <sup>1</sup>born; <sup>2</sup>enter covenant; <sup>3</sup>learn...
  - NT: <sup>1</sup>born; <sup>2</sup>learn; <sup>3</sup>enter covenant...
    - Jn.3:3,5; 6:44-45
  - 'All will know Me' ... 'least to greatest'

# Jer.3:31-34 analyzed in Hb.8:7-13

Characteristics of new covenant –  
four promises (cf. v.6)

4. I will be merciful to their iniquities,  
12

- 'For' –blessings based on forgiveness
- Synonyms: 'merciful' = 'forgetting'  
sins. Ct. 10:1-3,4



## Summary: Hb.8:13

Warns those who to return to old covenant

New covenant makes first obsolete (8)

Legal terminology: a new will annuls previous one

13 reads like general truth [3:4]

## Athanasius (d. 373)

‘It is a sign, and an important proof, of the coming of the Word of God, that Jerusalem no longer stands, nor is any prophet raised up nor vision revealed to them – and that very naturally . . . **For . . . when the truth was there, what need any more of the shadow?** And this was why Jerusalem stood till then – namely, that [the Jews] might be exercised in the **types** as a **preparation for the reality.**’