



WALKING ON WATER  
BIBLE CHURCH

# A NEW COVENANT

HEBREWS 8:7-12



BIBLE STUDY



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## Hebrews 8:7-12

- 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.
- 8 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

## Hebrews 8:7-12

- 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.
- 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.

## Hebrews 8:7-12

- 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.
- 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

# THE FAILURE OF THE OLD COVENANT

- Hebrews 8:8–9
- “For finding fault with them, he saith...”
- A. The Fault Was Not in God’s Law, but in the People
- The text says:
- “Finding fault with them...”
- The weakness was not in God’s holiness, wisdom, or righteousness.

# THE FAILURE OF THE OLD COVENANT

- **Romans 7:12** — “The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”
- **Romans 8:3** — “What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh...”
- The Law revealed sin, but it could not transform the sinner.
- **Important Truth:** The Old Covenant could command righteousness externally, but it could not create righteousness internally.

# Israel Failed to Continue in the Covenant

- “Because they continued not in my covenant...”
- Israel repeatedly violated the covenant:
- Idolatry, Rebellion, Unbelief, Covenant unfaithfulness
- This failure culminated historically in judgment and exile. **(Christian Education Reminder)**
- **Historical Context**
- Jeremiah likely had the Babylonian captivity in view as evidence of God’s withdrawal of covenant protection.
- Israel broke covenant fellowship with God.

# Divine Judgment Followed Covenant Unfaithfulness

- “And I regarded them not...”
- The idea is not that God ceased to exist for them, but that He withdrew covenant favor and protection.
- **This demonstrates:**
- God is holy
- Covenant rebellion has consequences
- External religion cannot preserve spiritual life

# THE PROPHETIC PROMISE OF A NEW COVENANT

- **Hebrews 8:8** “Behold, the days come...”
- **A Messianic Prophecy**
- This prophetic phrase points forward to:
- The age of the Messiah - The coming kingdom realities
- The redemptive work of Christ
- The Old Covenant anticipated something greater.

# The New Covenant Is “New” in Nature and Power

- “I will accomplish... a new covenant...”
- The New Covenant is not merely a repaired Old Covenant.
- It is:
- New in administration; New in power; New in priesthood ;New in sacrifice; New in internal transformation

# **The New Covenant Is “New” in Nature and Power**

- The Old Covenant said:
- “Do and live.”
- The New Covenant says:
- “Live through Christ, and therefore obey.”

# THE LAW WRITTEN ON THE HEART

- **Hebrews 8:10** “I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...”
- **A. Internal Transformation Instead of External Regulation**
- The Old Covenant emphasized commandments written on stone.
- The New Covenant emphasizes transformation written on the heart.

# Contrasting the Old and the New Covenants

## **Old Covenant**

External code

Written on stone

Commanded obedience

Mechanical observance

## **New Covenant**

Internal transformation

Written on hearts

Produces obedience

Loving devotion

# The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- This is the work of regeneration.
- God changes:
- The desires, The affections, The will
- The inward disposition
- **Ezekiel 36:26–27**
- “A new heart also will I give you...”
- The Spirit produces willing obedience.

# Christian Obedience Flows from Love

Forgiveness is the foundation of obedience.

- This is a central gospel truth.
- **1 John 4:19** - “We love him, because he first loved us.”
- Christian obedience is not:
- Mere legalism; Empty ritual; Forced conformity
- It is: Grateful obedience; Loving loyalty; Spirit-empowered service

# THE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- Hebrews 8:11 - “For all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.”
- A. The New Covenant Gives Direct Knowledge of God
- Under the Old Covenant:
  - Priests mediated; Prophets instructed; The people remained distant
- Under the New Covenant:
  - Every true believer personally knows God.

# THE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

This Knowledge Is Spiritual and Experiential

- This is not mere intellectual awareness.
- **It includes:**
- Communion with God
- Spiritual illumination
- Fellowship with Christ
- Personal experience of grace

# **This Does NOT Eliminate Biblical Ministry**

- The commentary carefully guards against misunderstanding.
- This passage does NOT abolish:
- Pastors; Teachers; Church leadership; Instruction
- Because the New Testament itself establishes ministry offices.
- Ephesians 4:11–12 - Christ gave:
- Pastors and Teachers, Evangelists.... for the edifying of the saints.

# THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW COVENANT: FORGIVENESS

- **Hebrews 8:12**
- “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness...”
- Though forgiveness appears last in order, it is actually first in cause.
- Everything else flows from forgiveness.
- Because God forgives:
- Hearts are transformed; Minds are renewed; The Spirit indwells
- Fellowship with God becomes possible

# Complete Divine Mercy

- “Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”
- This does not mean God literally forgets intellectually.
- He no longer holds sins against His people judicially
- Their guilt is removed and Their condemnation is gone
- **Psalm 103:12**
- “As far as the east is from the west...”
- **Romans 8:1**
- “There is therefore now no condemnation...”

# Christ Is the Ground of This Forgiveness

- The New Covenant is established through:
- Christ's blood; Christ's sacrifice; Christ's priesthood
- **Luke 22:20**
- “This cup is the new covenant in my blood...”

# THE “ALREADY / NOT YET” REALITY OF THE NEW COVENANT

- **The Fullness Awaits Final Consummation**
- The promises are genuinely fulfilled now, but not yet in absolute perfection.
- **We still struggle with:**
  - Sin; Weakness; Ignorance; Imperfect obedience
  - But.... Where the gospel shines:
    - Hearts are transformed; Sinners know God; Grace changes lives; The Spirit teaches believers;