



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

A NEW COVENANT **Part 2**

HEBREWS 8:7-12



BIBLE STUDY



Pastor
MIKE HOLLOWAY

Hebrews 8:11-13

- *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."*
- 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.

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

- 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;

Old Testament Reference for Hebrews 8:13

- Hebrews 8:13 concludes the quotation of Jeremiah 31:31–34 and functions as the theological hammer strike of the chapter.
- The point is not merely that there is a New Covenant—but that the announcement of a New Covenant marked the first covenant as old.

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.

- How can the Old Covenant be **“Made Obsolete”**, but at the same time be **“Becoming”** Obsolete?

The Definitive Legal Fact: *PePalaiōken* (πεπαλαίωκεν)

- The phrase "He has made the first obsolete" uses the Greek verb *palaiōō* (meaning to make old, declare worn out, or abrogate). Critically, it is in the **Perfect Active Indicative** tense.
- In Greek, the perfect tense denotes an action that was **completed in the past**, but has **ongoing, permanent effects in the present**.
- legally and spiritually, the moment God announced a "New Covenant", He signed the death warrant of the first one. Christ's death and resurrection legally sealed it. The verdict is final; it is obsolete.

The Experiential Reality: Palaioumenon (παλαιούμενον)

- Immediately after, the author shifts gears to describe how this looks on the ground: "Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old..."
- Here, the author uses a **Present Passive Participle** (palaioumenon) alongside another present participle (gēraskon, "aging/growing senescent").

The Experiential Reality: Palaioumenon (παλαιούμενον)

- The present tense in Greek emphasizes **continuous, ongoing action happening right now.**
- While the legal status of the covenant was ancient history, the practical machinery of the Old Covenant was still actively running when Hebrews was written.

Resolving the Tension: The "Already but Not Yet"

- So, was it obsolete or not? Legally, yes. Practically, not quite.
- The author of Hebrews is operating in a theological reality often called the "Already but Not Yet." Think of it like a business or political regime change:

- **The Analogy:** A corporate merger is legally finalized on Monday morning (Perfect Tense—it is a done deal).
- The old company is technically obsolete, but shutting down operations may take time.
- The author writes to a community of Jewish Christians who are being tempted to shrink back into the safety of their old traditions.
- The author's argument is: "Why would you go back to a system that God has already legally deactivated, and which is visually falling apart before your eyes?"

The Historical Clue: "Ready to Vanish"

- The final phrase of the verse gives us a massive historical anchor: **"is ready to vanish away"** (engys aphanismou — literally, "near to disappearance/obliteration").
- The author uses the word engys ("near" or "at hand"). This strongly indicates that **the temple in Jerusalem was still standing** when Hebrews was written.