

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #5, Chapter 8:10-13**

1. In your own words summarize Hebrews 8:1-9.
2. The author of Hebrews continues to quote verbatim from Jer. 31:31-34 as he writes Hebrews Chapter 8. In verse 10 God declares, “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days.” In verse 10, what days is God referring to? See verses 8-9.
3. Verse 10 reveals some of the features of the new covenant. What are they?
4. What do you learn from the verses to follow about the Word of God being in our minds and hearts? See Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Jn. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 3:3, 12-18; Phil. 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Pet. 1:23.
5. What are some of the daily benefits of having God’s law inscribed into your heart and mind as a member of the new covenant?
6. Not only does God intend to write His law upon our minds and hearts, what else does He intend? See verse 10.

7. Read about God's desire to create a people who are His! What do you learn from Jer. 24:6-7; 32:36-42; Ezek. 37:21-28?
  
8. How can we as New Testament believers (and many of us Gentiles) apply these new covenant promises to ourselves, when they were specifically given to the Israelites? That question can be answered in different ways. The quickest and easiest answer is because the New Testament authors, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applied Jer. 31:33 to the early church (and by extension, to us). It is clear from the context that the author of Hebrews applies the promises of Jeremiah 31 to us as well. Read 2 Cor. 6:16 where Paul does the same thing.
  - a. Another facet to understand is the promises of God given specifically to Israel were also applied to any Gentile who placed their faith in the one true God. Those early Gentile believers were brought into Abraham's family by faith. Rahab (Josh. 2:1; 6:25; Matt. 1:5; Heb. 11:31) and Ruth (Ruth 1:4; Matt. 1:5) are prominent examples, while the names and stories of others who believed are scattered through the pages of Scripture. Can you think of any others? Be sure to include verse references with your answer.
  
  - b. Along those same lines, we remember that God called *the Israelites* to be His own possession, though He did not reject the Gentiles who came to Him by faith. During the Old Testament times, there was a *remnant* of Gentile believers who placed their faith in the one true God. Then during New Testament times after the early church was formed, it was primarily the Gentiles who were turning to Christ in faith. Yet, God has still provided a *remnant* of *believing* Jews who placed their faith in Jesus Christ. What do you learn from Rom. 9:8; 11:5-7, 25-27?
  
  - c. What do you learn from Gal. 3:6-9, 14, 22, 26-29 as it pertains to this issue of who the new covenant applies to?

9. Closely examine verse 10 to see what you need to do to maintain this covenant. What do you find?
  
10. What do you find when you examine the following verses about the work of God? See Acts 16:14; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 2:4-10; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-6.
  
11. How does understanding the work God does to keep you “His” encourage and motivate you?
  
12. What does verse 11 say we won’t need to do? Why (verse 11)?
  
13. Why won’t that teaching be necessary? See verse 10; Jer. 24:7; Jn. 14:17, 26; 17:3.
  
14. What are the distinctives of those who know the Lord versus those who don’t from the following verses? See Jer. 4:22; 9:3, 6, 23-24; John 6:45; 10:14-15; 1 Jn. 5:20.
  
15. It is significant to note that the word *know* is used twice in verse 11, but two different Greek words are used.

- a. The first *know* in the verse (the Greek word “ginosko”) means “to know” as in the sense of commending God to one who is ignorant of Him, like learning to recognize a stranger.
  - b. The second *know* in the verse is the Greek word “oida.” This word indicates an absolute acquaintance or relationship with God because one is born under His covenant.
  - c. Rewrite verse 11 in your own words while including the two different definitions for the word “know.”
16. The end of verse 11 states that “all shall know Me.” Who are the “all” in that statement? See verse 10.
17. From Moses (Ex. 33:13) to Paul (Phil. 3:10) the great desire of all believers is to know the God who redeemed them. Read the following verses to spur your thinking, then write your own prayer expressing your desire to know God better: Ex. 33:13; John 14:21; Gal. 4:4-9; Phil. 3:7-11.
18. The very last phrase of verse 11 explains just who will come to know God. Who is that? The following verses help explain what that phrase means: 1 Chron. 12:14; 2 Chron. 34:30; Jer. 6:13; Jonah 3:5.
19. Verse 12 reveals another amazing aspect of the new covenant. What is it?

20. F. F. Bruce in his commentary on this verse states, “For the Hebrew, ‘remembering’ was more than a mental effort; it carried with it the thought of doing something to the advantage, or disadvantage, of the person remembered.”<sup>1</sup> God, being perfect, does not forget anything, yet something happened that caused Him to “forget” our sins so He could do good to us. What was that? See Heb. 9:11-15 and Col. 1:21-22.
  
21. What an incredibly encouraging feature of the new covenant this is! What are some practical ways this truth has affected your everyday life?
  
22. What do you learn about the old and new covenants in verse 13?
  
23. What do you learn from the following verses about the relationship between the old and new covenants (law and grace)? See 2 Cor. 3:7-11; Gal. 3:21-25; Heb. 7:18-19; 8:6.

Praise be to God, who gave to Jesus Christ a more excellent ministry as the mediator of the better covenant (Heb. 8:6)! The love of God is greater and deeper than we can comprehend. That He would choose to love those who were His enemies is mysterious and humbling.

Psalm 13:5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalm 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Lamentations 3:22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.

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<sup>1</sup>Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews, Revised*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, 1990), 194.