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Hebrews, Chapter 8

Two covenants

This chapter covers an overview of the differences between the old and new covenants. Both covenants relate to the law. Therefore it is important to understand the differences, and especially how we are to relate to the law today. *The Lord swore, and will not change, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek;" (Psalm 110:4), by so much Jesus has become surety of a better covenant, Heb 7:21-22.*

Read Hebrews 8:1-2:

1. To the right of whose throne is Jesus sitting, and what does it imply? Mk 16:19; Rv 3:21; Mt 26:64
2. What does the *true tabernacle* represent that the Lord set up and not man? 2Cor 5:1-2; 2Cor 6:16; Jn 2:18-22

Read Hebrews 8:3-5:

3. What is meant by the Levitical priesthood serves as an example and shadow of heavenly things? Heb 10:1; 12:24-25; Jn 3:12; Jam 1:17-18

Read Hebrews 8:6-9:

4. Jesus is mediator of the new covenant. What does the Bible say about the job of a mediator, past and present? Gal 3:19-20; 1Tim 2:5

5. What was the first/old covenant? Dt 4:13; 5:1-22; Ex 24:7; 2Ki 23:21

6. What was the fault with the first covenant - the covenant or the people? Heb 9:9

Read Hebrews 8:10-13:

7. If the old covenant, the law, is obsolete and ready to disappear, why does the new covenant say that the law will be written in the heart? Mt 5:17-18

8. What does it mean to write the law in the mind and heart? Heb 8:10; 1Cor 2:12-16; Php 2:5; Rom 7:6-14

9. If we are not learning from our neighbor and brethren, then who is teaching us? 1Jn 2:27.

1a. {There are many scriptures that use the phrase ‘right hand’ figuratively referring *strength* as Ps 20:6, but also *righteousness*, Ps 48:10; Isa 41:10 & *being saved by*, Ps 60:5. In a prophecy of Isaiah, the Messiah is referred to as *the arm of the Lord*, Isa 53:1. Sinners are referred to as having a right hand full of bribes, Ps 26:9-10, which can be both literal and also a figure of *false works, or teachings*.}

2a. {It is another way of saying that the old way fleshly way of thinking will be replaced by a new heavenly way of thinking, Eph 4:22-24; Isa 55:7-9. And all will receive new physical tabernacles in the resurrection, 1Cor 15:42-44. Verse 2: A minister of the sanctuary ^{g39} or *holy places*.}

3a. {Think of the shadow of a person - does it reveal how tall or details of what the person looks like? It is not the very image of the person.}

4a. {From Galatians it can be seen that Son of God was involved in setting in order the old as well as the new covenant. A person cannot be a mediator between himself & another - proof that the Father & Son are separate individuals.}

5a. {Besides the 10Cs the old covenant included also the feasts, tabernacle & priesthood, Heb 9:1.}

6a. {There is no punctuation in the original. Translators erred when they made Hebrews 8:8 sound like the fault was with the people, contradicting verse 7 & 9:9. The verse should read, *For finding fault, he saith to them...*}

7a. {When Matthew chapters 5-7 are read, it can be seen that Jesus quotes, not only from the ten in stone, but also other parts of the law - i.e. he did not divide the law, nor did he delete any of it. But there was a change of law, Heb 7:12, the law & priesthood are to be translated from earth to heaven in our thinking.}

8a. {Paul used figurative language in Romans 7 to explain his experience with the law. Some words and phrases used figuratively are ‘delivered from the law,’ ‘dead wherein we were held,’ ‘newness of spirit,’ & ‘oldness the letter.’ That is just verse 6: Add verse 7 and: We were delivered from keeping the letter of the law, wherein we were in bondage to the sin-nature (sin-nature is implied by the definite article in front of the word ‘sin.’ In verse 7 he quotes the 10th commandment, and states in verse 8-9: *But [the] sin (nature), taking occasion by the commandment, worked in me all kinds of lust. For apart from (understanding) the law (the act of) sin was dead. For I was alive without (understanding) the law once. But when (understanding of) the commandment came, [the] sin (nature) revived and I died (spiritually)*, MKJV. (Note: either of ‘apart from’ or ‘without’ are ok). Paul was a typical Jew, raised under the law, to keep the letter just the way it reads. Verse 14 says the law is spiritual - i.e. of the Spirit, when understood correctly is written in the mind. Example: Adultery is more than the outward act; it takes place in the mind first. So a person can commit spiritual adultery and never commit the outward act.}

9a. {We are taught by the Holy Spirit directly and through people. The source is always God.}

Note: A synopsis from E. W. Bullinger’s Introduction, speaking of the *figurative language* of the Bible, stated: *...never before has Figurative Language been taken as a subject of Bible study: it is comprehensive, for it embraces the facts and truths which lie at the foundation of the Christian faith, and the principles which are the essence of Protestant truth.* Baker Book House publication of Figures of Speech Used in the Bible, 1992 (originally published in 1898), Introduction, page ix, para 4.

The Figurative language of the Bible involves symbols, idioms, parables, allegories, metaphors and other technical terms that describe writing style, sentence construction and language of the Bible.