

## HEBREWS 3 – A BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 3 speaks directly of Moses. Jesus is better than Moses in every way, but when Scripture speaks of Moses, it goes beyond the man and speaks of the Law that was given to Moses known as the Mosaic Law. The Law was perfect but, sadly, mankind wasn't. The Mosaic law failed miserably in bringing men into a relationship with God because it was "weak through the flesh." However, the Law was never given to save man, it was given to show man his sinfulness to cause him to seek a Savior. The Law was a "schoolmaster to bring us to Christ".

In this study, however, we shall bounce beyond Moses and look at the 5 covenants of Scripture. The 5 covenants are:

- The Noahic Covenant (PROMISE) – Genesis 9:11 "I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth" In this covenant, it is a one way covenant known as a "Royal Grant" covenant, which simply means that it is one sided. God makes the covenant with no requirement upon Noah. Noah had already fulfilled his side in building the ark to save the world. God honors this by a promise to never again destroy civilization by means of a flood.
- The Abrahamic Covenant (BLESSING) – Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" Again, the Abrahamic Covenant is a "Royal Grant" covenant. Abraham was chosen by God from Ur of the Chaldees. He was a pagan, a Chaldean. God chose him from all the people of the earth, not because he was worthy, but because God is Sovereign and can choose as He deems fit and no one can question His royal right to do so. The Abrahamic Covenant, however, would not find its fulfillment in Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or Israel. It would find its fulfillment in the "seed" of Abraham, not "seeds" of Abraham. Jesus would come through the lineage of Abraham, specifically through the line of Judah, and would be the One who would bring the blessing to all the earth.
- The Mosaic Covenant (INSTRUCTION) – Exodus 19:3-6 "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." From here, God would give Moses the Law (far beyond the 10 commandments) that would give the Israelites instruction as to the will of God, the desire of God, the accessible blessing

of God, and how to attain the blessing. Israel, like Adam before them, like all of mankind after them, failed to live up to their end of the bargain. This covenant is known as a Suzerian Vassal covenant which simply means that there are two or more people who enter into a covenant together and each have to live up to their end of the covenant. In this case Moses and the Israelites were called to obedience. If they obeyed, God would obligate Himself to blessing them with the blessings of the earth. If they refused, God would send cursing. We know the story of disobedience and the sufferings that followed.

- The Davidic Covenant (Royal Authority and Rule – Future) – II Samuel 7:12-17 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.” This is a Royal Grant blessing. God promises David that his throne will be perpetual, that one day his Descendant would sit upon the throne forever. As we know, David and all of his descendants following died, none fulfilled the covenant, but a covenant from God is binding which means it isn’t over until it is fulfilled. Consequently, this covenant is yet future. The unfulfilled aspect of this covenant is the very reason that the Jews reject Christ as the Messiah. In their minds, He died, and by dying He cannot be the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant for He does not reign over all the earth. The thing they do not realize is the second coming of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- The New Covenant (Salvation) – Jeremiah 31:31-34 “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— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” This is a yet future covenant blessing that culminates with the Millennial Reign of Christ and the future kingdom of God. We are still in the age of knowing, the age where we are in need of people to teach one another, but there is a day coming when the law of God will be written in our hearts and the capacity to fulfill the law will be concreted into our very essence.

## HOW IS CHRIST BETTER?

- The Noahic Law – Christ is far better than Noah.
  1. Noah's preaching was largely ignored and scoffed at by the people. Christ's message has been accepted by billions.
  2. Noah built an ark to save his household and two of every unclean beast and seven of every clean beast. Jesus is an Ark into which every household on earth can enter by faith.
  3. Noah's salvation was temporal. Everyone he saved died. Jesus's salvation is eternal. Everyone He saves will live forever with God.
  4. When Noah departed the ark, he offered a sacrifice to God which would be followed by millions more. Jesus is the final Sacrifice, no other needed.
  5. God's promise was not to destroy the earth again by a flood. Through Christ, God promises to save the world.
- The Abrahamic Covenant – Christ is better than Abraham.
  1. Abraham came from Ur of the Chaldees. Jesus came from heaven.
  2. Abraham and, through him, all his offspring, gave a tithe of all to Melchizedek. Christ is the One to which all offerings and tithes are presented. (We will touch this more in depth when we get into the Levitical priesthood).
  3. Abraham was blessed despite his sin and faithlessness. Christ is sinless and faithful.
  4. The Abrahamic Covenant was not fulfilled in his day or in the day of any of his direct descendants. It would not be fulfilled until Christ came through his lineage hundreds of years later.
  5. Abraham was known in his region of the earth. Christ is known throughout the earth.
  6. Abraham died with two sons. Jesus has billions of sons and daughters.
  7. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God sacrificed His Son, Jesus.
- The Mosaic Covenant – Christ is better than Moses.
  1. Moses was chosen of God to deliver Israel from bondage. God chose Jesus to deliver "all the nations of the earth" from eternal hell.
  2. Moses' Law could not save. Christ saves to the uttermost those who come to Him.
  3. Moses' Law is weak through the flesh. Christ's Law is written on the heart and fulfilled through the Spirit.
  4. Moses could not lead his people to the promised rest. Jesus is the Rest for the people of God.
- The Davidic Covenant – Christ is better than David.
  1. David was a warring King. Jesus is the King of Peace.
  2. David and his direct offspring failed to hold on to the throne. Jesus will set upon the throne forever.

3. David's kingdom was Israel. Christ will be established as King of kings and Lord of lords.
  4. David's kingdom was divided. Christ breaks down the middle walls of partition between warring factions.
  5. David succumbed to sin. Christ defeated sin.
  6. David's grave is still occupied, as is Noah's, Abraham's, and Moses'. Jesus grave is empty.
  7. David bows at the feet of Jesus.
- The New Covenant – Christ is the fulfillment of all the covenants before Him.
    1. Jesus did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, He came not to destroy but to fulfill.
    2. Christ is the culmination of all the hope that resided in all the prior covenants.
    3. All the covenants are written. Christ is the Word.
    4. The covenants before Christ were never fully established until Christ came. Then He took them to their intended purpose.
    5. In His first advent, Christ fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant. Surely, no person with eyes to see can argue that all the nations of the earth are blessed because of Christ.
    6. In His first advent, Christ fulfilled the Mosaic covenant. The instruction that had been written on tables of stone were now written on the heart. Through His death, resurrection, ascension, and sending of His Spirit to indwell His people, Christ made it possible for the Law to be fulfilled through the Spirit (Romans 8:1-5). The blessing is now a result of forgiveness of sin and righteousness being imparted to all who believe. It is no longer a result of our worthiness or conduct.
    7. In His first advent, Christ fulfilled the purpose of the Noahic covenant, for through Christ, salvation is now possible to all.
    8. In His second coming, Christ will fulfill the Davidic covenant as King of kings. He will rule and reign on the earth and then a new heaven and earth will be established where He will sit upon the throne forever.
    9. In the New Covenant, we will “know as we are known”. We will no longer be looking through a darkened glass, but we will be with Him face to face.
    10. In the New Covenant, everything will be perfected. Paradise lost will be paradise regained.