

OUR NEW LIFE IN THE NEW COVENANT

THE MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY OF OUR HIGH PRIEST JESUS SON OF GOD



joy

As we pay much closer attention to what we have heard concerning our great salvation and live the new life of the new covenant ...

- **Our joy will be inexpressible and full of glory,**
- **Our hope will abound by the power of the Holy Spirit,**
- **Our love for God will be filled to overflowing by the Spirit,**
- **Our faith will grow exponentially,**
- **Our experience of the blessing of God will abound as never before.**

1. Our high priest ministers life to us through the new covenant as our sitting King/Priest, 8:1.

- (Hebrews 8:1 LSB) Now the main point in what is being said is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.
- A. Jesus Son of God finished his sacrificial work and sat down at the highest place of authority.
- B. From there he ministers as our high priest forever.
- C. One of his ministries is as our advocate.
- (1 John 2:1–2 LSB) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

2. Our high priest ministers in the holy places in the true tabernacle, 8:2-5.

- (Hebrews 8:2–5 LSB) A minister in the holy places and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."
- A. Our high priest ministers in the full reality of the holy places and in the true tabernacle that is not made with hands.
- (Hebrews 9:11 LSB) But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation.
- B. He did not qualify as an earthly priest to offer a sacrifice in a system that was only a copy, a shadow, of the holy places and the true tabernacle in heaven.
- C. The copy/shadow was made according to the divine blueprint that served the purpose of pointing ahead to the reality of the heavenly things.

3. Our high priest ministers in the more excellent ministry that he has obtained, 8:6-7.

- (Hebrews 8:6–7 LSB) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.
- A. Our high priest has obtained an infinitely more superior ministry as the mediator of a better covenant.
- B. The better covenant has been enacted on better promises—the “I wills” of God.
- Enacted ... νομοθετέω [nomotheteo] ... to be legislated; to establish by legal and authoritative act; specifically to make into law; to put something into action, especially to make something law; to establish by law; ordain or decree.
- C. The better covenant was needed because the first covenant was not faultless.

4. Our high priest is the mediator of the new covenant, 8:8-9.

- (Hebrews 8:8–9 LSB) For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL COMPLETE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; 9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.
- A. Through the prophet Jeremiah God prophesied the day when he would complete a new covenant.
- B. The new covenant would not be like the old covenant God had with their fathers when he brought them out of Egypt.
- C. The new covenant would not have the faults of human sinfulness whereby even though God led them by the hand they did not continue in the covenant.
- D. The old covenant where God set life and death before Israel was bilateral in that it required their love and obedience to Yahweh to receive the blessing of Yahweh.
- (Deuteronomy 30:15–19a LSB) See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and calamity; 16 in that I am commanding you today to love Yahweh your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His

commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that Yahweh your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not listen, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.

5. The new covenant would be a unilateral covenant based on the sovereign will and promises of God, 8:10-12.

- (Hebrews 8:10–12 LSB) 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 INTO THEIR MINDS, AND UPON THEIR HEARTS I WILL WRITE THEM. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 11 “AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’ FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. 12 “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”

A. From his position of power, wisdom and authority God promised to make a new covenant based on his sovereign grace—“I will make”.

B. Here are the terms of the new covenant.

I. I will put my laws into their minds.

II. I will write my laws upon their hearts.

III. I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The true people of God know God as their God and do not need to be taught by others or directed to know the Lord, for they will all know him because of their new heart and mind.

- (John 10:25–28a LSB) Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them.

IV. I will be merciful to their iniquities.

V. I will remember their sins no more.

- (Micah 7:18–20 LSB) Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity And passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? He does not hold fast to His anger forever Because He delights in lovingkindness. 19 He will again have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities. And You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And lovingkindness to Abraham, Which You swore to our fathers From the days of old.

6. The Lord made and enacted the new covenant for the sake of his holy name.

A. The Lord will prove the holiness of his name by his work in their lives through the new covenant.

- (Ezekiel 36:22–27 LSB) Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says Lord Yahweh, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations, to which you have come. 23 I will prove the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am Yahweh,” declares Lord Yahweh, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. 24 And I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. 25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. 26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments.”

B. He gives the people of the new covenant a new heart and puts a new spirit within.

- (Romans 8:14, 15 LSB) For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ... The Spirit Himself testifies with our [new] spirit that we are children of God.

C. Those who forgive as God forgives reveal possession of the new heart and the new spirit of the new covenant and do not grieve the Holy Spirit.

- (Ephesians 4:30–32 LSB) And do not grieve

the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and shouting and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 **Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you.**

- (Colossians 3:12–13 LSB) So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; 13 bearing with one another, **and graciously forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone, **just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you.**

7. The new covenant is so efficacious and of such glory as to make the old covenant obsolete, 8:13.

- (Hebrews 8:13 LSB) When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Efficacious: successful in producing a desired or intended result; yielding the intended effect.

A. The glory of the new covenant so surpasses the glory of the old covenant as to make it as if it has no glory.

- (2 Corinthians 3:5–11 LSB) Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, **but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant**, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 **But if the ministry of death**, in letters having been engraved on stones, **came with glory**, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which was being brought to an end, 8 **how will the ministry of the Spirit not be even more in glory?** 9 **For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.** 10 **For indeed what had been glorious, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.** 11 For if that which was being brought to an end was with glory, **much more that which remains is in**

glory.

B. When the new covenant is fully enacted in the millennial kingdom the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh.

- (Habakkuk 2:14 LSB) For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, As the waters cover the sea.

C. Those who live in the new covenant live in the light.

- (John 3:21 LSB) **But he who practices the truth comes to the Light**, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been done by God.

D. Those who live in the new covenant know that the true light is already shining and that this world and its darkness are passing away.

- (2 Corinthians 5:17 LSB) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **the old things passed away**; behold, new things have come.
- (Isaiah 65:17 LSB) For behold, I am creating a new heavens and a new earth; **And the former things will not be remembered or come upon the heart.**
- (1 John 2:8 LSB) On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, **because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.**
- (1 John 2:17 LSB) **And the world is passing away**, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.
- (Ephesians 5:6–8 LSB) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them, 8 for you were formerly darkness, **but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.**

- (Romans 15:13 LSB) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.