

The New Covenant; Hebrews 8:6-7

- I. Promises and Covenants
 - a. "Cross my heart and hope to die"
 - b. "Pinky promise"
 - c. The promise to Abram
 - i. Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - ii. The end of chapter 11 is our introduction to Abram (Abraham)
 1. We are given his lineage
 2. We are told who his wife is
 3. We are told that he left Ur and went to Haran
 4. In Acts 7:1-2 we are told that God appeared to Abram before he left Ur and gave him this promise we read in Genesis 12:1-3
 5. This is known as the Land, Nation, Seed promise
 6. God gives Abram this promise because He knows that Abram is righteous – through his belief in the promise of his offspring, and through the offering of his son, Isaac.
 - d. The covenant with Abraham
 - i. In Genesis 15, God repeats the promise to Abram, but Abram questions God,
 - ii. Genesis 15:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.
 - iii. So God makes a covenant with Abram – the Hebrew phrase is literally 'to cut a covenant'
 - iv. Today, we would sign a document to make it legally binding – in biblical times they would kill and cut an animal
 - v. The phrases 'cut a deal' or 'strike a bargain' seem to make more sense
 - vi. God confirmed His promise to Abram with this covenant
 - vii. God also gives Abram some details about the promise in verses 12-21
 1. Abram himself would not inherit the land at all, but it would be possessed by his offspring.
 2. Even his seed would not possess the land until the iniquity of the Amorite should have run its course
 3. All ten of the nations of Canaan would, in time, be destroyed and the land repopulated by Israel.
 4. In the 400 years preceding the ultimate possession of the land by Israel, the people would undergo slavery and affliction.

- 5. The nation that would thus subject them would be severely judged.
- 6. The Jews would finally leave the land of their oppression with great wealth.
- 7. The actual boundaries of Israel's ultimate domain were given.
- 8. "In that day God made a covenant..." covers quite a lot of information
- e. Israel ends up slaves in Egypt – God hears their cry of oppression

II. The Mosaic Law

- a. God brought Israel out of Egypt (just like He told Abraham)
- b. He brought Israel to Mount Horeb where Moses first met with God through the burning bush
- c. Moses goes up on the mountain to meet with God and comes down with the commandments
 - i. Exodus 34 is an interesting chapter – it begins with God telling Moses to get two more tablets (to replace the ones he broke)
 - ii. In verse 10 he renews the covenant with Israel – but the next set of commands God gives to Moses are not the same as the original commandments in Exodus 20
 - iii. God does repeat some of them – worshiping only God, no idols, keep the Sabbath, to name a few
 - iv. But He also mentions the 3 feasts that the Israelites are required to go to Jerusalem for – the Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles
 - v. Exodus 34:28 (ESV); ²⁸ So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.
 - vi. The Hebrew is literally translated, "the ten words"
 - vii. Whatever 10 words were on the tablets obviously represent the entire law given to Israel starting in Exodus 20 and finishing in Deuteronomy (all 613 laws)
- d. There is another covenant that God made with Israel – the covenant of blessing and cursing
 - i. Deuteronomy 28:1–6 (ESV); ¹ "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
 - ii. Deuteronomy 28:15–19 (ESV); ¹⁵ "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the

field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

- iii. The covenant of cursing starts in verse 15 and ends at verse 68
 - iv. God details all the things that will happen to Israel if they worship idols – and also details their return from captivity
 - v. This is a separate covenant given to Israel by God
 - vi. Deuteronomy 29:1 (ESV); These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb.
- e. The covenant given to Moses on the mountain was only for Israel, and only for a time
 - f. The Hebrew writer is quoting Jeremiah, who prophesied some 500-600 years before the birth of Jesus
 - g. Hebrews 8:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
 - h. Hebrews 8:13 (ESV); In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

III. The Perfect Law

- a. Paul makes sure that we understand the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 is Jesus, the Christ (Galatians 3:16)
- b. Christ fulfills the Law given to Moses for Israel by becoming the sacrifice that satisfies God’s wrath once for all (time, people, and sin)
- c. Galatians 3:24–29 (ESV); ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.
- d. Jesus Christ nailed the law to the cross (Colossians 2:13-15) enacting the New Covenant

IV. The New Covenant

- a. The purpose of the book of Hebrews is to ensure we know that the New Covenant given to us through Jesus’ sacrifice is so much better than any of the other covenants
- b. That is why Jesus fulfilled them all

- c. We require no other sacrifice
- d. God has kept His promises – what will you do?