



NEW & *The* BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-13

The New & Better Covenant



- The failure to understand the difference, & make the distinction between the Old Covenant & New Covenant is the cause of much confusion & errors in today's religious world!
- This is not just a modern problem but has plagued the church from the beginning - (cf. Romans; Galatians & Hebrews)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1–13 (NKJV)

¹ Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer.

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1–13 (NKJV)

⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*” ⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. ⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1–13 (NKJV)

⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: “*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—⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.* ¹⁰ 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 in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

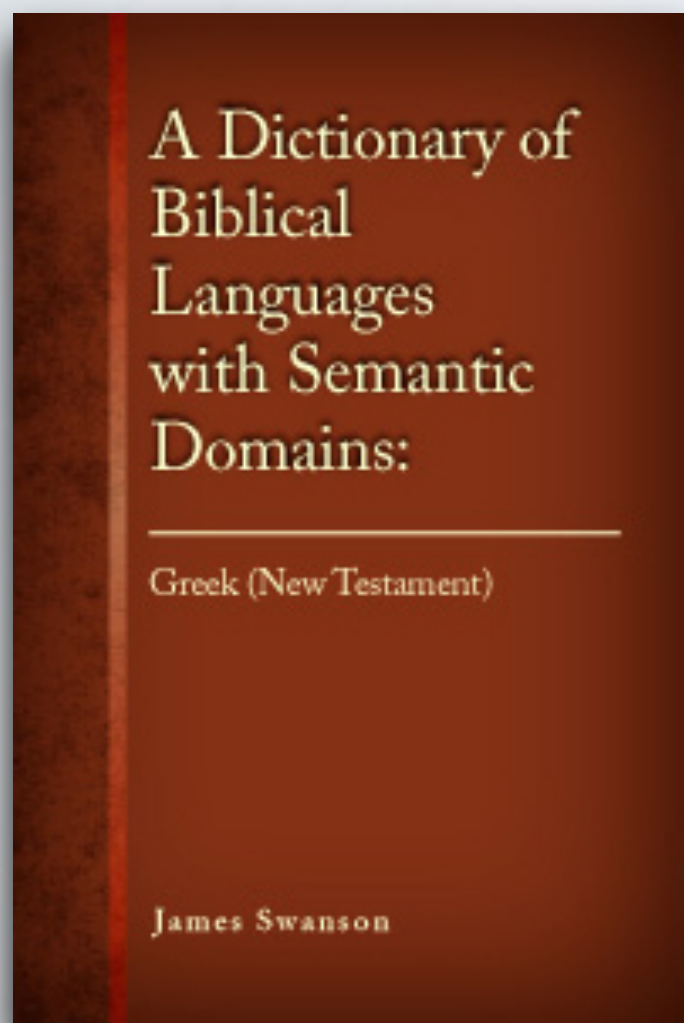
Hebrews 8:1–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ *None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.*

¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* ¹³ In that He says, “*A new covenant,*” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The New & Better Covenant

The Term COVENANT



1347 διαθήκη (*diathēkē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.;
≡ DBLHebr 1382; Str 1242; TDNT 2.106—

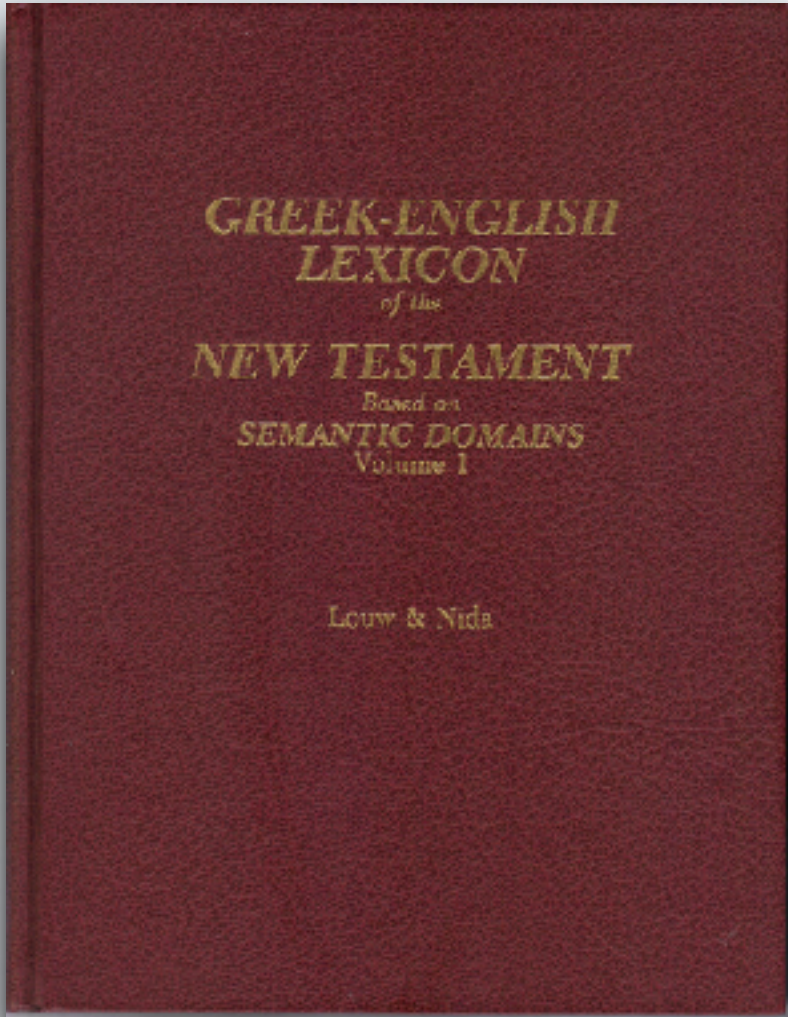
1. LN 34.43 **making of a covenant**, promise in a solemn agreement (Mk 14:24; Lk 1:72; 22:20; Ac 3:25; 7:8; Ro 11:27; 1Co 11:25; 2Co 3:6; Gal 4:24; Eph 2:12; Heb 7:22; 12:24; 13:20);
2. LN 34.44 **covenant**, the content of an agreement between two parties (Gal 3:15);
3. LN 57.124 **testament**, making of a will (Heb 9:16, 17+) -

Swanson, J. (1997). Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The New & Better Covenant

The Term COVENANT

34.44 διαθήκη^b, ης f:
the verbal content of an
agreement between two
persons specifying reciprocal
benefits and responsibilities
—‘covenant, pact.’ ...



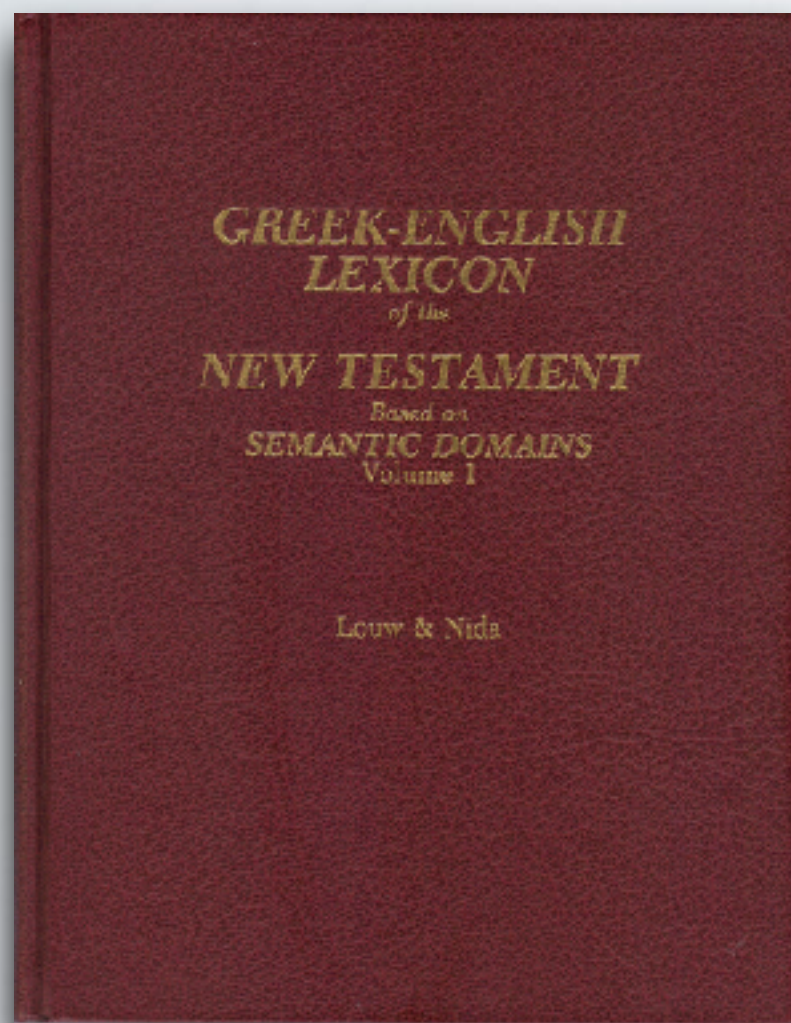
GREEK-ENGLISH
LEXICON
of the
NEW TESTAMENT
Based on
SEMANTIC DOMAINS
Volume 1

Louw & Nida

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.). New York: United Bible Societies.

The New & Better Covenant

The Term COVENANT

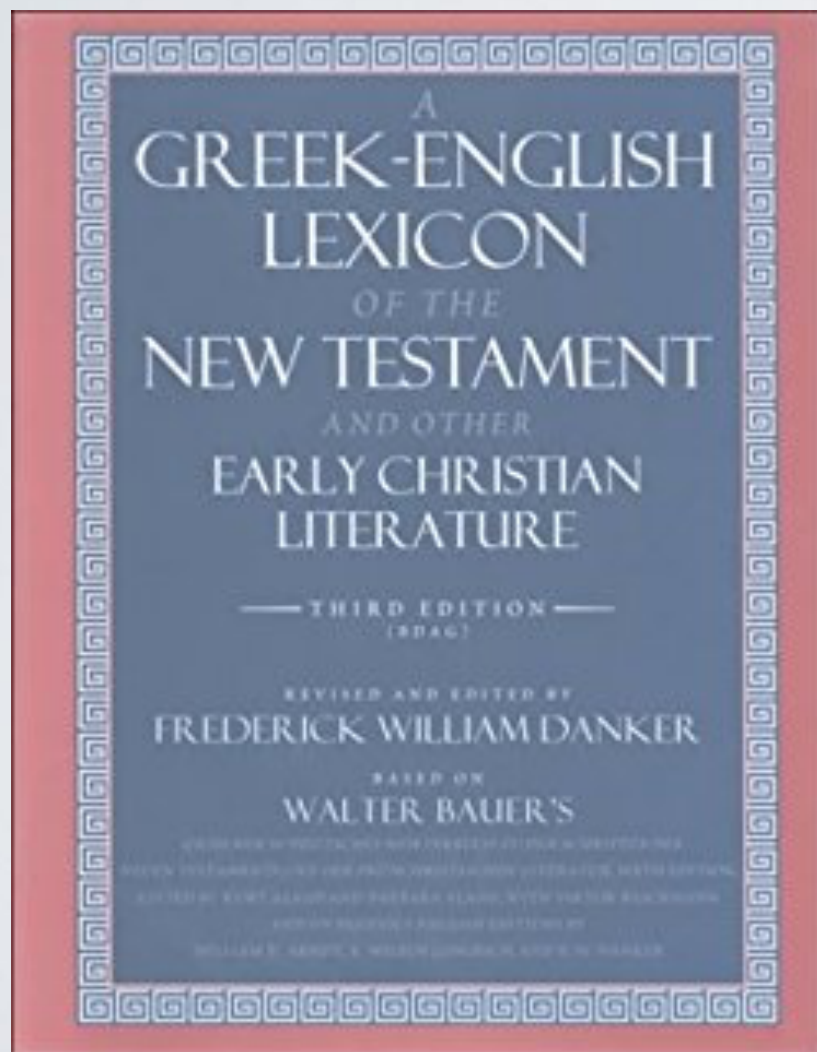


34.44 διαθήκη^b, ης *f*:

... Septuagint translators employed διαθήκη, literally ‘a final will or testament,’ in place of συνθήκη ‘contract, agreement,’ since they evidently wished to emphasize the fact that the initiative for such a covenantal relationship existed with one person rather than being the result of negotiation and compromise.

The New & Better Covenant

The Term COVENANT



BDAG Greek-English Lexicon

διαθήκη

Nevertheless, another essential characteristic of a testament is retained, namely that it is the declaration of one person's initiative, not the result of an agreement **betw.** two parties, like a compact or a contract. This is beyond doubt one of the main reasons why the **LXX** rendered בְּרִית by δ. In the 'covenants' of God, it was God alone who set the conditions; hence **covenant** (s. **OED s.v.** 'covenant' sb. 7) can be used to **trans.** δ. only when this is kept in mind. So δ. acquires a mng. in **LXX** which cannot be paralleled **w.** certainty in extra-Biblical sources,

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying:” — (8:1)



- **“The principal point”** is now ready to be addressed -
- Based on the fact that Christ is our great high priest, after the order of Melchizedek, - Jesus is worthy to be the minister of a better covenant.

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

Our "High Priest" is at the "right hand of the majesty on high" - (8:1)

Hebrews 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying:

We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

- Jesus is **NOW BOTH** King & Priest after the order of Melchizedek - 8:1; see 7:1; cf. Ge 14:18; Ps 110:4; Zec. 6:13; Col. 3:1; Re. 3:21; 1 Chr 29:23; 1 Ki 2:12; Ac 2:30-36
- Christ's place of supreme authority mentioned 5 times in Hebrews - 1:3, 13; 10:12; 12:2;

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

Jesus is a priest of the “heavenly tabernacle” - (8:2-4)

Hebrews 8:2
(NKJV)

² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

- The work of the priest is to minister in the tabernacle - Ex 28:1,35
- The OT tabernacle was a transitory structure - The “true tabernacle” on the other hand is of divine origin and is perfect for its purpose. It is eternal and unshakeable in the heavens. (9:8, 11,12, 23-25)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

Jesus is a priest of the “heavenly tabernacle” - (8:2-4)

Hebrews 8:3
(NKJV)

³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices.

Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer.

- The primary role of a priest is to offer sacrifices at an altar. Jesus has a sacrifice & an altar upon which to offer gifts (9:11-15).
- ◆ “*but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption*” - 9:12

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

Jesus is a priest of the “heavenly tabernacle” - (8:2-4)

Hebrews 8:4
(NKJV)

4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

- Jesus could not have been a priest on earth according to the Law - (Heb 7:13, 14)
- Priests were still serving according to the Law, which was merely a shadow of the heavenly things - (5)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

The Old Covenant A MERE Shadow of Better Things To Come

Hebrews 8:5 (NKJV)

⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*”

- Jesus could not have been a priest on earth according to the Law - (Heb 7:13, 14)
- Priest were still serving according to the Law, which was merely a shadow of the heavenly things - (5)
- It was important for the things which constituted the “SHADOW” be made according to the pattern God gave - (5)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

Christ Is Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:1-6

The Ministry of Jesus & What He Provides Is FAR SUPERIOR

Hebrews 8:6
(NKJV)

⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

- Christ Has A More Excellent Ministry - Heb 9:11, 24-28
- Christ is “Mediator of a better Covenant” — (because of Him) — 1:1,2; 12:24; 1 Tim 2:5
- The N.C. is Established on Better Promises — (The 1st covenant emphasized the land, national & earthly promises - - (types & shadows) - (Deut 28:1-14)

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- The better promises of the better covenant denotes the whole system of salvation by faith in Christ -
 - ◆ All spiritual blessings - Eph 1:3;
 - ◆ Adoption / acceptance - Eph 1:5,6
 - ◆ forgiveness; redemption - Eph 1:7
 - ◆ New body - Phil 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:20ff
 - ◆ New home - Jn 14:1-6; Col. 1:5
 - ◆ Eternal life - John 3:16

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The OLD COVENANT Had “Fault”

Hebrews 8:7
(NKJV)

7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

- The Law of Moses Could Not Take Away Sin - (8:7)
- It could not accomplish, (by design), what man needed most - the forgiveness of sin & peace with God - (10:1-4; Gal 3:10-14; Rom 7)
- The Law emphasized the sinfulness of sin, (Rom 7:7,13), & pointed to the need for a new & better covenant - Rom 8:3; Gal 21-25; Jer 31:31-34)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The New Covenant Was Promised By God - (8:8)

Hebrews 8:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: “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—

- Heb 8:8-12 quotes Jer 31:31-34, (Heb 10:16,17)
- The New Covenant was not contrary to the Law of Moses, or God’s promise to Abraham - (Gal 3:15-18)
- The Law was given because of transgressions until the Seed should come to prepare the way for the NC - (Gal 3:19-25)

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- The second, (N.C.) fulfilled the spiritual element of God's promise to Abraham - (Gal 3:26-29)
- “**House**” God's people are united under this NC - (vs. 10), Seeing this NC as a spiritual covenant, we should recognize the people (Israel & Judah), as God's spiritual people - (Gal 6:16; 3:7-9, 28; Rom 2:28; 9:6-8; Phil 3:3; 1 Pet 2:5-9)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The New Covenant is different - (8:9)

Hebrews 8:9 (NKJV)
⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

- The Hebrew writer is contrasting two covenants, or arrangements, through which His requirements & blessings have been made known to mankind.
- The NC is NOT according to the OC given at Sinai - (Ex. 19:5,6; 24:3,7; 32:8; Jer 2:5-13)

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- The first Covenant was largely carnal in that it was entered via physical birth, with accompanying physical promises, ...
- Whereas the NC is entered by a spiritual birth, (Jn 3:3-5; 1 Pet 1:22,23), emphasizing spiritual service, (Jn 4:24,25; Ro 2:28,29; 2 Cor 3:3,7,8; Jam 1:18-21) & spiritual promises (Heb 4:9; 9:6-15; Eph 1:3)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The New Covenant is different - (8:9)

OLD COVENANT

A shadow (Col. 2:14-17)

Came by Moses – John 1:17

Written in stone – Jer 31:33

Leads to death – 2 Cor. 3:6

Enslaves to sin - Gal 5:1

Demanded perfect law keeping –
Gal 3:10

NEW COVENANT

The reality (Heb. 10:1-18)

Came by Jesus – John 1:17

Written on the heart – Jer 31:33

Leads to life – 2 Cor. 3:6

Makes man free from sin -
John 8:32. 36

Demands Faith = humble
obedience – Rom 6:16-17

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

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Main Differences:

	Subjects	Where the Law is written	The Resulting Relationship
OC	<i>Fleshly Israel — Deut 7:6</i>	<i>Stone / (FLESH) - Ex. 24:12; 34:1; 2 Cor. 3:7;</i>	<i>National / Separate from other nations — Ex 19:5-6; etc</i>
NC	<i>Spiritual Israel — Rom 2:28</i>	<i>Hearts / (MINDS) — Heb 8:10; 10:16; Rom 6:17; 12:1,2</i>	<i>Spiritual / Separate from the world / from sin — 2 Cor. 6:14</i>

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The N.C. Prompts Inner / Spiritual Response- 8:10

Hebrews 8:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 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 in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

- “After those days” = the last days - the time which began at Pentecost & continues till Jesus returns in judgment - (Heb 1:1,2; Deut 18:15; Is 2:1; Acts 2:16-21)
- The first covenant was written on stones, Ex. 24:4,7; 34:1,27; 2 Cor 3:7 - Under the NC, one's obedience will be from the heart, (Rom 6:16-18; 1 Pet 1:22,23; 1 John 4:8-11)

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What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The N.C. Prompts Inner / Spiritual Response- 8:10

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¹⁰ 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 in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

- This does NOT mean hypocritical obedience under the OC system accepted. - (Deut 30:6; 10:16; Lev 26:41; Jer 4:4)
- In the NC sonship is chosen & attained through believing from the heart - emphasizes FAITH, HOPE & LOVE - (Jn 1:13; 3:3-5; 8:31,32; 14:23; Rom 6:3-6, 16-18; Gal 3:26-29; 2 Cor. 5:14,15; 1 Cor. 13).

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

Faith is necessary unto sonship - 8:11

Hebrews 8:11
(NKJV)

11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

- One does not automatically enter into this new covenant relationship with God by virtue of his natural birth - (Like OC Rom. 4:1)
- All who are in God's kingdom will know Him because knowledge is a prerequisite of faith, & faith is a prerequisite of sonship - (Heb 11:6; Gal 3:26,27; Rom 10:14-17).

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

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11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

- Spiritual birth is by choice, not inheritance — (Luke 8:11-15)
- ◆ Whether Jew or Gentile, one can become a child of God through being born again of water & the Spirit - Jn 3:3-5; 1 Pet 1:22,23
- ◆ God is NOT a respecter of persons - Acts 10:34,35; 15:14-18; Rom 2:5-11
- ◆ The distinction is faith - not flesh! - Rom 4; Gal 3:10-29

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The N.C. Reveals God's System of Grace - 8:12,13

Hebrews 8:12
(NKJV)

*¹² For I will be
merciful to their
unrighteousness, and
their sins and their
lawless deeds I will
remember no
more.”*

- The Law (first covenant) demanded justice - payment for sin - (WORKS) Lev 20; & was against us - Col. 2:14; 2 Cor 3:7; Rom. 7; Gal 3:10
- Under the New Covenant - absolute forgiveness is made available to sinners - (GRACE) - (Heb 10:16,17; Acts 13:37,38; Ro. 11:27; Ep. 1:7; 2:1-10; Col. 1:14; 1 Jno. 1:7-9; 2:1, 2; Re. 1:5.).

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

What Makes The N.C. BETTER? — 8:7-13

The N.C. Reveals God's System of Grace - 8:12,13

Hebrews 8:13
(NKJV)

¹³ In that He says,
“*A new* covenant,”
He has made the
first obsolete. Now
what is becoming
obsolete and
growing old is ready
to vanish away.

- The first covenant was both spiritual & civil - the spiritual element had already been nailed to the cross, (Col. 2:14). The civil aspect would be divinely removed in 70 AD; Mat 24
- There is absolutely no aspect of the first covenant in force today - (Gal 2:21; 3:10,11; 5:1-4).

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

The Greatest Story Ever Told

God's Gift of SALVATION In Christ His SON!



- The first covenant pointed to, foreshadowed, & led us to Christ in many ways! - (Jn 5:46; Dt 18:18,19; Gal 3:23-25; Heb 10:1; Col. 2:17)
- Prophets looked forward to this time & longed to see it - (1 Pet 1:10-12).
- God's gift of salvation ONLY possible in Christ - GRACE - (Eph 2:8-10; Rom 5:8)

The NEW & BETTER COVENANT

The Greatest Story Ever Told

God's Gift of **SALVATION** In Christ His **SON**!



- Being under the New Covenant (grace) does NOT mean you do not HAVE to obey God - (Heb 10:26-31; 12:22-25; Rom. 6:1; Gal. 3:1; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; John 12:48)
- The N.C. provides real, actual, present salvation in Christ — Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6; 10:4-17; Col. 2:11-13; Gal 3:26-29
- AND the promise of eternal LIFE WITH our Lord — Titus 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:4; Col. 1:5



NEW & *The* BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-13

Are you a child of God by FAITH? —
Gal 3:26-29; Acts 22:16

NEW & *The* BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-13

Charts by Don McClain

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2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-11 (NKJV)

⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the 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, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away,

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-11 (NKJV)

⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious.