Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

22 March 2015 Message 6 of 12

NLT 40 Minutes

**Better than the Old Covenant**

Title

***Hebrews 8***

**Topic:** Intimacy

**Subject:** How is the new covenant better than the old?

**Complement:** Our better priest gives us a better relationship with God.

**Purpose:** The listeners will trust that knowing Jesus is better than anything else d.

**Meditation:**

**Reading:**

**Song:**

# Introduction

### Interest: We understand the difference between various types of relationships.

In circle

### Need: Do you have the best possible relationship ever? Different relationships stem from different commitments we make to various people.

Networks

#### When we make a new agreement to a new boss, our agreement to our old employer no long holds any effect.

X on old agreement

#### To some extent, dating is a commitment, though at a lower level.

Dating

#### But when we get married, our spouse becomes our first priority in human relationships because we have made a covenant—a binding agreement—with our spouse.

Marriage Covenant

##### I read a quote this week: “It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.” Do you agree?

Quote

##### What will keep marriage vibrant for the long haul? Nothing more than knowing that you entered a covenant relationship for life. We often don’t feel love, but covenant commitment must continue.

Path

#### The same applies to God’s relationship to us now, as contrasted with his relationship to OT Israel.

Two Covenants

##### Did OT saints have a relationship with God? Yes, of course!

Old Covenant

OT relationship

Old vs. New

##### Godly Jews under the old covenant certainly had a relationship with God, and Christians today do as well.

##### But the nature of these relationships is quite different. Our new covenant with him is much better than the agreement that Israel had with God. But how?

### Subject: How is knowing Jesus better than anything you’ve ever experienced (or ever will experience)?

Subject

### Background: Who were the first readers of this letter to the Hebrews that we’re studying?

Back-ground

Title

#### The Jewish readers had a fantastic foundation in the old covenant.

Foundation

#### Then they embraced the new covenant—in other words, they were believers in Christ—but now were tempted to go back to the old covenant.

Old to New to Old?

#### Yet they still needed to know how this new covenant was better than the old.

New better than old

#### The writer’s goal was for them to be able to press on in their faith with a sense of confidence in the message they had believed and the person whom they had trusted.

Press On!

### Preview: Today we’ll see two ways that knowing Jesus is better than anything you’ve ever experienced (or ever will experience). We will see that, in Christ, we have the best representative before God, and the best possible relationship with God.

Better
• Rep • Rel

### Text: Hebrews 8 gives these two ways that the new covenant is better than the old.

Hebrews 8

(How is the new covenant better than the old?)

# I. Jesus is the best possible representative before God.

MP

 [Christ mediates better than anyone before him.]

## Jesus as High Priest is better than the old priesthood (8:1-5).

SP

### He finished his atoning ministry unlike OT high priests (8:1).

1

#### How is it significant that Christ “sat down” as High Priest in heaven (8:1)?

##### Priests didn’t have a desk job like us. They always worked standing up, so there was no chair in the tabernacle. This lack of a seat indicated that their ministry was never finished.

##### In contrast, after providing redemption, Jesus could sit down—and not sit down just anywhere, but in heaven itself at God’s place of honor—God’s right hand!

#### This means that atonement for our sins is finished. We don’t have to pay the price of our sin since one payment is enough.

### God honored him with ministry in heaven itself (8:2).

2

#### Is there a *part* of heaven that is like the earthly tabernacle—or does “heavenly Tabernacle” refer to *all* of heaven itself (8:2)? It is the latter.

##### The heavenly sanctuary and tabernacle are one and the same—heaven itself.

##### As Hodges notes, “The ‘true tabernacle’ is the heavenly sphere where that service takes place” (BKC).

#### Would you prefer a leader who serves here on earth or one who serves in heaven itself at the very right hand of God? Trust him!

### Earthly high priests were only a shadow of Christ’s heavenly ministry (8:3-5).

SP 3-5

#### What offering did Jesus make as High Priest (8:3)?

3

##### The text doesn’t say explicitly, but it certainly wasn’t the same as the earthly priests who continued to minister at that time when the temple service still continued.

##### Christ’s offering was no less than his own body as the Lamb of God.

#### Why wouldn’t Jesus be a priest if he were on earth (8:4)?

4

##### God follows the laws that he himself has made.

##### God says that no one can be a priest of the old covenant unless he descended from Aaron, while Jesus was in the kingly line of Judah instead.

##### Therefore, Jesus did not qualify as an earthly priest but he did qualify as a priest in the heavenly order of Melchizedek.

#### How was the earthly tabernacle a copy of the heavenly one (8:5)?

5b

5a

##### We make *blueprints* of buildings today—or even a *model* of what the real building will look like. No one actually believes that they can live in these!

##### The common idea of both the copy and heaven itself is the place where God abides. God’s presence hovered over the ark, but that still was a very local presence—a mere example of heaven, where God’s presence fills the place!

## Therefore, Jesus’ new covenant is better than the old covenant (8:6).

6

### A better priesthood indicates a better covenant.

### We often remember Jesus’ ministry at the cross for us—but we think too little of his ongoing, present ministry for us as our High Priest.

### This, of course, means that he represents us before the Father. In fact, he prays for us constantly!

### What covenant does Jesus mediate that is far better than the old (8:6)?

Grudem

#### What is the old and what is the new? Grudem notes that covenants with Abraham and David are never called “old” in the NT.

• Quote

• Tablets
• Dove

#### Instead, “old” only refers to the agreement with Moses at Mount Sinai.

(How else is the new covenant better than the old? In the new covenant…)

Sub

# II. Jesus gives the best possible relationship.

MP

 [God made the most amazing agreement with us in Christ than he did with anyone else.]

## The ways that the new covenant is better than the old makes the old obsolete (8:7-13; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34).

7

Title

### Jesus replaced a faulty covenant with a flawless one (8:7).

#### How was the first covenant flawed (8:7)?

##### God never intended for the old covenant to serve as a universal, perpetual system—it couldn’t, as it was impossible to expect Jews to offer a sacrifice in Jerusalem each time they sinned.

##### Rather, the new covenant is far better as it is not limited in space and time.

#### How could God make something flawed that needed to be replaced?

##### Actually, we do this all the time by making temporary things. We hardly expect anything to last forever—shoes, cars, computers, etc.

##### Being temporary and inferior, the old covenant effectively served its purpose until the arrival of the better covenant. It was like the scaffolding on a building that was designed only for a noble, yet temporary purpose.

### An unbelieving people will be replaced with a believing Israel and Judah (8:8).

• 8

#### Was the new covenant needed due to fault with the old one or fault with the people—or both (8:8a)?

##### Both the old covenant and the people were to blame:

###### The system couldn’t really change people inside.

###### The people refused to follow it as well.

##### What Israel needed was a new agreement with God that was universal, internal and empowered by God for obedience.

#### If the new covenant were made with “Israel and Judah,” then how would it apply to the church (8:8b)?

Heart Bible

##### It is clear that Jesus applied the new covenant to us in the cup of the Lord’s Supper. He refers back to Jer. 31, saying the NC has replaced the OC. The church participates in this covenant though it has never replaced Israel.

Luke 22

##### There are other views on how the new covenant is fulfilled, but this is too technical for now, but I’ll leave these three detailed slides on the website for those who wish to go through them later.

OC ≠ NC
(3 slides)

##### One thing we know is that God gives signs for most covenants. The covenant with Noah has the rainbow as its sign, Abraham received circumcision, the Mosaic covenant is commemorated in the Sabbath sign, etc. The clear sign of the new covenant is the cup of the Lord’s table.

Rainbow

Signs of Covenants

##### God says it *has* to be fulfilled with Israel, so it will.

Flag

##### However, God can do *more* than he promised, and he decided to expand the recipients to include us, too. The drinking of the cup of the new covenant actually alludes to the practice of a bride and groom drinking together at their wedding ceremony. The new covenant means Jesus will marry his bride—us!

Bride

### The Mosaic stone tablets will be replaced with a covenant of minds and hearts (8:9-10a).

10a

9

Heart in Stone

#### How is the new covenant different from the old covenant (8:9)?

How Contrast?

##### The Mosaic Covenant was given only to Israel (“their ancestors,” 8:9) and was designed to be temporary—only until the cross.

Tablets

##### But the new covenant is eternal in its implementation and also available to anyone who believes—Jew and Gentile alike.

Outstretch Arms

#### Paul lists many contrasts between these covenants in 2 Cor. 3 (explain slide).

Chart

### Israel’s idolatry will be replaced with a new relationship with God (8:10b-c).

10b

10c

#### How would God put his law on people’s minds and write it on their hearts (8:10)?

##### This passage doesn’t say how this will happen.

##### Other texts tell us that the Holy Spirit will change us within.

#### The real God of Israel right now certainly isn’t the God of the Bible—but that will change when the nation trusts in Christ.

### Teaching unbelievers to know God will not be needed as everyone on earth will be Christian (8:11).

11

#### When will everyone know the Lord and thus not need to be evangelized (8:11)?

##### This certainly is not today! Right now the world's 7,000+ unreached people groups lack enough followers of Christ and resources to evangelize their own people, but that will totally change in the days to come.

World Map

##### Yes, believers from the least to the greatest know Christ.

Repenting

#### Of course, we still have much to do until everyone in the world is a believer! That’s why we emphasize missions.

### Israel’s wicked nature will be replaced with national forgiveness (8:12).

12

#### Will all of Israel actually be forgiven in the future (8:12)? Yes! This will be the fulfillment of the annual Yom Kippur, or Day of Atonement, that looks each year to the national repentance in Israel.

Shofar

Yom Kippur

#### When did (or when will) the new covenant come into effect—and does it all happen at once or in stages?

Blessings

NC Blessings

##### Four blessings come with the new covenant:

###### Motivation to obey God with His laws in our minds and hearts (8:10a)

###### Relationship with God (8:10b)

###### Knowledge of God (8:11)

###### Forgiveness of sin (8:12)

##### Note that these will all apply to Israel and Judah, too.

###### As such these blessings await full, future fulfillment for Jews at the return of Christ.

###### When “all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:26), the knowledge of God will actually be true of the entire world in the millennium!

### The obsolete old covenant would soon disappear (8:13).

13

#### When was the old covenant rendered obsolete (8:13a)?

Diagram

##### Christ’s death in AD 33 rendered the old sacrificial system unnecessary.

##### It thus became obsolete.

#### How was the old covenant rendered obsolete (8:13b)?

##### It was not designed to last forever, as it was but a shadow.

##### Now that the substance (Christ) has come, the shadow (OT law) is not needed.

#### When was the old covenant to disappear (8:13c)?

##### This letter was written about AD 66-68 during the Jewish Revolt against Rome.

##### The uprising would soon result in the destruction of the temple, putting an end to the sacrificial system in AD 70.

## Don’t emphasize rituals over your relationship with God!

Synagogue

### What does this depict?

### I suspect you thought that this is a church building—but it’s actually a synagogue.

### My point? This passage might relate to you more than you think. We actually can replicate the rituals of Judaism today—and we do it all the time.

• No rituals

#### Even today, Jewish women cannot worship with the men at the Western Wall. Not that there are still no differences between our roles, but sometimes we also prevent Christian women from ministry that the NT allows.

Women

Ark

#### I sometimes wonder if this is why the Second Temple never even had the Ark of the Covenant, which hasn’t been seen since about 600 BC. God was preparing another way of the heart, not of ritual.

Subj

(So how is the new covenant better than the old?)

# Conclusion

MI

MPI

MPII

### Our better priest gives us a better relationship with God (MI).

### The text shows us how the new covenant better than the old (Main Points):

#### Jesus is the best possible representative before God (8:1-5).

#### Jesus gives the best possible relationship (8:7-13).

### Exhortation

#### Do you relate to Jesus as your compassionate, High Priest?

Jesus > Religion

##### The new covenant is about relationship, not religion.

Sun

##### The new covenant is about Jesus, not rituals.

##### The new covenant is about growing in Christ.

Growing in Christ

#### Do you experience a new covenant lifestyle?

Which covenant?

##### Jews even today look towards their national redemption every Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur

##### But the book of Hebrews uses the word “better” some 13 times.

“Better”

##### Actually, it appears in Hebrews 8 twice in verse 6.

8:6

##### We do have celebrations of the new covenant, such as the Lord’s Supper.

Lord’s Supper

##### But even this cup points to our relationship with God. Do you have forgiveness in Him?

Wine

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### This section of Hebrews shows Jesus having a better priesthood than the OT priests.

### He has just brought this point home in chapter 7 by saying that Christ belongs to the Melchizedek priesthood—probably an angelic order—so he is superior to the old order that the readers were tempted to follow once again.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### People seem to like that which is familiar, even if it is out of date and useless.

### The same applies to our attachment to old religious ideas, where we prefer them to new truths.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The Jewish temple worship had been operating for hundreds of years and was thus very familiar to the Jewish readers.

### In fact, it was still operating, despite the fact that Christ had torn the veil of the temple over 30 years previous.

### However, the author knew that the old order was not only obsolete, but it was doomed to be eliminated soon.

# Questions

### Is this “main point” the key idea of chapter 8—or of a larger section before and after this chapter (8:1)?

#### He uses the present tense: “Here is the main point” is a present participle.

#### “He wished to summarize what he had been teaching and go on to new ideas… he touched on ideas already implicit in his foregoing instruction, yet used new terms to describe them” (Hodges, BKC).

### How is it significant that Christ “sat down” as High Priest in heaven (8:1)?

#### Priests didn’t have a desk job like us. They always worked standing up, so there was no chair in the tabernacle. This lack of a seat indicated that their ministry was never finished.

#### In contrast, after providing redemption, Jesus could sit down—and not sit down just anywhere, but in heaven itself at God’s place of honor—God’s right hand! This means that atonement for our sins is finished. We don’t have to pay the price of our sin since one payment is enough.

### Is there a *part* of heaven that is like the earthly tabernacle—or does “heavenly Tabernacle” refer to *all* of heaven itself (8:2)?

#### The NLT changes the order here: “There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship…” whereas the NIV and NAU follow the Greek order: “who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle…”

#### In any case, the heavenly sanctuary and tabernacle are one and the same—heaven itself. As Hodges notes, “The ‘true tabernacle’ is the heavenly sphere where that service takes place” (BKC).

### What offering did Jesus make as High Priest (8:3)?

#### The text doesn’t say explicitly, but it certainly wasn’t the same as the earthly priests who continued to minister at that time when the temple service still continued.

#### Christ’s offering was no less than his own body as the Lamb of God.

### Why wouldn’t Jesus be a priest if he were on earth (8:4)?

#### God follows the laws that he himself has made.

#### God says that no one can be a priest of the old covenant unless he descended from Aaron, while Jesus was in the kingly line of Judah instead.

#### Therefore, Jesus did not qualify as an earthly priest but he did qualify as a priest in the heavenly order of Melchizedek.

### How was the earthly tabernacle a copy of the heavenly one (8:5)?

#### The NIV adds “serve *at a sanctuary*” here while the NLT adds “serve *in a system of worship*” while the Greek only has “serve a copy” (NAU).

#### In any event, the idea is that the tabernacle and its system of worship was only “a mere **copy** (uJpodei÷gmati; cf. 9:23-24) **and shadow** (skia¿; cf. 10:1) of the heavenly one in which the new Priest ministers” (Hodges, BKC). But how was it only an example?

#### Even though God’s presence hovered over the ark, that still was a very local presence—a mere example of heaven, where God’s presence fills the place!

### What covenant does Jesus mediate that is far better than the Mosaic priesthood (8:6)?

#### This “better” covenant is promised in Jeremiah 31 with the designation “new.”

#### Often what is “new” is better, though not always—but in this case, “new” is definitely better!

### How was the first covenant flawed (8:7)?

#### God never intended for the old covenant to serve as a universal, perpetual system—it couldn’t, as it was impossible to expect Jews to offer a sacrifice in Jerusalem each time they sinned.

#### Rather, the new covenant is far better as it is not limited in space and time.

### How could God make something flawed that needed to be replaced?

#### Actually, we do this all the time by making temporary things. We hardly expect anything to last forever—shoes, cars, computers, etc.

#### Being temporary and inferior, the old covenant effectively served its purpose until the arrival of the better covenant. It was like the scaffolding on a building that was designed only for a noble, yet temporary purpose.

### Was the new covenant needed due to fault with the old one or fault with the people—or both (8:8a)?

#### Both the old covenant and the people were to blame:

##### The system couldn’t really change people inside.

##### The people refused to follow it as well.

#### What Israel needed was a new agreement with God that was universal, internal and empowered by God for obedience.

### If the new covenant were made with “Israel and Judah,” then how would it apply to the church (8:8b)?

#### God says it *has* to be fulfilled with Israel, so it will.

#### However, God can do *more* than he promised, and he decided to expand the recipients to include us, too. Praise God!

### How is the new covenant different from the conditional nature of the old covenant (8:9)?

#### The Mosaic Covenant was given only to Israel (“their ancestors,” 8:9) and was designed to be temporary—only until the cross.

#### But the new covenant is eternal in its implementation and also available to anyone who believes—Jew and Gentile alike.

### How is the new covenant better than the old one (8:7-12)?

#### A faulty covenant was replaced with a flawless one (8:7).

#### An unbelieving people will be replaced with a believing Israel and Judah (8:8).

#### The Mosaic stone tablets will be replaced with a covenant of minds and hearts (8:9-10a).

#### Israel’s idolatry will be replaced with a new relationship with God (8:10b).

#### Teaching unbelievers to know God will not be needed as everyone on earth will be Christian (8:11).

#### Israel’s wicked nature will be replaced with national forgiveness (8:12).

#### The obsolete old covenant would soon disappear (8:13).

### When did (or when will) the new covenant come into effect—and does it all happen at once or in stages?

#### Four blessings come with the new covenant:

##### Motivation to obey God with His laws in our minds and hearts (8:10a)

##### Relationship with God (8:10b)

##### Knowledge of God (8:11)

##### Forgiveness of sin (8:12)

#### Note that these will all apply to Israel and Judah, too.

##### As such these blessings await full, future fulfillment for Jews at the return of Christ.

##### When “all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:25), the knowledge of God will actually be true of the entire world in the millennium!

### How would God put his law on people’s minds and write it on their hearts (8:10)?

#### This passage doesn’t say how this will happen.

#### Other texts tell us that the Holy Spirit will change us within.

### When will everyone know the Lord and thus not need to be evangelized (8:11)?

#### This certainly is not today! Yes, believers from the least to the greatest know Christ.

#### However, the promise applies to Jews in the future.

### Will all of Israel actually be forgiven in the future (8:12)? Yes!

### When was the old covenant rendered obsolete (8:13a)?

#### Christ’s death in AD 33 rendered the old sacrificial system unnecessary.

#### It thus became obsolete.

### How was the old covenant rendered obsolete (8:13b)?

#### It was not designed to last forever, as it was but a shadow.

#### Now that the substance (Christ) has come, the shadow (OT law) is not needed.

### When was the old covenant to disappear (8:13c)?

#### This letter was written about AD 66-68 during the Jewish Revolt against Rome.

#### The uprising would soon result in the destruction of the temple, putting an end to the sacrificial system in AD 70.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

What is the nature of the new covenant?

How is the new covenant better than the old?

# II. A living relationship is better than a dead ritual.

 [No symbol is better than the relationship it symbolizes.]

## The ways that the new covenant is better than the old makes the old obsolete (8:7-13; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34).

## Don’t emphasize rituals over your relationship with God!

# Possible Illustrations

### Is the difference between the old and new covenants a difference between old ritual versus new relationship?

#### No, that is a false dichotomy, since OT Jews also had a relationship with God under the old system.

#### The difference is in the *type* of relationship. Perhaps human relationships can illustrate the difference. When I served as a music ministry colleague with Susan, we served together based on expectations of our superior. I was good to her because that was the expectation and responsibility I had to her as a fellow singer and fellow missionary.

#### However, after we got married, I was good for nothing! My new relationship motivated me to care for her as my wife.

### Why do people like rituals?

### People generally sit in the same spot when they repeatedly sit in the same room time and again. Why?

### Why would I be in love with my wedding ring? It is only a symbol of my relationship with my wife, which is far better!

# Possible Applications

### Don’t focus on rituals designed to point you to something better.

### Don’t focus on the shadow when the reality is right in front of you.

**Better than the Old Covenant**

***Hebrews 8***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea: The way that Christ is superior to the old covenant is that, as High Priest, He established the new covenant (8:1-13).

# I. The result of Jesus as High Priest being better than the old priesthood is that his new covenant is better than the old covenant (8:1-6).

## Jesus as High Priest is better than the old priesthood (8:1-5).

### He finished his atoning ministry unlike OT high priests (8:1).

### God honored him with ministry in heaven itself (8:2).

### Earthly high priests were only a shadow of Christ’s heavenly ministry (8:3-5).

## Therefore, Jesus’ new covenant is better than the old covenant (8:6).

# II. The ways that the new covenant is better than the old makes the old obsolete (8:7-13; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34).

## A faulty covenant was replaced with a flawless one (8:7).

## An unbelieving people will be replaced with a believing Israel and Judah (8:8).

## The Mosaic stone tablets will be replaced with a covenant of minds and hearts (8:9-10a).

## Israel’s idolatry will be replaced with a new relationship with God (8:10b).

## Teaching unbelievers to know God will not be needed as everyone on earth will be Christian (8:11).

## Israel’s wicked nature will be replaced with national forgiveness (8:12).

## The obsolete old covenant would soon disappear (8:13).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will trust that knowing Jesus is better than anything else they could experience.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: We understand the difference between various types of relationships.

### Need: Do you have the best possible relationship ever? Different relationships are due to different commitments we make to various people.

### Subject: How is knowing Jesus better than anything you’ve ever experienced (or ever will experience)? In Him we experience a new agreement with God called the new covenant—but how is this new covenant better than the old?

### Background: The Jewish readers had grown up under the old covenant but then embraced the new—but now were tempted to go back to the old covenant.

### Preview: We will see two ways that the author showed them that our covenant is better.

### Text: Hebrews 8 gives these two ways that the new covenant is better than the old.

(How is the new covenant better than the old?)

# I. Jesus is the best possible representative before God.

## Jesus as High Priest is better than the old priesthood (8:1-5).

## Therefore, Jesus’ new covenant is better than the old covenant (8:6).

# II. Jesus gives the best possible relationship.

## The ways that the new covenant is better than the old makes the old obsolete (8:7-13; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34).

### A faulty covenant was replaced with a flawless one (8:7).

### An unbelieving people will be replaced with a believing Israel and Judah (8:8).

### The Mosaic stone tablets will be replaced with a covenant of minds and hearts (8:9-10a).

### Israel’s idolatry will be replaced with a new relationship with God (8:10b-c).

### Teaching unbelievers to know God will not be needed as everyone on earth will be Christian (8:11).

### Israel’s wicked nature will be replaced with national forgiveness (8:12).

### The obsolete old covenant would soon disappear (8:13).

## Don’t emphasize rituals over your relationship with God!

# Conclusion

### Our better priest gives us a better relationship with God (MI).

### The text shows us how the new covenant better than the old (Main Points):

#### Jesus is the best possible representative before God (8:1-5).

#### Jesus gives the best possible relationship (8:7-13).

### Exhortation

#### Do you relate to Jesus as your compassionate, High Priest?

#### Do you experience a new covenant lifestyle?



**Rick Griffith**

22 March 2015

Message 6 of 12

**Better than the Old Covenant**

***Hebrews 8***

# Introduction

### We understand the difference between various types of relationships, but do you have the best possible relationship ever?

### How is knowing Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better than anything you’ve ever experienced (or ever will experience)? In Him we experience a new agreement with God called the new covenant—but how is this new covenant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better than the old?

### The Jewish readers had grown up under the old covenant but then embraced the new—but now were tempted to go back to the old covenant.

# I. Jesus is the best possible \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_representative before God.

## Jesus as High Priest is better than the old priesthood (8:1-5).

## Therefore, Jesus’ new covenant is better than the old covenant (8:6).

# II. Jesus gives the best possible \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

## The new covenant is better than the old so the old is obsolete (8:7-13; cf. Jer. 31:31-34).

### A faulty covenant was replaced with a flawless one (8:7).

### An unbelieving people will be replaced with a believing Israel and Judah (8:8).

### The Mosaic stone tablets will be replaced with a covenant of minds and hearts (8:9-10a).

### Israel’s idolatry will be replaced with a new relationship with God (8:10b-c).

### Teaching unbelievers to know God will not be needed as everyone on earth will be Christian (8:11).

### Israel’s wicked nature will be replaced with national forgiveness (8:12).

### The obsolete old covenant would soon disappear (8:13).

## Don’t emphasize rituals over your relationship with God!

# Conclusion

### Our better \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ priest gives us a better \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationship with God (Main Idea).

### Do you relate to Jesus as your compassionate, High Priest? How?

### Do you experience a new covenant lifestyle? How?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read Hebrews 8 aloud. Contrast the two covenants in as many verses as you can:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Old Covenant** | **New Covenant** |
| For Israel  | For Israel and the Church (8; cf. Lk. 22:20) |
| High priest ministered standing  | High priest ministered seated (1) |
| Earth-based (2) | Based in heaven (2) |
| Built by human hands (2) | Built by God’s hands (1) |
| Flawed (7) | Perfect (implied) |
| A copy or shadow of heaven (5) | Heaven itself (5) |
| Law on stone | Law on hearts (10) |
| Evangelism needed | Evangelism not needed (11) |
| Obsolete and about to disappear (13) | Eternal (13) |

1. How was your old life before Christ different than your life now?

I don’t try to please God through works anymore.

Text

Text

Text

1. How can you live more in the new covenant than the old right now?

I need to live up to my position in Christ.

Text