

~~Better.~~ Better Promise

Hebrews 8:6-13 NKJV: 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. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 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— 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. 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. 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. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” 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.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In the book of Hebrews, we are learning all the ways that Jesus is Better! So far we’ve learned that Jesus is a Better Savior than the old sacrificial system; He is a Better Shepherd and Mediator than Moses; He is a Better Priest than all the old Levitical priests; and this week we’re learning that He offers us Better Promises through the Better New Covenant! The New Covenant is a Promisory Covenant. It is based on Jesus committing Himself to fulfill all of these Better Promises and all we have to do is accept Him and the New Covenant and Promises that He has offered to us! Let’s learn about these amazingly Better Promises!

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34:

1A) List the details of the New Covenant given in this passage.

1B) PERSONAL: What differences to the Old Covenant can you name and why are these important differences?

2A) How does Hebrews 8:6-10 confirm the promises of this prophecy?

2B) How can we know that these New Covenant promises are “Unconditional?”

3) What did Jesus say in Matthew 5:17-18 and why is this important?

Read John 4:23-24:

4A) What did Jesus say about worship in this passage?

4B) PERSONAL: Explain how the style of worship changed from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. Name some differences and how you see these changes as “better.”

Read Galatians 3:26-28:

5) How did Paul explain what it means to be “in Christ” and how that relates to us receiving the promises of God?

Read Hebrews 8:11-13:

6A) How does this passage reveal that the promises of the New Covenant are ‘Unlimited?’

6B) How does Romans 5:6-8 confirm the reality of these promises?

7A) What promise is repeated in Hebrews 10:17-18?

7B) PERSONAL: What does it mean to you to know that the Promises of the New Covenant are “Unending?”

ACT: The writer of Hebrews wanted the new believers in Jesus to realize that moving away from the Old Covenant, the Sacrificial system, and the Temple as their place of worship was so much “Better” in every way. They needed to understand that the Promises of the New Covenant were “Unconditional, Unlimited, and Unending” and they were the fulfillment of the prophecies given by Jeremiah long ago. As believers in Jesus today, we enter into our relationship with Jesus through this New Covenant, which means these “Better Promises” are for us as well. We need to express our thanks to God every day because our sins have been forgiven and that we have been saved by faith through grace! He is our Savior, our Shepherd, our Mediator, our High Priest, and He has given all of us Better Promises!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe the promises of God and why they should give us hope.

Monday:

Joshua 21:43-45 NLT

So the Lord gave to Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. And the Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had solemnly promised their ancestors. None of their enemies could stand against them, for the Lord helped them conquer all their enemies. Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.

Tuesday:

2 Samuel 22:31 NLT

God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Wednesday:

Psalms 71:22 NLT

Then I will praise you with music on the harp, because you are faithful to your promises, O my God. I will sing praises to you with a lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

Thursday:

Psalms 91:2-4 NLT

This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

Friday:

Romans 4:20-21 NLT

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

Saturday:

2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

Sunday:

2 Peter 1:3-8 NLT

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

