**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 8:1­13 -- New Covenant, New Beginning**

**(But why? What went wrong with the Old?)**

Here’s the point: Our priest, Jesus, already intercedes for us in Heaven itself, in God’s presence, not a man­made tent! 8:1, 2

Think about it. . .

First, as a Priest, Jesus’ Offering was Himself, the Reality towards which the Law’s sacrifices could only point. 8:3­5

Second, as a Priestly Ministry, His is superior because it is based upon a better covenant, one with far better promises. 8:6

And a better way was necessary, not because the covenant was a bad one, but because Israel didn’t keep it. . . 8:7

So Jeremiah (31:31­34) predicts that God will give another Covenant (one with power and forgiveness), . . . 8:8­12

 Implying that the Old Covenant (the Law) is obsolete. 8:13

**What’s in God’s amazing New Covenant?**

Let’s review the differences between Old and New, and why the Old was replaced.

*1. "They did not continue in my covenant." Unlike the Old, the New Covenant is fulfilled by God alone, and not the people.*

All of the provisions of this covenant are from God, not dependent upon the people. The Old Covenant was doomed from its beginning, broken even before it was ratified. Exodus 32. See Moses’ recap of Israel’s unbelief in Deuteronomy 1:26, 27, 32, 33; 5:28, 29; 7:7, 8; 9:4­6, 22­24; etc.

*2. "I will put my laws upon their minds, and write them on their hearts. Unlike the Old, the New Covenant transforms.*

The Law was written on tablets of stone, but now is on believers’ hearts. This does not mean they obey perfectly, but they now have the capacity/desire to do so. 2 Cor. 3:1­3; Rom. 8:1­4; 26, 27; etc.

*3. "They shall be my people." Unlike the Old, the New Covenant creates a permanent, life­giving bond with God.*

Most of Israel did not trust God, and He declares that they are "not my people." Hosea 1:9, 10; 2:23. The Old Covenant could be entered physically (by birth and circumcision), whereas the New is spiritual via the New Birth, guaranteeing that ALL of God’s true Israel are saved.

*4. "I will remember their sins no more." Unlike the Old, the New Covenant forgives and removes sins.*

Hebrews 9 and 10 explain this in full. Galatians 2:15, 16; 3:10­14; 5:1­6