

Hebrews 8:6-13

⁶ But now, Jesus has obtained a ministry that is as much superior as the covenant that he mediates is better, because it has been established on the basis of better promises. ⁷ Indeed, if that first covenant were without fault, there would have been no reason to look for a second. ⁸ But because God found fault with the people, he said:

Look, 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 It will not be like the covenant
that I made with their forefathers
at the time when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt.
Because they did not remember my covenant,
I ignored them, says the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord.

I will put my laws into their mind,
and I will write them on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ Never again will a man teach his fellow citizen
or his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,”
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful in regard to their unrighteousness,
and I will not remember their sins any longer.

¹³ When God said “new,” he made the first covenant obsolete, and something that is obsolete and growing old is going to disappear.

Jesus Our Great High Priest Is the Mediator of the New Covenant

Does it ever annoy you when advertisers tout the latest iteration of their product as “new” and “improved”? If *this* version is so great, what was I using up ‘til now, garbage? The reality is, the “new” and “improved” product often doesn’t seem improved at all—the results remain about the same.

That isn’t the case with the new covenant God promised through the prophet Jeremiah to put into effect in the future. This is the same covenant Jesus spoke of when he instituted Holy Communion. Today’s reading shows us Jesus as our Great High Priest by showing the contrast between the New and Old Covenants.

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