

DISCUSSION IDEAS
WHY THE CHANGES

Hebrews 7:11-28

May 3^d, 2015

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Today's issue is, since God Himself made the "Old Covenant", the Covenant of Law with Israel, why did He need to make a new covenant?

What was wrong with the old one? Did God make a mistake?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD COVENANT?.**

Read Heb. 7:11-19.

What do verses 18-19 say about the Law (the Old Covenant)?

Compare Romans 3:19-20, 7:7 and Galatians 3:24-26.

Why was the Law weak?

How come it could not bring us near to God?

Why did God make that covenant in the first place?

Now, remember what we have been studying about the superiority of Christ's sacrifice? As a review, why was His sacrifice necessary?

What does that fact alone say about the need to replace the old covenant?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: A NEW KIND OF PRIESTHOOD.**

So we needed a new covenant. How does the need for a new priesthood fit in?

We have recently studied how Jesus' priesthood is superior to the Jewish one. To a Jew, what was the only way to become a priest?

Why did the Jews have an issue with accepting Jesus' High Priesthood?

How could it have been proven that God intended this change all along? That this idea of a new priesthood was not just some heresy?

Read again Heb. 7:11 and then Psalm 110:4. Keep in mind that Psalm 110 was written about 1000 years before Jesus was born!

If a new priesthood is needed, and a new sacrifice is required, what does that say about the old Law?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE PURPOSE OF A NEW COVENANT.**

Again, in Heb. 7:18-19, what does the last part of v. 19 explain about God's purpose?

What does v. 25 add to this?

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Now read through the whole passage, Heb.7:11-28.

What an insight into the heart of God! He did all this so that we could be near Him.

What parts of this are still unclear to you?"

If something is still confusing, please feel free to contact Ian Hollingsworth (760-419-9985, Judy.n.lan@cox.net) or Paul Nelson (760-803-7285, pnelson311@gmail.com). I, Ian H., work from home, so am almost always available.

NOTE: The New Covenant which Jesus brought has mistakenly been called "The Covenant of Grace". That is a mistake in that salvation from sin has always been provided by God's grace.

The New Covenant replaces the old Law with the new Law of Messiah, based on Jesus' superior Priesthood and sacrifice.

The Old Covenant, the Law of Moses, was a conditional covenant. It required works on the part of the people, or else it was broken. On the other hand, forgiveness of sins was always by trusting in God's eventual provision and by His Grace.

The New Covenant in Jesus' Blood is completely unconditional! By trusting in Jesus, we are placed in an unbreakable relationship. Yes, we DO have obligations to fulfill, but these are not the basis for our forgiveness.

♦ **PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

Since God did all this so that we could be near Him, how does that influence my attitudes and actions?