

Hebrews 8:7-13

The Time Has Come

- in vs.6 we are told that Christ has “obtained a more excellent ministry”

- “obtain”- (tugchano) to hit the mark, to become a master of something

- “excellent”- (diaphoros) surpassing something

- “ministry”- (leitourgia) a benefaction for the relief of the needy

vs.7- now the writer gives reason for why the need was for another covenant

(This verse reiterates the point made in 7:11)

- “faultless”- the fault of the old covenant was not the Lord’s

*this covenant was based on man’s obedience for its fulfillment

- this covenant depended on Israel’s promise to obey God’s commands (Ex.19:5-8)

(Man was at fault due to disobedience)

Truth- the Law itself was faultless- it was designed to reveal sin and it did

vs.8- “with them”- the Israelites (not the institution of the Law)

*this was a time when they personally witnessed God’s might (10 plagues) His miracles

(manna, quail, water from the rock, opening the sea) His manifestation (fire and cloud)

*“He saith”- from here through vs.12 is a quote from Jer.31:31-34

- the writer has used several Old Test. passages to show that there would be another covenant with a different kind of Priest

(Now he reminds them of what God spoke to the “weeping prophet”)

- “new”- (kainos) of a different kind, unprecedented

(Its unprecedented because it is unconditional- its not based on man’s obedience but on Christ’s obedience to the Father- it cannot fail because of Christ)

*the Law depended on man for its fulfillment (Rom.8:3) the new depends on Jesus Christ

vs.9- the word “covenant” used here and in vs.8 are better translated as a “will”

(The beneficiary of a will is considered an heir of the will)

Truth- the beneficiary cannot change a will- only receive it or reject it

- the prophecy mention Israel and Judah as the new covenant was 1st offered to them

(“He came unto His own and His own received Him not”- John 1)

*this verse reminds readers of why God would make a new covenant- “continued not”

- “regarded them not”- this term gives the idea of a husband putting away a wife (Jer.3:8, 31:32)

vs.10- “those days”- meaning at a later date

(When Jeremiah spoke this, Israel was about to be exiled to Babylon)

- “minds and hearts”- meaning His Laws will be within man and not on tablets of stone

(This means that this covenant deals with the inside of man- the real issue)

- “a people”- this implies an eternal living relationship between God and His people

vs.11- the new covenant emphasizes divine instruction and illumination to each believer

(This means all can know God through Christ- our Great High Priest)

*with Laws written in hearts, God imparts His wisdom and knowledge into the believer

(This is how we can interpret the Bible and make it make sense)

vs.12- this is a complete purging from sin

*under the old covenant, the unrighteousness of man brought the judgment of God upon them (It demanded total conformity and required a penalty for one single violation- Gal.3:10, Ja.2:10)

- under the new, God is merciful toward the unjust

Truth- God can be merciful toward the unjust because Christ satisfied the divine demands for the penalty of sin- I Peter.3:18

-“remember no more”- God no longer sees a saved person in how they used to be

(He sees His brand new Creation- II Cor.5:17)

vs.13- Christ's death was the punishment for man failing the old covenant

*since a new covenant is established, the old is now faded away

- the writer wants his readers to realize that the old is gone and the time has come for the new

*ironically, Rome would destroy Jerusalem in 70AD and demolished the Temple

(This ended all Temple practices and the Levitical priesthood forever)