

THE REACHING OF ADULTHOOD IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

--Jesus serves with a better covenant

Hebrews 8

Outline

- I. The Great High Priest serves with greater covenant, sanctuary and sacrifice (8:1-6)
 - A. Jesus is the Great High Priest in heaven (8:1-3)
 - 1. Jesus is the greatest priest-king (a là Melchizedek) (8:1)
 - a. Seated = finished all priestly works
 - b. At the right hand = with all kingly power
 - 2. Jesus serves in a real/true sanctuary (a là Plato) (8:2)
 - a. It is the real/true tabernacle, not a copy/shadow
 - b. It is erected by God, not man
 - 3. Jesus offered a special sacrifice (8:4; cf. 9:14)
 - B. Jesus is not an earthly high priest (8:4-6)
 - 1. Jesus could not have been an Aaronic priest on earth (8:4)
 - a. Jesus is Judaic, not Levitic-Aaronic in genealogy (8:4a)
 - b. Aaronic priests are set to serve according to the Law (8:4b)
 - 2. The earthly priests serve according to a copy of the heavenly (8:5)
 - a. The priestly ministry on earth is a shadow of the heavenly
 - b. The sanctuary on earth is a copy of the heavenly
 - 3. Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant (8:6)
 - a. Jesus is the mediator by giving a better sacrifice (cf. 9:14)
 - b. The better covenant gives better promises
- II. The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete (8:7-12)
 - A. The Old Covenant must have fault because God proposed the New (8:7-8a)
 - B. The New Covenant was predicted when Israel failed the old one (8:8b-12)
 - 1. God will establish a New Covenant relationship with Israel (8:8b)
 - 2. The NC will be different in time with the OC (8:9)
 - a. God established the OC when leading Israel out of Egypt
 - b. Israel failed to keep the covenantal requirements
 - c. God disregarded those who are unfaithful
 - 3. The NC will be different in nature with the OC (8:10-12)
 - a. God will write the Law in the new covenanter's heart
 - b. The new covenanter will be the people of God
 - c. All of the new covenanters will know God personally
 - d. God will forgive and forget all their sins once for all
 - C. The New Covenant is established, and the old one is vanishing away (8:13)

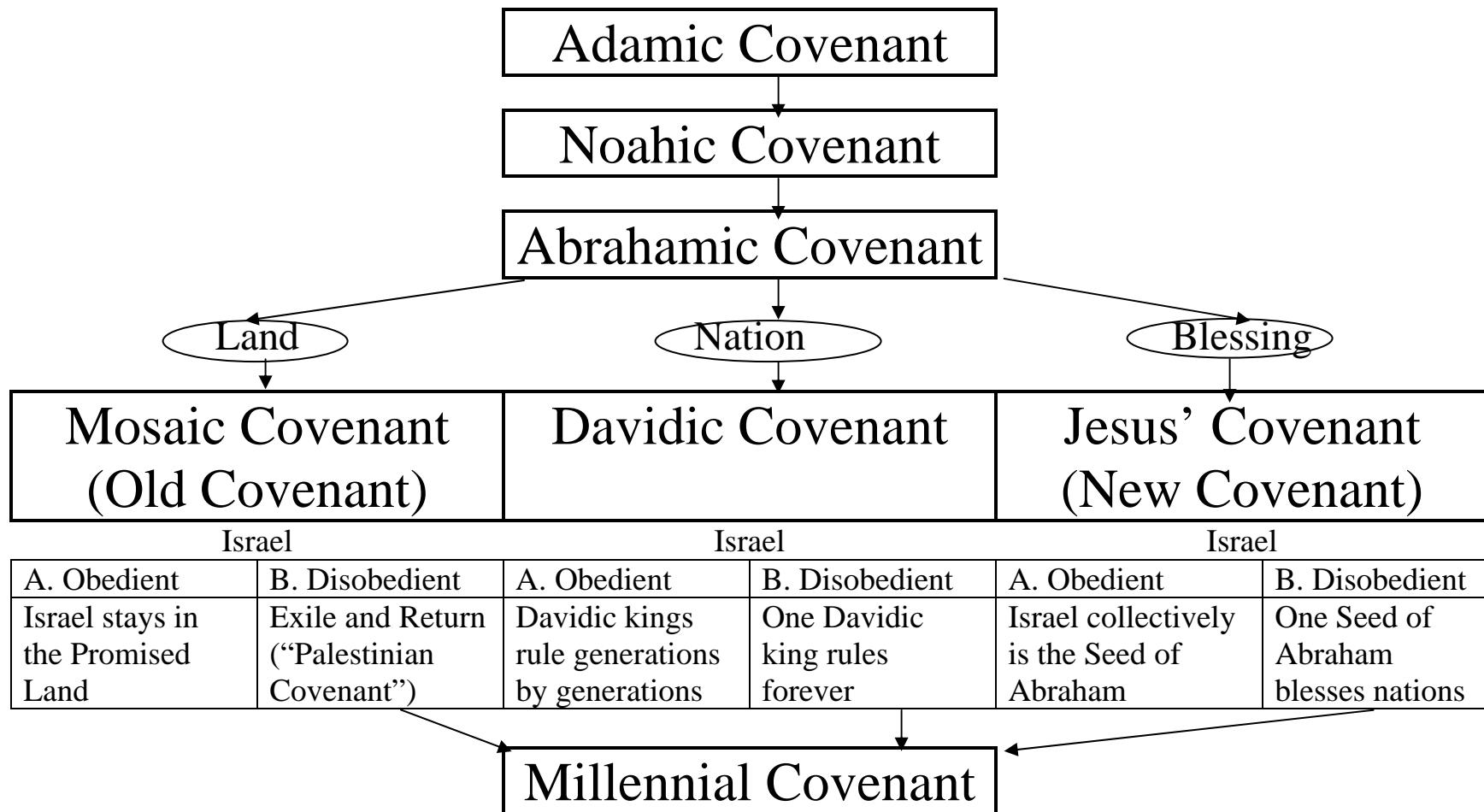
Central Idea

Jesus the Great High Priest serves with a better covenant, in which God deals with Man in a adult-to-adult relationship, not any more adult-to-children relationship.

Study Questions

1. What does “the main point” (8:1) indicate the relationship between Chap 8-10 to the previous chapters?
2. What does “seated” mean to a priest? Do OT priests ever sit down in the temple?
3. What does “at the right hand of God” mean? Is that kingly or priestly power?
4. What does the “true tabernacle” mean? Is that Platonic in philosophy?
5. What tribe were the early priests from? How about the kings? Why separating?
6. What is the order of priesthood that Jesus is in? Explain.
7. What does “mediator” mean? Was Moses one? What is special about Jesus?
8. In what sense does the New Covenant offer better promises than the Old?
9. In what sense is the NC different from the Old one?
10. With whom will the NC be established with? What does Eph 3:6 mean to us?
11. What does “writing the law in the heart” mean? Simply memorization?
12. Are the new covenanters totally free from the Law? Will they obey? In what sense?
13. Are the new covenanters the people of God? How many people of God are there?
14. How different is the forgiveness given in NC compare with in OC?

Seven Major Covenants between God and Man



DAY 07/18/2009

Contrasts between the Old and the New Covenants

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Mosaic Covenant (Exod, Lev, Num, Deut)	Jesus' Covenant (Jer 31:31ff.; Ezek 36:26ff.; Heb 8)
Made with the sons of Israel	Made with the house of Israel and Judah
Restricted to Israelites/Jews only	Expanded to Gentiles believers (Eph 3:6)
Covenanters are a people of God	Covenanters are another people of God
The Law is written on the stone	The Law is written in the heart
Not all covenanters know God personally	All covenanters know God personally
Mercies are shown as sacrifices are given	All sins are forgiven once for all
Good promises are given	Better promises are given
God requires cleansing by water (blood)	God sprinkles cleansing water (blood)
God reveals the hearts of stone	God gives the hearts of flesh
God puts His Spirit upon some believers	God puts His Spirit within all believers
Must obey to stay at the Land	Will obey to show Heaven-bound
<i>"If you do good to me, I'll do good to you; If you do bad to me, I'll do bad to you."</i>	<i>"I am committed to do good to you; hopefully you will do good to me."</i>
Graceful Law	Lawful Grace
Relationship to Children	Relationship to Adults

DAY 07/19/2009