



Never Outdated or Obsolete

By Shannon Ford on August 5, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Hebrews 8

Technology is wonderful, isn't it? Our smart TVs, phones, watches, and laptops are truly wonderful until they become outdated and obsolete. In Hebrews 8, the author unpacks the New Covenant. And the most exciting thing about the New Covenant is that, unlike technology, it will never become obsolete.

Verses 6-7 highlight the need for a New Covenant and introduce the lengthiest Old Testament quotation in the New Testament. The old covenant and the people had failed. The Old Covenant was ineffective in bringing people into intimate relationship with God and did not meet the needs of sinful humans. It could reveal sin but not remove it. People lacked the ability to obey the old covenant and remain in a right relationship with God. The old law could not save people. Only Jesus can.

When Christ replaced the high priests, there came a need for a New Covenant. Quoting from Jeremiah 31:31-34, the writer of Hebrews provides four reasons the New Covenant is better than the old covenant.

- 1) God's laws will be written on believers' hearts and minds and not on tablets of stone.
- 2) Believers can have a relationship with God fulfilling the promise of Leviticus 16:12.
- 3) All believers will know God. There is no longer a need for Pharisees or scribes to teach.
- 4) God will forgive the sins of believers and remember them no more. The continual sacrifice of animals for the atonement of sin will cease.

The old covenant depended on a person's behavior, but not the new one. Under the old covenant a person lost favor with God. But not with the new one, because it all depends on Him. God was unhappy with the Old Covenant because the men and women were not obedient, and He had warned them of the consequences. But that is not true of the new one. The Old Covenant of "I had better not make a mistake," is gone and a new one where God says "I will" is here. It does not depend on me. The old is gone and the new is here. My salvation no longer depends on my efforts, but on Jesus' death for my sins and resurrection to life. Praise God!

PRAYER: Lord, as I consider that Jesus is my High Priest serving in heaven before God Himself on my behalf, I am both humbled and grateful. Lord, help me live in intimacy with You out of gratitude for the New Covenant as opposed to duty to the Old Covenant. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

TOMORROW'S READING: Hebrews 9

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