

THE GOOD, THE BETTER, AND MUCH MORE

COMPARING THE COVENANTS WITH THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament."

~ Hebrews 7:22

1. Introduction

- a. *Preface* – (I am not speaking of the Old and New Testament pages in your Bible)
 - i. 'Covenant' & 'testament' used interchangeably – Heb 9:15, 12:24; 9:20 Ex 24:8
- b. Christians see 2 things (OT and NT) when there are 3 – OT, NT, and the Mystery
- c. Supersessionism = Christianity replaces Judaism; God's promises transferred; old is out
- d. Seeing the mystery is how dispensationalists saw Israel's return – Eph 3:9, Rom 11:25+
- e. Failing to discern the difference between NT and Mystery causes much confusion

2. God has Spoken Since the World Began

- a. Since the world began God's intent was to bless us (not for us to bless him)
- b. God gives promises and covenants - Gen 12:1-3
- c. The covenant with Moses - Exodus 19:4-8, 24:3-8
- d. Forgiveness of sins and atonement and redemption – Lev 4:20, 19:22, Ps 111:9
- e. The law was good, holy, and more excellent than before – Rom 2:17-18, 7:12
- f. A warning of their scattering – Deu 4:23-27 → Jer 30:11 → Acts 8:1
- g. The old does not begin in Genesis 1 and does not end in Matt 1

3. The Better Testament w/Israel

- a. A more excellent ministry than the old covenant – Heb 7:18-22, 8:6-13
- b. God had promised this before – Deu 4:29-31; 30:1-6; Isa 60:15
- c. The Lord promises a new covenant – Jer 31:10-37
- d. Another prophecy of the new covenant to Israel – Ezekiel 36:24-31;
- e. The covenant to end all covenants – Eze 37:20-28
- f. The new cannot be until Christ dies (Heb 9:15-17), Spirit given, and kingdom come

4. Something Hidden is Much More

- a. The mystery of Christ exceeds prior revelations – Phi 1:9-10, 1Co 12:31, Eph 1:9-10, 3:18
- b. Acc. to the mystery you are strangers of the covenants – Eph 2:12, 3:3-6
- c. Righteousness without the law is manifest – Rom 3:21
- d. You can receive salvation and blessing without Israel – Rom 3:9, 11:31
- e. There are things in common after Christ, cross, faith, righteousness, Spirit...
- f. There are also things that are more excellent – Eph 1:3, 2:15, 3:8, Rom 5:8, 2 Cor 5:17
- g. The mystery removes Israel, covenants, law, but adds much more!
 - i. Grace abounds much more - 2 Cor 3:11, Rom 5:9-10, 15, 17, 20
- h. The mystery is much more than what was, but the best is yet to come – Rom 11:12, 24

Ministry	Old Covenant	New Covenant	Mystery
	<i>"thou shalt..."</i>	<i>"I will"</i> (Grace)	<i>"Grace did"</i>
Called out (church)	Israel	Israel (faith)	Body of Christ by faith
By what operation	Law	Law in hearts (Spirit)	Grace / Spirit in Christ
To be who	Great nation of priests	Nation (new priesthood)	New creature
Gentile Blessing	Thru Israel	Thru Israel (Messiah)	One body by the cross
Where	Israel on earth	Israel on earth (future)	In heavenly places