

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #7 — ATTRIBUTES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

We're talking about the organization of the Bible. Last time, we saw that it was divided into the Old Testament, and the New Testament. And that God took the Old Testament out of the way, and nailed it to the cross of His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ. And that we're now living under the New Testament as our law, as our standard of authority. When we have questions about religious matters, then, we need to go to the New Testament of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, not to the Old Testament. We go to the New Testament, to find out how to worship Him, God, properly in spirit and in truth. We go the New Testament to find out how a person is saved from their sins, and how God wants us to live our daily lives and service to Him.

So we're going to continue our study by looking at some things about the New Testament. The first point that we would like to discuss, is that Jesus is the mediator of it. Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament. To verify that fact, turn with me if you would, to the book of Hebrews, the ninth chapter, and verse 15. Hebrews 9, verse 15. In this passage, the inspired writer says to us, "And for this reason, He [he's talking about Jesus in this context] He is the mediator of the New Covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called, might receive [or may receive] the promise of the eternal inheritance."

So, Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament. How is that different from the Old Testament? Well, we know that the Old Law was given through Moses at Mount Sinai. And that's recorded in the Book of Exodus, as we've seen. And obviously, Moses was a great man. But Jesus is far superior to Moses. Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father, the one who lived perfectly without sin, without blemish of any kind. And we have Him as our mediator, the one who goes between two parties. And we couldn't ask for a better mediator than the Son of God, God Himself, who became man who, put on human flesh, that he might be tempted, tested in all points like we are. So we have Jesus as the mediator of the New Testament.

Another point that is relevant concerning the New Testament, is that it is a better covenant. A better covenant. And you might ask yourself, "Well, why, or how do we know that it's better? What things are there about the New Testament that show us that is a better covenant than the old? That it is superior to the Old Testament?" Well, let's look at several reasons why that statement could be made.

First of all, it's based upon better promises. It's based upon better promises. And for verification of that fact, let's look at Hebrews chapter 8, verse 6. Hebrews 8, verse 6. "But now, He has obtained a more excellent ministry, and as much as He is also mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." So here again, the Hebrew writer talks about Jesus. Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, as we mentioned earlier. And one of the reasons that it's better is that it's based upon better promises. Think about the

exceedingly great and precious promises that God has revealed to us in the New Testament of His Son. Like in this book of Hebrews, the 13th chapter, verse 5 and 6, we learned that the Lord is our helper. And he has promised that He will never leave nor forsake us. So we can say that we're not afraid of what men will do to us. Or think about first Corinthians chapter 10, verse 13, where God promises, and he is faithful, He is dependable to His promise, He promises that will never be tested, above or beyond what we're able to withstand. But with every temptation, the Lord will provide a way of escape, that we may be able to bear, or endure, those temptations and trials which afflict us while we're here on this earth. Promises like those and the promise of eternal life, the promise that the Lord will never remember our sins, if they're covered by the precious blood of Christ. So one reason the New Testament is a better covenant, a better Testament, is because it's based upon better promises.

A second reason, is that it brings a better hope. Brings a better hope. Let's look again in the book of Hebrews, in chapter 7, and verse 19. Hebrews 7, verse 19, for this fact. "For the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God." Here, of course, the Hebrew writer is making a contrast between the Law, the Old Law, and the New Law. And this New Law brings a better hope. Think about the passages in the New Testament on the subject of hope. Colossians 1:27 — "Christ in you, the hope of glory." In this book of Hebrews, Hebrews chapter 6, he talks about that we have this hope, as an anchor to our soul. Sure, and steadfast, that it can keep us steady in the midst of the trials of life. Think about 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 3 and 4. God talks about the Christian has a living hope, made sure by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And that hope is to an inheritance, which is incorruptible and undefiled, and is reserved for us in heaven. Think about Titus chapter 1, verse 2, where God says that we live in hope of eternal life. What a great hope God has given to us through His love, and His mercy, and His grace. And that better hope is associated with a better covenant, the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A third thing about the New Testament that makes it a better covenant is that it has a better sacrifice. It has a better sacrifice. And let's look in the book of Hebrews again, in the 10th chapter, verse 10, Hebrews 10, verse 10, for verification of that fact. He says, "By that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all." Again, we looked at that, in our last class, that beautiful passage of scripture that says, by this will this testament, this covenant, the New Testament of Christ, the Christian is sanctified. And the thing that is associated with this Testament is the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all, never to be repeated again. Not like the Old Testament sacrifices that were done daily, all throughout the lives of those Hebrew people. One sacrifice, one time, never to be repeated again, not the body and blood of animals, but the body and blood of the only begotten, sinless, pure Son of God, Jesus the Christ. We're thankful that God has given us a better covenant, and that that better covenant is associated with the body of the better sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

Another point concerning the New Testament is that it is the everlasting covenant, the everlasting covenant. Let's look at the last chapter of the book of Hebrews, chapter 13, and verse 20. Hebrews 13, verse 20. "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting

covenant,” and he goes on to talk about that God will make us complete through that everlasting covenant. As we live that covenant in our lives, it will make us complete, mature, developed the way that God wants us to develop spiritually. So the New Testament is the everlasting covenant. It tells us that it will not be replaced. There will be no more revelation from God. Men may claim to have later revelations than the New Testament of Christ. But those claims are false. Because this is the everlasting covenant, the last revelation of the will of God for us. And in Hebrews 10, verse 29, we learned that this everlasting covenant is associated with a precious blood of Jesus. That wasn't true of the Old Testament. And it tells us that it's the last revelation of God's will. There will be no more bloodshed for the sacrifice of sins. Jesus did that once and for all. So that's further proof and evidence that His Testament is the Last Testament. And in Matthew 26, verse 28, we see that God says that that blood of the New Testament was shed for the remission for the forgiveness of sins. So, we have in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, the Last Testament, the last covenant, the last revelation of the will of God, for mankind.

When we think about these things about the New Testament of Jesus, then we need to ask ourselves the question, “Does that mean that the Old Testament is of no value today?” Some in the religious world, say, of the members of the churches of Christ, “You don't believe in the Old Testament? You don't believe the Old Testament is valuable?” And that statement is not correct. We believe in the Old Testament. We believe it's valuable. And there are reasons why we believe that. Let's look at a couple of passages of Scripture.

Romans, the 15th chapter is the first verse that we'd like to look at on this subject. Romans 15, and verse 4. Here, God said through Paul, “For whatever things were written before time, were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope.” So God says, the things written before time. Well, what is he referring to? He's talking about the Old Testament that He revealed before. Well, what does God say about that Old Testament those things written before time? They're written for our learning.

As we go to the Old Testament and study, we see important examples, important lessons, from which we can learn principles. We don't go there to learn how to worship God, to be saved from our sins, the organization of the church. But we can learn important principles. We can see God's dealing with man. We can see the nature of God revealed in that Old Testament book. We can see how men and women made mistakes. We can learn from the mistakes that they made. And we can see how God worked patiently with great long suffering with mankind. And that gives us patience. And that gives us comfort and hope in seeing that people were like us in Old Testament times. That is, they were human, they made mistakes. But God allowed them time to work out their mistakes. So we can gain from the Old Testament, study of the Old Testament, we can learn, we can grow in patience, we can grow in comfort.

Another passage along this line is found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 10. Verse 6 is the first verse that we want to look at in 1 Corinthians 10. 1 Corinthians 10, verse 6. “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.” In this context, God is referring to those people in Old Testament times. They lusted after things that they should not have lusted after; things that were forbidden by God. And God says, “Those things are revealed for you for your example.” Again, to learn from their mistakes, and avoid their mistakes. Then also in this 10th Chapter, verse 11. 1 Corinthians 10,

verse 11. Here, God says, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they are written for our admonition on whom the ends of the ages have come." So what is he talking about here? Those things that happened to those people in the Old Testament times: they're written for our example, for admonition. And that word means warning, we should be warned by the things that we read in the Old Testament.

In this context, Paul talked about several things that they were guilty of. He said they were guilty of idolatry. They were guilty of sexual immorality, of testing God, of murmuring, or complaining against God. And remember, as you studied the Old Testament, those things were true. What is God saying? Learn from their example, don't be guilty of those things. Be warned by those things, because in these verses, God says, "They were destroyed for their behavior." We can be warned by that. And that's what we need to do, as we study from the Old Testament.

We need to learn, and we need to be warned and exhorted. What this means is, the Old Testament is valuable to us. We need to study it, we need to learn from it. But it just is not binding upon us as law. When we want to know what God's will is for us today, we go to the New Testament of Jesus Christ, which is our law, today. We live under that New Testament.

Let's look now at a brief summary of the points that we've studied from these verses of Scripture concerning the New Testament. First of all, Jesus is the mediator of it. And of course, He is superior to Moses, who was the mediator of the First Testament, the Old. Secondly, it is a better covenant, for several reasons. One reason is that it's based upon better promises. Better promises are associated with this better covenant. A second reason is that it brings a better hope. Brings a better hope. And we talked about those passages of Scripture, which tell us of the great hope of the Christian. And thirdly, is it has a better sacrifice, the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus Christ, not the blood of animals. Another point that we studied is that the New Testament is the everlasting covenant, not to be replaced by any other revelation from God. Our fourth point, we said, we want to study: does that mean that the Old Testament is not valuable today? And you have seen that our answer to that question is, no, it doesn't mean that.

Instead, several points about that Old Testament. First of all, it was written for our learning, that we through patience, and the comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. And secondly, it was written for our example and our admonition, or our warning. And thirdly, the final point: it is just not binding upon us as law. We are under the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And thanks be to God for that. We have a better testament, a better covenant, a better law. And we thank God for that. And we pray that each of us, including myself, as we go through our daily lives, that we will apply ourselves to the study, and meditation and implementation of God's New Testament, the New Testament of Christ in our daily lives. That concludes our study of this section on the organization of the Bible.