

Hebrews – teaching #8

A New Covenant – A New Deal Written on the Hearts and in the Minds of Men

Opening thoughts

- The 4th of July – A day of reflection and a time of appreciation. Declaration of Independence signed 229 years ago in 1776.
- Being born in the late 40's I think that my life has been blessed; not only because I was born an American but because it spanned one of the best times in all of all American history.
- Ever since WWII our country as a whole has experienced the most freedoms and prosperity in all of human history. It wasn't always this way and wasn't without cost.
 - Every war since was a police action to defend others on their own soil.

American History lesson: [As a parallel to Israel]

- Our forefathers came to the Eastern shores likening themselves to “A new Israel” saying that the unblemished American soil was the “promised land”.
- Declaration of Independence – We declared our freedom and fought a bloody war for it. [Israel declared freedom when they crossed the Red Sea – yet were a generation away before it was realized.]
- We wrote a constitution a document that was put under glass that was to govern the way we would live and the people we would be. [Israel's law was written on stone]
 - A document that many would scrutinize and tamper with in hopes of achieving a new agenda. [Israel's Pharisees did the same.]
- Statue of Liberty was a statement of intent:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breath free,
The wretched refuse of you teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

- We saw ourselves as a “city on a hill” – her lamp raised in Christian benevolence proclaiming the Lords heart.
- Like Israel we became a people who lived in moral conflict.
 - We proclaimed freedom but practiced slavery.
 - We proclaimed that men were created equal but we were a nation of prejudice. [Like Israel (who despised the gentiles) we despised and oppressed the American Indian & African blacks seeing them as lesser people.]
 - We proclaimed unity but fought a ruthless civil war of division. [Israel too became divided and ended in 70 years of captivity]
 - We proclaimed outreach & benevolence but like Israel practiced entitlement – calling it “Manifest destiny”.
 - Trapped and shot off the land for monetary gain
 - Land rush
 - Gold rush
 - Prosperity at any cost
 - We fought for survival from an encroaching aggressive world – WWI [Israel constantly fought to preserve their nation]
 - Roaring 20’s – Original values were challenged and changed. [Like Israel we turned to other god’s and it effected future generations] Burlesque birthed the addiction of Pornography
 - Boot-legging - Underground Drug trafficking
 - Mafia - became organized gangs violence
 - Consumerism, materialism & debt – Buying on credit was established for the first time – A habit of indebtedness. [Zech. 1 – Worshipped other god’s and effected future generations]
 - The nation crashed - “The great depression” – Panic set in due to economic collapse and the rise of Japan and Germany as threatening world powers. All could be lost. [Judges 6 – Israel found itself in a pit of despair]
 - “The New Deal” Franklin D. Roosevelt – To save a nation.
 - Inaugural address - “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”
 - A message of hope for a better future.
 - A call to ownership, responsibility and unity.
 - Up-side-down reformation. - Closed banks for a time.
 - Radical paradigm changes on how to live.

- Intimacy – radio & fireside chats – The president was in every living room for the first time.
- A restored heart for the poor – A federal agency was set up to provide the states with funds to feed the hungry and employ the jobless. (Job Corps.) Forest conservation and environmental concern.
- Polio – In his weakness he became strong.

Parallels

- Author of Hebrews was drawing a parallel with Israel's history and culture to show what Christ had accomplished. The natural speaks of the supernatural.
- Jesus came to establish a "new deal" – a new covenant – not of brick and stone but one that would be written in the hearts and minds of men.

Hebrews 8

¹The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. ³Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

⁵They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." [Ex. 25:40] ⁶But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

⁷For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸But God found fault with the people and said: [Jer. 31:31-34]

"The time is coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

⁹It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

¹⁰This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

¹¹No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹²For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

¹³By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

Main Points

"¹The point of what we are saying is this:"

- Jesus is more than a high priest but the provider of a new covenant.
- Old Test. is important – Vs. 5 – it foreshadows or gave us a physical picture of what was to come – an earthly copy of a heavenly reality. [See 10:1]

Hebrews 10

¹The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ²If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (*Only Jesus can do it!*)

- A new Covenant or agreement – a covenant of grace.
 - Written on the heart and in the minds – (No longer on stone)
 - Now governed by the Spirit and conscious not by law.
 - No longer a surface religion but is now in us.
 - An inner craving for truth and an inner drive.
 - Issue of evangelism. God has done his part and only asks us to do ours – To share the good news.
- Good News – There is a “New deal” – A new covenant between God & man.
 - A new way of forgiveness – not through the sacrifice of animals (natural means), but by faith (Supernatural work of Christ).
 - The curtain has been torn – There is access to God and heaven through faith because of God’s grace.
 - There is freedom and deliverance from the “Great depression” and despair.
 - A new deal – received only in faith.

Hebrews 10

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of

Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Ministry Time - Communion

1 Corinthians 11 (Living Translation) - Communion

²³For this is what the Lord himself said, and I pass it on to you just as I received it. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and you, sealed by the shedding of my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." ²⁶For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.