

THE NEW AND BETTER COVENANT, PART 3:  
EXCURSUS—THE CHURCH AND THE NEW COVENANT  
(Hebrews 8:1-13)

- I. The “New Covenant” Is Mentioned in the New Testament
  - A. Twice in regard to “The LORD’S SUPPER” (Lk. 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25)
  - B. Once in reference to PAUL’S MINISTRY (2 Cor. 3:6)
  - C. Thrice in HEBREWS (8:8; 9:15; 12:24)
  
- II. Identifying the BENEFICIARIES Is Disputed
  - A. Shaped by one’s METHOD of INTERPRETATION
  - B. Impacts one’s UNDERSTANDING of ESCHATOLOGY
  
- III. Four Views Are DEFENDED
  - A. The New Covenant is with the CHURCH, which has REPLACED ISRAEL
    - 1. In deference to NT references involving the CHURCH, interprets Jeremiah FIGURATIVELY
    - 2. Assumes we are living NOW in the KINGDOM
  - B. The New Covenant is with ISRAEL EXCLUSIVELY

1. Interprets Jeremiah LITERALLY, but has problems with some NT references involving the CHURCH
  2. Believes in a MILLENNIAL KINGDOM to come
- C. There are TWO New Covenants, one with ISRAEL and one with the CHURCH
1. Interprets LITERALLY Jeremiah and NT references involving the CHURCH, but requires a DISTINCTION never STATED
  2. Believes in a MILLENNIAL KINGDOM to come
- D. The New Covenant will be FULFILLED with ISRAEL eschatologically, but INCLUDES the CHURCH soteriologically
1. The TWO COVENANTS view doesn't fit NORMAL interpretation and can't explain Heb. 12:23-24
  2. The writer of *Hebrews* is addressing CHRISTIANS when he mentions the new covenant
  3. Jesus spoke of the new covenant in connection with an ORDINANCE He gave the CHURCH (Lk. 22:20)
  4. Paul makes the same connection instructing the GENTILE CHURCH in Corinth (1 Cor. 11:25)
  5. If there are TWO new covenants, what is the OLD covenant for the CHURCH (Heb. 8:13)?
  6. The church BENEFITS from God's new covenant with ISRAEL, which will reach FULFILLMENT in the MILLENNIUM with Israel's REDEMPTION