

Bargaining For a Better Deal

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people...

Hebrews 8:7-8a

NUGGET – You remember Monty Hall and the TV show Let's Make a Deal? What was the one thing that always had to happen on that show for someone to win big? That's right, they had to give up what they had already won. They bargained for a better deal – hence the name of the show!

In today's nugget verse we're let in on the fact that the first covenant God had made had a flaw. There was something not good about it. There had to be a better deal that could be found. After all if the first were fine, as it says in the verse, *no place would have been sought for another*.

So naturally we humans want see how God messed up right? After all why would God, who knows all things, make a covenant that had something wrong with it? Of course the answer is there also in verse 8. The fault was with the people.

In the following verses, which quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34, God gives the solution – a new covenant. And its promised right there in the old writings. God knew man would 'bargain' his way out of the deal, out of the first covenant that God had made. That's because man would be at fault and not keep his end of the bargain.

So God made a covenant based on promises not kept just by mankind, but by the new High Priest, Jesus Christ. Verse 6 tells us, *But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises*.

The better promises are what Jesus makes by His perfectly lived life. By living the perfection that is needed to atone for the breaking of the first covenant, Jesus makes and fulfills the 'better promises'. That gives the new covenant the superior place.

We now have what we didn't before, the best deal that could be. That's because God gave up the very best He had, His own Son in order to win, by dying on the cross and rising to new life again, the better bargain for the creation, which He loved.

It would be easy to bring down the hammer of the law and say, LOOK HOW YOU FAILED GOD SO HE HAD TO MAKE A NEW BARGAIN FOR YOU. But that is only part of the story, a true part, but only one part. The more important thing to remember is what God says that the new bargain grants to us. In verse 12, again, quoting Jeremiah God says, *For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more*. That is truly the best deal of all!

APPLICATION -

1. In the new bargain that the blood of Jesus has won for all, God remembers our sins no more. We find that a hard concept to grasp. So maybe try this. Go dirty up a plate and then wash it. Do it by hand is best. Now look at the plate, do you see the dirt? No. Do you remember the dirt? Think about that, can you remember every little speck and grimy spot? No. In a much greater way and far beyond what we can fathom, God remembers our sin also, no more. That's because the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus, the blood of the new covenant truly washes away all the stain of sin, forever! You are free – now that's a bargain!!

PRAY – Dear Jesus, You bring the new covenant of peace through the better promises You delivered. Thank You for Your blood, shed on the cross to redeem us and to free us from the stain of sin. In Your name we pray, amen.