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From: [William and Beverly Salmon](#)

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Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2003 11:16 PM

Subject: Comment on Hebrews 8

Say, gang. Sorry for the long delay. My schedule got me up very short with too much preparation to do. However, I wanted to share with you our IHOP reflections from last Tuesday. An interesting session. I'll use Karl's material in blue, and my comments in RED. Pastor Bill

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

Session: Hebrews 8

- I. Read the chapter through in one reading.
- II. To grasp the significance of this chapter, it is necessary to think of Jesus Christ as the NEW ADAM who ushers in an entirely NEW AGE. The old is now replaced with the new.
 - A. Research in your own materials, and on the net the following topics. (You might try: www.studydrive.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=heb&chapter=008 I found this reference useful for Romans 7, but have not looked at it for Romans 8. Good luck!) Afterward write a brief summary for us.

NEW COVENANT Make the attempt to discover enough about the OLD COVENANTS to compare the two. (First Covenant with Noah, then Abram, Joseph, and Moses.) See what you can find.

The NEW COVENANT is one of grace, whereas the OLD COVENANT was one of laws between God and Israel. The NEW COVENANT is for everyone, it goes beyond Israel and Judah, it is in our hearts, "in our Gut" as described by a well known retired? Methodist minister. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the NEW COVENANT. Thru him, we are forgiven of our sins and can strive to be at -one with GOD. Animal sacrifices were performed for forgiveness under the OLD COVENANT.

I think both COVENANTS have one common theme--"FAITH IN AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD" Oo-o-o-o-o-o, Karl. Good answer. Now, run your answer through your gut. Pass the words "faith" and "obedience" through your human experience, and tell me what these words mean to you. The "Covenant" is the description what what Perfect At-One-Ment looks like. "Faith" is that on which you can "bet your life." "Obedience" is the decision to be radically engaged with Perfect At-One-Ment: to say YES to God, and NO to everything else.

At the IHOP Tuesday a.m. meeting, we found the web-related (made red above) reference very helpful. If you haven't looked it up, check it out. In particular the subtopics titled: "THE SEATED AND SERVING CHRIST," "THE TEMPLE IN HEAVEN," "THE DIVINE PATTERN," "THE BETTER COVENANT," "JEREMIAH," and the "NEW COVENANT,"

In particular, the section on "THE BETTER COVENANT" covers verses 6 and 7. This section lists the various covenants: Noah -- Genesis 6:18; 9:9. Abraham (Genesis 17: 2, 10; 15:18ff; 15: 6. The "SALT COVENANT" in Numbers 18: 19, and Leviticus 2: 13, and The Peace Covenant (the Everlasting Priesthood Covenant) in Numbers 25:13.) It is a

good idea to look up these references just to note their place in the Bible and, perhaps, their context. Then, the covenant with Mose known as the Table of Stone Covenant. There is one I observe, but most scholars do not, and this is God's Covenant with Joseph in the Covenant of the 12 Tribes.

The difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is the issue of how best to achieve AT-ONE-MENT. The "old covenants" are based on "obedience" to the LAW. (Karl--note, here is that word "obedience.")

The new covenant does not depend upon our obience to the Law, rather it depends upon our "faith-full-ness" to living the life Christ demonstrated; it depends upon our personal relationship to Christ; it depends upon our betting our life ("faith", Karl, here is that word again) that when we live to be AT-ONE, we find fulfillment and peace in our lives.

Just one more observation. Christians observe the New Covenant, because the Covenant is fulfill in Christ: Christ is our AT-One-Ment. Our personal relationship to Christ means we find the fulfillment of At-One-Ment, not in any actions of our own, but in our faithfulness to Christ. Being faithful to Christ means to always ask the ethical question WWJD before every relationship to our spouses, neighbors, the new set of golf clubs, etc. THEN NOTE: after we are in Covenant with God through Christ, THEN we are obliged to obey the 10 Commandments--but not before. We fulfill them, in order to demonstrate to neighbor, self and God, that we have CHOOSE TO BE OBEDIENT. um-um!

The Old Testament prophet JEREMIAH. What is the foundation of his message? Paul writes in vs. 8 "But God found fault with the people. . ." In your Bible, follow vs 8, the quotation Paul uses is from Jeremiah 31:31 - 34.

Jeremiah was looking forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. Technically, Jeremiah was looking for the Christ. Jesus would not show up for about 600 years or more. The "Christ" always is universal. "Jesus" is always the particular.

There is an old controversary between Jeremiah and Isaiah. These are Pre-Exile prophets, that is the were intrepeting the signs of the times. The Hebrew people continued to fail God in ther OBEDIENCE to the Law. It could achieve AT-ONE-MENT. So the Northern Kingdom of "Israel" was overrun by the Syrians and taken into EXILE. The southern Kingdom of Juday was over run by the Babylonians (Iraq), and took the people into EXILE and slavery.

The people had grown used to God's protection, and wonder why did they happen? At good question.

Jeremiah's answer was the people were not OBEDIENT enough to The Law. Since the "punishment is always built into the deed itself--a Salmonite quotation), the people were enslaved.

Isaiah's answer, we that the Hebrew people were not FAITHFUL enough to the mission of God, that was to take God's love to the whole world. Since the "punishment

is always built into the deed itself--yes, a *Salmonite quotation*), **NOW WATCH CLOSELY!** In slavery and EXIL, the Hebrew people were now faithful to the MISSION OF GOD IN THE WORLD. The Hebrew people never lost their faith and belief practices, always witnessing to their foreign neighbors concerning God's love.

Just one last observation. When Jesus began his ministry, he started by going into the synagogue, where he took down the Isaiah scroll. And reading Isaiah 61: 1,2 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "TODAY, THIS SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING." (Luke 4:14 - 21 -- NIV.) Please be certain to read this for yourself in your own Bible.

Yes, Jesus the Christ/Anointed fulfills the message of ISAIAH! The message of 'FAITHFULNESS TO THE MISSION OF GOD'S LOVE.

I always find it interesting that Paul (or Paul's school) choose JEREMIAL for their illustration. Curious.

On to HEBREWS 9.