

DAY 22 SATURDAY

HEBREWS 8:6 THE TOTAL PROMISE

⁶ *But 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.*

Better ministry – better covenant – better promises – wow! Not only is Jesus superior to the angels through whom the Jews believed the Law was delivered, and a better priest than the Temple priest through whom atonement was mediated, but since the covenant he mediates is superior to their authorizing covenant, his ministry is also greater. In both covenants the originator is God and the promise is to be reconciled with God. But the former covenant pertains to the external, while the latter pertains to the internal. The promise before Jesus was that the obedient people would be God's people on earth and established in their own geographical territory. In contrast, the promise of Jesus is that of transformation rather than translocation. Therefore the promise transcends the temporal and is eternal. It is not subject to any thing in creation, but solely on the steadfast love of God. We, through our faith, make up the only element of the promise that is part of creation.

So with St. Paul we are able to say:

³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:38-39)

Gods' promise is established and empowered from within us by God. It does not depend upon a temple, a priesthood, a nation, a ritual, the economy, our physical health, our opportunities, or even our families, but only God and our obedience to him. The promise is truly eternal.

I thank you, O God, that you have made your promise not only accessible to me but eternal in character. As I contemplate your promise, help me to understand the awesome nature of your love and the opportunity to know you that you have provided for me. Aid me as I attempt to live my life in the knowledge that there is nothing in all creation, other than my own choice, that can remove me from the realization of your promise. Amen.