

Sovereign Grace Church

“Hebrews 1-9” outline

January 22, 2017

As we return to our study of the book of Hebrews it might be wise to review what we have already considered in the first nine chapters. Hebrews is a pivotal book in the New Testament which provides a bridge as to how to understand the New Covenant in relation to the Old Covenant of Moses. The Old Covenant was a perfect covenant given its purpose. But it could not complete that to which it pointed....the complete transformation of a sinner embedded in self will and desire into a sinner transformed by the power of God and renewed into the very image of Christ Himself.

The New Covenant possesses a power that not only confronts fallen man with the truth of his sinful condition...but provides the power in Christ for the sinner's complete transformation. Because that transformation happens gradually and with our necessary cooperation, it can get tedious and involve real struggles with our ongoing sinful natures and persecution from those who have rejected God and His Kingdom. Thus, the temptation for the early Hebrew Christians was to return to the “pretend game” of the Old Covenant shadows instead of persevering in following Jesus into real spiritual growth. In that both these early Hebrew believers and we ourselves are New Covenant believers there is much for us to learn.

- 1. Original Recipients**
- 2. Final Revelation 1: 1-3**
- 3. Warnings against Falling Away 6:4-6; Jn. 14:6**
- 4. Jesus is greater than Angels. 2: 5,9; I Cor. 6:3**
- 5. Why did Jesus have to suffer? 2:10**
- 6. Jesus is greater than Moses. 3:3**
- 7. Jesus provides Rest. 4: 9-11; Jms 1: 2-4**

8. Jesus is a Perfect High Priest. 4: 15-16

9. Jesus and Melchizedek 7: 15-16

10. Jesus administers a Better Covenant. 8: 7,13; Ezk. 36: 36-37; II Cor. 3:18

11. Reality and Shadows 9: 23-24; Lk 9: 23-24

Questions for Conversation and Discussion

- 1. How would you explain the difference between the Old and New Covenants in your own words? How could Old Covenant believers be saved if the Old Covenant itself merely pointed to Redemption instead of actually providing it? If Jesus is the only door to salvation...and Jesus did not come until later...how could Old Covenant people be saved?**
- 2. What was the place of God's Law under the Old Covenant? How is God's Law regarded under the New Covenant? Has anything changed with reference to the Mosaic Law as it is received by New Covenant believers?**
- 3. If the New Covenant rite of Baptism is part of the substance of salvation, how can it still be considered as a picture of redemption? Is there a reality under-girding the rite of baptism to which the rite points? Is it possible to be save apart from being physically baptized? What is the substance to which it points? What does it mean to accompany baptism with faith? How can this occur in infant baptism? If it does not occur with adult baptism...should the adult be baptized again?**
- 4. Does the word "saved" always mean the same thing in Scripture? What are some different ways the same word is used? Is it possible to be "saved" by the blood of Christ and still need to be "saved"? What did the Reformers mean by the "order of salvation"? (see Romans 8: 29-30)**
- 5. Is there a difference between attempting to be in outward obedience to God's law and being spiritually transformed into the image of Christ? What is the difference when it comes to keeping God's law? What is the difference between viewing our redemption as a settled state vs. viewing it as a life to be lived? Which is more biblical?**