

Hebrews 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Analysis

The new covenant's mechanism: 'I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts.' This is internal transformation, not external legislation. The Spirit enables obedience from regenerate hearts, not merely external compliance. The result is intimate relationship: 'I will be their God, and they shall be My people.' Reformed theology sees regeneration and the Spirit's indwelling as distinguishing the new covenant from the old.

Historical Context

This contrasts with the stone tablets at Sinai. Ezekiel 36:26-27 similarly promises a new heart and God's Spirit within, enabling obedience. The new covenant accomplishes what the old commanded but couldn't enable.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's internal work differ from external law-keeping?
2. What does it mean practically that God's law is written on your heart?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι αὕτη ἡ διαθήκη ἦν διαθήσομαι τῷ οἴκῳ
For this G3588 is the covenant G1242 that I will make G3588 with the house G3624
G3754 G3778 G1242 G3739 G1303 G3624

Ἰσραὴλ μετὰ τὰς ἡμέρας ἐκείνας λέγει κύριος· διδοὺς
of Israel after G3588 days those saith the Lord I will put
G2474 G3326 G2250 G1565 G3004 G2962 G1325

νόμους μου εἰς τὴν διάνοιαν αὐτοὶ καὶ ἐπὶ καρδίας
laws my into G3588 mind their and in hearts
G3551 G3450 G1519 G1271 G846 G2532 G1909 G2588

αὐτοὶ ἐπιγράψω αὐτοὶ καὶ ἔσονται αὐτοὶ εἰς θεόν καὶ
their write their and I will be their into a God and
G846 G1924 G846 G2532 G2071 G846 G1519 G2316 G2532

αὐτοὶ ἔσονται μοι εἰς λαόν.
their I will be me into a people
G846 G2071 G3427 G1519 G2992

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:33 (Covenant): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (References God): Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Jeremiah 24:7 (References God): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (References God): And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Romans 11:27 (Covenant): For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

James 1:21 (Word): Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 Peter 1:23 (Word): Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Zechariah 8:8 (References God): And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.