

Hebrews 8:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Analysis

Under the new covenant, there's no need for human teachers saying 'Know the LORD,' because 'all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest.' This doesn't eliminate teaching offices (Ephesians 4:11) but emphasizes direct, personal knowledge of God through the Spirit available to all believers. The democratization of covenant knowledge surpasses the old covenant's mediation through priests and prophets. All believers are priests (1 Peter 2:9).

Historical Context

Under the old covenant, knowledge of God was mediated through prophets, priests, and teachers. Most people depended on others for access to God's word and presence. The new covenant grants direct access through Christ and the indwelling Spirit to every believer.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your direct access to God through Christ change your spiritual life compared to requiring human mediators?
2. What does it mean that the 'least' in the new covenant has the same spiritual access as the 'greatest'?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐ μὴ διδάξωσιν ἕκαστος τὸν πλησίον αὐτοῦ καὶ
And G3756 G3361 teach every man G3588 neighbour G846 And
G2532 G1321 G1538 G4139 G2532

ἕκαστος τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ λέγων, Γνῶθι τὸν κύριον
every man G3588 brother G846 saying G3004 Know G3588 the Lord
G1538 G80 G1097 G2962

ὅτι πάντες εἰδήσουσίν με ἀπὸ μικροῦ αὐτῶν ἔως
for all shall know me from the least G846 to
G3754 G3956 G1492 G3165 G575 G3398 G2193

μεγάλου αὐτῶν
the greatest G846
G3173

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:34 (References Lord): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Isaiah 54:13 (References Lord): And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Jeremiah 24:7 (References Lord): 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.

1 John 5:20 (Parallel theme): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Acts 8:10 (Parallel theme): To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References Lord): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Habakkuk 2:14 (References Lord): For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 2:3 (References Lord): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.