

Hebrews 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Analysis

Christ has obtained 'a more excellent ministry' (Greek 'diaphorous leitourgias'—superior service) for two reasons: He is 'mediator of a better covenant' and it is 'established upon better promises.' The new covenant surpasses the old in both its mediator (Christ vs. Moses) and its promises (grace vs. law, internal transformation vs. external requirement).

Historical Context

The old covenant promised blessing conditional on obedience (Exodus 19:5-6) but provided no power to obey. The new covenant promises both forgiveness and transformation through the Spirit (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What better promises of the new covenant are you experiencing today?

2. How does Christ as mediator surpass Moses in securing your relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

νυνὶ	δὲ	διαφορωτέρας	τέτευχεν	λειτουργίας	ὅσω	
now	But	a more excellent	hath he obtained	ministry	by how much	
G3570	G1161	G1313	G5177	G3009	G3745	
καὶ	κρείττοσιν	ἐστὶν	διαθήκης	μεσίτης	ἥτις	ἐπὶ
also	better	he is	covenant	the mediator	which	upon
G2532	G2909	G2076	G1242	G3316	G3748	G1909
κρείττοσιν	ἐπαγγελίαις	νενομοθέτηται				
better	promises	was established				
G2909	G1860	G3549				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:22 (Covenant): By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Hebrews 12:24 (Covenant): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

2 Peter 1:4 (Covenant): Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Luke 22:20 (Covenant): Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Titus 1:2 (Covenant): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Romans 9:4 (Covenant): Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

