

Hebrews 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Analysis

If the first covenant 'had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.' This logical argument demonstrates the first covenant's inadequacy. The fault wasn't in God's law itself but in its inability to transform hearts and permanently remove sin. The very prediction of a new covenant (Jeremiah 31) proves God planned to replace the old. Reformed covenant theology sees this as progressive revelation, not contradiction.

Historical Context

Jeremiah 31:31-34, written c. 600 BC, promised a new covenant long before Christ. This prophecy indicated God's dissatisfaction with the old covenant arrangement from within the OT itself, so the new covenant isn't a New Testament innovation but OT expectation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'fault' in the old covenant required a new one, and how does the new covenant remedy it?
2. How does God's plan for a new covenant from the beginning demonstrate His sovereignty in redemption?

Interlinear Text

Εἰ	γὰρ	ἡ	πρώτη	ἐκείνη	ἦν	ἄμεμπτος	οὐκ
if	For	G3588	first	that	covenant had been	faultless	no
G1487	G1063		G4413	G1565	G2258	G273	G3756
ἂν	δευτέρως	ἐζητεῖτο	τόπος				
then should	for the second	have been sought	place				
G302	G1208	G2212	G5117				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:11 (Parallel theme): If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:18 (Parallel theme): For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

Galatians 3:21 (Covenant): Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

Hebrews 8:6 (Covenant): 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.