

# Hebrews 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

## Analysis

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The new covenant will 'not be according to the covenant I made with their fathers' at the Exodus, which 'they did not continue in' despite God's husbandly faithfulness ('I disregarded them' better translated 'I was a husband to them'). The old covenant was bilateral (conditional on human obedience); the new is unilateral (based on Christ's obedience and God's sovereign grace). Reformed theology emphasizes the new covenant's superiority in its gracious, effectual nature.

## Historical Context

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The Exodus covenant at Sinai was ratified with the people's promise: 'All that the LORD has said we will do' (Exodus 19:8). Yet they broke covenant almost immediately with the golden calf. The new covenant doesn't depend on human promises but divine performance.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why did the old covenant fail, despite being God's law given to His chosen people?
2. How does the new covenant's basis in Christ's obedience rather than yours provide security?

## Interlinear Text

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οὐκ κατὰ τὴν διαθήκη ἦν ἐποίησα τοῖς πατράσιν  
**Not according to** G3588 **covenant** G1242 **that** G3739 **I made with** G3588 **fathers** G3962  
G3756 G2596

αὐτῶν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ἐπιλαβομένου μου τῆς χειρὸς  
**their** G846 **in** G1722 **the day** G2250 **when I took** G1949 **by the hand** G3450 G3588 G5495  
G846

αὐτῶν ἐξαγαγεῖν αὐτῶν ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου ὅτι  
**their** G846 **to lead** G1806 **their** G846 **out of** G1537 **the land** G1093 **of Egypt** G125 **because** G3754

αὐτῶν οὐκ ἐνέμειναν ἐν τῇ διαθήκῃ μου κἀγὼ  
**their** G846 **Not** G3756 **continued** G1696 **in** G1722 G3588 **covenant** G1242 **by the hand** G3450 **and I** G2504

ἡμέλησα αὐτῶν λέγει κύριος·  
**not** G272 **their** G846 **saith** G3004 **the Lord** G2962

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 31:32** (Covenant): Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

**Galatians 4:24** (Covenant): Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

**Mark 8:23** (Parallel theme): And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

**Isaiah 40:11** (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

**Isaiah 63:9** (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

**Acts 13:11** (References Lord): And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

**Acts 9:8** (Parallel theme): And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

**Psalms 77:20** (Parallel theme): Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

**Psalms 78:57** (Parallel theme): But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

**Psalms 105:43** (Parallel theme): And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness: