

Hebrews 9:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Analysis

Christ is 'the Mediator of the new covenant' so that those called 'may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.' This required His death 'for the redemption of transgressions under the first covenant.' Even OT believers were saved by Christ's sacrifice - it had retroactive effect. Reformed covenant theology sees essential unity in the way of salvation across testaments (by grace through faith in Christ) while recognizing progressive revelation and administration.

Historical Context

OT believers looked forward in faith to God's promised redemption; NT believers look back to the accomplished redemption in Christ. The same sacrifice saves both, demonstrating the unity of God's redemptive purpose throughout history.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How were Old Testament believers saved if Christ hadn't yet died?
2. What does the unity of salvation across both testaments teach about God's eternal plan?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	διὰ	τοῦτο	διαθήκη	καινῆς	μεσίτης	ἐστίν,	ὅπως
And	cause	for this	testament	of the new	the mediator	he is	that
G2532	G1223	G5124	G1242	G2537	G3316	G2076	G3704
θανάτου	γενομένου	εἰς	ἀπολύτρωσιν	τῶν	ἐπὶ	τῇ	
of death	by means	for	the redemption	G3588	that were under	G3588	
G2288	G1096	G1519	G629		G1909		
πρώτη	διαθήκη	παραβάσεων	τὴν	ἐπαγγελίαν	λάβωσιν		
the first	testament	of the transgressions	G3588	the promise	might receive		
G4413	G1242	G3847		G1860	G2983		
οἱ	κεκλημένοι	τῆς	αἰωνίου	κληρονομίας			
G3588	they which are called	G3588	of eternal	inheritance			
	G2564		G166	G2817			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:30 (Parallel theme): Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Hebrews 9:12 (Redemption): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 10:36 (Covenant): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 Timothy 2:5 (Parallel theme): For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

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.

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

Hebrews 13:20 (Covenant): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Romans 5:6 (Parallel theme): For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

1 Peter 3:18 (Sin): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: