

Stephens, GregGod, The Covenant and the Contradiction

13. Chapter Eight — The New Covenant

This chapter argues that Jesus is the fulfillment of every previous covenant. It shows how His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension complete more than 300 Old Testament prophecies, then explains what the resulting New Covenant secures for the believer: redemption by His blood, authority in His Name, the sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the restoration of THE BLESSING lost by Adam. A closing 'Go Deeper' section compares Joseph and Jesus.

Key takeaways

- Jesus opened His ministry by reading Isaiah about Himself and declaring, 'This day is this scripture fulfilled' — He came not to destroy the Law and Prophets but to fulfill them.
- Matthew repeatedly records events done 'that it might be fulfilled'; Jesus fulfilled all previous covenants (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David) as the promised Seed.
- The New Covenant can only be understood in light of the earlier covenants — the Bible is one story pointing to Messiah. We live 'on this side of The BOOK,' under a better covenant with better promises.

- Jesus' sinless blood is a once-for-all sacrifice that ends all others; through it we are cleansed, justified, redeemed, reconciled, sanctified, and given His Name and its authority.
- The seal of this covenant is not a thing but a Person — the Holy Spirit — who assures salvation now and guarantees the future glorification of our bodies.
- The 'contradiction': our spirit is re-created but our body is unchanged and we still live in a fallen world. We handle this like Abraham — by faith, believing God's word over what we see.
- Righteousness comes by grace through faith, not law-keeping. 'You can't be married to Jesus and date Moses.' Faith works by love, because love is God's motive for every covenant.
- THE BLESSING lost by Adam is restored in Christ, covering spirit, soul, body, and every sphere of life; the New Covenant is curse-free and irrevocable, but conditioned on faith.
- Go Deeper: Joseph's life parallels Jesus' — beloved son, stripped of his coat, sold, falsely accused, silent under accusation — foreshadowing the true Messiah.

Passages worth keeping

“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

Jesus declaring Himself the promised Messiah who fulfills the covenants

| *“Jesus plus nothing is everything.”*

Sums the chapter's core claim — salvation is by Christ alone, not law-keeping

How it connects

The chapter ties the whole covenant story together: Adam lost THE BLESSING, and every later covenant pointed forward until Jesus, the promised Seed, restored it once for all — extending it beyond the Hebrews to the Gentiles, so the wall between God and man is torn down (Ephesians 2:11-14).

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 4:18-21** -- Jesus reads Isaiah about Himself and declares it fulfilled
- **Matthew 5:17** -- He came to fulfill, not destroy, the Law and Prophets
- **Hebrews 8:6** -- a better covenant on better promises
- **Hebrews 9:13-15** -- Christ's blood as once-for-all sacrifice and mediator of the new covenant
- **Ephesians 2:8, 4:30** -- saved by grace through faith; sealed by the Holy Spirit
- **Galatians 3:13, 29** -- redeemed from the curse; believers become Abraham's seed and heirs