

January 16, 2005

Isaiah

The New Covenant in Christ

In the same way after the supper he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:20

He has made us competent ministers of the a new covenant . . . 2 Corinthians 3:6

But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs [i.e. the OT priests] as the covenant of which he is the mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. Hebrews 8:6

How much more then will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:14-15

Mountains removed

At that time [i.e. the time when God gave Moses the 10 commandments] his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things— so that

what cannot be shaken will remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:26-29

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars fell from the sky, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up and every mountain and island was removed. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?" Revelation 6:12-17

"That knowledge that accompanies salvation is a world-despising, a world-crucifying, and a world-contemning knowledge. It makes a man have low, poor, mean thoughts of the world; it makes a man slight it, and trample upon it as a thing of no value. That divine light that accompanies salvation makes a man to look upon the world as mixes, as mutable, as but for moment; it makes a man look upon the world as a liar, as a deceiver, as a flatterer, as a murderer, and as a witch that hath bewitched the souls of thousands to their eternal overthrow, by her golden proffers. . . . Therefore let no knowledge satisfy thee, but that which lifts thee above the world, that which weans thee from the world, that which makes the world a footstool."

- Thomas Brooks, *Heaven on Earth*, 187