

CALLED OF GOD

The writer of Hebrews is teaching on the superiority of the New Covenant blood of Jesus Christ (historical Christology) over the blood of sacrificial animals (shadow Christology) in Heb.8-10.

In our lesson text, he is teaching on the superiority of the Calling of God of New Covenant believers over Old Covenant believers. Pay attention to the phrase, “” (Heb.9:14), it continues the subject of superiority of the New Covenant to the Old Covenant.

We will study four aspects of superiority of the Called of God of New Covenant over the Old Covenant.

1. The Etymology of the Hebrew and Greek words for the word “called” gives us insight into the theology of the statement CALLED OF GOD.

- **The Hebrew word, qara**, places emphasis on the content of the message of the invitational call
 - “Who called and what did he say?”
- **The Greek word, kaleo**, places emphasis on the intent of the message of invitational call
 - “Why did he call and what do you think he wanted?”

The **content and intent** are both contained in the divine invitational call sent RSVP, which expects a dated response.

(Heb.11:8) “**By faith Abraham**, when he was called (kaleo/ p.p.ptc), obeyed (hupakouo/ a.a.ind) [positive response to God’s Directive Will] by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out not knowing where he was going!”

2. In the parable of the Wedding Feast (Matt.22:1-14), Jesus illustrated the importance of being Called of God.

He showed how the apostate Old Covenant Israel rejected the call to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

There are three parts to this parable:

- (Matt.22:1-8) Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.
- (Matt.22:9-13) So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So, the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- (Matt.22:14) [Doctrinal point] “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Pay attention to the negative responses to the invitational call of God in both sections

- (Matt.22:3, 5, 6) The king's response (Matt.22:7-8)
- (Matt.22:9-11) The king's response (Matt.22:12-13)

Note: A similar parable is the **Parable of Tenants** (Matt.21:33-46)

- (Matt.21:35-40) When they (OC Israel) killed the Son

Definition & Principle:

- The Church (ekklesia) of Jesus Christ means "ones called out" (Acts 20:28; Eph.4:4-6).
- The calling of God is irrevocable! (Rom.11:26)

3. The Old Covenant believer had to recommit his faith every year looking to the historical coming of Christ, to fulfill Shadow Christology of the Old Covenant (Heb.10:1-3, 11-14) [year by year].

He did so, much like a New Covenant believer does with in the partaking of the Eucharist (Lord's Supper) looking toward the Second Coming of Christ. (1 Cor.11:26) We here at DSBC partake monthly.

(Heb.10:9-10) "The He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will.' **He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will** we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.**"

(Heb.9:14) "How much more will the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience **from dead works to serve a living God?**"

(1 Cor.11:25) "This is the **new covenant in My blood**; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:20)

(Matt.5:17) "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."

(Rom.10:4) "For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness **to everyone who believes.**"

(Luke 24:44) "Now He said to them (The two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the day of His Resurrection), 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **must be fulfilled.**"

NOTE: The Old Covenant Law pointed people to the prophetic gospel of Christ for grace salvation (Gal.3:8, 24; 4:4; Rom.3:19-26).

4. The Called of God are those who have responded by faith to the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(2 Thess.2:13-14) "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for **salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this that He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(1Pet.5:10) "The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ."

(1 Pet.2:9) "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**" (Acts 26:18; Col.1:13-14)

(2 Tim.2:9) "**Who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works,** but according to His own purpose (divine plan) and grace which was **granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.**"