

Hebrews 8:6 \_ Translation Error?

The issue is with the part of the verse that says “**was established**”.

Heb 8:6 (KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which **was established** upon better promises.

In the Greek the word is νομοθετέω - nomotheteō - Strongs G3549

The Strong’s definition of this word is - to legislate, that is, (passively) to have (the Mosaic) enactments enjoined, be sanctioned (by them): - establish, receive the law.

There is only one other place in the NT where nomotheteō (G3549) is used and it is in Heb 7:11 where it is translated as “**received the Law**”

Heb 7:11 (KJV) If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people **received the law,**) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

This caused me to look into the Septuagint (LXX) to see if nomotheteō (G3549) was used as a translation into the Greek from the Hebrew OT.

Here is what I found...

Old Testament Usages of nomotheteō (G3549)					
GREEK		HEBREW			
Septuagint (LXX) Address	English from Brenton (LXX)	Hebrew Address	Hebrew Word Equivalent	Hebrew Strong's Equivalent	English Translations
Exodus 24:12	Give Laws	Exodus 24:12	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	to teach, for instruction
Deuteronomy 17:10	Law Appointed	Deuteronomy 17:10	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Teach, Inform, Instruct
Psalms 24:8	Instruct	Psalms 25:8	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Teaches, Instructs
Psalms 24:12	Instruct	Psalms 25:12	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Teach, Instruct
Psalms 26:11	Teach	Psalms 27:11	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Teach
Psalms 83:6	Law-Giver	Psalms 84:6	môreh - מוֹרֵה	H4175	Rain, Early Rain, Teacher (TS2009)
Psalms 118:33	Teach	Psalms 119:33	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Teach
Psalms 118:102	Instructed	Psalms 119:102	yârâh - יָרָה	H3384	Taught

yârâh (H3384) – A primitive root; properly to flow as water (that is, to rain); transitively to lay or throw (especially an arrow, that is, to shoot); figuratively to point out (as if by aiming the finger), to teach: - (+) archer, cast, direct, inform, instruct, lay, shew, shoot, teach (-er, -ing), through.

môreh (H4175) - From H3384; an archer; also teacher or teaching; also the early rain (see H3138): - (early) rain.

From what I can see, there is no other instance in the bible where nomotheteō (G3549) was used to mean that something **was established** as the English Translations all seem to state in Heb 8:6. Almost always I found the word nomotheteō (G3549) to be used to mean “teach or instruct” and always within the context of the Torah. My point is that maybe the phrase “**received the Law**” or something similar to this should be used in Heb 8:6 in place of “**was established**”.

Heb 8:6 (KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which **received or “receives” the Law** upon better promises.

Or perhaps...

Heb 8:6 (KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, **in which the Law is received** upon better promises.

To me this makes a lot more sense and it also makes a stronger link in the train of thought that the writer was going through as he wrote this book.

Now Heb 7:11 and 8:6 are contrasted more clearly between the Levitical Priesthood and Yeshua’s Priesthood. The same Law is received, but under Yeshua’s administration the Law is received with better promises (The Law is written in our hearts/the Spirit Causes us to obey the Law).

Compare...

Heb 7:11 (KJV) If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people **received the law**,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Heb 8:6 (KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, **in which the Law is received** upon better promises.