

Hebrews Lesson 08

Hebrews Chapter 8

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Memory verses for this week: *1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Tim 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Introduction: In Chapter 7, we studied about how Christ's Priesthood was not like that of Aaron's order. Those priests lived for a span of time and then died. Christ's priesthood was patterned after that of Melchisedec, who was prophet, priest, and king. While Melchisedec was just a man, we had no record of his parents were when he died. Christ is eternal, and will forever be our Great High Priest.

I. Summing Up of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Heb 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

In Christ, we see a high priest that took a place which no Levitical priest could ever take. This was due to his inherent right being the Son of God. No high priest could ever be seated on the right hand of God. That honor was bestowed upon God's only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. We have studied about the tabernacle and how that the High Priest only went into the innermost compartment called the Holy of Holies once per year. He offered a sin offering for his own sins, and then one for the people. But in doing that, he never sat down, and his job was never completed.

When Jesus offered His blood for our sins, He sat down on the right hand of God which signified that the job was finally finished, once and for all. Every sin ever committed or will be committed could be covered by the blood of Christ if people would come and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus sits today on the right hand of God as our Great High Priest. Christ is a minister of the 'heavenly sanctuary'... the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, not man.

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Heb 8:4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

Heb 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.

Verse 3 speaks of how the Old Testament high priest offered both gifts and sacrifices. Jesus offered up Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. And when we pray, He offers those prayers and praises before God. Never doubt that God hears our prayers when we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Verse 4 tells us that Christ could not be our high priest if he were on the earth. According to the law, only descendants of Levi could serve in that capacity, and Jesus was from the tribe of Judah. We know the tabernacle was set up for earthly and imperfect men to minister through.

All of the Old Testament offerings and ministry were just a shadow of Christ and His perfect work in Heaven as our Great High Priest. God gave specific instructions as to how he was to build the tabernacle, and he was to follow the pattern given on the mount. This indicates how that we as believers should follow the teachings of the Word without turning aside.

II. A Better Covenant

Heb 8:6 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.

There are three important points in verse 6.

1. Christ had a more excellent ministry than Aaron.
2. He is the mediator of a better covenant than the one made with Israel.
3. This covenant was established upon better promise than the covenant made with Israel.

If we analyze the covenant made with Israel, we find that it depended upon man's ability to carry out its requirements. The old covenant was based upon "If you will do thus and so, I will do certain things."

Lev 26:1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Lev 26:2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

Lev 26:3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

Lev 26:4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Lev 26:5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

Lev 26:6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

Lev 26:7 And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

Lev 26:8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

Lev 26:9 For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

Lev 26:10 And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

Lev 26:11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

Lev 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Lev 26:13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Lev 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

Lev 26:15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

Lev 26:16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Lev 26:17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

Lev 26:18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

Lev 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Lev 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.

Lev 26:23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

Lev 26:24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

Oh how much better the covenant of the New Testament is... it is really "I Will". Man's lack of ability to perform will not prevent him from being saved if he truly comes to Christ for salvation. Our lack of works certainly will diminish our crowns

and rewards, but we will not stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ to determine whether we will enter Heaven. That was done by Christ's Work and Sacrifice there on Calvary.

If the old covenant had been perfect, it would never have been set to one side and a new one brought in. The first covenant was weak in that it depended upon the flesh. Man's performance was required. And with the works of the flesh no man will be justified before God.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Gal 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Gal 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Gal 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

There were at least 7 covenants in the Old Testament.

a. The first covenant was the Edenic Covenant.

Gen. 1:26-28, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and

subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

b. The second covenant is known as the Adamic Covenant.

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

c. The third covenant was the Noahic Covenant.

Gen. 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

d. The fourth covenant was the Abrahamic Covenant.

Gen. 15:18, "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates."

e. The Mosaic Covenant (Ten Commandments) made up the fifth covenant

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exo 20:6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

f. The sixth covenant was the Palestinian Covenant.

Deu 28:13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

g. The Davidic Covenant made up the seventh covenant.

2 Sam 7:8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

2 Sam 7:9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

2 Sam 7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

2 Sam 7:11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

2 Sam 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam 7:13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

2 Sam 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

2 Sam 7:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

2 Sam 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

2 Sam 7:17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

It is the Mosaic Covenant that God refers to as the first, because it was the first one made with Israel nationally.

2. The Mosaic Covenant, is that which Aaron and the priests served under. It had three divisions:

a. The COMMANDMENTS expressed the righteous will of God. (Exo. 20:1-26)

The people of Israel promised to do the words that God had spoken.

Ex. 19:8, "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."

b. The JUDGMENTS governed the social life of Israel.

Exo. 21:1 through Exo. 24:11

c. The ORDINANCES governed the religious life of Israel.

Exo. 24:12 through 31:18. 1.

Heb 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

It is important to realize that there was nothing wrong with the law, but the weakness was in the flesh of man. We simply can not live up to the law. Only Christ lived perfectly and fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law.

Rom 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Rom 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

God had declared many years before Christ came that there would be a new covenant with Israel and Judah.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jer 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jer 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The new covenant mentioned in verses 8 – 9 will find fulfillment during the 1,000 year millennial reign of Christ. Israel as a nation is blinded to Christ today, but during the seven years of tribulation, they will finally see that Jesus is the true Messiah and the nation will be born as in a day.

III. The New Covenant for Israel at the Close of the Tribulation

Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Heb 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

In verse 10, the term “after those days” is in reference to the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled. We know that today we live in the time of the Gentiles, but that time is coming to a close, in what I think is a short time frame. God said he would put the laws into their mind and write them in their hearts. The first law was written on two tables of stone. We know the first law was written on two

tables of stone. By the time Moses got down off the mountain with the law, the children of Israel had already broken them. They had turned from serving God and made a golden calf to worship. (Exod. 20:3-5)

The first law was called a ministration of death. To break the law meant for you to die.

2 Cor 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.

2 Cor 3:4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2 Cor 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

2 Cor 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2 Cor 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

2 Cor 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

2 Cor 3:10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

2 Cor 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

When God puts the law of the new covenant into the hearts of the Jews, they will all know the Lord and teach every man his brother. We know they did not accept the new covenant when Jesus came the first time. Very few knew the Lord, and they still ignore his teachings today. There are a few who are saved even today out of season like Paul was, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Heb 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

When Israel turns back to God, and He saves their soul, their sins will be put away from them and never remembered against them anymore. God is so

wonderful. The Bible teaches us that he moves our sins as far way as the east is from the west. If your start traveling north, when you get to the top of the north pole, you start going south. Then at the bottom of the earth, you start going North. But if you go east, you continue to circle. Same if you go west. See how far our sins are put away. As far as the east is from the west.

Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Psa 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Psa 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

We mentioned earlier that one day the Jewish nation will be gathered together and God will save them and write the new covenant on their hearts. In that day, hew will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Albert Barnes in his Notes on the Bible said this about the New Covenant.

Christ had obtained a more exalted ministry than the Jewish priests held, because he was the Mediator in a better covenant—a covenant that related rather to the heart than to external observances; Heb. 8:6-13. That new covenant excelled the old in the following respects:

- (a) It was established on better promises; Heb. 8:6.
- (b) It was not a covenant requiring mainly external observances, but pertained to the soul, and the Law of that covenant was written there; Heb. 8:7-10.
- (c) It was connected with the diffusion of the knowledge of the Lord among all classes from the highest to the lowest; Heb. 8:11.
- (d) The evidence of forgiveness might be made more clear than it was under the old dispensation, and the way in which sins are pardoned be much better understood; Heb. 8:12. These considerations involved the consequence, also, which is stated in Heb. 8:13, that the old covenant was of necessity about to vanish away.

The new covenant was based upon the Sovereign Will of the Almighty God. The law said, "thou shalt not," but in the new covenant God says "I will." This term "I will" is repeated six times in v. 10-12. God always does what he says He will do.

Josh. 23:14, "And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."

The Redemptive Work of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is not based upon the law which says DO with creature effort, but upon a work that the Redeemer has already accomplished and eternally completed. (verse 6)

The new covenant is based upon the Immutability of God Himself. Founded and anchored upon what "He saith" (v.10 and 13). Men have never kept their word, but God has never broken one promise.

I Kings 8:56, "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

1. Some of basic outline and some notes from Tabernacle Baptist Church by permission of Danny Taylor.
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