

# **HEBREWS — PART 5**

## **JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST**

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#### **3.1.26**

I spent time last week primarily in Hebrews Chapter 7.

It confirms that the law of Priesthood has been changed. **Though Jesus is not of the Tribe of Levi ... He is of The Order of Melchizedek — a Priest forever — by an oath of God. (Psalm 110:4)**

And **Jesus has a BETTER PRIESTHOOD** — helping to bring many sons to glory. **His ongoing Ministry includes interceding for us on a daily basis.**

Also ... **don't reduce Jesus' Ministry to "just" His death on the cross.** His life before the cross was important. **But as important — His life after the Crucifixion — His Resurrection ... Ascension ... Exaltation and continuing Ministry as High Priest in Heaven.** Jesus spent perhaps, 15 hours on the cross? He's been High Priest for us for 2,000 years!

The next few chapters of Hebrews reveal more about Jesus' Ministry.

## **HEBREWS CHAPTER 8 — A BETTER COVENANT**

### **Hebrews 8:1-5**

1 Now **this is the main point** of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,**

2 **a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected,** and not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that **this One** also have something to offer.

4 **For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;**

5 **who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things,** as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the

tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

## **THE MAIN POINT — JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN — IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY.**

The physical tabernacle was modelled on the Heavenly Tabernacle — with its altar and other equipment (including a Heavenly Holy of Holies).

### **Hebrews 8:6**

6 But **now He has obtained a more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as **He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.**

## **JESUS HAS A MORE-EXCELLENT MINISTRY — A BETTER COVENANT AND BETTER PROMISES.**

### **Hebrews 8:7-13**

7 For **if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.**

8 Because **finding fault with them**, He says: “**Behold, the days are coming**, says the LORD, **when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah**—

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 did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

10 For **this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days**, says the LORD: **I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

13 In that He says, **"A new covenant,"** **He has made the first obsolete**. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Not strictly a First Covenant (might have been Noah's) ... but **the "First" of the two under consideration (Israel at Mt Sinai ... and believers today).**

**Finding fault with them — the people.** The Covenant itself was fine (although "limited"). But **the people were hopeless — rebellious ... hard-hearted ... no Holy Spirit ... unable to grow to maturity under the Levitical Priesthood.**

But the NEW COVENANT sees God's principles — His teaching in people's hearts and minds. That brings about genuine change.

## **HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 — A BETTER SANCTUARY (HOLY PLACE)**

### **Hebrews 9:1-5**

1 Then indeed, even **the first covenant (Levitical Priesthood?) had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.**

2 For **a tabernacle** was prepared: **the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary (Holy Place);**

3 and **behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, (Holy of Holies)**

4 **which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;**

5 and **above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.** Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

The Levitical Priesthood had a physical sanctuary — wood ... gold ... linen ... wool. **But it was carefully modelled after the REAL SANCTUARY IN HEAVEN — A MUCH BETTER SANCTUARY.**

### **Hebrews 9:6-10**

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

7 **But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood**, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that **the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing**.

9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered **which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—**

10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed **until** the time of reformation.  
(Temporary)

**Verse 7:** refers to a special service carried out only by the High Priest. Once a year he would enter the Holy of Holies with blood — Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement. JESUS FULFILLED THIS!

**Verse 9:** the Levitical system was inadequate. It couldn't transform our minds ... our consciences. Something better was necessary.

**Verse 10:** the old system was always going to be temporary. Note: **"Until" — the time of "setting things right"**.

### **Hebrews 9:11-15**

11 **But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands**, that is, not of this creation.

12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption**.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God,

**cleanse your \*conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

15 **And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant**, by means of death, **for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

**Jesus serves as the High Priest in the SUPERIOR HEAVENLY SANCTUARY. TAKES HIS BLOOD INTO THE HEAVENLY HOLY OF HOLIES** — helps to heal our consciences. Helps bring us to our eternal inheritance.

**\*I won't turn there — but various scriptures tell us that our consciences:**

- Can be seared (1 Tim 4:2)
- Can be defiled (Titus 1:15)
- Can be evil (Heb 10:22)

**JESUS IS MEDIATOR (Phillips: "Administrator") ... of this NEW AND BETTER COVENANT (HAVING BETTER PROMISES).**

#### **Hebrews 9:16-22**

16 For where there is **a testament**, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For **a testament** is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

18 Therefore **not even the first covenant (Mount Sinai) was dedicated without blood**.

19 For when **Moses** had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he **took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,**

20 saying, "**This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.**"

21 **Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.**

22 And **according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

There seems to be a MISTRANSLATION in verses 16 and 17?

We see the word “**TESTAMENT**” twice. This is the Greek word: **DIATHEKE**. **It appears 33 times in the New Testament and is everywhere else translated as “COVENANT”.**

It would make sense to translate it consistently? Especially as **the entire context is comparing the Old Covenant to the New Covenant.**

Surprisingly ... I can't find any translations that are consistent. However ... **Adam Clarke in his commentary gives a more faithful translation** ... as follows:

***“For where a Covenant is, there must be necessarily introduced the death of that which establishes the Covenant; because a Covenant is confirmed over dead things, and is of no force at all whilst that which establishes the Covenant is alive”.***

(You might remember the Covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis Chapter 15. Lots of animals were killed and “divided”. The blood sealed The Covenant).

**Jesus' death and His shed blood establishes the New Covenant. (A BETTER COVENANT — SEALED WITH BETTER BLOOD!)**

**Verse 22:** “purified with blood”. Blood symbolically acts as a spiritual “cleansing agent”.

Many sacred objects become ritually impure — contaminated by sin and ritual impurity. But blood “disinfects” them. The blood of an animal pictures its life:

### **Leviticus 17:10-11**

10 And **whatever man** of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, **who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.**

11 For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for **it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.**

(Think of Blood Donors. They're giving "life" for the benefit of others. People injured in a bad car crash receive blood transfusions to give them more life).

And — of course — **JESUS' BLOOD IS BETTER BLOOD!**

### **Hebrews 9:23-28**

23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, **but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.**

24 **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands**, which are copies of the true, **but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

25 **not that He should offer Himself often**, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so **Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.** To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (*"Christ will appear a second time, not to deal again with sin, it to rescue those who eagerly await His return". Voice Translation*).

**BETTER BLOOD — FROM A BETTER SACRIFICE —  
BROUGHT TO GOD’S HEAVENLY ALTAR — BY A BETTER  
HIGH PRIEST!**

We can see why Jesus’ death on the cross wasn’t sufficient for salvation. The cross was not an altar — it was a place of public execution.

Jesus then had to take His blood to the Heavenly Altar ... to be received by The Father. Hence Jesus had to be resurrected ... and ascend brought the Heavens — and as a High Priest — offer His blood at the Heavenly Altar.

**Verse 28: A clearer translation:**

**“(Christ) will appear a second time, not to deal again with sin, it to rescue those who eagerly await His return”.** Voice Translation.

**More work for Jesus to do?! Clearly not all “finished” at the cross!**

The Book of Hebrews gives us much detail of what Jesus did after His crucifixion — and indeed what he has been doing on our behalf for the past 2,000- years.

More to come!