

THE NEW COVENANT

v1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, v2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. v3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. v4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. v5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." v6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. v7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. v8 But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. v9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. v10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. v11 No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. v12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." v13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear. Hebrews 8:1-13

Have you ever heard the phrase “when we”? They are people who are always talking about the past as if everything that happened in the past is better than what is happening in the present.

The first readers of the book of Hebrews were some of those kinds of people. To a large degree, they were converts from Judaism to Christianity, who wanted to return back to the Old Testament rituals, with which they were familiar. They were so used to doing something to earn their salvation, that they felt, just having faith was not good enough.

In this section, the writer of the Book of Hebrews, shows why the New Covenant is BETTER than the Old Covenant. I have given this message the following title:

THE SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT **INTRODUCED BY JESUS.**

THE NEW COVENANT IS SUPERIOR BECAUSE:

1. The QUALIFICATIONS of the PERSON who **ADMINISTERS the NEW COVENANT are SUPERIOR.**

If you wanted the best advice regarding any subject, who would you ask for advice? Most likely, the person who is most qualified. You would not ask a

Plumber to do some surgery on your body. Just like you would not ask a hairdresser to fix your car!!

The write of the Book of Hebrews shows how Jesus is better qualified to administer the New Covenant compared to the High Priest who administered the Old Covenant.

1.1 **HE IS A PRIEST “AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.”**

Last week we looked at how the Priestly order to which Jesus belonged was superior to the Mosaic Priestly order. In this next chapter, the first thing that is written is *v1 “The point of what we are saying is **this: We do have such a high priest**, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven”.*

1.2 **THE WORK HE DID ON THE CROSS IS COMPLETE!!**

The next thing in the opening verse is *v1 “The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, **who sat down** at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven”.*

The phrase “SAT DOWN” is scripture is always a position of completion and victory.

Psalms 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Revelation 4:4; 11:16; 14:16; 19:4; 20:4; 20:11; 21:5 and **Revelation 14:14** I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and **seated on the cloud** was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

On the CROSS JESUS shouted “IT IS FINISHED”

In CONTRAST, the High Priest had to return every year to offer again the SACRIFICIAL Offering.

1.3 **THE PLACE HE SITS IS A PLACE OF HIGHEST AUTHORITY**

The opening verse ends with *v1 “The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down **at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven**”.*

The writer of the Book of Hebrews is reminding the first readers of a very important Messianic Psalm, which begins with this verse *Psalm 110:1 ‘The LORD says to my Lord: “**Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.**”’*

The first readers of this book would have understood this image. The image is of a victorious General returning back to his home. When he arrived home, he would present the defeated enemy to the Emperor or King of the country. The Emperor would then put his feet on top of the defeated enemy as a sign of complete domination.

THE NEW COVENANT IS SUPERIOR BECAUSE:

2. OF the QUALITY of the TABERNACLE where the NEW COVENANT is SERVED.

Listen again to the following verses:

v2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. v3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. v4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. v5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

2.1 The MOSAIC TABERNACLE is set up by Man. v2b vs The HEAVENLY TABERNACLE is set up by the LORD. v2a

Every time the Nation of Israel moved while in the wilderness, they needed to dismantle the Tabernacle, and rebuilt it when they arrived at the new venue.

The Heavenly Tabernacle has always been God's dwelling place!!!

2.2 The MOSAIC TABERNACLE is a copy. v5a vs The HEAVENLY TABERNACLE is the pattern. v5b

v5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven

In art you have the ORIGINAL and they often will produce a set number of PRINTS of the original. Now often the PRINT can be very valuable, BUT IT CAN NEVER BE MORE VALUABLE THAN THE ORIGINAL.

THE NEW COVENANT IS SUPERIOR BECAUSE:

3. Of the QUESTIONABLE EFFECT of the OLD COVENANT.

Listen again to the following verses:

v6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. v7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. v8 But God found fault with the people

3.1 The BENEFITS from HEAVEN are better than the BENEFITS from the TEMPLE/TABERNACLE

JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD vs having to return each year to offer sacrifices again

3.2 The OLD COVENANT depended on PEOPLE vs The NEW COVENANT depended on GOD.

v8 But God found fault with the people

3.3 The OLD COVENANT was replaced by the NEW COVENANT. – v7

THE NEW COVENANT IS SUPERIOR BECAUSE:

4. The QUANTITY of BLESSINGS in the NEW COVENANT.

v8 "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. v9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. v10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. v11 No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. v12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The writer of the Book of Hebrews is quoting from Jeremiah 31:31-34 in verses 8-13 of our passage. He is reminding the readers of all the promises of the NEW COVENANT

4.1 THE NATION WILL BE RESTORED

v8 "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah

In the New Covenant people from ever tribe and nation will be joined together to the GLORY OF GOD.

4.2 The COVENANT will be written on their hearts

v10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.

In the NEW COVENANT what is inside you matters to GOD.

4.3 The COVENANT is with individual not NATIONS

v10b I will be their God, and they will be my people

The Covenant become much more personal.

4.4 God HIMSELF will be our teacher

v11 No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

We have the Holy Spirit to guide us.

4.5 GOD will DISPLAY MERCY and GRACE, and not WRATH

v12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." We will no longer be afraid of God for we will fear HIM.

SO, THE NEW REPLACES THE OLD.

v13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

**IT's ALL ABOUT JESUS
HIS COVENANT IS SUPERIOR TO THE OLD**