

## HEBREWS LESSON TWO

### CHAPTER 8

#### I. Introduction

- A. This chapter is a bridge between two halves of the book
- B. Chapters 1-7 focus on the person and work of Christ and His priesthood
- C. Last part deals w/ the more excellent ministry/ new covenant and its implications
- D. Structure of chapter 8
  - 1. V. 1-5 the author completes his comparison of the Levitical priesthood with Jesus' priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek
  - 2. v. -13 begins the examination of the new covenant/ministry of Jesus

#### II. v. 1-5 completion of teaching about Jesus as High Priest

- A. v. 1-2 We have 'such a high priest'
  - 1. Reminds them/us of 7:26-28 "holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens"
  - 2. He is not only the high priest but the perfect sacrifice
  - 3. Seated at the right hand of the majesty in the heavens- priest and king!
    - a. Psalm 110:1-2> ruling king. Psalm 110:4> a priest forever
    - b. Points to status as high priest
  - 4. A minister> points to his service of intercession for the saints (7:25)
    - a. No longer offering sacrifices- He did this once for all!
  - 5. Sanctuary/holy places and the true tabernacle
    - a. Two ways of referring to the heavenly tabernacle made by God
    - b. 'true' tabernacle not in contrast w/ false but symbolic (earthly) vs. the real (heavenly) where Christ's ministry is directly to God

#### B. v. 3-5

- 1. v. 3 Levitical high priest offered gifts/sacrifices> animals/grain/wine as one who mediated between God and sinful man
  - a. Could represent man because he was a man
  - b. Could represent God b/c he was appointed/ consecrated by Him and put on the garments required by God to bring sacrifices
  - c. Jesus could represent God b/c He is God
  - d. Jesus had to 'put on' flesh and become man so He could represent man and offer the perfect sacrifice required> Himself!
- 2. v. 4 Christ could not be earthly priest b/c He was not a Levite
  - a. He is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek= priest/king
- 3. v. 5 Earthly tabernacle is a copy and shadow of the true= there is an original to make a copy of and a reality that creates a shadow
  - a. Moses received the pattern of the reality> excellent completion

#### III. v. 6-13 The New and Better Covenant based on the promise of Jeremiah 31:31-34

##### A. v. 6 Introduction of the topic of the new covenant

- 1. But now- this is not just a temporal but a logical connection- the new logically follows the old in God's plan of redemption
- 2. Jesus obtains a more excellent ministry> serving by interceding

3. The new covenant is better than the old> rests on better promises
  - a. 'better' in Hebrews describes better hope, covenant, promises, sacrifices, possession, country, and resurrection!
  - b. Here author focuses on covenant and promises
  - c. 'covenant' first presented in 7:22> Jesus is guarantee of a better covenant b/c of God's oath that He would be a priest forever
- B. v. 7-12 quote of Jeremiah 31:31-34 to initiate the teaching continuing in Ch. 9-10
  1. v. 7-9 why a new covenant?
    - a. v. 7 First was faulty b/c it was provisional
    - b. v. 8-9 'new' is only used in this prophecy referring to God's relationship w/ Israel
      - i. b/c Christ has fulfilled the Mosaic covenant, they are now blessed with all the nations under the covenant w/ Abraham!
  2. v. 10-12 better promises resulting in a new relationship between God and Israel
    - a. v. 10 the Law written in minds and on hearts> internal
      - i. Implications- Jesus loved/obeyed the commandments> the Holy Spirit is transforming you into His image and will empower you to love/obey them as part of your very being, like your Savior!
    - b. v. 10 God is their God, they are His people, no longer based on their completion of covenant duties but on Christ's fulfillment of all
      - i. Implications- is your assurance of belonging to God based on your performance or Jesus being your perfect High Priest and sacrifice for ALL of your transgressions?
    - c. v. 11 they will not need to teach each other> all will have access to a personal relationship with God through Jesus
      - i. Implications- do you value ALL of God's people as intimately connected to them and interdependent with yourself? Are you willing to serve them/depend on them?
    - d. v. 12 basis for all the promises= forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice of Christ
      - i. Mercy/forgiveness depend on Christ bearing the cost of every transgression- true love!
    - e. REMINDER: they/we are still in the already/not yet challenges of suffering and persecution
      - i. But Jesus is the guarantee of the better covenant> assurance
- C. v. 13 conclusion
  1. God has declared the former covenant obsolete- they/we cannot go there!
  2. Hold fast your confidence, assurance and the hope that anchors your soul!