



The Book of Hebrews

A More Excellent Way

His mercy is new everyday!

We continue the theme of the first half of the book of Hebrews, “The Preeminence of the Son in His Person and Work.” Jesus is the more excellent way in all things.

A. A More Excellent Ministry *Heb 8:1-6*

Earthly or heavenly temple: vs :1-2 The preacher wants everyone to know that Jesus ministry has not ceased but continues in the heavenly tabernacle that is made by God.

Jesus priesthood: vs :3-4 Jesus was not qualified to be a Levitical priest because He was not of the tribe of Levi. See *Heb 7:12–17* He was of the order of Melchizedek.

A copy of the original: vs :5 This does not mean that there are actual buildings in heaven which were copied in the tabernacle, but rather that the heavenly realities were adequately symbolized and represented in the earthly tabernacle model.

A more excellent ministry: The key thought is that Jesus’ ministry is superior to the Levitical priesthood because of the superiority of the covenant to which it is related.

B. A More Excellent Promise *Heb 8:7-9*

What was wrong with the old covenant? vs :7 “The Mosaic covenant was not wrong; rather, it was weak and ineffective (7:18–19) since it could not bring people to perfection. God’s purposes in the old covenant were to inform his people of the moral law, to convict them of sin (10:3), and to establish the pattern of sacrifice, priesthood, and promise of salvation that is fulfilled in Christ. Yet the inability of sinful humanity to achieve perfection under the old covenant required the promise of a second covenant, proving the ineffectiveness (i.e., the shortcomings) of the first.” [ESV Study Bible]

A new day: vs :8-9 God took the Israelites by the ‘hand’ to lead them to a better place. The ‘day’ is now here where He has provided the Messiah as a new way and better way.

C. A More Excellent Life *Heb 8:10-13*

I will: Notice the ‘first person’ presence of God, “I will”. It is God who is doing this work and making provision for life.

The New Covenant prophecy: In verses 8–12, the preacher quotes Jeremiah 31:31–34, the content of the New Covenant. He quotes these verses to prove that the prophets anticipated an ‘abandonment’ of the old covenant upon which the old priesthood rested and the introduction of a New Covenant upon which the New Priesthood would rest.

The old is obsolete: vs :13 “The Greek word ‘old’ used here, is ‘paleios’, which is the origin of the English word “paleontology.” It means “old in the point of use,” it is “worn out,” “useless,” “obsolete.” It is in the Greek perfect tense meaning it has been made old in the sense of uselessness and continues to be so. The New Covenant permanently antiquated the old covenant. It is obsolete, it is aged, and it has been rendered inoperative.” [Ariel’s Commentary—Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum]

Hebrews 8:1–13 (NKJV)

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.”

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.

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.