

I. Introduction

II. Read Hebrews 8:1-5

- A. As high priest what is Christ's location? (8:1-2)
- B. As high priest what is Christ's function? (8:3)
- C. Why did Moses receive a specific design (Ex. 25-31) for the tabernacle?

III. Read Hebrews 8:6-13

- A. Why is Jesus' ministry "more excellent"? (8:6)
- B. Is the author anti-Semitic? (8:6-7)
- C. What is a covenant?
- D. What does the new covenant replace? (8:9)
- E. What are the terms of the new covenant? (8:10-12)

IV. Read Hebrews 9:1-10

- A. What are the parts and contents of the tabernacle described? (9:2-5)
- B. What are cherubim? (9:5)
- C. What does the high priest do once-a-year? (9:7)
- D. Why is the earthly high priest's act inadequate? (9:9-10)

V. Read Hebrews 9:11-14

- A. What does Christ do differently from the earthly high priest? (9:12)
- B. What does the author mean by "purify our conscience"? (9:14)

VI. Read Hebrews 9:15-22

- A. What is our "eternal inheritance"? (9:15)
- B. Why must there be a death? (9:16)
- C. Why the blood of the covenant? (9:22)

VII. Lessons

- A. Jesus' high priestly ministry surpasses the earthly one
- B. There is a correspondence between heaven and earth
- C. A covenant involves a blood rite
- D. Jesus' blood truly cleanses us

VIII. Prayer

Hebrews 8:1-5

Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ²a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. ³For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are already those who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one, just as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tent. For, God said, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

Hebrews 8:6-9:22

⁶ But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on the basis of better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. ⁸ God finds fault with them when he says: “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, for they did not continue in my covenant, and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord. ¹⁰ 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 minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach one another or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” ¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he has made the first one obsolete, and what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.

¹ Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. ² For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the holy place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a tent called the holy of holies. ⁴ In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail.

⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties, ⁷ but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people. ⁸ By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing. ⁹ This is a symbol of the present time, indicating that gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper ¹⁰ but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms, regulations for the body imposed until the time comes to set things right.

¹¹ But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), ¹² he entered once for all into the holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

¹⁵ For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. ¹⁶ Where a will^[w] is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Hence not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment had been told to all the people by Moses in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.” ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.