

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Hebrews 8:1-13

Lesson 10

Hebrews 7 explained that Jesus is a greater priest than any priest who had descended from Israel's first high priest, Aaron. The writer now summarizes his message; what he has been saying is that Christ is superior to everything in the Jewish priesthood. Whatever the Jewish believers had previously trusted for salvation was merely a shadow of reality, not the reality itself. That shadow is now utterly replaced by the reality of Christ as High Priest. In Hebrews 8 we will also see that Jesus, as the superior High Priest, could not administer an inferior covenant and thus He established a new covenant which will remain forever.

DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 8:1-13

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Hebrews 8:1-13 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-13

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, and High Priest (priest)*

New to this lesson: *covenant* and the phrase *I will*

Now using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 8. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and High Priest*, to mark any personal pronouns or other titles that refer to them.

3. Note the term of conclusion in verse 3. What is the conclusion stated in this verse?

4. Note the contrasting word *but* in verse 6. What (who) is Jesus, as the *Mediator* of a better covenant, contrasted with?

5. The phrase *I will* occurs six times in this chapter. Make a list of what the text reveals that God promises to do.

6. Using the chart titled *Jesus*, list a few things that Hebrews 8:1-13 reveals about Him.

DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 8:1,2

1. Hebrews 8 begins with the author stating the *main point* of what he has written. What does he say is the *main point*?
 - a. Verse 1 acknowledges Jesus as *High Priest*. Where is He *seated* right now?
 - 1.) The word *seated* indicates a finished work. What work(s) did Jesus *finish*?

2. Record the title used to describe God the Father in verse 1.
 - a. Choose some of the words/phrases David used to describe Him in 1 Chronicles 29:11.

 - b. Define the word *majesty* as it relates to God.

3. The author now turns our attention to the superiority of Christ, our High Priest, as a *Minister of the sanctuary*. We learned from Hebrews 8:1 that Christ ministers from the exalted place in heaven. What else does Hebrews 8:2 reveal about this place of ministry?

4. The word *sanctuary* can be understood to denote the Holy of Holies in heaven itself. The phrase *true tabernacle* here means that which is real as opposed to the type seen in the Old Testament. *There he ministers in the sacred tent, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands* (Hebrews 8:2 NLT). Although we cannot see it, this place of ministry is superior to the one on earth. Which would you prefer? Why?

DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 8:3-6

1. This section continues to explain that Jesus, our High Priest, ministers in a heavenly sanctuary. What is revealed about *every high priest* in Hebrews 8:3a? See also Hebrews 5:1.
 - a. The priests were servants and their main duty was that of offering *gifts and sacrifices*. Hebrews 8:3b states that *it is necessary that this One (Jesus) also have something to offer*. Christ fulfilled this requirement when He gave Himself as an offering for sin. What do you learn about this from the following verses?
1 Corinthians 5:7b

Ephesians 5:2b

Hebrews 7:27
2. According to Hebrews 8:4,5 what does the earthly priesthood and sanctuary/tabernacle point to? Use other versions if you desire.
 - a. The Old Testament tabernacle, and later the temple, were copies of the *true* sanctuary which is in heaven. The Old Testament system was a *shadow* of what was to come. Remember, this latter was written to Jewish believers who were being drawn back into Judaism. How should this have affected them?
 - b. What do the terms *copy*, *shadow*, and *pattern* indicate about the Levitical priesthood?
3. Concentrate on each phrase of Hebrews 8:6 as you write it here.
 - a. Underline or highlight the words that describe Jesus' *ministry*.
 - b. Circle the words *more excellent* and *better*.
 - c. Draw a box around the title given to Jesus.
 - 1.) In your own words, describe the role of a *mediator*.
 - 2.) How does 1 Timothy 2:5 amplify this?
4. Hebrews 8:6 is a transitional verse providing a bridge from what has been said to what is to follow. The writer has declared the superiority of the new *covenant* and will develop this further in the next several verses. Define the word *covenant*.

- a. The *new covenant* is better than the old and is founded on *better promises*. When did Jesus establish this *covenant*? Answer using Luke 22:19,20.
- b. Look again at the promise of Hebrews 7:22. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the *Mediator* and the *surety* (guarantee) of His *covenant* with you?

DAYS FOUR AND FIVE: Read Hebrews 8:7-13

1. Before the writer develops the subject of the superiority of the *new covenant*, he points to the necessity of it. According to the following verses, why was a *new covenant* needed to replace the *first* or *old covenant*?

Hebrews 8:7

Hebrews 8:8

Hebrews 8:9

Challenge: Hebrews 8:8-12 is taken from Jeremiah 31:31-34. Compare the two passages and jot down any observations you make.

2. The first covenant was not perfect in that it did not meet the needs of man. The old covenant was conditional upon man's doing something, but the new covenant is based on man's believing what Christ has done. The new covenant is extended to all people of God, both Jews and Gentiles, who put their faith in Christ. What does this say to you about the superiority of the *new covenant*?

- a. In what ways has your life been affected by the *new covenant*?

3. Write what the following verses reveal about the *covenant* God *will make with the house of Israel after those days*.

Hebrews 8:10b

Hebrews 8:11

Hebrews 8:12

- a. How does the repeated use of the phrase *I will* in these verses speak to you?

4. Concentrate for a moment on God's *better promises* from Hebrews 8:10-12 listed below. Write what each one means to you.

a. *I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts*

b. *I will be their God, and they shall be My people*

c. *for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them*

d. *I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*

5. In Hebrews 8:11 God declared *all shall know me*. How did Jesus describe *eternal life* in John 17:3?

6. Explain, as you would to a new believer, what it means that God will not *remember* our sins.

7. Hebrews 8:13 NIV declares: *By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.* What does this verse indicate about the old covenant?

a. What are some synonyms for the word *obsolete*?

8. According to the following two verses, what did Jesus do?

Matthew 5:17

Colossians 2:13,14

Challenge: Draw a picture that depicts Colossians 2:13,14

DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 8

1. What three words best describe how you feel knowing that Jesus Christ is in the presence of God representing you before your Creator?
2. How does it make you feel to realize that under the *new covenant*, you can have an intimate relationship with God?
3. Describe your motivation to love and worship God because of the *new covenant*, as opposed to what you think it would be like if you had to depend solely on animal sacrifices offered by a stranger.
4. What is wrong with the *old covenant*?
5. What does it say to you about God in view of the fact that He set aside the *old covenant* in favor of the new?

*Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.*

- Isaiah 51:6 NIV