

HEBREWS 8

BETTER PRIEST; BETTER COVENANT

As we have seen before, this chapter of Hebrews is a continuation of the thought being presented in CH 7...

Paul has been making the point that Jesus, as a priest according to the order of Melchizedek, is a much better priest, King, Savior, and Lord than any other man could be...

Listen to Paul's argument at the end of Chapter 7...

CH. 7:24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

28 For the law appoints as high priests, men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, **(When God raised HIS right hand)** which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

You know, I made an off the cuff comment last Sunday, insinuating that there was no need for priests today. One of our former Catholic members shared this thought with me this week... She said, "Here is a reason for priests today. The service given in liturgical services is a worship service. The words in Latin, and even in English are beautiful words of praise... And the priest... He is the choir director."

- She quickly added that all of the extra bad theology added to the Gospel there is why she worships here now...
- I DO stand by this statement... YOU DO NOT NEED a man to get to God!
- **1 Timothy 2:5** For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

- When Jesus declared from the cross, "It is finished..." God immediately tore the veil between the Holy of Holies and mankind in two. THAT ostensibly, retired the priests from their duties.
- WHAT IS THE POINT? Listen to V1...

Hebrews 8:1 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,

- This is a name of God, Majesty, that we have made too common, in my opinion. Calling immoral men "Your majesty..." is NOT what this title should be used for.

SEATED AT GOD'S SIDE...

2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

- DO NOT MISS THE SIGNIFICANCE of this location... The "true" Tabernacle is in heaven. It is NOT built with human hands.
 - I have been blessed to do some travel and I have visited the world's famous cathedrals. While they are amazing works of human hands... And as marvelous as they are to visit, and they are... I would rather have a coffee with you all on Sunday than wander around a cold Cathedral. WHY?
 - Because the Holy Spirit dwells within you, I feel the fellowship of the spirit from you... I'm planning on spending eternity with you...
 - Those expensive cathedrals... They are going to burn some day according to 2 Peter 3:10-12.

THE MODEL OF HEAVEN

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.

- CCSV, WHAT did Jesus have to offer us? Everything, right?
- Salvation, Justification, Peace, Direction, AND... He is right now preparing

a place for us in heaven.

- SO... The tabernacle was a model of heaven... And the earthly priests were types of Jesus... But...

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." **EXODUS 25:40**

NLT - If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law.

5 They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain."

- **Did you know that the "Oval Office" of the White House is in Simi Valley?**
 - **How many of you have been to see it?**
 - **What is the OFFICIAL status of the Simi Valley Oval Office?**
 - **THAT is what the Tabernacle was.**

BETTER PROMISES

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.

- A better covenant... A covenant without fault.
 - It's like the difference between serving your time and still being an ex-convict and receiving a Presidential pardon.

OUT WITH THE OLD...

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.

- I think sometimes WE FORGET the old covenant...
- I believe this is why so many people ignorantly think and say that they are "Good enough."
- But, they have broken God's law... Even once perhaps... but that is enough to deserve punishment. For our memory's sake, let's reread the old covenant...

Leviticus 26:1 'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a *sacred* pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I *am* the LORD your God.

2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.

3 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, 4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make *you* afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. 8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. 9 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. 10 You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. 13 I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that *you* should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright. **SO FAR SO GOOD, RIGHT?**

- **Punishment for Disobedience**

14 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, 15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, *but* break My covenant, 16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. 18 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. 20 And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

21 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. 22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. 23 'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, 24 then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

25 And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

26 When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. **IT GOES ON AND ON... I can't take any more...**

HEBREWS 8...

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."

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

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.

- A new covenant of forgiveness... cleansing... Reconciling... Justification... Transformation... Newness... HOPE!

COURSON - What makes me want to know God and walk with Him? Why do I start my day wanting to touch base with the Lord and be in the Word? Why am I here tonight? One reason: God's mercy. I am such a jerk. I have failed so miserably. I have missed the mark so greatly. I have been so inconsistent and stubborn. I've been such a sinner. And yet God keeps blessing me; He keeps putting up with me; He keeps allowing me to know Him.

I look at my life, my family, this church, the nation, the world—and I say, "Lord Your mercy is incredible. How good You've been to me. I don't pray the way I could or should. I don't know as much as I should know at this point in my walk with You. I don't serve You with the kind of faithfulness You're worthy of. But, Lord, You just keep blessing. You keep showing mercy. You keep forgiving—and I have no other choice but to want to know You more."