



JESUS

Up **Close** and **Personal**

A Study of Hebrews | The Pastors' Bible Study 2013-2014

Hebrews 8:1-13

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¹ Now the 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 heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN THAT WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." ⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says: "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, DECLARES 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 FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO BRING THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND SO I SHOWED NO CONCERN FOR THEM, DECLARES THE LORD. ¹⁰ FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO 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, EACH ONE HIS NEIGHBOR AND EACH ONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, '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 makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Reflection Questions

1. The author has repeatedly noted that Jesus is the ultimate and supreme High Priest. Unlike other Priests who inhabit man-made temples, Jesus is seated *at the right hand of the throne of majesty in the heavens*. How does understanding Jesus in this role impact your faith?
2. The author notes that every High Priest is to offer gifts and sacrifices to God. What things do you offer to God that might be considered gifts and sacrifices?
3. In verse six, the author notes that Jesus had obtained a ministry that was much more excellent than the old ministry and covenant. In what ways is this true? What are the implications of this for your life and faith today?
4. The author suggests that the first covenant was somehow at fault. What do you see as the faults of the old covenant, and how are these corrected by Jesus in the new covenant?
5. Verses 8-12 are a quotation from Jeremiah 31:31-34. Read these two passages side-by-side and note the similarities. What are the implications of New Testament figures quoting from the Old Testament and having those quotations fulfilled? In what ways does this influence your view of Scripture?
6. The quoted passage from Jeremiah suggests that the new covenant is focused on our minds and hearts. How is this different from the old covenant?