

# THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



## 8. Jesus: High Priest of a New Covenant

*(Leader's Notes)*

### Introduction

New, faster computers have replaced the old ones. New, smaller hand phones have replaced the old ones! The new is always replacing the old. This is also true of the Old Covenant that God gave to his people through Moses. It has been replaced by the new. Let's continue our study from the Book of Hebrews and learn more about Jesus, the High Priest of this New Covenant.

### 1. High Priest of a New Covenant                      Hebrews 8:1-13

In the previous chapter of Hebrews we discovered that Jesus was greater than the High Priest in the Old Testament, he was a High Priest like Melchizedek. He would introduce the New Covenant that had been prophesied by Jeremiah 600 years earlier.

- ❖ What reason is given in these verses to show that Jesus' ministry is superior to that of the priests in the Old Testament? V6  
*(The covenant that he brings is superior to the old covenant – the reason is that it provides better promises.)*
- ❖ What are the 'better promises' that are given in this new covenant? Which one is most significant to you are this time? V10-12, 9:15
  - (1. *The laws of God will be in our hearts.*)
  - (2. *We will have a close relationship with God.*)
  - (3. *We will have a knowledge of God.*)
  - (4. *Our sin will be forgiven.*)
  - (5. *We will have an eternal inheritance.*)
- ❖ Why do you think this new covenant is more effective than the old one? 8:9, 9:9, 10
  - (1. *The old covenant was outward and external and could not change the heart.*)
  - (2. *The new covenant is inward as we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts and he empowers us to obey God's commands.*)
  - (3. *The old could only provide forgiveness for sins of ignorance, but did not provide freedom from the guilt of sin, whereas the new provides forgiveness from sin and guilt.*)

### 2. High Priest of the Heavenly Tabernacle                      Hebrews 9:1-10

- ❖ Part of the first covenant included the sanctuary where God's people came to worship. Describe briefly what was in the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. V2-5  
*(Holy Place: lamp, stand, table, bread)*  
*Most Holy Place: golden altar of incense, the Ark of the Covenant)*
- ❖ What did the High Priest do in the Most Holy Place, and what was the significance of this? V7  
*((He went in only one time a year, but he always had to go with blood – first for his own sin and then for the sins of the people.)*

- ❖ We are told that the tabernacle built by Moses was a 'copy' of the real tabernacle in Heaven. What can we learn about the real tabernacle in Hebrews 8:2, 5, 9:8, 11, 12?

*8:2 The true tabernacle we set up by God himself.*

*8:5 It is in Heaven and God had shown Moses a pattern of it.*

*9:8 The way into this heavenly tabernacle was not open while there was an earthly one.*

*9:11 When Jesus died he went into this heavenly sanctuary.*

*9:12 Jesus was able to enter as he offered his own blood for our redemption.)*

- ❖ In the tabernacle the altar of incense was placed in the Holy Place before the curtain to the Most Holy Place. Why do you think that the writer of this book says that it is in the Most Holy Place, rather than the Holy Place? What truth does this teach us?

*(Under the old covenant the priest would daily offer incense on the altar of incense in the Holy Place. This spoke of worship and prayer. However he could only go into the Most Holy Place once a year. When Jesus died, that curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, was torn down. Jesus had made a way for us to enter by his precious blood. Now we can come into God's presence anytime if we are covered by the blood of Jesus. What wonderful privilege!)*

### Reality Check

Jesus has made the way open for us into the presence of a wonderful God. How often do we make the most of this privilege?

### Conclusion

As we have studied these chapters we can see that the old covenant, with its' tabernacle and worship was set up to prepare us for the new one. These earthly things help us to understand the real things, which are spiritual and heavenly. Jesus is the true High Priest who entered into the real tabernacle in Heaven and offered his own blood as a sacrifice for our sins forever. Hallelujah!