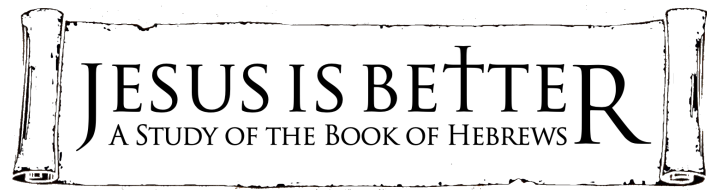


12: ***New Covenant & Clean Conscience*** Heb 8:1-9:14

The Old Covenant priests and sacrifices were shadows previewing & pointing to the ONE Who would offer Himself to establish a New Covenant and give us a clean conscience. Let's bask in the beauty of what that means for us!



teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now the main point of what is being said is this: We have this kind of high priest, **who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle** that was set up by the Lord and not man.

Jesus ascended to heaven (Lk 24:51, Acts 1:9), **sitting at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens** means. This comes from Psalm 110:1.

Psalm 110:1 A declaration of Yahweh to my lord, "**Sit at my right hand** until I make your enemies your footstool."

*An enemy as a **footstool** is ancient imagery for defeating an enemy just as Joshua had his leaders do to the kings who fought against the Hebrew people (Joshua 10:24). This is what will happen to the enemies of Jesus, forced to BOW before Him; defeated by the One who once offered them peace by shedding His own blood.

- To sit at God the Father's **right hand** is *a metaphor for honor, authority, and power* - sharing the honor, authority, and power of the Father without limitation.¹
- That *Jesus sat down* shows the completion of Jesus' work on the cross. The priests who worked in the Temple never sat (Heb 10:11) because their work was never complete.

Jesus is the heavenly high priest **of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle**, not a manmade temple on earth, but **set up by the Lord** in heaven.

Earthly Substitutes & Shadows

Hebrews 8:3-7 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; therefore, it was necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he wouldn't be a priest, since there are those offering the gifts prescribed by the law. **These serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was warned when he was about to complete the tabernacle. For God said, *Be careful that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain*. But **Jesus** has now obtained **a superior ministry**, and to that degree he is the **mediator of a better covenant**, which has been established on **better promises**. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion for a second one.

Like shadows that fade away, the earthly high priests, animal sacrifices, tabernacle (mobile temple in Moses' day), and later temples were shadows that fade away in the Presence of our Heavenly High Priest, who offered the perfect & complete sacrifice and then sat down in "the true tabernacle" - the throne room of God. **Jesus is the Better High Priest with Better Promises based on His Better Sacrifice.**

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

¹ David L. Allen, Hebrews, The New American Commentary, 128.

New Covenant > Old Covenant (Jer 31:31-34)

Hebrews 8:8-13 But finding fault with his people, he says: *See, 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—not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. I showed no concern for them, says the Lord, because they did not continue in my covenant. 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 into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And each person will not teach his fellow citizen, and each his brother or sister, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins.* By saying a new covenant, he has declared that the first is obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old is about to pass away.

That the new covenant made the old covenant **obsolete** doesn't mean the old covenant was bad, but that it was never meant to be COMPLETE...it pointed to a Better Covenant that God was bringing through Jesus.

👁️ **Jerusalem Destroyed** - The temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70 so the earthly sanctuary, the *ONE PLACE* where sacrifices were to be offered on behalf of the people for forgiveness of sins...was *GONE*...and still is... 2000 years later. The Old Covenant sacrifices & practices were **obsolete** and did **pass away**.

The Temporary Tabernacle

Hebrews 9:1-2 Now the first covenant also had regulations for ministry and an earthly sanctuary. For a **tabernacle was set up**, and in the first room, which is called the holy place, were the lampstand, the table, and the presentation loaves.

The author doesn't give much detail about these furnishings, as most Hebrews would be familiar with them. The only people who could come in the Tabernacle were priests.

- The **lamp stand** was constantly lit (Ex 25:31-40, Lev 24:1-4). This 7 branched candlestick made of pure gold could represent the tree of life, but...
 - 🕒 **points to One who is perfect** (7 = number of perfection) and "the Light of the world" (Jn 1:4-5, 8:12).
- The **table** was acacia wood overlaid with pure gold **and the presentation loaves** on it were to be refreshed every Sabbath for the priests to eat from while serving (Ex. 25:23-30, Lev 24:5-9).
 - 🕒 Jesus later called Himself "the bread of life" and "the bread that came down from heaven" (Jn 6:35-42).

The author doesn't focus on the articles in the tabernacle, but spotlights the SEPARATION between Holy God and unholy man as represented by the 2 rooms. The first room, the Holy Place separated everyone else from priests and anyone else who attempted to come into the tabernacle was to be killed (Num 18:7).

Hebrews 9:3-4a Behind the **second curtain** was a tent called **the most holy place**. It had the gold altar of incense...

The **golden altar of incense** was just in front of the curtain that opened to the Most Holy Place (Ex 30:1-10),² but the high priest was commanded to bring the burning incense into the Most Holy Place to cover the mercy seat of the Ark (Lev 16:13) on the Day of Atonement. Incense represents the prayers of the priests ascending to God.

🕒 This incense represents **the prayers offered by Jesus** - our Heavenly High Priest - mediator between God and man.

🌟 **MacArthur** says it well:

*From His heavenly place now, Jesus lights our path (pictured by the golden **lampstand**), He feeds us (pictured by the table of **sacred bread**), and He intercedes for us (pictured by the **altar of incense**).³*

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

² The high priest was to burn fragrance on it every morning (Ex 30:7), he could only enter the Most Holy Place one day in the year.

³ John F. MacArthur Jr., Hebrews, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 222.

The Most Holy Place & The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Hebrews 9:3-7 Behind the **second curtain** was a tent called **the most holy place**. It had the gold altar of incense...and the ark of the covenant, covered with gold on all sides, in which was a gold jar containing the manna, Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. The cherubim of glory were above the ark overshadowing the mercy seat. It is not possible to speak about these things in detail right now. With these things prepared like this, the priests enter the first room repeatedly, performing their ministry. But **the high priest alone enters the second room**, and he does that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

The Day of Atonement was just a SHADOW of what was coming in Jesus!

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

New Covenant & Clean Conscience

Hebrews 9:8-14 The Holy Spirit was making it clear that the way into the most holy place had not yet been disclosed while the first tabernacle was still standing. **This is a symbol** for the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper's conscience. They are physical regulations and only deal with food, drink, and various washings imposed until the time of the new order. But **Christ has appeared as a high priest** of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), **He entered the most holy place once for all time**, not by the blood of goats and calves, but **by His own blood**, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, **cleanse our consciences** from dead works so that we can serve the living God?

- ② *Is your conscience clean? Do you APPRECIATE what Jesus has done for you? What evidence proves that you are grateful for God's grace? ASK God for opportunities to share with others who need a clean conscience!*
- ② *Are you CAUGHT in a sin you can't get out of? Ask a believer who LOVES you for some help!*
- ② *Do you have questions and need some answers? Call us or contact another follower of Jesus...we WANT to help!*

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).