

Hebrews 8:1-9:14 – 26 May 2024

“Needed Transition To The New Covenant”

Introduction

*Chap 1-2 showed our superior “greater than angels” God using His power to save lowly man...as a man

*Chap 3-4 shows Jesus as superior to the Law yet He uses it to bring us into rest and peace

*Chap 5 begins to press into the depths of how Jesus fulfills the role God’s always intended for a priest

*Paul stops for Chap 5b-6 to explain what it takes to handle the depths of God’s Word

*Chap 7 shows Jesus as the supreme priest of all from the order of Melchizedec, greater than Aaron

*Today’s chapters, show us why there’s a needed transition from the Old Law to the New Covenant

*Remember this book is written to Jews, designed to show them how Jesus is the fulfillment of their ways

So today, we’ll see 3 elements of transitioning from the Old to the New Covenant

#1 – The Substance of the New Covenant is heavenly (Chap 8:1-5)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Chap 7 convinced us that Jesus is the true, eternal High Priest
 - a. So why didn't He offer sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem?
2. The sanctuary means *the holy place*; and the tabernacle means *the place of meeting*
 - a. True holy place of meeting is made by God
 - b. Eternal in the heavens
3. The earthly tabernacle & temple had no place to sit b/c the work was never done
 - a. But Jesus is seated in heaven having completed it
 - b. (Jesus before High Priest) Read Matt 26:64
4. Exo 25 tells us that Moses was instructed to make the earthly tabernacle after a strict pattern God gave him

Read Vs 3

1. The method of the priest approaching God has always been by an innocent blood sacrifice
2. Jesus offered Himself as a once forever sacrifice

Read Vs 4-5

1. Jesus told Nicodemus, “If I’ve told you earthly things & you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”
2. There is an earthly example given to us of God
 - a. Tabernacle, Aaron’s priesthood & animals
3. There is a heavenly reality revealed by God
 - a. God’s presence, Priest Jesus & His offering

#2 – We’re the reason there needs to be transition (Chap 8:6-13)

Read Vs 6

1. Jesus has obtained a ‘more excellent ministry’ in that His priesthood is eternal and complete
 - a. The old priesthood was temporary & sinful
2. Jesus made a ‘better covenant’ in that He made an agreement w/ us that’s not dependent on us
 - a. The Old depended on us keeping the Law
 - b. The New is a covenant of grace not works
3. Now aren’t those ‘better promises’ that Jesus solidifies our standing with God once forever

Read Vs 7

1. Notice it’s not that the Law had fault, it’s the agreement that had fault, in that we didn’t keep it
2. Old was needful to prove us as the problem

Read Vs 8-12

1. This quote is from Jer 31:31-34, but vs 8 opens with the fact that the fault was ‘with them’

- a. Notice in vs 9, it's "b/c they continued not in My covenant"
2. Look at characteristics of the New Covenant
 - a. "I will make" – God made it
 - b. It's w/ Israel – but not intended to stop there
 - c. Its principles written on the heart – the change is from the inside to the outside
 - d. "Sins will I remember no more" – sin's eternally forgiven & removed, not just covered til next year

Read Vs 13

1. Simply by calling it the "New Covenant" that says, "You don't have to worry about other one"
2. The Old isn't looked at as a way to salvation
 - a. The Old is vanishing from our minds as we learn instead by indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - b. The Old is vanishing in that Temple worship will be removed very soon
 - i. Back in vs 4 it says "there are priests" b/c this is written in the decade before 70AD

#3 – The Old Covenant was only a shadow (Chap 9:1-14)

Read Vs 1-5

1. Thru the tabernacle was given the *regulations* for how to *serve God* in an *earthly holy place*
2. Each piece had great meaning related to Jesus & was leading deeper in the Most Holy Place
3. All items related to Jesus (Homework (Exo 25-30))
 - a. Candlestick: only light to illuminate the place
 - i. The people that sat in darkness have seen a great light (Matt 4:16)
 - ii. Jesus said, “I’m light of the world” (John 8)
 - b. Table of shewbread: 12 flat cakes embodied God’s provision & fellowship
 - i. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6)
 - c. Altar of Incense: offering prayers of saints
 - i. In Rev 5 everyone has golden vials ‘which are the prayers of the saints;
 - d. Ark w/ Mercy Seat: the place of sacrifice
 - i. Represents the very throne of God
 - ii. When the heavenly temple is opened in Rev 11:19, only thing seen is Ark of the Covenant

4. “Which we cannot now speak particularly” b/c, since Babylon, the Ark has been missing

Read Vs 6-7

1. To go into the Holy of Holies was to go beyond the veil (thick curtain)
2. The Holy of Holies was exclusive access only
 - a. Only the High Priest and only once per year
3. The special place of the special offering

Read Vs 8-10

1. The tabernacle and all its items were *visual parables* of a greater thing to come
2. Tabernacle having a divide w/ a veil represents the divide between mankind and God Almighty
 - a. Only when Jesus died did the veil rip open providing full access for all who would come

Read Vs 11

1. Jesus’ place of doing His ministry as High Priest is in the very throne room of God

Read Vs 12-14

1. The offering needed has always been that of the innocent substitute
 - a. So Jesus offered His own blood upon the altar of heaven
2. We've been brought out from under the continual system of atoning for sin
 - a. The works for appeasing God are complete
 - b. Now we serve God b/c the work is complete

Conclusion

As for the Jews & still true for us...have we transitioned away from earning God's favor? Do we see the value in what Christ Jesus has done for us?

1. **Substance of the New Covenant is heavenly**
 - a. Jesus offered Himself as sacrifice in heaven
2. **We're the reason there's a needed transition**
 - a. We physically can't keep God's standards
3. **Old Covenant was only a shadow**
 - a. Old Covenant pictured the substance of the spiritual and the real but wasn't real itself