

# Hebrews: Through the Lens of Modern Times.

HVFC

June 29, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 8:1-2

It has only been two weeks, but I feel like so much has happened.

I want to give honor where it is due, and want to thank Bro. Bill for sharing with us about Reckless Love. God loves us so much He sent Jesus to make a way for us to come to back to Him.

And then last week, Bro Jeff, our current, and the first of our overseas missionaries, spoke to us about finishing well. Autumn and I have thanked Pastor Jeff and Colleen repeatedly for the church they turned over to us. And by the church we mean you, sitting in the seat. It is a testament to them and how they finished well their time here as pastors of HVFC.

As for me. After my last sermon in Hebrews, finishing up chapter 7, I was ready for a break. We spent 3 weeks looking at Melchizedek and working through what little we know about this intriguing character.

And in fact, for many the whole book is a mysterious intriguing look at the historical position of the church at the time it was written. The writer is working hard to give an accurate comparison of Judaism and Christianity, and how insufficient the old system is. What most of us do, if we read it at all, is skip over these first 8 chapters. Most of our knowledge of Hebrews centers around chapters 10, 11, and 12. After all I am not a Hebrew wrestling with the merits of the Old covenant.

However, I am a firm believer that all scripture is relevant, even the difficult passages in Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah and yes even the first 8 chapters of Hebrews.

So this morning let's open up to Hebrews 8 starting in verse one this morning.

Hebrews 8:1-2

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

NKJV

Let's Pray!

If you recall, we have mentioned several times how these first several chapters are all connected and are foundational to the point the writer is building too.

And today we arrived.

The writer is wanting to get to a place to say Jesus is the High Priest they have been waiting for. This is it. All of their past experiences and everything they knew was to point them to Jesus.

And most of us sitting here today would say these passages don't apply to me. I know Jesus is better than angels, they are his servants.

Moses was a great guy, did some cool things, but he was just a man who lived a really long time ago, laid down some very different and tough rules for the nation. Some of which we still cherry pick today as to which are relevant and those which are old school.

And we are definitely not willing to subject ourselves to some priest to petition God on our behalf. I can go to God and Jesus with my own petitions and prayers.

Angels, Moses, and the Levitical Priesthood are irrelevant to me today, sitting in Helena Montana, June 29, 2025.

As many of you are realizing how I write a sermon, I began asking questions. And these questions began months ago.

There are several ways we could look at these.

One they could be viewed as stepping stones to bring someone to a realization about Jesus.

However, the writer is proposing that Jesus is better than these, as if he is putting them in their place beneath Jesus, not leading to Jesus.

I changed my question. And I found something that fits us better, as we sit here today.

My question landed at this.

How would these three things, Angels, Moses, and the Priesthood, be illustrated in our modern times?

They are listed in Hebrews as things which are keeping them from understanding Jesus as our true High Priest.

And that is what I am hoping to answer this morning.

Let's start with angels.

Hebrews 1:4

This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

NLT

Angels.

There was this question that was circulating several months ago, maybe a year ago. And it was asked of men mostly, and the ladies were in shock and awe at the answer. The question was this: How often do you think of the Roman Empire?

It was funny. I find that Angels have the same fanfare in a way.

And this morning I am not going to talk about angels specifically, but what the modern representation would be, and that is the supernatural.

Hebrews 1:14 teaches that angels are ministering spirits, and often when we think of angels we are thinking of the heavens and the supernatural realm.

I am going to liken angels for Judaism to the supernatural today, stuff today like divination, horoscopes, and mysticism. Where people used spirits to glean knowledge to know how to live the best life.

Interesting facts.

According to Google, god of the internet.

Astrology and horoscopes are quite popular in America. It is reported that nearly 29% of Americans believe in astrology, with an additional 35% reading their horoscope.

Astrology according to the Britannica Encyclopedia is defined as.

A type of [divination](#) that involves the forecasting of earthly and human events through the observation and interpretation of the fixed stars, the Sun, the Moon, and the planets. Devotees believe that an understanding of the influence of the planets and stars on earthly affairs allows them to both predict and affect the destinies of individuals, groups, and nations.

Notice it says a “type” of divination.

I looked up types of divination used today, modern times.

On the website [occultist.net](http://occultist.net) I found a comprehensive list of 100 types of divination used today. Acts 16:16 mentions a demonic spirit of divination.

I pulled out the one I have heard of.

Astrology was number 1 of the 100 listed.

Palm reading. Aura readings, Energetic healing, Feng Shui, tarot cards, Chakra readings, and omens.

Most of these deal with positive or negative energy or auras to dictate fortune and such.

However they are all demonic. To practice these things is to entertain demons.

That is divination.

What about horoscopes?

The Horoscope is a chart indicating the positions of the Sun, Moon, and planets at the time of a person's birth. Astrologers use the chart to predict events based on the time of the individual's birth.

I know I and others who joked about not being sure if it was the pizza or the holy spirit that initiated that thought, but literally it is the pizza that guides the astrologer when he manufactures what the planets and stars are telling him to say.

Last of this we have mysticism.

Google defines mysticism as what ever funky crazy way you want to try to connect with a higher power. Will Parsons translation.

Mysticism embraces a fluid and personal approach to spirituality, prioritizing personal experiences using practices such as meditation, contemplation, and inner transformation.

Each of these represents a path to the supernatural, including Jesus. But not all roads lead to heaven.

Jesus tells us that wide is the road that leads to destruction. This road is littered with all kinds of Divination convenient stores, drunk with power people promising to read the stars for a fee, and show you a seeker friendly, build a bear type spiritual encounter.

Compared to the real thing, Jesus.

Jesus told us the path leading to him is small is difficult. The reason it is small and difficult is because it is narrow, narrow-minded. Jesus, our High Priest, provided a way through his death and resurrection to experience God the father.

The enemy will provide all the counterfeits at his disposal to deceive us, but just as the writer taught us, there is someone better, and his name is Jesus.

The second comparison was made to Moses.

Hebrews 3:3

For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

NKJV

To the Jews Moses became a set of laws and rituals rather than a deliver.

He gave them their cultural structure. Everything they identified themselves by came from Moses. In my opinion they had a Moses Culture.

Jesus is better than culture.

Culture, according to sociologists, consists of the values, beliefs, systems of language, communication, and practices that people share in common and that can be used to define them as a collective.

I will say this loud and proud; I love the day and age in which I live.

Thank you, Jesus, for cars, heaters and air conditioners, grocery stores and guns.

The fact that I can hop on a plane and be anywhere on the globe in 24-36 hours. I can talk to and see with video any one on the planet at any time.

I love my fellow generations I share the world with.

I love that I can enjoy the food of just about any culture in the world here in meat and tater Helena MT.

There are many things about my life and the culture around me that I love.

However, there are things that I don't agree with.

The problem with collective values and beliefs is that they tend to be skewed away from God and Jesus.

And what is worst is when the evils of culture begin to dilute the church. And church becomes a secular version of itself.

Where the church, by which I mean the people, begins to walk and talk like the world, and there is no clear line of differentiation.

You can be heard saying you love Jesus on Sunday, just like most of our neighbors, but seen living a life of sin Monday through Saturday.

Where the cultural norms become the norms of the church.

I heard a lady sharing a statistic she had about women who are getting married for the first time, that less than 5% of them are virgins on their wedding day. She was specifically talking to the ladies, but it takes two to tango, so I would assume the same is true of men, or close enough.

Even the church has bought into the lie of culture that says, you have to drive the car before you buy it.

I will go on record saying that if you are having sex with someone that is not your husband or wife, you are living in sin. If you are living with someone and sleeping together and you are not married, you are not living according to the Culture of Jesus.

This includes anything outside of Heterosexual marriages.

The sexual perversions that are being heralded so loudly in culture, stands in direct opposition to the word of God.

Now please understand, that doesn't mean we hate anyone who is deceived by sin, because we too were once bond to the same sin.

But we have to let the Bible decide our culture as Christians, not the collective group in society.

See the Hebrews were so bound to Moses that they missed the Messiah.

Don't let culture grab your attention and pull you away from Jesus.

One of the biggest problems I see in church, both locally and globally, today is pride and hate. We are so proud to be saved, and we walk with a haughty and arrogant swagger much like the pharisee in the parable.

Luke 18:11



The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!

NLT.

And what's worse is that it is inside the church. I haven't even left the building yet. We take it so far as to hate our brothers and sisters in the Faith because we think we are so much better than them.

The fighting and bickering among the saints, the gossiping, and slander, well it isn't a new problem.

In the book of Acts, the bickering and fighting got so intense they had to fast and pray and appoint 7 men to put food out for the widows.

Jesus said they would know we are His by the love we have for one another.

Church, the culture of the world should not imprint on us its identity. We should be light and salt to a lost and dying world.

We must have the culture of 1 Peter 2:9.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

10 "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

NLT

The last point this morning in closing.

The writer compares Jesus to the Levitical Priesthood.

The Levites over saw the worship of the nation of Israel.

Therefore I compared the Levitical Priesthood to religion today.

I have often thought of this and find it intriguing. Just about every other religion is ok with other religions, except when it comes to Christianity. Muslims tend to be converted or die kind of people in some regions.

No other religions are ok with Christians.

And the reason is all other religions are players on the opposing team owned by Satan.

In our world, there is the God in Heaven's team, and the fallen angel satan's team.

There is no middle ground, no neutral Swiss team. You belong to one team or the other, and the only way on to God's team is through Jesus Christ.

Satan doesn't care if you are Humanistic in your religion, Muslim, Hindu, all the way down to the guy who worships the worms, you are still on his team.

God has provided one way, and it is a narrow way, a difficult path, but leads to life eternal for all who find it.

Matthew 7:14

Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

NKJV

That is how I see these chapters as relevant for today.

We might not consider angels, Moses, or the Levitical priesthood very important, but what they could represent are battles we are fighting daily.

All three of these areas are present inside of the church in 2025.

I gave statistics that 29% believe in Astrology, and an additional 35% read their horoscope in America.

Guess how many read their bible?

One stat I saw said that 50% of Americans pick up and read their bible 3 or 4 times a YEAR. ((Read that again))

Only 11% attempt to read it daily.

35% read their horoscope, 10% read their bible.

So it would not be far fetched to say a third of the church practices some sort of divination with astrology and horoscope reading.

And sad to say, culture has made its' way into most churches, with people sitting in the chairs in harmony with culture, and disharmony with Jesus.

We may have trouble saying we hate, but we strongly dislike and hope our brothers and sisters fail in various ways of life. That is not in line with Jesus and the culture he has for us.

And lastly, the amount of Christians falling away to follow other religious paths is staggering. Or they have a mixing of beliefs, taking a little of this, and a little of that one, and making a personally tolerable concoction of religious garbage.

Hebrews 8:1-2

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

NKJV

Jesus has overcome all these things, and is seated in heavenly places.

Jesus is better than angels, the supernatural, better than Moses, the culture, and better than the Levitical Priesthood, all the religions.

Close how you feel lead.