

THE BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8

Introduction: Jesus Christ is God's superior Priest and there is nothing that can minimize this superiority. Nothing! For He ministers on the basis of a **better covenant** (Heb. 8), in a **better sanctuary** (Heb. 9), and because of a **better sacrifice** (Heb. 10). The *Better Covenant* is the theme chapter 8. Why is it a *Better Covenant*? The writer gives three evidences:

1. It Is Ministered by a Better **PRIEST** (8:1–2)

A *superior* priest could never minister on the basis of an *inferior* covenant. Now we see that our Lord is indeed a superior High Priest.

- His Moral Adequacy (v. 1).** "We have *such* an High Priest". This statement refers us back to Hebrews 7:26. "For *such* an high priest became us" [was suited to us]. The fact that Jesus Christ is morally perfect makes Him superior to any other priest, past or present.
- His Finished Work (v. 1).** Today our Lord is *seated* because His work is completed. There were no chairs in the Old Testament tabernacle because the work of the priests was never finished. But Jesus provided a finished salvation for us.
- His Enthronement (v. 1).** Jesus is not just "seated." It is *where* He is seated that matters. He is seated on the throne in Heaven at the right hand of the Father. Not only did the high priest of Israel never *sit* down in the tabernacle, but he never sat down on a throne.
- His Exaltation (vv. 1–2).** He is "in the heavens." He is now exalted as high as anyone could be (Phil. 2:5–11).

2. It Is Located in a Better **PLACE** (8:3–5)

The place is the Heavenly sanctuary but is it s real place? Good question—and good answers!

- The Logical Answer (v. 3).** The conclusion is logical: if Jesus is a High Priest who offered Himself as a sacrifice, then He must have a sanctuary where He offered Himself. Since He is in Heaven , there must be a sanctuary in Heaven .
- The Genealogical Answer (v. 4).** Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. But the priests came from the tribe of Levi. Therefore, if Jesus were still on earth, He could not function as a priest. He would not be accepted *down here*, so He serves in sanctuary *up there!*
- The Typological Answer (v. 5).** A "type" is an OT picture of a NT truth. The priests were serving in a sanctuary that was a copy ("example") of the Heavenly sanctuary. Jesus is ministering in the original sanctuary, and not the copy, He is ministering in a better place.

3. It Is Founded on Better **PROMISES** (8:6–13)

What are these "better promises" of the new covenant?

- The Promise of God's Grace (v. 7–9).** God's "I will" is seen six times in Heb. 8:6–12. This covenant is *entirely* of God's grace; no one can become a part of it without God's grace
- The Promise of Internal Change (v. 10).** God's demands were written on tablets of stone. But now God's Word can be written on our hearts (2 Cor. 3:1–3).
- The Promise of Forgiveness (vv. 11–12).** There is no forgiveness under the law because the law was not given for that purpose. (Rom. 3:20). It is only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that forgiveness is possible to all who will call on Him. The Old Testament sacrifices brought a *remembrance* of sins, not a *remission* of sins (Heb. 10:1–3).
- The Promise of Eternal Blessing (v. 13).** The New Covenant brings *eternal* blessing. Jesus Christ is the Author of "*eternal* salvation" (Heb. 5:9) and "*eternal* redemption" (Heb. 9:12). The New Covenant can never get old and disappear.

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