Lesson 12 – Hebrews 8:1-13 Jesus is Priest Over the New Covenant
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) Now, the point in what we are saying is this:

> "We have such a High Priest, One who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man."

(3) For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus, it is necessary for *this* Priest also to have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the Law. They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

(6) But as it is, Christ obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

(8) For He finds fault with them when He says,

> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a *new covenant* with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in My covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord."

(10) For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

> "I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach each one his neighbor and each one his brother saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

(13) In speaking of a *new covenant*, He makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Think on these things:

1) We've previously done a comparison of Moses as a builder in God's house contrasted with Jesus as the Son of that same house. Look carefully at vs. 1-2 and v.5, where we learn that there are "two" tabernacles of God. What is the difference between them? Who serves each one?

   Difference? **The 'original' tabernacle is in heaven. Moses was given a glimpse of it and instructions on how to build a 'copy' of it during the Exodus from Egypt.**

   Who serves? **Jesus is the minister/High Priest of the heavenly, eternal tabernacle. Jewish high priests serve in the 'copied' earthly version of the heavenly tabernacle.**

2) Looking at v.3, what is the role of a 'high priest'? Is it necessary for *this* High Priest to do this?

   Role? **The high priest is to offer gifts and sacrifices for the people (and for himself, too).**

   Necessary for *this* High Priest (Jesus)? **Yes, it was necessary for Him to make an offering.**

3) What do you think is the "gift and sacrifice" that *this* High Priest (Jesus) offered? See 7:27.

Jesus offered up Himself as the sacrificial gift for ALL people.

4) We're told in v.4 that if Jesus were still on earth, He would not be a Jewish 'high priest' at all. V.6, though, says that Jesus' current ministry as High Priest in heaven is "much more excellent" than the Jewish system. What reason is given in v.6 that His ministry today is more excellent? (We'll discuss this more, shortly.)

The new covenant Jesus mediates is based on "better promises." Instead of having to "tell" people what God's laws and ways are, the new covenant will be written on believers' hearts.

5) V.7 is the "but" statement in this discussion. All along something hasn't been right with the Law Covenant enacted through Moses on Mount Sinai. V.7 says the first (Old Testament) covenant was NOT without fault…! V.9 clarifies what the problem was (from God's viewpoint). What was the problem with the Law Covenant?

The people of God (Jews) did not keep His covenant (laws and guidelines). They refused to continue in them, so God let them remain in that disobedient state.

6) Take a moment to look up Jeremiah 31:31-34. This passage, quoted here in Hebrews starting in v.8, is God's Promise to His people --- acknowledging that His first covenant with them wasn't working. This is a KEY understanding. The new (New Testament) covenant found in Jesus is a fulfillment of prophesy through Jeremiah made hundreds of years earlier --- ALL GOD'S DOING! According to vs.10-11, what is the key difference between the old and new covenants? Also consider these passages: Psalm 51:10-12; John 3:3-7; Romans 12:1-2; and Ephesians 4:20-24.

In the Old Testament, every Jewish generation had to be taught God's Laws. They were asked to memorize much of them. The premise of the New Testament is that believers will be transformed by the renewing of their minds and hearts, a work of God the Holy Spirit working within them. "Converted" or "born again" into God's family, their personal goal will be to become holy as God is holy --- and God will not remember (hold) our sins against us anymore.

7) When GOD said He was introducing a *new covenant*, how does this impact the existing 'old' covenant (v.13). What did Jesus say about this in Matthew 5:17? Understand that what we were unable to do as humans, He was able to do as God the Son, clothed in humanity.

Impact? **The Old Testament becomes obsolete, something God intends to vanish away.**

Jesus said? **Jesus came to fulfil the Old Covenant as the prophesied Jewish Messiah, living humanly in perfect obedience. His final death and resurrection launched the New Covenant.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: