

## Hebrews 8:1-13: Whatever the Question is, Jesus is the Answer

Ricardo Campos, Pastor Grace Chapel, Orange, CA September 9, 2018

### I. Introduction

The Bible says that Jesus is the center of all reality. He's the Alpha and the Omega, the only one that you'll ever need, past, present and future. So, if you're down, Jesus picks you up. If you're frustrated, Jesus clears it up. If you're happy, He's there to celebrate with you. No matter the need or situation, Jesus will be there for you.

### II. Hebrews 8:1-13: Whatever the Question is, Jesus is the Answer

**8:1-2**, the author now gives the main point of everything he's been saying? His point is this: **Jesus is the only One you will ever need period!** He's the only Priest, the only King, the only Savior, the only Comforter, the only Refuge, the only Guide, the only Help, the only EVERYTHING you will ever need! No matter the worry, no matter the anxiety, no matter the problem, no matter the heartache, no matter the bondage, no matter what you face in life, Jesus will deliver you, guide you and perfect you! From the beginning of the letter he's made this abundantly clear: Jesus is the creator and sustainer of the universe. He is God in the flesh. He's not God's servant as the angels and Moses were, He is God's Son whom He appointed High Priest and King forever. He's defeated sin, death, and Satan and has opened the way to God's personal space and power. Jesus will therefore help, guide, and perfect us as we navigate through this difficult life (Hebrews 1:3, 5, 10; 2:8-9, 10, 15-18; 3:5-6, 14; 4:14-16; 5:9; 6:19-20; 7:22-25, 26-28).

The author encapsulates all this in the first two verses of chapter 8 by saying that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the majesty in the heavens. He is not standing because His sacrifice for sin is finished, complete, taken care of! And He's sitting at God's right hand because He's not just your Priest, but your King, the King of the universe. And although Jesus sacrificial ministry is over, His personal ministry for us is not. He's still interceding for us (7:25), but in the actual Tabernacle in heaven which was not built by human hands but the Lord's. And all this has an inherent warning, which the author's touched on throughout the letter. The full warning is this: Jesus has superseded and replaced the Levitical system. He's purchased your privilege and responsibility—with His blood—to follow Him into the Holy of Holies. We must not abandon this priestly duty!

**8:3-6**, since the job of a high priest is to offer gifts and sacrifices, it was necessary that Jesus also have something to offer (something the author will detail in chapters 9-10). However, if He were on earth, He could not be priest since He's from the wrong tribe. There are Levitical priests who now offer gifts according to the Law (this shows the Temple was still standing). But those priests serve the copy, a shadow of the true Tabernacle in heaven, the one God showed Moses when He instructed him to build it (Exodus 25:40). This means that the earthly temple (along with the entire Levitical system) was a shadow that was cast by the actual Temple. As such it was always meant to be temporary. It could never do what the real one would do once the real High Priest arrived to offer a sacrifice that would end all sacrifices and clear the way for us to be cleansed not only of our sins, but our conscience (Hebrews 9:14). Therefore, Jesus has a superior ministry and is Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. The Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law, contained promises but they were conditional. If you obeyed, God blessed you. But if you disobeyed, God cursed you (including possibly taking your life). In the New Covenant, not only does God pay for all your sins, He gives you the ability to obey His demands.

**8:7-13**, if the first Covenant had been faultless, we wouldn't need another. But God found fault with the people of Israel—notice the problem was not the Law, it was the people obeying it (cf. Romans 7:12). Therefore, God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, promised that He would replace the Old Covenant with a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This section of Jeremiah is where God promises the restoration of His people Israel. When Jesus, Israel's Messiah, returns to establish His Kingdom, He will vanquish Israel's enemies and establish a New Covenant with them which will affect every Israelite: God will enable every Israelite to obey Him, each one of them will have a permanent, intimate relationship with Him, every one of them will **know** Him (not simply "about" Him), and He will completely forgive their sins. All this clearly shows the inadequacy of the Old Covenant, which the author already stated (Hebrews 7:11, 18-19). Thus, the New Covenant will not be like the Old which failed because of Israel's disobedience.

**The New Covenant is made with Israel not the Church**, some think that the Church has replaced Israel or that somehow the Church is the new Israel. But it's important to note that God made the New Covenant and all four other Covenants with Israel not the Church (Hebrews 8:8). God made 5 covenants with Israel, 4 are unconditional, 1 is conditional. The unconditional ones are: Abrahamic, Palestinian/Land, Davidic, and New. The conditional one is the Mosaic. There is actually one main covenant, the Abrahamic which contains three aspects: Land, Seed and Spiritual blessings. The other three unconditional covenants (Palestinian/Land, Davidic and New) elaborate on these three aspects.

How does the Church fit into these covenants? The Church partakes of the spiritual blessings of Israel's covenants (Genesis 12:3), but not the material blessings; those belong to Israel alone (e.g., the Promise Land, Genesis 13:15). Gentiles used to be separated from the blessings of these covenants by the Mosaic Covenant. But when Jesus died on the Cross, He removed that barrier forever and opened the way for us to partake of the spiritual blessings, all of which are available to Gentiles the moment they believe in Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-8, 11-22). Therefore, God has not forsaken Israel; He will restore them and give them their Promise Land (Romans 11:1-20).

**What blessings do we get through the New Covenant?** The new covenant will be fulfilled for the nation of Israel when the Lord returns, but these spiritual blessings are available now to everyone who simply believes in Jesus: the Lord gives us the ability to obey Him, we have a permanent, intimate relationship with Him, we **know** God and get to know Him (not simply *about* Him) when we walk with Him, and He forgives and will forgive ALL our sins! This is what Jesus has given us: He's opened the door to God's personal space where the Father, the Son and we are forever united and guided by the Lord's love (John 16:7, 12-15; 17:3, 20-26; Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 2:5-6, 11-22; Galatians 2:20; 4:6; 1 John 1-2).

### III. Conclusion

*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, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*