

# Hebrews 8:1-13





Session	Chapter	Topic
1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Introduction to Hebrews
2	Hebrews 1:5 – 2:4	Jesus is Greater than the Angels
3	Hebrews 2:5 – 3:6	Jesus' Sonship is Greater than Moses' Servanthood
4	Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13	Jesus' Rest is Better than Joshua's Rest
5	Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10	Jesus Christ, Our Great Appointed High Priest
6	Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20	Exhortation to Persevere in Light of God's Promise
7	Hebrews 7:1-28	Jesus, a High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek
8	Hebrews 8:1-13	Jesus, the High Priest of the New Covenant

In Hebrews 7, the author took the time to explain how Jesus is a high priest in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Leviticus. He used Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110:4 to show that the Melchizedekian priesthood is far superior to the Levitical priesthood. Jesus himself then is appointed with an oath sworn by God to be this high priest.

In this next chapter, the author moves on to talk about what high priests normally do (offer sacrifices in the temple), and how the ministry of this particular high priest – Jesus Christ – is far superior than theirs. This is also the chapter where he begins to talk about and contrast the new covenant with the old.

## Launch

- 1) Compare each of the pairs and decide which you think is superior. Then discuss how and why you know it is superior.

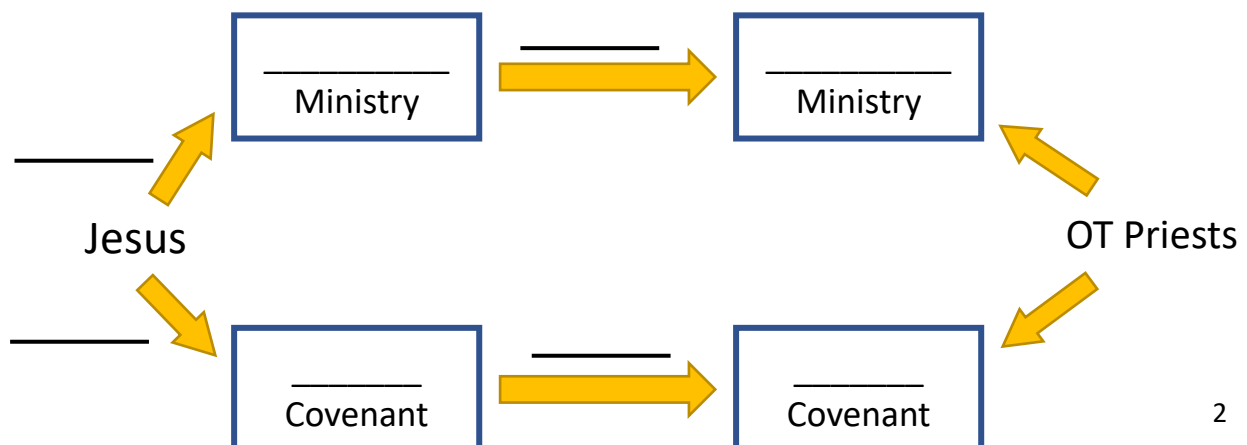
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## High Priest of a New Covenant

Read Hebrews 8:1-13

- 2) What is the “main point of what we are saying”? (v1-2)
  - a. What kind of high priest is the author talking about? (cf. Heb 7:26-27)
  - b. What is the significance of this high priest sitting down at the right hand of the throne? (Think about what they had in the temple in the OT)
  - c. Where does this high priest serve? How is that different from the high priests of the Old Testament?
- 3) What is every high priest appointed to do? (v3)
- 4) Why would Jesus not be a priest if he was on earth? (v4)
- 5) Where do these priests serve in? (v5)
  - a. Why was Moses warned to be extra careful to follow all the details of the instructions? (v5)
  - b. What does this tell you about the function/role of the tabernacle in the Old Testament?
- 6) Complete the diagram below based on v6.





- 7) Why is the new covenant superior to the old? (v6)
  - a. What do you think the author is referring to?
- 8) Which covenant do you think “the first covenant” is referring to? (v7) (cf. v9)
- 9) Which passage does he quote to show that the new covenant is superior? (v8-12)
  - a. Why do you think a new covenant is needed? (v8-9) (cf. v7, 13)
  - b. What are some aspects of this new covenant that makes it superior to the old? (v10-12)
  - c. Based on what you have learned from Heb 7 – 8, what will make this new covenant effective where the old covenant was not?
- 10) What difference do these aspects make in a Christian’s daily life compared to the daily lives of the Israelites in the Old Testament?
  - a. Which of these aspects excite you the most?
- 11) How does this passage change the way we read the Old Testament?

## Conclusion

The main point of Hebrews 8 is found right at verse 1. The author tells his readers that we have a high priest in the order of Melchizedek (which is superior than the Levitical priesthood), and with that in mind, this high priest is also the mediator of a new covenant. In the same way that the Melchizedek is superior than the old priesthood, this new covenant is superior to the old.

God himself promised a new covenant to his people, in the same way that he promised a new priesthood. The author makes his case by quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34. This new covenant is superior because this time, God will put his laws in the hearts of his people and that his people will not need a mediator anymore to help them know God (v11) – they will all know him. God’s people will all know him personally is because God himself will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more. (v12).

However, how will God accomplish that? This is the subject that the author will turn to in the very next chapter – the sacrifice of this high priest that secures forgiveness and cleansing for God’s people.