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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY”**

**Hebrews 8:1-13**

***Hebrews 8:1 "Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"***

***Hebrews 8:2 "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."***

Due to the structure, content, style, and pastoral concerns of the Letter to the Hebrews, it’s often compared to a sermon. The author sounds like a preacher as he talks about his main point. He wants readers to know that a better high priest necessarily brings a better ministry. Our high priest, Jesus, is seated at God’s right hand, the place of power and authority. The Tabernacle in the wilderness was a model of the one in heaven. The heavenly Tabernacle was not made with human hands. Moses had been warned of God that every detail must be exact as the one God had shown Moses. Our High Priest is Jesus Christ, who carried His precious blood to the throne of God. We mentioned that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father, because His work is done. His 6 hours on the cross, was His 6 days of work, for all of mankind. He said It is finished and went to heaven to be with the Father. Jesus is our representative before the Father. He is our Advocate, because He pleads our case.

***Revelation 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."***

This statement, in Jesus' own words. We must not fear problems of this earth, because we have a promise of a better life in heaven with Jesus. When he died on the cross and made a perfect offering for sin, his work was finished. Therefore, he’s now in a “finished” position from which to intercede for you.

***II Corinthians 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."***

***John 19:30 “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”***

***Hebrews 8:3 "For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore [it is] of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer."***

The duty of the high priest is to be the link between God and man. He is to represent God to the people, and to represent the people to God. The high priest was the only one permitted to go into the most holy place. He carried blood into the most holy place for the sins of the people and for himself. God spoke to the heart of the high priest through the Urim and Thummin worn over the heart of the high priest. The high priest was in authority over the other priests. Besides being in charge of matters of religious importance, he was also in charge, of civil matters, as well. If we look at the high priest of these Israelites as a type of Christ, we will be able to see many similarities. The author draws a contrast between the work of the former priests in the earthly tabernacle and the work of Jesus in the heavenly tabernacle. Our great High Priest [Jesus Christ] represents us before the Father, He carried His own precious blood to atone for our sin, to the Throne of God. God spoke to all believers through His Son Jesus Christ.

***Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."***

***Hebrews 8:4 "For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:"***

Jesus would not have been a high priest under the law, here on earth, because He was not of the Levitical tribe. Another good reason that He would not have been a high priest here on the earth, is that the high priest on earth is of the law, Jesus was not of the law, but of  
grace.

***Hebrews 8:5 "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."***

The Old Testament tabernacle, priests, and sacrifices were intended to point to the true tabernacle, priest, and sacrifice to come. The system that Moses established was good and done in obedience to God, but it was all preparatory. It was a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. The entire Tabernacle was patterned after the real thing in heaven. We see in the next verse that Moses truly was warned for it to be exactly as God had shown Him. Almost everything in the tabernacle was symbolic of Jesus. Jesus is the Bread, Jesus is the Light, Jesus is the Lamb Sacrifice. This earthly high priest and the earthly Tabernacle was to show us a little glimpse of heaven and how it works.

***Exodus 26:30 "And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount."***

***Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."***

Jesus did not do away with the law; He fulfilled it. The law had to be fulfilled before the more excellent ministry of grace could be in effect. When Jesus said {It is finished}, it brought the end to the law and ushered in grace. It pointed forward to Jesus who obtained a superior ministry, mediating a better covenant, which is established on better promises.

***II Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."***

***II Corinthians 3:7 "But if the ministration of death, written [and] engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which [glory] was to be done away:"***

***II Corinthians 3:8 "How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?"***

***II Corinthians 3:9 "For if the ministration of condemnation [be] glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory."***

***II Corinthians 3:10 "For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth."***

***II Corinthians 3:11 "For if that which is done away [was] glorious, much more that which remaineth [is] glorious."***

You see, the law condemned, but Jesus brought hope through grace. Grace is so much better you would not be able to find anyone who would want to go back to the law. Mediator, in verse 6 above, means a go between.

***Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."***

The author emphasizes the superiority of the new covenant that Christ established. A covenant is a special agreement that God makes with his people. It is a divinely created relational bond through which God reveals himself and administers his kingdom program. Through his covenants, God exercises his kingdom rule on earth and blesses his people. The old covenant made with the people of Israel was good, but it was also temporary and weak because God had something better in store. If the first covenant had been faultless, we wouldn’t have needed a second one. The fault was not actually in the law, but in man's ability to keep the law.

***Galatians 3:21 "[Is] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."***

It was just too much for man to keep. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Praise God we are saved, not because we are worthy, but because Jesus loves us and paid in full for our sin.

***Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"***

When we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we do so by simple faith in Him. This alone makes us righteous in the sight of God. This entire lesson is saying to us that our great High Priest {Jesus Christ} has done all of the work for us. He has paid our debt to the Father in full. He has washed us in His precious blood and made us pure. He has become sin for us that we might become His righteousness. He even fulfilled the law that we might be saved by the new covenant God made with man, through His son. Our Creator became our Saviour.

***Hebrews 8:8 "For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:"***

We find that over and over, the Lord has had mercy on the Israelites. When one thing does not work, He has forgiven them, and given them another opportunity. The last opportunity is the grace of God, through His Son Jesus Christ. This opportunity is for physical Israel, and for spiritual Israel [Christians]. This last opportunity is not made through the law but is a free gift to all who will believe and accept it.

***Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:"***

***Jeremiah 31:32 "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:"***

***Jeremiah 31:33 "But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."***

***Jeremiah 31:34 "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."***

***Hebrews 8:9 "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord."***

These Hebrews that went into Egypt, soon forgot God in this idolatrous land. They cried out to Him for help when they became slaves to the Egyptians. God intervened on their part, and brought them out, by His mighty Hand. Ten plagues, God brought on Pharoah, so he would let the people go. God opened the Red Sea, that they might walk across in safety. He miraculously fed them every day on the journey. The Bible says that their shoes and clothing did not wear out, even though this journey took 40 years. When they were out of water, God had water to flow from a rock for them. How could they fall away from God, after such great shows of His love to them? In the following Scriptures, we see another instance of Israel falling away from God. It seems, over and over, even unto this present time they are still away from God. The wonderful thing is, God is merciful.

***II Kings 17:16 "And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, [even] two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."***

***II Kings 17:17 "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."***

***II Kings 17:18 "Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only."***

***Hebrews 8:10 "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:"***

Here the author quotes from Jeremiah to support his argument. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God had explained that the law wasn’t able to change a heart. Under the new covenant, however, he promised to put [his] laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. This is a beautiful promise to the house of Israel. This includes physical Israel and spiritual Israel. When you are saved, you really have a change of heart. You no longer want to live the life you did before you received salvation. We are told over and over, to have the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, we must believe in our heart. It is as if you have had a heart transplant. You no longer have an evil heart of unbelief. That old heart has been changed into a heart that wants to please God. Your heart has been washed in the blood of the Lamb and made every whit whole. This new heart, guided by the Holy Spirit of God, has learned the perfect way of the Lord. His laws have been written there. This heart no longer desires to sin; it desires to please God. The issue of the heart is what we are. The mind is stayed upon God, because the heart is stayed on God. You now have the capacity to experience God and obey him. But while every Christian has this ability, not every Christian has developed it. Through Jesus Christ, God has established this new covenant. Therefore, the old covenant is obsolete.

***Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."***

When the Lord reveals Himself to mankind, there will be no need for evangelizing. I believe this happens, when Jesus Christ, as Lord of lords and King of kings rules the thousand years here on the earth. Here is another Scripture that is saying the same thing.

***Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."***

Let us look at two more Scriptures that can shed a little light on this.

***I John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."***

***I John 5:20 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."***

God is a Spirit. When we receive the Spirit of God, within us, we no longer decide our life, Jesus decides, and we follow His instructions.

***Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."***

In the old earthly Temple, the high priest made sacrifice for the sin of the people. This blood of animals that they sacrificed could only cover the sin. Washing in the blood of Jesus completely destroys your sin. It is done away with. The Bible says it is as far as the east is from the west. It also says, it is in the bottom of the sea. The point it is really making is, that your sin is no more. Sin, for the believer in Christ, died on the cross, when Jesus took it upon His body.

***I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."***

***I John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."***

***I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

You see, from all this, that we have sinned and deserve to die. Jesus paid in full the death penalty for us, when He gave His body on the cross.

***Hebrews 8:13 "In that he saith, A new [covenant], he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [is] ready to vanish away."***

When you make a new will, the old one is no longer in effect. That is what God has done here, He has made a new will. This New Testament is that will. This Covenant was not signed with the blood of man, but with the blood of the Father's own Son {Jesus Christ the Righteous}. The old covenant has been retired and the new covenant is now in effect. God provided the new and better way. Jesus is the Way. The way we activate this covenant is through belief in Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. This is that new birth that all believers in Christ receive.

***II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where is our High Priest?
2. Who pitched the true Tabernacle?
3. What had God warned Moses of, in regard to the Temple?
4. Why is Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father?
5. Every high priest is ordained to do what 2 things?
6. What is grace that Jesus brought to us called in Hebrews chapter 8 verse 6?
7. Finish this statement; The letter killeth, but the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Which would you rather live under, law or grace?
9. We are saved, not because we are worthy, but why?
10. He became sin for us, that we might become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. In verse 8, who did God say He would make a new covenant with?
12. Where will God put His laws in this new covenant?
13. In chapter 8 verse 10, God says He will put His laws in what 2 places?
14. The Son of God has come and given us an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. God is a \_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. In Hebrews chapter 8 verse 12, God says He will remember what no more?
17. We have sinned and deserve to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. Jesus paid in full the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us.
19. When you make a new will the old one is no more in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. If any man be in Christ, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.