

Hebrews 8 - New Covenant People

I. Intro

A. When we focus only on now, we can miss big picture

1. *Blockbuster v. Netflix story, offered for \$50 million*

a) Blockbuster CEO “we’re not interested in digital”

B. As Christians, we can fixate on right now

1. *Sins to beat, ministry, life problems* - **all our actions**

a) Hebrews 8 - **both saved and sanctified by grace**

II. Our New Priest

A. Jesus - Complete and Powerful

1. *(v. 1-2: Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.)*

a) Hebrews building to Jesus our high priest!

(1) Became like us, priest forever, offers himself, done

(a) *“Sat down” - do that when the work is over*

(2) Old tabernacle, no seats - work was ongoing

(a) **After the resurrection, the saving work is done**

B. Jesus - What The Old Testament Pointed Toward

1. *(v. 3-5: Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was*

about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”)

- a) Jesus didn't fit earthly priesthood | *not from Levi*
 - (1) *All earthly ministry should point to heavenly reality*
 - (a) *Priests sacrifice pointing to a perfect one*
- b) God's commands are an invitation to be like Him
 - (1) *Ephesians 5:1 “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.”*
 - (a) *Nate bonfire set up* - wants to do what I'm doing
 - i) *God's main goal for us - be like Him + with Him*

C. Jesus - Mediator of a Better Covenant

- 1. *(v. 6: But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.)*
 - a) Jesus created a new model
 - (1) Old way - *go to temple, rely on priests to mediate*
 - (2) New way - *direct access to Jesus, mediates for all*
 - (a) *Restoring a house, keep shape, swap better parts*
 - b) Today, some still want you to rely on them
 - (1) *Guides, pod hosts, influencers, celeb pastors, etc.*
 - (a) *All help, but you also have access through Jesus*
 - i) *Good ministry supports your direct connection*

III. Our New Covenant

A. What Was Wrong

- 1. *(v. 7-9: For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said:*

“The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.”)

a) What failed? People did.

(1) *OT cycle - people turn from God and need rescue*

(a) Our faithfulness can't get the job done.

(2) *Can see this getting saved, lose sight as we walk*

(a) *Our good works don't stack to save, could never*

i) All we bring to the equation is our need

B. But God Will Transform Us

1. *(v. 10-12: This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.)*

a) Quote from Jeremiah 31, likely during Josiah's reign

(1) *People returning to God, prophecies a new level*

(a) *Not our reach for Him, but Him transforming us*

b) Easy to make Christianity about action and escape

(1) *Do good stuff, God loves you, go to heaven*

(a) Misses God's goal for you HERE and NOW

c) Instead, it's about heart transformation

(1) *John 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."*

(a) God's goal - guide us to becoming like Him

i) Actions are about allowing grace to take over

(1) *Finding the hotspots of God's grace*

(2) Growth happens because of grace, not effort

C. No Other Path Forward

1. (v. 13: *By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.*)

a) What disappeared? Sacrificial system.

(1) Turn from grace, there's nothing else - *life w/o food*

(a) *1 Samuel 12:21 "Don't go back to worshiping worthless idols that cannot help or rescue you—they are totally useless!"*

i) Don't go back to other ways (earning God, being good enough) they can't help!

IV. Conclusion

A. The call is clear. Live like New Covenant people.

1. *Galatians 3:3 "After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"*

(1) *Think grace starts us, we earn the rest*

(a) God will transform us when we rest in Him

b) *1 Thess. 5:23-24 "Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful."*