

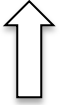
Hebrews 8:1-13

Week Twelve

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Heavenly Father, enlighten the eyes of my heart that I may truly see the wonders in your word and understand and know you better.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2-Hebrews 8:1-3

1. In chapter 7, the author of Hebrews has been contrasting the weakness and ineffectiveness of the earthly priests with a new priest who was appointed by God and is the perfect fulfillment of everything the sacrificial system pointed to. To the Jewish readers who had given up the whole sacrificial system, what good news does the author give in verse 1?

2. Match up the significance of each of the words or phrases:

Seated

King

Right hand of God

Priest

Throne

Work is accomplished

Minister in the holy places

Power and authority



Verse 2 describes Jesus as a “minister” in the holy places. The word “minister” means “servant.” Jesus is the exalted King, seated with all power and authority at the right hand of God and as our high priest, Jesus is in heaven serving us!

- ❖ How does this reality impact you?

- ❖ What does keeping this reality on your mind do to your pride, self-promotion, indulgence, irritation or martyr complex?

- ❖ Spend some time in prayer responding to this amazing truth.

3. Remember that the Tabernacle was the tent that God instructed Moses to build as the place of worship where God’s presence would dwell and the priests would mediate for the people. How does verse 2 describe the tent where Jesus is ministering?

4. According to verse 3, what is every high priest required to do?

-Look back to 7:27. What was Jesus’ offering?

Day 3-Hebrews 8:4-7

5. How does verse 5 describe the sacrificial system that the priests served?

Scholar's Note: "To say that Moses was required to make everything according to the pattern shown to him does not mean that the earthly tabernacle described in Exodus physically depicts heaven, but that its elements symbolize the realities of Christ's coming ministry in heaven." ¹

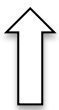


The whole Levitical priesthood was created by God to portray to his people his holiness and their sin, and what must happen in light of those two things. But this system was only a picture or shadow of reality. And like a picture or shadow it could not replace the real thing, but only point to it. The Hebrew readers were in danger of leaving the real thing and going back to the shadow. The shadow – the sacrificial system and the law could never save, but only point to the real Savior.

- ❖ It seems like we are on default setting for law and trying to earn our way by following all the rules, essentially try to be our own savior. All other religions take this approach. What ways do you catch yourself trying to be your own savior or earn God's approval through what you do?

- ❖ How does a feeling of self-satisfaction in the things you do, (I'm not talking about cleaning out the closet and feeling good about it) point to the shadow and not the real thing? What should we feel really good about instead?

- ❖ How does having the shadow or picture we see in the Old Testament sacrificial system help to deepen your understanding of sin and atonement?



Father, forgive me for following, serving and loving things that are only shadows of your goodness and grace. Help me to want the real thing, to keep my eyes on Jesus, treasuring and trusting his amazing love and grace to me.

6. Why is Jesus' ministry far superior to the old priesthood according to verse 6?

-Why is the new covenant better?

Picture and Ponder: “What is the difference between the old covenant and the new? The old covenant worked externally by the law, and therefore was unable to empower the people to uphold their end of the relationship; under the administration of the new covenant comes the miracle of regeneration – new hearts to make a new people eager to do God's will. This was never offered under the old covenant, which explains its weakness, its uselessness for actually working salvation.”²

Day 4-Hebrews 8:8-9

Verses 8-12 quote Jeremiah 31. In the book of Jeremiah we see the people of God pass up their final opportunity to repent of their chronic idolatry and rejection of God and sever the covenant God had made with them. But in the midst of this despair Jeremiah prophesies about a new covenant that God will make.

7. In verse 8, what does God declare is coming?
8. When did God make the old covenant with his people according to verse 9?

Scholar's Note: A biblical covenant is “established not on the foundation of promises made by equal parties, but on the foundation of the divine promises

of God. In the biblical covenants, it is God who declares the terms and makes the promises.”³

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-Did God make the covenant before or after he had delivered the Israelites from Egypt?

- What were the terms of the covenant? (What did the people have to do?)

- What were the promises of the covenant?

- How did the people respond to the terms?

Exodus 19:1, 3-8 “Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. ³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

⁷ So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD. (NLT)

9. What happened with the old covenant according to verse 9?

-What were the consequences?

Day 5-Hebrews 8:10-13

10. In verse 10, what does God say about the law and the New Covenant?

For Discussion: Why is it significant that God included both the mind and the heart for his law to be written on?

11. From the information in verse 10, circle the comparison that best describes the old covenant verses the new covenant.

- a. Hard vs. Easy
- b. External vs. Internal
- c. Jewish vs. Christian
- d. Archaic vs. Modern

Critical Connections: The Old Covenant worked externally, it had no power to accomplish inward transformation. But God said the New Covenant was not like the Old, this new covenant would work internally, written on our hearts, not on tablets of stone. Read the following verses and answer the question:

-Why was the New Covenant so much better? What was the means God would use to work inwardly on our hearts?

Romans 8:3-4 ³ *The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body*

like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 3:3, 7-8 ³ Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.

⁷ The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. ⁸ Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? (NLT)

Galatians 3:2-3 ² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? (NLT)



Ezekiel 36:27, in speaking about the New Covenant says, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

The marvelous truth of the New Covenant is that God ensures we will keep it by giving us his own Spirit to transform us completely and make us people who love God and want to obey and are enabled to obey! This is such good news! Jesus truly is High Priest of a better covenant!

❖ *Romans 7:6 ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit. (NLT)*

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

We have this wonderful gift of the Spirit, so how do we *live in the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit, and sow to the Spirit?*

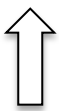
- ❖ How have you seen the Spirit change your desires, attitudes and priorities from the way you were before you were saved and as you have grown in sanctification?

12. What promise does God make in verse 10c?

Digging Deeper: The history of Israel shows us that we are not good at being God's people. In fact, humans completely fail at being God's people if we are left to our own devices. Read the following verse and answer the question: Why will this sad history be different in the New Covenant?

Jeremiah 32:40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

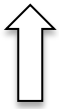
-How does this truth impact you?



Heavenly Father, I am so grateful that you have given me a new heart that won't turn away from you! Keep me close, don't let me wander, help me to hold on tightly to you as you hold tightly to me. And Lord I pray this for my loved ones who don't know you, please put the fear of you in their hearts that they may not turn from you

13. How personal is our relationship with God in the New Covenant according to verse 11?

14. Look at verse 12 in the NLT. What two things does God promise he will do in the New Covenant?



Father, I thank you and praise you that I no longer bear the heavy guilt of my sin. Thank you for forgiving me and for forgetting my sins so we can have fellowship! Thank you Jesus that your death made this possible—your blood covers my sins so God can give me mercy.

15. Now that we have a new covenant, what has happened to the old one according to verse 13?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 3456-3458). Kindle Edition.

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 3022-3024). Kindle Edition.

³ Sproul, RC, The Promises of God, Published by David C. Cook, 2013 p.11

Copyright © 2019 Holli Worthington. This document may be reproduced for learning purposes but not for profit.