

LESSON 8

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY

The first verses of chapter 8 switch slightly from the Son's priestly office, which was discussed in 4:14—7:28, to His more excellent priestly ministry in 8:1–5. Hebrews teaches great truths regarding Christ's superiority as our High Priest.

HIS NEW MINISTRY (8:1–5)

Our High Priest cannot serve in connection with an inferior covenant; His place is with the superior. Christians are spoken of as the temple (dwelling place) of God in 1 Corinthians 3:16. Therefore, the church may be the "true tabernacle," or God's dwelling place, of which the old tabernacle was a type.

1. What did the tabernacle foreshadow?
2. Why could Jesus not be a high priest if He were on earth (v. 4)?
3. How were the laws and priesthoods of the old covenant nothing more than a "shadow" of those of the new covenant (v. 5)?

HIS NEW COVENANT (8:6–13)

The ministry of Jesus was the highest of all ministries because He had become the mediator of the highest of all covenants, the new covenant. The old covenant was simply "a copy and shadow of the heavenly things." It was authentic and according to God's design, but its supreme function was to point to the new covenant which would result from the death of Christ.

Hebrews 8:6–13 brings before us the primary characteristics of the new covenant.

4. Can we equate the Old and New Testaments with the old and new covenants?

5. What are the improvements that the new covenant makes on the old?
6. How was Jeremiah 31:31–34 (the quotation in Hebrews 8:8–12) understood in its original context?
7. What were some problems with the old covenant?
8. How was the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem a sign that biblical Judaism had ended?