

STUDYING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 14 - The High Priest of a New Covenant - Hebrews 8:1-13

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

HEB 8:1 The 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, [2] and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

HEB 8:3 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. [4] If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. [5] 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." [6] But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

HEB 8:7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. [8] But God found fault with the people and said:

"The time is coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

HEB 8:9 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
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.

HEB 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house 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.

HEB 8:11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'

because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

HEB 8:12 For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

HEB 8:13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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145. Where is Christ right now? (8:1)
146. With what title is God described? (8:1)
147. What is Christ doing presently in heaven? (8:2)
148. What is the "job description" for a high priest? (8:3)
149. How do earthly sanctuaries and tabernacles differ from the heavenly one in which Christ is currently serving? (8:2, 5-6)
150. Why would Jesus not be a priest on earth? (8:4)
151. What do the terms "copy," "shadow," and "pattern" indicate about the Levitical priesthood? (8:5)
152. In what ways is the new covenant superior to the old? (8:6)
153. Why did God decide to initiate a new covenant? (8:7-12)
154. How did Israel handle their part in the old covenant? (8:9)
155. How did God say the new covenant would be different from the old one? (8:10)
156. What is God's response to sin under the new covenant? (8:12)
157. What became of the old covenant when the new was introduced? (8:13)
158. How does it make you feel to realize that under the new covenant, you can have an intimate relationship with God?
159. What do we learn about God from the fact that He set aside the old covenant in favor of the new?