

Hebrews 8-9 (NIV)

Chapter 8

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” ⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says:
 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
 when I will establish a new covenant with
 the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah,
⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their
 fathers
 on the day when I took them by the hand to
 bring them out of the land of Egypt.
 For they did not continue in my covenant,
 and so I showed no concern for them,
 declares the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the
 house of Israel
 after those days, declares the Lord:
 I will put my laws into their minds,
 and write them on their hearts,
 and I will be their God,
 and they shall be my people.

¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor

and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the
 Lord,’
 for they shall all know me,
 from the least of them to the greatest.
¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
 and I will remember their sins no more.”

¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the
 first one obsolete. And what is becoming
 obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish
 away.

Discussion Questions

What do you think a typical day in the life of
 the Lord Jesus looks like today? What do you
 think He is doing?

Hebrews 8 (ESV)

Bible Study Questions

1. According to the author of Hebrews, why was
 Moses instructed to build the tabernacle
 according to the pattern that he was shown on the
 mountain? (Exodus 25:40)

2. Why was there a need for a new covenant?
 How is the new covenant better?

Hebrews 9 (NIV)

Chapter 9

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. ² For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant ⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, ⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. ⁸ By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing ⁹ (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, ¹⁰ but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered

himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9 (ESV)
Discussion question

Can a Christian believe in reincarnation, also known as the transmigration of the soul? Explain your answer.

Bible Study Questions

1. Draw a picture of the basic design of the Tabernacle and include the furnishings that are mentioned in this text. (See also Exodus 25–31 and 35–40).

2. What did the curtains in the tabernacle indicate about the relationship between God and humans?

3. What did the priests do in the holy place? What did the high priest do in the most holy place? How would you feel as a Jewish person living in the first century CE if you were not allowed to participate in the religious festivals of the temple?

4. How does the work of Jesus relate to the activity of the priests and high priest of the tabernacle?

5. What was used to purify things under the old covenant with Israel? What does the offering of Jesus do for believers today? Why doesn't Jesus offer sacrifices repeatedly? (See 9:13-14; 24-26)

6. What is a covenant, and what is necessary to establish a covenant? (See Exodus 24:1-8)

7. When God formalized the covenant with Israel through Moses, He gave them the Law. Has anything like that happened for us as Christians? (See Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10; Leviticus 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:9; Matthew 5:21-44; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 1:8, 2:1-3)

8. Why should we be excited about the return of Jesus? What change do you want to make in response to this lesson?
