

Session 4: The New Covenant (8:1-10:18)

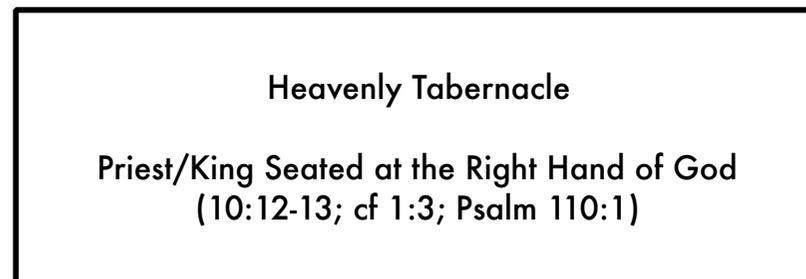
Jesus has inaugurated a new covenant. But what does that mean for the old one? What was wrong with it, and how is the new covenant different? In this final session we look at how Jesus' death achieves what the Old Testament sacrifices never could and we consider how Jesus gives us confidence to persevere in our faith.

On Earth as in Heaven? (8:1-9:10)

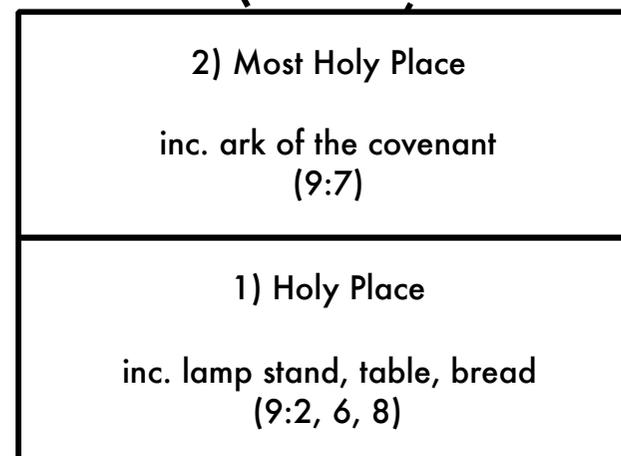
Where and how does Jesus operate as a High Priest?

'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. 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." 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.' (8:1-6)

'The priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.' (9:6-10)



"You have given command to build a temple on your holy mountain, and an altar in the city of your habitation, a copy of the holy tent that you prepared from the beginning"
(Wisdom 9:8; cf Exodus 25:40)



New Covenant vs Old Covenant (8:7-13; 9:9-10:18)

What was wrong with the Old Covenant, and what has God done about it?

Jeremiah 31:31-14 in Hebrews 8:7-13

'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...' (Hebrews 8:7-8)

'I will make... I will put... I will write... I will be... I will forgive... I will remember' (8:8-12; cf. Deut 6:6-9; Ezek 11:19-20; 36:26-27)

What did the OC Achieve?

(9:9-14)

What's happened to the OC?

(8:13)

Aphanismos = 'violently destroyed' (LXX)

Why is this so relevant for the readers?

What about people under the OC?

(9:15)

Aaron	Jesus
Aaron sacrificed animals, whose blood couldn't forgive sins (10:4)	Offered his own blood (9:12-14)
Had to atone for his own sin first (5:3; 9:7)	Had no sins of his own to atone for (9:12, 14)
Offered repeated, ineffective sacrifices (10:1-2, 11)	Offered a single, effective sacrifice (9:25-28; 10:11-14)
Stands daily (10:11; cf Deut 18:5)	Sat down at the right hand of God (10:12-14, cf 1:3; Psalm 110:1)

Therefore... (10:19-13:25)

How does Hebrews give us confidence and build our faith?

'Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' (10:19-25)

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.' (12:1-3)