

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2/6-7/2023 Hebrews 8

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Chapter 8 – The New Priestly Service; Jesus is Superior to Aaron as a High Priest – vs. 1-6; A New Covenant; Jesus Ministers From a Better Sanctuary; from the Superior Environment of Heaven! – vs. 7-13.

- **Chapter eight begins with the same thought of Jesus, our great High Priest, seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.**

Review from end of Chapter 7: - Greatness of the New Priest - (Heb 7:25-28) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. [26] For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled,

separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; [27] who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. [28] For the law appoints as high priests, men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

CHAPTER 8 – Jesus, High Priest of a Better Covenant! – TEXT:

- **(Heb 8:1-13)** Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, [2] a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. [3] For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. [4] For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; [5] who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." [6] But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. [7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. [8] Because finding fault with them, He says: "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH— [9] NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD. [10] FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. [11] NONE OF THEM SHALL TEACH HIS NEIGHBOR, AND NONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. [12] FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." [13] In that He says, "A NEW COVENANT," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Jesus, High Priest of a Better Covenant

Heb 8:1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

- **Now this is the main point of the things we are saying:** This is the summation, the main point of what has been said. He is speaking about Jesus, our great High Priest.
- **What we have in Christ is such a High Priest as no other people ever had,** no age of the world, or of the church, ever produced! All others were but types and shadows of this High Priest! He is absolutely fitted and sufficient to all the intents and purposes of a high priest, both with respect to the honor of God and the happiness of men!
- **We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.** Now on earth, the high priest would go into the holy of holies, first in the tabernacle, later, when the temple was built, into the temple. Once a year, on Yom Kippur, he would enter in twice. First of all, with a sacrifice for his own sins, and then with a sacrifice for the sins of the nation.
- **But our Great High Priest has not entered into the holy of holies here on earth, but He has entered into heaven itself!** He is seated at the right hand of the throne of Majesty in the heavens!
- **When the High Priest said to, (Mat 26:63b-64) I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" [64] Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."** The High Priest was so upset with this, he tore his clothes, saying we don't have need of any further witnesses. This man has condemned himself by claiming to be the Son of God. What do

you say? And they all said, He is worthy of death. (*Lev 24:16a*) *And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death.*

- **In (*Mar 16:19*)** *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*
- (*Luk 22:69*) *Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."*
- (*Act 7:55*) *But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, it speaks of Stephen, when he had given his defense before the council.*
- (*Rom 8:34*) *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*
- (*Col 3:1*) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*
- (*Heb 1:3,13*) *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, [13] But to which of the angels has He ever said: "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL"? Your footstool, of course a reference to Psalm two.*
- (*Heb 10:12*) *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,*
- **And finally, in (*Heb 12:2*)** *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Right now, Jesus is at the right hand of the throne of God!* It's just as He said and just as has been affirmed by so many passages of Scripture. He is there representing you, as the Mediator between you and God, as our Great High Priest! He has offered the sacrifice for our sins, that is Himself. Now He makes intercession for us! How wonderful it is that we have such a Representative there before the throne of God, representing us!
- **The Bible says that Satan is the accuser of the brethren,** who accuses them day and night before God continually. We see Satan in that role, back in the Book of Job, when the sons of God were presenting themselves to God. (*Job 2:2-3*) *And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." [3] Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."* Satan offered his philosophy concerning Job that he was a mercenary. God had blessed Job, one of the wealthiest and blessed men on the earth at that time. Satan suggested that Job was only serving God because of the blessings. Take away all of the wonderful things that you have given to him, and he will curse You to Your face.
- **So God gave to Satan the permission to strip Job of his possessions.** When Job was stripped down to just the bare essence of existence, (*Job 1:21-22*) *And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." [22] In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.*
- **Satan again appeared before God** and God, again, said, where have you been? Oh, I have been going up and down through the earth. And He said have you considered my servant Job? He is a good man, upright. He loves good. He hates evil. And in spite of all that you have done in stripping him, he remained true.
- **But Satan said, yes, but You would not let me touch his life.** Let me take away his health. But here is Satan again, accusing Job before God. He is accusing you before God. He is no friend of yours! He is accusing us! But, oh, thank God, Jesus is there, interceding on our behalf!
- **Peter said, (*1Pe 3:22*)** *who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*
- **In (*Rev 3:21*)** *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

Heb 8:2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

- **A Minister of the sanctuary (Heb 9:3) and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All.** The High Priest on the throne is at the same time the *Minister of the sanctuary*. The King is still a servant. All the ministry or service of the priests in the tabernacle had its fulfilment in Him.
- **and of the true tabernacle:** The heavens where Jesus sits on the throne, they are *the true tabernacle*,
- **which the Lord erected, and not man. (Exo 25:8-9) And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. [9] According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.**

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

- **Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices.** There is need that an offering or atonement should be made for sin; and there is a fitness or propriety that someone should be designated to do it. Sacrifice for sin was essential to the concept of the Levitical priesthood. Jesus represented a superior priesthood, of the order of Melchizedek, offering a superior sacrifice, laying down **His own life to atone** for sin.
- **It is necessary that this One also have something to offer.** Though Jesus was never to offer a sacrifice according to the Law of Moses, He did offer a far better sacrifice. The sacrifice of Himself!

Heb 8:4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

- **Jesus was not qualified to be a Levitical priest because He was not of the tribe of Levi.** There were plenty of priests serving under the Levitical law, who were qualified.
- **Not be a priest. Because of its use of the present tense,** this verse indicates that the Levitical system was still in operation at the time of writing, indicating it was before the destruction of the temple, by Rome, in A.D. 70, which would have been just a few years after Hebrews was written.
- **Consider the timing here! The Jews, at that time, had the most glorious temple ever!** Herod had completed a forty plus year major repair and upgrading of the temple, which has commenced about 16 years before Christ was born! The temple must have been truly magnificent at that point! How tempting that would have been for the Jews to leave Christ and return to their traditional Jewish religious system in their beautiful temple!

Heb 8:5 who serve the copy and shadow (cast by Christ) of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

- **Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things:** There were plenty of priests who could serve in *the copy and shadow* on earth. Yet Jesus is the only One qualified to serve in the superior *heavenly* priesthood. The earthly service, though it was glorious in the eyes of man, was really only a *copy and shadow* of the superior heavenly service.
- **Copy and shadow of the heavenly things.** Moses was instructed to make the wilderness tabernacle according to a *pattern* that existed in heaven. (Exo 25:40) *And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.* This indicates there is a **heavenly** temple that **served as a pattern** for the earthly tabernacle and temple. Jesus' ministry as our High Priest takes place in this **heavenly** temple, not in *the copy and shadow*, which were a shadow and type of Him, built on earth.
- **SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.** There was to be a very precise making of the things within the tabernacle. Because the tabernacle was a holy of holies, a model of heaven.
- **There in the Holy of Holies, was the mercy seat. There was, the Ark of the Covenant,** wood covered with gold. Within the Ark of the Covenant, there were the two tables of stone, upon which, God had etched the Ten Commandments. There was the jar full of manna to remind them of God's preservation of their fathers through the forty years of wilderness. There was Aaron's rod, which was budded, bearing almonds, when the rods of the other priests were laid out before the Lord, to

determine as to whom would have the office of the high priest. Thus, God confirmed that Aaron was the high priest. So, they put that rod also in the Ark of the Covenant. They covered it over with a lid, which was covered with pure gold. That was called the mercy seat. When the high priest would go in once a year, one day a year on the Day of Atonement. He would take the blood of the sacrifice, putting it on the mercy seat. Above the mercy seat there were the two gold cherubim. They are described how their wings touched each other at the top and so forth, but these cherubim and the mercy seat, the Ark of the Covenant, were all models of the heavenly scene.

- **Now when you come into Revelation, chapter four, and John is taken** into the heavenly scene, John sees the throne of God. He sees the cherubim about the throne of God. They are saying holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which is, which was, and which is to come!
- **The earthly tabernacle was just the model, a picture, a type of the heavenly scene.** That is why there was to be an exactness in the construction of the tabernacle and the holy place, because this is a model of heaven! So the earthly priest would go into the earthly Holy Place, which was the model of the heavenly scene. But our High Priest did not go into the earthly model, He went into the actual Most Holy Place, into the presence of God, there at the throne of God! Not into the earthly model, but into heaven itself!
- **We see here that the Jews as well as each of us, should certainly never leave the substance,** the reality *for the copy and shadow of heavenly things!* The old Covenant is good. It was wonderful! But it is nothing like what we have in Christ, all fulfilled in the New Covenant!

Heb 8:6 But now He (Christ) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better (13x in Heb) covenant, which was established on better promises.

- **He has obtained a more excellent ministry.** The earthly priests could not take away sin, but only cover it for a time. But Jesus' ministry was far *better!* (**Joh 1:29b**) *Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* Jesus' *ministry* is so much *better* than the *ministry* of the priesthood under the Law of Moses.
- **Mediator of a better covenant:** Jesus has mediated for us a **better covenant**, a *covenant* of grace and not of works, whose surety is Jesus Himself! It is a **covenant** marked by believing and receiving instead of by earning and deserving. The Old was "do, do, do," where the New is "done, done, done!" (**Joh 19:30**) *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.* The Old said, "Obey to live!" The New is saying, "Live to obey!"
- **Jesus' covenant is a better covenant, better than any** of the previous covenants God made with men. The *covenant* of Jesus fulfills the other covenants described in the Bible!
- **Inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant.** The old covenant, under the law, the priests were still operating under that. But Jesus is a Mediator of a *better covenant, which was established upon better promises.* So this the transitional verse that takes us from the ministry of Jesus as the Great High Priest and now begins to deal with the covenant, the New Covenant, that God has established with man, whereby sinful man can be accepted by a Holy God.

Heb 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless (sufficient), then no place would have been sought for a second.

- **Had the old covenant been sufficient,** you wouldn't be looking for a New Covenant, a second covenant, had the first one worked!
- **For if that first covenant had been faultless.** It is implied here that God had said that, *that covenant* was not perfect or *faultless*. The meaning is not that that first covenant made under Moses had any real faults, or was wrong, but that it did not contain the ample provision for the pardon of sin and the salvation of the soul which was desirable. The older covenant, incomplete and imperfect, was only intended to be temporary. It was merely "preparatory" to the gospel. The fact that God established a New Covenant proves that there was something lacking in the Old Covenant.
- **Then should no place have been sought for a second.** The covenant of grace unveiled in the Gospel called *the better covenant*, the New Covenant was introduced, removing the Old Covenant, that the New might succeed it. Just as there was no perfection by the Levitical priesthood, it became necessary that another priesthood should arise, of another order, that of Melchizedek.

Heb 8:8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH—

(Mat 5:17-18) "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. [18] For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

- **Because finding fault:** The "finding fault" may refer either to the old covenant, or to the people themselves who were under it: finding fault "with it" or "with them." In this passage from (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*), God shows that something was lacking in the Old Covenant – because a New Covenant was promised. In the days of Jeremiah, the New Covenant was still in the future, because he wrote "*Behold the days are coming.*"
- **I will make.** This new covenant will originate from God and not man! With the Old Covenant the significant words were "if you!" With the New Covenant the key words become "I will!"
- **A new covenant:** The New Covenant is not merely the Old improved. It is totally new! What God says, He means! When He say New, He means New!
- **With the house of Israel and the house of Judah:** The New Covenant definitely began with Israel, but it was never intended to end with Israel! (*Gen 12:3b*) *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* (*Act 1:8*) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* (*Act 13:26*) *"Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. (Gal 3:7) Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*
- **At the time of Christ, this New Covenant begins to be fulfilled spiritually by Jewish and Gentile believers in the church era.** We see in the following verses that Gentiles as well as Jews, to whom this covenant was made, are also the beneficiaries of the blessings as well! (*1Co 11:25*) *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* (*2Co 3:6*) *who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (Gal 3:14) that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Eph 3:6) that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel!*

Heb 8:9 NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT THAT I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS IN THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DISREGARDED THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

- **Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers.** The New Covenant is not like the Old. There is something much different about the New Covenant. It is to be living, out of a loving, not a legal relationship with God.
- **Because they did not continue in My covenant.** The weakness of the Old Covenant was not primarily in the Covenant itself. It was in the weakness and inability of man. The primary reason the Old Covenant didn't "work" was **because they did not continue in My covenant.** Also, the Old Covenant was not found faultless in itself. It was a dispensation of darkness and dread, tending to bondage, and was only a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. It was perfect in its kind and fitted to answer its end, but imperfect in comparison of the gospel.
- **I disregarded them, says the LORD.** Israel dealt ungratefully with their God, and cruelly with themselves, and fell under God's displeasure. God will regard those who remain in His covenant, but will reject those who cast away His yoke from them.

Heb 8:10 FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

- ***I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.*** It will no longer be an issue of laws on tablets of stone or external laws that I am trying to keep in my own strength. He says I'm going to put a law inside of you that's going to affect your mind or put it right into your mind and I'm going to write it right into your heart! That is just what Jesus has done with our spiritual birth, the Holy Spirit coming into our lives and now the laws are inside of us as Christians, we're not lawless people and beings. We have the law of the Spirit, who is now inside of us. God had promised that we're going to move from this one external law, to move to an internal law here.
- ***AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.*** Do not be surprised when it happens! I will be their God and they shall be My people. The New Covenant offers a greater closeness with God than what was available under the Old Covenant! A legal relationship is replaced by a loving relationship!
- ***This New Covenant, through Jesus Christ, was established by Him.*** When Jesus had the Lord's Supper with His disciples, when He took the cup, after supper, He said this cup is a New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for the remission of sin. So, through Jesus Christ, God established a New Covenant.
- ***Now in this New Covenant, God opened the doors to us Gentiles, so that we can partake of this New Covenant by receiving Jesus Christ, I enter into a covenant relationship with God!*** And entering into the covenant relationship with God, I then have the promises of God's protection, God's blessings, all of these things that God promised He would do in the covenant, they continue! But now, it's no longer predicated upon my faithfulness. But it is now predicated upon God's faithfulness! His keeping His promise to do what He said He would do. The Old Covenant failed because it was predicated upon man's faithfulness. The New Covenant shall stand because it's predicated upon God's faithfulness! Think what that means to you and to me! We can be absolutely sure of our salvation, because it depends on Him, and what Jesus has already done for us, and is not dependent on us!
- ***Here is the wonderful thing about this New Covenant.*** There are no tables of stone that say, You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make any graven image. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Remember the sabbath day. There are no tables of stone that says, here it is. But the New Covenant is established in my heart! God comes in and He transforms my life! God promised, and a new heart will I give unto them!
- ***Paul wrote in (2Co 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*** So, God, is now writing in my heart, His law, meaning that is He, who is working from within! He is changing me within! He is changing my desires! He is changing the things that I long for! Rather than longing for the things of the world, I now long for the things of the Spirit! Rather than longing for fellowship with the world, I am longing for fellowship with God!
- ***As David said, (Psa 37:4) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*** I delight to do Your will, O Lord. It becomes the delight of our life to please God, to serve God! There is nothing I would rather do! Is there anything you would rather do than to please Him?

Heb 8:11 NONE OF THEM SHALL TEACH HIS NEIGHBOR, AND NONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.

- ***This New Covenant is going to be in effect, continuing right on into the thousand-year reign of Christ,*** into the Kingdom Age, when Jesus does come and establishes the Kingdom here on earth. We will not have to go around and say, oh, you need to know the Lord, brother. We will all, just love and serve the Lord in that day!
- ***NONE OF THEM SHALL TEACH HIS NEIGHBOR.*** It shall be a time of universal light and knowledge. All shall know God in Christ, from the least to the greatest! The children shall be taught to read the New Covenant and to understand the terms of their salvation.

Heb 8:12 FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

- **FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.** God accepts me on the basis of my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, as my Lord! It does not mean that I am perfect. Paul, writing some thirty years after his conversion experience on the road to Damascus, said, *(Php 3:13-14) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. [14] I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!* Neither do I count myself perfect. I press on!
- **We still have problems. We are still living in this body of flesh. We still fall once in a while in the mud.** But thank God, we do not lie there! When we fall, He is there to pick us up! He is there to wash us off, to get us on the path again. He is there to cleanse us from all unrighteousness! So, God said, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness!
- **AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.** John said, *(1Jn 2:1) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* He is there, Jesus, at the right-hand making intercession for us!
- **We have the Advocate with the Father, who is the propitiation for our sins, Jesus Christ.** So, God is merciful to our unrighteousness. He is merciful to our sin because my life is devoted to Jesus, to serve Him! I love Him! I want to follow Him all the days of my life! Is there anything in your life that is hindering that desire to finish well?
- **As David said, when the prophet had faced him with his guilt, (2Sa 12:13) So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.** So, David sat down and wrote, oh, how happy is the man whose transgressions have been forgiven! Oh, how happy is the man, whose sins are covered!
- **Then he went one, important, step further. He said, (Psa 32:2) Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute** (compute, count) *iniquity!* God does not even account their sin! Who is that happy man, that God does not impute sin to? That is the man who has put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ, seeking to live for Jesus Christ. I may sin but God does not even put it down on my account because I am in Christ, accepted in Him. Oh, how happy is the man! That is I! The happy man that God does not impute sin because I am relating to God through this New Covenant that is in Jesus Christ!
- **God said, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins, and their iniquities will I remember no more.** Hallelujah! Isn't that glorious? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God, Who has justified you. Who is he that condemns? It is Christ, Who had died for you, yes, rather He has risen again! He is at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you!
- **His pardon does not result from merit in man, but from mercy in God,** who pardons for His own name's sake! This pardon, is so complete, extending to their unrighteousness, sins, and iniquities (our twistedness from Adam), to all kinds of sin! It is so final and so fixed that God will remember their sins no more! He will not recall His pardon! He will not only forgive their sins, but not remember them, treating them as if He had forgotten them! We rejoice in the New Covenant and that the former has vanished away! *(Psa 103:1-4) Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! [2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: [3] Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, [4] Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies!*

Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A NEW COVENANT," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

- **Ready to vanish away!** In about six years, soon after the Book of Hebrews was written, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and its Levitical worship ended. The Levitical priesthood was gone! No more priesthood. No more sacrifices of the priesthood. No more temple. No more Holy of Holies. No more taking the blood of the sacrifice. No more is there a necessity for it, because God has established the better covenant with us!
- **He has made the first obsolete:** Now that the New Covenant has been inaugurated, the Old Covenant is thereby *obsolete*.
- **What is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away:** The message was clear to these

discouraged Christians from Jewish backgrounds, who thought of going back to a more Jewish faith. They simply cannot go back to an inferior covenant, which was ready to completely *vanish away*.

- **If then the Jewish covenant was abolished because it was "old," how much more** ought the "old man" to be put off. (**Eph 4:24**) *and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. The "old leaven" purged out. (1Co 5:7) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us!*
- **As we believers observe what has happened, that now our Church, under the New Covenant,** being predicated on better promises, and His faithfulness, has the greatest and the highest privileges and advantages that it is capable of in this world! This gives us the opportunity and loving obligation on all believers to holiness and lasting fruitfulness in obedience, all to the glory of God!
- **Summing it up! We can enthusiastically cry out!** Oh Jesus, there is nothing better than You!

CLOSING SONG:

Heb 8:6 But now He (Christ) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of better covenant, which was established on better promises.

GRAVES INTO GARDENS - Oh, there is Nothing Better than You!

Elevation Worship/Brandon Lake – (3:53/56)

*I searched the world But it couldn't fill me Man's empty praise And treasures that fade
Are never enough Then You came along And put me back together And every desire Is now
satisfied Here in Your love (Hey)*

*Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You (Oh, yes I know it's true)*

*I'm not afraid To show You my weakness My failures and flaws Lord, You've seen 'em all
And You still call me friend 'Cause the God of the mountain Is the God of the valley There's not a
place Your mercy and grace Won't find me again*

*Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You (I know it's true)*

*Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You*

*You turn mourning to dancing!!!! You give beauty for ashes!!!! You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can (2X)*

*You turn graves into garden!!!! You turn bones into armies!!!! You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can You're the only one who can*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over *Hebrews Chapter 9!*