

HEBREWS 8

FIRST DAY: Introduction

In our present day and age, we fail to understand the power, prestige, and protection of a covenant. In ancient times a covenant was a binding agreement between two parties sealed by a sacrifice. The sacrifice signified the fate of anyone who violated or broke the agreement. Every covenant included blessings and cursings, as well as the responsibilities of each of the parties involved.

God made covenants with Adam (Genesis 2:16–17), Noah (Genesis 9:1–17), Abraham (Genesis 15:18), Israel (Exodus 19:5), and David (Psalm 89:3–4). God’s covenants included His promises and His requirements. Jesus, as our perfect and Great High Priest, has negotiated with God a *better covenant*. This covenant is superior to any other covenant because of the One who established it and because it contains *better promises*.

Hebrews 8 reveals God’s plan to *make a new covenant* superior to the old covenants, and how God gave this covenant to us through Jesus. Today, God desires that you understand His binding covenant with you through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Through this covenant God has given you His presence, His promises, His prestige, and His protection.

Ask God to secure your heart in His covenant.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 8:1–2

1. Having established the greatness of Jesus' priesthood, the author detailed what His priesthood accomplished. He first expounded on the *main point of the things* he had said concerning Jesus. From Hebrews 8:1–2 note and comment on his *main point* concerning:
 - a. Jesus' position (verse 1)

(1) Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(a) Acts 7:55–56

(b) Colossians 3:1

(c) Revelation 3:21

(2) How is God described in Hebrews 8:1?

(3) The *right hand* was considered the place of highest honor. How does Jesus' position in heaven affect your perspective on life?

b. Jesus' ministry (verse 2)

(1) Who erected this tabernacle? See also 2 Corinthians 5:1.

(2) The NLT says, *There He ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle.* What does this reveal about Jesus' ministry? See also Matthew 6:10.

2. Recall that the *main point* of what the author conveyed was that *we have such a High Priest*. How does this reality minister to you?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 8:3–6

1. According to Hebrews 8:3a, what is *every high priest appointed* to do?

a. *Therefore*, what was *necessary* for Jesus? Hebrews 8:3b

(1) Use Ephesians 5:2 to remark on the offering Jesus made.

- (a) Why is this superior to the sacrifices of the earthly priests?

2. Hebrews 8:4 pointed out that if Jesus were here on earth, *He would not be a priest* because there were already earthly priests offering *according to the law*. What was the ultimate purpose of this earthly priesthood? Hebrews 8:5a
 - a. Link this reality with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 4:18

 - (2) Colossians 2:17

3. The author referred to the earthly tabernacle built by Moses (Exodus 25:40) to explain his point. How did God instruct Moses to *make the tabernacle*? Hebrews 8:5b
 - a. How does this confirm that the earthly tabernacle was a *copy and shadow of the heavenly things*?

4. In Hebrews 8:6, the author summarized what Jesus accomplished. Use this verse to fill in the blanks below:

a. *But now He has obtained a* _____ .

b. *Inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a* _____ .

(1) Link this with Luke 22:19–20 to identify and comment on the *better covenant* mediated by Jesus.

c. *Which was established on* _____ .

(1) Link this with 2 Peter 1:4 and share your thoughts.

5. How does your study today minister to you concerning the greatness of what Jesus accomplished?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 8:7–9

1. Having declared that Jesus negotiated a *better covenant* (Hebrews 8:6), what did the author point out? Hebrews 8:7
 - a. The first *covenant* God made with Israel was based on their obedience to the law (Exodus 19:5). Why do you think such a covenant could never be *faultless*? See Romans 3:20.

2. To show the Hebrew believers the inadequacy of the first *covenant*, the author quoted God’s Word to the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31–34). According to Hebrews 8:8, what did God say He would do?

3. Use Hebrews 8:9 to answer the following about the first *covenant*:
 - a. With whom was this *covenant* made?

 - b. What did Israel fail to do?

 - c. How did God respond?
 - (1) How does this show the inadequacy of the first *covenant*?

4. What does this convey to you about God’s desire to make a *better covenant* with you?

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 8:10–13

1. Drawing from Jeremiah 31:33–34, the author described the new *covenant* God would make with Israel. Use Hebrews 8:10–12 to note and comment on what God would do concerning the following:

a. His *laws* (verse 10a)

(1) Why is it *better* that God's *laws* be put in our minds and written on our hearts?

b. Israel's identity (verse 10b)

(1) Why is it better to *know* that we are God's *people*?

c. The knowledge of God (verse 11)

(1) Why is this *better*?

d. His mercy (verse 12)

- (1) Link this with Psalm 103:12 and 1 John 1:9 and state why this aspect of the new *covenant* is *better* than the old *covenant*.

2. According to Hebrews 8:13, when God spoke of a *new covenant*, what does this signify about the old covenant?

3. God declared *I will* five times in Hebrews 8:10–12, indicating that the new *covenant* depended entirely upon God. How does this demonstrate that this is a *better covenant*?

4. Pastor Chuck said, *The old covenant was conditional on man doing something, but the new covenant is based on man believing what Christ has done*. What blessings do you receive from the *new covenant*?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, share a way you see the greatness of *such a High Priest*:
 - a. His position

 - b. His ministry

 - c. His sacrifice

 - d. His covenant

2. Share something that ministers to you concerning:
 - a. The *more excellent ministry* of Jesus

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b. The *better covenant* established through Jesus

c. The *better promises* given through Jesus

3. How does the *new covenant* minister to you about *Our Great Faith*?