

Yo... we are back in Hebrews tonight... we kind of finish up where we were at last week.... If you missed it last week, we talked about Jesus being our High Priest... remember? Jesus gets us... he understands us... he knows because he has been where we are and has overcome anything that stands in our way...

Tonight, we keep looking at Jesus being the High Priest... the one who takes care of our sin...

In the Bible there are three huge types of people... *Prophet... hears the Word and speaks it... Priest... sacrifices and pays for sin... King... the ruler over a people...*

Jesus is all of these things... but GREATER... tonight, we keep looking at how Jesus is the greater priest... he is our Great High Priest... he takes care of our sin...

We also learn a little bit about covenant... and how Jesus is the greater covenant...

This entire series is all about helping us learn more about Jesus... who he is and what he is doing... and then how to live in light of that... so far, Jesus is greater than the angels and the OT, he is greater than Moses, he is greater than the priest, Melchizedek... and tonight... Jesus is the greater covenant...

We need to see everything else in the world as less than Jesus... Jesus is greater...

THE POINT: JESUS IS THE GREATER COVENANT. READ: HEBREWS 8:6-7

1. JESUS IS THE GREATER HIGH PRIEST (8:1-5)

The author of Hebrews begins by saying.... Look everything that we said last week and up until this... **HERE IS THE POINT – we have such a High Priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven...**

It means, that when Jesus died, rose from the grave and ascended into heaven, he took his rightful place next to the Father... he is **seated** there...

Remember, last week we said, the High Priest had to continually to offer sacrifices for the people... but that's not what Jesus has to do... Jesus was able to sit... because he was done... but Chris will take us there next week!

Here is the point... Jesus is where he belongs to be... seated next to the Father for what he has done...

This is like the whole king thing.... *Where does a king sit???* That's the point here... **JESUS IS ON HIS THRONE...**

So, Jesus is just sitting around chilling??? Ha... no... he is interceding on our behalf... going to God on our behalf...

Romans 8:24, *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

You see Jesus being our High Priest, who is in heaven is good news for us because that means we can stop trying to be perfect... we can stop trying and start trusting that what he has done is enough...

The regular high priests needed something to sacrifice for themselves... they needed something to clean themselves, pay for their own sin... (3) **this is because it wasn't enough... they weren't enough...**

(5) All that was found in the OT system... the priests... the sacrificial system... the rituals... the sacrifices... all of it... they were just pictures of what was to come... (9:1-5) these were the physical things... they weren't the focus but pointing to something greater... **That something greater is no comparison... JESUS**

This is like the difference of getting tickets to the Super Bowl, 50-yard line tickets... even better... sideline passes... versus listening to the game on the radio... Not even close...

Like getting to be on the set of your favorite movie... versus... watching it at the house ... Not even close...

The OT stuff wasn't useless... but it was just a picture of what/who was to come... it says that they serve as a 8:5 *copy and shadow*... a shadow is a dim reflection of something...

In that list of OT things, it also speaks of these two places... the Holy Place and the MOST HOLY PLACE...

These were both part of the Tab... you and I couldn't go there... and even just regular priests couldn't go into the MOST HOLY PLACE... this where the presence of God was... only those who had been placed in the position of Great High Priest and who had sacrificed for their sin could go in there...

Jesus does away with this though... he takes us into the presence of God... This is the point of him being the High Priest... This is what we see at his crucifixion... the veil was torn... we can now be in the presence of God through Jesus...

Why is this good news? → **He brings peace... hope!**

2. JESUS IS THE GREATER COVENANT (8:8-12)

The focus begins to turn – from Jesus being the High Priest to being the focus of a better covenant...

What is a covenant? A promise between two people... something deeper... connecting.... (MARRAGIE)

(8:6-7) there was a problem with the old... it was lacking... it wasn't perfect...

But the new is built on Jesus!

In this section the author is quoting Jeremiah 31...

This is where we find God saying the Old Covenant was not perfect... but he is going to do something better... something greater!

I will establish a new covenant (8)

The biggest problem with the old one is that people had to keep up their end of the bargain for everything to work... They were to pursue holiness... and when they failed, certain sacrifices would be made so that the person's sins would be covered...

But if all of this wasn't done properly... there would be no covering of sins... you would still be at odds with God...

But in the New Covenant... listen to the language of 10-12...

These are things God is doing... These are things God promises to do...

- Laws on their hearts... instead of us having to follow all of these things... God writes them on our hearts...
- He will be our God and us his people...
- He will be merciful to our mess ups...
- He will remember our sins no more...

All this is through Jesus... The new covenant is ultimately built on Jesus...

When Jesus accomplishes his work... the Old is out and the New is in...

Now, remember how the OT is pointing to heavenly things... better things? That's what 9:1-10 is basically saying...

1-5) Talking about the items... (6-10) and how they are used...

But here is the piece I want us to see... (9-10)

These things couldn't ultimately solve the problem... something more was needed!

Next week though we'll see that it is ultimately Jesus that solves the problem... through the shedding of his own blood!

But all in all, here is what we need to know for tonight...

Jesus is our Great High Priest... he is where he deserves to be... ***on the throne...***

And he is there interceding for us on our behalf...

The covenant that God has made with us through Christ is greater than the Old one... because now our sins can be forgiven... and we can have confidence in that... & we can be with God!

REAL LIFE...

Here is the problem with us connecting with this stuff... We have never had to depend on a priest to do anything for us... We've never had to take animal to be whipped up into an offering on behalf of our sin... culturally we've not been there...

The author is saying Jesus is > We may not understand all the cultural stuff... but we know our own need...

But where we have been is thinking that we have to **DO** certain things to make ourselves righteous...

Remember, last week we said, we needed our sin to be paid for...

Under the Old Covenant, we would have to try to "keep clean" or we would not be good with God... then we would have to go through a high priest to make us right with God again...

Jesus does all of this for us...!

He is how our sins are forgiven... we can give up trying to be perfect and rest in him... our failures... disappointments... he cares... and he helps...

This all helps us see that Jesus is greater...

He is the great High Priest who still cares for us... and he is what makes the New Covenant better than the Old...

Here is the good news for us...

- **WE CAN BELONG TO GOD** because Jesus is perfect... as Christians we can completely entrust our lives to him...
- **WE CAN FIND COMFORT** when we fail because he is continuously going to God on our behalf...
- **WE CAN HAVE HOPE** because to belong to God is not based on us... but on him...

***So, hey if you're not a Christian... and you feel so weighed down by all the standards... trying to be perfect... trust Jesus tonight because he brings freedom...

If you are a Christian... same thing... Jesus' work is enough... trust that and praise him with your life!