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Hebrews 8 v 1 – 10 v 25

A GREATER COVENANT

The story so far

Jesus was a real human. And He suffered death as a human to destroy death's power, freeing us from its slavery so we could come into friendship with God.

Jesus is God's Son, and is much greater even than Moses. So we should fix our hopes on Him, by listening to, believing and acting on God's word.

Jesus is our great High Priest forever. So we can approach God's throne with total confidence.

We need to feed on the "meat" of truth about Jesus, so that we become mature in our faith instead of falling away.

talkabout

1. How do you use photos or mementos to remind you of people when they are not with you?

- What would you think of someone who ignored their loved one because they were too wrapped up with a photo of them instead?

⏏ investigate

These verses compare the new covenant (agreement) introduced by Jesus with the old covenant—the Old Testament way of getting right with God.

▶ Read Hebrews 8 v 1-13

2. Look at verses 1 and 2. Two more things mentioned here show how much greater Jesus' priesthood is than that of the high priests of Israel.

Where has He sat down, and why? (See also 10 v 12-14.)

DICTIONARY

Sanctuary (v 2, 5):

Tabernacle.

"The mountain" (v 5):

Mount Sinai, where God met His people and told them how to live His way and worship Him.

Mediator (v 6):

Go-between; someone who brings two people or groups together.

- Where does He serve? (See also 4 v 14.)

3. Look at verse 5. What does the writer say about the priests and Tabernacle of Israel? Why is that important for us?

Not only is Jesus a superior priest to the priests of Israel, He is also the mediator—someone who intervenes in a situation to bring about a reconciliation. Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant than the old covenant that the Israelite priests served.

4. Verse 7 tells us that there was something wrong with the old covenant. What's wrong with the old covenant and what's better about the new?

- v 6:

- v 8:
- v 9:
- v 10:
- v 11:
- v 12:

→ **apply**

5. Why would things like the sight of the Temple, the procession of the priests, the sounds of the religious trumpets and the smell of the sacrifices appear attractive to some people, even today?

- If these kinds of things are attractive to you, what should you tell yourself when you feel their pull?

↓ **investigate**

The next section of Hebrews (9 v 1 – 10 v 18) gives us a detailed comparison of the old and new covenants.

6. From the following verses, identify the limitations of the old covenant.
- 9 v 7-10:
 - 9 v 13 (compare v 14):
 - 10 v 1-4:

7. From the following verses, find reasons why the new covenant is better.

- 9 v 11, 24:
- 9 v 12-14:
- 9 v 25-28:



explore more

optional

Hebrews 9 v 19-22 summarises the part played by sacrificial blood under the old covenant.

➤ **Read Leviticus 17 v 11**

What does this verse say about what blood is and what it does?

➤ **Read Exodus 24 v 3-8 and Matthew 26 v 26-28**

What is Jesus saying in Matthew 26?

➤ **Read 1 Peter 1 v 2**

Peter uses language describing the rituals of the old covenant to explain what Jesus has done for His people.

What has Jesus done?

Can you summarise what the Bible teaches about blood?



apply

8. How would you explain the following key points to someone?

- Why can we only come to God when we have been cleansed by blood that has been shed for us?



- Why is Christ's blood better than our blood, or the blood of goats and bulls?

9. From these verses, what would you say to a Jewish friend about their faith?



investigate

▶ Read Hebrews 10 v 19-25

10. How should Christians approach God (v 19)?

DICTIONARY

Curtain (v 20): three inches thick, it separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the Temple.

The Day (v 25): when Jesus returns.

- Do you feel confident like this in your relationship with God? Why or why not?

11. Three "let us" commands appear in verses 22-24. Summarise these commands in your own words.

- verse 22:



- verse 23:
- verse 24:
- What do these commands tell us about what was going on (or not going on) among the Christians to whom Hebrews was written?

→ apply

12. What would it look like for us to follow the instructions in verses 24-25 more carefully?



getting personal

Which of the three “let us” commands in verses 22-24 needs most work in your life? Think of one way you could show this to others this week. If you like, share this with the group.

↑ pray

Base your prayers on this summary of the gospel from Hebrews 9 v 23-28:

- *Christ appears in the presence of God on our behalf*
- *Christ died “once for all”*
- *Christ came to do away with sin*
- *Christ will appear again to us, not to bear sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him*

