

HEBREWS

Lessons 4: Better Priesthood, Covenant, and Sacrifice

- ❖ To Hebrew Christians fatigued by persecution
- ❖ Jesus: Final Messenger
- ❖ Jesus: Greater than the prophets

- ❖ Jesus: Greater than the angels
 - ❖ Son of God
 - ❖ Worshipped by angels
 - ❖ Eternal
 - ❖ יהוה (YHWH) – The LORD / Yahweh / Jehovah

- ❖ Exhortation & warning
 - ❖ Heed His words, or drift away
 - ❖ Worse punishment for unfaithful than OT
- ❖ Jesus: Made a little lower than angels
 - ❖ High priest, captain of our salvation
 - ❖ Flesh & blood, suffering & temptation

- ❖ Jesus: Greater than Moses
 - ❖ Apostle & high priest
 - ❖ The Son greater than the servant
- ❖ Beware unbelief
 - ❖ The fathers fell short of God's rest
 - ❖ Rest still awaits the faithful

- ❖ Jesus: Greater than Aaron/Levi
 - ❖ Without sin
 - ❖ Chosen by God
- ❖ Rebuke and encouragement
 - ❖ Admonition for spiritual immaturity
 - ❖ “Confident of better things concerning you”

- ❖ God confirmed His promise with an oath
- ❖ Melchizedek: Type of Christ

GREATER HIGH PRIEST

THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

- ❖ Why did the law have to change? (7:11–21)
 - ❖ Law of Moses – Priests: Tribe of Levi
 - ❖ Jesus: Tribe of Judah
 - ❖ Eternal Priest → better priesthood/law (7:18,19)
 - ❖ God’s oath → better covenant (7:20, 21)
 - * *Sufficient: “spoke nothing” (7:14; cf. Nm 3:10)*
 - * *God changes not ∴ His Law changes not? (7:12)*

GREATER HIGH PRIEST

THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

- ❖ Why can Jesus “save to the uttermost”?
 - ❖ He always lives to make intercession (7:23–25)
 - * *save* and *come* are present tense (7:25)
 - ❖ Holy Jesus vs. priests w/their own sins (7:26–28)
 - ❖ Offered Himself **once for all** (7:27)

GREATER HIGH PRIEST

THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

- ❖ Jesus is Minister of the true _____?
- ❖ **Tabernacle**, which the Lord erected (8:2)
- ❖ Tent foreshadowed “heaven itself” (8:5; 9:24)
- ❖ “Main point” of the High Priest discourse (8:1)

BETTER COVENANT

ESTABLISHED ON BETTER PROMISES

- ❖ Why a new covenant?
 - ❖ Some do not know God (John 8:39ff)
 - ❖ Mortal men cannot keep it (Acts 15:10)
 - ❖ Incomplete atonement (10:4)

BETTER COVENANT

ESTABLISHED ON BETTER PROMISES

- ❖ Features of the new covenant
 - ❖ God's laws in minds & hearts (8:10)
 - ❖ Our God, His people (8:10)
 - ❖ All know God (8:11)
 - ❖ Full, eternal atonement (8:12; 9:11–15)
- * *Old covenant obsolete, vanishing? (8:13)*

BETTER COVENANT

ESTABLISHED ON BETTER PROMISES

- ❖ When does a testament take effect? (9:16–22)
 - ❖ At the testator's death (9:16)
 - ❖ Greek **covenant** and **testament**: same word
 - ❖ Purification requires blood (9:18, 22, 23)
 - ❖ The copies with blood of bulls, etc.
 - ❖ The true with Christ's blood
 - * *Dealing with Jewish aversion to the cross?*

BETTER COVENANT

ESTABLISHED ON BETTER PROMISES

- ❖ Three appearances of Jesus
 1. Put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (9:26)
 2. In heaven itself, in the presence of God (9:24)
 3. Apart from sin, for salvation to those who wait for Him (9:28)
- ❖ All these appearances: for us

OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE

I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD

- ❖ Why was the death of Jesus necessary? (10:1–4)
 - ❖ Blood of bulls & goats inefficacious (10:4, 11)
 - ❖ Make worshipers perfect, pure (10:2)

OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE

I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD

- ❖ Why quote Ps. 40:6–8? (10:5–10)
 - ❖ Obedience always preferred over sacrifice (10:5)
 - ❖ Christ’s obedience sanctifies forever (10:10, 12)
 - ❖ Offered “once for all” (10:10)
 - ❖ First covenant gone: “takes away the first” (10:9, 18)
- ❖ Levitical priests *stand*, Jesus **sits** (10:11, 12)