

Hebrews 8

v1 – high priest	(noun)	In the Old Testament, the high priest was the leader of the priests. He went into the inner-most part of the temple once a year to offer sacrifices on behalf of God's people. This special sacrifice turned away God's anger and allowed God's people to continue to be in relationship with God.
v2 – sanctuary	(noun)	the place in heaven where God dwells
v2 – tabernacle	(noun)	a tent that was where God lived among his people prior to the construction of the temple
v2 – mere	(adjective)	small, insignificant
v3 – appointed	(verb)	formally chosen for a job
v3 – sacrifices	(noun)	animals that are killed and offered to God as an act of worship and for the forgiveness of sins
v4 – prescribed	(verb)	ordered to be done
v6 – ministry	(noun)	service to God
v6 – mediator	(noun)	someone who goes between two parties
v6 – superior	(adjective)	better
v6 – covenant	(noun)	a formal agreement between two parties
v9 – faithful	(adjective)	loyal; constant
v13 – obsolete	(adjective)	no longer needed because something better exists

Hebrews 8 (New International Reader's Version)

¹ Here is the main point of what we are saying. We have a high priest like that. He sat down at the right hand of the throne of the King, the Majesty in heaven. ² He serves in the sacred tent. The Lord set up the true holy tent. A mere human being did not set it up.

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices. So this priest also had to have something to offer. ⁴ What if he were on earth? Then he would not be a priest. There are already priests who offer the gifts required by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sacred tent. But it is only a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. That's why God warned Moses when he was about to build the holy tent. God said, "Be sure to make everything just like the pattern I showed you on the mountain." ⁶ But Jesus has been given a greater work to do for God. He is the go-between for the new covenant. This covenant is better than the old one. The new covenant is based on better promises.

⁷ Suppose nothing had been wrong with that first covenant. Then no one would have looked for another covenant. ⁸ But God found fault with the people. He said,

"The days are coming, announces the Lord.

I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel.

I will also make it with the people of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant

I made with their people of long ago.

That was when I took them by the hand.

I led them out of Egypt.

My new covenant will be different because they didn't remain faithful to my old covenant.

So I turned away from them,
announces the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds.

I will write them on their hearts.

I will be their God.

And they will be my people.

¹¹ People will not teach their neighbor anymore.

They will not say to one another, 'Know the Lord.'

That's because everyone will know me.

From the least important to the most important,
all of them will know me.

¹² I will forgive their evil ways.

I will not remember their sins anymore."

¹³ God called this covenant "new." So he has done away with the first one. And what is out of date and has been done away with will soon disappear.