

I. Introduction and review.

A. What is worship? John 4:20-24

B. The author's main point is the superior high priesthood of Christ Jesus. v. 1a

- 1. He has superior qualifications to be our high priest. 7:1-28 Ps. 110:4**
 - a. His priesthood is permanent.**
- 2. He has a superior priestly ministry: sanctuary, sacrifice, and covenant. 8:1f**

II. Our Great High Priest serves in a better sanctuary. v. 1b-2,4-5

A. Jesus has taken His seat at the right hand of God in heaven. v. 1

- 1. From where does this picture of the messianic priest and king come? 1:3,13 12:2 10:12-13 Ps. 110:1**
- 2. What is the significance of His posture: sitting? 7:27 1:3 10:11-13**
- 3. What is the significance of His position: at the right hand of God's throne? Acts 7:55 Jo. 7:33 8:14 13:3 17:5**

B. Jesus is a minister in the heavenly sanctuary. v. 2

- 1. Why does our author speak of the tabernacle, but not the temple?**
- 2. What is the function of a tabernacle?**
- 3. What was wrong with the old tabernacle? John 1:17**
- 4. Jesus' service takes place in the true heavenly tabernacle built by God. 9:11,13**

C. Jesus could not have served as Priest in the earthly sanctuary. v. 4 7:14

- 1. The law allowed only Levites to serve in the holy place.**
- 2. He is priest of a new covenant with a new law and in a new and better sphere.**

D. Moses' earthly tabernacle was only a shadowy copy of the heavenly. v. 5

- 1. The tabernacle built by Moses was a type of the heavenly sanctuary. 9:23 Ex. 25:40 26:30**
- 2. The heavenly tabernacle is the original (antitype) which both precedes and follows the earthly pattern (type). 9:11,23-24 13:8**
- 3. The earthly sanctuary was never meant to be more than a type of the heavenly.**
- 4. Was the author of Hebrews influenced by Platonic philosophy which speaks of earthly shadows reflecting an ideal reality in another world?**

III. Our Great High Priest offers a better sacrifice. v. 3

A. Every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices. v. 3a 5:1 7:27a

B. Jesus makes one complete and final offering of Himself. v. 3b 7:27b 9:26f 10:10f

- 1. He couldn't have offered the Levitical sacrifices. v. 4 7:14 10:5f**
- 2. The superior, heavenly sanctuary requires much better sacrifices.**
- 3. He makes one, decisive offering (of Himself) for sin. 9:26,28 I Pe. 3:18**
- 4. He is a perfect and unblemished offering. 4:15 7:26 9:14 Ex. 12:5 I Pe. 1:18-19**

IV. Our Great High Priest is the mediator of a better covenant. v. 6

A. Jesus' more excellent priestly ministry corresponds with the superiority of the new covenant which He mediates. 1:4

- B. What is a covenant?**
1. Covenant is a crucial concept in the Bible, especially in Hebrews.
 2. A covenant is an agreement or a contract.
 3. Biblical covenants are enacted by God who sets the terms unilaterally.
 4. What are some biblical covenants?
- C. Why was a new covenant needed? v. 7f 7:19 10:1 Jer. 31:31f Acts 15:10 Gal. 3:21-22 Rom. 8:3-4**
1. Because the Old Covenant didn't do the job of bringing men to God. 7:11-12 4:8
 2. The fault was not with the covenant, but with the people. v. 8a Ro. 7:12 Ga. 3:21
 3. The Old Covenant was always designed as a temporary arrangement.
 4. What makes the New Covenant better? v. 6 7:22 8:8f Jer. 31:31f
- D. Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. 9:15 12:24**
1. What does a mediator do?
 2. Who was the mediator of the Old Covenant? Gal. 3:19-20 Ex. 20:19
 3. Jesus is a superior Mediator. 7:22,27 I Tim. 2:5-6

V. Concluding applications.

- A. How should we worship God under the New Covenant?**
1. Many people still want an external religion like that of the Old Covenant.
 2. God wants to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. John 4:24
 3. Where is the sanctuary? 6:19-20 4:14-16
 4. Who is the Priest and Mediator? 8:1 I Tim. 2:5 I Pet. 1:8 2:5
 5. What sacrifices does God seek? 13:15-16 7:27 8:3 9:28 I Pe. 3:18 Rom. 12:1-2
 6. We offer a sacrifice of praise for the finished work of Christ. 13:15-16
 7. Jesus unseen, heavenly priesthood is better, not worse. I Pe. 1:8,10-12 John 1:17
- B. The Lord has given us the true, spiritual worship which does speak to our senses.
Luke 22:20 I Co. 11:25**

Discussion questions

1. Contrast the sanctuary where Jesus serves with the Old Covenant sanctuary. v. 1-2,4-5
2. How often does Hebrews talk about the temple?
3. What was wrong with the old tabernacle?
4. Why couldn't Jesus have served in the earthly sanctuary?
5. How is Moses' tabernacle a type of the heavenly tabernacle?
6. For the advanced student: Why might someone think 8:5 reflects Platonic thought?
How can you prove that it does not?
7. Contrast Jesus' sacrifice with that of the Old Covenant priesthood. v. 3
8. What is a covenant?
9. Why was a New Covenant needed?
10. How does Old Covenant worship differ from New Covenant worship?
11. Why are people attracted to religious pomp and ritual?
12. How does this passage instruct us as to how we are to worship God?
13. How does New Covenant worship speak to our physical senses?
14. How is the Lord's Supper different from the Old Covenant sacrifices?