

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF HEBREWS

THE TRUE TABERNACLE (HEBREWS 8:1-3) THE "MAIN POINT"

Jesus was sent by God to bridge the gap between Him and us. Christ did this by being the minister of the "true tabernacle" and sitting at the "right hand of God."

- Levitical Priests never sat in the presence of God, but the act of sitting shows that Christ completed what humans couldn't

NOT JUST SITTING, BUT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

This phrase is more figurative than literal. This shows that Jesus has taken a position of power, dignity, and excellence as a result of His work

- This is a reminder of John 6:44 and 14:6. **Jesus is the exclusive way to be saved and to have a relationship with our Creator.**

THE REAL THING

The work of the Levitical Priests was symbolic. Their tasks gave a picture of atonement and forgiveness of sin. It did temporarily role away sin, but it took the work of Christ on the cross to accomplish the job. The past work of Jesus was the cross; the present work is His mediation for us to God the Father.

THE TRUE TABERNACLE

Jesus ended the need for a room in a building to house the Spirit of God. The cross figuratively and literally tore the separation between man and God and set up a direct connection with God in heaven.

The True Tabernacle is an eternal place in heaven, not a temporary and limited place on earth PRIESTS ARE CALLED TO MAKE A SACRIFICE (V3)

Priests presented offerings for human sinfulness and celebrated an annual Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) while trying to understand God's design for forgiveness.

- Christ came and paid a one-time sacrifice that completely atoned for the sins of mankind. This act did not need repetition

CONTRASTING (HEBREWS 8:4-6)

JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO HUMAN LEADERSHIP

He wasn't descended from the "proper" tribe, but because of who He is, He cannot only expose our deficiencies and immorality, He can **save, restore, and equip**

- Jesus found no "priestly" position while on earth (Luke 4:24), but He serves as a Priest in heaven. His ministry on earth was offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sin

THE OFFERING HAD TO BE PERFECT

The payment for all of the sin, shame, guilt, and insecurities of the past, present, and future of humanity cost more than all the sacrifice humans could make. It took the perfect offering of Jesus to cover the debt mankind had accumulated to God

WORK OF HUMANS CAN ONLY BE A SHADOW (V5)

Everything the High Priests did through rituals and strict instructions for the temple were only a foreshadowing and reflection of what Jesus would do through the cross

- Though works and obedience reflect Him, our humanity makes a distortion

THOUGH IMPERFECT, HUMAN LEADERSHIP WAS STILL GOD'S DESIGN

God had provided strict instruction of how the OT temple should be organized. This previewed the precision of Christ and the order He would bring

- Even the smallest details** of the tabernacle were in God's hands, foreshadowing the glorious eternity that is waiting for the Believer

WE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT OUR VIEW OF HEAVEN

The temple foreshadows that heaven will be majestic, but we must be **cautious to not pursue Christ for any other reason but Christ**. We can become materialistic in our views. We need to be asking, **"Is the glory of eternity being with Jesus?"**

THE REAL REWARD IS GOD HIMSELF (V6)

Jesus is the "mediator of a better covenant." The work Jesus did through **the cross brokered the deal that connected imperfect people with their Creator.**

- Christ rescues people that are dying and have reached a place of desperation.** He carries out the will of God to save those who are lost.

A NEW WAY (HEBREWS 8:7-12)

THE FAILURE OF THE 1ST DEMANDED A 2ND

This is not to say the Law itself was flawed, but that the people that tried to follow it were incapable. **The Law could only reveal sin, but it could not remove it.**

- Since the people could not hold up their end of the covenant, God introduced a new covenant. This was mentioned in detail in Jeremiah 31

THE NEW COVENANT CAME THROUGH THE WORK OF JESUS AT THE CROSS

The cross created a bridge to walk across and have an intimate relationship with God, **not through rigorous laws, but by depending on Jesus to empower us.**

- Through Jesus we have **moral power, knowledge,** and **forgiveness**

JEREMIAH PROPHESED THIS AT A GOOD TIME

Jeremiah 31 was written after the Jews were freed from captivity in Egypt. In Jeremiah's time, God was building the depth of His relationship with people, and let them know that it will crescendo in a new promise. There was also civil war between Israel and Judah at this time, showing another bridge Jesus would build

THE NAME OF THE GAME IS RECONCILIATION

We see through Jeremiah that God not only intends to restore our relationship with Him, but He gives us strength to reconcile with each other.

- Once one is reconciled to their Creator, they are called to then **be a conduit of peace and reconciliation with others.**

THE GRACE OF GOD (V9)

The first covenant was to "lead the people out of the land of Egypt," but during and after that time they disobeyed God and broke their end of the agreement.

- Instead of leaving us, God ran after us even harder. **God took the initiative and inserted Himself into humanity to personally lead us.**

BUT IT SAYS HE "DISREGARDED" THEM

This is more than likely referring to the same turning away mentioned in Romans 1:28. If we reject the truth and God's grace so long, we are given over to a "worthless mind" that gets what it really wants, distance from God. This is also referring to a blanket judgment on the nation of Israel for their rebellion as a people.

THOUGH WE'VE FAILED, THERE IS HOPE (V10)

The new covenant applied to the "house of Israel." This was referring to the Jews, but since we have been grafted into the promises of God through Jesus (Romans 11, Galatians 3:29), we are all recipients of the offer of salvation.

WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

God will give us the mental and spiritual capacity to walk righteously if we rely on Him. **The whole life of the believer experiences the presence of God**

- Again, the old promise exposed the problem, but the new promise gives us the ability to live the way God wants us to.

IT'S NOW RELATIONSHIP NOT RITUAL

The new covenant produces **intimacy and relationship with God**. Jesus guards us, and shows us grace.

He listens to us, and works on our behalf. **Access to God is direct,** and stature and prominence are not factors. **The knowledge of God is for the least to the greatest.**

FORGIVING AND FORGETTING (V12)

Through the cross and the new covenant, **Jesus not only shows mercy in forgiving but in His choosing to forget our sins.** God has always been merciful, but the new covenant expressed this even further.

RESULTS (HEBREWS 8:13)

PEOPLE ARE BORN, GROW, AGE, AND DIE. LIFE IS TRANSIENT AND CHANGES OVER TIME

The law was much the same. Jeremiah predicted its demise 700 years before it happened, but the death took time. We love rules because they're easy. But, **rules are not relationship,** and **mandates don't create intimacy.**

THE OLD COVENANT HAD A TIME AND PLACE

The OT law was essential for defining sin and showing us that we are dependent on God more than we realize, but it has become obsolete in its ability to lead us.

- The law points to the One that can lead us into a relationship with God. Jesus takes the pressure from us to be perfect and promises salvation through His perfection

WHAT IS OLD AND AGING WILL DISAPPEAR

- Through Jesus, we're promised inward power to master temptations and fears, intimate knowledge of God and the comfort of His presence, and forgiveness of sins with assurance He doesn't hold our past against us.

ARE WE READY TO LET THE OLD WAY DIE?

- It will take effort, and a life with Christ is not always easy, but we are offered not only a fresh start, but a means to live at a higher standard with much higher rewards.