

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 15TH–16TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

THE TRUE TABERNACLE (HEBREWS 8:1–3)

"...THE MAIN POINT"

We return to the thesis of Hebrews: **Jesus came to bridge the gap between us and God.** He 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. Jesus sitting shows He completed what humans couldn't.

"AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE"

This phrase is more figurative than literal. It 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 path to salvation and a relationship with our Creator.**

THE REAL THING

The priests' work was symbolic and gave a picture of atonement and forgiveness of sin. It did temporarily role away sin, but it took the work of the cross to completely deal with sin.

- Jesus' past work was the cross. His present work is mediation on our behalf to God the Father.

THE "TRUE TABERNACLE"

Jesus ended the need for a room to house God's Spirit. The cross figuratively and literally tore down the separation between man and God and set up a direct connection with Him.

- The true tabernacle is an eternal place in heaven, not a temporary and limited place on Earth.**

PRIESTS MADE AN OFFERING UNTIL THE OFFERING

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 repeating.

BETTER PROMISES (HEBREWS 8:4–6)

JESUS AS A SUPERIOR LEADER

Jesus was not descended from the "proper" tribe, but because of His ability and identity, **He not only exposes our deficiencies and immorality—He saves, restores, and equips.**

- Jesus was not a priest on Earth (Luke 4:24) but serves as Priest in heaven. His earthly ministry was becoming the sacrifice for sin.

IT HAD TO BE A PERFECT SACRIFICE

The payment for all sin, shame, guilt, and insecurities of the past, present, and future of humanity cost more than all the sacrifices humans could make.

- It took the perfect offering of Jesus to cover the moral debt mankind had accumulated to God.**

OUR WORK CAN ONLY BE A SHADOW (V. 5)

Everything the high priests did through rituals and strict instruction for the temple was only a foreshadowing and reflection of what Jesus was coming to do through the cross.

- Our good works and obedience reflect and honor God, but because of our humanity, there is a distortion.

A GOD OF ORDER (1 CORINTHIANS 14:33)

God provided strict instructions for how the OT temple should be organized. This previewed the precision and order Christ would bring.

- God's attention to even the smallest details of the temple shows how intensely He cares for us and how glorious our eternity will be.**

PROPERLY VIEWING ETERNITY

The temple foreshadowed heaven's majesty, but **we must be cautious to not pursue Christ for any other reason but Christ.**

- We can be very materialistic in our views of Christianity. We need to be continually asking ourselves, **"Do we anticipate heaven because we will see Jesus?"**

THE REAL REWARD OF HEAVEN IS GOD

Jesus came to be the "mediator of a better covenant." Essentially, the work of Jesus via **the cross brokered the deal that connected imperfect people with a perfect God.**

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

A NEW WAY (HEBREWS 8:7–12)

THE FAILURE OF THE 1ST DEMANDED A 2ND

The Law was not flawed, but the people who tried to follow it were. **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 would introduce a new covenant. This was mentioned in detail in Jeremiah 31.

A BETTER PROMISE

The new covenant came through the cross. The cross created a bridge and opportunity to walk across **it to have a relationship with God, not through rigorous laws, but by depending on Jesus to empower us.**

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

JEREMIAH PROPHESED THIS AT A GOOD TIME

Jeremiah 31 was written after the Jews were freed from Egypt. In Jeremiah's time, God was building a deeper relationship with people that would crescendo in a new promise.

- There was also civil war between Israel and Judah at this time, showing another bridge Jesus would build.

GOD DESIRES RECONCILIATION

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

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

GOD'S LOVE FOR US (V. 9)

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

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

GOD "SHOWED NO CONCERN FOR THEM?"

This is probably referring to the same turning away mentioned in Romans 1:28. **If we reject God's truth and grace long enough, we are given over to a "corrupt 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.

THOUGH WE FAIL, THERE IS HOPE (V. 10)

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 capacity to walk righteously if we are filled with His Spirit and rely on Him. **The whole life of the Believer experiences the presence of God.**

- Jesus aims to restore and rework how our hearts and minds operate.** This restoration infiltrates every part of us.

RELATIONSHIP OVER RITUAL

The new covenant through Jesus produces intimacy 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 (V. 12)

Jesus not only shows mercy by forgiving, but also "never again remember[s]" our sin. God has always been merciful, but the new covenant expressed this even further.

- If we are truly repentant of sin, Jesus promises not to hold our past against us (1 Corinthians 13).**

RESULTS (HEBREWS 8:13)

A SLOW DEATH

People are born, grow, age, and die. Life is transient and changes. The law was similar. Jeremiah predicted its demise 700 years before it happened, but the death took time.

- We love rules because they are easy.** But **rules are not relationship,** and **mandates do not create intimacy.**

THE OLD COVENANT HAD A TIME AND PLACE

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

- Jesus takes away the pressure to be perfect by promising salvation through His perfection.**

SO, OUR EFFORTS ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT ENOUGH

- It is beneficial to ask ourselves, "How have the ways of man historically worked out?" and **"How are my ways working out?"**
- Do we have confidence that our abilities and ideas are sufficient? **Have the ways of the world made us a better and more content people?**

ACCESS TO GOD AND THE THINGS OF GOD

- Through the cross, Jesus has bridged the gap between man and God so we are able to have an intimate relationship with our Creator. We are **invited to know God,** and **experience salvation, restoration, hope, peace, wisdom, and love.**
- Because of Jesus' new covenant, imperfect people have **the promise of power** through His Spirit **to master temptations, overcome fear, be healed from abuse, be forgiven for sin, and become righteous people** through the righteousness of a perfect Savior.

ARE WE WILLING TO LET THE OLD WAYS DIE?

- If we are to experience the new covenant, we must let the old one die. For us, this means **letting go of our ways and abilities and relying on Jesus' ways and works.**
- This does not mean we do not put forth effort, but that we understand **salvation and change only come through Christ.**