

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #3, Chapter 8:1-5

Read Hebrews 7:1 through 8:5 before beginning your lesson. Take the time to ask the Lord to prepare your heart to see and understand the treasures of His Word.

Hebrews 8:1-5 is a preliminary section in much the same way that Chapter 1 began to set up the superiority of Christ over angels and Moses. This section in Chapter 8 slowly builds the case for the superiority of that heavenly tabernacle where Jesus ministers as high priest. This discussion reaches its apex in Chapter 9. *You will need to be patient as you study this section to gain understanding of details that will be revealed in the chapters to come.*

1. The author of Hebrews begins Chapter 8 with the statement, *Now the main point in what has been said is this*. What topic has been discussed in Chapter 7?

2. What is the main point of Chapter 7 as summed up in 8:1-2?

3. What is the identity of the high priest from Hebrews 8:1? For confirmation see Heb. 6:20; 7:26-28; and 8:1.

4. What do we learn about our high priest in verses 1-2?

5. What observations can you make about our high priest *who has taken His seat at the right hand* of God from the following verses? See Heb. 1:3; 10:11-14; 1 Pet. 3:21-22; Rev. 3:21.

6. The term *majesty* is an identifying name for God, as well as a description. What do you learn about God and His majesty from the following verses? See 1 Chron. 16:27; 29:11; Ps. 145:12; Is. 24:14; 26:10; Micah 5:4; Heb. 1:3; and Jude 25.

7. Define *sanctuary* [ESV *holy place* (Strong's #39)].
 - a. What is the sanctuary according to Heb. 9:12 and 10:19?

8. Define *tabernacle* [ESV *tent* (Strong's #4633)].
 - a. What is the true tabernacle as seen in verse 2? Here *true* is used in the sense of genuine, real, or authentic, so Jesus ministers in the real, genuine, true tabernacle.

9. Define *minister* (NIV *serves* [Strong's #3011]). Rom. 15:16 adds to the meaning of the word.

10. What makes the sanctuary and tabernacle of verse 2 unique? See verses 2, 5, and 9:24.

11. What is every high priest appointed to do? See verse 3 and 5:1.

12. Because the earthly tabernacle and earthly high priest parallel the heavenly ones, what is necessary for Jesus to do according to verse 3?

13. What does the author concede about Jesus in verse 4?
 - a. How were the earthly (Levitical) priests appointed? See verse 4; 5:4; 7:5.

 - b. Instead, what do we know about Jesus Christ? See 6:19-20; 7:11-14.

14. What does Jesus Christ do for us in that heavenly tabernacle? See verse 2; 4:15-16; 7:24-25; 9:11-12, 15, 24; 10:11-14, 19-22.

15. At the time this letter was written, some might have inferred that Jesus was somehow lacking because He was not “eligible” to minister within the Levitical system. However, that misperception is instantly corrected in verse 5. What do you learn?

16. In verse 5 we also learn that in actuality the earthly tabernacle is *what* in reality?
17. How does that explain why it was essential for Moses to follow God's plan?
18. Summarize what you have learned from Hebrews 8:1-5 about the following areas:
- a. Jesus Christ is superior to the earthly high priests because:

 - b. The earthly tabernacle is:

 - c. The earthly Levitical priesthood is only a shadow of:

 - d. The tabernacle Jesus ministers in:
19. Just as the institution of marriage is a shadow and copy of the great love that Jesus bears toward the church (Eph. 5:25-32), so the patterns and plans God has revealed to Moses (verse 5) represent the spiritual truths and realities found in heaven. What reality do we have to look forward to? See Rev. 7:9-17; 21:2-5, 22; 22:1-5.

20. Summarize what you have learned from Hebrews 8:1-5. Begin with this statement: *Now the main point in what has been said is this ...*

Today our Lord is seated because His work is completed. There were no chairs in the Old Testament tabernacle because the work of the priests was never finished. Each repeated sacrifice was only a reminder that none of the sacrifices ever provided a finished salvation. The blood of animals did not wash away sin or cleanse the guilty conscience; it only covered sin until that day when Jesus Christ died to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). ~ Warren Wiersbe ¹

¹Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, "An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire 'BE' Series," (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989), Heb 8:1.