

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep ..... Hebrews 1:1-14 ..... Who Is Jesus?
- 2) 14 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:1-13 ..... Pay Attention
- 3) 21 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:14-18 ..... Why One of Us?
- 4) 28 Sep ..... Hebrews 3:1-19 ..... Watch Out!
- 5) 05 Oct ..... Hebrews 4-5 ..... Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct ..... Hebrews 6:1-20 ..... Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct ..... Hebrews 7:1-28 ..... Only Jesus Saves
- 8) **26 Oct ..... Hebrews 8:1-13 ..... Only Jesus Transforms**
- 9) 02 Nov ..... Hebrews 9:1-28 ..... The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov ..... Hebrews 10-11 ..... Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:1-7 ..... The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:18-29 ..... A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov ..... Hebrews 13:1-25 ..... Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus assumes a “more excellent ministry” by becoming the mediator of a New Covenant with better promises and blessings for His people
- **Big Question #1:** What are those better promises and blessings?

OT Promises and Blessings	NT Promises and Blessings
<b>Promises tied to the Land of Israel</b>	<b>Promises tied to Eternity</b>
If people obey they will be blessed	If people obey, heavenly rewards await
If people disobey they will be cursed	If people disobey they will lose rewards
In brief, promised blessings are predominantly temporal/earth-bound	In brief, promised blessings are predominantly heaven-focused
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bountiful harvest</li> <li>• No illnesses or plagues</li> <li>• Multiplied livestock</li> <li>• Large number of progeny</li> <li>• Victory in battles – enemies flee</li> <li>• Favorable weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We seek food that does not perish</li> <li>• We endure all trials / persecutions</li> <li>• Life more abundant (in purpose)</li> <li>• Those who follow Christ shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.</li> </ul>
...and none of the blessings above were ever realized for any lengthy period of time during Israel's existence due to their disobedience. ...BUT, when God replaces their heart of stone & indwells in them, then they will see those blessings	[Again, this is heavenly focused, because who can have more than 1 mother or hundreds of kids – but we can have 100s of spiritual sons and mothers, households, etc.]

- **Big Question #2:** Why does God play the Progressive Revelation card? This is where He reveals bits and pieces of His plan for mankind over succeeding generations
    - ♦ **Possible Answer:** Man needs time (multiple generations) to see how wicked his heart can be, and to see the need for a permanent solution that only God can provide:
- Titus 1:3** – “But at the proper time God manifested His word...” (NASB) [“And then when the time was ripe, God went public with His truth;” Message Bible] – Again, secret things belong unto God (Deut 29:29), and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8)

Passage	Comments
What are the Seven Spirits of God?	The Seven Spirits comprise the unique characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:2 identifies these 7 characteristics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spirit of the Lord</li> <li>2. Spirit of Wisdom</li> <li>3. Spirit of Understanding</li> <li>4. Spirit of Counsel</li> <li>5. Spirit of Might</li> <li>6. Spirit of Knowledge</li> <li>7. Spirit of the fear of the LORD</li> </ol>
8:7	<b>The Need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Covenant – By Design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God established the 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant – the Law, as a temporary tutor [Gal 3:24 <i>Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith</i>]</li> <li>• It is not that the Jews failed to grasp this concept of the Law being temporary till the Messiah came – They just failed to realize Jesus was their Messiah at the time of His 1<sup>st</sup> coming</li> </ul>
8:8-12	<b>Old Covenant Revisited.....Jeremiah 31:31-34</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11. “And they shall not teach everyone... ‘Know the Lord’ for ALL will know ME” – This lifts all restriction who can know the Lord, from the least to the greatest will have complete access</li> <li>• v12. “I will remember their sins no more” – This conveys the “Saving to the Uttermost” (7:25) aspect of Christ’ priesthood as He even keeps us saved and sinless throughout eternity</li> </ul>
8:13	<b>New Covenant Established</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Old Covenant with all of its legalistic ways is now obsolete – We do not need to sacrifice animals for our sins</li> <li>• BUT, do we need to avoid setting up idols; profaning God’s name; stealing, lust, and coveting? ..... ABSOLUTELY                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The timeless principles and commands in the OT are just as valid today ..... cf Romans 13:9-10; 1Cor 7:19</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The New Covenant found in Christ frees us from the legalistic &amp; ceremonial aspects of the Mosaic Law, not from knowing how to live righteously before a Holy God ..... cf Acts 15:20</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- REMEMBER – The Law is our tutor. It shows us how sinful we are by our desires to steal, to covet, to lie, to be lazy, to be selfish, etc.
- Hence the need to have a permanent solution – a once-for-all sacrifice and a once-for-all mediator between us and a holy & just God, and a once-for-all solution to keeping us forever in the arms of a loving God
- Jesus is that perfect sacrifice, that eternal mediator and that preserving force we need for all eternity. To God be praised.

**NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 9.** The shadow of the Old Covenant Tabernacle with all of its temporal sacrifices and furnishings is displaced by the more enduring sacrifice made by Christ.

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 8:1-6	<p><b>A Better Ministry, a Better Covenant, and Better Promises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. The “<b>True Tabernacle</b>” was not pitched by Moses and the Levites, but by God, Himself – A reference to the actual <b>Throne Room of God</b> where the <b>Seven Spirits</b> abide (Rev 1:4; 4:5); and where those who overcome sit with the God of Hosts (Rev 3:21); and where a rainbow surrounds the throne (Rev 4:3); and where 24 elders sit around the throne (Rev 4:4); and where a host of Angels abide (Rev 5:11); and great multitudes in white robes stand before the throne (Rev 7:9); and the prayers of all the saints reside upon the golden altar before the throne (Rev 8:3)</li> <li>• v5. It is hard to comprehend that all the hard work it took to build the tabernacle and to learn the intricacies of all the required sacrifices (burnt offerings, sin offerings, wave offerings, peace offerings, grain offerings, etc.), and to be diligent in carrying out all the duties of the priesthood (or die) were nothing more than a shadow of better things to come at a later date → After the Cross</li> </ul>

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Sometimes I miss the Old Testament Days when we could smite them for that kind of behavior...