

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Dig Deeper Study Tools

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Hebrews—Jesus Is Superior

STUDY 1

(For Sermon on 06 July 2025)

Hebrews 7:1-28**Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Eternal High Priest****STUDY 2**

(For Sermon on 20 July 2025)

Hebrews 8:1-13**Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Inaugurator of the New Covenant**

Background

- Hebrews' author is unknown, likely a second-generation leader after the apostles (2:3)
- Recipients were not mentioned. They were likely Jewish, persecuted and discriminated against for their faith (10:32–34)
- Returning to Judaism, a legal religion in Rome, would spare them from persecution.
- Hence its warnings **not to fall away** (2:1–4; 3:12–4:13; 5:11–6:12; 10:26–39; 12:25–29)
- Instead, it's a call to **hold fast** to their faith in Jesus (3:6, 14; 4:14; 6:18; 10:23).
- It's likely a sermon in written form, described as a “word of exhortation” in 13:22. “Exhort” appears four times (3:13; 10:25; 13:19, 22) and “exhortation” three times (6:18; 12:5; 13:22)
- It was possibly written before the temple's destruction in AD 70. 12:4 could suggest a date before Nero martyred the Christians after Rome's great fire.
- It is laden with OT thoughts: “Thirty-five quotations from a Greek translation of the Old Testament and thirty-four allusions work to support the development of Hebrews' argument. In addition, the writer offers nineteen summaries of Old Testament material, and thirteen times he mentions an Old Testament name or topic, often without reference to a specific context.”¹
- To help the readers step back and see God's sovereign hand amid their sufferings.

Message

- Hebrews is also a “word of exhortation” because God is a speaking God.
- His voice is “living and active” (4:12).
- Today if we hear His voice, we must pay heed (3:15).
- As long as it is called ‘today’, we must “exhort one another” (3:13)
- To listen to God's voice in His Son is to read OT in light of its fulfilment in Jesus Christ (1:1–2).
- Otherwise, to revert to OT sacrifices and rituals would deny Christ.
- Given the temptation to return to Judaism, the writer reminds his persecuted readers of the faith of OT saints, their leaders, and the pattern in Jesus' life—suffering comes before glory.
- Its already-not-yet end-time perspective implies the reward promised, the heavenly city, still awaits the believers.
- The theological truths in Hebrews thus serve as the foundation to exhort believers not to fall away.
- The greatness of Christ and His work makes falling away foolish.
- ***Its call is to hold fast to Christ, the superior mediator of a better covenant.***

¹ Guthrie, George H.. Hebrews (The NIV Application Commentary Book 15. Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

Broad Outline Aligned to the Sermon Series:

Hold Fast to Jesus, the Superior Mediator of a Better Covenant with:

A Better Revelation

- 6 Apr Hold Fast, Jesus Is God's Final Word (1:1–4)
- 27 Apr Hold Fast, Jesus Is Superior to Angels (1:5–14)
- 4 May Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Incarnate Son (2:1–18)
- 11 May Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Builder of God's House (3:1–6)

A Better Rest

- 25 May Hold Fast, Believe and Enter His rest (3:7–19)
- 1 Jun Don't Doubt, Enter His Rest (4:1–13)

A Better Representative

- 8 Jun Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Perfect High Priest (4:14–5:10)
- 15 Jun Hold Fast, Mature in Jesus (5:11–6:3)
- 22 Jun Hold Fast, Don't Fall Away (6:4–12)
- 29 Jun Hold Fast, God is Unchangeable (6:13–20)
- 6 Jul Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Eternal High Priest (7:1–28)
- 20 Jul Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Inaugurator of the New Covenant (8:1–13)
- 27 Jul Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Anticipation of the Old Covenant (9:1–14)
- 3 Aug Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Mediator of the New Covenant (9:15–28)
- 10 Aug Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Perfect Sacrifice (10:1–18)
- 24 Aug Hold Fast, Jesus Is Faithful (10:19–25)
- 31 Aug Hold Fast, God Will Judge (10:26–34)

A Better Reward

- 7 Sep Hold Fast, God Will Reward (10:35–39)
- 14 Sep Hold Fast, Live by Faith (11:1–7)
- 21 Sep Hold Fast, Learn from Abraham (11:8–19)
- 28 Sep Hold Fast, Conquer by Faith (11:20–40)
- 5 Oct Hold Fast, Look to Jesus (12:1–4)
- 12 Oct Hold Fast, Grow through God's Discipline (12:5–11)
- 19 Oct Hold Fast, Pursue Peace and Holiness (12:12–17)
- 26 Oct Hold Fast, Come in Awe (12:18–29)

A Better Rededication

- 2 Nov Hold Fast, Continue in Love (13:1–8)
- 9 Nov Hold Fast, Offer Up Your Lives (13:9–16)
- 23 Nov Hold Fast, Uphold the Gospel Work (13:17–25)

How to Read the Book of Hebrews in its Old Testament Context

A. Look for Promises Fulfilled in Jesus.

1. Jesus as the true Son of David—He is the Messiah, the kingdom OT promised is realised in Him. (1:2 // Ps 2:8, 1:5 // Ps 2:7, 2 Sam 7:14.)
2. Ps 110: 1, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool.” fulfilled in Jesus Christ (See 1:2, 13; 8:1; 10:12–13; 12:2).
3. Jesus as the Great High Priest “sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (8:1; See Ps 110:4, “. . . ‘Forever, You are a priest like Melchizedek.’”)
4. Jesus as the Greater Moses and Joshua
 - a. Covenant Fulfilment of Jer 31:31-34 in 8:8-12, 10:15-18; Jesus as the Greater Moses
 - b. Land-Rest Fulfilment of Gen 12:1-3 in 3:12-4:13, Jesus as the Greater Joshua

B. Look for OT Events, Institutions, and Persons (Typology) Anticipating Jesus and Heavenly/Eternal Realities.

1. The fulfilment is always greater than the type
2. In OT, God spoke through Israel His Son (Ex 4:22; Jer 31:9). Now, God has spoken finally and definitively in His Greater Son (1:1-2)
3. Jesus is pre-eminently the better king, priest, and prophet, bringing a better sacrifice, covenant, rest, and promise.
4. Warnings of earthly penalties for disobeying OT Laws anticipate eternal judgment for rejecting eternal salvation in Jesus (2:2-3)
5. Earthly priests and the tabernacle are copies of the heavenly ones (8:5, 9:11).
6. The blood of bulls and goats anticipates Christ’s sacrifice through the eternal Spirit (9:12-14, 23-24).
7. Believers are earthly exiles, looking to a heavenly home (11:13-16)

C. Look for End-Time Perspective—Already but Not Yet

1. “We do not yet see everything subjected to” Jesus (2:8)
2. The present heavens will perish and be rolled up like a cloak (1:11–12).
3. The created things, the present heavens and earth, will be shaken and removed, and only God’s kingdom will remain (12:26–28).
4. Jesus will appear a second time for those awaiting salvation (9:8)
5. Believers are perfected in holiness for all time by Christ’s one offering (10:14)
 - a. Yet, for now, they must persevere in faith amid suffering (10:39-11:40).
 - b. They must pursue holiness without which no one will see the Lord (12:4)
 - c. They’re members of the heavenly assembly (12:22-33)
 - d. They seek the city to come (13:14).

06 July 2025

Study 1: Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Eternal High Priest

Hebrews 7:1-28

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

¹This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸ In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹ One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰ because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Notes and Questions

¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn

and will not change his mind:

‘You are a priest forever.’ ”

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

(NIV 2011)

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY 1

Immediate Context of Hebrews 7: A Summary of Hebrews 4 to 6.

Hebrews 4:1-13 Don't Doubt, Enter His Rest

Hebrews 4 is the second part of the exposition of Psa 95:7-11, a warning of unbelief and hardened hearts that fail to heed the Holy Spirit's voice. This would lead to the failure to enter God's rest, the eternal Sabbath of heavenly rest anticipated by Day 7 of Creation. The chapter concludes with the reminder that as God's creatures, all are accountable to Him, who will expose and judge all thoughts and intent by His word.

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Perfect High Priest

Given the readers' need to be forgiven of their failures and the need to persevere in faith and obedience, this unit calls them to hold fast by drawing near God with boldness to receive mercy and grace to help in times of need. They can do so because Jesus is the High Priest who has ascended to heaven. But He is also the sympathetic High Priest who was tempted in every way yet without ever sinning. He is superior to the OT Aaronic priests because He is God's exalted Son and the Eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. He is therefore supreme in dignity and glory as the divine Son, and yet perfect and sinless as a human son. This made Him both a perfect atoning sacrifice for sin, and the most approachable, sympathetic High Priest.

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 Hold Fast, Mature in Jesus

A key reason the faith of Hebrews' readers was faltering was their lack of diligence in seeking to know and obey God's word. They were dull in hearing, unskilled in the word, and consequently, they lacked the spiritual maturity to discern good from evil. Instead of teaching others God's word, they need to be taught the basics again. Dullness in hearing reveals hardened hearts. This is a repeated call to keep God's word, to heed the Holy Spirit's voice (Heb 3:7-8).

Hebrews 6:4-12 Hold Fast, Don't Fall Away

The readers' lack of diligence in God's word put them in danger of falling away. Having tasted the goodness of God's word and His saving power, to fall away is to show contempt for Christ, proving themselves to be unbelievers deserving of hell's flame. However, this should not happen to true believers who have been saved. The faith of true believers is seen in their works and love for the saints, as well as their diligence and perseverance.

Hebrews 6:13-20 Hold Fast, God is Unchangeable.

Believers can be assured of their final salvation by resting not on themselves but on the certainty of God's promises. God has guaranteed His promises with His oath. God cannot lie. His oath and unchanging character anchor believers' hope of entering His presence through Jesus, the High Priest like Melchizedek.

Old Testament Scriptural citations and allusions in Hebrews 7:1-28

| vv. 1-18 | Old Testament Text cited |
|-----------|--|
| vv. 1-4 | Gen 14:17-23 <i>Describing the aftermath of Abraham's defeat of the coalition of kings to rescue Lot, Melchizedek met and blessed him. Abraham offered him a tenth of his battle spoils while rejecting any gift from or alliance with the wicked king of Sodom, whom Lot had turned to.</i> |
| v.5 | Dt 14:22-29 "Certainly you must give a tithe of all the yield of your seed . . ." (Mosaic law of tithing to support the Levites and the poor) |
| vv.3, 5-6 | Nu 1:50-53, 18:20-28, Dt 10:8-9 show the Levites were set apart to serve the tabernacle and the temple. (Note that Levi was one of the 12 sons of Jacob. His tribe was set apart as the priestly tribe of Israel.) Exod 29:9; Num 3:10; Ezra 2:62; Neh 7:64 show the priesthood requires genealogical proof of descent from Levi and Aaron. |
| vv.17, 21 | Ps 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." |

OBSERVATION



What do you notice as you read this passage?
(The answers for this *observation segment* are usually straightforward, drawn directly from what you can see in the text given.)

1. Heb 6:20 ends by reminding us that Jesus is our high priest in the order of Melchizedek. What does the name Melchizedek mean in verse 2?

Comments

We have learnt from Heb 1-3 that Jesus became far superior to the angels as the incarnate Son, who also became our mediator and high priest.

Instead of drifting from Him, thereby neglecting so great a salvation, we are called to fix our eyes on Him by

2. How was Melchizedek greater than Abraham, and hence the Levitical priests (vv.3-10)?

| Verses | Abraham | Melchizedek |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| v.1-2,4 | Gave a tithe to Melchizedek | |
| v.3 | NA | |
| v.5-10 | | Receive the tithe from Abraham and blessed him, as one who lives forever in that He represents Christ and receives the tithes of Abraham's descendants through Abraham, thereby the honour the Levites rendered to him. |

considering who He truly is.

Today's text will help us do so by further explaining how Jesus is the superior king-priest by comparing Him with Melchizedek.

Who is Melchizedek? Why is he cited in Ps 110:4 and Hebrews 5, 6, and 7; and said to live forever?

According to the Mosaic Law, one couldn't serve as a priest without proving his descend from Levi through his genealogy. Hence, scripture's omission of Melchizedek's genealogy shows he was a priest of a different order from the Levitical priesthood. This lack of genealogy was elaborated in different ways in v.3.

This doesn't mean Melchizedek was the pre-incarnate Christ or an angelic or a immortal divine being. But rather, he was most likely a human priest-king

3. Contrast the Levitical and Jesus' priesthood to see how Jesus' priesthood is superior by filling in the blanks:

| Verses | Levitical priesthood | Jesus' priesthood |
|--------------|---|---|
| v.16 | Based on ancestry as regulated by the Law | Based on an indestructible life (that empowered His resurrection and ascension) |
| vv.17-19 | | |
| vv.20-22 | Absence of God's oath. Priesthood installed by regulations based on ancestry, not by God's pronouncement. | |
| vv.23-25 | | |
| vv.26-27 | <i>v.27. The Levitical Priests are men like us, needy earthbound sinners who need to offer sacrifices day after day, for their sins and the sins of God's people.</i> | |
| v.28* | Levitical priests are appointed by the Law, mortal men in all their weaknesses. | Jesus is appointed by God, guaranteed by His oath, and made perfect by God as our High Priest forever. |

used by God to foreshadow Christ. Heb 7:3 says Melchizedek resembles Christ. So he is not Christ. He serves to point us to Christ.

V.3 is best read as a way of emphasizing Melchizedek special status as the first priest mentioned in Scripture, the archetype priest, whose office will remain, pointing to Christ and would be fulfilled by Christ forever.

Note also that the citation of Ps 110:4 in vv.17 and 21 carries significance beyond contrasting Christ with the Levitical priesthood.

As Melchizedek was Salem's king (Ps 76:2 equate Salem to Zion, Jerusalem), Christ Kingship is in view. Psalm 110:1-3, cited in Heb 1:3, speak of Christ as God's appointed king who will extend his universal reign from Jerusalem (the place of Christ's death and resurrection), and

**If you struggle to grasp all the details, remember v.28. It's the summary and punchline of the entire section in vv.16-28.*

INTERPRETATION



What is the meaning and significance of your observations?

(This segment requires you to reflect on what you have observed in the earlier segment)

4. How will Jesus, the King of righteousness and peace like Melchizedek, restore righteousness and peace to our sin-broken world? (See Psa. 110; Isa. 53:5)
5. What has Jesus as our High Priest accomplished for us that the OT Law and priesthood couldn't? (vv.19, 22-28)
6. How does Jesus serving as our eternal high priest encourage you?

have the allegiance of His people.

This Psalm (vv. 5-7) is also an end-time prophecy of the final judgment where Christ as King and Judge will fully and finally subdue His enemies. Christ kingship will then fully and finally usher in God's everlasting peace, fulfilling His Name as the king of righteousness and peace, anticipated by Melchizedek.

With the reminder of how Abraham in Gen 14 defeated the enemy kings, pay homage to God's righteous priest-king Melchizedek, and refuse to align himself with the godless Sodom's king, unlike Lot, they paint a picture of what it means to honour God's appointed King through godly and uncompromising righteous living.

The main message of this chapter and what came before is to show how Jesus as our eternal true High Priest is superior and



BIG IDEA

What is the main message of the passage?
(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)



APPLICATION

Why did the Holy Spirit give us this text?
(Considering the big idea and the Holy Spirit's intent helps us make applications faithful to the text.)

7. What does it mean for you to acknowledge Jesus as the King of righteousness and peace? (Consider how Abraham honoured Melchizedek instead of the ungodly Sodom's king in Gen 14:17-23).

supersedes the OT priesthood by dealing fully and effectively with our sin, and who now sits at God's right hand as our God's appointed King. (See how 8:1 sums up for us this main message from Heb 4-7 which we will cover in Study 2.)

As God would raise up a prophet like Moses, the archetype prophet (Dt 18:15), God has raised up a priest-king like Melchizedek. So Hebrews presents Christ as God's true prophet, priest and king to meet our every need, *the only Saviour who can save us forever.*

20 July 2025

Study 2: Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Inaugurator of the New Covenant

Hebrews 8:1-13

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ^c ⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

"The days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.

Notes and Questions

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel

after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'

because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”ⁿ

¹³ By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

(NIV 2011)

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY 2

Immediate Context: A Summary of Hebrews 7

We must hold fast to Jesus and not fall away since salvation comes only from Him, the Superior High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Today's text continues to show how Jesus, our superior High Priest, ministers not in an earthly Tabernacle, but in heaven itself, and offers us a New Covenant superior to the Old.

Read Hebrews 8:1-13

Old Testament Scriptures cited/alluded to in this text

| vv. 1-13 | Old Testament Text cited or alluded to |
|----------|--|
| v.1 | Ps 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet" |
| v.3 | Lev 16:23-24 "And Aaron shall enter the tent of assembly . . . at his coming to the sanctuary . . . he shall put on his garments and go out and [sacrifice] his burnt offering and the people's burnt offering, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for people." |
| v.5 | Exo 25:40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. |
| vv.8-12 | Jer 31:31-34 31 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." |

OBSERVATION



What do you notice as you read this passage?
(The answers for this observation segment are usually straightforward, drawn directly from what you can see in the text given.)

1. What is the main point of the author so far (8:1-2)?
2. According to v.5, what is the reason Moses was asked to build an earthly Tabernacle according to the pattern God had shown him?
3. According to v.9, what are the weaknesses of the Old Covenant that God made with Israel?

Comments

Notice that v.1 repeats the author's introduction in Heb 1:3. Hence v.1-2 sums up the main point of what Hebrews 1-7 is saying. This and the following chapters continue to unpack for us the meaning and implications of what has been introduced to us in Heb 1:1-4.

It continues to unpack for us what the author is calling us to do when he asks us to fix our eyes on Jesus, to consider Jesus.

We are to think about why and how Jesus became our High Priest, and the implications of His Eternal Superior Priesthood for how we can now live our Christian lives faithfully and assuredly as His church, His people.

The repeated theme of His ascension and exaltation to God's right hand speaks of His eternal, authoritative, and kingly priesthood. It's the ground for the certainty of our faith.

Christ ministers now in the true heavenly Tabernacle divinely set up, not by

4. List what God will do that makes the New Covenant superior to the Old Covenant.

| Verses | What God will do for us in the New Covenant |
|--------|---|
| v.10 | |
| v.11 | |
| v.12 | |

human hands. Hence His priesthood is superior. He ministers in heaven itself. He has become our sanctuary, when He incarnated and “Tabernacled” among us (Jn 1:14, Heb 2:12). Now, in Christ, with His ascension, believers are lifted into God’s heavenly presence.

His sacrifice on the cross is once for all (Heb 7:27), needing no repetitions as opposed to the sacrifices of earthly priests. His priestly ministry now consists of the effective application of His completed work on the cross through His heavenly intercession for His people.

For this reason, v.13 says the New Covenant in Jesus has superseded the Old Covenant. The Old had served its purpose in pointing us to the New in Jesus.

Note however that God’s moral requirement of the Law has not been superseded, but rather, they have been fulfilled in Jesus, and continues to be fulfilled when NT believers in Christ are empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey Christ’s

5. According to v.13, what happens to the Old Covenant under the New?

INTERPRETATION



What is the meaning and significance of your observations?

(This segment requires you to reflect on what you have observed in the earlier segment)

6. How does the superiority of Jesus' priesthood, summed up in vv.1-6, assure the salvation of those who hold fast to Him?

7. How do the weaknesses of the Old Covenant reveal our sinful weaknesses and our need for Jesus?

words, and live in God's presence.

What is totally superseded and made redundant are the ceremonial laws that provided the language and categories for us to understand Christ's High Priestly work on our behalf. Hence, God allowed the temple of Jerusalem to be destroyed in AD 70, bringing an end to all its sacrifices.

The end goal of what God has done to save us in Christ is summed up in the new Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31, encapsulated in v.10-12. Our great salvation glorifies Him as our Eternal Great High Priest.

Take time to worshipfully fix your eyes on Jesus, as you reflect on what all these mean for us.

8. What do you think is in God's heart when He gives us the New Covenant in Christ, saying He will be our God and we will be His people?
9. Why do you think keeping His word in our minds and hearts is the first promise in the New Covenant mentioned in v.10? (See Heb. 3:7-8, 5:11)

BIG IDEA



What is the main message of the passage?
(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)

APPLICATION



Why did the Holy Spirit give us this text?

(Considering the big idea and the Holy Spirit's intent helps us make applications faithful to the text.)

10. How can you give thanks to God this week for giving Jesus to us as our Heavenly High Priest?

11. How has this text helped you deal with your sins and weaknesses?

12. How does knowing God's heart for us in the New Covenant encourage you to persevere in your walk with God?

GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

You may do the following as a DG:

- Read Psalm 95. Bow down to worship and acknowledge God as our Maker and Redeemer. Thank God for Jesus, our great High Priest, who alone can forgive, cleanse, and save us from our sins forever so that we can live in His eternal presence.
- To savour His goodness, take a moment to recite 8:10 and discuss how you can help one another keep God's word in your hearts and minds.
- Renew your commitment to walk with God and one another as His people.