

## The Epistle to the Hebrews – Part 2

**Key verse: Hebrews 13:15-16 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. NASB**

### Hebrews 7-13

The second half of The Epistle to the Hebrews focuses on Jesus, our great High Priest, and his most excellent priesthood, covenant, sacrifice, and sanctuary. Having pointed out Jesus is the sinless priest, sacrificed Himself, and serves in heaven itself, Hebrews then exhorts us to have faith in Him no matter what—persevere, endure, believe. The book concludes with a description of the lifestyle that pleases God and many reasons that we should follow that way of living.

Seven times the writer of Hebrews says Jesus is a priest forever or a priest after the order of Melchizedek (5:6, 5:10, 6:20, 7:11, 7:15, 7:17, 7:21). Five times Hebrews tells us Jesus is seated at the Father’s right hand (1:3, 3:1, 10:12-13, 12:20. These are evidently important truths we are to learn from this book. The priestly work of Christ established the privilege of access to God. Therefore, we are told to draw near to God faithfully, stand firm in our faith in Him and encourage others to do the same. Hebrews, and 11 other New Testament letters, concludes with “Grace be with you.”

### Day One: Read Hebrews 7 and 8:1-6, Jesus’ New Covenant

1. Melchizedek was high priest and king of Salem during the time of Abraham. Hebrews 7 provides an explanation of how his priesthood is better than Abraham and the Levites, and informs us that Jesus’ priesthood is in the order of Melchizedek. God’s law established the Levites (Abraham’s descendants through Levi) as the priestly line for the Israelites. However, Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah. This does not disqualify Him from the priesthood because Jesus, like Melchizedek, already existed before the law and Abraham. Jesus predates and postdates the Levitical priestly system. According to Hebrews 8:1, what is the main point of all the discussion of Melchizedek?

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2. What is Jesus our High Priest doing now? 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How is the heavenly tabernacle described? 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is required of every priest? 8:3 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Where do the priests on earth serve? 8:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How does Jesus' ministry as High Priest compare to the old priesthood? Why?  
8:6
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A covenant is a binding agreement and relationship between two parties. God is a covenant-making God; He forms agreements and relationships with people. God made a covenant with Noah and his family, and all the creatures of the earth (Genesis 9:9-17). God made a covenant with Abraham to give him descendants as numerous as the stars, the land of Canaan, and to bless all nations through his seed (Genesis 15:18; 17:2-21; 22:18). God restated that covenant to Abraham's son Isaac (Genesis 26:4). God expanded this covenant at Mount Sinai with Abraham's descendants, the whole nation of Israel (Exodus 12-20), promising to be their God and challenging them to be obedient to Him. This covenant was often broken, with the people failing to live up to their obligations. God made a covenant with King David that his descendants would be established forever as kings (2 Samuel 7:16).

The Old Testament also speaks of a new covenant to be established with God's people (Jeremiah 31:31-34), a covenant in which the people would all know God, would have the law of God in them and written on their hearts, and their sins forgiven. With His sacrificial death, Jesus established this new covenant between God and those who respond in faith. He is the guarantor and mediator of this covenant, established by indisputable promises of God (Hebrews 7:22, 8:6, 12:24).

7. God has called us to a covenant relationship with Himself, an everlasting agreement in which we know God, have His law within us and written on our hearts, and have our sins removed and remembered no more by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Describe what excites you most about this new covenant.
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**Prayer focus:** Thank Jesus for His priestly sacrifice that provided forgiveness for your sins. Ask Him to reveal any sin that is in your life. Confess it to Him and agree with Him that you will turn from that sin.

### Day Two: Read Hebrews 8:7-9:28, New vs Old

8. Why was a new covenant needed? 8:7-9
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9. Compare the old covenant with the new: Hebrews 8:10-13; 9:6-10:4

	<b>Old covenant under Moses (9:1-10)</b>	<b>New covenant in Jesus (9:11-14)</b>
Who is priest?	Man from the tribe of Levi	
What kind of sanctuary do they have?	Earthly, a model of the true one, a shadow	
Which priest enters the Most Holy Place?	High Priest	
How often does he enter Most Holy Place?	Once a year	
What must the high priest take in with him?	Blood sacrifice	
Whose sins are atoned for in Most Holy Place?	High priest, and all God's people	
Whose blood atones for the sins?	Goats and calves	
What are the limits (old) and advantages (new) of the priests' gifts and sacrifices?	Cannot perfect the worshippers conscience; cannot take away sin	
How long will the covenant last?	Until a better system could be established; a time of reformation	
Who made the Tabernacle?	Human hands	

10. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? 9:16

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11. Why was bloodshed necessary? 9:22

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12. Why is Jesus coming again? 9:28

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13. True believers are in covenant relationship with God through the blood (death) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is no small thing. How have we as Christians taken for granted so great a sacrifice for our salvation?

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**Prayer focus:** Confess to God the things listed in the questions above. Ask Him if there are any changes He would have you make.

### Day Three: Read Hebrews 10, Live the Christian Lifestyle

14. Under the new covenant, followers of Jesus Christ can now enter the Most Holy Place, which is the presence of God. What should be our heart condition when we enter the Most Holy Place? 10:22

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15. Hebrews 10:23-25 outlines a few things that should be part of the Christian's lifestyle. What are they?

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16. What warning is given to those who deliberately continue sinning after they have received knowledge of the truth? 10:26-31

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17. Some of the early Christians endured public ridicule, imprisonment, and loss of property. Why were they able to accept these persecutions with joy? 10:34

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18. Read Hebrews 10:38. How much pleasure does God have in those who turn away? \_\_\_\_\_. Have you ever thought about God having pleasure? What are some things we can do that bring Him pleasure?

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**Prayer focus:** Hebrews 10:25 and 37 tell us the return of Christ is “drawing near” and “in a very little while.” Pray for Christians you know that need to remember that truth. Seek God’s direction in how to encourage them.

### Day Four: Read Hebrews 11, People of Faith

Hebrews 3:7-19 provides descriptions of faithless people; people who were disobedient because of their unbelief. Hebrews 11:1-39 describes people of faith; people who were obedient because they believed God. The people who believed God were far from perfect, but their faith was in God’s promised Messiah and Him alone.

19. What is faith? 11:1

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20. How did the people in the days of old earn a good reputation? 11:2, 39

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21. What has faith accomplished in the days of old? 11:4-12

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22. What must we have to please God? \_\_\_\_\_. What must we believe in order to come to God? 11:6

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23. In Hebrews 11:17-35, we learn many things that were accomplished by people who placed their faith in God. Most of these verses start out, “It was by faith.” How would you finish that sentence for your life? It was by faith that I ...

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**Prayer focus:** Thank God today for the people of faith He has brought into your life. Pray for their continued endurance.

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### Day Five: Read Hebrews 12-13, Run with Endurance

24. How can we make sure we will run with endurance the race God has set before us? 12:1-3, 14-17

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25. Hebrews 12:5-7 repeats some words God has spoken to us. He says, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprovved by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.” Why should we submit to God’s divine discipline? 12:7-12

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26. Verse 12:2 tells us Jesus endured even the cross because of the joy awaiting Him. What joy is awaiting God’s children who endure? 12:22-24

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27. Hebrews 13 gives us some practical instructions for living as children of God, people with faith in God. What are some of the things we should do, and why? 13:1-4, 15-19

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28. What is one thing we should not do, and why? 13:5-6

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29. Hebrews 13:7 says to remember those who led you and spoke the word of God to you. It tells us to “imitate their faith.” Would those you teach the word of God be on the right path if they imitate your faith? Why or why not?

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30. What do we know about Jesus that should help us resist strange, new ideas?  
13:8

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31. Where does our strength come from? 13:6, 9

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**Prayer focus:** “Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with His blood—may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen” (Hebrews 13:20-21 NLT).

“May God’s grace be with you all” (Hebrews 13:25).