

## Hebrews 11 Chap 7b-8

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**Verse 18b:** For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,'

God did not give the Law so that man could come to God... no one could ever draw near to God through the Law. He goes on to say:

**Verse 19:** *'for the law made nothing perfect;* on the other hand, *there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.*

The Law did not make anyone perfect; on the contrary, its purpose was to show the absolute 'imperfectness' of all men. Only God Himself, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only perfect man, crucified as the only acceptable sacrifice for the sin of imperfect men, could make men perfect; only He could make men acceptable to God; only He could be the perfect High Priest to be our access to the perfect God. Only through Him could we ever come to God.

We draw near to God through our 'better hope.' Only through Jesus Christ can we approach God; He is our hope. David wrote, 'And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Psalm 39:7

**Verse 20:** And inasmuch as *He was not made priest* without an oath <sup>21</sup> (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek' ")

He was not made our High Priest through the agency of men; God appointed Him and He will not relent.

Jesus Christ will continue on as our Great High Priest forever.

**Verse 22:** 'by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.'

The Greek work here for surety is *eggyos* (*enguos*): it means a sponsor, a surety, a bondsman. It means the one who guarantees something, the one who is responsible for payment... one who cosigns for a loan.

The old covenant was imperfect and insufficient. It had been based on an agreement between God and men. The agreement was: God commanded; If men would obey, God would bless them. God is faithful; He can be depended upon but man is unfaithful and undependable. The old covenant could never succeed because man always fails. The new covenant, the better covenant is not based on man's obedience or faithfulness at all. Its only foundation is the unfailing, always faithful Lord Jesus Christ. He is responsible for the new covenant and He will not fail. Therefore, it will never fail.

Eph 1:14 says, 'In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the ***earnest of our inheritance*** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.'

What is the 'purchased possession?' It is us and our complete eternal salvation.

From Whom were we purchased? Some would answer, 'Satan,' but that is not true. We were always owned by God, the Father. Jesus Christ purchased us from the Father. He redeemed us from our justly deserved eternal punishment.

'Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Heb 2:15

Notice that we weren't held captive by Satan but by the fear of death.

God said, 'Behold, every soul belongs to Me.' Ezek. 18:4

Jesus Christ purchased us from the Father, ransoming us from the sentence of death and then actually paid the earnest money to us instead of to the seller.

The Holy Spirit is the Earnest of our inheritance. The Greek word for earnest is 'arobon.' It means, down payment as the guarantee of full payment, partial payment as promise of full payment.

When we come to God through Jesus Christ, He is the guarantee that the covenant will stand and that we will remain active partners in the agreement... God won't change the rules and demand something more, later. Our responsibility is simple: faith, belief, trust in the One Who has promised to deliver.

As proof of God's intention to deliver the full package... our complete salvation, spirit, soul and body... He has given to us the most valuable down payment... His Holy Spirit to live inside us until we come into full possession of all that He has promised. The full payment will be when we will be given a perfect eternal body like that of the Lord Jesus Christ and that we will rule and reign with Him forever as His own precious brothers and sisters, glorified sons and daughters of God, most High, fellow heirs with God's Son for all eternity.

**Verse 23:** Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup> But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

In 1 Sam. we read of Eli, the priest to whom Samuel's mother, Hannah, gave him to be raised. Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas; they were evil and incompetent priests... much like many priests and pastors of today. Because Eli allowed his sons' evil to continue, they both died on the same day and Eli died when he heard of it, the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines and Ichabod was born whose name means, 'the glory has departed.'

Nothing like that will ever happen in relation to our salvation, no matter how many evil priests or pastors are allowed to continue until Jesus returns for us; our salvation is sure because our High Priest is faithful and sure. Jesus Christ is our perfect High Priest; He will continue forever. There is no fear that He will die and someone less competent will take over His duties.

**Verse 25:** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

He is able to and does save us completely... utterly... there is not the smallest danger that we could ever be lost or unsaved or 'dissaved' or discarded or that God could ever change His mind about loving us.

He is able to save to the uttermost... us... we who come to God through Him because He is constantly praying for us, interceding for us.

When we sin... and we all do... Satan is always before God accusing us... He cries out, 'He's not worthy, he's a sinner like me, discard him like you did me, he deserves to die and go to Hell like I will!' All the while, Jesus reminds His Father, 'That one is mine, You gave him to me, I kept the Law completely for him. You imputed My righteousness to Him. My sacrifice covered his sin forever, my sacrifice was utterly sufficient.'

**Verse 26:** For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

Jesus Christ is perfect in every way... absolutely perfect! He stands before God in our place. His righteousness is all that God sees when we come to Him through Jesus Christ. We are in Him... covered by Him... Paul talks about our 'putting on Christ.' We wear Him like a robe of righteousness.

'But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.' Rom 13:14

'For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**.' Gal 3:27

When Paul tells us to **put on the whole armor of God**... He means the same thing. The different pieces of armor... the belt of **truth**, the breastplate of **righteousness**, the helmet of **salvation**, the shield of **faith**, the Gospel of **Peace**... we are to **put on Jesus Christ... He is the Truth, He is our Righteousness, He is our Salvation, He is our Peace and in Him alone is our Faith.**

**He is our High Priest Who stands before God in our place.**

**Verse 27:** 'who does not need daily, as those (previous) high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did **once for all** when He offered up Himself.'

Every other high priest was a sinner like those whom they represented to God. They were never really acceptable to God and their sacrifices were never acceptable to really put away sin. It was only by God's grace and mercy those other priests could approach God.

**Verse 28:** For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

The Law was weak and imperfect; it could only result in the appointment of high priests who were weak and imperfect.

Our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ has been perfected in His humanity forever. It was His humanity that was perfected... meaning it was **completed**... He, in His humanity was **completed by the things He suffered**.

Heb 5:8 told us, 'though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.'<sup>9</sup> And **having been perfected**, (by those things which He suffered), He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.' To what 'obedience' is he referring in regard to 'eternal salvation?' Not the Law certainly, since he has just gone to great lengths to convince us of its ineffectiveness... our only obedience, resulting in eternal salvation, is to His command to 'Believe on Him Whom the Father has sent.'

As the Son of God, He was perfect in every way but in order to be our Great High Priest, it was God's will that He be made like us and that He suffer and die for us, in our place.

We are no longer under the Law in any way. There is no law to which we are accountable except to believe on Him Whom the Father has sent.

The Law was not given to draw us to God or to give us access to God. The Law was given to show the perfection of God and the sinfulness of man.

Picture a circle of fence around God. Within that fence is the perfection of God. Around that circle is another circle of fence which is the Law. If we could obey the Law, we would be within and remain within that fence of the Law. No one is able to stay within that circle of fence. We were all born outside the fence. All humans are outside that circle of Law... all of us are Law breakers. If we could keep 9 of the 10 Commandments we would still not be within the fence. We are commanded to be perfect, as our Heavenly Father is perfect, but no one ever could. And Jesus said if we break even one of God's laws we are guilty of breaking all of His Law. And Jesus Christ made it even more impossible when He said that if we hate someone we are guilty of murder and if we lust after someone we are guilty of adultery. But God, in His mercy allowed, for a time, a way to approach God through the system of priests and sacrifices. One man could enter through the doorway through that fence which is the Law... but only one human could ever approach God and come into God's presence... that was the high priest who could enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement... but even then, the doorway through which the high priest entered into God's presence was Jesus Christ... the Word of God... the high priest entered through faith in and obedience to the Word of God... Jesus Christ. But those high priests were sinners like us and they all died, being replaced by another... and still, we could never approach God. God determined that the only way we could ever come to Him, the only way we could ever be acceptable to Him was if one of us... a human... would live a perfect and sinless life and then willingly be the perfect sacrifice for our sin... to die in our place... but only a holy and sinless sacrifice would be acceptable.

He planned to send His Son to be born as one of us, to live perfectly, to completely obey the Law in every way. The Bible says that Jesus Christ obeyed the Law for us, He completed and fulfilled the Old Covenant... therefore it was done away with because the contract was fulfilled.

Since He fulfilled the Old Contract, He was qualified to instigate a New Contract, one written in His blood... He set up the new rules. Now, instead of everyone being guilty of all the Law... those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ would be held completely innocent of all the Law because He had kept and fulfilled it all

for us... but those who chose to reject His grace and mercy offered in the New Contract would still be held guilty of all the Law... and ultimately pay the full price for all their sin.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ took that circle of fence, the Law and nailed it to His Cross... our guilt in regard to the Law would never again be held against us... His Children. Now for us, God's Children... there is no longer any fence... no longer any law... only the law of liberty, only the freedom of the Children of God.

If there was **any law** to which we are still accountable, then we would, of necessity, have to be accountable to **all the Law**.

We are completely righteous in Jesus Christ and the Law was not made for the righteous but for the unrighteous. 'Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient...' 1 Tim 1:9 Our righteousness is not based on our obedience to the Law but on Jesus Christ's complete obedience to the Law.

If we ever imagine that our obedience to even the smallest part of the Law is helpful and effectual in our right standing before God, that it helps in our salvation, then we are doing just what the writer of Hebrews warned his readers of in a previous chapter: 'For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.' Heb 6:4

The 'falling away' to which he refers is their falling away from believing and understanding the reality of what Jesus Christ has done in His finished work on the Cross, but not going all the way to fully trusting in Him... thinking that there might be some saving benefit in their returning to the rituals and symbols of Judaism... and the same is true for us when we think that it benefits our standing before God, that it makes us more 'savable' when we are obedient to any of the '10 Commandments.'

Remember: this warning is to those who have not gone all the way to saving faith, whether they be Hebrews in synagogues or Gentiles in churches.

Among many supposed Christians there is often a culture of deception, lies that are willingly mutually told and accepted... a hierarchy or self-righteousness. In front of each other, they pretend to be without sin and among each other, they accept the pretence. Sins are kept in darkness while good deeds are shouted from rooftops. These people are not 'Putting Christ to an open shame' before others if their sins are sufficiently hidden but rather, they are putting Him to an open shame before fallen angels who know the reality of what's really happening behind closed doors.

Jesus Christ is glorified when we trust completely in His finished work on the Cross, when we understand that He has done everything necessary for our salvation because we are completely incapable of effecting our own salvation in any way, that apart from Him... Hell would surely be our destiny.

We cannot help in our salvation by our pitiful attempts to keep the Law and yet, He has given us the desire to keep His Law... a desire to bless Him. He has written His law on our hearts; He has placed His Holy Spirit within us; He has given us the desire to do those things which used to be required by the Law and He has given us the desire to not do those things which the Law forbade.

He has chosen to love us completely so that there is nothing we could do to increase His love for us or to decrease His love for us. However... if we desire to do those things the law forbade it **could** be an indication that we are not really Children of God at all.

He is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. We are in Him; we are with Him always; we are seated with Him now, and always, at the right hand of the Father. He has removed the fence of the Law which never was effective in drawing us to God or keeping us safe and it never made anyone righteous.

Now, we know the Shepherd's voice and we follow Him.

**Chapter 8:** 'Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,<sup>2</sup> a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Another point of the ineffectiveness of earthly high priests is that they officiated only within a copy of the true tabernacle where Jesus Christ ministers. They ministered in a manmade imitation while Jesus Christ remains in the True Tabernacle, the very Throne Room of God.

**Verse 3:** 'For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer.<sup>4</sup> For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;<sup>5</sup> who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See *that* you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."<sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.'

It was necessary for our High Priest to have something to offer. What did He offer? First, the gift He brought was His perfect obedience to all the Law. The sacrifice He brought was Himself; He willingly gave Himself to be killed, to be sacrificed, to be crucified, to be nailed on a Cross on our behalf.

In His perfect obedience, He did not come to be our example; He came to do it all for us, but in His Crucifixion He did come to be our example. Paul wrote, 'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.' Rom 12:1 Also... 'And those *who are* Christ's **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires.' Gal 5:24

'*Christian*' cults and phony denominations have it backwards; they teach what Paul calls, 'doctrines of demons.' They claim that Jesus was our example for how to live, how to be pleasing to God, that if we obey the Law and do enough good works, we will be acceptable to God, and since that is possible, they say, Jesus' death was unnecessary. So they all think they are '*good enough*' because they are '*doing their best*.'

Jesus Christ is now the Mediator of a better contract which is based solely on His own unchanging faithfulness.

**Verse 7:** 'For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. (*but it was faulty because it was based partly on the unfaithfulness of man.*) Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant with the house of Israel** and with the house of Judah not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

**The Church, the Body of Christ, is not the new contract God promised to Israel.** The Church is a completely new and separate thing. God says that He disregarded Israel. That does not mean that He rejected them or cast them off. It means that He '*put them on the shelf*' as it were, and inserted something brand new between the 69th and the 70th Weeks of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel chapter 9, 'The 70 Weeks of Daniel.' The new contract, the New Covenant, the New Testament He promised to Israel would be the final fulfillment of all His promises to Israel which would not happen until the Church was removed at the Rapture, followed by the Tribulation which is the 70th Week of Daniel followed by the Millennium during which God will fulfill all His promises to Israel.

Remember, this letter is primarily to Hebrews... not Gentiles... and also remember... the Old Covenant was made with Israel... not with Gentiles. God never said to any Gentile nations... 'You are My people and I Am your God.' In addition to our realization that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law for us... the fact is that the Law was never given to us. It was a contract with Israel.

Why does Paul never bring up the Law as having ever been incumbent upon the Romans, the Corinthians, the Galatians, the Ephesians or any other Gentile group? It never had anything to do with them or us in the first place.

**Verse 10:** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days*, says the LORD: (after what days? After the days of the Church Age and the days of the Tribulation.) 'I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup> None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Obviously, not all of that is true yet... not all of it has been realized yet... some of it is still for the future.

As a nation, as the people of God, Israel is still within the gap of time between the 69th Week of Daniel's prophecy which was completed with Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, just before His Crucifixion, and the 70th Week which will begin, as the 7 year Tribulation, with the removal of the Church at the Rapture. Remember what the Angel told Daniel would be the purpose of this gap of time...

"Seventy weeks are determined  
For your people and for your holy city,  
**To finish the transgression,**  
**To make an end of sins,**  
**To make reconciliation for iniquity,**  
To bring in everlasting righteousness,  
To seal up vision and prophecy,  
And to anoint the Most Holy. Daniel 9:24

They are still in the process of making an end of sins and making reconciliation for iniquity. God's New Covenant will not begin with Israel until Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon, at the end of Daniels 70th Week, to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

**Verse 13:** In that He says, "A new *covenant*," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is **becoming** obsolete and growing old is **ready** to vanish away.'

See the time frame when the writer of Hebrews is writing: it is after Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, during the time of the Church, and he is saying of God's Old Contract with Israel: 'it is **becoming** obsolete and is **ready** to vanish... but he doesn't say it has become obsolete or that it has vanished.

What is he saying to these Hebrews? He is not saying that the Old Covenant worked for awhile but now the New Covenant is here. He is saying that the Old Covenant never worked. It never made anyone perfect or allowed them to come into God's presence. It was always only through Jesus Christ and faith in Him. He is saying, 'Don't think you will wait around until the New Contract begins... put your faith in Jesus Christ now... trust in Him for your salvation... He didn't die only for the salvation of Gentiles.'

The deeper we go into Hebrews, the deeper it seems to become. Not only because of Melchizedek, as if that isn't deep enough, but as we really study this, it creates all these questions that we never even knew were there to be asked... but I'm sure that as we go, God will answer the questions for us. Hang in there!