



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 9.7.2025

Jesus and His Better Ministry

Lesson Twenty-Five • Hebrews 8:1-6

Have you ever settled for *lesser* rather than *better*? If so, why?

HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION with CONFIDENCE! • Hebrews 4:14–10:18

Ch 7:1–10:18 | Don't Settle for LESSER When You ALREADY Have BETTER in JESUS' Eternal, Perfecting Priesthood:
The Perfected Son Is Seated & Serving as Our High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary with a Better Ministry!

BETTER MEDIATOR
Like Melchizedek

7:1-28

BETTER MINISTRY
in Heaven

8:1-6

BETTER COVENANT
with Better Promises

8:7-13

BETTER SANCTUARY
Not Made by Man

9:1-10

BETTER SACRIFICE
Himself Once for All

9:11-28

BETTER PERFECTION
by Christ's Sacrifice

10:1-18

ENTERS the Holy of Holies to *SIT & SERVE* as a *SON* Made Perfect Forever to be a *PRIEST KING* with a Better Ministry *according to* a Better Covenant *in* a Better Sanctuary *by* a Better Sacrifice *for* a Better Perfection!

Main Point of This Section and Perhaps the Entire Sermon Letter

In Jesus we ALREADY have such a High Priest in heaven with His better ministry! (8:1-2)

1. The HEAVENLY Ministry of the Son Who *Sits* as Our High Priest! (8:1-5)

The Son Sits as Our High Priest

- Because He is our PRIEST-KING, so He *reigns* eternally. (v. 1)
- Because He is our PERFECT SACRIFICE, so He *rests* eternally. (v. 1; 10:11-13)

The Son Sits to Serve as Our High Priest

- He serves in the TRUE TABERNACLE, so His *ministry* is heavenly. (vv. 2-5)

1. This tabernacle is the HEAVENLY one – *The Lord Himself set up this tabernacle not men!*

"in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle"

Do these words refer to heaven as the tabernacle or is there a tabernacle in heaven?

2. This tabernacle is the TRUE one – *Not an earthly copy, temporary shadow, or man-made type!*

3. This tabernacle is a LITERAL one – *Not merely abstract for heaven!*

4. This tabernacle is a GLORIOUS one – *Jesus enters in glory to present Himself as the sufficient sacrifice!* (vv. 3-4)

His sacrifice was ACCOMPLISHED on earth and is now APPLIED to worshippers from heaven!

Christ physically offered Himself as our *sinless substitute* and *sufficient sacrifice* on EARTH, but now He *sovereignly sits* as our *perfect sacrifice* and *serves* as our *perfect High Priest* in HEAVEN!

5. This tabernacle had a God-given PATTERN that was an earthly copy, temporary shadow, and man-made type. (v. 5)

“This 'pattern' was something visible and not simply the verbal instructions of Exodus 25-30. It may have been a 'model', for which the verbal directions were a commentary, **or even God's heavenly dwelling place which Moses was permitted to see...**The point of the quotation is to show from Scripture itself that the tabernacle of Moses, and by implication the whole Old Testament [priestly system] **was only a copy of a heavenly reality.**” – Peter O'Brien (*Hebrews*, PNTC, 291. Emphasis mine)

“The point of all this for the present verse is that this broad conceptual context **suggests that the author may indeed be thinking that Moses was shown an actual heavenly structure of which the earthly counterpart was to be a "shadow."** Jewish apocalyptic, the conceptual context in which the author appears most at home, often seemed to envisage some kind of structure in heaven. **Nevertheless...our author, while he may think that Moses copied from a heavenly structure, is especially focused on the heavenly presence of God in which our high priest Jesus brings His atoning ministry to its climax.**” – Doug Moo (*Hebrews*, 279. Emphasis mine,)

2. The BETTER Ministry of the Son Who Serves as Our High Priest! (8:6)

This true heavenly tabernacle is NOW being served by a *better Mediator* with a *better ministry* according to a *better covenant* based upon *better promises*! (v. 6)

The Book of Hebrews: *Continuity with Discontinuity and the Superiority of Fulfillment with Escalation!*

- **Continuity with Discontinuity:** *Don't settle for a LESSER priestly ministry on earth.* (8:3-5)

“Some members of the congregation from a Jewish background may have thought that there was something defective about their Christian faith because it offered ‘no elaborate ceremony in an earthly sanctuary.’ For our author, however, this simply emphasized the dignity of Jesus' high-priestly ministry: **‘a priesthood exercised in any earthly shrine is far inferior to that heavenly high priesthood which depends for its exercise on a perfect sacrifice offered once for all and consequent admission to the sanctuary above.’** – Peter O'Brien (*Hebrews* PNTC, 290, referencing F. F. Bruce, *Hebrews*, 183). Emphasis mine.)

- **Superiority of Fulfillment with Escalation:** *Hold fast to Jesus' BETTER priestly ministry in heaven.* (8:6)

One question arising from **Hebrews 8** is **concerns the relationship of heavenly ministry to earthly worship.** Christian interpreters have generally agreed that Christ's ministry is shown to make Levitical practice obsolete (Heb 8:13) **without ending earthly worship altogether** (cf. Heb 10:24-25; 13:10-17). Ancient commentators thought that Hebrews 8:1-6 showed the heavenly quality of Christian worship, and later interpreters said that Christ's priesthood in the heavenly tabernacle was exercised in earthly tabernacles/temples through earthly priests, who offered the Lord's Supper as a sacramental/eucharistic sacrifice. **The sixteenth-century Reformers (1500s), however, read the text not only as a critique of the Levitical order but of the church of their own time, which had devised rituals that God had not commanded** (see Calvin, *Hebrews*, 107-8). **Seventeenth-century English Baptists (1600s) took the reformation to its logical, biblical conclusions by rejecting a state church, affirming the ministry believer priests with only two church offices (pastors and deacons by qualified males), and were committed to a regenerate church membership with believer's baptism rather than infant baptism.**

In the end it is clear that **Hebrews assumes that Christ's heavenly ministry (Heb 8:2, 6) undergirds earthly Christian worship (12:28-29) wherein believers do not forsake the assembling of themselves together (Heb 10:24-25). And His once for all self-sacrifice gives rise to spiritual sacrifices of praise and good works by all His followers (Heb 13:15-16). A place remains for leadership in the local community of faith (Heb 13:7, 17), but Hebrews does not call these leaders "priests" and nowhere are they called to function as such.** (Portions adapted from Craig Koester, *Hebrews*, 379-80 with Baptist added to his Lutheran viewpoint. Emphasis mine.)

Seven Aspects of Jesus' Better Ministry in Heaven

1. **A Better Mediator** – *A Son Forever Perfected as Our Eternal High Priest!* (4:14–7:28; especially 7:1-28)
2. **A Better Ministry** – *Exalted to Sit and Serve in the True Tabernacle in Heaven!* (8:1-6)
3. **A Better Covenant** – *Newly Established on Better Promises!* (8:7-13; cf. 7:22)
4. **A Better Sanctuary** – *Heavenly One Not Made with Hands!* (9:1-10)
5. **A Better Sacrifice** – *Sacrificed Himself Once for All!* (9:11-28)
6. **A Better Perfection** – *Eternally Sanctified by Christ's Sacrifice!* (10:1-18)
7. **A Better Hope** – *We Can Now Draw Near Boldly Where He Already Is and We Will Do So Bodily in the Future When He Comes Again!* (6:18-20; 7:19; 9:11, 24, 28)

All 7 of these aspects are *repeatedly interconnected* in Chapters 8-10!