**Hebrews 8**

**Background**

* Written by an anonymous writer to Jewish Christians
* Christ is supreme / His preeminence – Aim of author
* Use OT teachings to bring about truths / prevent them from going back to Judaism
* Pulled back to Judaism - sufferings, poverty, apostates, false teachings
* Exhortations and warnings given- 5 warnings in the book

**Introduction**

* **Ch 1**- Christ / Son of God/ much better than the angels- Deity
* **Ch 2**- Christ/ Son of man/ made a little lower than the angels- Humanity
* Took on Him the seed of Abraham- Merciful and Faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God
* **Ch 3**- Christ / Apostle- sent one AND High Priest/ Moses as servant VS **Christ as Son**
* Nation did not believe Moses and did not enter that rest
* **Ch 1**- God speaking- Thou art my Son/ Thy throne O God is forever and ever

**Ch 2**- Son speaking- I will declare thy name unto my brethren – **V 12**

**Ch 3**- Holy Spirit speaking- wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith- **V7**

* Christ- **seen as sent one**/ linked with high priestly ministry/ Better than Moses
* **Ch 4**- Christ/ Joshua did not take them into rest/ there is a rest for the people of God
* Christ- **seen as Sovereign** / passed into the heavens/ we have a great high priest
* Better than Joshua
* **Ch 5-** Christ/ Aaron- he that is called of God / bound with infirmity- need to offer for sins
* Christ- **seen as suffering one**/ strong crying and tears, learned he obedience/ High Priest after the order of Melchisedek
* Better than Aaron
* **Ch 6**- warning as author feels need for it – teaching of meat nature – discern both good and evil
* Good- let us go on unto perfection to the end / remember promise of God to Abraham- confirmed it with an oath/ hope – anchor within the veil
* Evil- warn of apostates/ how to recognize them- example of earth bringing herbs or thorns
* Christ- seen as **sure and steadfast anchor** of our souls
* **Ch 7**- Great high priest after the order of Melchisedek – greater than Levi/ different tribe
* Not made after the law but after the power of an endless life/ unchangeable priesthood
* Christ- seen as **surety** of a better testament
* **CHRIST IS SUPREME**

**Chapter beginning**

* **‘Now’** – whether it is from Ch 1, Ch 4 or Ch 7- difference in opinion amongst commentators
* **Ch 7-** Writer expands on high priestly ministry of the Lord/ Ch 8 is ‘sum’ of things spoken
* **Ch 4-** progression of the priest- **Ch 4.14**- provision of the priest- we have a great high priest

 **Ch 5.1**- pattern of the priest- from among men…to God

 **Ch 7.17**- power of the priest- priest for ever after …

 **Ch 8.2**- perfection of the priest- minister of the true tabernacle

* **Ch 1**- book starts with the word ‘God’- The author of all / divisions are inspired by the Holy Ghost
* Ch 2-Therefore/ 3-Wherefore/4- For- **Ch 4.2**/ 5- For/ 6-Therefore/ 7- For/ 8- NOW
* Hence the continuation of thought process from Ch1 starting with ‘God’

**Divisions**

**V1-6a**- A more excellent ministry – V1- A priest who is seated

 V2-6a- A priest who is superior

**V6b-13**- A better covenant- - V6b- Mediator of the covenant

 V7-13- Motive for the covenant

**A more excellent ministry**

* Person and character/ place of offering / what is being offered- make Him more excellent
* **Ch 1.4**- by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they- angels- hath obtained a more excellent ministry
* Superiority of the minister
* Sphere of Service of the minister
* Sacrifice of the minister

**V1- superiority of the minister**

* sum- chief point, main point, principal thing of all discussed before

 **Acts 22.28**- sum of money- all things added

* we have- possess, hold
* Set- no high priest ever sat as there was no seat/ work was never completed

 Universal sense- seated

 **Ch 1.3**- by himself purged our sin…sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high

 **Ch 8.1**- minister of the sanctuary and true tabernacle

 **Ch 10.12**- one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God

 **Ch 12.2**- endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand….

* Right hand- place of honor / equality- Thou art my Son
* Throne- place of authority – Thy throne O God is for ever and ever
* Majesty – greatness-place of glory- crowned with glory and honor / we have a great high priest
* Heavens- primal place – **Gen 1.1**- great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God

**V2,4,5,6a- sphere of service of the minister**

* Minister- public servant, of the temple
* Sanctuary- holy places, holy things, pure, sinless

 11 times in 10 verses- only used by writer to Hebrews / plural

* True- genuine, real, sincere

 True light- **Jn 1.9**- not John the Baptist

 True bread- **Jn 4.32**- not manna

 That sent me is true- **Jn 7.28**

 True vine- **Jn 15.1**- not the nation

**Tabernacle**

* God wants a relation with his creatures- Lord God walking in the garden

 Enoch walked with God

 Abraham talked with God

* Triune God/ Almighty/ creator of universe/ eternal- wanted to habit with men- Grace of God
* **Ex 15.2**- song of Moses- ‘I will prepare him a habitation ..’- thought inspired by Holy Spirit
* **Deut 26.15**- ‘Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven and bless thy people Israel’
* **Ex 25.8-** ‘And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them..’

**V5**- example – representation, figure, copy

* Shadow- caused by interception of light- see the true object and made aware of shadow

 **Ch 10.1**- law having a shadow of good things to come

* Moses was warned of God
* Made according to what was shown in the mount

 **Ex 25.40**- And look that thou make them after their pattern showed thee

 **Ex 26.30**- rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion..showed thee

 **Ex 27.8**- as it was showed thee

 **Acts 7.44**- he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen

- Make it- bring to an end, finish, accomplish

**V4**

* Controversy on when the priestly service of the Lord began
* Some state it is after resurrection- I do not agree
* His priestly service was from His earthly life
* On earth- **Ch 7.27**- offered himself up- Before the cross

 Perfect sin offering on the cross

 **Rom 12.1**- bodies a living sacrifice- None but the Lord was perfect

 **Ex 28**- Holy garments- gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine linen- all point to person and attributes of the Lord

 Breastplate- Holiness to the Lord- None holy but the Lord

 Compassion, grace- priestly ministry during His life

 Ability to forgive sins – Son, thy sins be forgiven thee- priest could only cover sins

 Ability to cleanse the leper – picture of sin

* ‘If he were’ and not ‘when he were’ here on this earth
* RSV- he would not be a priest at all- Levitical priests still present

 Not of Levi but of Judah

 Not like Aaron but like Melchisedek

 Not after the law but after the power of an endless life

* There is no place for Him on earth- He is in heaven ministering in the true tabernacle

**V3**- **Sacrifice of the minister**

* High priest- taken from among men

 Ordained for men in things pertaining to God

 Offer gifts and sacrifices for sins – **Ch 5**

* Gifts- thanksgiving – Optional- meal and peace offerings
* Sacrifice- shedding of blood- Obligatory- sin offering
* Necessity- indispensable, what ought to be done by law
* This man- RSV- priest/ DBY- one
* Somewhat to offer- DBY- something which he may offer
* **Ch 7.27**- when he offered up himself- more excellent sacrifice
* **Ch 7.26**- such a high priest became us who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens- **sacrifice links with** **superiority and sphere**

**A better covenant**

* **Ch 1.4**- so much better than the angels is now the mediator of a better covenant
* **Ch 7.22**- Jesus made a surety of a better testament- pledge- thought introduced in Ch 7
* Fault in the covenant
* Future of the covenant
* Fullness through the covenant
* Forgiveness in the covenant

**Covenant**

* Serious matters / between men / God adopted men’s methods for our understanding – **Gen 15**
* **Ch 6**- Grace of God- 2 immutable things- promise and oath
* God’s word is enough – grace that brings God to the level of man’s wisdom
* **Gen 15.18**- bereeth – covenant, agreement, alliance
* Root word- Baraw- choose, eat- sense of cutting – **TWOT 282 a**

 **1 Sam 17.8**- choose you a man for you – choosing and separating

 **2 Sam 3.35**- people came to cause David to eat meat – eating and separating

* Root word also has meaning of create, cut, choose – **TWOT 278**

 Shape or create by cutting down

 To fashion, to carve – used of creator

 **Gen 1.1**- God created the heavens and the earth

* Covenants hence had thought of cutting, dividing, creating and forming an alliance
* OT- covenants made by sacrifice and also by meals – sharing of food
* Abraham’s servant looks for a bride for Isaac- I will not eat until I have told mine errand- **Gen 24.33**- they did eat and drink after terms had been agreed
* Whole life history of Abraham told to Laban – birth of Isaac onwards to finding the bride
* **Gen 26.31**- treaty between Isaac and Abimelech- wells for water- they did eat and drink
* Partake of bread and salt – **2 Chr 13.5**- covenant of salt

 Salt gives flavor- substance / meaning to the alliance

 Preserves – incorruptible/ security/ long lasting

* Covenant- dividing of animals**- Gen 15**/ cut-choose- creating, eat- partaking
* Broken by death- curse if terms are not kept
* NT- diatheke- solemn vow – under binding obligation to another

 Mediator- nature of both parties involved – Lord as God and human

 Acts as a surety between both parties

* Better and new covenant Vs first or old- **Ch 9.14-15** – death of the testator- preciousness of the blood shed on calvary makes this man a mediator of a better covenant

**V6b-**

* Established- enacted, legislated- legal connotation
* Better promises- expanded further in Ch 8.10,12

**Fault in covenant**

* **V7**- covenant had no fault per se – God’s righteous demands expressed and expected from man
* Thou shalt/ thou shalt not – way in which covenant worked- based on works
* Mediator- Moses
* Accuse and condemn/ unable to change man’s nature – depended on obedience of the nation
* ‘we will do’ – 3 times – **Ex 19.8, 24.3, 24.7** – nation failed
* Have been sought- seek, strive continuously- imperfect tense
* There was a continuous search, need, striving for a better and new covenant

**V8**

* DBY- finding fault, he saith to them- may seem that the nation is being looked at but not
* Them- neuter gender- things – tenants of the old covenant- hence finding fault with things is the correct interpretation and not them
* **Jeremiah 31.31-34** – God’s plan in the OT- every religious Jew was aware of that
* I will make- I will end, fulfil, finish, consummate, accomplish
* God’s word and not dependent on man’s word- I will and not we will
* Not of works but of grace
* **Rom 5.20**- where sin abounded, grace did much more abound
* House of Israel and house of Judah- separated nation and God sees them as individuals

 God sees us as individuals – church, nation / Jew and gentile

 Day of Pentecost- tongues of fire on each person individually

* Covenant is only with Israel- not with gentile
* We partake of blessings which that nation had rejected at calvary- nation has its own blessings
* Future- blessing to the world will be through the nation

**V9**

* Fault in the first covenant – all of works – took them – God possessed, seize

 Lead them – shepherd

 Regarded them not- neglect – **Ch 2.3**- neglect so great salvation

* Focused on ‘them’
* All external and nothing internal- all of works and not of grace

**Future of the covenant**

**V10**

* After those days- millennium- go from creation to millennium
* Better promises of V6 expanded
* **5 ‘I wills’**- make a covenant

 Put my laws

 Be to them a God

 Merciful to their unrighteousness

 Remember iniquities no more

* Israel seen as one nation in future
* Took and lead them vs write law in their heart, merciful- Internal
* God working through their hearts to follow the law – spiritual intelligence through the Holy Ghost
* Based on calvary

**Fullness through the covenant**

 **V11**

* Personal knowledge of God
* They will not need to teach – neighbor, brother- related and unrelated
* Teaching will be by God and not scribes and pharisees
* National blessing of the nation – through repentance
* Through nation- other nations will be blessed
* For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

**Forgiveness in the covenant**

 **V12**

* Merciful- propitiated – favourably disposed, benevolent

 Show mercy on the ground of penalty met by substitution

* Mercy in OT- day of atonement – sins remembered and not forgiven
* Mercy in NT- blood of Christ – sins not remembered and forgiven

 God cannot forget sins

 Chooses not to remember- sovereign attribute

* Great forgiveness- sins that we know and also that ‘He’ knows
* God is merciful/ propitious- requirement of the law has been fulfilled- sacrifice given for sins- once and for all- by His Beloved Son

**V13**

* New makes the other old
* Vanish- disappear
* Substance supersedes the shadow
* Believe in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ – the minister of the true tabernacle

 Blood of His sacrifice

**Conclusion**

* More excellent ministry – Superiority

 Sphere of his service

 Sacrifice

* A better covenant – Fault in the covenant

 Future of the covenant

 Fulness through the covenant

 Forgiveness in the covenant

* **Mt 26.28**- This is my blood of the New Testament – links with **Ex 24.8**
* Church is already in the blessings of the new covenant- we are in the covenant blessings

 We have the law in our hearts- love

 We have a God- the Lord Jesus Christ

 We are propitiated

 Our sins are not remembered any more

* New covenant- covenant to nation was after promise to Abraham which was seen in Ch 6. That was based on individual faith of Abraham and before the nation came into being. God deals with individuals.
* To enter into blessings- personal faith in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as an individual needed.