

**Jesus Our Great High Priest**  
***An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews***

**The New Covenant**  
**Lesson 10**  
**Hebrews 8**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*March 5, 2017*

# Message of Hebrews

- ▶ Teaching about our great salvation
  - The High Priesthood of Jesus Christ
  - The Everlasting Covenant – new and better
- ▶ Exhortations to persevere with diligence
  - 5 interruptions in Hebrews – warn & exhort
  - A concluding section on the “use” of the doctrine

# Outline of Hebrews

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Jesus Christ, God/Man (1:5-2:18)\*
3. Jesus Christ, Apostle of our confession (3:1-4:13)\*
4. Jesus Christ, High Priest of our confession (4:14-8:6)\*
5. Jesus Christ, Mediator of a new covenant (8:7-10:18)
6. Jesus Christ, Author of the new and living way (10:19-13:19)\*\*
7. The Benediction (13:20-25)

\*5 pauses to warn and exhort

(2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11- 6:20; 10:26-39; 12:25-29)

# We Have a Great High Priest!

- ▶ Our great high priest is introduced (4:14-16)
- ▶ Aaron – the high priest of the order of Levi (5:1-4)
  - Taken from among men – a sinner mediates for sinners
  - Things pertaining to God – gifts and sacrifices for sins
  - Called by God
- ▶ Christ – the high priest of the order of Melchizedek (5:5-10)
  - Son of God – learned obedience in the days of His flesh
  - The source of eternal salvation
  - Appointed by God forever

# A Lesson from History (7:1-10)

- ▶ Melchizedek – Genesis 14:18-20
  - King of peace
  - King of righteousness
  - Without father or mother – no genealogy
  - Without birth or death – perpetual priesthood
  - Bread and wine (not mentioned in Hebrews)
- ▶ Superiority over Abraham
  - Blessed Abraham
  - Received tithe from Abraham

# A Perfect High Priest (7:11-28)

- ▶ Perfection provided by a perfect High Priest (7:11, 28)
- ▶ Outside of the Law of Moses – genetically disqualified
- ▶ Eternal order of Melchizedek (7:16-17, 24-25)
- ▶ The oath of God (the Father)
  - Promise (6:13-18)
  - Priesthood (7:21)
- ▶ A holy, sinless High Priest (7:26-27)
  - The Son of God, made perfect forever
  - Offered one sacrifice for the sins of the people
- ▶ The guarantee of a better covenant (7:22)

# The Better Covenant (8:1-10:18)

- ▶ The Better Covenant (8)
  - The Need for a Better Covenant (8:1-7)
  - The Better Covenant (8:8-13)
- ▶ Regulations of Divine Worship (9:1-10:18)

# Anticipating a Better Covenant (8:1-7)

- ▶ We have “such a high priest” (8:1-3)
  - “A Son, made perfect forever” (7:28)
  - Sitting at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high
- ▶ The King and the High Priest
- ▶ A heavenly ministry (8:2)
- ▶ A faulty covenant (8:7)
  - Weak and useless (7:18)
  - Enacted on lesser promises (8:6)
  - Contingent promises (Lev 18:5; Deut 28): “do and live”
  - Defective people (8:8)
  - Limited by design



# What is the Value of the Mosaic Law?

- ▶ Show requirement for the blessing of God (Ex 19:5-8)
- ▶ Knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20; 7:7; Gal 3:19)
- ▶ Schoolmaster (Gal 3:17)
- ▶ Temporary role (Gal 3:19-25)

# The New Covenant (8:8-13)

- ▶ A promise or unilateral agreement
- ▶ God's Laws in mind and heart
- ▶ Become the people of God
- ▶ Knowledge of God
- ▶ Forgiveness of sins
- ▶ Salvation

# The Better Covenant

- ▶ No perfection in the Old Covenant (7:11, 19)
- ▶ Salvation not offered in the Old Covenant
- ▶ Human obligation v. Sovereign grace
- ▶ Justification by faith v. reward for obedience

# What is New about the New Covenant?

- ▶ A new covenant with houses of Judah and Israel
- ▶ Replacement of the Old Covenant with the nation Israel

# Is the New Covenant only for Israel?

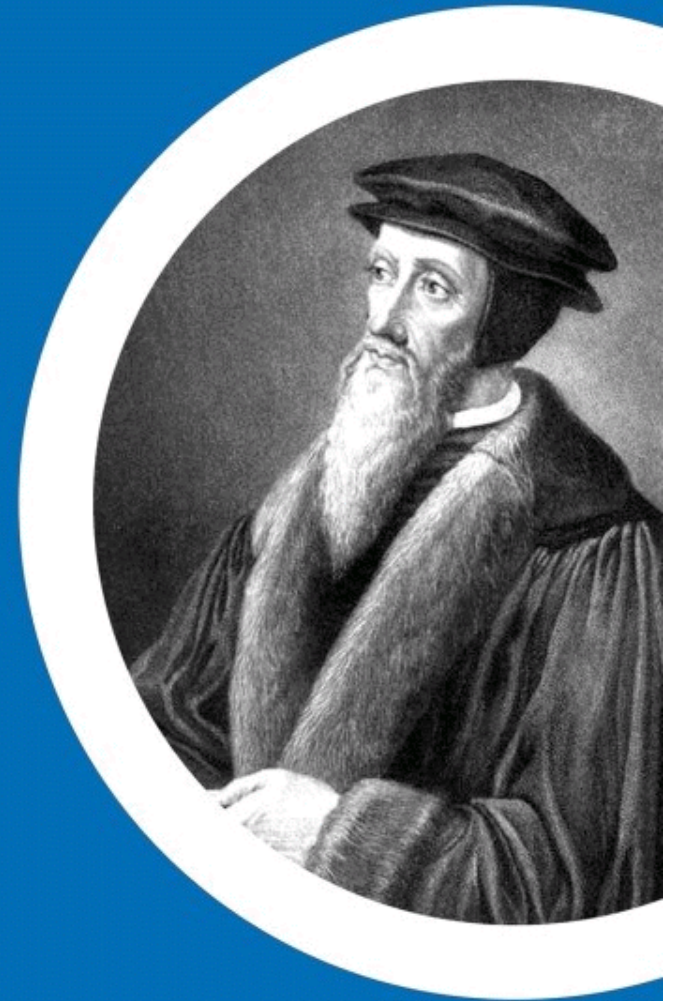
- ▶ Hebrews 13:20-21 – the blood of the everlasting covenant
- ▶ 1 Cor 11:23-26 – We remember the New Covenant sacrifice
- ▶ John 3:14-17 – salvation by faith in Christ as Savior
- ▶ Romans 11:11-15 – blessing to the Gentiles through Israel
- ▶ The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:3) is the New Covenant!

# When did the New Covenant Begin?

- ▶ For the whole nation Israel – at the end of the age
- ▶ For individual Jews and Gentiles – at the fall
- ▶ Secured by the death and resurrection of Christ
- ▶ The Everlasting Covenant (Hebrews 13:20-21)
- ▶ Justification by faith begins with Abel (Hebrews 11:4)
- ▶ Retro-active – Rom 3:24-26
- ▶ John Calvin: What about the fathers?

We also see that the promises were then obscure and intricate, so that they shone only like the moon and stars in comparison with the clear light of the Gospel which shines brightly on us . . . There is yet no reason why God should not have extended the grace of the new covenant to the fathers. This is the true solution of the question.

JOHN CALVIN



# What is the Place of the Old Covenant?

- ▶ Obsolete – ready to disappear (8:13)
- ▶ What about the 10 Commandments?
- ▶ Do we sin that grace may abound?
- ▶ “Solid food” is “the word of righteousness” (5:13-14)
- ▶ The ministry of the Holy Spirit is increased



# The New (Better) Covenant

- ▶ The Old Covenant does not bring salvation
- ▶ The New Covenant is God's promise of salvation
  - A High Priest on earth and in heaven
  - A ministry to bring us to God
  - A single perfect sacrifice
  - An eternal High Priest – the Son of God
- ▶ “How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3)