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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Hebrews 8.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Hebrews 8.

Topics.

- We have a High Priest, seated at the throne of the Majesty in heaven.
- The Tabernacle Moses was to make to the pattern shown on Mount Sinai.
- The six branched candle stand and the table of shewbread.
- The Most Holy Place.
- Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old.
- I will write my laws upon their minds and hearts and be their God.
- The old is becoming obsolete and ready to vanish away.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter the author spoke of Abraham giving a tithe to Melchizedek who resembles the Son of God and continues a priest forever. He talked of Levi paying tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham, of a priest arising in the likeness of Melchizedek and of a better hope, by which we draw near to God. He said, Jesus the Son who God has made Priest and King forever after the order of Melchizedek is the guarantor of a better covenant and able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: this letter is written to Hebrews who had been enlightened, endured sufferings, been publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, stood alongside others who were persecuted, had compassion on those in prison and joyfully accepted others plundering their property (probably the Romans) knowing they had an eternal possession (Heb. 10:31-36).

It appears they had a faith in Christ, but were still bound by the Levitical priesthood and the Jewish religious system and because of this the author brilliantly uses Moses Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place and Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the only High Priest anyone needs and that it is by faith in Christ and God's grace not religious works that God's people are counted righteous.

The blessing of this letter is not limited to the Hebrews since everyone who is seeking God or who is a brother or sister of Christ will be overwhelmingly awed as they read this well-crafted and awe-inspiring letter as it beautifully progresses through the chapters proving Jesus is the Christ (probably written about A.D. 68).

We have a High Priest, Seated at the Throne of the Majesty in Heaven.

Hebrews 8:1-5 ----- ¹Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the LORD set up, not man. ³For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

The right hand was regarded as the place of principal honour. When it is stated that Christ is at the right hand of God, the meaning is, that he is exalted to the highest honour in the universe he is near to God in his affection and love and is raised to the most elevated position in heaven.

Jesus is infinitely above all other priests in one grand respect he exercises his priesthood in heaven not in the earthly Holiest Place.

When the Levitical high priests entered the Holiest Place once a year they only stood for a brief space before the symbol of God's throne; but Jesus sits on the throne of the 'Divine Majesty' in heaven itself, and this for ever.

Christ, the High Priest seated in the heavenly Sanctuary not only supersedes the entire Levitical Priesthood, but also renders it obsolete (Heb. 10:11-12). Those who would desire to enter into the Most Holy Place of God can no longer enter through a human priest no matter how religious or holy he may appear to be, all must enter in and through Christ fully depending upon his righteousness as their covering and being fully assured that whoever goes before God in the beloved will be accepted and welcomed by God.

THE FOCUS: the author does not recap or summarize what he has previously said, but enters in this chapter on a new topic relating to the priesthood of Christ. He is telling his Hebrew audience that of all the things he has previously spoken this is the sum the principal thing, the chief matter, the most important point referring to what he is about to say of them. Instead of going over what he has previously proven he begins a more important point, namely, that the priesthood of Christ is performed in heaven and that Christ has entered into the true Tabernacle there.

In the previous chapters the author showed the Hebrews that their Jewish High Priests were inferior in rank to the priest that was to come after the order Melchizedek since those priests were mortal, frail and dying, and therefore the office of their priesthood was constantly changing from one priest to another, whereas the priesthood of Christ is permanent and eternal.

He now begins to show the Hebrews that the sum of all he has spoken and the crowning truth is that we have a High Priest who sympathizes and is sinless, unchangeable, divine and mighty to save.

The author does this by highlighting two majestic truths: -

1. The real nature of the priesthood itself which were the sacrifices that were offered were the principal thing the head, the most important matter since they were types and shadows of better things to come.
2. The Excellency of Christ's priesthood, beyond the Levitical priesthood, who having finished his sacrificial offering is seated at the right hand of the Majesty of God. This theme continues through (Heb. 8:1) (Heb. 9:1) (Heb. 10:1) and through (Hebrews chapter 8 to 10).

Moses was to make the Tabernacle to the Pattern shown on Mount Sinai.

In this chapter the author transcends our mind from this temporal and mortal world to rise above and beyond into a spiritual world of glory and breath-taking wonder, but before we can spiritually and mentally ascend into the heavens we need to have some understanding of the tent that man set up and the Holy Place.

In the Old Testament God commanded Moses to build a tent which the twelve tribes could pull down and take with them as they travelled through the wilderness. This tent was called the Tabernacle of Moses it was not a tent as we think of tents today except in that it was mobile. This is because from the outside this Tabernacle had no beauty, but as one moved further and deeper into it, the glory wonder and beauty increased beyond what the human mind could ever imagine to find in a wilderness and in a desert place.

THE OUTER COURT AND THE ALTAR: the Tabernacle had an outer court which was bound by a wall made of animal skins, into this court the common people entered with their sacrifices and the priest would offer them on the Altar.

- The Outer Court symbolised the world.
- The Altar symbolised the sinner going before Christ in repentance.

THE HOLY OF HOLIES: within this court was a room called the Holy of Holies in here was the Manora (a candle stand with six branches connected to the one main stem and the Table of Shewbread. Only the priests could enter behind the veil and into the Holy of Holies.

The Six Branched Candle Stand and the Table of Shewbread symbolised: -

- The light of God and the churches.
- Sinful man connected to the light of Christ.
- The churches connected to Christ reflecting the light and glory of God.
- The unity of Christ and his church.
- The body of Christ given as spiritual light to sustain and keep those who have entered into the Holy of Holies.

The Candlestand was opposite the bread shining its light upon it since there were no windows in the Holy of Holies which meant without the light of the Candlestand the Bread (symbolising Christ) was in absolute darkness, thus the Candlestand and the bread symbolised the Spirit of Christ flowing through the faithful church and reflecting the light and glory of Christ to those who dwell in darkness.

The Holy of Holies being in complete darkness without the light of the Candlestand is a perfect picture of two things: -

1. The world without the light of Christ and the light of the church.
2. Of every believer being in total darkness without being in union and fellowship with Christ (i.e., connected to the main stem of the Candlestand as the six branches were).

THE MOST HOLY PLACE: beyond this room was another room separated by a veil called the Most Holy Place here the Ark of the Covenant was placed and here dwelt the presence of God, only the high priest could enter this Most Holy Place.

The Most Holy Place symbolised the following: -

- As the High Priest of the Old Covenant (despite his human limitations) was fully assured that providing he was wholly clothed in the holy garments of his priesthood God would welcome and favour him as he entered the Most Holy Place and the full glory and presence of God. Likewise those who God has clothed with the royal crown and robes of Christ's righteous enter with boldness and full confidence knowing that despite their human weaknesses they will be welcomed and safe.
- Believers clothed in the righteousness of Christ wholly entering into the full glory and presence of God without any fear despite sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within since their holy and righteous standing before God, is based on faith and God's grace and not on self-effort or strict adherence to religious rites, customs and traditions.

I am sure whoever is reading this has already seen many more symbolisms, but there are I expect hundreds to be found in the Tabernacle since God said to Moses: -

- Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it and see that you make them after the pattern, which is being shown you on the mountain (Exodus 25:8, 40).

God made it very clear to Moses during his forty-days on Mount Sinai that he was to have Israel build the Tabernacle exactly as God had instructed him, even to the smallest detail. Now with this understanding we read here in this chapter that the Tabernacle and the priesthood was a shadow and pattern of God's eternal Tabernacle in heaven how exciting and stunning is this, God has given us a picture of heaven in the Tabernacle that Moses built on earth.

From this we can conclude: the Tabernacle on earth had an outer court where all the people of Israel could come and offer their blood sacrifices to the priest to be forgiven of God and set free from guilt. Likewise all the people of the world can enter this outer court and offer their repentance before God's eternal High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ and be forgiven and set free from guilt.

Only priests could enter the Holy of Holies on earth with the six branched candlestick and the shewbread, likewise only those in Christ can enter in union with God and the Lord Jesus Christ into his faithful church, his Kingdom and his eternal family. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle on earth. Likewise the mind and heart is only able to enter wholly and fully into spiritual and heavenly places while dwelling here on earth when those who believe surrender their life, mind and heart wholly to God as Joshua and Caleb did (Numbers 32:12).

NOTE.

Having one's life, mind and heart wholly surrendered to God does not mean a brother or sister has to be in full time ministry. I have known some mothers who were devoted to their husband and their children's wellbeing who were more fully surrendered to God in their hearts and minds than some men I knew who were in the ministry.

Having one's life, mind and heart wholly surrendered to God is about who is seated on the throne of the mind and the heart, (i.e., Christ or self, ego and pride etc.). Naturally this will be manifested outwardly in integrity or lack of it and in how we treat other people especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Shadows and types: there are of course many more symbolisms, types and shadows within the Tabernacle of Moses I have only highlighted the obvious ones. These are many more pearls and treasures to be hunted out for those who enjoy this kind of study, but it should always be remembered that though this maybe an exciting adventure for some it is not important to find these gems to be saved to eternal life or to be in spiritual fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A few other symbolisms, shadows and types: the Tabernacle was mobile; it had no beauty on the outside; it was in the midst of a desert and erected in a wilderness. In these we see that the glory and splendour of God can be found in desert places and within vessels that the world considers have no beauty. God's church is not limited to established buildings, but is mobile in the hearts of all who believe and that the Lord will carry his brothers and sisters as God did Joshua and Caleb through times of spiritual wilderness.

Christ has a Ministry that is as Much More Excellent than the Old

Hebrews 8:6-7 ----- ⁶But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

The first Covenant was between Israel and God. God gave Israel the choice of life or death, blessings or the cursing, briefly the Covenant consisted of the following four sections: -

1. Prior to Israel crossing the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land all Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) where the LORD said through Moses, "If Israel obeys my voice and keep my covenant, they will be my treasured possession among all people of the earth and would be to Him be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

2. If Israel do not obey the LORD and do his commandments then plagues of all sorts would come down throughout all their land until all their towns were destroyed.
3. If Israel returned to the covenant the LORD God would show compassion and gather them back where He had scattered them and cause Israel to love the LORD with all their mind and heart and bring them back into their land and make their nation abundantly more prosperous than it was under David and Solomon.
4. After hearing these words God spoke to Israel through Moses all the elders of Israel with the people stood together at Sinai and agreed to this covenant saying, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:5-8) (Deut. 28:1-68) (the blessings and curses are listed in (Deut. 28)).

Israel committed gross wickedness and worshipped and served other gods so God fulfilled the promise of the covenant and used Babylon as his servant to destroy Jerusalem, bring Israel's towns to ruin and take the people into captivity for seventy-years.

The Old Testament Covenant embraced the following laws, the Ten Commandments; the Judgements; rules and laws for the nation including the feasts; the sacrifices and the offerings these were all written in a book called the Book of Law (Deut. 30:10).

God took Israel by the Hand and Lead them out of Israel.

Hebrews 8:8-9 ----- ⁸For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord (cited from Jeremiah 31:31-32).

God had told Israel through Jeremiah that he will make a New Covenant with the nation of Israel, but not like the one he made with them at Mount Sinai when he lead them by the hand out of Egypt which they broke even though the LORD was their husband (Jer. 31:31-32). Here God is pictured as a loving Father holding the hand of his small and helpless child and leading them out of a life of bondage and slavery (Egypt) to a life of security and safety (had Israel remained faithful this is the life they would have inherited).

The picture today of course is of God through Christ taking hold of the hand of the sinner and delivered them from the domain of darkness and transferring them into to the Kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13) and leading them through the struggles and hardships of life and onto eternal life and everlasting glory.

NOTE: God the heavenly Father will never let go of our hand, but we can let go of his by acting as Israel did in turning against God to worship and serve other gods. Should any brother or sister turn against Christ and deliberately and consciously deny him and side with the unbelieving world they obviously will separate themselves from the hand of God since it is Jesus who places our hand into the welcoming and loving hand of God.

I will write my Laws upon their Minds and Hearts and be their God.

Hebrews 8:10 ----- ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The author of Hebrews is quoting the following words of Jeremiah: -

- This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jer. 31:33).
- After those days; refers, to the days after the Old Covenant.

- I will write it on their hearts, refers to the death and resurrection of Christ.
- I will be their God, and they shall be my people has not yet been fulfilled.

The New Covenant is the covenant of grace as opposed to law it began with the death and resurrection of Christ. This is why the Scriptures talk of the New Covenant being made in blood the Old was with the blood of animals (i.e., an innocent life being taken for the guilty) the New Covenant with the blood of the Son of God.

The New Covenant began with the death and resurrection of Christ an ultimately climaxes in his return as the King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

I will write My Laws upon their Minds and Hearts.

God accomplished the words, "I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (v10) by the death and resurrection of Christ. The blood shed by animals on behalf of the guilty had no impact on the human heart, but who can stand without being deeply touched when they perceive the love of God displayed through His Son who offered his life to be slain as a Lamb to the slaughter to save us from our sins. It is through this love that God writes his laws on the human heart.

This love transforms the human heart in such a manner that the passion of those whose hearts are filled with this love is to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Old is becoming Obsolete and ready to Vanish Away.

Hebrews 8:11-13 ----- ¹¹And they shall not teach, each one his neighbour and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹²For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." ¹³In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

God spoke these verses thousands of years ago through Jeremiah saying: -

- No longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31:34)

But when God was originally speaking through Jeremiah He didn't stop at these words, but continued saying: -

- If the fixed order of the moon, the stars and the sea departs from before me then the offspring of Israel will cease from being a nation forever.

Then the LORD goes onto say: -

- The days are coming when the city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt and it shall not be uprooted or overthrown anymore forever declares the LORD. (Jer. 31:35-40).

The Wonder, Splendour and Glory of Bible Prophecy.

When Jeremiah spoke these words they were prophetic words of encouragement for the house of Israel during their seventy-years in captivity to Babylon. God foresaw Israel would rebel against the Covenant they had made with Him at the foot of Mount Sinai and being God and true to the Covenant He used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant to complete the curses of the Covenant that Israel had entered into. The people of Israel while in captivity were fully aware that their beloved city Jerusalem was in ruins and that their towns were being possessed by their enemies. These prophetic words of Jeremiah gave them enormous comfort.

Now the author of Hebrews thousands of years later picks up on these words of Jeremiah and applies them to the New Covenant this is because on that glorious day when the Lord returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to deliver the city of Jerusalem from destruction and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace the LORD will: -

- Give salvation to Israel and glory to Jerusalem. On that *Day* the Angel of the LORD will protect Jerusalem and destroy all the nations that come against the city. On that *Day* God will pour out on Israel a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Christ who they pierced, they will mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that *Day* the weeping of each family of Israel will be heard throughout the land (Zech. 12:7-14).

Based on these verses some religious teachers have thought that there are two kingdoms within the Kingdom of Christ, but this is not so. Paul in his teachings brilliantly shows how God is building an entirely new temple and New Nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.

Every brother and sister in Christ no matter whether they are born a direct descendant of Abraham or of Levi (the priesthood) or a Hebrew or Jew or are born of any other nation outside of Israel no brother or sister has any advantage over anyone else in regards to being saved to eternal life and everlasting glory all together form one family and one new creature and one new nation in Christ.

Added to this glory are two other majestic truths: -

1. All the promises made to Abraham and Israel are in Christ.
2. Whoever belongs to Christ has become an adopted son or daughter of God and therefore they are heirs to all the promises made to Abraham and Israel since they are now brothers and sisters of Christ in the family of God.

When Christ returns there will be only One Nation of kings and priests acting as the government of this New World Order with the King of peace to establish God's Kingdom on earth during Christ's millennial reign.

The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, Joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

An Overview of this Chapter.

- All the services of the priest, under the law, as well as everything in the earthly Tabernacle which was framed according to the pattern were all types and shadows of heavenly things.
- The true Tabernacle that God hath pitched and not man is the body of Christ of which Christ is the foundation and the Head and we are the bricks and mortar.
- In Christ we have such a High Priest as no other age of the world or of the church ever had all others were but types and shadows of Christ our High Priest.
- Whatever was brought by the people to be presented to God had to be offered by a priest, he would atone for their guilt by the blood of the sacrifice and perfumed it by his holy incense to render them acceptable. Likewise Christ offered himself upon the altar as the great atoning sacrifice and as incense perfumes us with his own righteousness to render us acceptable to God.
- Christ is the end of the law for righteousness therefore there must be in Christ's priesthood something that answers to the high priest's entering behind the veil to make intercession on behalf of the people, and that is his ascension into heaven and his appearance there in the sight of God to intercede for his people.
- All must approach God in and through Christ depending not upon their own works, but upon Christ's righteousness for it is only in the beloved that any are accepted of God.
- The Almighty God creator and source of all life the Majesty in Heaven, is seated upon a Royal Throne in heaven that is over the entire universe and seated on the right hand of this Throne is the Lord Jesus Christ our eternal and perfect High Priest who by his power will bring every brother and sister to the right hand of God's throne as family members of his spiritual body that where he is they may be also.

End