**A New Way to Heaven!**

**Hebrews 7 and 8**

**1 John 5:13** *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life***.**

There are only **three possible ways** for a man to be saved and allowed to enter Heaven when he dies?

* It’s either automatic, earned or free. If salvation is automatic that means everyone gets to go to heaven. This is known as universalism.
* If salvation is earned, then all you have to do is join a church, live a good, decent and moral life by obeying God perfectly, and you will be saved.
* If salvation is free, then all you have to do is repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. If salvation is truly free then eternal life is a gift from God based on faith alone.

In **chapter 7**, you will see that the **main point** is that the Law could not, and was never meant to, save mankind. Why? Because you cannot **earn** your way to heaven. It’s impossible.

**Romans 3:23** **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**. There is no one righteous. No one who does good. Not even one.

There are several covenants in the Bible that you should be familiar with.

A covenant is essentially a **promise** on the part of God. Some of his promises were **conditional**, that is, if you do this, then I promise to do this. On the other hand, some of his promises, as we shall see with the New Covenant, were **unconditional**, that is, they were **unilateral promises** by God that He was going to do certain things no matter what we do.

* In the Noahic Covenant, God promised never to destroy the world again by a flood. This was an **unconditional** promise on the part of God.
* In the Abrahamic Covenant, God promised to bless the nations of the world through the SEED (singular) of Abraham. This too was an **unconditional** promise. And Jesus was the Promised Seed and his lineage can be traced all the way back to Abraham.
* In the Mosaic Covenant, God promised to bless Israel **IF** they walked in obedience to Him. This was a **conditional** promise. If Israel obeyed God then He would bless them. However, if they disobeyed, which they often did, then they would come under God’s judgment. And they did.
* In the Davidic Covenant, God made a [promised to David](https://www.gotquestions.org/Davidic-covenant.html) that he would a descendant would come from his line who would sit on his throne forever ([2 Samuel 7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Sam%207)). Jesus came from the line of David, and now Jesus is sitting on the Throne of Heaven where He will reign forever.
* The New Covenant, which God ANNOUNED through both **Jeremiah** and **Ezekiel** 600 hundred years before Pentecost, was and still is the best promise ever made by God (Hebrews 8).

**HEBREWS 7**

The old priesthood and the Law were never intended to bring us to God. Why? Because you can’t come to God through an ordinary man who will die one day. And as I’ve already said, no one who has ever lived can obey the Ten Commandments. So why the Law? It was given to us to drive us to Jesus and the cross.

**Galatians 3:23-24** says,

*Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith*. *Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law*.

What was the point of the Aaronic priesthood? It pointed to the ONE High Priest who would be very different from all the others.

* He would be the One without sin—perfect in every way.
* He would be the One who would open up the doorway to Heaven so that we might draw near to God in a personal relationship.
* He would be the One who would rise from the dead and live forever.

Who was this man? His name is Jesus—the name that is above every name!

1. Jesus WAS entirely different.
* Jesus came not from the line of Aaron, but from the line of Judah in the order of Melchizedek. Thus, He is a Royal Priest.
* Jesus did not become a High Priest due to some regulation that said the High Priest must come from the tribe of Levi. Jesus became a High Priest by **the oath** of God.

**Hebrews 6:18** says,

*God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which is it impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek*.

**Verse 17** is the most important verse in this chapter.

For is it declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

* With Jesus comes a better hope by which we can draw near to God.
* With Jesus we have someone who guarantees our salvation through a new and better covenant.
* With Jesus we have someone who is able to forgive all our sins, past, present and future. That forgiveness is total. It is fully complete and it is eternal. And when God forgives a man, He remembers his sins no more.
* With Jesus, we have someone who can meet all of our needs because he became one of us. He understands us. He sympathizes with us and He is merciful and gracious towards us.

The Tabernacle!—Everything about the Tabernacle points to Christ.

* The lampstand was a type of Christ who is the Light of the world.
* The table of showbread symbolized Jesus as the Bread of life.
* The golden altar at which the High Priest offered prayer pointed to Christ as our Great Intercessor.

On the Day of Atonement, which came just once a year, the High Priest passed through the separating veil to the inner compartment, the Holy of Holies, in which were two pieces of furniture:

* The Ark of the Covenant which was a box of wood, covered with gold, inside and outside, in which were the Ten Commandments written on tables of stone, a piece of manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded.
1. Jesus came to fulfill those Ten Commandments and He is the only One who ever kept them perfectly.
2. The manna was there to remind the Israelites that Jesus is the Bread of life.
3. Aaron’s rod that remained forever budded, that is, flowering, points to the resurrection.
* The Ark was covered with a highly ornamented top called the Mercy Seat. Crowning it were two cherubim of beaten gold.
* Once a year the high priest passed through the veil to pour blood on that mercy seat, and that is what made it a seat of mercy. Beforehand, whenever God looked down upon the Ark, He saw those Commandments, and it reminded Him that we are all sinners. However, on the Day of Atonement, God looked down upon that Mercy Seat and all He saw was the blood.
* This Holy of Holies was God’s dwelling place; that is, the place where God met with the children of Israel.[[1]](#endnote-1)

On the day Jesus died on the cross, the Bible says, “And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

**HEBREWS 8**

The first covenant, the Mosaic covenant, became obsolete, useless, not because the Law was bad, but because we are. The Old Covenant was imperfect because it required obedience from sinful, stiff-necked, disobedient people. And aren’t we all?

 All you have to do is look at our nation to see how truly sinful we have become.

**Roman s 3:12-18** stands as an indictment against our nation:

*All have turned away, they have become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

 What does God promise through this New Covenant? This covenant was made with Israel; however, it also applies to Gentiles. How do we know this? Because this New Covenant ultimately refers to the entire **New Testament**. And Paul, who wrote most of the NT, was the missionary commissioned by God to bring Good News to the Gentiles. That is why we are all sitting here tonight. We are also included in this New Covenant.

 What does God promise? **Five promises:**

1. To write His laws on our hearts. How does He do this? By sending His Spirit to indwell us. This is what happened at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came an indwelt man for the first time ever.
2. When the Holy Spirit indwells a man, that man becomes a New Creation.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** says,

“*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come*!”

1. When the Holy Spirit indwells a man for the first time, all of his sins are wiped away. And God remembers them no more.
2. When the Holy Spirit indwells a man, that man comes **to know God personally**. Then, and only then, can a man truly call God, “Abba, Father!”

Paul writes in **Romans 8:15**,

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children*.”

 When the Holy Spirit indwells you, you become a son of God and God becomes your heavenly Daddy.

1. When the Holy Spirit indwells a man, He imparts to that man eternal life (John 3:16)
1. J. Vernon McGee, Hebrews Chapters 8-13 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), 17-18. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)