**Lesson Eight**

[**Hebrews 8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8&t=NKJV)

We are to [Hebrews 8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8&t=NKJV); [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+9&t=NKJV); [10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10&t=NKJV), in the midst of a long discussion of the **Old Testament Levitical Priesthood** *as compared to* our present **New Testament Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek**.

Before we continue with the discussion of the Priests, **let's pause to remember what Hebrews is all about.**

**The book of Hebrews is about the return of Christ, His second coming to establish His righteous rule over the earth.**

He is to reign with those who have lived their lives during this present age by faith and obedience, with their hope fixed on the goal and the prize of reigning as co-heirs with Christ for 1,000 years.

Hebrews *contains admonitions* (*do this*) and *warnings* (*don't do this*) which, if heeded, will assure that we will gain reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**The reward to be gained is being closen to reign as a coheir with Christ over His Millennial Kingdom.**

*The admonitions and warnings are drawn from the experiences of the House of Moses who failed to attain to their calling to enter their* ***earthly Promised Land.***

*Each one of us must learn from their mistakes lest we suffer loss at the Judgment Seat and fail to attain to* ***our Heavenly calling***.

In the way of review, **let's read the verses that give us warning and instructions**:

[Hebrews 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1-3&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV), [12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.12-14&t=NKJV); [4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.1&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 4:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.9-11&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 6:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.4-6&t=NKJV),[11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.11-12&t=NKJV).

[Hebrews 4:15-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.15-16&t=NKJV) begins our discussion about the importance of understanding about our High Priest as we pursue our Heavenly calling.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

[Hebrews 5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+5&t=NKJV) In this chapter we learn that Jesus, in the days of His flesh, learned obedience from the things He suffered. He said, "*not my will but thine be done*"….even to the point of death on the cross. **Denying Himself in this way** to the ultimate extreme of death equips Him perfectly as our High Priest to assist us in **denying ourselves and doing the will of God**. In this way He becomes to all who obey Him the source of **age lasting (aionian) salvation** ([Hebrews 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+5.9&t=NKJV)). **Note: This aspect of salvation refers to the "reward of the inheritance"** -- not the freely given initial salvation and justification.

[Hebrews 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6&t=NKJV) In this chapter the writer begins 'catching the Hebrews up to speed' on the Meat of the Word….concerning things of His second coming.

These believers are diligent in loving God and ministering to the saints, but the writer "**desires that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who by faith and patience inherit the promises**."

[Hebrews 7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+7&t=NKJV) In order that the reader may have a full understanding of Christ Jesus in His present priestly rule, after the order of Melchizedek, the writer of Hebrews launches into a major teaching of the mysterious **Old Testament King-Priest Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ in His High Priest Office**.

We also learn **this New High Priest** brings with Him **a New Covenant** which is far superior to the Old Covenant with its Levitical Priests.

[**Hebrews 8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8&t=NKJV)

In [Hebrews 7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+7&t=NKJV) we learned much about our heavenly Priest, after the order of Melchizedek.

[Hebrews 8:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8.1-2&t=NKJV) Read

These two verses summarize by telling us we do have such a Heavenly Priest Who ministers in a Heavenly Sanctuary (Heavenly Tabernacle). Our heavenly Priest, Christ Jesus, has taken His seat on the throne at the right hand of the Majestic God in heaven.

[Hebrews 8:3-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8.3-6&t=NKJV) Read

Levitical High Priests serve in an earthly Tabernacle which is merely a shadow of the Heavenly Tabernacle. Since each High Priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices, it is necessary that our Heavenly Priest also have something to offer. And indeed He does since now "He has obtained a 'more excellent' ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted on better promises." A new covenant was necessary because of the failure of Israel's first covenant.

[Hebrews 8:7-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8.7-13&t=NKJV) Read

As a result of Israel's failures, The Lord spoke through Jeremiah saying in coming days a New Covenant would be established with the House of Israel and the House of Judah ([Jeremiah 31:31-34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+31.31-34&t=NKJV)). The Old Covenant had no remedy for Israel's sinfulness.

The "better promises" of the New Covenant are:

a) An inner inclination to obey (God will put His laws in their minds and write them on their hearts).

b) A firm relationship with God (I will be their God and they will be my people).

c) A personal relationship with God (They will all know Me).

d) The forgiveness of sins (I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more).

It is clear that all these benefits belong to all the regenerated of every age since the Cross.

**Though the New Covenant is specifically focused on Israel in** [**Jeremiah 31:31-34**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+31.31-34&t=NKJV)**, it is clear that Christians of the present time also stand under the blessings:**

[Luke 22:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+22.2&t=NKJV) And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "*This cup which is poured out for you is the* ***New Covenant in My blood***."

[2 Corinthians 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+3.6&t=NKJV) Our adequacy is from God, Who made us adequate as servants of a New Covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit for **the letter kills but the Spirit gives life**.

[Hebrews 8:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+8.13&t=NKJV) Then He said, "*A New Covenant,*" *He has made the first obsolete, but whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

(Levitical rituals are out of date, obsolete and will soon disappear. They are replaced by New Covenant promises. Apparently the Levitical ceremony was about to cease at the time Hebrews was written.)