

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

THE SON, GOD'S FINAL WORD TO MAN

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews was written primarily to Jewish Christians; man of whom continued to mix Jewish customs and temple ceremonies with Christianity.**
- B. There was the danger of some returning to the temple system of worship which continued to be practiced by the unconverted Jews. The time of this writing was about 64 A.D. The temple was not destroyed until 70 A.D.**
- C. The key word in the Book of Hebrews is "better." When God spoke to man through His Son, Jesus Christ, He gave man all that he needed; thus Jesus is better than any and all of the other ways and means through which God spoke to man.**
- D. It is of interest that the book of Hebrews begins much like the book of Genesis. God is in the beginning of all that is right.**
- E. God never argues His existence. He simply speaks and acts and then declares, "The fool has said in his heart "There is no God."**

I. THAT WHICH IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN THIS STUDY IS; GOD HAS SPOKEN.

- A. Verses 1 and 2 combine to declare this truth. Verse 1 begins with the name GOD; then verse 2 adds "Hath" and "spoken."**
- B. The Book of Hebrews is included in this statement; but so is the remainder of the Bible, God written Word.**
- C. Paul in an earlier letter wrote "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."**
- D. God has spoken and what He has said is called the Bible. The Bible reveals God speaking to man.**

II. GOD SPOKE AT SUNDRY TIMES (VARIOUS TIMES)

- A. In the past, God spoke to Adam; He spoke to Cain; He spoke to Noah and to Jonah and to Abraham, and to Moses and to many, many more.**
- B. Our lesson Text declares that in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son -- In His birth; in His youth; in His earthly life; in**

His death, burial and resurrection; an now in the Book of Hebrews.

III. GOD SPOKE IN DIVERS WAYS (Various ways).

- A. He spoke with many Bible characters one on one. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and multitudes more.**
- B. Romans 1:20 reveals that God spoke through His creation.**
- C. Verse 1 declares that God spoke through the prophets.**
- D. Verse 2 declares that in these last days God has spoken to us by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

IV. SPEAKING BY HIS SON IS THE BETTER WAY:

- A. Because He has appointed His Son as Heir of all things.**
- B. Because all things were made by Him.**
- C. Because all things are held together by Him.**
- D. Because the Son is the brightness of the glory of God.**
- E. Because the Son is the express image of the Father.**
- F. Because the Son has purged us from our sins.**
- G. Because the Son has sat down on the right hand of the Father on high.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Although this was written primarily to Jewish Christians, it also is meant for Christians in every age.**
- B. We should all accept these lessons as our own and be encouraged and challenged by them.**

CHRIST IS BETTER THAN ANGELS

Scripture: Hebrews 1:4-14

Introduction:

- A. The key word for Hebrews is “better.” Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is God’s final message to man. The primary purpose for writing this letter was to prove that Jesus Christ is better than all that came before Him.**
- B. The time of the writing this letter was about A.D. 64. This was about 30 years after Jesus had ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven. It was about 6 years before God sent the Roman General Titus to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem.**
- C. This letter was written to Jewish Christians – people who had been reared to reverence the temple and all of its ceremonies which pictured the gospel message – how that the Lamb of God would die for the sin of the world and would be buried and would rise again the third day for our justification.**
- D. These were people who were well acquainted with Old Testament teachings – people who held Angels in high esteem.**
- E. The law and the temple ceremonies continued to influence many Christian Jews in a negative way. Many who had been saved were mixing some of the ceremonies of the law into the gospel message – such as circumcision – as requirements for salvation.**
- F. Chapter 15 of Acts reveals that some members of the Jerusalem church had gone to Antioch and preached that circumcision was necessary for salvation. The two churches held a council meeting and declared this to be false.**
- G. The Book of Galatians was written to combat this attitude and these teachings in the Lord’s churches.**
- H. Paul, himself, was somewhat caught up in this as revealed in Acts 21. This led to his being sent to Rome to defend himself against false accusations.**
- I. Now, back to the primary message of my present sermon. Angels had played a very important part in the development of the Hebrew nation as seen in the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**
- J. Evidently many of these Jewish Christians were continuing to place much importance on the ministry of angels – even to**

placing them on the same level of importance as the Lord Jesus Christ.

- K. Thus, in the beginning of this letter, Paul states very emphatically that Jesus Christ is much better than the angels.
- L. To prove his point, he calls up a number of Old Testament Scriptures.

I. BECAUSE CHRIST HAS BY INHERITANCE OBTAINED A MORE EXCELLENT NAME THAN ANGELS. Verse 5

- A. Unto which of the angels did God say at any time—Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? No angle could claim this, but --
- B. Psalm 2:7 The Lord said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
- C. And again, has God ever said to an angel -- I will be to him a Father, and he shall be my Son?

II. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDED THE ANGELS TO WORSHIP THE SON. Verse 6

- A. There is no clearly declared command in the English translations of God commanding the angels to worship the Christ, but without any doubt, Paul knew that God has so commanded it.
- B. Luke 2:9-14 records the fulfillment of God's command to His angels. When God brought forth the firstbegotten into the world, He was worshipped by the angels.

III. BECAUSE ANGELS ARE CREATED SPIRIT BEINGS AND THE CHRIST IS THE BEGOTTEN SON AND CREATOR OF ALL THINGS. Verses 7, 10, 11.

- A. Verse 7 is a direct quote of Psalm 104:4 "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire."
- B. Christ is declared to be the One who created all things. John 1:3 declares, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."
- C. The Christ made the angels and is therefore far better than the angels.

IV. BECAUSE THE SON IS GOD HIMSELF ENTHRONED FOREVER. Verses 8, 9.

- A. God said of the Son, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: thy scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.” Scepter is the rod of authority – the rule of authority – The rule of the Christ is a rule of righteousness.**
- B. God has anointed the Christ with the oil of gladness above thy fellows – above all else that exists.**

V. BECAUSE GOD HAS SET THE CHRIST ON HIS RIGHT HAND. AND ANGELS ARE MINISTERING SPIRITS. Verses 13, 14

- A. Verse 13 clearly declares that the Son, the Christ is set forth as ruling from the divine throne.**
- B. Verse 14 states as clearly that angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those over whom Christ shall rule.**
- C. Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to their work by the One who created them – that is the Christ.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. While this Scripture was sent forth primarily for the Jewish Christians of that time, they speak loudly to us in our day.**
- B. Let us accept the truth that Jesus truly is the Son of God and is seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.**
- C. We who are saved are saved for service and sent forth to tell the lost of the saving power of Jesus Christ.**
- D. Those who are yet lost need to hear the gospel message – how that Christ died for your sin according to the Scriptures and was buried and rose again the third day for your justification.**
- E. You must admit your sin to yourself and to God, and then ask Him to forgive you and then ask Him to save you.**

DIVINE EXHORTATIONS AND WARNINGS

Scripture: Hebrews 2:1-4

Introduction:

We must keep in mind that “BETTER” is the key word of this Epistle which was written to Jewish Christians.

Jesus is identified as God’s last message to man.

This message declares that Jesus has by Himself purged our sins and is now sitting on the right hand of the Father on high.

Jesus is declared to be better than the angels who are ministering spirit beings.

The writer declares that Jesus Christ did in the beginning lay the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the works of His hands.

It is also declared that all of the physical creation shall pass away and all spiritual creation shall bow before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having established all of this as true, Paul proceeds to exhort the Hebrew Christians and to warn them of the dangers of neglecting the work of the Lord.

I. GOD’S PEOPLE ARE EXHORTED TO GIVE HEED TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD. Verse 1

To give heed means to give attention to; to concern oneself with; careful attention to; to pay the greatest attention to.

We do not need anything new. God has spoken through His only begotten Son—the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message of the Son is God’s final message to man. That was clearly established on the Mount of Transfiguration where the Father declared –This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, Hear ye Him.

D. Paul exhorts his readers to give the more earnest heed to the message we have already heard – the gospel message here referred to as the “so great salvation.”

E. The message which was first spoken by the Lord Himself during His earthly ministry. V. 3

F. The message was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him – the Apostles, especially the writers of the Gospels.

G. The message to which God, according to His own will, bore witness both by signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

II. THE DANGERS OF OUR FAILURE TO GIVE HEED TO THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE HEARD.

There is the danger of letting them slip away – lest we be diverted from them – lest we drift away from them.

Our “so great salvation” can become common to us – the freshness of our salvation can become stale – the joys of our salvation can become burdens – the burden of Bible study – the burden of sharing our “so great salvation” with others – the burden of assembling of ourselves together to join in praising the Lord Jesus Christ.

Failure to give heed to the things which we have heard can cause us to neglect our so great salvation – to be careless of and to regard lightly – to ignore.

Verse 2 speaks loudly of the possible penalties of failing to give the more earnest heed to our “so great salvation.”

The Old Testament has many references of angels speaking to Abraham and to Moses and other individuals. Stephen spoke of the angel speaking to Moses on mount Sina and how the people did not obey and how God dealt with their disobedience. (Acts 7:37-42)

Paul wrote, “every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward – punishment.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Let us remember that this was written to saved people – Jewish Christians. It is as much to us today as it was to them.**
- B. Let us ask ourselves, “Is the gospel message as sweet to me as it once was?” “Have I permitted it to slip away from me? Has it become common? Am I neglecting the great salvation God gave me?”**
- C. Wisdom dictates to each of us “Rethink your salvation experience – cause it to become new again – even as it was when we were first saved.**

4

THE SON OF MAN IS BETTER THAN MAN

Scripture: Hebrews 2:5-9; Psalm 8:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 and 25-28.

Introduction:

We must remember that this letter was written to Hebrew Christians in the early part of the Church Age shortly after Jesus had ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven. The Hebrew Christians, members of different New Testament churches, primarily the Jerusalem church, were seeking to bring some law requirements into the worship services and to make circumcision necessary for salvation. They needed to understand that Jesus Christ had fulfilled the law and moved it out of the way.

Paul had led in standing against this false teaching; but it continued to be a problem.

The writings of Paul found in these verses of our Hebrew text fall into the category of which the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:10-12 and 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

But I feel that we all agree that God intends for us to learn the teachings set down in the Book of Hebrews.

Most Bible teachers agree that the Bible is its own best commentary and the best Bible teacher is the Holy Spirit.

Therefore let us look to the teachings of the Bible for the meaning of the verses of our present text and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us into the true meaning.

Remember that the primary goal in this Hebrew Letter is to prove that Jesus Christ is BETTER; better than angels and better than the prophets better than the law and in our present lesson, better than created man.

After the first four verses of the parenthetical statement beginning chapter two, Paul returns to the subject of angels being less than Jesus Christ by declaring that God has not put “the world to come” under the control of angels .

In verse five he introduces the subject of who will be in charge of “the world to come, whereof we now speak.” The world to come no doubt speaks of the coming 1,000 year reign of our Lord Jesus Christ which we call the Millennium.

Paul begins his message concerning who will be in charge of “the world to come” by asking the question – Who is man? And who is the Son of Man?

I. WHO ARE THESE, THE MAN AND THE SON OF MAN NAMED IN VERSE 6?

- A. Some say they are the same. There was a time when I thought so; but no longer.**
- B. These are two different men -- two different Adams.**
- C. Paul wrote of two Adams in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47.
 - 1. The first Adam was the man God created and named Adam. (Genesis 1:27; 2:19) The term “man” as used in this verse refers to the created man, Adam, and all his offspring.**
 - 2. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven. The “son of man” in verse 6 refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.****
- D. Verses 6 and 7 of our lesson text begin by telling us that some truths about to be revealed were declared by someone in a certain place years before. That certain place is Psalms 8:3-6 and David was the writer.**
- E. The question of our text was raised by David centuries before Jesus came to earth; This centuries old question, now repeated by the Apostle Paul is about to be answered by the Apostle Paul.**

II. WHAT ARE WE TOLD ABOUT THE TWO ADAMS?

- A. Each of the two Adams was made lower than angels for a little while; not forever, but for a little while.**
- B. Angels can not die. Both Adams were made lower than angels for a little while so they could die. Both did die.**

- C. God did set both Adams over the work of His hands and placed the world to come in subjection to them.**
- 1. The first man whom God named Adam was set over the works of God's hands "the world to come." Verses 7, 8; Genesis 1:26-28, Psalms 8:6**
 - 2. The second Adam, the Lord from heaven, was set over the works of God's hands – "the world to come." Verses 7, 8; Psalm 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:27, 28.**
- D. God did crown both the created "man and the Son of Man" with glory and honor. Vs. 7, 8; Psalm 8:5.**
- 1. In one sense, the first Adam was crowned with glory and honor when he was created and made ruler of the earth and all its creatures, but he sinned, he died spiritually, and was separated from God and his glory and honor were blighted and his rule over the earth began to be contested by the devil now referred to as the prince of the power of the air. Genesis 1:26-28**
 - 2. The second Adam came and all things were put in subjection under His feet and nothing was left out that was not put under him. His control over nature, disease, death and demon spirits gives us some insight into His glory and honor.**
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 15:27 explains that God the Father who put all things under the feet of Jesus Christ is EXCEPTED; the Father was not placed under the feet of the Son of man.**
 - 4. The second Adam, the Son of Man, came to this earth as a servant. He came not to be served, but to serve the Father even to death. He came to reclaim what the first Adam had lost.**
 - 5. But NOW we see NOT YET all things put under Him." The final crowning with honor and glory has not yet come to pass.**
 - 6. The crowning with glory and honor looks far beyond their being made lower than angels to the great millennial reign named in Revelation 20 when "man" shall rule and reign with "the son of man" over the whole of creation.**

III. WE SEE JESUS, THE SON OF MAN, CLEARLY SET APART FROM MAN AND BETTER THAN MAN.

- A. The Son of Man is now identified as JESUS.**
- B. Jesus was also made lower than angels for a little while that He might suffer death – the death on the cross.**
- C. Then Jesus was crowned with glory and honor – in that He rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven.**
- D. There, He busies Himself with interceding for all the redeemed of the ages past.**
- E. He did it all that he might “taste death” for every man.**
- F. Therefore, in that “the Son of Man” did all this for “man”; Jesus Christ is better than man.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. My people, let us all clearly see the truth that the Son of Man, Jesus, is set forth as being better than we are.**
- B. For many reasons He is better; but the one most important for each of us is that He tasted death for you and for me.**
- C. He died to pay our sin debt; but then He rose from the dead to offer each human being life eternal.**
- D. To claim the gift; admit your sinful, lost condition; ask God to forgive you and trust the saving of your soul to Jesus who has gained the victory over death and offers that victory to you.**

JESUS IS BETTER THAN MAN

Scripture: Hebrews 2:9-18

Introduction:

- A. We have seen that “man”, the first Adam, the created man and the “Son of Man”, the second Adam were both for a little time made lower than angels that they might be tested and be able to die. If they could not die, there was no testing in temptation.**
- B. We have seen that both were given dominion over the created world – even the world to come.**
- C. The first Adam, created man, failed his testing; he succumbed to the temptation, died spiritually and was separated from his Creator God.**
- D. The second Adam, the Son of Man, the Lord from heaven, took upon Himself a human body of flesh and was tested – tempted in all points as we are. He lived a perfect life; then on the cross He took the sin of the world upon Himself and died to pay our sin debt.**
- E. But, then the Son of Man proved Himself better than man by rising from the dead, victorious over death and now offers this victory to man. And He, the Son of Man, and each member of the human race who will accept that victory shall rule over the earth.**
- F. Verse 9 has introduced the name above all names, JESUS, as the Son of Man who shall accomplish God’s will.**
- G. The Scriptures now proceed to enlarge on what was involved in reclaiming this position of ruler of the world and also what it means to us in this life.**
- H. We must remember that Jesus is both God and man. Sometimes the Scriptures speak of the work of Jesus as God acting and sometimes as the Son of Man acting. This must be observed in the interpretation of verse 10.**
- I. Paul continues to prove that Jesus, the second Adam, is better than man, the first Adam and his offspring.**

I. BECAUSE THE CAPTAIN IS BETTER THAN THE TROOPS.

- A. God has purposed to bring many sons of Adam through the battles of this life on earth unto glory, unto victory over the enemy of God and all that is right – that is Satan.**
- B. To accomplish this, man must have a leader, a captain, who knows the way. One who has experienced the way.**
- C. Verse 10 --Therefore, it was becoming of God the Father to make Jesus – the Son of man – the Captain of our salvation perfect through suffering. (Testing does not make perfect, but proves what was already true.)**
- D. To accomplish this, Jesus, the Son of man, must partake of flesh and blood just as man. He would be tempted in all points as man and prove Himself as a Captain able to lead man to victory.**
- E. V. 14 tells us that Forasmuch, then as the children (man) are partakers of flesh and blood, He, the Son of Man, likewise took part of the same – not all, but a part. He did not take on the Adamic nature. Verse 16 reveals that He took on Himself the seed of Abraham.**
- F. In doing this Jesus was for a little time made lower than the angels so He could through death destroy the devil. John 12:31-33.**
- G. Also, in doing this Jesus delivered His people from the fear of death – verse 15.**

II. JESUS IS BETTER THAN MAN BECAUSE THE SANCTIFIER IS GREATER THAN THE SANCTIFIED. V. 11

- A. V. 11 Jesus the Sanctifier and man who is sanctified are of one; that is one Father, who is God the Father.**
- B. Because this is true, Jesus is not ashamed to call those who are sanctified brethren.**
- C. Verse 12 reveals that Jesus, the Son of man, will declare the Father's name unto His brethren and in the midst of a church sing praises unto the Father – there is no definite article. Jesus promised, Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be in your midst. Jesus will sing with all the redeemed in the one great assembly during the Millennium**
- D. Verse 13 reveals that Jesus put His trust in the Father AND He said, I and the children which God the Father has given**

Me put our trust in the Father. Jesus on the cross – Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit – we when we were saved.

III. JESUS IS BETTER THAN MAN BECAUSE THE HIGH PRIEST IS GREATER THAN THE PEOPLE. Vs. 17, 18

- A. An High Priest must be like the people he represents; he must possess the weaknesses of the people and experience the same temptations as the people.**
- B. Only then can He understand what the people are going through; only then will he understand the need for mercy; only then will he faithful to his duty of representing the people before God.**
- C. We as God's people, as God's saints; we who have been sanctified by Jesus the Sanctifier; We still sin.**
- D. Because we still sin, we need a High Priest to make reconciliation for our sins – that is to satisfy God the Father.**
- E. Jesus is our High Priest; He is able to succour – help – us when we are tempted.**
- F. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father. When we sin – and we do every day – and when the Father is angry at us for our sin; Jesus can satisfy the Father by reminding Him that I died, I shed my blood- to pay this man's sin debt.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. To the saved, I ask, How can you take your salvation so matter of fact and carelessly live your life as you choose with little regard to what you know God expects of you?**
- B. To the lost, I say, “There is a Savior sent from heaven to save your condemned soul. He has already paid your sin debt. His Spirit pleads with you to admit your sin, ask God the forgive you and trust Jesus to save you.”**

#6

JESUS IS BETTER THAN MOSES

Scripture: Hebrews 3:1-19

Introduction:

- A. Remember that this letter was written to Jewish Christians in a time of transition – a time when many were attempting to bring some law requirements into the gospel message of salvation.
- B. The Jewish Christians have just been reminded that Jesus Christ had been made like them so that He could be a merciful and faithful priest.
- C. Now, Paul addresses these Jewish Christians as holy brethren who are partakers of the heavenly calling.

I. HE FIRST CALLS ON THEM TO CONSIDER CHRIST JESUS,

- A. Jesus Christ is the Apostle of our profession – the One sent of God.
- B. Jesus is the High Priest of our profession – the one who represents us before God and makes reconciliation for the sins of the people.
- C. Note that Jesus Christ was faithful to God who appointed Him to this work.
- D. Paul was careful to name Moses as having been faithful in all his house – all of God's house over which God had placed him.

II. PAUL NOW CALLS ON THEM TO CONSIDER THAT CHRIST JESUS IS COUNTED WORTHY OF MORE GLORY THAN MOSES.

- A. Because He who has built the house has more honor than the house.
- B. Every house is built by some man; but God in Christ is the builder of all things
- C. Moses was faithful in all his house as a servant – that part of God's house – over which God had placed under his care.
- D. But that which Moses did served as a testimony of the things which were to be spoken after – or later. Moses in all he did served as a type of Jesus Christ and the work He would do.

- E. But Christ is the Son who is over His own house – whose house we are – you Christian Jews and me – and all who are partakers of the heavenly calling.**

III. PAUL NOW INJECTS A NEEDED WARNING TO THOSE WHO HAVE PROFESSED FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS AND ARE CONSIDERING TURNING BACK TO THE LAW.

- A. V. 6 ends with the “If WE hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” Take note that Paul included himself in this – WE.**
- B. Was Paul suggesting that these Jewish Christians had lost confidence in their earlier profession? Maybe.**
- C. Was Paul suggesting that these had lost the joy of their professed hope for eternity? Maybe.**
- D. Was Paul suggesting that these who are considering a return to the old law system might possess only a profession – not a real deliverance from the penalty of sin? Maybe.**

IV. PAUL USES A LESSON FROM THEIR HISTORY AS A NATION TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR ERROR.

- A. Paul calls up an Old Testament record as a basis of his having said “If we hold fast to the end.”**
- B. Verses 7-11 record Psalm 95:7-11.**
- C. Basically, Paul is charging these Christian Jews with acting like their forefathers who came out of Egypt. Forefathers, who hardened their own hearts, provoked God, grieved God and caused God to be angry with them.**
- D. Exodus 12:38 records “And a mixed multitude went up also with them.” Who made up this mixed multitude? Bible commentators have nothing to offer. These could well be many who professed to be Jews, but were not. They are referred to as “they have not known my ways.”**
- E. All who had been delivered out of the hard Egyptian bondage should have been rejoicing in their God-given freedom; but many were not.**
- F. God said –they shall not enter into my rest. This does not speak of heaven, but of the confidence and joys of a dedicated Christian life God promises those who are saved and surrendered to God’s will.**

V. PAUL NOW ISSUES A WARNING TO THOSE TO WHOM HE WROTE – CHRISTIAN JEWS.

- A. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**
- B. It is one thing to profess Christ Jesus as Savior; it is quite another thing to really know Him in the forgiveness of sins.**
- C. Make sure you are not a part of that “mixed multitude.”**
- D. God’s people are encouraged, even commanded, to exhort one another daily. We are to encourage and challenge each other daily – today – lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin – not lost, but hardened into a grumbling, complaining, unhappy child of God – saved but never finding the rest God has promised His people.**
- E. Paul calls on God’s people to hear God, harden not their hearts and provoke God as some of those who came out of Egyptian bondage did – not all (vs. 15, 16)**
- F. Those who fell in the wilderness had grieved God with their unbelief and they never really were confident of their salvation and never really enjoyed life as a child of God; thus they died outside the promised land, not heaven, but a contented, happy, rejoicing life on this earth.**

CONCLUSION;

- A. All who profess to know Christ as savior need to take heed to the lessons noted in this message Paul wrote to Jewish Christians.**
- B. That is especially true of those who seem to find little or no joy in the congregated services of their churches and/or find fault in the chosen leaders of their church.**
- C. Let us all recognize that Christ Jesus is the faithful ruler over His house and over each of His churches; let us find confidence in salvation and rejoice in the hope firm unto the end.**

JESUS IS BETTER THAN JOSHUA

Scripture: Hebrews 4:1-13

Introduction:

- A. This Book was written to Messianic Jews many of which were attempting to add law works to the gospel message.**
 - B. Rest is the basic subject of the lesson set forth in these verses. There are three kinds of rest under discussion, they are:
 - 1. Soul rest --- Passover rest which is soul salvation.**
 - 2. Mind rest – Canaan rest – a life surrendered to God**
 - 3. God’s rest – Heaven’s rest – final rest****
 - C. These Jews who had professed faith in Jesus Christ for soul rest; but were turning away from the mind rest found in a full surrender to Christ.**
 - D. A review of the exodus from Egypt will help in understanding this section of Scripture.
 - 1. Remember that a MIXED MULTITUDE came out of Egypt which seems to mean a company made up of believers and unbelievers – saved people and lost people.**
 - 2. This seems to reveal the primary cause for much of the troubling attitudes and actions of the whole company on the way to Canaan – even the underlying cause of their refusal to enter into Canaan rest.****
- I. VERSE FOUR SOUNDS A WARNING TO ALL WHO CLAIM TO POSSESS SOUL REST – ALL WHO CLAIM TO BE SAVED.**
- A. Paul calls on all who claim to have soul rest to fear – to be on guard – to be very careful concerning their claim to salvation. Note that he said, “Let us.”**
 - B. He states that God has left a promise to us of entering into God’s rest – the final rest – Heaven’s rest.**
 - C. His warning is “lest any of you should seem to come short of it – heaven’s rest.**

- D. In verse 2, Paul reminds the readers that the gospel had been preached unto “us” – himself and to those to whom he wrote, even as it was preached unto those who refused to enter Canaan land; but the gospel preached did not profit them, they fell short of “MIND REST” because of a lack of faith.**
- E. Verse 3 states, “we who have truly believed, totally depend on the work of God in Jesus -- do enter into God’s rest and mind rest.**
- F. These to whom Paul wrote had no mind rest – they never would so long as they failed to fully trust the saving of their soul to Jesus and the work He had already done.**
- G. Paul knew for himself and all other can know for himself – simply trusting all the way.**
- H. Faith mixed with works is not faith at all. Paul wrote to the Romans 10:6 – If by grace, then it is no more works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it is of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”**
- I. Paul declares that all the works needed for salvation “were finished from the foundation of the world.”**
- J. Paul now injects God’s seventh day rest to illustrate his message. He wrote, “And God did rest the seventh day from ALL HIS WORKS.”**
- K. In defense for His healing on the Sabbath day, Jesus said, “My Father worketh hitherto (until now), and I work.” Then on the cross Jesus declared, “It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost (His Spirit).**

II. VERSES 6 AND 9 ADDRESS THE SAME ISSUE – THERE REMAINS A REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

- A. The people of God possess “soul rest” (salvation) and they also have heaven’s rest which God has promised.**
- B. They need to have “mind rest.” They need to believe God; they need to trust God, fully trust God for salvation and final deliverance.**
- C. They need to cease from work as God did and rest their souls and lives in the finished work of God our Savior.**
- D. Verse 10 teaches that only those who have ceased from work, ceased from trying to help God save them or keep them saved, only these have entered into rest – mind rest. These have assurance of salvation and know they cannot fall from grace.**

III. VERSES 7 AND 11 WARN AGAINST FAILING TO ATTAIN THIS REST – MIND REST.

- A. V. 7 – Do not harden your heart; don't have your mind set in concrete.**
- B. Hear God's voice; accept His word; believe His Word.**
- C. If you don't; you will never have "mind rest." You will never know what true peace of mind is – the peace that passeth all understanding.**
- D. If you don't; you will never know the rest Jesus promised, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls (inner being including the mind). This is MIND REST.**
- E. Mind rest is possible; but it comes only to those who believe God's word and step into a surrendered life apart from the wilderness of this world.**

IV. VERSES 12 AND 13 ESTABLISH THE OMNISCIENCE OF THE LOED JESUS CHRIST.

- A. This speaks of the Living Word of God—the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - 1. He is quick – alive.**
 - 2. He is powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword.**
 - 3. He pierces every part of a person's being.**
 - 4. He is a Discerner – He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart – the inner being of every man.**
 - 5. Every creature is manifest – revealed – in HIS sight.**
 - 6. All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of HIM with whom we have to do.**
- B. We may fool ourselves into believing we are saved – that we have soul rest; we may fool others; but there is no fooling the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- C. We may fool ourselves and maybe others that we are surrendered to a life of service for God; but there is no fooling the One with whom we have to do.**

V. VERSE 8 REVEALS TWO THINGS.

- A. Although Joshua led the people into Canaan land; they did not have total mind rest -- There was discontent, fightings, and failures in the land. Life on this earth will always be filled with these and though we have full assurance of soul rest, there will**

**always be troubles, even to the most dedicated of God's people.
Paul is a Bible example.**

B. The other thing that we learn from this verse is: ANOTHER DAY OF REST IS SPOKEN OF – That day is the one noted in verse 1 – the promise being left us of entering into HIS rest – God's eternal rest – the new heaven and earth – an eternal rest in His presence.

CONCLUSION:

- A. There is an eternal rest for all who have repented of their sins and have trusted the saving of their souls to the finished work of Jesus Christ.**
- B. Do you know for certain that you shall enter into that rest when death ends your short stay on this earth? If not, now is the time to settled this most important question in every person's life.**

JESUS IS BETTER THAN ALL

The Book of Hebrews was written to Messianic Jews, Jews who had professed faith in Jesus Christ, and were trying to add certain requirements of the old law system to the gospel of Jesus Christ – circumcision. Paul’s purpose was to help them understand that salvation was by grace through faith without any work or ceremonies by man. He wanted them to know that Jesus Christ was better than any and all of the requirements of the law. He wanted them to understand that the whole law system with its ceremonies prefigured the work of Jesus Christ in providing salvation for those lost and on their way to a devil’s hell. Jesus is better than all this.

The word “better” is used twelve times in the book of Hebrews. Jesus and His work is set forth as being better than angels; better than man; better than Moses; better than Joshua; better than Aaron.

Hebrews also speaks of a better hope; a better testimony; a better covenant; a better sacrifice; a better tabernacle; a better resurrection.

Chapters 4:14 through 8:5 were written to prove that Jesus is a better High Priest than Aaron was.

Before dealing with this whole section, I thought is best to set forth the three offices held by our Lord Jesus Christ – Prophet, Priest, and King.

I. JESUS, AS THE PROPHET OF GOD.

- A. A prophet is one who is inspired of God to commutate His will to His people and declare the future. This message was to be communicated by preaching and teaching God’s message to man and by living a life in harmony with God’s will.**
- B. In Hebrews 4:12 Paul wrote of the Word of God as being ALIVE and POWERFUL and as PIERCING SWORD and as a DISCERNER of the thought and intents of the heart of any and all men.**

- C. Verse 13 refers to the Word with the personal pronouns HIS and HIM.**
- D. Matthew 4:17 records that following His wilderness testings, Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: For the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
- E. From that time forward until He ascended into heaven, He was preaching and teaching God's message to the sinful human family.**
- F. He declared "I came not to do my own will, but the will of Him that sent me -- the words I speak are not my own; but the words of Him that sent me -- the works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father has sent Me."**
- G. As the Father's prophet, He also spoke much concerning the future and what it held for God's people and for the whole world.**
- H. Jesus did fulfill to the fullest the office of Prophet.**

II. JESUS, AS THE HIGH PRIEST OF GOD

- A. The High Priest was one who was authorized by God to over see the sacred rites of the God ordained religion AND to serve as a mediator between man and God.**
- B. Since the wages of sin is death, forgiveness required the shedding of blood to settle sinful man's debt.**
- C. The ceremonial law prefigured the work of Jesus as the Lamb of God whose death settled man's sin debt.**
- D. In ceremony the High Priest took the shed blood of a lamb behind the veil and offered it to God as payment for sin. This was done each year.**
- E. After His crucifixion Jesus, as God's High Priest, took His own blood into the presence of the Father in heaven and offered it there as payment for the sin of the world -- And God was satisfied.**
- F. Jesus, as God's High Priest, now sits at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for His people.**
- G. As already noted, Beginning with chapter 4 and verse 14 and continuing through chapter 8 the office of Jesus as High Priest will be fully covered.**

III. JESUS, AS KING OF THE NATIONS

- A. The Old Testament has much to say about the Son of David ruling over the nations – Isaiah 9:6, 7 speaks “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”**
- B. The angel Gabriel declared of the child to whom the virgin Mary would give birth “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David.”**
- C. Jesus is King of the nations awaiting the time set in eternity past to ascend His Father David’s throne as the conquering King to rule over the peoples of the earth.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Jesus does indeed fulfill the three offices of Prophet, Priest and King in the plans and purpose of the Holy Trinity.**
- B. Have you heard His gospel message of How that He died for your sin according to the Scriptures and how that He was buried and that after three days and three nights He rose from the dead?**
- C. Have you repented of your sin and trusted Him to save your hell bound soul and are you now saved?**
- D. Do you understand that He now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven where He serves as your High Priest interceding for you?**
- E. Do you now understand that He is your King?**
- F. Do you serve Him; or do you rebel against His authority and serve your own interest?**

JESUS IS BETTER THAN AARON

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction:

- A. God created man in His own image; a created being with whom He could fellowship; one with whom He could converse; one who could look upon the creation and appreciate the splendor of it all; one who could see and hear and make reasoned decisions.**
- B. Man sinned; his sin severed the fellowship with God.**
- C. God moved to renew His fellowship with man. Man's sin debt had to be paid. Since the wages of sin is death; blood must be shed and the offering must be presented before God.**
- D. Sinful man could not come before God to offer the sacrificial blood; some other person must do that for sinful man.**
- E. God's plan of redemption provided a Mediator – a priest – to present this offering before God.**
- F. After Adam's sinful failure in the Garden, no man could come before God. No man could even speak to God save through a mediator.**
- G. The law system of worship under which these Jewish Christians had been reared made this very clear. Man's approach to God was through the High Priest and that on the basis of the shed blood of an approved sacrifice.**
- H. Aaron and the many who followed him in the office of High Priest were symbolic of the great High Priest, Jesus the Son of God. The blood of the approved sacrifice was symbolic of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, which was shed on the cross of Calvary.**
- I. Under the law system, the approved sacrificial animal was slain and the high priest then took the blood behind the veil into the holy of holies and offered it on the altar of God for the sins of the people.**

- J. When Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God, had cried again with a loud voice and had yielded up His Spirit, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. All this fulfilled what the law system had through symbolism pictured to lost man. Reality had come and it was time to put away the symbols.**
- K. Jesus has come; Jesus has died; Jesus has risen and passed through the heavens where He offered His blood as the payment for the sin of the world.**
- L. Jesus has stated “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.” Jesus is the sacrifice and Jesus is the High Priest – the only way any person can come into the presence of God.**
- M. The Jewish Christians to whom the message of Hebrews was addressed were continuing to place some importance in the functions of the temple in Jerusalem with its sacrifices and high priest.**
- N. They needed to understand that the word of God to be followed was no longer the written law handed down to Moses and passed on to each succeeding generation of Jews; but the living Word of God which is the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- O. Our last lesson ended with a detailed description of Jesus Christ as the Word of God to whom all must look for instructions and through whom all have access to God the Father.**
- P. The writer now begins our present lesson by identifying the great High Priest through whom man can once more have fellowship with our Creator God.**

I. HE CHALLENGES THE READERS TO HOLD FAST THEIR PROFESSION.

- A. The profession must refer to their having confessed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- B. Paul declares that We, you and I and all other believers, have a great High Priest and He is Jesus the Son of God.**
- C. He is the one you rejected and crucified. He was buried; but after three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, He rose from the dead and He lives to make intercession for all who trust Him for salvation.**
- D. Paul declares that as our High Priest, He is passed through the heavens – high above all heavens to the very throne room of God.**

- E. He, as our High Priest, is touched with the feelings of our infirmities; He was in all points tempted like we are tempted; but He was without sin.**
- F. Paul did not ask them to understand all he wrote; just believe and hold fast to your profession. The lesson is the same for us today.**

II. PAUL CALLS ON ALL BELIEVERS TO COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE.

- A. Paul understand that those to whom he wrote were in need and needed help; as do all believers in ever generation; as do we.**
- B. He points out that there is a throne of GRACE – not judgment – to which God’s people can come for help.**
- C. Grace means gift – gift means free – not deserved.**
- D. It is the throne where we obtain mercy – not judgment.**
- E. It is the throne where Jesus, our High Priest, intercedes for all us sinful believers and the Father grants us mercy and gives us help in our times of need.**
- F. We are asked to come BOLDLY to God’s throne of grace. Just like you did when you were a little child asking your father for what you had need of. (Caroline Kennedy going into the Oval Office at about age 4).**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Dear friend, I now ask you, Have you ever repented of your sin and professed faith in Jesus Christ?**
- B. Have you at times had questioned your profession? Have you been caused to question your salvation?**
- C. We are challenged to hold fast to our profession knowing that Jesus has passed through the heavens and is seated at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for all His people.**
- D. When you have needs, just approach the throne of grace boldly and ask God help in your time of need. He wants to help you; He will help you; but you must approach His throne and ask.**

10

JESUS IS BETTER THAN AARON

Hebrews 5:1-10

Introduction:

- A. A truth that we must keep before us in this study of Hebrews is that the Law system of worship was NOT a way by which man could approach God. It was given to help the people understand God's plan of redemption for sinful man; how God works to bring man back into His holy presence. This study of Hebrews will help us understand this truth more fully.
- B. The Messianic Jews to whom Paul wrote were well instructed in the priesthood. They knew that they could only approach our holy God through a mediator – a priest. This is a truth that we Gentiles have trouble with. We can only approach our holy God through the Mediator approved by God Himself – Jesus, the Son of God.
- C. Our last lesson set forth Jesus, the Son of God, as man's High Priest – as man's only approach to our holy God.
- D. Jesus had declared this truth to His church shortly before His crucifixion. When speaking of His going away, He declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; No man cometh to the Father but by me."
- E. Paul declared this same truth in first Timothy 2:5. He wrote, "There is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."
- F. Hebrews 5:1 through Hebrews 8:6 were written to set forth Jesus, the Son of God, as man's High Priest and better than Aaron. We will begin with a study of Hebrews 5:1-10.

I. LET US NOTE SOME TRUTHS CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF HIGH PRIEST. Verses 1-6

- A. Verse 1 -- Every high priest must be taken from among men – Aaron was taken from among all the men of Israel. He was symbolic of the true High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God. Although He was the Son of God, He became man.
- B. Every high priest is ordained or appointed for men in things pertaining to God – to our relationships with God, to every thing

we do in our relationship to God. The only contact we can have with our holy God is through our High Priest—Jesus, the Son of God.

- C. Our High Priest offers both gifts and sacrifices for our sins. Gifts refer to anything we give to God – our work, our talents, our money. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father ready to receive our sacrifices and offerings and pass them on to the Father. These all go through Jesus Christ or they are not accepted.**
- D. The High Priest also presented the blood sacrifice before God on behalf of the person who made the sacrifice. Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, offers His own precious blood unto the Father on behalf of every person who repents of his sin and trusts the saving of his soul to Jesus Christ.**
- E. Verses 2 and 3 – Under the Tabernacle system of worship the earthly high priest was taken from among men; he was a man, Therefore he could have compassion on the unlearned and the wayward because he himself was sinful and had to make offerings unto God for his own sins.**
- F. Jesus, as High Priest, was sinless, but He “can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities because He was in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin.” He had no sin.**
- G. Verses 4-6 –No man took the high honor of high priest unto himself; but each was called of God just like Aaron had been.**
- H. We must not lose sight of God’s purpose in giving the Jews the tabernacle system of worship with its high priest and its sacrifices and offerings. There was no salvation in all this – it was given as a teaching tool to help them understand how they could be received into the presence of our Holy God, our Creator and Sustainer and our Judge. The Way is the true High Priest – Jesus, the Son of God.**
- I. Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God was likewise called of God to be the High Priest of the true tabernacle of which the earthly tabernacle was just a pattern. The Father had spoken of this call in Psalm 2:7 “Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” And in Psalm 110:4 “The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”**
- J. Jesus, the Son of God, is man’s High Priest because God has called and appointed Him.**

K. The purpose of the whole tabernacle system of worship including the high priests was to foreshadow and make clear the work of Jesus, the Son of God, in making it possible for sinful man to be brought back into fellowship with his holy God.

II. THE PATH TO PERFECTION FOR OUR SUBSTITUTE AND MEDIATOR HIGH PRIEST.

- A. Verses 7-10 bring together the sacrificial Lamb of God and the High Priest who offered up the sacrifice.**
- B. Before the Passover Lamb was sacrificed, it had to be tested for purity.**
- C. Seldom, if at all, do we think of Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world as having to be tested, having to have proved His perfection. But none the less, He did.**
- D. Verses 8 and 9 reveal this to be true. “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which He suffered. And being made perfect – and by this He was made perfect – He proved that He was perfect.**
- E Is this not what is taught in Luke 2:51, 52. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man.**
- E. Paul also wrote of this in Phil. 2:6-8 “He counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and being made in the likeness of men, and being found in the fashion of a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross.”**
- F. As God, He had never had to obey, but as man, it was necessary for Him to obey the Father that He could prepare a sinless sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the world of humanity.**
- G. He had all His earthly life as a man been obedient to the Father; but now He had come to the supreme test of obedience – He must drink the awful cup of suffering and pain including separation from the Father.**
- I. That seems to be the lessons set forth in verse 7. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus, the Son of God, was faced with the awful prospects of dying deserted and forsake by the Father – the death of a lost, eternally damned soul.**
- H. This cup with all its consequences was being presented to Him by the Father. Physical death was in that cup; but more than that – there was spiritual dead – spiritual separation fro the Father.**

K. There in that Garden prayer, Jesus, the Son of God, yielded in full obedience to drink the cup presented to Him praying unto the Father who was able to save Him OUT of death – the death of spiritual separation from the Father. And the Father heard Him in that He feared – not afraid but His reverence.

L. Verse 8 declares that through this obedience, He was made perfect – the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world; and by this Jesus became the author – the cause – of eternal salvation.

I. Also declared is that this eternal salvation is only to those who obey Him – the High Priest of our profession. Jesus’ first sermon was “Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

III. IN VERSE 10 PAUL REMINDS HIS READERS AGAIN THAT JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, IS THE HIGH PRIEST.

A. Be reminded that there is one mediator between God and you.

B. If you will ever be accepted before our Holy God, it will be through your obedience to Jesus Christ.

#11

THREE HELPS FOR UNDERSTANDING HEBREWS

I. HELP NUMBER ONE IS IDENTIFYING MELCHIZEDEK AND HIS WORK.

- A. Scriptures: Genesis 14:1-24 (17-20)**
- B. Who was this man?**
- C. Verse 18 identifies him as the king of Salem and the high priest of the most high God.**
- G. Melchizedek is only mentioned one other time in the Old Testament. Psalm 110:4. This Psalm speaks of the Messiah whom David trusted and looked for and saw as the Priest of God seated at the Father's right hand – doing the work of the High Priest.**
- H. Again, who is this mysterious person called Melchizedek?**
- I. No Bible commentator claims to know for sure. Some say that he was Shem. Another says that he was a man who had preserved in his family and among his subjects the worship of the true God.**
- J. Then some think he was the Messiah, Himself, who appeared a number of times as a man to perform some heavenly work among men. Such was the case in Genesis 18:1-33 where the Lord appeared and talked with Abram about the destruction of Sodom; and in Genesis 32:24-32 where the Messiah, as a man wrestled with Jacob all night.**
- K. It seems to me that Melchizedek was the Messiah in the body of a man expressing to Abram the work of the Son of God as the High Priest of God in His dealings with man.**
- L. Since Melchizedek appeared on the scene only once; and we are told nothing about him before nor after he appeared to Abram; he stands as without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life.**
- M. While this could not be said of the Man Jesus as our Savior, it can be said of Christ, our High Priest. the One sent from God. Christ is set forth as the High Priest of God after the order of Melchizedek “Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”**
- N. I trust this will help us in our understanding of the next few chapters of Hebrews.**

II. HELP NUMBER TWO IS UNDERSTANDING GOD'S OATH.

- A. Chapter six speaks of God sealing a promise He made to Abram with an oath.**
- B. The Scriptures record this in Genesis 15.**
- C. Abram asked the Lord what will you give me seeing I go childless.**
- G. The Lord not only promised Abram a seed out of his own bowels, He promised him that his seed would be as the stars in the heavens without number.**
- H. Abram believed the Lord and it was counted to him for righteousness.**
- I. The Lord then promised Abram the land in which he was dwelling.**
- J. Then Abram said, "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"**
- K. In answer to this question, the Lord set up a system by which men swore by shed blood that they would keep any agreement they had made.**
- L. This is recorded in verses 9-18.**
- M. The burning lamp that passed between the slain animal parts was the Lord God Himself. This is God's oath that He would fulfill the promises made to Abram.**

III. HELP NUMBER THREE IS UNDERSTANDING THE SYMBOLIC OFFERINGS MADE UNDER THE LAW.

- A. We must understand that the offerings in some way symbolized some work of Jesus Christ in bringing lost sinners into a righteous relationship with our righteous God.**
- B. We will first look at the whole burnt offering and the sin offering as revealed in Leviticus chapters 1 and 4.**
- C. The whole burnt offering is set forth in chapter 1. In this offering The individual sinner voluntarily brings his offering to the Lord. The person places his hands on the sacrifice signifying a transfer of his sins to the sacrificial animal. Then he kills the animal and the priest takes the blood and applies it and then the whole animal is burned. Verse 4 states that this is accepted to make atonement for the making the offering.**
- G. Chapter 4 reveals the need for the priest to make an offering for his sin. This symbolizes Christ as laden down with the sin of the**

world willingly dying to pay the sin debt of the world. After the blood of the sin offering has been applied, the offering shall be taken without the camp and burned.

H. Chapter 16 speaks of the Great Day of Atonement. This was the only day of the year that the High Priest entered the most holy place. Here he presented the blood of the burnt offering, the blood of the sin offering by sprinkling it on the mercy seat as an offering for the sin of the people, the priest, and the nation.

CONCLUSION:

These helps will aid us in understand the teachings of the Book of Hebrews.

B. Let us prayerfully continue this great study together.

A PARENTHETICAL LESSON

Scripture: Hebrews 5:11-6:20

Introduction:

Paranetical means “a remark or passage that departs from the theme of a discourse; digression. Paul has established his primary purpose for writing this letter to the Hebrews –the Messianic Jews – was to prove that Christ Jesus is better than the old system.

He injects the verses of our present lesson to help the Christian Jews understand how their holding on to the old Tabernacle system of worship identifies them.

Paul has introduced Jesus Christ as the Great High Priest in Chapter 5:1-10.

He has pointed out that Jesus had met the two requirements of being a man and having been appointed by God.

He has pointed out that as High Priest during His life time on earth Jesus has to feel to the uttermost possible degree the fear and horror of death. (2:14, 15 – not of dying, but of death)

Christ Jesus had to feel in every form and degree the sufferings and afflictions of men – yet without sin.

Christ had to feel the anguish, the terror and the pain and horror of death – not just physical death, but separation from the Father – spiritual separation – spiritual death.

It was this death that Jesus prayed the Father to save Him out of – not from that is what He came to earth to accomplish.

A. As Jesus Christ began to take upon Himself the sin debt owed by us all, He was submitting to the death of separation from God. He prayed not be saved from this death; BUT OUT OF THAT DEATH.

B. Chapter 5:8 explains that Christ as High Priest learned obedience by the things He suffered.

C. Verse 9 explained that through this suffering He was made perfect and became the author or cause of eternal salvation unto all who obey Him.

D. Verse 10 explains that this salvation is eternal because as a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek Christ’s work is eternal – can not be less than eternal.

- E. In verse 11, Paul declares that he has many things to say about Jesus Christ as our High Priest, but these things would be hard to be spoken since those to whom he was writing were dull of hearing.**
- F. The Scripture contained in our present lesson really reveals nothing concerning the primary teachings of the Book of Hebrews. The writer of the book felt the need to speak directly to the people concerning their professed faith in Jesus Christ.**
- G. What Paul will do with the verses of our present study is set forth in the following outline: First, in verses 12-14, Paul rebukes; in chapter 6, verses 1-3, he challenges; in verses 4-8 he warns; and in verses 9-20 he encourages.**

I. PAUL REBUKES THESE BELIEVING JEWS.

- A. Verse 12 You ought to be teachers, you still need to be taught. Here I am spending my time teaching you the first principles of the Christian faith when you ought to be helping me teach the new born and those who are yet lost.**
- B. Verse 13 I am having to feed you with the milk of God's word; You are not able to digest the strong meat of the word. You are babies in the Christian faith.**
- C. Verse 14 The strong meat of the Word of God belongs to them that have grown up and are able to discern good and evil.**
- D. My brethren, it is past time that you should be taking your place in teaching the principles of the faith once delivered to the saints. Shame on you.**

II. PAUL NOW CHALLENGES HIS READERS. (6:1-3)

My brethren, it is time to grow up; it is time to leave the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, LET US go on unto perfection –maturity. Paul included himself, not as needing to mature; but as a teacher would say to a class – Let us leave the ABCs and go on to using the ABCs to learn writing.

As important as repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are, let us thank God for these and move on to the deeper things of God.

The doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment are important; but let us thank God for them and move on to the deeper things of God.

Paul is writing to Jews who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; but are turning back to the old system of worship which included the laying of hands on the heads of the sacrifices. In chapter 2, Paul had already said, “We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” – How Christ had fulfilled these. He could well be referring to this practice and challenging these Jews to leave the symbolisms and accept Christ as having fulfilled all these and see Christ as having fulfilled all these and see HIM as being BETTER THAN AARON AND ALL THESE. Paul, the teacher, declares that WE WILL DO THIS; if God permits.

III. PAUL ISSUES A WARNING. (6:4-8)

- A. Paul had asked the question recorded in chapter 2, verse 3 – How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”**
- B. He now seems to answer that question by injecting a hypothetical statement – to renew them again unto repentance is impossible if they shall fall away.**
- C. Verse 4 identifies those of whom he speaks -- They were once enlightened; they have tasted of the heavenly gift; they were made partakers of the Holy Ghost; they have tasted of the good word of God; they have tasted of the powers of the world to come.**
- D. If such people shall fall away – away from having experienced all this; it is impossible to renew them unto repentance.**
- E. Paul then explains why it would be impossible – what they would have done is to crucify unto themselves the Son of God afresh and to put the Son of God to an open shame.**
- F. In verses 7 and 8 Paul uses an agricultural lesson to illustrate the lesson of such a happening – God blesses the earth with rain and the earth brings forth good things which God shall bless; but when the blessed earth brings forth bad things, God shall destroy them.**

IV. PAUL ENCOURAGES HIS READERS. (6:9-20)

- A. In verse 9 He first declares “WE are persuaded better things of you – WE are confident of you because we see in you the things that accompany salvation.**

- B. In verse 10 He then tells them that our righteous God will remember their work and labour of love in ministering to the saints in the name of God.**
- C. In verses 11 and 12 He confesses his desire for them – that they will be diligent in attaining full assurance of the hope set before them AND that they will not be slothful or careless in your life, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. – Those named in chapter 11.**
- D. Paul now encourages the people by reminding them of how God is faithful in keeping all that He has promised.**
- E. He first injects God’s promise to Abraham, something that no doubt these Christian Jews knew, How that God swore by Himself that He would keep the promise He had made to Abraham. Vs. 13, 17.**
- F. Paul also called their attention to the truth concerning our all righteous God – He can not lie.**
- G. Verse 18 declares that by these two immutable things WE HAVE A STRONG CONSOLATION (comfort) to lay hold unto the HOPE that is set before us.**
- H. Paul then declares that this HOPE is an anchor to the soul – it is sure and stedfast and is cast within the veil – God’s abode.**
- I. Paul now turns the attention of the readers back the subject at hand – Christ Jesus is our High Priest for ever AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. The Lord God wants His regenerated people, His saints, to know that they are secured in the hands of our Savior and High Priest - Jesus Christ.**
- Saints of God, Rejoice in the Lord and in the knowledge that you cannot at all ever lose your salvation. Once you are saved, you are saved forever.**
- Lost person, God love you; Jesus died to pay your sin debt. Admit you sin to yourself; admit your sin to God and ask His forgiveness and place you trust in the crucified, buried and risen Savior Jesus Christ AND HE WILL SAVE YOU == AND YOU WILL BE SAVED FOREVER.**

#13

CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

Scripture: Hebrews 7:1-17

Introduction:

- A. In chapter 5 Paul had declared that God had called Christ a priest after the order of Melchisedec.**
- B. In verse 11 he said he had many things to say about Christ being a high priest after this order, but he said these will be hard sayings because of these Messianic Jews were dull of hearing.**
- C. Paul then injected a parenthetical section to help his readers to understand the truths he was presenting concerning Christ.**
- D. In 6:19, 20 Paul directed our minds to the throne room of God – behind the veil – into which Christ has entered as High Priest to present the blood of His own sacrifice on the altar of God as payment for the sin of the whole world.**
- E. The last verse of chapter 6 introduces Melchisedec again and in chapter seven the title of Melchisedec is referred to six times in showing that Christ is better than the priests of the tribe of Levi.**

I. CONSIDER THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MELCHISEDEC.

- A. He was priest of the most high God, he was King of righteousness and King of peace – in that order. Purity comes before peace.**
- B. He was without father and without mother.**
- C. He was without descent – genealogy.**
- D. He had no beginning of days and no end of life.**
- E. He was made like unto the Son of God**
- F. No doubt MELCHISEDEK WAS THE SON OF GOD – He Was a Christophany, which was a visible manifestation of Christ.**
- G. This was not a one time occurrence. At least two other times Christ appeared to men in a visible manifestation. Genesis 18:1-15 and 32:24-32.**
- H. Consider how great Melchisedec was – Your patriarch, Abraham, gave the tenth of the spoils to him.**

II. CONSIDER HOW ABRAHAM'S ACTIONS MAKES CHRIST GREATER THAN LEVI AND THE PRIESTHOOD.

- A. The sons of Levi in the office of priesthood are commanded to take tithes from their own brethren even though they were out of the loins of Abraham.**
- B. Verse 6 Points out that He whose descent is not counted from these brethren received tithes of Abraham and then blessed Abraham who had the promises.**
- C. Verse 7 points out that Abraham, as the less, was blessed by the BETTER – Melchisedec who was really a visible manifestation of Christ.**
- D. Verse 8 points out that HERE the priests who die receive tithes; but THERE He who lives forever Christ as High Priest received tithes.**
- E. Verses 9 and 10 points out that Levi who now receives tithes PAYED tithes in Abraham. For Levi was yet in the loins of his father Abraham when he paid tithes to Melchisedec –Christ.**
- F. This certainly establishes Christ as better than the Levitical priesthood.**

III. CONSIDER THAT THE IMPERFECTION OF THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD ESTABLISHED THE NEED FOR ANOTHER PRIEST.

- A. Paul declared that the new could not be after the order of Aaron; but must be after the order of Melchisedec.**
- B. The new order brought about a change in the law – the Melchisedec order looked to a new tribe – the tribe of Juda.**
- C. It is evident that after the similitude or likeness of Melchisedec there arises another priest – That Priest is Christ Himself.**
- D. This new Priest is not made after the carnal commandment, but AFTER THE POWER OF HIS ENDLESS LIFE.**
- E. For the Lord testified, Thou art a priest FOR EVER (eternal) after the order of Melchisedec.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Jesus Christ truly is our High Priest; He is also our sacrifice.**
- B. Jesus, the Lamb of God who died to pay our sin debt. Is also our High Priest who carried the blood of our sacrifice behind the veil and offered it on the altar of God.**
- C. His offering was accepted and He sat down on the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for us.**
- D. Have you repented toward God and trusted the saving of your soul to Jesus Christ? If not, now is the time.**

CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE LAW

Scripture: Hebrews 7:18-18

Introduction:

- A. The time of this writing was about A.D. 64. The temple was still standing.**
- B. The High Priest continued with the daily ceremonies – the sacrifices continued to be killed – the blood continued to be offered on the altars.**
- C. The yearly Day of Atonement continued to be celebrated with the High Priest first making a sin offering for himself and his house and then make a sin offering for the people. The blood of each sin offering continued to be carried behind the veil and sprinkled on the mercy seat**
- D. Many of the Jews who had confessed faith in Jesus Christ continued to involve themselves in these services.**
- E. Paul wrote this letter to help these Messianic Jews to understand that the Christ they confessed faith in was the Reality of all that the Law and its ceremonies symbolized.**
- F. In our present lesson Paul shows how the law and its ceremonies have been replaced by the Christ Jesus who is the Reality, the better Hope of which the law and its ceremonies symbolized.**

I. CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE COMMANDMENT. Vs.18, 19

- A. Note the present tense “is.” The commandment – the Law – is being disannulled – taken out of the way. The law God had given Moses on the mount years before had fulfilled its purpose and was being replaced.**
- B. The law was weak and unprofitable. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul had declared the law was weak in the flesh – the flesh of the people who were trying to keep it (Romans 8:3).**
- C. Paul had also declared “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**
- D. The Law had finished its work – Christ has kept the law to the last jot and tittle. He has died to pay the penalty; He has offered His own precious blood on the altar in heaven before the Father;**

He has risen from the dead; He has fulfilled all that the law had set forth in symbols.

E. The law served its purpose; but the law made nothing perfect.

II. BUT THE BRINGING IN OF A BETTER HOPE BROUGHT PERFECTION. V. 19

A. By this better Hope we draw near unto God.

B. Verse 20 identifies this better Hope as “He.” He who was by an oath made Priest.

C. Verse 21 points out the priests who served under the law were made WITHOUT an oath; but the Priest of the better HOPE was made with an oath.

D. Paul then called in an Old Testament statement to prove his point –The Lord sware and will not repent; Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.”

E. The bringing in of Christ Jesus as the fulfillment of all that the law symbolized did indeed bring in a better HOPE.

III. JESUS CHRIST IS BETTER BECAUSE HE IS THE SURETY OF A BETTER TESTAMENT. Vs 22-27

A. A person who fulfills the qualifications of a SURETY is a person who personally answers for anyone, whether with his life or his property.

B. As the Surety of new testament or covenant, Jesus is the Personal guarantee of the promises made to those who repent of their sins and trust the saving of their souls to Him. He guaranties our safe arrival to the place He is preparing for us.

C. Paul goes on to explain why Jesus is the Better Hope.

1. Verse 23 points out that the priests of the commandment being disannulled could not guarantee anything because they all die.

2. But this Man, Jesus, can serve as our Surety because He continues ever – He does not die. His is an unchangeable priesthood.

3. Verse 25 declares that Jesus, our High Priest, is able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him because He lives forever to make intercession for them.

4. Verse 26 declares that our High Priest is holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners and is higher than the

heavens. Jesus, our High Priest, becomes us – is fitted for us.

5. Verse 27 points out that Jesus, our High Priest, does not need daily to offer up sacrifices like the High Priests under the law. **THIS HE DID ONCE, WHEN HE OFFERED UP HIMSELF.**

IV. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER -- WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN THE LAW. V. 28

- A. The commandment that is being disannulled made high priests of men who were sinners.**
- B. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who was made High Priest by an oath of the Father is consecrated for evermore.**
- C. Jesus Christ truly is the BETTER HOPE.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Let us pray that all of God's chosen race – the Jews -- will understand these truths and turn to Jesus for salvation.**
- B. Let us glory in these truths knowing that Jesus truly is our Surety and let us share these truths with others.**
- C. If any one of you has not made your peace with God through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ, NOW is the time to do so.**

15

**JESUS CHRIST, MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT
WHICH IS BETTER THAN THE OLD COVENANT**

Scripture: Hebrews 8:1-13

Introduction:

- A. The Book of Hebrews was written by the Apostle Paul to Messianic Jews -- Jews who were members of New Testament churches.**
- B. It was written in about A.D. 64, a few years before the Roman general Titus destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.**
- C. Many of these Jews were continuing to involve themselves in much of the temple symbolisms which indicated that Jesus was not enough.**
- D. Paul wrote this letter to prove that Jesus Christ was best of all, better than any and all of the ceremonies, the sacrifices and the priests involved in the law covenant.**
- E. We need to know that the terms covenant and testament are the same. That is true in both the Old Testament where the same Hebrew word is translated both ways and the New Testament where the same Greek word is translated both ways.**
- F. We also need to understand that we saved Gentiles fit into the New Covenant as do saved Jews, spiritual Jews. Romans 2:28, 29 clearly establishes this truth. Circumcision simply put means cleansing. A Jew with only outward cleansing is not a Jew under the New Covenant but any person who is saved and has inward cleansing is a Jew and comes under the New Covenant – Testament. The new covenant is made with spiritual Israel of which saved Gentiles are a part.**
- G. Paul has just declared that Jesus Christ was made Surety of a better testament – better covenant; that Jesus continues for ever with an unchangeable priesthood.**
- H. He pointed out that unlike the high priests of the Old Testament who needed to offer sacrifices daily; Jesus “did this once, when he offered up himself.”**

**I. JESUS IS BETTER BECAUSE HE IS PRIEST OF THE TRUE
TABERNACLE. Verses 1-5**

- A. Paul first declares that WE (Paul and those to whom he wrote) have SUCH an high priest – an High Priest just like the one I have just written about.**

- B. This High Priest IS set on the right hand of the throne of God – the Majesty in the heavens.**
- C. This High Priest is a minister of the sanctuary and of the tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not the one pitched by man.**
- D. Verse 3 declares that every high priest IS ORDAINED to offer gifts and sacrifices; therefore it IS necessary that this man, Jesus Christ, have gifts and sacrifices to offer.**
- E. Verse 4 again points out that if Jesus were serving on earth, he could not be a priest. Verse 14 of chapter 7 pointed out that Jesus was of the tribe of Juda which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. Priests under the law were of the tribe of Levi.**
- F. Verse 5 points out that the gifts and sacrifices offered by the priests who served on earth under the law were only an example and shadow of heavenly things. Even the tabernacle in which they offered gifts and sacrifices was only a pattern of the heavenlies where Jesus is set on the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

II. JESUS CHRIST HAS A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY THAN EARTHLY PRIESTS.

- A. Verse 6 -- Because He is the Mediator of a better covenant which was established upon better promises.**
- B. Verse 7 – points out that a new covenant was needed because the first covenant – the Law Covenant – was not without fault. Paul had already referred to the commandment going before as being weak and unprofitable (7:18). In Romans 8:3 Paul explained that the law was weak in the flesh – that is the flesh of man.**
- C. Verse 8 -- Because God found fault with His people trying to keep the old law covenant, He said, Behold, the days come when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah – the spiritual house – spiritual Israel – regenerated Jews and regenerated Gentiles..**
- I. The promised New Covenant is the better covenant over which Jesus Christ is the High Priest Mediator.**

III. IDENTIFYING THE NEW COVENANT OVER WHICH JESUS CHRIST IS THE MEDIATOR. Vs. 9-11

- A. Verse 9 declares that the new covenant will not be according to the failed old covenant – the Law Covenant – which the Jews continued not in.**
- B. The new covenant will be with spiritual Israel as seen in the conditions established.**
- 1. I will put my law in their minds and write them in their hearts.**
 - 2. Because of these inner blessings, they shall not teach every man his neighbor and every man his brother saying, Know the Lord. Because all shall know the Lord – from the least to the greatest.**
 - 3. In writing to the saints of God, John verified what Paul has said. 1 John 2:19 – After writing of some who had left their fellowship, John stated that those who went out from the fellowship went out because they really were not all of us.**
 - 4. John then declares in verse 20 “Ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. Then in verse 27 he explains – the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, ye shall abide in Him.**
- B. This is the new covenant of which Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Most people say that this is the covenant that God will make with the whole nation of Israel concerning the Millennium. Not so; that covenant is found in Jeremiah 32:40-44 and is promised following the time when God shall gather all of Israel from the countries where He has driven them.**
- C. What then is the New Covenant over which Jesus Christ shall minister as High Priest?**
- 1. Remember that the words covenant and testament are the same – they are interchangeable.**
 - 2. The new covenant over which Jesus Christ shall minister is what we call the NEW TESTAMENT – the twenty six books of the New Testament.**
 - 3. The whole of the New Testament are really tied up in a very small knot in what we refer to as the Great Commission. “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The 26 books of the**

New Testament constitute the “whatsoever I have commanded you.”

- D. This new covenant was made with His church – the church He established during His earthly ministry. It was a body of Jewish people who had been redeemed and in the new man born of God; God has put His laws into their minds and has written them in their hearts.**
- E. Yes, I know that there are regenerated people who are not members of New Testament churches; but they are in error; they are not following the Lord’s instructions found in the New Testament; he has confirmed no covenant with them. They do have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and they can understand the inspired word of God – but like the Messianic Jews to whom Paul wrote this book, they are holding on to the remnants of some old life.**
- F. Verse 12 recognizes the truth that we people who are under the New Covenant are not perfect; we sin; we commit iniquities. But our blessed High Priest – the Lord Jesus Christ – the Minister of the heavenly sanctuary of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched – intercedes for us. And God will be merciful to our unrighteousness.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Paul closes this discussion by saying – In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.**
- B. In so far as God is concerned, the old law did vanish away with the destruction of the temple.**
- C. Why don’t people let it vanish?**

16

WHO ARE GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE IN THIS CHURCH AGE?

Introduction:

- A. In this Letter to the Hebrews – Messianic Jews – Jews who have professed faith in Jesus Christ.**
- B. No doubt they were members of the Jerusalem church -- the church that had grown very large with a membership of very young Christians weak in the faith and accustomed ceremonies.**
- C. The Jews recognized that they were God's chosen people operating under a covenant God had made with them centuries before.**
- D. Paul has referred to that covenant as an old covenant and has stated that the old covenant was passing away and God had made a new covenant with Israel and with Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**
- E. The language of the covenant reveals that it will be made with a redeemed people – spiritual Jews, saved people. (Romans 2:28, 29; 1 John 2:20, 27)**
- F. Not all saved people; but a special, called out people with whom God would make a covenant; and who would serve as God's witness to the peoples of the world even as Israel had for many past centuries.**

I. WHO IS THIS CALLED OUT PEOPLE WITH WHOM GOD HAS MADE THE NEW COVENANT?

- A. Following His baptism which identified Him as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world, Jesus went into the wilderness to confront Satan and his temptations.**
- B. Following His temptation, Jesus began to call out people who had been prepared for the work and had been identified by submitting to baptism by John the Baptist.**
- C. This called out people followed Jesus for the last three years prior to His death.**
- D. Jesus taught them through word and example; He sent them on journeys to witness to all they met.**
- E. In His Sermon on the Mount, He told this small called-out group of people – Ye are the salt of the earth; ye are the light of the world; and many other identifying features. (Matthew chapters 5-7)**

- F. While addressing this called-out people, Jesus said “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”
- G. Take notice of this – Jesus did not say, “Ye are the kingdom.” What He said is “your Father will give you the kingdom.”
- H. This called-out people is the church that Jesus established during His earthly ministry.

II. THE KINGDOM GIVEN TO HIS CALLED-OUT LITTLE FLOCK WAS NOT A NEW KINGDOM. (Matthew 21:33-45)

- A. Take note of whom Jesus was addressing. Verse 23 identifies them as the chief priests and the elders of the people. Verse 44 adds the Pharisees.
- B. These people constituted the leaders of the God-ordained religion of that time – the people with whom God had made the Law Covenant – the old covenant -- centuries before.
- C. Jesus declared, “Therefore say I unto you, “The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation (people) bringing forth the fruits thereof.”
- D. Jesus was charging official Israel with having failed to fulfill the kingdom work God had given Israel under the old Law Covenant.
- E. Jesus also declared that this same kingdom work would be given to another people – a people who would fulfill the kingdom work
- F. This would be a people with whom God would make a new covenant.

III. WHO IS THAT CALLED-OUT PEOPLE WITH WHOM GOD HAS MAKE A NEW COVENANT?

- A. Remember that covenant and testament are inter-changeable words.
- B. The called-out people constitute the church Jesus called out and taught.
- C. The covenant was made with the first church; but this includes the church institution – all churches of like faith and order.
- D. The new covenant is the New Testament of God’s Word -- the Bible. This covenant contains the teaching of Jesus Christ in word and in action.
- E. What we call the Great Commission is in fact the new covenant in short form.
- F. Not all saved people are members of New Testament Churches. Jesus spoke of these in saying, “Other sheep I have, which are

not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there SHALL be one fold, and one shepherd.”

- G. These “other sheep” are not included in the New Covenant. They could be; and God wills that they be; but the New Covenant was made with the church.**
- H. These “other sheep” will be brought together with the covenant sheep in the age of the millennium when “all who have part in the first resurrection” shall rule and reign with Jesus.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. The old covenant God made with Israel was a failed covenant because of the weakness of the flesh –of man --, thus it was replaced with a new covenant with a new people – spiritual people – saved, baptized and called-out – His church.**
- B. At the closing of this age, the new covenant people will also have failed God’s plan as revealed in the letter to the Laodiceans recorded in Revelation 3:14-22.**
- C. Then God shall have re-gathered Israel and made a covenant with them (Jeremiah 32:37-40) which covenant shall include church age saints and the “the sheep not of this fold” and these all shall reign with Him for at least one thousand years.**

WHY ALL THE BLOOD?

Scriptures: Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:7;

Introduction:

- A. The majority of the religions going under the name, Christianity, have very little to say about blood. Some have removed all reference to blood from their hymnals; some of their leaders have even called our gospel preaching a slaughter house religion.
- B. To eliminate “blood” from preaching and teaching and singing is to destroy the gospel message and leave all who follow this lost and condemned to hell.
- C. Because of such it seems wise to explore the absolute necessity for the shedding of blood and for all the attention the Bible gives to the subject of blood.
- D. It all began with God back in eternity as Revelation 13:8 which speaks of Jesus Christ as “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
- E. In His search for fellowship and for a way to express the fullness of His being, God created man.
- F. God could have created a mindless man who was little more than a robot that would have obeyed every command; but such a man would bring very little glory to God.
- G. God created man in His own image – a physical man in which He placed a spiritual man with whom He could enjoy fellowship.
- H. A man who could look upon God’s creation and appreciate it and enjoy it and express his appreciation to his Creator.
- I. A man who could hear God speak and think upon God’s message and exercise his God-given ability to reason – make a decision to honor God with obedience or to dishonor Him by disobedience.
- J. To obey God was life; to disobey was death – first spiritual death followed by physical death.
- K. Right here is where blood enters into God’s dealing with man.

I. BLOOD IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

- A. The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there He placed man whom He had formed.
- B. God caused two trees to grow in the garden – the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- C. God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of all the trees except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- D. God warned Adam, “in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
- E. Adam ate; Adam died. Death means separation. Adam was spiritually separated from God; dead in trespasses and sin. His later physical death was also brought about by his disobedience.
- F. God spoke the first gospel message to Adam in which He spoke of the death of the Seed of the woman – who would be Jesus born of the virgin Mary. The bruising of His heel was the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary.
- G. Adam believed this message and was given new spirit life on the basis of the Seed of the woman paying his sin debt.

II. BLOOD WAS INVOLVED WITH GOD’S DEALING WITH MAN THROUGH OUT THE WHOLE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT RECORD.

- A. Adam’s two sons, Cain and Abel, brought their offerings to God. God rejected Cain’s offering of the works of his own hands. God accepted Abel’s offering which was a lamb slain – blood shed.
- B. Abraham’s offering of his son as a burnt offering was accepted by God.
- C. The first born of children of Israel in Egypt were protected from death by the shed blood of the Passover lamb.
- D. God’s covenant with Israel handed down through Moses was based on the shedding of the blood of the sacrificial animals.
- E. All of these offerings were designed to point to the coming of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death on the cross.
- F. These sacrifices had continued right up to the time of the writing of the Book of Hebrews.
- G. Hebrews was written to confirm the truth that Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself as the Lamb of God was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament offerings and sacrifices. Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb that died to pay the sin debt of the world.

III. WHY ALL THE BLOOD? WHY MUST BLOOD BE SHED?

- A. The answer is made evident when we understand that sinful man owes a debt – a debt that can only be paid in death.
- B. The Word of God declares, “the wages of sin is death.” “The soul that sinneth, it must die.” Death means blood has been shed.

- C. Death means separation. That is true in both physical death and spiritual death.**
- D. In physical death, the spirit of man is separated from his body which was kept alive by the blood. In death, blood has been shed.**
- E. By nature we are all dead in trespasses and in sin. We are spiritually dead and separated from God. At the time of physical death we go into hell if we have not repented of our sin and trusted Jesus to save our hell bound souls.**
- F. Why must we trust Jesus to save us? Because Jesus shed His own precious BLOOD to save us from eternity in hell.**
- G. Why did He shed His blood? To pay a debt we owed and could not pay.**
- H. We are all guilty of sinning against our Holy God – the wages of sin is death – We owe God a debt which can only be paid in death – eternal death.**
- I. In the eternal covenant made between the Persons of the GOD HEAD – The Son of God agreed to come to earth and take upon Himself the sin of the world and suffer and shed His own BLOOD to pay the sin debt of the whole world.**
- J. This is all set forth in the Gospel of Jesus Christ – How that Christ died for our sin according to the Scriptures, and how that He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**
- K. JESUS SHED HIS OWN BLOOD TO PAY OUR SIN DEBT AND WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, THERE IS NO SALVATION.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Why all the blood? Our hope for eternity depends on the blood.**
- B. Is your hope based on the blood? Thank God for the shed blood of Christ.**
- C. If you have never repented of your sin and called on Jesus to save you, you need to now.**
- D. Your sin debt has been paid – paid by the blood of Jesus Christ.**
- E. Accept His gracious offer of salvation – now while you have time and opportunity.**

BUT CHRIST

Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-15

Introduction:

- A. These verses contain a review of teachings up to this point and a contrast between the type and the true; or the pattern and the real; or the typical and the actual.**
- B. We must keep in mind that the words testament and covenant mean the same and are used interchangeably in this discussion.**
- C. Some things that have been confirmed are:**
 - 1. We have a High Priest who is set on the right hand of the throne of God in heaven.**
 - 2. He is the minister (high priest) of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched.**
 - 3. The priests of the old law covenant served as the example and shadow of the heavenly things.**
 - 4. These priests served in an earthly tabernacle which Moses made according to the pattern God showed him on the mount.**
 - 5. In contrast, the High Priest sitting at the right hand of God in heaven has obtained a more excellent ministry than the high priest serving in the earthly tabernacle.**
 - 6. This High Priest serves under a better covenant which was established on better promises.**
 - 7. The Lord found fault in the old covenant and made a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**
 - 8. Not according to the old covenant which was written in stone.**
 - 9. But a new covenant put in the minds of His new covenant people and written on their hearts.**
 - 10. This covenant was made with spiritual Israel – saved Jews made up of both Jews and Gentiles who have been saved.**
 - 11. Verse 12 of chapter 8 established the truth that these would not be without sin; but that God will be merciful to them and remember their sins no more.**
 - 12. Chapter 8 ends with the statement – Since God has made a new covenant, the old covenant which has decayed and waxed old is ready to vanish away.**

- D. After having written of the new covenant taking the place of the old which was passing away, Paul writes of the contrast between the old and the new – between the type and the true – between the typical and the actual – between the pattern and the real.**
- E. Verses 1-10 of chapter 9 give a review of the old covenant and verses 11-15 deals with the new covenant.**

I. A REVIEW OF THE FIRST COVENANT FOR CONTRAST WITH THE NEW COVENANT.

- A. The old covenant had ordinances of divine services – and a sanctuary -- a tabernacle located on this earth.**
- B. The tabernacle contained two divisions – each of which was called a tabernacle. The first was larger and was referred to as the holy place. The second smaller was referred to as the holiest – holy of holies – and was separated from the larger by a veil.**
- C. The holy place – called the sanctuary -- contained a candlestick and the table of showbread.**
- D. The second, called the holiest of all, had the golden censer, and the arc of the covenant – which was overlaid round about with gold.**
- E. The ark contained the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tables of the covenant.**
- F. Over the arc were the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat.**
- G. Verse 6 – Under the old covenant all the priests served in the first tabernacle – the holy place accomplishing the service ordained of God.**
- H. Verse 7 – Only the High Priest went into the holy of holies behind the veil. He went alone – he went once each year on the day of the atonement – he took the blood of a sacrifice – which he offered for himself – and then he offered for the people.**
- I. By all of this, the Holy Spirit signified – clearly taught – that the way into the holiest of all – the true tabernacle, the Holy of Holies in heaven, of which the earthly was only a pattern -- was not yet open. It was open only to the High Priest as long as the earthly tabernacle was yet standing.**
- J. Verse 9 continues to teach that the earthly tabernacle was a figure for the time then present. In this figurative tabernacle were offered gifts and sacrifices that could not make him (the earthly high priest) that did the service perfect – as pertaining to his conscious.**

K. Verse 10 declares that all these gifts and sacrifices in meats and drinks and divers washings were only carnal ordinances imposed on the people UNTIL the time of reformation – the time of the new order – the time of setting things straight.

II. BUT CHRIST HAS COME AS THE HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST AND BROUGHT IN THE NEW ORDER.

- A. Christ came as a better High Priest of good things to come – things that are based on the better tabernacle, the true heavenly tabernacle rather than the figurative earthly tabernacle – the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**
- B. Christ entered the heavenly holy of holies by better blood -- His own blood, not the blood of goats and calves.**
- C. Christ entered the heavenly holy of holies only ONCE having obtained eternal redemption for us – Paul and those to whom he wrote and to whole world of mankind who will ask God’s forgiveness and trust the saving of their souls to the saving blood of Jesus Christ.**
- D. Verses 13 and 14 contrast the blood of bulls and goats and the blood of Jesus Christ. The offerings of the blood of these animals were made by the earthly High Priest once each year. They only sanctified to the purifying of the FLESH and were repeated each year.**
- E. But Christ -- as the High Priest of good things to come – did offer up His own blood by the eternal Spirit. His blood did purge or cleanse the conscious – the inner man – from dead works to serve the living God.**
- F. Verse 15 declares that this work of Jesus Christ makes Him the Mediator of the New Testament – new covenant. His death was for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament and for the entire human race.**
- G. And by means of His death, all they who are called receive the promise of eternal inheritance. Them, he foreknew, he predestinated, and them he predestinated, he called.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. Let each of us understand that Jesus Christ died to pay our sin debt, a debt we could not pay.**
- B. The wages of sin is death – the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C.If you have never repented of your sin and asked God to forgive you, do so now.

D.And quietly, in the secret recesses of your own soul, place you trust in Jesus Christ and ask him to save you. He will.

THE NECESSITY OF CROSS

Scripture: Hebrews 9:16-28

Introduction:

- A. The meaning of testament needs to be understood for a clear understanding of the teachings of this entire chapter, especially the section in our present lesson.**
- B. The same Greek word is translated both “testament” and “covenant.” They are the same. The term “will” means the same; sometimes two terms are joined in the term “last will and testament.” A covenant is an agreement between two as is a last will and testament.**
- C. Verses 1-10 of this chapter set forth the first covenant God made with Israel as a type or shadow of the real covenant.**
- D. Verses 11-14 set forth the realities of the true covenant or testament. Jesus Christ is set forth as the true high priest of the good things to come – of the high priest of the heavenly tabernacle made without hands.**
- E. Jesus is set forth as the High Priest who shed His own blood and by His own blood He entered ONCE into the heavenly holy place, HAVING obtained eternal redemption for US.**
- F. In verse 14 Paul clearly set forth God’s primary purpose is our eternal redemption was that we might serve the living God.**
- G. Verse 15 establishes the truth that Christ by means of His death also provided eternal redemption and an eternal inheritance for those who were under the first covenant and were called of God.**
- H. One writer commenting on this verse said, “What a comfort that would have been to those Jews who, for example, had some dear loved one who had died before Christ’s coming, but dearly loved Jehovah and longed to see His Messiah.”**

I. THE DEATH OF CHRIST EMPOWERED THE COVENANT.

Verses 16-20.

- A. Verses 16, 17 point out that a last will and testament is of no force as long as the one making the will is alive. In one sense a will is a covenant between the one making the will and the named beneficiary. Its worth is based on death – on blood.**

- B. Verses 18-20 point out that the first covenant – the Law covenant – was dedicated with the shedding of blood.**
- C. After Moses had spoken “every precept” of the law God had given him, he took shed blood and sprinkled the book and all the people.**
- D. Moses said, “This is the blood of the testament or covenant which God has enjoined unto you -- has commanded you to keep.**

II. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST PROVIDED CLEANSING AND REMISSION OF SIN. Verses 21-23

- A. Verse 21 points out that the earthly tabernacle which was a pattern of the heavenly was set apart or purified by the sprinkling of blood.**
- B. Verse 22 declares that “without the shedding of blood, there is no remission – no cleansing from sin.**
- C. Verse 23 – declares that it was necessary for the patterns of the things in the heavens (the tabernacle things) should be purified with these things – the blood of calves and goats.**
- D. BUT the heavenly things themselves needed to be purified with better sacrifices than these.**
- E. This brings to our attention something rarely thought of – the heavens themselves must be cleansed or purified.**
- F. Why? Job 15:15 and 25:5 explain – “Behold, He putteth no trust in His holy ones; Yea, the heavens are not pure in His sight; The stars are not pure in His sight.”**
- G. John 3:16 also teaches this need – God so loved the world (kosmos) that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- H. The Greek word “kosmos” is defined as the created universe. This must be interpreted as declaring that the blood of Jesus Christ not only purifies those who believe on Him; but His blood also purifies the created heavenlies – the universe.**

III. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST PROVIDES PAYMENT FOR SIN AND A HEAVENLY INTERCESSOR FOR THE REDEEMED.

Verses 24-26

- A. Christ ascended into heaven itself where He NOW appears in the presence of God the Father for us – as our Intercessor.**
- B. Unlike the high priest under the law system who entered into the holy place every year with the blood of calves and goats; Christ**

appeared ONCE in the end of the ages to put away sin by the shedding of His own blood.

IV. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ISSUES A WARNING AND A PROMISE. Verses 27, 28

- A. The warning is – we all shall die and we all shall be judged.**
- B. The implied teaching is – we shall be judged on the basis of our attitude toward the blood of Christ which was shed to pay our sin debt.**
- C. The promise is – Christ is coming the second time without sin unto salvation.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. LOOK FOR HIM; He is coming.**
- B. Be sure you have admitted your sinful condition; you have asked His forgiveness and have called upon Him to forgive you and to save your hell bound soul.**
- C. Be sure you are living within His will.**
- D. Christ speaks to each of us -- Ready or not, I am coming.**

21

THE CROSS AND ITS SHADOW

Scripture: Hebrews 10:1-18

Introduction:

- A. In about 64 A.D. the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the believing Jews, some of who had begun again to involve themselves in the old covenant system of worship.
 - B. At this time the temple was still standing; the veil which had been ripped open from top to bottom at the very moment Jesus had cried out with a loud voice and yielded up the ghost had been repaired; and the sacrifices and offerings required by the law were being continued.
 - C. In verse one of our present study Paul refers to the sacrifices and offerings required by the law as only a shadow of good things to come.
 - D. There is no reality in any shadow. A shadow does only one thing – it reveals the presence of that which casts the shadow.
 - E. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary has been the reality of God's plan of salvation from before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).
 - F. Following the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God has entered into covenant with fallen man time after time only to have man break the covenant.
 - G. When God delivered His chosen people out of bondage in Egypt by the blood of the Passover Lamb, He made another covenant with them. In this letter to the believing Jews, Paul called it the old covenant, the first covenant while referring to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the blood of the new covenant.
 - H. Our present lesson will reveal the Cross of Christ as the reality of which the sacrifices and offerings of the Law Covenant were only a shadow.
- I. LEARN THAT THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS OF THE LAW COVENANT CAST A SHADOW OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST.**
- VERSES 1-4**
- A. The law was only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very image of the things.
 - B. These good things refer to the coming of Jesus Christ and His fulfilling all that the law was only a shadow of.

- C. The things of the Law were not the VERY IMAGE of the things.**
- D. The Law sacrifices were offered year by year – year after year.**
- E. These offerings could not make those who offered them perfect.**
- F. Verse 2 asks a question to prove this truth. If they had been made perfect, there would have been no need to make them again.**
- G. Verse 3 points out that in making these offerings there is a remembrance of sins every year – there was no removal of sin.**
- H. Verse 4 states very clearly – it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**

II. LEARN THAT CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD AS THE REALITY THAT HAD CAST THE SHADOW. VERSES 5-9

- A. Verses 5-7 records the eternal Son of God saying prophetically, “sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psa. 40:6-8.**
- B. Verse 5 also records the eternal Son prophetically saying, “but a body hast thou prepared for me.” God did in fact prepare the body for Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary – the body which was offered as the perfect sacrifice to pay the sin debt of the whole world.**
- C. Verse 8 again refers back to the shadow sacrifices and offerings of bulls and goats made under the law in which God had no pleasure.**
- D. God ordered these sacrifices as they would point the people to the coming Christ who would suffer and bleed and die to pay their sin debt. But He had no pleasure in them because they did not fulfill the need of God and man. (Like a bride standing in front of a light casting her shadow on the wall before the groom. Neither the bride or the groom would find any REAL pleasure in this.)**
- E. Verse 9 repeats the prophetic statement of Christ declaring “Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.” And adding “He taketh away the first (law covenant and its offerings), that he may establish the second (new grace covenant established on the sacrifice of Christ, Himself).**

III. LEARN THAT THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERING OF THE CHRIST PROVIDED FOR THE ETERNAL PLEASURE OF BOTH GOD AND MAN. Verses 10-14

- A. Verse 10 declares that by the WILL of God we are sanctified – made pure – through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**
- B. Jesus came into the world to do the will of the Father – even to His death on the cross.**
- C. Paul again reminds his readers that the offerings made by the priests daily could never take away sins.**
- D. He then seems to shout – THIS MAN, the One who cast the long shadow after he had offered ONE sacrifice for sins FOR EVER, sat down on the right hand of God.**
- E. Paul continues by saying, From now on He is seated EXPECTING until his enemies are made his footstool.**
- F. Paul now seems to sum up all he has said and put it into one short statement – For by ONE offering He has PERFECTED FOR EVER them that are sanctified – that is through the work of the Christ of God who paid our sin debt by the sacrifice of His own blood.**
- G. Let us be reminded that them that are sanctified and perfected forever are those who have been born again of the Spirit of God.**
- H. It is the inner man, new man who is a partaker of the Divine nature who is perfected forever and not the old natural, flesh man who shall pay his sin debt in dying.**

IV. LEARN THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD BEAR WITNESS TO PAUL'S MESSAGE. Verses 15-18

- A. Paul declares that the Holy Spirit is witness to the truths he has just written.**
- B. He then declares that the covenant the Lord had promised His people chosen in Christ was now fulfilled in them. “I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”**
- C. This promised covenant is recorded in Jeremiah and verified in 1 John 2.**
- D. Paul sums up his teachings in declaring – Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. What glorious truths these teachings are!**
- B. They are fulfilled in all who claim them in Jesus Christ.**
- C. To claim them you must admit your sin against God, ask His forgiveness and trust the cleansing of your soul to Jesus Christ.**
- D. He died to pay your sin debt; He rose for your justification and He will give you new spirit life if you ask Him.**