**Hebrews Lesson 12 8:1-13**



**Hebrews 8:1-13 (NIV)**   
1  The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,   
2  and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.   
3  Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.   
4  If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.   
5  They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."   
6  But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.   
7  For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.   
8  But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.   
9  It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.   
10  This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.   
11  No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.   
12  For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."   
13  By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

[8:1-10:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A1-10%3A18) The argument of this section grows out of an exposition of [Jer 31:31-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+31%3A31-34) and demonstrates that Christ is the mediator of a "better covenant" ([7:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A22)).



[8:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A1) See note on [1:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A2-3). high priest. See note on [2:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A17).

[8:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A2) true tabernacle. In contrast to the tabernacle erected by Moses, which was an imperfect and impermanent copy of the heavenly one. set up by the Lord, not by man. The heavenly sanctuary built by God corresponds to the Most Holy Place, the innermost sanctuary in Moses' tabernacle, into which the high priest briefly entered with the blood of atonement once a year (see [Lev 16:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+16%3A13-15),[34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+16%3A34)). In the heavenly sanctuary, however, our great high priest dwells eternally as our intercessor ([7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A25)).



[8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A3) gifts and sacrifices. See [5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A1) and note.

[8:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A4) men who offer the gifts. The present tense of the verb "offer," here and elsewhere in the letter, indicates that the temple in Jerusalem was still standing. This letter, therefore, must have been written prior to the temple's destruction in a.d. 70 (see Introduction: Date).

[8:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A5) copy and shadow of what is in heaven. An implication the author draws from the words of [Ex 25:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+25%3A40). make everything according to the pattern. Because both the tabernacle and its ministry were intended to symbolize the only way sinners may approach a holy God and find forgiveness.

[8:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A6) mediator. Cf. [1Ti 2:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+2%3A5) and note. In Hebrews "mediator" is always "of a new covenant" ([9:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A15); [12:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A24)). The role of "mediator" here appears to be not that of instituting the covenant but of guaranteeing that the covenant promises are fulfilled (cf. [7:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A22)), that the promised deliverance is actually accomplished (cf. Moses' mediatorial acts in [Ex 32:31-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+32%3A31-32); [33:12-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+33%3A12-23); [34:5-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+34%3A5-10); [Nu 14:13-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+14%3A13-20)).



[8:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A7) if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant. The line of argument here is similar to that in [7:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A11), where the Levitical priestly order is shown to be inferior because it was replaced by the order of Melchizedek represented by Jesus. Similarly, if the Sinaitic covenant were without defect, there would have been no need to replace it with a new covenant.



[8:8-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A8-12) A quotation from [Jer 31:31-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+31%3A31-34) (see note there) containing a prophetic announcement and definition of the new covenant, which was to be different from the Sinaitic covenant ([v. 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A9)). Its superior benefits are: (1) God's laws will become inner principles ([v. 10a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A10)) that enable his people to delight in doing his will (cf. [Eze 36:26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+36%3A26-27); [Ro 8:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A2-4) and notes); (2) God and his people will have intimate fellowship ([v. 10b](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A10)); (3) sinful ignorance of God will be removed forever ([v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A11)); and (4) forgiveness of sins will be an everlasting reality ([v. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A12)).



[8:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A10) their God... my people. See note on [Zec 8:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+8%3A8).

[8:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A13) obsolete and aging. The Sinaitic covenant—but not the Abrahamic covenant (cf. [Ro 4:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A16-17); chs. 9-11; [Gal 3:7-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A7-9),[14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A14),[16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A16-18); [Eph 2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A12)).



**NIV Study Bible.**

**Open it**

1. What is involved in having an intimate relationship with God?   
 **Accepting Christ as your Lord and savoir, then talk with him and learn from his word in the bible.**

2. Why is it so difficult to forget the wrongs others do to us?   
 **Humans hold grudges for a long time**  
  
**Explore it**

3. Where is Christ right now? ([8:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A1))   
 **At the right hand of God seated on his throne.**

4. What is Christ doing presently in heaven? ([8:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A2))   
 **Serving in the sanctuary of God as its high priest**

5. What is the "job description" for a high priest? ([8:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A3))   
 **To make propitiation for our sins**

6. How do earthly sanctuaries and tabernacles differ from the heavenly one in which Christ is currently serving? ([8:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A2), [5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A5-6))   
 **They are but a shadow of what is in Heaven**

7. What do the terms "copy," "shadow," and "pattern" indicate about the Levitical priesthood? ([8:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A5))   
 **They set up the tabernacle to look like Heavens, but are not even close**

8. In what ways is the new covenant superior to the old? ([8:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A6))   
 **But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.**

9. Why did God decide to initiate a new covenant? ([8:7-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A7-12)   
 **Because man could not keep the old covenant**

10. How did God say the new covenant would be different from the old one? ([8:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A10))   
 **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

11. What is God’s response to sin under the new covenant? ([8:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A12))   
 **I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more**

12. What became of the old covenant when the new was introduced? ([8:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A13))   
 **He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear**.  
  
**Get it**

13. How does it make you feel to realize that under the new covenant, you can have an intimate relationship with God?   
 **It makes me feel safe and warm in his arms**

14. How motivated would you be to love and worship God if you had to depend solely on animal sacrifices offered by a stranger?   
 **Not so good**

15. What do we learn about God from the fact that He set aside the old covenant in favor of the new?   
 **He is truly merciful**

**Apply it**

16. In what ways can you show your thanks to God today for the fact that He remembers your sins no more?   
 **Try to follow his ways as best as I can, pass this on to another so they can become a beliver**

17. How can you use the truths of this passage in coming days to help a friend who is struggling to earn God’s approval?   
 **We can give our testimony to them and encourage them to read and study about God and Jesus**