

Hebrews Chapter 8A

Like many other men in my generation one of the hobbies that I enjoyed when I was a boy was building model Cars, boats, model planes.

But I have an very fond memory of building a very special model with my Father.

You see my Dad served on an aircraft carrier in the Navy during the Korean War and I remember my Dad helping to build a model aircraft carrier when I was young.

- I remember how he described those huge elevators that were used to bring the planes up onto the flight deck.
- He described them to me as we worked together to glue all of the parts and fasten the decals so that it looked just like the original.
- When we were putting the planes together my dad told me how hard it was to load the bombs on to the planes.
- My only experience attaching a bomb to a plane was on those Models that I built BUT My Dad experienced the real thing.
- Building the Models and listening to his stories gave me a glimpse into the reality of something that I never experienced for myself.

Well the heavenly Father has given His adopted children a glimpse into the unseen realm of heaven through the pages of the Bible. (*Listen to the Words of John*)

Revelation 4;2 **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.**

- Just as My father helped me to build a model aircraft carrier Our Heavenly Father helped Moses build a model of the Heavenly throne-room that was pictured for us by the Apostle John.

In Exodus chapters 25 – 26 God describes all of the resources that Moses would need to construct the Tabernacle in such a way that it would be a precise model of the throne-room of God and this model would be the place where the presence of God would dwell among the people of Israel.

Exodus 25: 40 (God said to Moses) **see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.**

- Neither Moses nor the craftsmen who worked on the Tabernacle were permitted to take creative license in building the structure. It had to be made exactly according to the specs that were given by God.

Thinking about the difference between a model and the reality that the model represents, let me ask you this question: Would you rather possess a perfect scale model of a Porsche 911 to sit on your desk OR a real Porsche 911 to sit in your driveway and the Keys in your pocket?

As a believer in Christ would you rather worship God in the Tabernacle, the model that was made by human hands, OR worship God in the heavenly tabernacle, alongside of the angels and the 24 elders who are gathered around the throne in the presence of God Himself?

- It goes without saying that the reality is always better than the model.
- When I play with my grandchildren they offer me plastic food from their plastic kitchen. BUT I would much rather have a real chicken leg than the plastic one.

Back in the book of Hebrews the discussion of Jesus' qualifications and appointment as the ultimate High Priest now leads us to a description of His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary.

- When we finally arrive at Ch. 8: 1 we have reached the top of the mountain, every description of Christ's priesthood, from chapters 2–7, every contrast, every comparison has led us to this precipice in Ch. 8 where the author says:

Hebrews 8: 1 **Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,**

The MAIN POINT, the pinnacle, the Apex, the Zenith of everything I have been telling you over the past 3 weeks is this: WE HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIEST.

- A perfect compassionate, qualified, God ordained, eternal Priest who offered Himself on the altar of sacrifice obtaining for us eternal redemption.
- We have a priest who stands in the presence of the Father and prays for us.
- Because His priesthood is Permanent He is able to save to the uttermost (*fully, completely, permanently*) those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

The description of Christ's Priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary will focus on:

1. His Seat
2. His Sanctuary
3. His Superior Covenant

1 His Seat

I believe that I mentioned this before, but it is worthy of repeating, The Levitical Priests were never permitted to sit down during the time of their ministry.

- As a matter of fact, there were no chairs, no stools, no benches within the confines of the Tabernacle or Temple.
- Well there was one seat, but it was in the Holy of Holies and it was called the "Mercy Seat" and it represented the throne of God. (you don't sit there!)
- IN Ch. 10 the author describes the service of the Levitical Priests this way:

Hebrews 10:11 **Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

- So we see the reason that the priest's job was never done was because the sacrifices that they offered had no permanent or lasting effect on sin. As I said before they only provided a temporary covering.

BUT after Jesus, the Lamb of God, offered His own life in sacrifice for our sin He went beyond the veil into the heavenly holy place, the true tent that was not made by human hands and He sat down.

- His work was finished, perfect atonement had been made, the wrath of God for every sin committed by His beloved people was effectively removed, once and for all. (the Justice of God was completely satisfied)
- The Better Priest, offered a better sacrifice, instituted a better covenant SO after studying 7 chapters, listening to 18 sermons we finally come to the Main Point.
- What is it? WE HAVE such a High Priest!

The fact that Our High Priest sat down tells us that His work was finished. Not only was His sacrifice complete, the fact that he was seated tells us that His atonement was entirely effective. There is nothing that can be added to his sacrifice

Hebrews 9:11 **But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

- On the cross Jesus Christ cried out, "*It is Finished.*" Having Secured eternal redemption for every sinner throughout all history who repents of their sin and trusts in his atoning sacrifice he sat down.
- Where did he sit? "**at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven**"

It was well known in this culture, to be seated at Right Hand of a Monarch was to be seated in a position of honor, and great power.

- If you were invited to STAND at the right hand of a King, that was an honor, BUT to SIT at the right hand was a supreme honor.
- Listen to the words of Peter:

Acts 5: 31 **God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.**

Ephesians 1:19b, **according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,**

- The exalted position of our Lord Jesus Christ is FAR above ALL rule and authority, power and dominion. What is in view here is Christ's superiority over the whole angelic host, every ranking, every power and position of authority.
- Every name that is named whether they be kings, princes, governors, through all of the ages into eternity, Christ's authority FAR exceeds every one of them.
- AND it is in this exalted position that He has been given as the head of the church.

The privileges that we will one day enjoy in light of Christ's exaltation are almost too wonderful to believe.

- Consider the promise that Jesus spoke to those who would repent and believe, those who would overcome in the church at Laodicea.

Revelation 3: 21 **The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.**

- What an Amazing thought! The grace of our Lord Jesus doesn't simply open the door of Glory so that we can sneak in and get lost in the crowd, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to come and sit with him on his throne.

We have looked at the Throne of God where Christ is seated NOW let's look around the room at the heavenly sanctuary.

2 His Sanctuary

The sanctuary in which Jesus presently ministers is infinitely superior to the one in which the Jewish priests ministered. (we will go into detail in Ch. 9 Let's get a taste..)

In 8:2 Jesus is called, **a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.**

- The word "True" is not saying that the model that was utilized by the Levitical Priesthood was "False" (*this is not a true and false issue*) Rather it is the true tabernacle as compared to the model, the shadow or the temporary tabernacle.

Hebrews 8:5 **They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."**

- The earthly tabernacle was only a shadow of the real sanctuary which is in heaven.
- Think about that, God gave his people Israel a model of heaven sitting right in the midst of them.
- This is the place where the priests would bring the sacrifices, burn incense and offer prayers to God.
- All of these things were tangible representations of a greater reality.

Like a little girl's tea party, the participants are all dressed up and all the proper utensils are on the table, but the cups are empty and the food is pretend.

- Amid all of the pomp and circumstance everyone's belly remains empty.

But the Lord Jesus, our great High Priest serves the True Israel, the faithful children of Abraham in the True Tabernacle.

- Offering gifts and sacrifices on their behalf.

Hebrews 8:4 **Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.**

- While the temple stood on the earth the Lord Jesus who was born of the tribe of Judah would not have been permitted to serve as a priest.
 - However, when He died on the cross Jesus instituted a New Covenant in his blood.
 - Within 5 years of the writing of this book the Temple would be destroyed and the Priesthood would be disbanded.

Jesus' superior Seat and His superior sanctuary are evidences of His superior ministry. His superior ministry is evidence of the superior covenant, of which he is the superior mediator, assuring us of God's superior promises.

3 His Superior Covenant (*Has made the First Covenant obsolete*)

- Many of the items that we use every day are designed in such a way that they will be obsolete in just a few years. Windows 7 gave way to windows 8.1 and then to Windows 10. The Iphone 5 gave way to the Iphone 5s then the 6 and 6s.
- In our Capitalistic Society planned obsolescence assures companies will have repeat customers.
- Here in Hebrews 8 the author writes:

Hebrews 8:13 **In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**

- The appearing of Jesus Christ the Messiah has ushered in a whole new covenant that is built on better promises.

Hebrews 8: 6 **But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.**

Here in Vs 6 the author tells us that Jesus is the Mediator of a Better covenant.

- A mediator is someone who stands between two people and brings them together. He is a go-between in a dispute of conflict and it is essential that a mediator be able to rightly represent both parties.
- WHY do we need a Mediator?
 - We know from the book of Genesis that our first parents sinned against God their sovereign and loving creator.

- That original sin was an offense against Almighty God. It was an act of blatant rebellion.
- And that Sin separated Men from God.
- If sinful man could ever be reconciled to Holy God, man would need a mediator a go-between, someone to stand in the gap.
- In order to represent both sides effectively a Mediator would have to be both fully human and fully divine.
- Listen to the cry of Job written long before the coming of Christ.

Job 9:32 Speaking of God, Job said: “He is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. 33 There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.”

- There is no arbiter, no mediator who is able to lay his hand on us both.
- That is not until Immanuel arrived, not until the Son of God put on human flesh and dwelt among us.
- The Apostle Paul affirms the fact that Jesus Christ fills the role as the ONLY mediator between God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- In the book of Hebrews the Author calls Jesus “The mediator of a better covenant.”

Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. 8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

- Here the Author points his Hebrew readers to the Old Testament saying that they should not be surprised by the appearance of a New Covenant because the Prophets foretold that a new covenant was coming.

Hebrews 8: 9 (This New Covenant would) not (Be) like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

- Being sinful, corrupt at the very core of their being no man was able to live by the standards of the Old Covenant.
- When God gave the covenant the Israelites declared, “All that God has said we will do.” But Scriptural record shows that they failed.
- They desperately needed a new covenant. NOW the writer of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah the Prophet.

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

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

- These are words of Life to a dying generation, words of Hope to a desperate people. They speak of a New Covenant where the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus will set men free from the law of sin and death.
- These words bring the hope of dramatic changes in the heart of man and the promise of full and lasting forgiveness.
- Let's quickly consider the benefits of this New Covenant:

This New Covenant would be internal not external.

- Obedience would be based on love rather than fear.
- The Laws of God would be written by the Spirit of God on the heart of man rather than the finger of God on tablets of stone.

The New Covenant would be personal.

- Every believer under this New Covenant has a resident Helper, a resident teacher personally abiding in his heart. The Holy Spirit of whom Jesus said: "He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

The New Covenant brings Complete Forgiveness.

- This is the capstone of the New Covenant, the thing that men needed more than anything else. Sins are removed once and for all by the Blood of Jesus Christ.
- What the Old Covenant foreshadowed but was unable to deliver the new covenant has provided for all who believe.

Isa 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. "

- These hopeful words that the Old Covenant could never fulfill have been finally and fully accomplished by the New Covenant in Jesus' Blood.
- As the Writer of Hebrews told us: Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant

WHAT'S the MAIN POINT? WE have such a High Priest! Seated at the right hand of the Father, Ministering in the True Sanctuary, interceding for us,

Friend, If you have repented of your sin and trusted in Christ YOU HAVE:

Ch 2 - a merciful and Faithful High Priest.

Ch 4 – A Great High Priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses.

- *Tempted in every way like we are and yet was without sin.*

Ch 5 – A Perfect High Priest who is the source of eternal redemption.

- OUR Salvation has been secured by Christ's offering and assured by His continued prayer on our behalf. (*We must repent and believe*)

Ch 6 – A high Priest who as an anchor for our souls is gone beyond the veil where he now stands as our sure and steadfast hope.

Ch 6 – He is like a pioneer who paved the way for us to follow.

Ch 7 – Our High Priest is able to save completely all who come to God through Him.

Ch 7 – He is a holy, innocent and undefiled High Priest who is exalted above the heavens.

Ch 7 – Our High Priest offered himself, his own blood in atonement for the sins of his people.

Ch 7 – He is a perfect High Priest who has offered the perfect sacrifice and accomplished for us a perfect salvation.

- The path that he paved for us leads all the way to glory and he sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to keep on walking.