



## Hebrews Lesson 8 Chapter 8

*The Old Testament covenant, which was given to the Israelites when they were delivered from Egypt, was a divine contract that would enable the people to live with God in their midst. That covenant was the foundation of the Jewish nation. The holiness of God requires that His people be holy in order for the relationship between them to flourish. God's holiness burns against unrighteousness. That means that sin has to be removed so there is no hindrance between God and those who serve Him. In the old covenant that process was enacted by the laws and decrees that the nation was to adopt to encourage holy living. The sacrificial system was then established to temporarily cover the sins committed under those laws. "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin" Hebrews 9:22. God called the tribe of Levi under Aaron and Moses to be the priesthood that would carry out the required sacraments and sacrifices that were given to deal with sin. They were to be the intermediaries between God and the people. They were purified and sanctified to stand before God on behalf of the people. Their weakness was that they had sin of their own that had to be atoned for, and they died and someone else had to take their place. Also, the sacrifices of goats and bulls were not sufficient to fully forgive sin, but only cover it temporarily.*

*The author of Hebrews has identified several elements of the old covenant and explained how Jesus and the new covenant are superior to them. But, the foundational aspect of Judaism is its law and sacrificial requirements that separate them from all the nations of the world and are only enacted by the Levitical priests. How could Jesus be superior to the Levitical priesthood when He wasn't even from the tribe of Levi? So, the writer goes back to the beginning of the Jewish nation with the patriarch Abraham to reveal that the better priesthood of Jesus was ordained before the Levitical priesthood. Through the mysterious interaction that Abraham had with Melchizedek, God established a supernatural priesthood that would surpass the human institution that would later be set up at Mt. Sinai. The requirement to be a priest in the "order of Melchizedek" was to have not just a human bloodline, but a divine bloodline that produced an "indestructible life." As God declared, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." This priesthood has a superior requirement that only Jesus could fulfill and was therefore superior to the Levitical priesthood. Jesus, as the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek, could provide the final required sacrifice for the complete forgiveness of sin.*

## REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7





*Word study:*

*In 8:5, the word “copy” (Greek ὑποδείγματι) means a pattern, figure **or** example. The word “shadow” (Greek σκιά ) means an image cast by an object and representing the form of that object: opposed to the thing itself.*

7. *What are those things a shadow and copy of? 8:5 See also Colossians 2:17*
8. *What does God promise to do in the new covenant that is different from the old covenant? 8:7-12 See also Jeremiah 32:36-44*
9. *Why is new covenant necessary? 8:9*



*Word study:*

*The word “continue” ( Greek ἐνέμειναν NAS and KJV) means to abide, to remain, to stay.*

10. *The author continues to give the warning to the readers about not falling away. Not abiding or continuing on in the faith was the downfall of the old covenant adherents. How is abiding a necessary element of the new covenant also? John 15:1-11; 8:31. Why is that so important?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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