

MESSIAH HIGH PRIEST
(Study of the Epistle to the Hebrews)

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All Scriptural Quotations are taken from the New American Bible (1970 Version), with Revised Translations of New Testament (1986) and Psalms (1991).

- [Brackets Identify Quotations and References from the Old Testament]
- *(Parenthetic Italics) Imbedded within Bible Quotes are Author's Comments.*
- **Bold** and Underlined Text are Author's Emphasis.

Blue Highlights Old Testament Quotations & References, throughout the Book of Hebrews, Fulfilled by Christ Jesus.

Small Italics are Author's Footnotes.

PART I – JESUS HEBREW MESSIAH

Heb. 1 & 2

A. Preface

This Epistle was written about 30 years after Messiah Jesus' resurrection and ascension into Heaven. It is often referred to as the "Fifth Gospel". It was primarily written to those Hebrews/Jews who, after accepting Jesus as their Messiah, reverted back to the Mosaic Law. The author corrects them, encouraging them to return in faith to Messiah Jesus Who had fulfilled the Law. This Epistle presents Messiah Jesus as the Holy and Eternal High Priest, Who having offered Himself as the Perfect and Eternal Sacrifice, is Enthroned in the Heavenly Sanctuary making constant intercession for His People.

1. Offices of the Hebrew Messiah ("Christ")

The Lord God Established Three Anointed Offices:

- a. Prophet. Prophets hear from the Lord and proclaim that Word to its intended audience (i.e. kings, priests, people, etc.). This may include predicting the future. The Lord God chooses and anoints His Prophets. *(The Lord God had not spoken through a Hebrew Prophet for centuries before John the Baptist heralded Messiah.)*
- b. Priest. Priests intercede to the Lord God for His People by offering atoning sacrifices. Priests also perform religious ceremonies, rituals and practices. The priesthood consists of many priests presided over by a High Priest. All priests are from the Tribe of Levi, House of Aaron. The Lord God chooses one of these "levitical" priests to serve as High Priest for a season. *(When this Epistle was written, worship at the Temple in Jerusalem was still in effect with a High Priest.) (The Temple was Destroyed and Levitical Priesthood Disbanded in 70 AD.)*
- c. King. Kings rule over the people/nation under the Lord God's authority. This office includes being Israel's supreme judge. The Lord God chooses His Kings, who are to be anointed by both a Prophet and a Priest. *(Israel/Judah was occupied and ruled by foreign authorities, at this time.)*

There is Only One Person in All Humanity, Whom the Lord God Anointed with All Three Offices - Messiah Jesus (Son of God & Son of Man). He was sent into this World to redeem Mankind from the curse of sin and death, opening the way to personally approach the Throne of God through Him - Eternal High Priest.

- a. Prophet. Jesus spoke the uncompromising Word that He received from Father God throughout His ministry on Earth. *(Jesus is the Living Word of God!)*
- b. Priest. Jesus was ordained as Eternal High Priest after He offered Himself as a Holy and Perfect Sacrifice for the expiation of sins, rising from the dead.
- c. King. Jesus *(legitimate heir to the Throne of David)* was crowned as King of Heaven and Earth, when He ascended into Heaven and enthroned at the Right Hand of God Almighty.

2. This is a Study of Christ Jesus' Priesthood

- a. As Revealed in the Epistle to the Hebrews
- b. As Predicted & Formulated in the Old Testament
- c. As Fulfilled by Christ Jesus in His First Coming
- d. Presenting God's Revelation in Jesus Christ:
 - 1) Supreme & Final Revelation of All Time
 - 2) Providing the Way of Salvation to Mankind
 - 3) Ascending into Heaven Where He is Ordained as Eternal High Priest

B. Introduction – Who Is Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus)?

Heb. 1 & 2

The Epistle opens by presenting the Divinity of Messiah (Christ) Jesus - Son of God, who came to Earth as a man to live and die for our salvation; and, being obedient to that mission is exalted as Eternal High Priest.

1. Deity of Jesus Christ (God the Son)

Heb. 1:1-4

a. “In times past (*During the Old Covenant*), God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors (*Hebrews*) through the prophets; in these last days (*Fulfillment of the Old Covenant*), he spoke to us through a son (*Messiah - Son of God*), whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence (*Reflection*) of his (*Father God’s*) glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.”

- 1) Christ Jesus is the Son of God
- 2) Christ Jesus is the Creative & Prophetic Word of God
- 3) Christ Jesus is the Personal Revelation of Father God to Mankind
- 4) God’s Son is Heir of All Creation
- 5) God’s Son is Creator & Sustainer of the Universe

b. “When he (*Christ Jesus*) had accomplished purification from sins (*By His Sacrifice on the Cross*), he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

- 1) Christ Jesus is the Savior of Mankind
- 2) Christ Jesus is Enthroned at the Right Hand (*Position of Authority*) of the Majesty (*Father God Almighty*) in Heaven
- 3) Christ Jesus is Superior to All Angelic Hosts

2. God’s Son is Greater than All Creation

Heb. 1:5-14

a. “For to which of the angels did God ever say: ‘You are my son; this day I have begotten you’ [Psa. 2:7]? Or again: ‘I (Lord God) will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me’ [Fulfilling Messianic Promise - 2 Sam. 7:14]?”

- 1) Christ Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God John 3:16

b. “And again, when he leads the first-born (*Only Begotten Son of God*) into the world, he says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship him.’ [e.g. Deut. 32:43] Of the angels he says: ‘He makes his angels winds and his ministers a fiery flame’ [Psa. 104:4];”

- 1) Angels Worship Christ Jesus
(*Worship is a Prerogative Reserved Solely for God*)
- 2) Christ Jesus is Superior to All Angels

c. “but of the Son: ‘Your throne, O God, stands forever and ever; and a righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You loved justice and hated wickedness; therefore God (Messiah - Son of God), your God (Father God), anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions’ [Psa. 45:7-8];”

- 1) Christ Jesus Rules from a Divine Eternal Throne
- 2) Christ Jesus is Superior to All Earthly Royals & Authorities
- 3) Christ Jesus is the Supreme & Righteous Judge

d. “and: ‘At the beginning (Before Creation), O Lord, you established the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.’ [Psa. 102:26-28]”

- 1) Christ Jesus is Creator of the Heavens & Earth (*God's Handiwork*)
- 2) Christ Jesus is Superior to All Creation (*God's Supremacy*)
- 3) Christ Jesus is Eternal & Immutable (*Attributes of God*)
- e. "But to which of the angels has he ever said: '[Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool](#)' [Psa. 110:1]? Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"
 - 1) Christ Jesus is Enthroned with Father God
 - 2) Christ Jesus is the Supreme Authority (*Position Reserved for God Alone*)
 - 3) Angels are Ministering Spirits to Inheritors of Salvation (*People Saved through Christ's Sacrifice*)
- f. *Other Examples of Scripture References to Christ Jesus' (Messiah Yeshua) Divinity*
Matt. 17:1-6; John 1:1-14; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20; Rev. 22:12-16

3. Exhortation to Faithfulness

Heb. 2:1-4

After presenting the Divinity and Supremacy of Messiah Jesus, the author exhorts those backslidden Hebrew Christians to remain faithful to the witnesses of Messiah Jesus and the Salvation He wrought.

- a. "Therefore, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, so that we may not be carried away. For if the word announced through angels proved firm, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Announced originally through the Lord, it was confirmed for us by those who had heard. God added his testimony by signs, wonders, various acts of power, and distribution of the gifts of the holy Spirit according to his will."
 - 1) Exhortation to be Attentive to the Word of the Lord
 - a) So as Not to Drift Away from their Faith in Messiah Jesus
 - b) In the Old Testament the Word was Announced through Angles (*i.e. Ministering Spirits*) (e.g. Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19)
 - (1) Their Word "Proved Firm" with Punishments for Disobedience
 - 2) Warning Not to Ignore "So Great a Salvation"
 - a) Announced First by Our Lord Jesus Christ (*Messiah & Son of God*)
 - (1) Jesus Christ Superior to Angles
 - b) Confirmed by Christ's Disciples & Witnesses (*i.e. His Church*)
 - c) Testified by Signs, Wonders & Works of the Holy Spirit

4. Christ's Humility & Exaltation

Heb. 2:5-13

Using Hebrew Scripture, the author explains that the Divine Person (Son of God) became a Human (Son of Man), Who took the curse of sin and death upon Himself bringing Believers into the Family of God.

- a. World Made Subject to the Son of Man (*Christ Jesus*) - Not Angles
 - 1) "For it was not to angels that he subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking."
- b. Son of Man Temporarily Made Lower than the Angles
 - 1) "Instead, someone has testified somewhere: '[What is man \(Human Beings\) that you \(Lord God\) are mindful of him, or the son of man \(Messiah Jesus\) that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels \(During His Life on Earth\); you crowned him with glory and honor, subjecting all things under his feet.](#)' [Proclaimed Psa. 8:5-7 & Fulfilled Phil. 2:5-11]"
 - a) Son of God Became Messiah - Son of Man

- (1) Living as a Man on Earth “Lower than the Angels”
 - b) Son of Man Crowned with Glory & Authority Over All Creation
 - 2) “In ‘**subjecting**’ all things (to him) (*i.e. Christ Jesus*), he left nothing not ‘**subject to him.**’ Yet at present we do not see ‘**all things subject to him,**’ (*i.e. Current Existence of Evil/Sin*) but we do see Jesus ‘**crowned with glory and honor**’ because he suffered death, he who ‘**for a little while**’ was made ‘**lower than the angels,**’”
 - a) Messiah Suffered Death Like a Man
 - b) Messiah is Exalted Above All Creation
 - (1) After Completing His Salvific Mission (*i.e. Coming to Earth, Living a Life of Obedience; Ministering, Suffering, Dying, Resurrected & Ascending into Heaven*)
 - (2) Subjugating All Things (*Natural & Spiritual, Principalities & Powers, etc.*) Under His Authority
 - c. Christ Jesus Tasted Death for the Sake of Man
 - 1) “that **by the grace of God he** (*Christ Jesus*) **might taste death for everyone.** For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist (*Source of Life*), in bringing many children (*Born Again Christians*) to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering.”
 - a) Jesus (Our Leader) was Perfected through Suffering
 - (1) Providing the Way of Salvation for Sinful Man
 - d. Jesus is Not Ashamed to Call Christians: His Brothers & Children of God
 - 1) “**He who consecrates** (*Jesus Christ*) **and those who are being consecrated** (*Born Again Christians*) **all have one origin** (*Human*).”
 - a) Jesus Consecrates (*Sets Apart / Declares Holy*) People Who Accept Him as Lord & Savior
 - 2) “Therefore, **he** (*Messiah – Jesus*) **is not ashamed to call them ‘brothers,’** saying: ‘**I will proclaim your name** (*Yahweh*) **to my brothers** (*Born Again Christians*), **in the midst of the assembly** (*Hosts of Heaven*) **I will praise you**’ [Psa. 22:23];”
 - a) Jesus Brings Believers into the Family of God (Re: John 1:10-13)
 - (1) Making Father God Our Father (Re: Rom. 8:14-17)
 - 3) “and again: ‘**I** (*Messiah – Jesus*) **will put my trust in him** (*Father God*); and again: “**Behold, I and the children** (*Born Again Christians*) **God has given me.**” [Isa. 8:17-18]
5. Christ Jesus: Man / Savior / High Priest Heb. 2:14-18
The author presents Messiah Jesus as God’s Holy and Perfect High Priest.
- a. “Now since the children share in blood and flesh, **he** (*Jesus*) **likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life.**” [e.g. Isa. 25:8]
 - 1) God the Son Became a Flesh & Blood Human Being - Like Us
 - 2) Christ Jesus Died as a Man
 - 3) Christ Jesus Our Savior - Defeated Satan, Setting Us Free from Fear of Death
 - b. “..... therefore, **he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest** before God to expiate the sins of the people. **Because he** (*Jesus*) **himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.**”

- 1) God the Son Became a Man (*Jesus*), So He Could Become Our High Priest
- 2) Priestly Functions Performed by Messiah Jesus - Our High Priest:
 - a) He Offered Himself as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice
(Priests Under the Mosaic Law Continually Offered Sacrifices of Atonement, Covering the Sins of the People for a Period of Time. Jesus' Sacrifice 'Expiated' [i.e. Fully Paid the Price/Penalty] for Sins, Removing them from People Who Accept 'So Great a Salvation'.)
 - b) He Intercedes for Man to God Almighty (Re: 1 Tim. 2:5)
 - (1) He Experienced & Understands Our Temptations, Trials & Tribulations
 - (2) He is Our Means to Living Godly Lives

This Yeshua (Jesus)
Son of the Most High God
Messiah, Savior & Lord
Became
Our Eternal High Priest
Enthroned at the Right Hand of Lord God Almighty

PART II – MESSIAH FAITHFUL & COMPASSIONATE HIGH PRIEST

Heb. 3:1 - 5:10

A. Christ Jesus Superior to Moses

Heb. 3:1-6

1. Who was Moses?

(Moses' Life & Ministry is Recorded in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy of the Old Testament)

- a. *Moses was the Lord's Anointed Prophet* *Ex. 3:4-22; Deut. 18:15-20*
- b. *Moses was Israel's Deliverer from Bondage* *Ex. 4 - 15*
- c. *Moses was Intercessor between Israel & the Lord* *Ex. 18:13-27; Ex. 32:1-14*
- d. *Moses Wrote the Lord's Covenant of Laws with Israel (God's Chosen People/Nation):* *Ex. 19 – 31*
 - 1) *Civil Laws*
 - 2) *Moral Laws*
 - 3) *Sacred/Religious Laws*
- e. *Moses Ordained the Office of Israel's Priesthood* *Ex. 28:1; Num. 18:1-7*
 - 1) *Consecrating His Brother Aaron as Israel's First High Priest*
 - 2) *Consecrating Aaron's Sons as Priests*
 - a) *Establishing Priestly Order of Succession – Descendants of Aaron*

2. Christ Jesus the Center of Our Faith

Heb. 3:1-2a

- a. "Therefore, holy **'brothers,'** sharing in a heavenly calling, **reflect (i.e. Focus) on Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,** who was faithful to the one *(Father God)* who appointed him,"

3. God's Household

Heb. 3:2b-6

- a. "... Moses was 'faithful in (all) his house.' [Num. 12:7] But he (Messiah Jesus) is worthy of more 'glory' than Moses, as the founder of a house has more 'honor' than the house itself."
 - 1) Christ Jesus is the Founder of God's Household
 - a) Fulfilling the Mosaic Covenant of Laws *Matt. 5:17-18*
 - b) Establishing a New Covenant *Matt. 26:26-28*
 - 2) "Every house is founded by someone, but the founder of all is God."
- b. "Moses was 'faithful in all his house' [Num. 12:7] as a 'servant' to testify to what would be spoken, but Christ was faithful as a son placed over his (God's) house. We are his house, if (only) we hold fast to our confidence and pride in our hope."
 - 1) Moses was the Lord's Faithful Servant & Witness
 - 2) Christ Jesus, God's Son, is Heir & Head of God's Household
 - 3) We (*Believers in Christ Jesus*) Are That Household
- c. Christ Jesus is the Head of God's Household - Superior to All His Servants, Including Moses

B. Israel's Infidelity & a Warning

Heb. 3:7 - 4:13

1. Israel's Rebellion & God's Anger

The author equates their loss of faith in Messiah with their ancestors who failed to trust in the Lord God to possess the Promise Land.

- a. "Therefore, as the holy Spirit says: 'Oh, that today you would hear his (Lord's) voice, Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion in the day of testing in the desert,

where your ancestors (*Israelites*) tested and tried me and saw my works for forty years. Because of this I was provoked with that generation and I said, ‘They have always been of erring heart, and they do not know my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter into my rest.’” [Psa. 95:7b-11] Heb. 3:7-11

- b. *Review of Israel's Rebellion in Desert* Num. 13 & 14
- 1) *The Lord Delivered Israel from Bondage in Egypt*
 - a) *Leading them through the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai*
 - 2) *The Lord Gave His Laws to Moses at Mt. Sinai*
 - 3) *The Lord Led Israel to the Border of the Promise Land*
 - a) *12 Scouts Reconnoiter Promise Land (One from Each Tribe)*
 - (1) *10 Scouts Gave a Negative Report*
 - (a) *Trusting in their Own Strength – Not the Lord's*
 - (2) *Joshua & Caleb Gave a Positive Report*
 - (a) *Trusting in the Lord to Give Them Victory*
 - b) *People Believed the Negative Report*
 - (1) *Rebelling Against Moses & Grumbling Against the Lord their God*
 - c) *Lord Sentenced Israel to Wander 40 Years in Desert*
 - (1) *Until that Faithless Generation Died Out*
 - (a) *Failing to Receive their Inheritance*
 - (2) *Joshua & Caleb Lived to Enter the Promise Land*
 - (a) *Receiving their Inheritance*

2. Advice & Warning to Christians

Heb. 3:12-19

- a. Be Steadfast in Faith. “Take care, brothers, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart, so as to forsake the living God.”
- b. Encourage One Another. “Encourage yourselves daily while it is still ‘today,’ so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit of sin.”
- c. We are Partners with Christ Jesus. “We have become partners of Christ if only we hold the beginning of the reality firm until the end,”
- d. Reminder that God was Angry with Israelites 40 Years in Desert
 - 1) Lord’s Rebuke for Not Trusting Him. “for it is said: ‘Oh, that today you would hear his voice: ‘Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion.’ [Psa. 95:7b-8].”
 - a) “Who were those who rebelled when they heard? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt under Moses?” (*Who Witnessed & Experienced the Lord’s Deliverance from Bondage.*)
 - b) “With whom was he ‘provoked for forty years’? Was it not those who had sinned, whose corpses fell in the desert? (*Who Doubted their Lord & God*)
 - 2) Lord’s Harsh Judgment. “And to whom did he (*Lord*) ‘swear that they should not enter into his rest,’ if not to those who were disobedient? And we see that they could not enter for lack of faith.”
(*One Must Trust in the Lord to Enter His Rest / Inheritance.*)

3. The Word of God

Heb. 4:1-13

- a. Receive the Word of God in Faith Heb. 4:1-11
 - 1) “Therefore, let us be on our guard while the promise of entering into his rest remains, that none of you seem to have failed.”
 - 2) “For in fact we have received the good news just as they did. But the word that they heard did not profit them, for they were not united in faith with those who listened. For we who believed enter into (that) rest, just as he has said: ‘As I

- swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter into my rest,” [Psa. 95:11]”
- 3) “and yet his (God’s) works were accomplished at the foundation of the world. For he has spoken somewhere about the seventh day in this manner, ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all his works’ [Gen. 2:2]; and again, in the previously mentioned place, ‘They shall not enter into my rest.’ [Psa. 95:11]” (*God Rested from His Work on the Sabbath [Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:8-11], After Creating Man. His Intention was for Man to Live with Him in His Rest. But Man Sinned, Interrupting & Leaving God’s Rest [Gen. 3]. Man Can Not Enter God’s Rest Until the Price of Redemption has been Paid in Full.*)
 - 4) “Therefore, since it remains that some will enter into it, and those who formerly received the good news (*i.e. Mosaic Law*) did not enter because of disobedience,” (*Full Redemption was Not Provided by the Law, Since No One was Able to Keep it 100%. Rom. 3:22b-23, James 2:10.*) (*The Law was Given to Reveal Man’s Sinful Nature, His Need of Redemption, and Point to God’s Redeemer - Messiah Jesus. Matt. 5:17-20*)
 - 5) “he once more set a day, ‘today,’ when long afterwards he spoke through David, as already quoted: ‘Oh, that today you would hear his voice: “Harden not your hearts.”’ [Psa. 95:7b-8] Now if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have spoken afterwards of another day.”
 - a) That “Rest” Does Not Refer to Israel’s Entrance into Promise Land (*Joshua Led Israel into the Promise Land 40 Years After Moses Received the Law, and Hundreds of Years Before David Lived.*)
 - 6) “Therefore, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And whoever enters into God’s rest, rests from his own works as God did from his.”
 - a) The Sabbath Foretells of a Future Rest
 - (1) An Eternal Rest with the Lord God Almighty
 - b) “Therefore, let us strive to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall after the same example of disobedience.” (*That Rest Comes through Our Redeemer, Messiah Jesus, Who is the Only Way into God’s Holy Presence. John 14:6*)
- b. Effects of God’s Word Heb. 4:12-13
- 1) “Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow,”
 - a) Word of God IS Living & Sharper than Any Two-Edged Sword (*Messiah Jesus Is the Living Word of God. John 1:1-18*)
 - b) God’s Word Penetrates & Divides:
 - (1) “Soul” (*Our Mind, Will & Emotions*), from
 - (2) “Spirit” (*Our Spiritual Nature*), from
 - (3) “Joints & Marrow” (*Our Body – Physical Nature*).
 - 2) “and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.”
 - a) Word of God Knows:
 - (1) Our “Reflections” (*Motivations, Intentions & Desires*)
 - (2) Our “Thoughts of the Heart” (*Conscience*)
 - 3) “No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.”
 - a) No One is Concealed from the Lord God
 - b) Everyone is Accountable to Him

C. Christ Jesus Our Compassionate High Priest

Heb. 4:14 - 5:10

The highest religious authority in Israel was High Priest. Here the author presents the Lord God's sovereign appointment of Messiah Jesus as High Priest.

1. Jesus Christ Son of God & Our High Priest

Heb. 4:14-16

- a. "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession (*Profession of Faith*)."
- 1) Christ Jesus – Our Great High Priest - Passed Through the Heavens
 - a) He has Direct Access to Father God in Heaven
 - b) He is the Son of God
- 2) Exhortation to Hold Onto Our Faith in Jesus
- b. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin."
- 1) Jesus Sympathizes with Our Weakness
 - a) He was Tempted Like Us in Every Way
 - b) He Never Sinned
 - c) He Conquered All Temptations & Sin
- c. "So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help."
- 1) We Can "Confidently Approach" God's Throne of Grace
 - a) We have Direct Access to Christ Jesus:
 - (1) "To Receive Mercy & Find Grace (Favor)"
 - (2) "To Find Help in Time of Need"

2. Office of High Priest

Heb. 5:1-10

See "Preface" above for a brief description of the Office of Priest.

a. Israel's High Priests

Heb. 5:1-4

- 1) "Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people."
 - a) High Priest is Taken from Among Men
 - b) High Priest Intercedes for the People
 - c) High Priest Offers Sacrifices for the Atonement of Sin
 - (1) For His Own Sins
 - (2) For Sins of the People (Israel)
- 2) "No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was."
 - a) High Priest is Appointed by God
 - (1) Israel's High Priests are from House of Aaron

b. Christ Jesus as High Priest

Heb. 5:5-10

- 1) Christ was Taken from Among Men (*Messiah – Son of Man*)
 - a) "In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one (*Father God*) who said to him: 'You are my son; this day I have begotten you' [Psa. 2:7];"
- 2) Christ was Appointed by God
 - a) "just as he says in another place: 'You are a priest forever (Eternal High Priest) according to the order of Melchizedek.' [Psa. 110:4]"
 - (1) Christ Appointed as Eternal High Priest

- (2) Christ Ordained High Priest in Order of Melchidezek - Not Aaron
- 3) Christ Intercedes for Mankind with Prayers & Supplications
 - a) “In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.”
 - (1) Christ Heard by Father God “Because of His Reverence”
- 4) Christ’s Sacrifice for the Atonement of Sin
 - a) “Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,”
 - (1) Jesus “Learned Obedience” through Suffering (*Living as a Man*)
 - (2) Jesus’ Suffering was “Perfected” by His Sacrifice on the Cross
 - (a) Becoming the “Source of Eternal Salvation” for those Who Trust in Him
- 5) Christ from the Order of Melchizedek (*Priest & King*)
 - a) “declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

WHO IS MELCHIZEDEK?

PART III - MESSIAH'S ETERNAL PRIESTHOOD

Heb. 5:11 - 7:28

A. Call to Spiritual Renewal

Heb. 5:11 - 6:20

The author firmly establishes the source (God Himself), sanctity, inerrancy and accuracy of the Word of God, to prepare the reader for his teaching on Christ's Eternal Priesthood.

- *In Hebrews 4:1-13, he introduced the spiritual principle that "the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul (mind, will and emotions) and spirit (spiritual nature), joints and marrow (physical body)". He exhorts them (and us) to be attentive to the Word of God, receive it in faith and obey it. He then introduced the human perspective of Christ Jesus as our compassionate High Priest (See Heb. 4:14 – 5:10 Above).*
- *In Hebrews 5:11–14 the Word of God is likened to spiritual food nourishing our spirit and our minds, so that we grow into mature Christians. Spiritual maturity enables us to receive and accept the mystery of Christ's Eternal Priesthood presented in this Epistle.*
- *In Hebrews 6:1-12, he challenges and encourages us to go beyond the fundamental principles of Christianity and take on the responsibilities of mature Christians, opening our minds and spirit to receive and apply God's Word.*
- *In Hebrews 6:13-20, he assures us that what he is about to teach concerning Christ's Eternal Priesthood is indeed the true Word of God, enforcing its supremacy and steadfastness. He then directly applies it to Christ Jesus as our Eternal High Priest.*

1. Exhortation for Spiritual Renewal

Heb. 5:11-14

- a. "... you have become sluggish in hearing. Although you should be teachers by this time, you need to have someone teach you again the basic elements of the utterances of God. You need milk, (and) not solid food."
 - 1) They Became Sluggish in Hearing the Word of God
 - 2) They Need to be Re-taught Fundamentals of God's Oracles (*Milk of the Word*)
- b. "Everyone who lives on milk lacks experience of the word of righteousness, for he is a child."
 - 1) Milk is for the Spiritually Immature
(*Those Ignorant of the Word of God that Sanctifies*)
- c. "But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties are trained by practice to discern good and evil."
 - 1) Meat of the Word (*Solid / Hearty Food*) is for Mature Christians
 - a) Those Spiritually Disciplined
 - b) Able to Distinguish Good (*What is of God*) from Evil (*What is of Man*)

2. Meat of God's Word

Heb. 6:1-12

- a. Exhortation to Progress Beyond the Fundamentals (*Milk*)
 - 1) "Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, instruction about baptisms (*i.e. Baptism of Repentance & Baptism of the Holy Spirit*) and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment."
 - 2) "And we shall do this, if only God permits."
- b. Privilege & Responsibility of the Mature Christian
 - 1) Seriousness of Rebelling Against the Word of God. "For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift

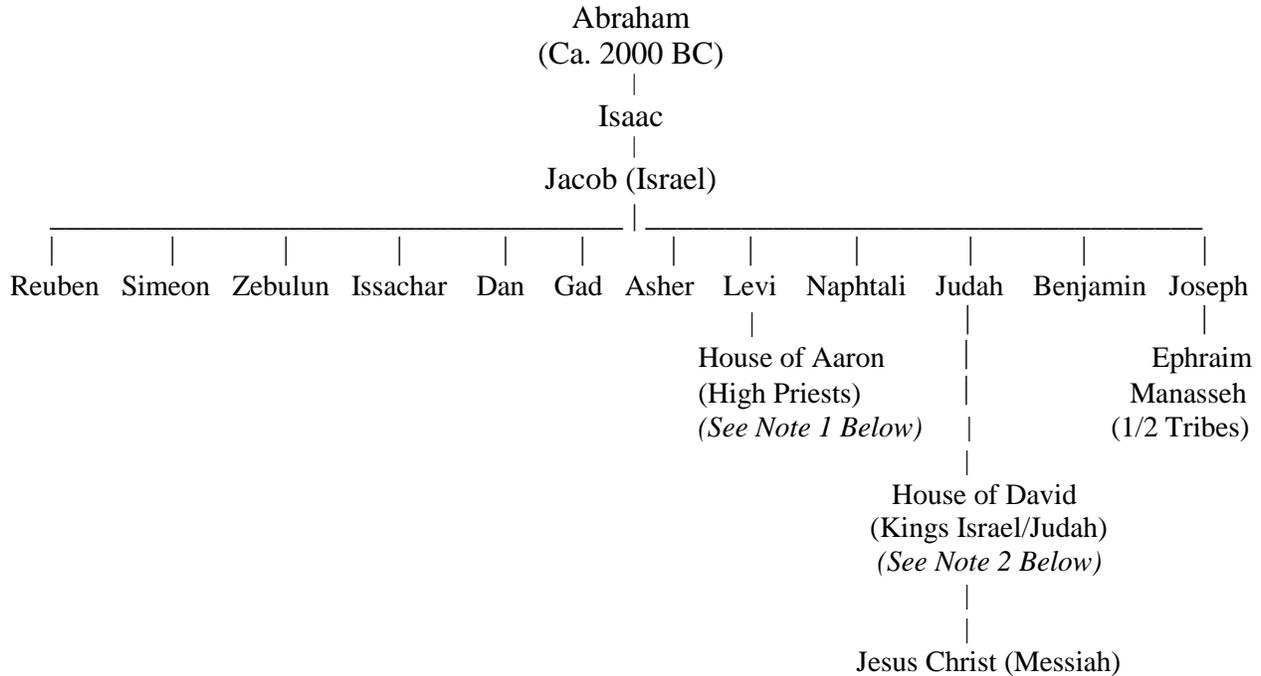
(*Salvation*) and shared in the holy Spirit (*Indwelt by the Holy Spirit*) and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away (*Rejecting/Rebelling Against Christ*), to bring them to repentance again, since they are recrucifying the Son of God for themselves and holding him up to contempt.”

- a) Warning Against Rebelling Against Christ After Accepting Him as Lord & Savior, Receiving the Holy Spirit and Witnessing His Works.
 - 2) Produce of Mature Christian
 - a) Good Works Receive God's Blessing. “Ground that has absorbed the rain falling upon it repeatedly and brings forth crops useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God.”
 - b) Worthless Works are Destroyed. “But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected; it will soon be cursed and finally burned.”
 - c. Encouragement & Challenge to Mature Christians
 - 1) “But we are sure in your regard, beloved, of better things related to salvation, For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones.”
 - a) God is Just, Remembering Our Love of Him & Our Good Works
 - 2) Be Zealous in Serving God. “We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.”
 - a) Have Assurance in God's Promises
3. God's Promise to Abraham (Ca. 2000 BC) Heb. 6:13-20
- a. God's Oath to Abraham
 - 1) “When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, ‘he swore by himself,’ and said, ‘I will indeed bless you and multiply you’. [Gen. 22:16-17]”
 - a) God Swore an Oath by Himself - **NO ONE GREATER**
 - b) God Can Not Lie (*God is Truth Itself*).
(*His Word is The Creative Force – What He Says Comes to Pass*)
 - b. God Fulfilled His Promise to Abraham. “... And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise.”
 - 1) Birth of Isaac, the Father of Jacob (Renamed ‘Israel’)
 - a) Heirs of God's Promise
 - c. “Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument.” (*e.g. An Official Takes an Oath of Office by Swearing on a Bible & Invoking the Name of God*)
 - 1) It Confirms & Guarantees their Oath
 - d. God Confirmed & Guaranteed that Promise by HIS Oath
 - 1) “So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he intervened with an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us.”
 - a) God's Oath is Firmly Established!
 - b) We Can Place Our Hope in it!

e. God Fulfills His Oath to Israel

- 1) “This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”
 - a) Our Hope (*of Salvation*) Extends Beyond the Veil (*Presence of God*)
(*Israel's Temple Worship: Entrance Beyond Veil into Holy of Holies was Exclusively Reserved for Israel's High Priest on Day of Atonement.*)
 - b) Jesus (*Our Forerunner*) Entered Beyond the Heavenly Veil on Our Behalf
 - c) [Jesus is High Priest Forever According to the Order of Melchizedek!](#)

f. Ancestry & Tribes of Israel:



Notes:

1. *Levitical Law within the Mosaic Covenant established about 1400 BC. Moses was Aaron’s brother.*
2. *Lord’s Messianic Covenant with King David about 1000 BC.*

B. Melchizedek a Type of Christ

Heb. 7

God’s Oath to His Son – Messiah: “The LORD (*Yahweh*) has sworn and will not waver: ‘Like Melchizedek you are a priest forever.’”

[Psa. 110:4]

1. Who is Melchizedek?

Heb. 7:1-3

- a. “This ‘Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High,’ ‘met Abraham as he returned from his defeat of the kings’ and ‘blessed him.’ And Abraham apportioned to him ‘a tenth of everything.’ [Re: Gen. 14:17-20] His name first means righteous king, and he was also ‘king of Salem,’ that is, king of peace. Without father, mother, or ancestry, without beginning of days or end of life, thus made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.”
 - 1) Melchizedek was King of Salem (Jerusalem) & Priest of the Most High God (*Messiah Jesus is Both King & High Priest*)
 - 2) Melchizedek Met Abraham after Abraham Defeated 4 Kings, Rescued His Kinsmen & their Possessions
 - 3) Melchizedek Blessed Abram (Later Renamed ‘Abraham’): “Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine (*Foreshadow of Messiah’s Body &*

Blood in Holy Communion), and being a priest of God Most High (*Prefigures Messiah – High Priest*), he blessed Abram (*Father of Isaac, the Father of Jacob/Israel*) with these words: ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand.’” (*Gen. 14:18-20a*)

- 4) Abraham Paid Tithes to Melchizedek: “Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” (*Gen. 14:20b*)
- 5) Melchizedek’s Name Means “King of Justice”
No Other Historical Records of Melchizedek
 - a) He is King of Salem Meaning “King of Peace”
 - b) His Ancestry & End of Life are Unknown (*Like the Son of God*)
 - c) He Remains a Priest Forever (*Representing an Eternal Priesthood*)

2. Principles of Supremacy

Heb. 7:4-10

- a. “See how great he is to whom the patriarch ‘Abraham (indeed) gave a tenth’ of his spoils. The descendants of Levi who receive the office of priesthood have a commandment according to the law to exact tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, although they also have come from the loins of Abraham. But he who was not of their ancestry (*i.e. Melchizedek*) received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. Unquestionably, a lesser person is blessed by a greater. In the one case, mortal men receive tithes; in the other, a man of whom it is testified that he lives on. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, was tithed through Abraham, for he was still in his father’s loins when Melchizedek met him.”
 - 1) The Lesser Pays Tithes to the Greater
 - a) Abraham Paid Tithes to Melchizedek
 - b) Melchizedek Superior to Abraham
 - 2) The Greater Blesses the Lesser
 - a) Melchizedek Blessed Abraham
 - b) Melchizedek Superior to Abraham
 - 3) Israelites Pay Tithes to Priests from Tribe of Levi, Descendants of Abraham
 - a) House of Aaron from Tribe of Levi
 - b) Melchizedek was Not a Descendant of Abraham
 - (1) Received Tithes from Abraham & Blessed Him
 - (2) Abraham had Received God’s Promises
 - 4) Human Recipients of Tithes are Subject to Death
 - a) No Record of Melchizedek’s Death
 - b) Priestly Order of Melchizedek Remains Alive
 - 5) Abraham the Great Grand Father of Levi
 - a) Levi in Abraham’s Loins When He Paid Tithes to Melchizedek
 - (1) Levi Paid Tithes to Melchizedek in the Person of Father Abraham
- b. Therefore: **The Order of Melchizedek is Superior to Levitical Order of Aaron**
 - 1) Israel’s High Priests are from Order of Aaron

3. A New Priestly Order

Heb. 7:11-21

- a. Perfection Not Achieved through the Levitical Order
 - 1) “If, then, perfection came through the levitical priesthood, on the basis of which the people received the law, what need would there still have been for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not reckoned

according to the order of Aaron?”

- a) Levitical Priests (*Order of Aaron*) Imperfect - Subject to Sin & Death
 - (1) How Can They Fully Atone for Sins of Others before a Holy God?
 - b) Need to Appoint Another Priestly Order that's Perfect, Holy & Eternal (*Order of Melchizedek*)
- b. When the Priesthood Changes – The Law Changes
 - 1) “When there is a change of priesthood, there is necessarily a change of law as well.”
- c. Christ Jesus from the Tribe of Judah
 - 1) “Now he of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, of which no member ever officiated at the altar. It is clear that our Lord (*Jesus*) arose from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.”
 - a) Tribe of Judah Not Designated as Priests by Moses & the Law
- d. The New Priest (Jesus Christ) Appointed According to Order of Melchizedek
 - 1) “It is even more obvious if another priest is raised up after the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become so, not by a law expressed in a commandment concerning physical descent but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed.”
 - a) Messiah Jesus Appointed Priest:
 - (1) Not By the Mosaic Law
 - (2) Not By Physical Descent
 - (3) But By Virtue of the Power of Life that Cannot be Destroyed!
 - 2) “For it is testified: ‘[You \(*Messiah*\) are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek \(*Without End of Life*\).](#)’ [Psa. 110:4]”
- e. The Former Commandment Annulled
 - 1) “On the one hand, a former commandment is annulled because of its weakness and uselessness, for the law brought nothing to perfection;”
 - a) Order of Aaron was Weak & Useless (*Officiated by Sinful Man*)
 - b) The Law Brought Nothing into Perfection
- f. Better Hope through Christ Jesus Our High Priest
 - 1) “on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.”
 - a) A Better Hope Drawing Us Closer to God
 - 2) “And to the degree that this happened not without the taking of an oath—for others became (*Levitical*) priests without an oath, but he (*Messiah Jesus*) with an oath, through the one (*Yahweh*) who said to him: ‘[The Lord has sworn, and he will not repent: ‘You are a priest forever’](#) [Psa. 110:4]”
 - a) Order of Melchizedek Confirmed by Lord God's Oath

4. Eternal Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Heb. 7:22-28

- a. Jesus Christ is Guarantor of a Better Covenant
 - 1) “to that same degree has Jesus (also) become the guarantee of an (even) better covenant.”
- b. Christ's Priesthood Remains Forever (*Messiah Jesus was Ordained High Priest After His Resurrection*)
 - 1) “Those (*Levitical*) priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office,”
 - a) Priests of Old Covenant Died & Had to be Replaced
 - 2) “but he (*Jesus*), because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass

away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.”

- a) Christ’s Eternal Priesthood:
 - (1) Continually Providing Salvation
 - (2) Continually Interceding in Our Behalf
- c. Jesus Christ Our Perfect & Eternal High Priest
 - 1) “It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens.”
 - a) Jesus is Holy, Innocent & Undefiled (*Sinless*)
 - b) Jesus is Separated from Sinners (*Sacred & Holy*)
 - c) Jesus is Higher than the Heavens (*Enthroned at God's Right Hand*)
- d. Priestly Sacrifices (*Atonement for Sin*)
 - 1) “He (*Messiah Jesus*) has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins (*Jesus is Sinless*) and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself.”
 - a) Levitical Priests Offered Many Temporary Imperfect Sacrifices
 - b) Jesus Christ Offered Himself Once (*On the Cross*) as a Holy, Perfect & Eternal Sacrifice!
 - 2) “For the law appoints men subject to weakness (*i.e. Sin & Death*) to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son (*Messiah Jesus*), who has been made perfect forever.”
 - a) God’s Oath Appoints Jesus Christ (Son of God) as a Perfect & Eternal High Priest

Comment – Who is Melchizedek?

The person of Melchizedek is a mystery that puzzled scholars for centuries. He only appears once in Scriptures [Gen. 14:17-20], has no ancestry, no beginning and no end of life. He is referred to once again by King David in a Messianic Psalm [Psa. 110:4] written about 1000 years later.

I often thought that Melchizedek may have been a pre-incarnate visitation of God the Son. He blesses Abraham (with whom He chose and made an earlier Covenant. Gen 12:1-3), previews His New Covenant (by presenting him bread & wine – Elements of His New Covenant) and introduces His Divine Priestly Order that He will fulfill about 2000 years later.

PART IV - MESSIAH HIGH PRIEST OF NEW COVENANT

Heb. 8 - 10

Summary of Messiah's Eternal Priesthood. In Hebrews 7, the author proclaims Messiah's Eternal Priesthood:

- *Established by God according to the Order of Melchizedek, a priestly order superior to the Old Covenant's Levitical Priesthood according to the Order of Aaron.*
- *He explained that: "When there is a change of priesthood, there is necessarily a change in law...." (Heb. 7:12)*
- *The Old Covenant, given to Moses, is replaced by a New and better Covenant with Christ Jesus as its Eternal High Priest.*

Word of God & Messiah's New Covenant. Scriptures teach that the Lord gave Moses the Old Covenant with its Levitical Laws, Priestly Order of Aaron and ritualistic sacrifices for the atonement of sins. If the Word of God is effectual, infallible and eternal, as taught in preceding chapters, then the Lord can not arbitrarily nullify the Old Covenant, or any part thereof, and establish a new order while remaining true to His Word. If Messiah is to provide a new and "better covenant", He must completely fulfill the Mosaic Covenant according to its prescribed laws, priesthood, rituals and sacrifices bringing it to fruition before establishing His New Covenant. The following chapters explain how Christ Jesus – Our High Priest - accomplished this requirement.

A. Overview of the Mosaic Covenant (Established Ca. 1400 BC)

This Overview Gives a Better Understanding of the Sacred/Religious Laws Given to Moses. They Consist of the Following 4 Elements:

1. Israel's Tabernacle (See "Tabernacle & Temple – Parts I & II" Studies)
(Lord God's Earthly Dwelling Place Among His Chosen People.)
 - a. God's Command & Specifications to Moses Ex. 25 - 27 & 30
 - 1) Outer Court (People Gather with their Sacrificial Offerings)
 - a) Altar of Sacrifice (Priests Offer Sacrifices on the Altar)
 - b) Laver (Priests Cleanse Themselves Before Entering the Sanctuary)
 - 2) Meeting Tent ("Sanctuary")
(Restricted to Priests Who Minister Daily Before the Lord)
 - a) First Chamber is the 'Holy Place' or 'Inner Court'
 - (1) Table of Showbread (12 Loaves of Bread – 1 for Each Tribe of Israel)
 - (2) Lampstand (Menorah)
 - (3) Incense Altar (Priests Intercede for the People Before the Lord's Presence in the Holy of Holies)
 - (4) Veil Separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies
 - b) Second Chamber is the 'Holy of Holies' or 'Most Holy Place'
(Restricted to the Presiding High Priest Who Enters Only on the 'Day of Atonement' [Yom Kippur] with Blood from Sacrificed Animals.)
 - (1) Ark of the Covenant (Box Containing God's Laws, etc.)
 - (a) Ark Cover/Lid ('Propitiation') with God's 'Mercy Seat'
(Prescribed Place Where God Meets with Man)
 - (2) High Priest Makes Atonement for His Own Sins, then the Sins of the People Lev. 16
 - b. Construction of the Tabernacle Ex. 35 - 39
 - c. Consecration of the Tabernacle Ex. 40

- 1) Presence of the Lord (Shekinah Glory) Enters the Holy of Holies & Enthroned on the Mercy Seat Ex. 40:34-38
(*The Tent Tabernacle was Latter Replaced by Temple Structures in Jerusalem.*)
2. Levitical Priesthood (See “Anointed Priest – Parts I & II” Studies)
(*Consecrated Priests Who Continually Intercede for the People by Offering Sacrifices*)
 - a. God's Command to Establish a Particular Priesthood Ex. 28
 - 1) Priests from the Tribe of Levi, House of Aaron Num. 17:16 - 18:7
 - b. Consecration & Ordination of Priests Ex. 29; Lev. 8 & 9
 - c. Unique & Exclusive Duties of Priests:
 - 1) To Intercede to God for Israel
 - 2) To Offer Sacrifices to God
3. Sacrifices (See “Sacrifices & Offerings – Parts I & II” Studies) Lev. 1 - 7
(*Priests Offer Holocausts and Other Sacrifices Every Day, as well as Additional Sacrifices Prescribed for the Lord’s Ordained Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*)
 - a. Blood Sacrifices – Clean Animals Killed, Libated & Burned on the Altar
 - 1) Holocausts (Whole Burnt Offerings) (*Atonement for Sins*)
 - 2) Peace Offerings (*Fulfilling a Vow, and/or Reconciliation & Fellowship*)
 - 3) Sin Offerings (*Forgiveness of Sins Against the Lord, and/or Cleansing from Ritual Uncleaness*)
 - 4) Guilt Offerings (*Absolve Guilt from Sinning Against Another Person, and/or Transgressions Against the Law*)
 - b. Bloodless Sacrifice
 - 1) Cereal (Unleavened Bread) (*Offering of Thanksgiving, Recognizing God’s Goodness & Provision*)
4. Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Lev. 23
(See “Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts - Parts I & II” Studies)
 - a. Sabbath Ex. 20:8-11; Lev. 23:3
(*Acknowledges the Lord God of Israel as Creator Who Rested on the 7th Day.*)
 - b. Lord’s Ordained Festivals & Feasts:
 - 1) Passover Festival Lev. 23:5-14
(*Commemorates the Lord’s Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt.*)
 - a) Feast of Passover (*Israel Released from Bondage, After Death ‘Passed Over’ their Homes Killing All the 1st Born of Egypt*)
 - b) Feast of Unleavened Bread (*Israel Leaves Egypt*)
 - c) Feast of First Fruits (*Israel’s 1st Harvest in the Promise Land*)
 - 2) Feast of Weeks or Pentecost Lev. 23:15-21
(*Commemorates the Lord Giving Moses His Law on Mt. Sinai.*)
 - 3) Festival of Booths / Tabernacles Lev. 23:23-43
 - a) Feast of Trumpets or New Year (“Rosh Hashanah”) (*Self Examination in Preparation for the Day of Atonement*)
 - b) Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”) Lev. 16
(*Day of Repentance & Annual Atonement [Covering] of Sins*)
 - c) Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (“Sukkot”) (*Israelites Rejoice & Celebrate in the Promise Land, Recalling the Lord’s Provision for Them in the Wilderness*)

B. Heavenly Priesthood of Christ Jesus

Heb. 8:1-6

1. Christ Jesus' Heavenly Sanctuary (Tabernacle) Heb. 8:1-2
 - a. "The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest (*Messiah*), who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up."
 - 1) Jesus is Enthroned at God Almighty's Right Hand in the Heavenly Sanctuary, Where He Ministers as Eternal High Priest
2. Israel's High Priests Heb. 8:3 & 5
 - a. "Now every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus the necessity for this one (*Messiah Jesus*) also to have something to offer."
 - 1) Priests Offer Gifts & Sacrifices to the Lord
 - a) As Prescribed in the Laws of Moses
 - 2) *As High Priest, Messiah Jesus Offered Himself as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice, Fulfilling the Sacrificial Laws*
 - b. "They (*Israel's Priests*) worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he (*Lord God*) says, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.' [Ex. 25:40]"
 - 1) Priests Offer Worship in Earthly Tabernacle, Specified by Lord God to Moses
 - a) A Copy of God's Heavenly Sanctuary
 - 2) *Foreshadow of Messiah's Ministry as High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary*
3. Christ Jesus' High Priesthood Heb. 8:4 & 6
 - a. "If then he (*Jesus Christ*) were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are those who offer gifts according to the law."
 - 1) Jesus' Priesthood is Not Earthly:
 - a) As Prescribed by Moses
 - b) As Practiced by Israel's Priests
 - b. "Now he (*Jesus Christ*) has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises."
 - 1) Jesus' Ministry is More Excellent than the Mosaic Law
 - a) Jesus is Face to Face with Father God in the Heavenly Sanctuary
 - 2) Jesus is Mediator of a Better Covenant
 - a) Founded on Better Promises (*i.e. Eternal Redemption & Life*)

C. New Covenant Replaces the Old Covenant

Heb. 8:7 – 9:28

1. The Need for a New Covenant Heb. 8:7-13
 - a. Old Covenant Imperfect
 - 1) "For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second one."
 - b. Prophecy of a New Covenant [Jer. 31:31-34]
 - 1) "But he finds fault with them and says: 'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will conclude (*i.e. Fully Establish*) a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant (*i.e. Mosaic Covenant*) I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they did not stand by my covenant and I ignored them, says the Lord.'"

- a) Israel Continually Broke the Lord's Covenant
 - (1) Without Repentance
- b) Lord "Ignored" (*i.e. Grew Weary*) with Israel's Disobedience & Rebellion
- 2) "But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his fellow citizen and kinsman, saying, "Know the Lord," for all shall know me, from least to greatest."
 - a) "After Those Days" Refers to Messiah Jesus' Fulfillment of the Old Covenant & Establishment of His New Covenant
 - b) In His New Covenant, the Lord Will Instill His Laws in the Minds and Hearts of His People
 - (1) By the Holy Spirit Indwelling His People (*Born Again Believers, Re: John 3:1-8*)
- 3) "For I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more."
 - a) Promise of Personal & Eternal Salvation
 - (1) Forgiving & Forgetting Our Sins Forever!
- c. The Lord Declares The Old Covenant Obsolete. "When he speaks of a 'new' covenant, he declares the first one obsolete. And what has become obsolete and has grown old is close to disappearing."

2. Worship in the Old Covenant

Heb. 9:1-10

All of the rituals, requirements and regulations prescribed in the Religious Law (See Above), point in some way to the Promised Messiah. Here the author highlights some of these practices that reveal Messiah Jesus as Eternal High Priest.

- a. "Now (even) the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary."
 - 1) Lord Prescribed Regulations in the Law for Worship
 - 2) Lord Specified Earthly Sanctuary / Tabernacle as His Place of Worship:
 - a) Holy Place. "For a tabernacle was constructed, the outer one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of offering; this is called the Holy Place."
 - (1) "Lampstand" (*Jesus is the "Light of the World" John 8:12*)
 - (2) "Bread of Offering" (*Jesus is the "Bread of Life" John 6:35*)
 - b) Holy of Holies. "Behind the second veil was the tabernacle called the Holy of Holies, in which were the gold altar of incense and the ark of the covenant entirely covered with gold. In it were the gold jar containing the manna, the staff of Aaron that had sprouted, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the place of expiation (*Atonement*). Now is not the time to speak of these in detail."
 - (1) "Veil" (*Jesus' Flesh - Torn for Our Salvation. Heb. 10:19-20*)
 - (2) "Altar of Incense" (*Jesus is Intercessor/Mediator. 1 Tim. 2:5-6a*)
 - (3) "Ark of the Covenant" (*Throne of God*) Containing:
 - (a) "Jar of Manna" (*Jesus - "Bread of Life from Heaven" John 6:48-51*)
 - (b) "Staff of Aaron" (*Jesus - Eternal High Priest*)
 - (c) "Tablets of Covenant" (*Jesus Fulfilled the Law. Matt.5:17*)

- 3) Arrangements for Worship Prescribed in the Law
 - a) “With these arrangements for worship, the priests, in performing their service, go into the outer tabernacle repeatedly,”
 - (1) Priests Officiate Regularly in the Outer Court & Holy Place
 - b) “but the high priest alone goes into the inner one once a year, not without blood that he offers for himself and for the sins of the people.”
 - (1) High Priest Enters the Holy of Holies Once a Year
 - (a) On the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
 - (b) With Blood from Sacrifices for Himself & Peoples' Sins

Explanation. According to the Lord's specifications to Moses for the Tabernacle, the Incense Altar was in the Holy Place before the Veil covering the Holy of Holies. Here the author places the Incense Altar behind the Veil in the Holy of Holies. Why?

- When Jesus was in the flesh living under the Old Covenant, He declares that He was the “Light of the World” and the “Bread of Life. He offered prayers and supplications for Himself and interceded for His followers (e.g. Luke 22:31-32; Heb. 5:7-9).
- After His Sacrificial Death (Tearing His Flesh (symbolized by the “Veil”) and Resurrection, He became High Priest, interceding for His Church at the Right Hand of God Almighty (Rom. 8:33-34; Heb. 7:22-25).

b. The Lord's Revelation.

- 1) “In this way the holy Spirit shows that the way into the sanctuary had not yet been revealed while the outer tabernacle still had its place (*i.e. Before the Temple was Destroyed in 70 AD*).”
 - a) The Way into God's Sanctuary was Not Revealed Under the Old Covenant (*The Veil was Torn from Top to Bottom When Jesus Died, Revealing the Way into God's Presence. Matt. 27:50-51a; John 14:6*)
- 2) “This is a symbol of the present time (*i.e. During Temple Worship*), in which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper in conscience but only in matters of food and drink and various ritual washings: regulations concerning the flesh, imposed until the time of the new order.”
 - a) Old Covenant Gifts & Offerings Can Not Perfect Consciences (*Heart & Mind*) of Worshipers
 - (1) Only Ritually Cleanse in Matters of Food, Drink & Flesh
 - b) Regulations Imposed Until the “New Order” (*Messiah's New Covenant*) was in Effect.

3. Christ Jesus' Perfect Sacrifice

Heb. 9:11-28

a. Christ Became Our High Priest

- 1) “But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”
 - a) Messiah Jesus was Ordained Eternal High Priest After His Resurrection (*A Dead Person Can Not be Consecrated & Serve as a Priest*)
 - (1) Jesus Entered God's Heavenly Sanctuary (*Throne Room*)
 - (a) “Once For All” (*As Eternal High Priest*)
 - (b) “With His Own Blood” (*God's Holy & Perfect Sacrifice*)
 - (c) “Obtaining Eternal Redemption”

- 2) “For if the blood of goats and bulls (*Sacrifices of Old Covenant*) and the sprinkling of a heifer’s ashes (*Cleansing in Old Covenant*) can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished (*Pure*) to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.”
 - a) Jesus Offered Himself as a Holy, Perfect & Eternal Sacrifice
 - (1) Cleansing Our Consciences (Hearts & Minds)
 - (2) Equipping Us to Worship in Spirit & Truth. “... I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;” [Jer. 31:33]
 - b. Christ is Mediator of a New Covenant
 - 1) “For this reason he (*Jesus Christ*) is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.”
 - a) As High Priest, Jesus is Mediator of a New Covenant
 - (1) He Fulfilled the Old Covenant Sacrifices, Offering His Own Death as the Means to Inherit Eternal Life
 - c. God's Covenants Inaugurated by Blood
(*Lord's Covenants are Executed by Blood - Establishing & Activating Them*)
 - 1) “Now where there is a will, the death of the testator must be established. For a will takes effect only at death; it has no force while the testator is alive.”
(*A Will Does Not Go Into Effect Until the Owner/Testator Dies*)
 - 2) Old Covenant was Inaugurated by Blood. “Thus not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. When every commandment had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves (and goats), together with water and crimson wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book (*Law*) itself and all the people,”
 - a) Moses Sprinkled the Book of the Law with Blood
 - (1) “saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which God has enjoined upon you (*Israel*).’” [Ex. 24:1-11]
 - b) Moses Consecrated the Tabernacle & Vessels of Worship with Blood
 - (1) “In the same way, he sprinkled also the tabernacle and all the vessels of worship with blood.”
 - c) Moses Sprinkled God’s Covenant People with Blood
 - 3) “According to the law almost everything is purified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”
 - a) “**Without The Shedding of Blood There Is No Forgiveness**”
(*Without Forgiveness Man is Separated from a Holy God*)
Why Blood Sacrifices ?
 - (1) *Blood is the Essence of Life* [Lev. 17:8-14]
 - (a) “*Since the life of a living body is in its blood, I have made you put it on the altar, so that atonement may thereby be made for your own lives, because it is the blood, as the seat of life, that makes atonement.*” [Lev. 17:11]
 - (2) *Shedding of Innocent Blood Fulfills God’s Death Penalty for Sin*
[Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:17-19]
 - d. Christ Provides a Superior Sacrifice - Inaugurating a New Covenant
 - 1) “Therefore, it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified by these (*Old Covenant*) rites, but the heavenly things themselves by better sacrifices than these.”

- a) Old Covenant Sacrifices are Copies of Heavenly Realities, which Require a Better (*i.e. Holy, Perfect & Eternal*) Sacrifice
- 2) “For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf.”
 - a) Christ Entered Heaven Itself with His Own Blood
 - (1) Appearing Before God Almighty on Our Behalf
- 3) “Not that he might offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters each year into the sanctuary with blood that is not his own; if that were so, he would have had to suffer repeatedly from the foundation of the world. But now once for all he (Jesus Christ) has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice. Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment, so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.”
 - a) Christ’s One Sacrifice Took Away the Sins of Many People
 - (1) Promising to Bring Total Salvation (*Bodily, Emotionally & Spiritually*) to All Believers at His Second Coming.

Explanation. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest enters the Holy of Holies with the blood of sacrificed animals which he sprinkles on the Ark of the Covenant before the Lord’s Presence, covering his sins and the sins of the people for a year.

This ritual foreshadows Messiah Jesus, Who entered the Heavenly Sanctuary as Eternal High Priest presenting His Own Sacrificial Blood before Father God, removing our sins forever (a New & Better Sacrifice and Covenant).

D. Christ’s Single Eternal Sacrifice

Heb. 10:1-18

1. Old Covenant Sacrifices

Heb. 10:1-4

- a. “Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of them, it can never make perfect those who come to worship by the same sacrifices that they offer continually each year. Otherwise, would not the sacrifices have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, once cleansed, would no longer have had any consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is only a yearly remembrance of sins, for it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins.”
 - 1) Sacrifices Offered Continually Under the Old Covenant
 - a) Unable to Perfect Salvation
 - b) Unable to Cleanse from Sin
 - 2) Sacrifices were Only an Annual Recalling of Sins (Day of Atonement)
 - a) Self Examination for Sins
 - b) Repent & Seek Forgiveness
 - 3) Impossible for the Blood of Animals to Take Away Sin

Why?

 - a) *Animals are Temporal Mortal Beings*
 - b) *Animals are Subject to Sinful Man*
 - c) *Animals are Subject to World of Sin – They Die Naturally (Curse of Sin)*
 - d) *How Can They Provide Salvation & Eternal Life to Man?*

2. Son of God’s Testimony

Heb. 10:5-18

- a. “For this reason, when he (*God the Son*) came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice

and offering you (Father God) did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in.” [Psa. 40:7]

- 1) God Did Not Delight in Animal Sacrifices
 - Why, If He Prescribed Animal Sacrifice Under the Law?
 - a) Law Revealed the Seriousness & Detestability of Sin
 - b) Law Confirmed the Penalty of Sin – Death
 - c) Law Prescribed the Means of Atonement – Death of Innocent Sacrifice
 - d) Law Points to God’s Promised Holy & Perfect Sacrifice – His Son Christ Jesus – So that the People would Recognize & Accept Him
- 2) **Father God Prepared a Human Body for His Son (Christ Jesus) to be Sacrificed for the Sins of Man.**
- b. “Then I (*Christ Jesus*) said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll (Holy Scriptures), Behold, I come to do your will, O God.’” [Psa. 40:8-9]
 - 1) Son of God Accepts Father God’s Means of Salvation for Mankind
 - a) His Human Body & Blood
- c. “First he (*Christ Jesus*) says, ‘Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.’ [Psa. 40:7] These are offered according to the law. Then he says, ‘Behold, I come to do your will.’ [Psa. 40:9] He takes away the first to establish the second.”
 - 1) Christ Jesus - Son of God & Son of Man - Offers Himself According to the Prescription & Letter of the Law [i.e. Blood Sacrifice. Lev. 1 - 7]
 - a) Fulfilling all Precepts of the Law (Old Covenant)
 - b) Taking Away the Old Covenant to Establish a New Covenant
- d. “By this ‘will’, we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
 - 1) We (*Born Again Christians*) are Consecrated (*Set Apart for God*) through Christ Jesus' Sacrifice of His Body & Blood
 - a) One Eternal Sacrifice Offered for All Mankind
- e. “Every (*Old Covenant*) priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But this one (Christ Jesus) offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool.”
 - 1) Jesus Christ Offered One Eternal Sacrifice for the Sins of World
 - 2) Jesus (Our Lord, Savior & High Priest) Reigns with God Almighty
 - a) Expanding His Kingdom on Earth through Us
- f. “For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.”
 - 1) Jesus Christ Offered One Eternal Sacrifice
 - a) Perfecting Us Who Are Being Consecrated (*Saved*)
- g. The Holy Spirit’s Testimony: [Jer. 31:33-34]
 - 1) “The holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying: ‘This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days (*Christ’s Death & Resurrection*), says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,”
 - a) Laws of God Instilled in Our Hearts & Minds by Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - 2) “he also says: ‘Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more.’”
 - a) Christ’s One Eternal Salvation Cleanses Us from Sin
 - b) God Forgives & Forgets Our Sins
- h. “Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin.”
 - 1) Old Covenant Sacrifices Foreshadow Messiah’s One External Sacrifice

- 2) Jesus Christ's Sacrifice is Complete, Final & Forever!
 - a) Providing Forgiveness of Sins for Everyone Who Trusts in Him
- 3) No Other Sacrifice Offered by Man Can Achieve Forgiveness of Sins by a Holy God

E. Recalling the Past

Heb. 10:19-39

1. Blood of Jesus Assures Our Entrance into Heaven's Sanctuary (God's Presence)

Heb. 10:19-25

- a. Jesus Provides a New & Living Path into God's Presence – His Flesh "Veil"
 - 1) "Therefore, brothers, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the (Heavenly) sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh,"
 - a) Temple's Veil into Holy of Holies
 - (1) Separating People, Religious & Priests from Presence of God
 - b) Temple Veil Torn Apart at Jesus' Death (Matt 27:50-53)
 - (1) Opening that Living Path for All Believers into God's Presence
 - b. Jesus Our Great Priest Over the House of God
 - 1) "and since we have 'a great priest over the house of God,' let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water."
 - a) We are Encouraged to Confidently Approach the Lord Our God
 - (1) Our Hearts & Minds Purified by Christ
 - (2) Our Bodies Baptized into His Church
 - 2) "Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy."
 - a) We are Encouraged to Hold Firm to Our Profession of Faith (*Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen, Christ Will Come Again*)
 - (1) Place Our Faith / Trust in the Lord
 - 3) "We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near."
 - a) We Should Assemble Together & Encourage One Another
 - (1) To Love & Perform Good Works
 - (2) Anxiously Awaiting "The Day" - Christ's Second Coming

2. A Call to Righteousness & Warning Against Rebellion

Heb. 10:26-31

- a. A Warning. "If we sin deliberately (*i.e. Turn Away from Our Faith in Christ*) after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains sacrifice for sins but a fearful prospect of judgment and a flaming fire that is going to consume the adversaries."
 - 1) Do Not Reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 2) Do Not Rebel Against Jesus Christ
- b. Penalty Under Old Covenant for Rejecting the Law. "Anyone who rejects the law of Moses is put to death without pity on the testimony of two or three witnesses."
- c. Greater Penalties for Person Who Rejects Christ & His Salvific Work: "Do you not think that a much worse punishment is due the one who has contempt for the Son of God, considers unclean the covenant-blood by which he was consecrated, and insults the spirit of grace?"
 - 1) Signs of Rebellion, Include:

- a) Disdaining the Son of God
- b) Considering Christ's Blood Covenant Ordinary
- c) Insulting the Spirit of Grace
- d. God's Warning: "We know the one who said: 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay,' [Re: Deut. 32:35] and again: 'The Lord will judge his people.' [Deut. 32:36]"
 - 1) "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

3. Recalling Past Persecutions

Heb. 10:32-39

- a. Reminds Jewish Christians of Being Persecuted Because of their Faith in Jesus. "Remember the days past when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a great contest of suffering...., knowing that you had a better and lasting possession."
- b. Exhorts Them to Remain Faithful. "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence; it will have great recompense. You need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised."
 - 1) Remain Confident in the Lord
 - a) You Will be Rewarded
 - 2) Be Patient to Do God's Will
 - a) You Will Receive the Lord's Promises (*Salvation & Eternal Life*)
- c. Promise of His Second Coming: "For, after just a brief moment, he (*Messiah*) who is to come shall come; he shall not delay. [Hab. 2:3]"
- d. Exhortation to Live by Faith: "'But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him.' [Re: Hab. 2:4] We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life."

PART V - THE WAY OF FAITH
Heb. 11 - 13

A. Importance of Faith

Heb. 11

After challenging his audience with Prophet Habakkuk's admonition: "But my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him." (Heb. 10:38), the author stresses the importance of faith citing examples from their heritage.

1. Explanation of Faith

Heb. 11:1-3

- a. "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."
- b. "Because of it the ancients were well attested."
- c. "By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible."

2. People of Faith Prior to the Mosaic Law

Heb. 11:4-12

- a. Abel (Son of Adam & Eve) Heb. 11:4; [Re: Gen. 4:1-7]
 - 1) "By faith Abel offered to God a sacrifice greater than Cain's. Through this he was attested to be righteous, God bearing witness to his gifts, and through this, though dead, he still speaks."
 - a) By Faith Abel Offered a Better Sacrifice to God than Cain
 - (1) Abel's Sacrifice was the Finest of His Flocks (*Blood Sacrifice*)
 - (2) Cain's Sacrifice was Produce from the Soil (*Works*)
 - b) Abel Demonstrates His Understanding of God's Precept to Atonement for Sins
 - c) God Accepts Abel's Sacrifice, Accounting Him "Righteous" (*i.e. Right Standing Before God*).
 - 2) Abel Murdered by His Brother Cain, Yet His Faith Lives in Every Believer (*Abel's Offering & Death Prefigures Messiah's Sacrifice*)

Explanation. The Lord had demonstrated His method of atonement by covering the shame (sin) of Adam and Eve with skins of slain animals (Gen. 3:21). Abel comprehended this precept, offering a blood sacrifice by faith. The Lord accepted his sacrifice.

b. Enoch

Heb. 11:5-6; [Re: Gen. 5:23-24]

- 1) "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and 'he was found no more because God had taken him.' [Gen. 5:24] Before he was taken up, he was attested to have pleased God."
 - a) Enoch Lived a Just Life by Faith – Pleasing to God
 - b) He was Taken by God Without Dying
(*Prefigures Rapture of Church, Justified by Christ's Blood, Received by Faith*)
- 2) "But **without faith it is impossible to please him**, for anyone who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

c. Noah

Heb. 11:7; [Re: Gen. 6 - 9]

- 1) "By faith Noah, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household. Through this he condemned the world and inherited the righteousness that comes through faith."
 - a) Noah Believed & Obeyed the Word of God
 - b) He Condemned the World for its Unbelief
 - c) He Saved His Household from Destruction (*Noah Father of All Nations*)
 - d) He Inherited Righteousness through Faith
(*Prefigures Messiah's Salvation of His Household from All Nations of World*)

- d. Abraham (Abram) Heb. 11:8-12; [Re: Gen. 12 - 23]
- 1) “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God.”
 - a) Abraham Obeyed God When Called
 - b) Journeyed to Unknown Land to Receive His Inheritance (Promise Land)
 - c) Lived in Tents with Heirs Isaac & Jacob (Israel), Looking for City of God (*Fulfilled by God’s Eternal Dwelling with Man in Heaven*)
 - 2) Sarah (Abraham’s Wife) Conceived a Child (Isaac) in their Old Age
 - a) “By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile—for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.”
 - b) “So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.”
 - 3) The Lord’s Blessing: “. . . .I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.” [Gen. 12:1-3]
(All Communities of Earth Blessed by a Descendant of Abraham – Jesus Christ Israelite & Savior of the World – Fulfilling this Blessing)
- e. God’s Promised Inheritance. “All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Heb. 11:13-16
- 1) All of these Faithful People Died in Faith
 - 2) They Did Not Obtain the Promise, but Saw & Saluted it from Afar
What Promise?
 - a) *To be Fully Redeemed from All Sin*
 - b) *To Live Eternally in God’s Presence*
 - c) *To Openly Commune with God – Enjoying Him Forever**Why? To Obtain the Promise - Sin & Death had to be Conquered!*
 - 3) They Acknowledged Themselves as Strangers & Foreigners on Earth
(i.e. Belonging to God)
 - a) Searching for a Better & Heavenly Home
 - 4) God is Not Ashamed to be Called Their God
 - a) He Has Prepared a City for Them (*An Abode Awaiting Messiah*)
3. People of Faith Under Abrahamic Covenant Heb. 11:17-29
 (God’s Chosen People - Israel)
- a. Abraham Obeyed God by Offering His Son Isaac (Promised Son)
 Heb. 11:17-19; [Re: Gen. 22:1-19]
 - 1) “By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son of whom it was said, ‘Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name’. [Gen. 21:12]”

- 2) “He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.”
(Prefigured Father God’s Offering of His Son Jesus as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice – Raising Him from the Dead)
- b. Patriarchs: Isaac, Jacob (Israel) & Joseph Heb. 11:20-22; [Re; Gen. 24 – 50]
- 1) Confirming God’s Covenant to their Offspring by Faith
 - a) “By faith regarding things still to come Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau.”
 - b) “By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and ‘bowed in worship, leaning on the top of his staff.’ [Re: Gen. 47:31]”
 - 2) Believing the Lord’s Promise to Return His People to the Promise Land. “By faith Joseph, near the end of his life, spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones.”
- c. Moses Heb. 11:23-29; [Re: Ex. 2 - 15]
- 1) “By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.”
 - a) Parents Disregarded King’s Edicts & Hid their Baby Moses
 - 2) “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. He considered the reproach of the Anointed greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the recompense. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s fury, for he persevered as if seeing the one who is invisible.”
 - a) Moses Chose God’s Enslaved People Over Egypt’s Luxuries
 - b) Moses Left Egypt (Man’s Kingdom)
 - 3) Moses Delivered Israel from Bondage
(Prefiguring Messiah’s Deliverance of Mankind from the Bondage of Sin)
 - a) Moses and the Israelites Celebrated their 1st Passover. “By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.”
 - (1) Sprinkling Lamb’s Blood on Doorposts & Lintels of Israel’s Homes
 - (2) Saving Israel’s First Born from Angel of Death*(Prefiguring Messiah – Paschal Lamb of God)*
 - b) Israelites Crossed Red Sea. “By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted it they were drowned.”
(Symbolizing Baptism into a New Covenant)
4. People of Faith Under the Mosaic Law Heb. 11:30-39
- a. Israel’s Conquest of Promise Land Heb. 11:30-31; [Re: Joshua 1 – 12]
 - 1) “By faith the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with the disobedient, for she had received the *(Israelite)* spies in peace.”
 - a) Walls of Jericho Fell by Faith
 - b) Harlot Rahab Escaped Destruction by Faith
 - b. Exploits of the Faithful Heb. 11:32-34
 - 1) “What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of

weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders.”

- a) Israel’s Judges: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah [Re: Judges 3 – 16]
 - (1) Delivered & Judged Israel by Faith
 - (2) Performed Great Exploits by Faith
 - b) David (King of Israel & Judah) [Re: 1 Sam. 16 – 31 & 2 Sam.]
 - (1) Conquered Kingdoms by Faith
 - c) Samuel & the Prophets
 - (1) Accomplished Heroic Deeds by Faith
 - c. Litany of Faithful People throughout the Ages, Who Endured Persecution & Martyrdom by Faith Heb. 11:35-37
 - d. “The world was not worthy of them.... Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised.” Heb. 11:38-39
 - 1) All Men & Women of Faith, Approved by God
 - 2) Despite their Faith, They Did Not Obtain the Promise (*i.e. To Live Eternally with the Lord their God in His Heavenly Abode*).
(*These People Died in Faith Awaiting the Consolation of God’s Promise through His Messiah; Who Will Take their Sins Upon Himself, Die in their Place, then Rise from the Dead Providing the Way into the City of God.*)
5. God’s Better Plan Heb. 11:40
- a. “God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect.”
 - 1) God’s Plan Included Us (*God’s Heirs from All the Nations of Earth*)
 - a) *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” Rom. 8:14-17*
 - 2) God’s Plan was Perfected in Christ Jesus Who Conquered Sin & Death
 - a) How Did Jesus Conquer Sin & Death?
 - (1) By Living a Sinless Life,
 - (2) By Fulfilling the Law & Prophets, and
 - (3) By Offering Himself as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice
 - b) How Did Jesus Conquer Death (Curse of Sin)?
 - (1) By Victoriously Rising from the Dead
 - 3) **We, Through Our Faith in Christ Jesus, are Inheritors of God’s Promise, Perfecting His Plan of Eternal Salvation**

B. God’s Treatment of His Sons

Heb. 12

The author then advises his audience to live by faith in Christ Jesus.

- 1. Jesus Christ - The Focus of Our Faith Heb. 12:1-4
 - a. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (*See Above*), let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us.”
 - 1) Keep Away from Sin
 - 2) Persevere in Faithfulness

- b. Our Focus: “while **keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith**. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.”
 (“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” Heb. 12:2a KJV)
- 1) Stay Focused on Jesus Our Lord
 - a) Who Endured the Cross for Us
 - b) Who is Enthroned with God Almighty
 - c) He is the Source of Our Faith
- c. Word of Encouragement: “Consider how he (*Jesus Christ*) endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.....”
- 1) Consider How Christ Endured Opposition from Sinners
 - 2) Do Not Grow Despondent
 - 3) Do Not Abandon the Struggle to Live a Holy Life

2. We as Sons of God

Heb. 12:5-13

- a. We are Disciplined by God. “... ‘My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reprovved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges’ [Prov. 3:11-12].” (*Heb. 12:5-6*)
- 1) Accept the Lord’s Discipline, Which Proves Our Legitimacy as Sons of God. “Endure your trials as ‘discipline’; God treats you as sons. For what ‘son’ is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards.”
 - 2) Fatherly Discipline. “Besides this, we have had our earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not (then) submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live? They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness.”
- b. Encouragement to Accept Discipline
- 1) “At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.
 - 2) “So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed.”
- c. *The Lord’s Discipline:*
- 1) *Corrects Us*
 - 2) *Strengthens Us in Our Walk of Faith*
 - 3) *Trains Us to Perform the Works of God*
 - 4) *Produces Fruit of Peace & Justice in Our Lives*
 - 5) *Produces Spiritual Health & Strength*
 - 6) *Prepares Us to Share in His Holiness*
 - 7) *And Much More!*

3. Penalties for Disobedience / Rewards for Obedience

Heb. 12:14-29

- a. Admonitions. “Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up and cause trouble, through which many may become defiled, that no one be an immoral or profane person....” (*Heb. 12:14-16*)
- 1) Strive for Peace with All Men
 - 2) Strive for Holiness (*Trusting in the Lord*)
 - 3) Keep Away from Sin
 - 4) Respect What is Sacred

- b. Words of Encouragement
- 1) God is Not Unapproachable as Under the Old Covenant. “..... No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect” (*Heb. 12:22-23*)
 - a) Draw Near to the Living God
 - (1) Heavenly Jerusalem (City of God)
 - (2) Myriad of Angels
 - (3) Assembly of Saints
 - (4) God & Judge of All Creation
 - b) Through Jesus Christ Our High Priest. “.... Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.” (*Heb. 12:24*)
- c. Listen to the Lord
- 1) God Spoke to Israelites at Mount Sinai [Re: Ex. 19:16 - 20:21]
 - a) Israelites Refused to Listen and were Punished
 - b) His Voice Shaking Earth
 - 2) Lord Speaks to Us from Heaven
 - a) Listen & Receive His Word
 - b) His Voice Shakes Heaven & Earth - Created Things Will Pass Away
 - c) Remain Unshakable in Your Faith
 - 3) Receive an Unshakable Kingdom. “.... we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe. For our God is a consuming fire (*That Refines, Purifies & Judges*).” (*Heb. 12:28-29*)

C. Final Exhortation & Blessing

Heb. 13

1. Advice for Christian Living Heb. 13:1-8
 - a. Love Fellow Christians. “Let mutual love continue.”
 - b. Perform Good Works. “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.”
 - c. Honor Marriage in Every Way. “Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the immoral and adulterers.”
 - d. Avoid Being Seduced by Materialism. “Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have,” (*Materialism - Putting People and/or Things Before the Lord - is a Form of Idolatry. Trust in the Lord as Provider.*)
 - e. The Lord God's Assurance: “.... **I will never forsake you or abandon you.**” [Deut. 31:6 & 8]”
 - f. Trust in the Lord. “Thus we may say with confidence: ‘The Lord is my helper, (and) I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’ [Psa. 118:6]”
 - g. Respect Church Leaders. “Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”
 - h. Our Immutable Lord: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”**
2. True Worship Heb. 13:9-15
 - a. Avoid Strange Teachings (*Inconsistent with the Word of God*). “Do not be carried

away by all kinds of strange teaching. It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace and not by foods, which do not benefit those who live by them.”

- b. Celebrate Holy Communion:
 - 1) “We have an altar (*Communion Table*) from which those who serve the tabernacle (*Jewish Temple*) have no right to eat (*Since they Haven’t Accepted Jesus as Lord*).”
 - 2) “The bodies of the animals whose blood the high priest brings into the sanctuary as a sin offering are burned outside the camp.” (*Prefiguring Christ’s Sacrifice*)
 - a) “Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore.”
- c. Look for Jesus’ Return. “For here (*On Earth*) we have no lasting (*Eternal*) city, but we seek the one that is to come.”
- d. Worship Jesus Christ as Lord. “Through him (then) let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.”
 - 1) Personally Confess Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior

3. Participation in Church Community Heb. 13:16-19

- a. Sacrifice of Good Works. “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.”
- b. Obey Church Leaders. “Obey your leaders and defer to them, for they keep watch over you and will have to give an account, that they may fulfill their task with joy and not with sorrow, for that would be of no advantage to you.”
- c. Pray for Church Leaders. “Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a clear conscience, wishing to act rightly in every respect....”

4. Conclusion Heb. 13:20-25

- a. Peace of God: “May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will”
- b. The Lord’s Will for Us: “May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever (and ever). Amen.”
- c. Edify Other Believers. “Brothers, I ask you to bear with this message of encouragement, for I have written to you rather briefly.... Grace be with all of you.”

