

**The Book of Hebrews
Session Seven
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Hebrews 7:27 – “who needeth not day by day, as those high priests {insert, by ellipsis, ‘did year by year’} to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once [and for all] when he offered up himself.”

Refers to the Day of Atonement, recorded in Leviticus 16. The High Priest once a year enters into the holy of holies and offers sacrifice for his own sins, that of the people and for the tabernacle. On the Day of Atonement, the sacrificial law reached its supreme expression; the high priest attains to his highest mission; the tabernacle receives its fullest use. This majestically foreshadows Christ’s crucifixion and ascension into heaven.

Chapter Eight

Verse 1 – “have spoken” – being spoken. Not a reference to the thing just discussed but to the matters to be considered. “sum” – chief point “such a high priest” – refers back to 7:6-28. “is set” – sat down. This high priest took his seat in the heavens. His work of offering a sacrifice for sin was finished. He now officiates in the heavenly tabernacle. The Messiah as high priest is superior in every way to Aaron, therefore the New Covenant, which he inaugurated, is superior to the Old, under which Aaron officiated.

Verse 2 – “minister” – one in public office who serves the people. “sanctuary” – *ton hagion* - holy places. “tabernacle” – a tent. “true” – genuine, not opposed to something fake or counterfeit, but, in contrast to that which is a mere copy or representation.

The true tabernacle that the Lord pitched is heaven itself.

“not man” – the earthly tabernacle was pitched by man. The Holy of Holies of heaven itself is where the Messiah officiates as the great high priest.

Verse 3 – The Messiah as high priest must have gifts and sacrifices to offer and a sanctuary in which to offer them.

Verse 4 – The priests on earth were Levites, offering animal sacrifices in an earthly tabernacle according to the Law of Moses.

Verse 5 – “example” – an outline, a suggestion. “shadow” – a representation of a reality, having no substance in itself or independent existence, but does prove the reality that is behind it. “pattern” – *tupos* – a model. The Aaronic priests preformed their priestly duties in the representation, or model, of the heavenly tabernacle.

Verse 6 – a pivotal verse. “a more excellent ministry” – than the prophets, the angels, Moses, Joshua, Aaron and the Levites. “a better covenant” – the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant.

Both the Old and New Covenants were bi-lateral agreements between two parties – God and Israel. Both parties made certain promises. Both were blood covenants – the Old was ratified (meaning made valid or confirmed) by animal blood (Exodus 24:1 – 8). This Old Covenant was written on stones (the Ten Commandments) and written in a book. Deuteronomy 4:13, 5:14; Exodus 19:1-19; 20:1-17.

Verse 7 – the fault of the Old Covenant is that it was officiated by imperfect men, offering imperfect sacrifices repeatedly in an earthly tent. It could not make its practitioners perfect, could not pay the price for their sins nor bring about holy spirit.

Verses 8 – 12 – The New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah. Acts 3:26 – the New covenant “first” came to the house of Israel. That it would come to the Gentiles is The Great Mystery, which is not addressed in the book of Hebrews.

The New Covenant is based on better promises than the Old

Under the Old covenant, Israel would be a peculiar treasure to Him above all people, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Under the New, God would put His law in the inward parts of people and write it in their hearts. He would be their God and they would be His people. He would forgive their iniquity and remember it no more.

11 Corinthians 3:1 – 18 – the Old and New Covenants contrasted.

Acts 2:1 – 4 – the New covenant comes into existence.

Acts 2:32, 33 – Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and sends forth the spirit of God.

Romans 10:1 – 10 – the believer’s part of the new agreement.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the perfect, eternal high priest

He offered the perfect sacrifice for all the sins of mankind

He has entered into the perfect tabernacle, heaven itself

Verse 13 – Things that age and decay soon vanish away.

The Law of Moses has ended, being replaced by the superior New Covenant