

Fact Sheet for **“A Superior Salvation!”**
Hebrews 8:1-10:18

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There are a lot of verses today so have your Bible handy. I will not quote them in these notes.

The book of Hebrews can be a hard book to understand. Much of what the human author wrote can also be difficult to apply today. This book was written to Jewish Christians who were still getting used to the mega-shift from strict obedience to the Mosaic Law to salvation by faith in Christ. This is not what we struggle with. At the same time the truth that is presented in this book can both encourage and challenge us today.

Today we are in a very large series of verses in the middle of this book that are best understood when taken together. I will do my best to make first them as easy as possible to understand, then to apply them to us today. Here is a quick summary of their content.

We have a superior high priest, Jesus... and a superior covenant... made with a superior sacrifice... which has a superior effect!

A Superior High Priest (8:1-6)

Hebrews 8:1-2

These two verses begin with a clear transitional statement summarizing what he has been teaching. The scene is the heavenly tabernacle. The word “minister” is from the word from which we get our word “liturgy”.

Hebrews 8:3

“This priest” is a reference to Jesus. What Jesus offers is in 9:12.

Hebrews 8:4-6

These words imply that the temple in Jerusalem was still standing. Again, the word “ministry” is from the word from which we get our word “liturgy”. Here again there is a reference to the old covenant versus the new covenant. Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant.

A Superior Covenant (8:7-9:15)

Hebrews 8:7

The fault of the first covenant was mentioned in 7:11, 18-19... the Law made no one perfect.

Hebrews 8:8-12

Notice the four aspects of the new covenant. This is a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34. First of all these OT verses clearly say that the old covenant will need to be replaced by the new covenant *which clearly involves the indwelling Holy Spirit and the complete payment for sins*. The benefits of this new covenant belong to all believers since the cross (1 Corinthians 11:25). But the new covenant has not yet been embraced by Israel as a whole. One day, in end times, it will.

Hebrews 8:13

The first covenant, the Mosaic Law, is obsolete. This is why the two parts of our Bible are named the OT and the NT.

Hebrews 9:1-10

The two sections of the tabernacle (and the temple) pointed to the fact that the way into the Holy of Holies had not been opened yet. It wouldn't be opened until Christ entered there once for all. The Jewish temple in Jerusalem had to be destroyed, as it was in 70 A.D. The old covenant is now obsolete!

Hebrews 9:11-12

The holy of holies is now permanently opened! Verse 12 tells us the offering that Christ made. This offering was mentioned in 8:3.

Hebrews 9:13-15

Look at 10:1-2. This refers to the firm conviction that we have been forgiven in Christ.

A Superior Sacrifice (9:16-28)

Hebrews 9:16-17

The word translated "covenant" (as in v. 15) and the word translated "will" are the same word. They are both agreements. They both take effect after a death.

Hebrews 9:18-28

The words "end of the ages" refers to the ending of the OT era.

A Superior Effect (10:1-18)

Hebrews 10:1-2

But the Law could never give anyone the firm conviction that they had been entirely forgiven.

Hebrews 10:3-13

The end times when this will be fulfilled has not yet come.

Hebrews 10:17

The author is referring back to his quote of Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Hebrews 10:18

No further offering for sin is needed!

We have a superior high priest, Jesus... and a superior covenant... made with a superior sacrifice... which has a superior effect!

The book of Hebrews was written to an entirely different audience than us, but the truth of what is written presents both encouragement and challenge for us today.

The encouragement – Christians are entirely and eternally forgiven in Christ! Thank God for this always.

The challenges –

1. If you have never asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior then you have no forgiveness of sins. If you pass into eternity in this state you will be on your own, but you won't escape judgment. You will pay for your sins for all eternity. Forgiveness for sins is only found in Christ. The good news is... there yet remains the opportunity to ask Christ to be your Savior.

2. If you are a Christian, pay attention to that quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34. God has put His laws into your own heart through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is part of the new covenant. We know through the indwelling Holy Spirit what God wants of us right now. If the Holy Spirit is encouraging you, then pursue this path in earnest. If the Holy Spirit is bothering you about something, then change.