

HEBREWS

STUDY 09 – HEB 8:1-13



Read Hebrews 8:1-13

Verses 1-2 point back to everything that we have looked at so far in chapters 1-7. The major theme of these chapters has been Jesus' qualifications to be our High Priest.

1. Look back at the following passages, and sum up in one phrase the point you think it is making about Jesus and his priesthood:

- a. Heb 1:1-4 - *He provides a representation of God*
- b. Heb 2:14-18 - *His humanity enables his death to be effective*
- c. Heb 4:14-16 - *He is able to sympathise with our struggles*
- d. Heb 7:23-26 - *Permanent priesthood, eternally effective*

2. How do these things therefore make Jesus the sort of High Priest who 'meets our needs' (Heb 7:26)?

It means that he is not a remote and removed figure. He can personally relate to us and our struggles, and is therefore able to deal with our sinfulness in a way that is effective.

Verses 3-6 now point the focus forwards, and serve as an introduction to chapters 8-10, which are mainly about the superiority of Jesus and the new covenant.

3. From these verses, what is the 'job description' which is given of a priest?

Simple comprehension from v 3-6. Their primary role is to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin. (From earlier in Hebrews we know that this is first for their own sins, and then for the sins of the people. It is something that they had to keep on doing).

4. In what ways is Jesus 'qualified' for this job, and what ways does he *not* fit this job description?

*Qualified – His death acted as a sacrifice, and he is the new mediator between man and God.
Over-qualified – He serves this function from heaven, and his sacrifice needs no repeating.*

5. What do you think is the purpose of the illustration about Moses being told how to build the tabernacle?

It is illustrating the point the plans for the tabernacle were given from God. They had to be followed accurately in order for the tabernacle to function. The tabernacle was thus a 'copy' or 'shadow' of the heavenly version. In the same way, the old covenant of earthly priests, was merely a 'copy' or 'shadow' of the better, heavenly sacrifice that came through Jesus (in itself it was not effective – it only pointed to the need for something better).

Verses 7-13 go on to outline some of the reasons for which the new covenant is superior to the old covenant.

6. Compare and contrast the new and old covenant from these verses:

Old Covenant	New Covenant
<i>Has faults / not completely effective</i>	<i>Faultless / eternally effective</i>
<i>God was not known to all</i>	<i>God is now known to all</i>
<i>Further sin required further sacrifice</i>	<i>Jesus' death covers all sins</i>

7. How are the differences between the two covenants connected with Jesus?

He is the mediator of this new covenant. It is because of him and his actions that the old covenant is no longer required. Jesus as the new mediator is eternally effective, and so following the old covenant serves no further purpose.

8. What are you most thankful for about being able to live under the new covenant?

A chance to think personally about the impact that this has on our lives, and in particular the requirements that we no longer have to follow in order to be right with God.

9. How does that / how should that impact upon the way you live day-to-day?

A chance to consider whether the things noted above in Q8 are actually having an impact on the way we live our lives. If not, consider what may need to change.