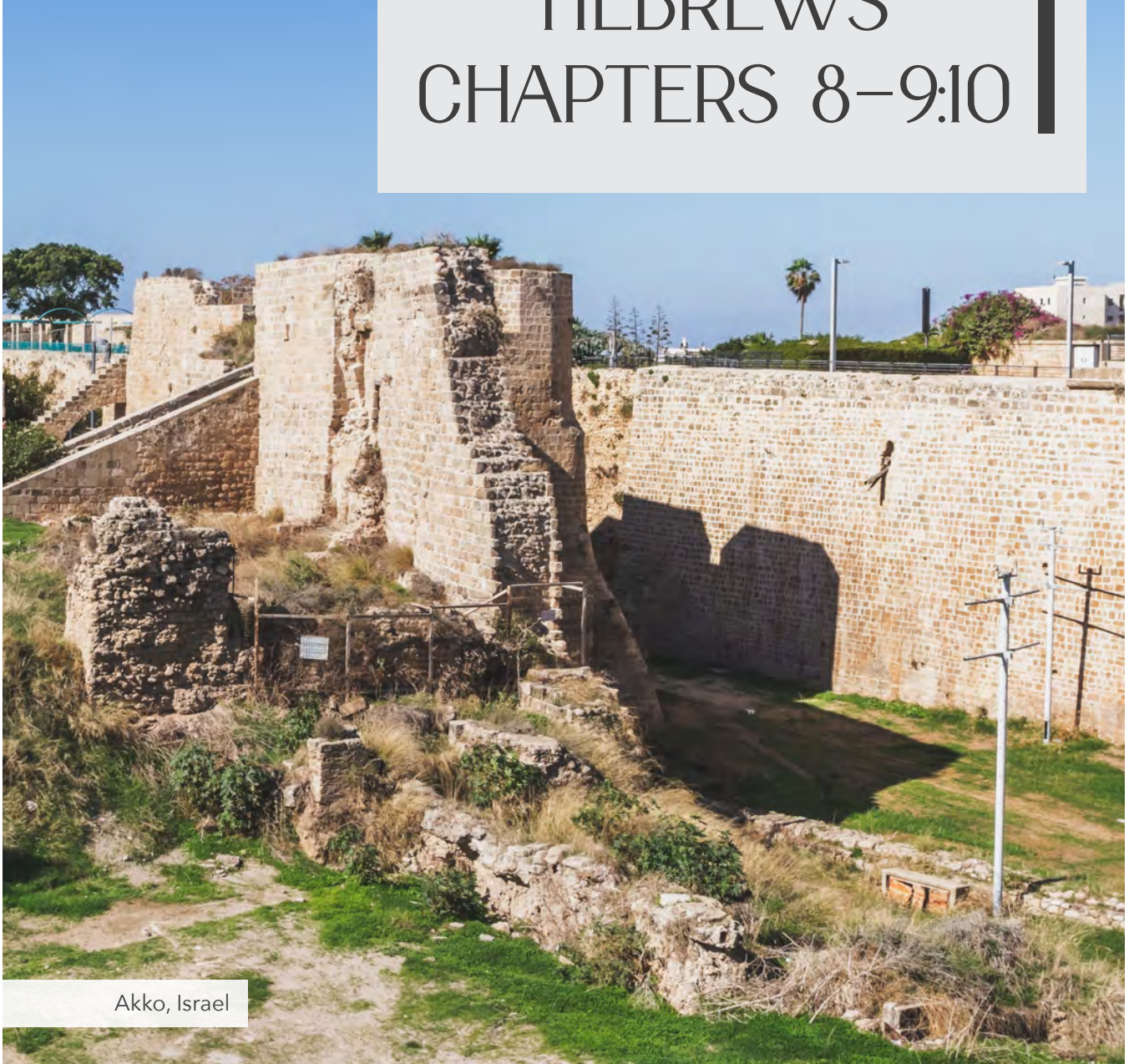


# WEEK 5

## HEBREWS

### CHAPTERS 8–9:10



Akko, Israel

#### JESUS IS THE GREATER COVENANT

This week, we will focus on Jesus as our exalted High Priest, seated at the right hand of God as the mediator of a greater covenant. The old covenant, given through Moses, was temporary and could not fully change the human heart. God promised through the prophet Jeremiah to establish a new covenant, one written not on stone tablets but on our hearts, bringing complete forgiveness and an intimate relationship with Him. These chapters remind us that Jesus offers something far better than laws, ritual, or human effort. He gives us direct access to God, which brings forgiveness, love, grace, and a transformed heart, things the old covenant could only foreshadow.

# DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 8:1-6, PSALM 110, JEREMIAH 31:31-34

## THE FAITHFUL GOD OF A GREATER COVENANT

From the very first breath of humanity, God makes and keeps His promises. He has bound Himself to His people through covenants, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to show us, in the clearest way possible, that His word is unshakable. He kept His promises to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, even when their descendants faltered. And through prophets like Jeremiah, He spoke of something even greater, a covenant written not on stone, but deep in human hearts.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 looked ahead to a new covenant, not written on stone tablets but etched into the hearts of God's people. This covenant would bring complete forgiveness of sins and a personal, intimate relationship with God Himself.

All of this found its fulfillment in Jesus. He is the priest-king of Psalm 110, the mediator of the new covenant in Hebrews 8, and the living proof that God's faithfulness does not expire. **The cross was not a detour from God's plan; it was the destination all along.**

The same God who carefully unfolded His plan over centuries, waiting, weaving, keeping every word, sees us in our moments of fear and doubt. If He didn't abandon His people for thousands of years, why would He start now? When we feel overlooked, when prayers seem unanswered, we can anchor ourselves in this unchanging truth: God has never failed to keep His promises, and He never will.

His covenant love is not dependent on our performance. It is sealed by the blood of Jesus, and Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father. That means we can live today with a quiet, defiant hope, because the God who fulfilled His greatest promise in Christ will keep every promise He has made. When you feel forgotten or uncertain, remember this: the God who kept His promises over thousands of years to bring about Jesus will not fail to keep the promises He has made to you.

## REFLECTION

Spend some time reflecting on the promises of God. Where in your life do you need to rest in the certainty that God keeps His promises, even when you can't yet see how He's working?

# DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 8-9:10, EXODUS 24:1-8, 31:18, LEVITICUS 16:32-34, JEREMIAH 31:33-34

## MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-6 tells us that this new covenant is here, and Jesus is its mediator. Unlike the old priesthood, bound to earthly temples and repeated sacrifices, Jesus' ministry is in the heavenly tabernacle, seated at the right hand of the Majesty. His covenant is "better" not because the old one was flawed in its design, but because it has been perfectly fulfilled in Him. **This greater covenant's promises are eternal, unshakable, and complete.**

	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Mediator	Moses (Exodus 19-24)	Jesus, eternal High Priest (Hebrews 8:1, Psalm 110:4)
Location of Ministry	Earthly tabernacle made by human hands (Hebrews 8:5)	Heavenly sanctuary, at God's right hand (Hebrews 8:1-2)
Basis	The Law written on stone tablets (Exodus 31:18)	God's law written on hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33)
Priesthood	Levitical priests who were mortal and temporary	Jesus as priest forever in the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4)
Sacrifices	Repeated animal sacrifices for sin	One perfect sacrifice of Jesus for all time (Hebrews 9:12)
Forgiveness	Covered sins temporarily (Leviticus 16)	Completely forgives sins and remembers them no more (Jeremiah 31:34)
Duration	Temporary, pointing to something greater	Eternal, built on better promises (Hebrews 8:6)
Access to God	Mediated through priests	Direct relationship with God for all believers through Jesus (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 10:19-22)

## REFLECTION

Craig Blomberg says, "Jesus doesn't simply replace the old covenant; he fulfills it in every way, he is the better priest, the better sacrifice, and the mediator of a better covenant." As you reflect on the differences between the old and new covenant, list some reasons that this new covenant is greater in your own life.

# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 8:6-13, MATTHEW 26:28; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:25; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-18

## WE ARE MINISTERS OF THE NEW COVENANT

When Jesus lifted the cup at the Last Supper and said, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”, He announced something entirely new. No longer would God’s people approach Him through repeated sacrifices, rituals, and regulations written on stone tablets. In His death and resurrection, Jesus established a new covenant, one founded not on human effort, but on His perfect obedience and once-for-all sacrifice. Hebrews 8 declares that this new covenant brings forgiveness and writes God’s law on our hearts, transforming us from the inside out.

Paul picks up this theme in 2 Corinthians 3, calling followers of Christ “ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit.” Unlike the old covenant that carved commandments on stone, the Spirit now writes God’s truth deep within us. The result is real freedom: “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”. Instead of trying to measure up to external demands, we live from the transforming presence of Christ Himself. We are no longer veiled in fear or condemnation, but with unveiled faces we behold Him and His glory as we are being changed into His likeness.

**We are to be people in whom the Spirit dwells, people empowered to reflect His love and truth to the world.** In 2 Corinthians, Paul says plainly, “We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.”

This is both humbling and liberating. We serve not in our own strength, but as vessels through whom Christ ministers. We bear a message of hope and transformation, not condemnation. In every conversation, every act of love, every moment of obedience, we are living proof that God’s new covenant is alive, written not on stone, but on our hearts.

## REFLECTION

Are you living as though your relationship with God depends on your performance or on Christ’s finished work? Where might you still be relating to Him through the old covenant, rather than resting in the freedom of the new? How is God calling you to reflect His glory as a minister of this better covenant today?

# DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 9:1-10

Hebrews 9:1-10 shows how the old tabernacle pointed to something greater. Its sacrifices brought only temporary forgiveness, but Christ's sacrifice brings eternal redemption.

The holy and most holy places—with their lampstand, bread, ark, and mercy seat—symbolized God's presence yet kept people at a distance. Only priests could enter, and only the high priest once a year with blood. These rituals never truly removed sin; they only reminded God's people of their need for a perfect mediator. Jesus is that mediator. As our true High Priest, he offered himself once for all and opened the way for us to draw near to God with confidence.

## Bronze Altar (Altar of Sacrifice)

- The place where death of a perfect animal was required to atone for their sin
- Symbolizes the need of sacrifice & death to atone for sin
- Jesus was our perfect lamb. (John 1:29)

## REFLECTION

In what areas of my life am I still trying to "earn access" to God rather than resting in Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice?

## SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE

**The Tabernacle served to foreshadow the One in which all the symbolism and sacrifices would ultimately be fulfilled.**

The Tabernacle was to be a portable structure so that it could go with the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness to the Promised Land. Today the dwelling place of God is still portable, living inside of believers.

God was so specific about the details of the tabernacle because **it was a symbol of heavenly things** (Hebrews 8:5; 9:11). God wanted His people to learn more about Him through the tabernacle. Each item in the tabernacle had symbolic meaning.

Ultimately this symbolism points to Jesus...**every part, and detail is designed and patterned to present Jesus Christ!**

## Bronze Basin

- After offering sacrifice, cleansing was required for the priest to approach a Holy God.
- Symbolizes the need for cleansing from our sin
- Jesus cleansed us once and for all on the cross. (Heb 1:3)

Illustration by Emily Crosby



# DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 9:1-10, REVELATION 21:3-7

## The Table of Showbread

- Held 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel
- Symbolizes God's provision and feasting on His Word
- Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6:32, 51)

## The Veil

- Separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
- Symbolizes separation between a holy God and sinful people
- Jesus gives us direct access to God. The veil is torn & no longer needed. (Matthew 27:51, Heb. 4:16, 10:19)

## Ark of the Covenant & Mercy Seat

- God's throne on earth
- Symbolizes God's Dwelling Place among His people
- Jesus came so that God's presence can dwell WITHIN His people. (John 14:16, 1 Cor. 6:19)

## Altar of Incense

- High Priest was to keep the incense burning & act as an intercessor offering up prayers on Israel's behalf
- Symbolizes continual prayers spiraling to heaven
- Jesus, our High Priest, is our mediator & intercessor before God. (Hebrews 7:25)

## Golden Lampstand

- Light to the Holy Place attended to day & night by the priests
- Symbolizes being a light in the darkness
- Jesus is the Light of the World. (John 1:9, 8:12)

Hebrews 9:1-10 describes the earthly tabernacle as a temporary, symbolic arrangement pointing forward to a greater reality yet to come. It reminds us that under the old covenant, access to God's presence was limited through rituals that could not fully cleanse the human heart. In Revelation 21:3-7, that greater reality is revealed: God Himself dwells directly with His people, unhindered by sin or separation. What was once pictured in shadows and restricted by veils is now fulfilled in perfect fellowship with Jesus: no temple needed, no sacrifices required, because Christ has secured eternal redemption and God declares, "Look I am making everything new...To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

## REFLECTION

How does knowing that Jesus opens direct access to God change the way you approach him in prayer or worship today?

# DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

## REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Hebrews 8-9:10*

This week, we've seen God's faithfulness shine through His covenants, culminating in the new covenant fulfilled in Jesus. Unlike the old system of temporary sacrifices and distant access, Christ's perfect sacrifice brings complete forgiveness, writes God's law on our hearts, and opens the way for a direct relationship with Him. As ministers of this new covenant, empowered by the Spirit, we reflect His glory and share His hope with the world. God's promises are unshakable, and we can live with confidence and freedom, resting not on our performance but on Christ's finished work.

### Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

# DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.