

# “Earthly & Heavenly Sanctuary,” *part 5*

## *Hebrews 7 & 8*

### *Understanding Atonement*

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*Refer to the last page: “How to Interpret Scripture”*

#### **Preparing for this message:**

Your notes:

We need to study Hebrews chapters 4 through 8. Today’s outline is foundational for understanding the Priesthood of the Earthly and Heavenly Sanctuary during the 2nd Temple period.

Today, we will begin reading and studying chapters 5:11-7:28. Please make your notes in the right-hand column. Though this may seem like a lot, this “context” will help us better understand these chapters.

#### **We need to mature (Heb 5:11-14)**

<sup>11</sup>We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup>In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup>Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. [Heb 5:11-14 NIV].

#### **Elementary Principles vs Righteousness (Heb 6:1-20)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup>instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And God permitting, we will do so.

<sup>4</sup>It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age <sup>6</sup>and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. <sup>7</sup>Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup>But land that produces thorns and thistles

is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

<sup>9</sup>Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. <sup>10</sup>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. <sup>12</sup>We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. [Heb 6:1-20 NIV].

**Melchizedek, The High Priest** (Heb 7:1-10). Believers wondered how Yeshua could become High Priest because He did not come from the Priestly tribe of Levi.

<sup>1</sup>This Melchizedek<sup>#1</sup> was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup>and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek<sup>#2</sup> means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” <sup>3</sup>Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he [pointing to Yeshua] remains a priest forever.

<sup>4</sup>Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! <sup>5</sup>Now the law<sup>#3</sup> requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. <sup>6</sup>This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. <sup>7</sup>And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. <sup>8</sup>In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. <sup>9</sup>One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, <sup>10</sup>because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor [Heb 7:1-10 NIV].

**Yeshua Is Similar to Melchizedek** (Heb 7:11-28). Yeshua came from the order of Melchizedek, not from the lineage of Aaron.

#### FOOTNOTES

#1 (vs 1) Gen 14:18-20 speaks of Melchizedek.

#2 (vs 2) For further study, view “The Oldest Temple to the God Most High in Jerusalem,” by Israel My Channel: <https://youtu.be/DtHLItM87Jc?si=f9Q97wGEfhZfPohC>

#3 (vs 5) Since there is no word in the Greek New Testament for the word “Torah,” the translators use the word “law”. However, the word “Torah” refers to YHVH’s instructions, not just the Ten Commandments.

## Major points:

- Levitical Priesthood never made anything eternally perfect.
- A Priest, not of Aaron, was needed.
- This new Priesthood changed the ordinance of the law (Ps 110:4).

<sup>11</sup>If perfection<sup>#4</sup> itself could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law [Torah] given to the people established that priesthood<sup>#5</sup>—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron<sup>#6</sup>? <sup>12</sup>For when the priesthood is changed, the law<sup>#7</sup> must be changed also<sup>#8 & #9</sup>.

## Understanding Atonement

Remember:

The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” Psalms 110:4 ESV

Hebrew 7:11:

“Perfection”, (that is, to complete a process or obligation) in Greek comes from the verb (teleo), Hebrew 7:11. This is the goal of what YHVH wants to achieve, His perfection.

We need to remember that YHVH is performing His great work in Israel (not in a man-made church), but rather His personal elect (His congregation).

Even though the Levitical Priesthood in the Torah (law) was established by YHVH Himself, Scripture clearly states that the Levitical Priesthood could never bring about the final goal of

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### FOOTNOTES

#4 (vs 11) τελείωσις means “to complete” or “to perfect” or to “fulfill” & it carries a sense of “maturity,” that is, to make something whole & complete.

#5 (vs 11) Though the Levitical Priesthood was instituted as an ordinance in YHVH’s Torah. Nevertheless, this Levitical Priesthood (on earth) could not bring Israel to its completed perfection of redemption. YHVH preplanned this, when He prophesied this.

#6 (vs 11) Remember, YHVH has repeatedly stated His ultimate 3-part redemptive purpose for mankind throughout the Torah: “I will take you as **my own people**, and **I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD (YHVH) your God**” (Exodus 6:7; Lev 26:12; Ezek 36:28; Joel 2:26-27)

#7 (vs 12) Again the word “law” refers to the “Torah.” In this verse, “law” refers to only the ordinances within the Torah.

#8 (vs 12) It was not the Commandments of YHVH that were changed, rather it was His ordinances that were changed (Heb 7:16,18, 8:10; 10:16).

#9 (vs 12) The earthly Temple is still in effect. According to the Apostles’ actions, Acts 2:46: “Every day they continued to meet together in the Temple courts.” Acts 3:1: “One day Peter & John were going up to the Temple at the time of prayer – at 3 in the afternoon.” Acts 21:26: “The next day Paul took the men & purified himself along with them. Then he went to the Temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end & the offering would be made for each of them.” Read Heb 8:4-5 which shows that the Temple was still active. And for further study, read: Ezekiel 40-48; Zech 14:20-21, which show that during the thousand-year reign all believers will be doing sacrifices in God’s Temple. This shows that the Levitical priesthood of the earthly tabernacle did not replace Yeshua’s heavenly priesthood. The Levitical priesthood had a valid purpose; and it will again serve that purpose in the future during the Millennium.

redemption. Those individuals who follow the institutions of the Tabernacle and Temple service were made righteous.

This creates a major issue, if God made sinners righteous through the Levitical Priesthood by sacrifices and priestly rituals, then why do we need Yeshua to die as our Savior?

Or does this mean that there are two methods of salvation? The writer of the book of Hebrews does not imply nor speak of such. Rather, the priesthood of Aaron foreshadowed the ultimate redemptive work of the Messiah. For it is Yeshua alone who established the final rebirth of man's soul - eternal salvation. Yeshua is the only way of obtaining eternal life. The Scriptures are filled with prophecies about the Promised One, for it is by faith alone in Him only.

The Levitical Priesthood declared the exact manner in which they were to perform their duties. The Commandments were continuously broken by the people. The priesthood of Aaron was not designed to obtain the goal of perfection, rather YHVH had designed a different priesthood. This priesthood had been established before the giving of the Torah. The very fact that the Melchizedek priesthood is revealed in Psalm 110:4, hundred years after the Levitical Priesthood was established, show that it was not sufficient to reach the final goal of redemption. YHVH's ultimate redemption of His elect was foreshadowed by the promised One, the Messiah.

Hebrew 7: 12 states "For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of Torah (law) also". This verse attracts those who say 'See, this verse proves that the law is somewhat abolished or totally abolished.' Actually, this verse is stating that "for when the priesthood is changed." The subject of this phrase is that the priesthood's being changed and not the Law's being changed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase within the verse, "of necessity there takes place a change of Torah (law) also", means that it is the priesthood within the Torah that is being changed. Those who believe that the Torah has been abolished or even partially so are presented with a problem when they read Ezekiel 40-48. Since they believe that the TaNaKh (Old Testament) & the Levitical Priesthood are done away, they believe that the Temple in Ezekiel is an allegory. They believe that the old legislation is gone and, furthermore, they believe that anyone who believes that Temple and that the Aaronic priesthood were to be reestablished in a future

millennial temple would be guilty of blasphemy; they also would say that Yeshua's sacrifice was not sufficient in itself.

## Sacrifice and Atonement

Did animal sacrifice in the Tabernacle and Temples forgive sins?

Hebrews 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup>The law [Torah] is *only*<sup>10</sup> a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. <sup>3</sup>But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. <sup>4</sup>It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. [Heb 10:1-4 NIV]

Hebrew 7:13

<sup>13</sup>He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. [Heb 7:13 NIV]

○ Key points to note:

- 1). Yeshua does not come from the tribe of Levi.
- 2). Yeshua is not priest of the earthly tabernacle. He is priest of the heavenly tabernacle.
- 3). Therefore, the Torah prophesied that Yeshua would be the eternal priest.
- 4). Just as Melchizedek was a king & priest outside of the Torah's regulations, so is Yeshua's priesthood.
- 5). Just as Melchizedek had no beginning & no end; so, likewise, neither did Yeshua.
- 6). Melchizedek was not a son of Aaron. Melchizedek's priesthood existed before Aaron's. Because Abraham, from whom Levi descended, gave a tithe to Melchizedek, Melchizedek's priesthood was greater than Aaron's.

<sup>14</sup>For it is clear that our Lord [YHVH] descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. <sup>15</sup>And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, <sup>16</sup>one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation [ordinance] as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. <sup>17</sup>For it is

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### FOOTNOTES

#10 (vs 1) The word *only, but, & merely* have been added to this verse by translators & are not in the Greek.

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declared: **“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”**<sup>#11</sup>

<sup>18</sup>The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless <sup>19</sup>(for the law [the ordinance] made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

<sup>20</sup>And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, <sup>21</sup>but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord [YHVH] has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever.’”

<sup>22</sup>Because of this oath, Jesus [Yeshua] has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup>Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup>but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup>Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

<sup>26</sup>Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. [Heb 7:11-28 NIV].

## The High Priest of The Heavenly Sanctuary (Heb 8)

<sup>1</sup>Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup>and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

<sup>3</sup>Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.

### Earthly Sanctuary

The earthly sanctuary is for those who are ritually defiled (breaking the Ordinances), not morally defiled (breaking the Ten Commandments).

- Ritual defilement is not always sin
  - it could be loss of blood

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<sup>#11 (vs 17)</sup> Ps 110:4: “The LORD [YHVH] has sworn & not changed His mind: You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

- loss of semen
- menstrual period
- touching a dead body
- skin rash
- bodily imperfections
- unforgiveness
- giving birth

When a person breaks one of the Ordinances, that defiled person must go through a procedure of an animal offering (sacrifice). Each has its own procedure for restoration before they can re-enter God's presence (sacred space).

Note: There is a cost for actions. This animal offering (sacrifice) is not about forgiveness for breaking the Commandments. This has nothing to do with a moral violation. One must make restitution or reparation to people whom you have harmed. This is where one re-sets themselves (make a change). If one enters YHVH's presence (sacred space) defiled, this could bring death. (Remember the cause of the death Aaron's two sons.)

- Moral defilement is breaking the Ten Commandments. To be made righteous, one must trust God. Trusting God is keeping the Commandments.

<sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>**“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;**

<sup>8</sup> **blessed is the man against whom the Lord [YHVH] will not count his sin.”** [Rom 4:4-8 ESV].

Continuing with Hebrew chapter 8, verse 4:

<sup>4</sup>If He [Yeshua] were on earth, He would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law [Torah]. <sup>5</sup>They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” <sup>6</sup>But in fact the ministry Jesus [Yeshua] has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which He is mediator is superior to the

old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

<sup>7</sup>For if there had been nothing wrong with that first *covenant* <sup>#12</sup>, no place would have been sought for another. <sup>8</sup>But God found fault with the people and said:

“The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

<sup>9</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, *declares the Lord*.

<sup>10</sup>This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

<sup>11</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup>For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

<sup>13</sup>By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. [Heb 8:1-13 NIV].

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## “How to Interpret Scripture”

### *Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:*

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
  2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
  3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.
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### *The character of Yeshua according to His Word:*

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
  2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
  3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]
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### *Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible*

Matt 28:18-20 – this is after His resurrection.

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#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>#12 (vs 7)</sup> This will be discussed next week.



<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:6-8 – after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 3:36 – the book of John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

<sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

<sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. [Note: Yeshua perfectly kept the Torah; likewise, we also need to &, thereby, stop sinning.]

## Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision &amp; Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oral Law</li> <li>○ Customs of Moses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews only</u> who came up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 years after Pentecost</li> <li>○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles only</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 years after Acts 10</li> <li>○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation &amp; circumcision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Under the auspices of Constantine</li> <li>○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend</li> </ul>