Wednesday Morning Senior Adults Bible Study
THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
August 26, 2026

HEBREWS 8

Review
Match these people/beings with the proper description…

Aaron	Jesus came from this tribe of Israel
Abraham	Priests of Israel came from this tribe
Angels & Moses	Jesus is high priest in the order of _____
The devil	Jesus is superior to them & worthy of more honor
Judah	Jesus died to break his power
Levi	He paid a tenth of everything to Melchizedek
Melchizedek	High priests of Israel came from his family

chapter 8 — New High Priest for a New Covenant

8:1 — "[S]uch a high priest" echoes 7:26, which describes Jesus as "Such a high priest [who] truly meets our need" because he lives forever and is able to intercede for us completely (7:23-25). From 7:26, Jesus our high priest is _____, blameless, _____, set apart from _____, and exalted above the _____.

8:1-2 — Our high priest sat down at the right hand of the _____ _____ and now serves in the sanctuary (the true tabernacle) set up by _____.

8:4 — If Jesus had remained on earth, why would he not be a priest?

Food for Thought…
We sometimes wonder why Jesus had to return to heaven with God instead of remaining on earth to share the gospel message and to lead his church in person. The author of Hebrews gives us one reason why Jesus had to return to heaven. What other possible reasons can you think of?

8:5 — Priests in the writer's time served at a sanctuary (the temple in Jerusalem) that is a _____ and _____ of what is in heaven.

• Is there a physical sanctuary (tabernacle/temple) in heaven? What do you think? If so, then the earthly sanctuary was apparently made to look like the heavenly one. But if not, in what way(s) might the earthly sanctuary have reflected the nature of the heavenly sanctuary?

8:6 — Why is Jesus' ministry superior to the ministry of the earthly priests?

8:6 — The new covenant is better than the old covenant because the new is established on better _____.

8:7-9 — What was the problem with the first covenant?

God's Covenants with Human Beings:

- The "old/first covenant" (8:6-7) refers to God's covenant with Israel, established through Moses shortly after God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt (notice 8:9).
- The "new covenant" (8:6) refers to God's covenant with everyone who is made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus (10:10).
- Before the time of Moses, God also established covenants with Noah (Genesis 6:18, 9:8-17) and Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21, chapter 17).

8:10-12 — Notice these key characteristics of the new covenant, as God describes them:

- God will put his _____ in his people's minds and write them on their hearts.
- God says, "I will be their _____ and they will be my _____."
- They will all _____ God, from the least of them to the greatest.
- God will forgive their _____ and will remember their _____ no more.

Background…

Notice that the passage quoted in Hebrews 8:8-12 originally comes from **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. Jeremiah was a prophet in the late 600s and early 500s BC. He prophesied that the mighty Babylonian Empire would invade and destroy Judah (southern Israel) because of Judah's wickedness before God (this prophecy was fulfilled in 605-586 BC). Yet Jeremiah also, as in this passage, predicted Israel's restoration in later times, including the future rebuilding of Jerusalem and the establishment of a new covenant between God and his people.

8:13 — What does the writer say will happen to the first/old covenant, which is now "obsolete"?

• What does this statement mean for us today as we learn about God's covenant with Israel established through Moses (the Law of Moses)? To what extent, if any, does God call us to follow the Law of Moses today? What is its role in our lives now as followers of Jesus?