

God's New Deal

1. When the author says, "We have such a high priest" (8:1), what kind of a priest is he referring to? (from 7:23-28)

7:23 Those priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office, 24 but he, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. 25 Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. 26 It was fitting that we should have such a high priest:* holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. 27 He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day,*n first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

2. A. List some things that are in heaven according to Heb. 8:1- 2.

8:1 The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up.

- B. Do you think this means heaven is a real place?

3. Jesus still serves as a priest before the Father (8:2). What is His ongoing priestly service (7:25 & 9:24, CCC#1073)?

7:25 Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

9:24 For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf.

1073 The liturgy is also a participation in Christ's own prayer addressed to the Father in the Holy Spirit. In the liturgy, all Christian prayer finds its source and goal. Through the liturgy the inner man is rooted and grounded in "the great love with which [the Father] loved us" in his beloved Son. It is the same "marvelous work of God" that is lived and internalized by all prayer, "at all times in the Spirit."

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4. What do you learn about the heavenly sanctuary and the earthly tabernacle from 8:2 & 9:11, 24?

8:2 minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up.

**9:11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be,*
passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not
belonging to this creation, 12 he entered once for all into the sanctuary**

**9:24 For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one,
but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf.**

5. A. God set the terms of both the old and new covenants. Why did he choose to initiate a new one?

B. In what way is the new covenant better than the old?

6. Research the idea of God's Law being written on human hearts in:

A. Psalm 37:31

31 God's teaching is in his heart; his steps do not falter.

B. Jeremiah 31:33

33 But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days—oracle of the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

C. 2 Corinthians 3:3

32 You are our letter,* written on our hearts, known and read by all, 33 shown to be a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.

D. Hebrews 10:16

16 "This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,'"

7. From 8:10-12, list the blessings of the New Covenant and explain what they mean.

10 But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his fellow citizen and kinsman, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from least to greatest. 12 For I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more."

8. How do we know that the New Covenant actually replaces the Old Covenant? Use and Galatians 3:23-26, CCC#1968.

Romans 3:21-24

24 But now* the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, though testified to by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; 23 all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. 24 They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus,

Galatians 3:23-26

Before faith came, we were held in custody under law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed. 24 Consequently, the law was our disciplinarian* for Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a disciplinarian. 26 For through faith you are all children of God* in Christ Jesus.

CCC#1968

1968 The Law of the Gospel fulfills the commandments of the Law. The Lord's Sermon on the Mount, far from abolishing or devaluing the moral prescriptions of the Old Law, releases their hidden potential and has new demands arise from them: it reveals their entire divine and human truth. It does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the heart, the root of human acts, where man chooses between the pure and the impure, where faith, hope, and charity are formed and with them the other virtues. the Gospel thus brings the Law to its fullness through imitation of the perfection of the heavenly Father, through forgiveness of enemies and prayer for persecutors, in emulation of the divine generosity.

9. Think about the fact that God has chosen not to remember your sins anymore. (8:12) How does this motivate you to act?

12 For I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more.”

10. What one truth from 8:1-13 would you like to take to heart this week? How would you like this to affect your life?

1 The main point of what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister of the sanctuary* and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up. 3 Now every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus the necessity for this one also to have something to offer. 4 If then he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are those who offer gifts according to the law. 5 They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, "See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6 Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second one. 8 But he finds fault with them and says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will conclude a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they did not stand by my covenant and I ignored them, says the Lord. 10 But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his fellow citizen and kinsman, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from least to greatest. 12 For I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more." 13 When he speaks of a "new" covenant, he declares the first one obsolete. And what has become obsolete and has grown old is close to disappearing.