

# We Have A High Priest

Hebrews 8:1-2



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**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1-2 KJV) "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum<sup>1</sup>: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; {2} A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."

Our text begins with these words:

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1a KJV) "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum<sup>2</sup>..."

The Apostle brings us to the most interesting, most intense, most important point of this wonderful Book. It is not that the *other points* were of no consequence. No Beloved, these points were very important, foundational, in fact, to what we are about to read. But this point dwarfs all other points made. They were the solid ground on which the following truth is presented. Are you ready? Here it is:

### 1. Our High Priest Jesus Is In Heaven

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1 KJV) "... We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens ..."

Why is this such an important point? We have been studying the Christ for several weeks now. In our Deuteronomy lessons we have seen that the Mosaic Law was given to Israel *because they refused salvation by faith in God*. They refused a relationship in God through

<sup>1</sup> kephalaion {pronounced kef-al'-ah-yon}, chief point, conclusion, the target to be aimed at

Christ, so the Law was given to convict them of their fallen state - and their need for the Savior. The Mosaic Law established not just the Ten Commandments, but it also established a *system of religion* by which man could approach God and be convicted. You see, the Scripture says:

**(Romans 3:20 KJV) "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."**

No flesh has ever been justified by the Law, nor was that the intent of the Law. The Law was given to *make us aware that we are sinners*, to give us **the knowledge of sin** - but not to save. The Law was designed by God to: (1) *draw man to Christ* by making him aware of his sinful state, and then (2) to *teach man about the coming Messiah* through the symbolic rituals and religious paraphernalia contained in the Law.

1 The Law was designed by God to: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ by making him aware of his sinful state, and then (2) to *teach man about* \_\_\_\_\_ through the symbolic rituals and religious paraphernalia contained in the Law.

**(Colossians 2:16-17 KJV) "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: {17} Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."**

The holy days, festivals, feasts and other rituals

contained in the Law were *shadows* of the reality which is Christ. The shadow of the Law, which is on earth, has been superseded by our reality Who is in Heaven. Our reality is Jesus! This has amazing implications for each and every person in this room today. Let's look at these implications as sub points:

a **Our High Priest is in Heaven, superseding or replacing the earthly High Priest of the Law.**

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1 KJV) "... We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens ..."

2 Man made the Law a \_\_\_\_\_ behind which he could hide from God, much like Adam tried to hide from God in the Garden of Eden. Men still try to hide by laws and rituals today.

Under the Law a person could *satisfy God's requirements of holiness* by following certain rituals, or certain sacrifices. The Law became a tree behind which someone could hide from God, much like Adam tried to hide from God in the Garden of Eden. You prayed at prescribed times, you worshiped in the prescribed Temple or Tabernacle, you gave the prescribed Tithe or offering. Even if you did all these things without fail, human nature being what it is you still fell short in a certain area. The Law could not justify. But by following the precepts of the Law a person could - and did - give the outward appearance of having a relationship with God, though that person *in reality had NO relationship with God*. You can kill an animal in a holy way and yet not be saved by faith in Christ. You can give an offering

and meet its minimum requirements, and yet do this out of a sense of *obedience to the Law* and not Christ. This is why our Lord Jesus Christ called the Pharisees **whited tombs**:

**(Matthew 23:27-28 KJV) "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. {28} Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."**

3 When one worships the symbol rather than the \_\_\_\_\_ which the symbol represents, that person is empowered *by nothing*.

Outwardly the Pharisees did the minimum required rituals, but they *at no point* gave themselves over to a relationship with Jesus. Such a relationship *is useless*. When one worships the symbol rather than the Reality which the symbol represents, they are empowered by nothing but an empty symbol. I can print "Chairman of Lexington Electric" on my business cards, but unless I am *in reality in that position* the symbolism is useless!

I often wondered how the Pharisees could hear Jesus, see Jesus, see the miracles He did, and yet still accuse Him of being anyone other than the Son of God. Yet this is what happened back in Israel's day, and still happens *in our present Church Age*. There are many who have a relationship with the ritualism of the Church - the Lord's Table, the singing, the preaching and teaching of the

Word - but have no relationship with our *Heavenly High Priest*.

**b** If you expect to get to Heaven when you die, or need the empowerment of God as you live your life on earth, your faith *must* be based on a relationship with Jesus Christ:

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1 KJV) "... We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens ..."

We read "**we have such an High Priest**." Under the Mosaic Law the High Priest represented the people *before God*. The word "**we**" indicates that there is an intimate relationship between Jesus and those Whom He represents. Since the Law is *but a superseded shadow*, nothing good that a person does can get him into Heaven, nor give us power to live victoriously on this earth. You must *know Jesus*, and grow in your relationship *with Jesus* by being obedient to His direction.

4 Since the Law is *but a* \_\_\_\_\_, nothing good that a person does can get him into Heaven, nor give us power to live victoriously on this earth. You must *know Jesus*, and grow in your relationship *with Jesus* by being obedient to Him.

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:4-5 KJV) "**For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: {5} Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly**

**things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount."**

If Jesus Christ had remained on the earth then *under the Mosaic Law* He *could not* have been made a High Priest. Jesus, you remember, was born of the Tribe of Judah, of the line of David. Under the Mosaic Law Jesus was qualified to *be King of Israel*, but He could not be made *priest* or *High Priest*. But Jesus Christ, ascended to the right hand of God the Father - a preeminent place - is a High Priest

**(Hebrews 5:6 KJV) "... for ever after the order of Melchisedec."**

The person who follows mere ritualism apart from a *real relationship with Christ* can only live their lives based on shadow. The person who takes lightly a *living, growing faith in Christ* is living very dangerously. At the least he or she can find themselves in trial or tribulation separated from the strengthening power that a relationship with God offers. At the most such a person can find themselves condemned to eternal hellfire if they leave this life in such an unbelieving state.

5 The person who takes lightly a *living, growing faith in Christ* has \_\_\_\_\_ himself. At the least he or she can find themselves in trial or tribulation separated from the \_\_\_\_\_ that a relationship with God offers. At the most, \_\_\_\_\_ could be waiting for you on the other side of life.

A **pattern** will not equip for victorious living. A **relationship** with Christ will sustain you through the hard times of life.

## **2. Our High Priest Jesus Is On God's Right Hand**

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:1 KJV) "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum<sup>2</sup>: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens"

Our High Priest sits on the *right hand of God* in Heaven. Why is this important?

In ancient times the King sat on the Throne and His Word was absolute. The King made decision after decision that effected the outcome of His Kingdom. But *most kings* had what we today would call a *right hand man*. The Right Hand Man would take care of all details that the King assigned to him. For instance, when Joseph (remember Joseph and his coat of many colors?) was blessed by God and rose to power under Pharaoh:

**(Genesis 41:40-44 KJV) "Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. {41} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. {42} And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; {43} And he made him to ride in the second chariot which**

2 kephalaion {pronounced kef-al'-ah-yon}, chief point, conclusion, the target to be aimed at

**he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. {44} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."**

he was made *right hand man* to the King. As right hand man Joseph had power *second only to Pharaoh*, and without Joseph's express consent **no man** could **lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt**.

Joseph is a good illustration for Jesus Christ. As our High Priest He represents us before God the Father, but **on the right hand of God's Throne** He controls all things in God's Kingdom. This is *exactly* what Jesus told us when He walked this earth. He said:

**(Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power<sup>3</sup> is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."**

**"All power<sup>3</sup> is given unto me in heaven and in earth".** If God *had* a ring representing His authority over all things, then He, like Pharaoh, would have taken that ring off of His right hand and would have put it on His Son's hand. Since **all power** is given to Jesus, then the Church that goes forward must go forward **in obedience to Him**.

<sup>3</sup> exousia {pronounced ex-oo-see'-ah}, power of authority and of right, bestowed power such as king might bestow

He said **all power is given unto Me** so *therefore ye go*. He is on the right hand of the Almighty Father, and possessor of all power. What are the implications for every person in this room?

If He has all power, and is on God's right hand, then you *must go to Him* if you need anything at all. There's a song we sing:

**Are you weary, Are you heavy hearted?  
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus .....**

Who has the power to **forgive sins**? No one on earth but Jesus has that power:

**(Matthew 9:6 KJV) "... the Son of man hath power<sup>3</sup> on earth to forgive sins ... ."**

**FOCAL** (Hebrews 8:2, 10-12 KJV) **"A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. .... {10} ... I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: {11} And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. {12} For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. "**

There is only one **true tabernacle** and one **true High Priest**, and these are in Heaven. If you want to be forgiven so you can one day gain entrance into this place

we call Heaven you must come unto God by Christ.

Who has the power to **make us sons of God**? What does the Scripture say?

**(John 1:12 KJV) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power<sup>3</sup> to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"**

Who has the power to give *eternal life* to us? Only Jesus, and no other:

**(John 5:26-27 KJV) "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; {27} And hath given him authority<sup>3</sup> to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."**

**(John 17:1-2 KJV) "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: {2} As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."**

Jesus is the righteous Judge. It is He Who will judge the believer's works, and He Who will judge the unbeliever, casting them into the Lake of Fire (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

What will the Judge say about you when you see Him in Heaven? Will He say that He knows you, that you've been a friend to Him, that you've obediently laid down your life for Him as He has laid down His life for you?

Or will the Righteous Judge, our High Priest Who sits on the Right Hand of God the Father say "**depart from Me, I never knew you**"? You have a choice. Obey Him and grow in Him, or reject Him and suffer the consequences of that rejection.

May God touch your hearts with this message.