



THE MESSAGE OF HEBREWS

Lesson 2 for January 8, 2022

Which is the main message of Hebrews?

JESUS. Jesus is the main subject of this book.

He fulfilled all the promises God had made in the Old Covenant, and He represents the realities of the New Covenant.

How is Jesus introduced in Hebrews?



 **The Son of David:**

 **Our King**

 **Our Representative**

 **Our Champion**

 **Priest according to the order of Melchizedek:**

 **Our High Priest**

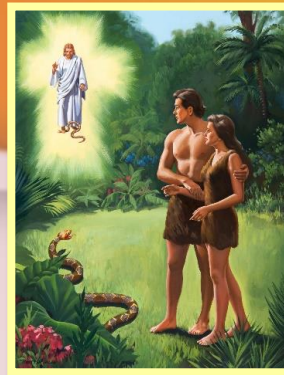
 **Our Mediator in the New Covenant**

OUR KING



"But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.'" (Hebrews 1:8)

God gave Adam and Eve dominion over this world (Gn. 1:28). Satan usurped it when they sinned (Jn. 12:31). God promised that a Seed would restore humanity (Gn. 3:15; 22:18; Gal. 3:16).



Later, David was promised that a King from his lineage (the Seed) would govern the world and free it from the power of the enemy (2S. 7:16; Lk. 1:31-32; Rev. 5:5).

**Who did it, according to Hebrews?
(Heb. 1:5-8, 13)**

- 1. God installed Jesus as His Son (v. 5)**
- 2. He introduced Jesus to the heavenly court (v. 6-8)**
- 3. He enthroned Him and gave Him power (v. 13)**



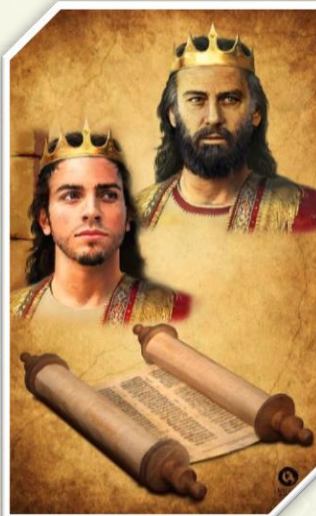


OUR REPRESENTATIVE

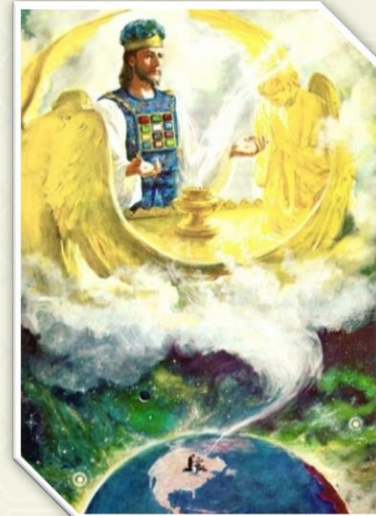
“but Christ [was faithful] as a Son over His own house, whose house we are [...]” (Hebrews 3:6)

God adopted Israel as His children. He promised them that He would dwell with them, and that He would give them rest from their enemies (Ex. 4:22; 29:45; Dt. 25:19). In return, they had to be faithful (Dt. 31:12).

After some time, those promises were transferred to David’s lineage (2S. 7:12-13). After all, it was easier for a single person to be faithful than a whole nation. Therefore, the king represented the people. However, none of David’s descendants was completely faithful (some of them were really wicked!).



Jesus was perfectly faithful (Heb. 3:6). That’s why Jesus is our representative. The promises that God made to His people were fulfilled through Jesus. God’s blessings flow through Him.





OUR CHAMPION

"For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham." (Hebrews 2:16)

Israel wanted a king to judge them and to lead them in combat (1S. 8:20). Hebrews introduces Jesus as our defender, the champion who fights for us (Heb. 2:16).

Like David against Goliath, Jesus fought against Satan in our place (1S. 17:8-9). He took the armor, fought against the enemy, and won the war (Is. 59:17; 42:13; Rev. 12:7-9).



We are part of His army (the Church). We also take the armor and fight along our brothers and sisters. He is our Champion who will lead us in the battles to come (Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:11).

Victory is guaranteed, thanks to our Champion, Jesus (Rev. 3:21).



OUR HIGH PRIEST

“where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 6:20)

What did Israel’s priests do?



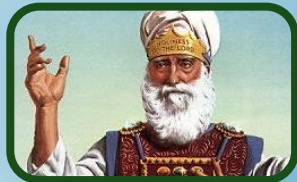
They were mediators between God and humans (Nm. 18:22-23)



They offered sacrifices to be forgiven and purified (Lv. 1:5; 14:31)



They taught God’s Law (Lv. 10:11)



They blessed others in the name of God (Nm. 6:23-27)

Jesus assumed this role when God appointed Him (under oath) Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:21).

So we no longer need earthly priests to intercede on our behalf. On the other hand, we ALL are collaborators of Jesus. We are “royal priesthood,” offered as sacrifices of praise to God (1P. 2:9; Heb. 13:15).



OUR MEDIATOR IN THE NEW COVENANT

"In that He says, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away." (Hebrews 8:13)

According to Hebrews, why is the new covenant better than the old one?



Old covenant

Earthly sanctuary
[shadow] (8:5)

Inaugurated with the
blood of animals (9:19-20)

Sacrifices that did not
perfect anyone (10:1)

Many sacrifices (10:11)

Mortal priests (7:23)

Imperfect priests (7:28)

New covenant

Heavenly sanctuary
[reality] (8:2)

Inaugurated with the
blood of Christ (9:12)

A sacrifice that perfects us
(9:14)

One sacrifice (9:26)

Immortal priest (7:24)

Perfect priest (7:26)



“Jesus consented to take human nature, that He might know how to pity, and how to plead with His Father in behalf of sinful, erring mortals. He volunteered to become man’s Advocate, and He humiliated Himself to become acquainted with the temptations wherewith man was beset, that He might succor those who should be tempted, and be a tender and faithful high priest.”

E. G. W. (Testimonies for the Church, book 3, cp. 9, p. 93)