

Hebrews 8

1-6 The writer closes the argument he has been making from the beginning of the book. Jesus has taken the highest place of honor, the right hand of God. The place of power and authority is His. But verse 2 says it is a place of service. "To serve" is from a combined word in Greek (serve + people) Again the writer tells us He has ascended to serve us. In Christ, supreme majesty meets supreme service. Verse 3,4 indicate the letter was written before the overthrow of 70AD. The priests were still serving. Remember the writer's contemporaries were thinking along the same line as Plato's teaching that all the world is a mere shadow, an imperfect reflection of the real. So in verse 5 he uses the Old Testament wording 'pattern' to connect the idea with the tabernacle and its ministry. Both are a mere copy of reality. The word COPY is the Greek word for "sketch plan". Again, the great thought of Hebrews is access to God. The writer is saying Jesus is access to reality, which is the same thing. Verse 6 sums up the book to this point. Jesus is the one who is a better priest of a better covenant, better than the prophets, angels, Moses, or Aaron. Mediator *MESITES* is not only one who brings together, but an arbitrator that ends strife, one who posts bond during a trial, sponsor, guarantor. Between God and us there stands the One at his right hand, Jesus our *MESITES*.

7-13 The writer is arguing that on the basis of Jeremiah 31:31-34 that the old covenant was not perfect because of the ongoing search for a time in which a new one was to come. Therefore the old was flawed. The old depended on undependable man's compliance, but the new on a dependable God. The flaw of the old covenant was man's obedience. He could say "check" here, because he has put his opposition in the place of rejecting Jeremiah, or accepting the new covenant. "Took them by the hand" implies the old covenant dealt with Israel as minors (children), telling them what they could and could not do, punishing them or rewarding them depending on their obedience. The New Testament refers to us as adult sons *HUIOS*. The religion of Israel was almost without exception mixed with pagan worship. In Israel I saw a beautiful synagogue floor tile mosaic with the zodiac symbols mixed in. The final progression to letter worship was not an improvement. verse 10 The first covenant was written on stone, the second on the heart and mind which is the preferred way according to the Greatest Command. The word "OBSOLETE" in Greek is not in reference to age but of usefulness. Indeed, it was just a short time till sacrifices ceased. The Supreme Sacrifice had been made! There is no need for any other.