

7:28 For the law appoints as high priests men subject to weakness,^a but the word of solemn affirmation that came after the law appoints a son made perfect forever.

The High Priest of a Better Covenant

8 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We have such a high priest, one who *sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,*^b 8:2 a minister in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up. 8:3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. So this one too had to have something to offer. 8:4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 8:5 The place where they serve is a sketch^c and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, just as Moses was warned by God as he was about to complete the tabernacle. For he says, “*See that you make everything according to the design shown to you on the mountain.*”^d 8:6 But now Jesus^e has obtained a superior ministry, since the covenant that he mediates is also better and is enacted on better promises.

8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, no one would have looked for a second one. 8:8 But showing its fault, God^f says to them,^g

“Look, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will complete a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

8:9 *“It will not be like the covenant that I made with their fathers, on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not continue in my covenant and I had no regard for them, says the Lord.*

8:10 *“For this is the covenant that I will establish with the house of Is-*

rael after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and I will inscribe them on their hearts. And I will be their God and they will be my people.

8:11 *“And there will be no need at all for each one to teach his countryman or each one to teach his brother saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ since they will all know me, from the least to the greatest.*

8:12 *“For I will be merciful toward their evil deeds, and their sins I will remember no longer.”^h*

8:13 When he speaks of a new covenant, he makes the first obsolete. Now what is growing obsolete and aging is about to disappear.

The Arrangement and Ritual of the Earthly Sanctuary

9 Now the first covenant, in fact, had regulations for worship and its earthly sanctuary. 9:2 For a tent was prepared, the outer one, which contained the lampstand, the table, and the presentation of the loaves; this is called the holy place. 9:3 And after the second curtain there was a tent called the holy of holies. 9:4 It contained the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered entirely with gold. In this ark were the golden urn containing the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 9:5 And above the ark were the cherubimⁱ of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Now is not the time to speak of these things in detail. 9:6 So with these things prepared like this, the priests enter continually into the outer tent as they perform their duties. 9:7 But only the high priest enters once a year into the inner tent, and not without blood that he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.^j

7:28^a See Heb 5:2 8:1^b An allusion to Ps 110:1; see Heb 1:3, 13 8:5^c Or *prototype*; or *outline* ^d Exod 25:40 8:6^e Grk he 8:8^f Grk he ^g Some manuscripts read *in finding fault with them, he says* 8:12^h Jer 31:31-34 9:5ⁱ An order of angels mentioned in the Old Testament; see Exod 25:18-20 9:7^j Or perhaps *the unintentional sins of the people*