Hebrews 8:1- 13

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 8:1–13*** (ESV)  
**1** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. **4** Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” **6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. **8** For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, **9** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **11** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. **12** For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

**13** In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

1. What are the focus points of Hebrews 8 in its entirety?
2. In Heb. 8:2, the author uses the word “tabernacle” (tent; GK *skene*) as opposed to the temple. In an era where the temple was the main geographical location for worship, why does the author use the word tabernacle? See Acts 7:37-43 and Mat. 21:12-13.
3. Why does the author describe Yeshua’s tabernacle as the “true tent”?
4. What is the difference between a tent that YHWH pitches (see Num. 24:5-6) versus a tent that is pitched otherwise?
5. What is the point of Heb 8:3? What did Yeshua have to offer?
6. In Heb. 8:3-4, the author states that if Yeshua were on the earth, he wouldn’t be a high priest since there is a priesthood that already offers gifts and sacrifices.  Why wouldn’t Yeshua have been an earthly high priest?
7. In Heb 8:4 what does the phrase “since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law” suggest regarding the time when this letter to the Hebrews was written?
8. “Heb 8:5 says the earthly priests “serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” What are they “serving”, and what is this a copy of shadow of?

As you consider the next several questions, note the literal wording of Heb 8:6-7: *“But as it is, he attained a service that is more excellent than the old, as he is the mediator of a better covenant enacted on better promises. For if the first had been faultless there would be no need for a second.”*

1. In Heb 8:6, Yeshua attained a **service** more excellent than the old. What does this refer to?
2. Furthermore, Yeshua is “mediating” a covenant, a covenant that is apparently in some way better than a prior covenant. What was the prior covenant and who mediated it (see Exo. 19:4-8 and Num. 25:10-14).
3. In Heb. 8:6, the author says that the new covenant is better since it is *enacted* (GK *nomotheteo*) on better promises.  We see this word one other time in the New Testament- Hebrews 7:11.  What is the definition of *nomotheteo* and how does this help explain the prophetic text to come in verse 8?
4. What were the promises of the Mosaic covenant? See Lev 26:1-20. Also, what priesthood functioned under this covenant?
5. Since Yeshua is the *mediator* of a covenant based on better promises, from whom do these better promises originate?  What *are* those promises?  What priesthood functions under *this* covenant?
6. As noted above, in Heb. 8:7, the word covenant (*diathekes*) is not present. It was simply inserted as the likely referent from the prior sentence. *“For if* ***the first*** *had been faultless, there would be no need for the second.”* So it’s implied that “**the first**” was somehow faulty. What was faulty and why?
7. Who or what does YHWH find fault with in Heb. 8:8? Note that it literally says “he finds fault with **them** [plural].”
8. Who is the new covenant for- according to Heb. 8:8?  How does one become part of this new covenant? See Mat. 15:21-28, Mat. 3:7-10, and Rom. 11:17-20.
9. What is new about the new covenant in Heb. 8:10-11?
10. Consider carefully the literal reading of Hebrews 8:13: “***In the speaking of it ‘new’, he [calls] the first ‘old.’”*** Note that the word *covenant* is not used, and the word translated as *obsolete* simply means “*to become old or to wear out*.” So what is actually being called “*old or worn out*”? See also Gal 3:15-18.
11. What is getting old and being ready to disappear, as stated in Heb. 8:13?