

# DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

HE ESTABLISHED THE NEW COVENANT

➤ **READ HEBREWS 8:1-6**

**SUMMARY:** Jesus is a new High Priest, serving in the true tabernacle and establishing a new covenant.

Look

- “Serves” (2) – Christ’s work as our Great High Priest didn’t end with his death and resurrection
- “Something to offer” (3) – Jesus offered himself
- “Set up” (2) – Playing on the imagery of the Old Testament tabernacle which was a movable sort of set-up
- “Would not be a priest” (4) – Because he does not do the same as earthly priests
- “Why Moses was warned” (5) – Any building created by man would fall short. God alone had the wisdom, power, and understanding to create a place where people could worship him safely
- “Jesus...superior” (6) – This is the encouragement

Discuss

1. What does the writer mean that Jesus serves in “the true tabernacle, set up by the Lord, not by man”?
  - a. Why is this superior?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 8:7-13**

**SUMMARY:** The author turns to the matter of the new covenant and brings forward his star witness – Old Testament Scripture.

Look

- “Declares the LORD” (8) – The author wants them to see who is making this covenant
- “New” (8) – “New” refers to something that is fresh and different from the old
- “House of Israel and house of Judah” (8) – By using this reference, we can see God’s intent is not a covenant with only the nation of Israel – the Jewish people, but New Testament Israel (all believers). When Jeremiah wrote these words Israel had already been destroyed.
- “Turned away from” (9) – EHV: “ignored.” Don’t think God didn’t care. He did.
- “What is obsolete and aging will soon disappear” (13) – The old covenant was no longer necessary after Jesus did his work

Discuss

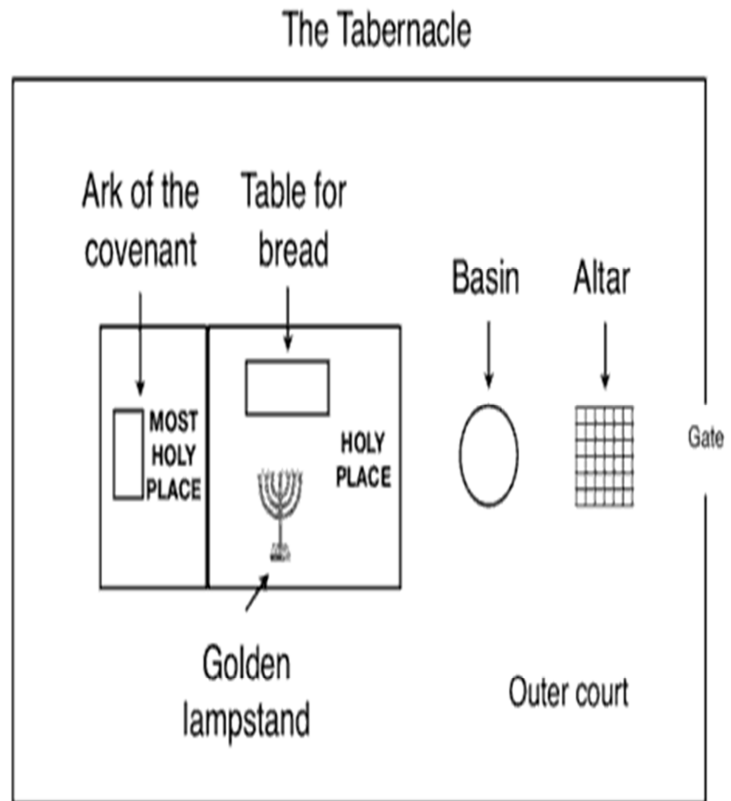
2. Why did God find something wrong with the first covenant? (*Hint: see the first phrase in verse 8*)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Which words in verse 10 tell us that God is **freely** giving his grace?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The new covenant is filled with better promises. Complete the following sentences to get a complete view of what those promises are:
  - a. Under the old covenant, the Law was written on tables of stone. But under the new covenant, the law is written (10a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Under the old covenant, God turned away from the Israelites because they had not followed his laws. But under the new covenant, believers become and remain God's people because (10b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Under the old covenant, Israel's teachers had to impress on people that they should know the Lord. But under the new covenant (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Under the old covenant, obedience to rules and regulations were required under the law. But under the new covenant (12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ **READ HEBREWS 9:1-5**

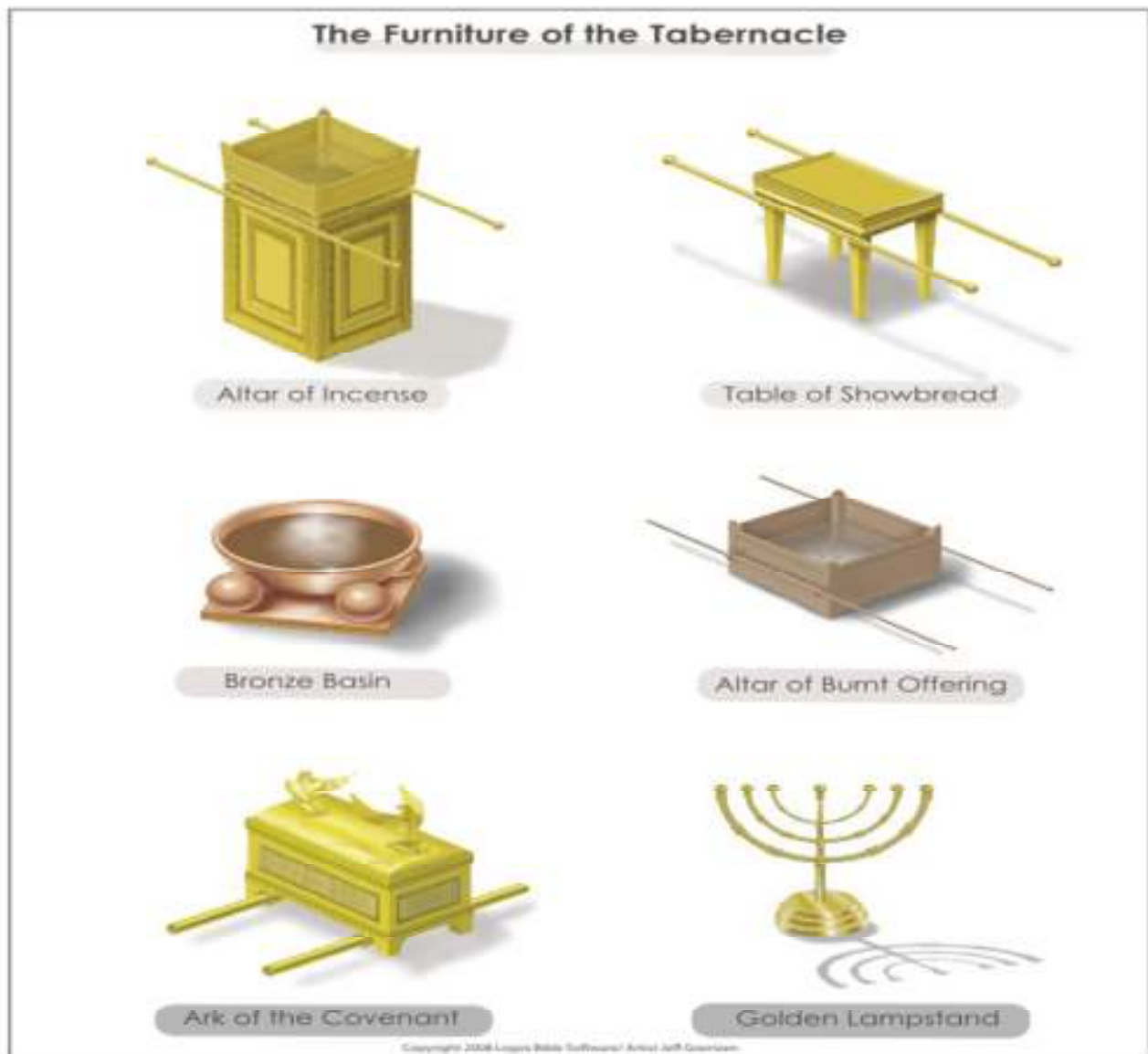
**SUMMARY:** The very nature of the of the Old Testament tabernacle contain important lessons.

Look

- “*Lampstand*” (2) – It symbolized the light of God’s Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit
- “*Consecrated bread*” (2) – It symbolized the fact that God’s people, represented by the 12 loaves, lived under God’s watchful eye and enjoyed his continued care
- “*The Most Holy Place*” (3) – There God lived among the Israelites
- “*Altar of incense*” (4) – God graciously accepted the prayers of his people and answered them. The incense going up to heaven symbolized the prayers of the people ascending to heaven to God (*Liturgy: “Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”*)
- “*Ark of the covenant*” (4) – God’s law was the basis of his relationship with Israel. Symbols of the priesthood and God’s providential care were also present in the ark
- “*Cherubim...overshadowing the atonement cover*” (5) – Just as the cherubim surround God in heaven, so they surrounded him in the tabernacle. God was present between the cherubim over the mercy seat.

Discuss

5. Since everything necessary for our eternal life has been accomplished in Christ, and since all the shadows and examples of the old covenant have been removed because Christ is All in all, we have no need for objects that resemble the tabernacle in heaven. Yet we use manufactured objects to point us to the reality of heaven and our God. Of what do the following objects remind you?
  - a. The building where you worship on Sundays and other times
  - b. The altar
  - c. The cross
  - d. The candlestick and candles
  - e. The sacred vessels (for Communion and Baptism)
  - f. The ambo



➤ **READ HEBREWS 9:6-10**

**SUMMARY:** The limitations of worship in the first tabernacle were designed to teach the people that God's plan to save required a perfect High Priest to come. There's no going back, because there's nothing to go back to.

Look

- *"Priests...high priest entered" (6,7) – Not the people, only the priests*

Discuss

6. In verse 8 we read, “the Holy Spirit was showing by this...” What is the Holy Spirit showing? And by what?

*“All these restrictions, all this blood, indeed, the very pattern of the tabernacle itself, involved deep religious truth. The Holy Spirit, the divine Revealer of truth, was showing that sin’s impenetrable curtain had sealed off man’s access to the holy God, that God could be approached only through a mediator, and that this mediator could draw near only with the blood of a sacrifice. The existence of this tabernacle symbolized that entrance into God’s Most Holy Place of heaven was impossible for sinful man. Viewed against this background, how significant the rending of the temple curtain at Christ’s crucifixion becomes.” (Hebrews People Bible)*

7. According to verse 9, what weren’t the old covenant sacrificial laws able to do?
8. What was their function?

*Not all the blood of beasts  
On Israel’s altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away the stain*

*But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away,  
A sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.*

Endure

9. Despite the truth that “Jesus had done it all,” what is the modern day application of these truths being repeated to us over and over again? In other words, what is the author steering us away from?

*Mark 2:18-22 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.<sup>20</sup> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.<sup>21</sup> "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.<sup>22</sup> And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."*

*Matthew 5:17,18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.<sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."*

*John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.*

*Romans 10:4 For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.*

There is only one reason God ordered things to be as they are in the Old Testament. That is to point forward to Jesus Christ. When he came, the new covenant was inaugurated and so everything about the forward-pointing old covenant was fulfilled and made obsolete – in a word, replaced.

### Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Heavenly Father,

**G: you have assured us that we are your own people,**

L: called by the name of Christ,

**G: forgiven and empowered.**

L: Send us your Holy Spirit to help us live our lives according to your will,

**G: so that through our living we may give glory to you. Amen.**