

## TWELVE TIMES “BETTER”

### INTRODUCTION

- I. The book of Hebrews is largely a book of contrasts between things of the Old Testament record, and things of the New Testament.
  - A. The word “better” is found 12 times in Paul’s writing of the book of Hebrews in the KJV
  - B. This lesson will be a study of the things that are “better” for the gospel age, signifying that Christianity is better than Judaism.
    1. There are things implied in the book that suggests something **now** is better than **then**.
    2. **Not only are these things “better”, but they are also the “best”.**
- II. Now we shall look at the things discussed in the book that are called “better” from past events.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, CHRIST IS “BETTER” THAN ANGELS.

- A. Angels have been involved in many great situations in times past.
  1. They rejoiced in the creation. Job 38:7
  2. They were involved in the giving of the Ten Commandments. Heb. 2:2
  3. They worship God, and reject worship to THEM, as angels. Heb. 1:6; Rev. 22:8-9
  4. They announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Luke 2:8-15
  5. They announced the second coming of Jesus. Acts 1:9-11
  6. There are many things angels did, but these are sufficient for this study.
- B. Christ is GREATER than angels because HE is the Son of God, and worthy of worship, and not some created being of another nature. Heb. 1:4-8

#### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, IT IS “BETTER” TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD THAN UNFAITHFUL.

- A. Paul talked about the tendency of some to crucify the Son of God “afresh”, and the difficulty of restoring them to God. Heb. 6:4-8
- B. Then, the writer said he expects “BETTER” things of the brethren that they may remain faithful to God. Heb. 6:9

#### III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, THE LESS ARE BLESSED BY THE “BETTER”.

- A. The writer pointed out that Melchisedec was ABOVE Abraham, as HE (Melchisedec) was the priest who blessed Abraham when he paid tithes to him. Heb. 7:1-2, 7
- B. Paul then pointed out that Levi (head of the order of Levites, the priestly tribe) had not yet been born when Melchisedec blessed Abraham, for he was still “in the loins” of his father, making Melchisedec greater than all the Levites, and since Christ is a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (who was only a TYPE of Christ, that the religion of Christ is BETTER than the Jewish religion.

#### IV. 4<sup>th</sup>, THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST OFFERS A “BETTER”HOPE.

- A. Under the old law, the people could only offer the “hope” through their animal sacrifices, as they were reminded that their sins were not actually forgiven by animal blood. Heb. 10:3-4
- B. Under the priesthood of Christ, we have a “better hope”, of drawing nigh to God and ultimately having eternal life. Heb. 6:17-20; 7:17-19

## **V. 5<sup>th</sup>, JESUS IS THE SURETY OF A “BETTER” COVENANT.**

A. The OLD covenant (or testament) of Moses was faulty, **in that** it could not provide absolute forgiveness of sins. Heb. 7:21-22

B. Christ was made the high priest by an OATH, while Levitical priests were made without an oath, making His covenant **“better”**, and also that those high priests of the first covenant were subject to death and had to be replaced, but Christ, being eternal in heaven, is no longer subject to death, so His covenant is enduring. Heb. 7:23-24

## **VI. 6<sup>th</sup>, PAUL SPEAKS OF A “BETTER” COVENANT.**

A. The old covenant (or testament) was faulty, in that it did not have the power to save a sinner, as it was a regulating **law** and was not given for the purpose of salvation. Gal. 3:19

1. It was a very good law, as laws go, for it was given by God Himself. Rom. 7:12

2. The law did work against the promises of God to bless the world through Abraham’s seed, and if any law could have saved, it would have been BY that law. Gal. 2:21

B. The new covenant involves Jesus’ blood, and DOES offer salvation. Matt. 26:28

## **VII. 7<sup>th</sup>, THE NEW TESTAMENT INVOLVES “BETTER” SACRIFICES.**

A. The many sacrifices of the first testament involved the blood of **animals**, whole blood ratified the testament itself. Heb. 9:18-20

B. The blood of the Son of God fulfilled the prophetic nature of animal sacrifices, and is the “better” of the two covenants. Heb. 9:13-14, 22-23

## **VIII. 8<sup>th</sup>, CHRIST OFFERS A “BETTER” SUBSTANCE.**

A. Their “former days” involved much affliction in their lives. Heb. 10:32-33

B. Their reward in heaven would be “better” and “great.” Heb, 10:34-35

## **IX. 9<sup>th</sup>, NEW TESTAMENT OFFERS HOPE OF A “BETTER” COUNTRY.**

A. The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah, lived in **hope** of a “better” country. Heb. 11:13-15

B. That desire is fulfilled in the “better” country, which is heavenly. Heb. 11:16

## **X. 10<sup>th</sup>, CHRIST OFFERS A BETTER RESURRECTION.**

A. Under the first covenant, those who **were** miraculously raised from the dead would die again.

1. The Old Testament refers to a few instances of a resurrection. Heb. 11:35

2. Even the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus, though recorded in the new testament, was an Old Testament occurrence, though raised BY the Christ in John 11.

B. OUR resurrection is a resurrection to a **new** life, never to die again. John 5:28-29

## **XI. 11<sup>th</sup>, CHRIST OFFERS A “BETTER” THING FOR US.**

A. The old testament dealt with problems and difficulties of those who did not receive the reality of the promises of God.

B. Now, God provides the “better” things of His promise, in the ultimate state of “perfection” or completeness in heaven. Heb., 11:40

## **XII. 12<sup>th</sup>, THE NEW TESTAMENT SPEAKS OF A “BETTER” SACRIFICE.**

A. Paul goes even before the Law of Moses, to one of the first instance of blood-shedding, the example of Abel, whose blood was shed in his being murdered. Heb. 12:24

B. This event was no doubt recorded as a “prophetic” event, to portray the future death of Jesus who murdered Him. Gen. 4:3-10

1. Abel is listed in Heb. 11, as having offered a “more excellent sacrifice”. Heb. 11:4

2. His “sacrifice” **“speaks”** to us, and **Abel’s blood** sacrifice is compared TO the sacrifice of our Lord. Heb. 12:24

### **CONCLUSION**

I. All of these twelve “betters” shows the superiority of the religion of Christ OVER Judaism, and is the final religion, and the Jewish converts can have “perfection” ONLY in Christ, and NOT Moses.

II. If you are not a Christian, you too can only be complete IN Christ. Col. 2:10; Rom. 6:3

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