

DISCUSSION QUERIES

Hebrews 8:1-13

READ 8:1-2

1. What privilege does Jesus enjoy?
 - He sits on the Throne of Heaven.
2. What service does Jesus render?
 - He serves in the True Tent built by God.

READ 8:3-5

3. Describe the earthly tent.
 - Priests, repeated offering,
 - per the law,
 - a copy and shadow,
 - built by Moses.
4. Describe the heavenly tent.
 - Jesus has made the offering.
 - The reality or archetype.
 - Revealed by God to Moses.

READ 8:6-8a

5. In what ways is the New covenant better than the old?
 - The high priest sits enjoys divine authority (8:1).
 - He performed a better ministry (once for all),
 - mediating a better covenant
 - based on better promises.
6. Who declared the First covenant faulty?
 - The high priest (8:1)? Or God (8:5)?
 - ['with them'=whom? Or what?
Variant reading: 'with it, when he says to them'.]

READ 8:8b-9

7. Where did verses 8-12 come from?

- Jeremiah 31:31-34,
- sometime between 626 and 587 BCE,
- following decades of national apostasy.

8. Why are there two 'houses', that of Israel and that of Judah?

- Israel = northern tribes,
invaded by Assyria and exiled in the 8th century BCE.
- Judah = southern tribes,
soon to be invaded by Babylonia and exiled in the 6th century BCE.

9. What 'fault' was found with the First Covenant?

- It neither made humans willing to remain loyal to the Lord,
- nor provided permanent forgiveness.

READ 8:10-12

10. How is the New Covenant better?

- It (a) creates for a new mind and heart,
- (b) keeps both God and people loyal,
- (c) helps everyone to know the Lord, and
- (d) provides for complete forgiveness.

READ 8:13

11. If the First Covenant was about to vanish by 70 CE, then when did the New Covenant come into effect?

- Luke 22:19-20
- 2 Corinthians 5:17.