

# A More Excellent Ministry!

Michael Woody | Hebrews 8:1–6

*He is a perfect priest who offered a perfect sacrifice and he is in a location to perfectly mediate between you and the Father. There is no other and if you continue in your rejection of Him you will seal your fate and die in your sins.*

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## **WHY THIS PASSAGE**

1. What is he saying, this is why it matters!
2. Everything in the OT scriptures looked forward to Christ; this was captured in Hebrews 1:1-4.
3. In chapter 7 Jesus is the ultimate priest and the ultimate sacrifice but in chapter 8 he goes further prior to his dialogue on the New Covenant, not only is the ministry of Christ superior in its priest, and superior in its sacrifice, He has a superior sanctuary.
4. Hebrews 8:6 captures the outcome of these truths in verses 1-6,
5. This book is dominated by typology
  - a. Chapter 3 - Moses delivering the people just as Christ delivers His people
  - b. Chapter 4 - the Sabbath is shown to be a shadow of the ultimate rest in Christ
  - c. Chapters 5-7 - Melchisedek is a prefigure of Christ and His roles
  - d. Chapter 7 - the Levitical High Priests were types and shadows, always failing, in accomplishing all that was asked of them. They did it again and again but Christ did it once for all. Christ is a better priest and a better sacrifice

e. Chapter 8 is a better ministry that occurs in a better sanctuary. Within these versus there are two primary contrasts: one is His location and the other is His posture.

6. Why is Jesus' ministry more excellent?

a. Because of it is not a type (v. 1-2)

b. Because of where He serves His people (v. 2)

c. Because of its atoning sacrifice (v. 3)

### **A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY BECAUSE OF IT IS NOT A TYPE (v. 1-2)**

1. The theme continues to be that of the unique high priesthood of Christ.

2. This word for "sanctuary" is the word ἅγιος which means holy or dedicated.

3. This sanctuary is called the true tabernacle/tent (v. 2)

4. Think back to Exodus, and then Leviticus and when they built the tabernacle, there were exact specifications. Why so many requirements and specifications?

5. Chapter 7 has been building on the reality of a better high priest and now the author points us that Christ's ministry is better because it is in Heaven and because Jesus is that High Priest

### **A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY BECAUSE OF WHERE HE SERVES HIS PEOPLE (v. 2)**

1. Hughes states, He left as the Son of God. He returned both as Son of God and also, by reason of the incarnation, as Son of man. He left as Lord. He returned both as Lord and also as Minister on our behalf in the presence of the Father. He left as King. He returned both as King and also as High Priest and Intercessor for those whom he is not ashamed to call his brethren (Heb. 2:11). He left as Sovereign. He returned also as Savior.

2. Because of His proximity to the throne he is able to intercede as no High Priest has ever before because He is both priest and king. This point is made further later in verse 4 - if He was on Earth He would not have been a priest.
3. He *is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty* on high, whence also he exercises a ministry that is universal and without limitation.
4. The NKJV rendering “a minister in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle” has the understanding of two terms describing the same thing.

### **A MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY BECAUSE OF ITS ATONING SACRIFICE (v. 3)**

1. In verse 3 the Old Covenant priests offered gifts and sacrifices (notice the plurality); but when it speaks of Christ it is a contrast in quantity (something) which is singular in nature.
2. Furthermore these versus speak of the frequency (to offer) - though they look the same (both are infinitives) we need to look at the text to understand the tense of the actions.

### **CONCLUSION**

The author closes with two comparisons of Jesus as our High Priest and why His is superior.

1. The tabernacle (v. 4-5)
2. The covenant (v. 6)