

A Better Ministry and A Better  
Covenant

**HEBREWS 8**

# Previously on Good News

## The Word of God and Inerrancy

- International Council on Biblical Inerrancy” (ICBI) and the “Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy” (1978)
- Defines what most evangelical pastors, teachers and theologians mean by “*Inerrancy*” of the Word of God.
- Inspiration
  - ARTICLE VI: Verbal Plenary Inspiration
  - ARTICLE VII: Inspiration
  - ARTICLE VIII: Human Authors
- Inerrancy
  - ARTICLE IX: Inerrancy
  - ARTICLE X: Autographs
  - ARTICLE XI: Infallibility

## Article XI - Infallibility

- ***We affirm*** that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.
- ***We deny*** that it is possible for the Bible to be at the same time infallible and errant in its assertions. Infallibility and inerrancy may be distinguished, but not separated.

# Infallible and Inerrant

- ***Infallibility*** has to do with the question of ability or potential. Something that cannot be false or mistaken
- That which is ***infallible*** is said to be **unable** to make mistakes or to commit an error.
- That which is ***inerrant*** is that which, in fact, has no errors.
- In simple terms, the inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture (the Bible) in the original autographs, does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. The Bible is true and reliable.

# The Denial

- ***We deny*** that it is possible for the Bible to be at the same time infallible and errant (with errors) in its assertions.
- Theoretically, something may be fallible and at the same time be inerrant.
- But the opposite is not true, that is, something that is not true or in error, cannot be, by definition, infallible.

# The Inerrant Game

- The “Perfect Game”
- No hits
- No walks
- No hit batsmen
- No errors allowing a man on base
- It’s considered “Perfect”
- Let’s call that an “inerrant game.”

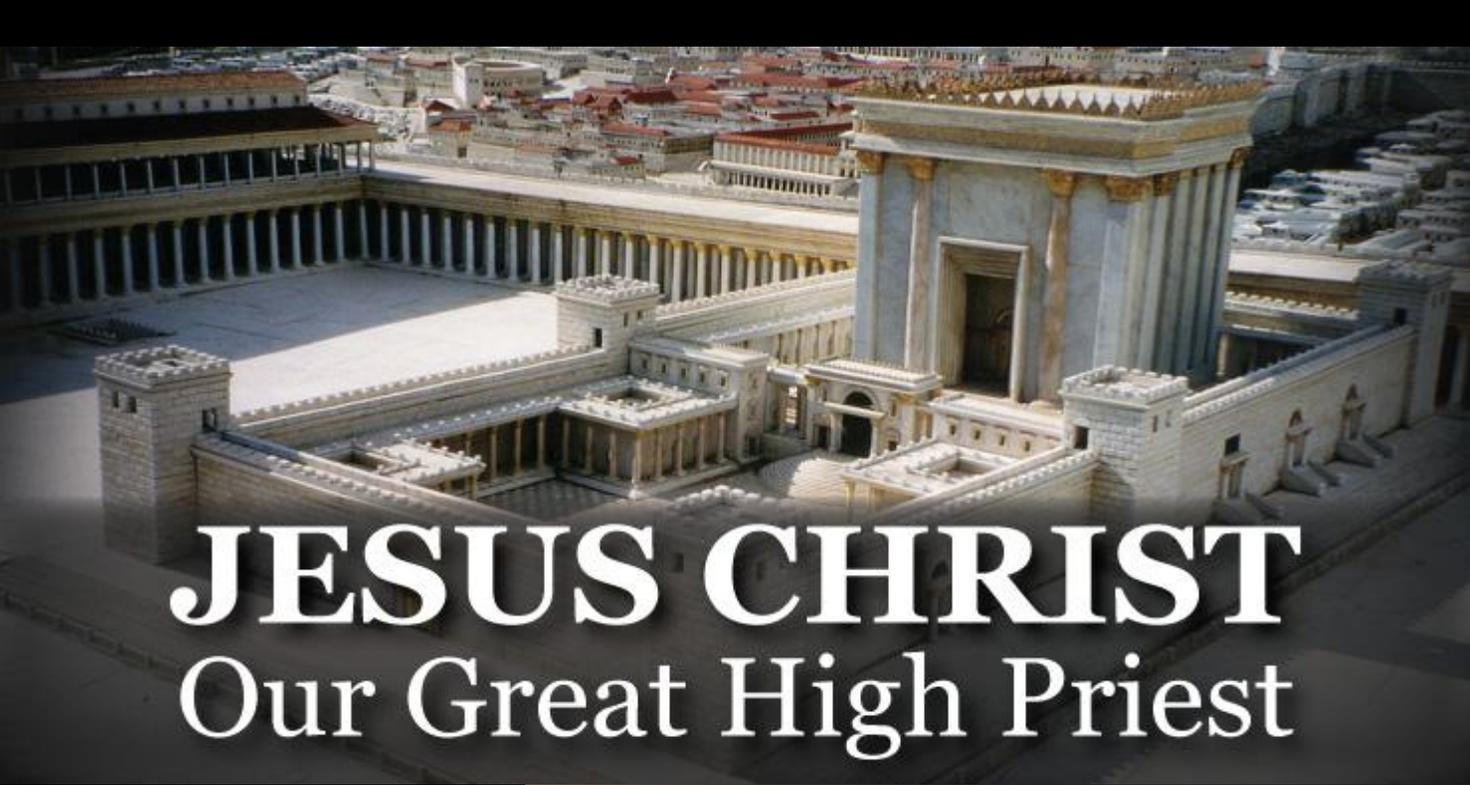


# The Infallible Pitcher?

- A game can be “perfect” and a pitcher can be perfect or inerrant for a game,
- But can a pitcher or a team be “perfect?”
- Can Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers be said to be perfect?
- What would that mean?

## Aside on Papal Infallibility

- Be aware that the term “infallibility” in other theological contexts means something entirely different than what the Chicago Statement is referring to.
- Now, to Hebrews 8



# JESUS CHRIST

Our Great High Priest



"You are a Priest  
FOREVER"

# Hebrews 8:1-6

- Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

# The Throne in Heaven

- Majesty in the heavens (the dwelling place of God)
- He is seated
  - The Levitical priests always stood
  - It is finished: Christ's atonement is completed (John 19:30)
- The right hand of the throne is a place of honor
- The vision of Isaiah 6:1-7
  - "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

# Christ a Better Priest

- The earthly tabernacle was a shadow or an imperfect visual copy of the real throne room of heaven
- The true tabernacle is the very presence of God in heaven
- Since Jesus was from the tribe of Judah He would not qualify as a priest by the law because he is not from the tribe of Levi (v. 4 “Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;”)

# Jesus is Serving You in Heaven

- Let Him serve you – He is a priest, perfect and serving in Heaven to intercede for you.
- <sup>8</sup> Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:8-9)
- Jesus washes away the dirt that we pick up walking around in the world

# Heaven is More Real Than This Earth

- Keep seeing the override of the real tabernacle in heaven – how?
- By faith
- “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” (Col. 3:1-2)

<sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

<sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. <sup>8</sup> For finding fault with them, He says, [quoting from Jeremiah 31:31-34]

“BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,  
WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT

WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

<sup>9</sup> NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS

ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND

TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT;

FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT,

AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

“FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE  
HOUSE OF ISRAEL

AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD:  
I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS,  
AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.  
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD,  
AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

<sup>11</sup> “AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW  
CITIZEN,  
AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’  
FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME,  
FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.

<sup>12</sup> “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES,  
AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”

<sup>13</sup> When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first  
obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing  
old is ready to disappear.

## Hebrews 8:6-13

- 1. God's laws will become principles in the mind of God's people
  - “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

# God's Laws will Become Principles in The Mind

- For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:2-4)
- The law was always **external, behavioral**, having to do with **actions** and not the thoughts behind the actions... the New Covenant changed that.. It put the word of God **INSIDE**

# God is Immanent

- 2. God and His people will have intimate fellowship
- “AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD,  
AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.” (v. 10b)
- This means that God is **IMMANENT** as well as **TRANSCENDENT**

# Close Fellowship

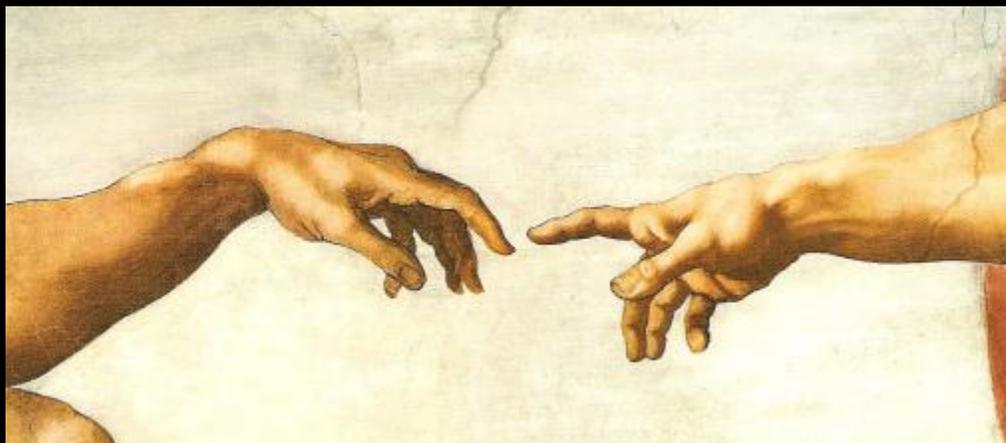
- The literal meaning of the immanence of God is "to be within" or "near" in relation to God's creation. Immanence is closely related to God's omnipresence, in that God is always present within the universe, though distinct from it. God is 'within' the universe in that God is its sustaining cause.
- This is what being "born again" means. God is born in us through the Holy Spirit

# God is Transcendent



God is Holy and  
in Heaven -  
exalted

His  
People



God is also Immanent  
Emanuel & the indwelling of the Holy Spirit



# They Will Know Me

- 3. Sinful ignorance of God will be removed forever. His people will know Him.
  - “AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’ FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.  
(Jeremiah 31:34)
- There is no priestly hierarchy through which you must go to have a relationship with God. (We are Believer-Priests)
- True knowledge of the Lord will be shared and understood by all of God’s people.

# The Law of God is now Within Us

- Rather than writing His laws on tablets of stone, God now writes them on our human hearts (our minds).
  - “being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” (II Cor. 3:3)

# I Will Remember Their Sins No Longer

- 4. Forgiveness of Sins will be an everlasting reality.
- “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”
- We cannot draw near to God in sin, but God has provided a way to Himself through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.
- We are commanded to confess our sins to the Lord