

August 15, 2021



## **The Uniqueness of Jesus**

### **Hebrews 8**

The Holy Spirit begins this chapter by noting, “the main point in what has been said is this... .” Chapter 8 serves as a sort of transition — where Jesus has been the focus throughout the first seven chapters, the next few chapters will focus on the covenant which is brought in by Jesus (cf. Hebrews 9.15-17). Yet even in this section, the author of Hebrews still maintains his focus on the uniqueness of Jesus.

To begin with, Jesus is pictured in a noteworthy manner — He is priest and king (8.1). Throughout Jewish history, these two roles were important, yet distinct from each other: David had Abiathar, Solomon had Zadok, and Josiah had Hilkiah. Yet, in Jesus, these two roles meet in one person. Jesus is, at the same time, the rightful ruler of God’s kingdom and the mediator for man before the holy God. The writer of Hebrews presents Jesus’ present rule and reign as an inarguable truth. Doctrines such as premillennialism which defer Christ’s kingdom and kingship to an unknown time in the

future find an opponent in the inspired words of this text.

The Holy Spirit further expands the concept of Jesus’ kingly priesthood by noting He is active in Heaven (8.2). Jesus is “a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle.” The writer of Hebrews is consistent in presenting Jesus as active in Heaven, interceding for us before our Father. Priests bring gifts as they intercede before God. Jesus brought the gift of His obedient life (8.3; 9.12).

This text also marks the first usage of a notable word to describe Jesus and His work — “mediator” (8.6; 9.15; 12.24). This work of Jesus is logical because of His unique qualification. He is divine (1.8), yet came in flesh (2.17). He is sinless, yet faced temptation (4.15). He perfectly relates to both God and man (5.9) and is thus the perfect mediator between two parties that are separated because of sin. Through the new covenant, inaugurated through His blood (8.6; 9.14ff), we access the better promises that God has in store for His people — the forgiveness of our sins (8.6,12). -TS

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