

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Hebrews 08: 01-02

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week, we are going to read Hebrews Chapter 8, and today we will read verses 1 to 2.

The theme of the book of Hebrews is that Christ is superior to all things. From chapters 1 to 7, the author emphasizes the person of Christ and describes His superiority from three aspects. First, as the Son of God and the Son of Man, Christ is superior to the angels. Second, as the leader of God's house, Christ is superior to Moses and Joshua. Third, as the High Priest, Christ is superior to Aaron.

Then, from chapters 8 to 10, the author emphasizes the work of Christ, showing that the new covenant established by Christ is superior to the old covenant. This new covenant is referred to as the "better covenant." In chapter 8, the author focuses on the High Priest of this better covenant (verses 1 and 5) and the Mediator of this better covenant (verses 6-13). With this background understanding, we now read verse 1.

Verse 01: "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,"

The phrase "the things we are saying" includes both what has been stated in the first seven chapters and what will be discussed in the following six chapters. The author clearly understands that the Jews had many traditions and took pride in many things they regarded as sacred. However, the author solemnly points out that the most important matter is that "we have such a High Priest". He firmly highlights what he considers the most crucial truth.

In today's pluralistic world, people often adopt a relativistic perspective to avoid offending others or to adhere to political correctness, listing multiple relatively important matters for people to choose from. However, the author does not take this approach. Instead, he directly tells us that the first and foremost matter is our High Priest.

Dear brothers and sisters, can you also declare that the most important matter in your life is Jesus Christ—without exception? Only when we establish what is most important in life can we wisely allocate our time and resources, prioritizing what truly matters before attending to other things if we have the capacity.

For the Jews, the Law, the temple, and the priestly service system were all important, but the first and foremost matter was this High Priest. Likewise, for New Testament believers, God's word, the church, and service are all important, but the first and foremost matter is still the Lord Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, He is "seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." This is a reference to Psalm 110:1: "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" The Lord Jesus Christ has already completed His earthly ministry. He has triumphed over the power of Hades, passed through the domain of Satan in the air, ascended to the third heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father's throne. The key point here is that He is seated.

In the earthly tabernacle, whether in the Holy of Holies, the Holy Place, or the outer court, there was no chair, meaning that the priests were always standing while performing their service, constantly ready to carry out various duties. However, Jesus Christ, having ascended to the heavens, sat down, because He had offered Himself once for all and accomplished eternal redemption—unlike the priests of the order of Aaron, who had to continually offer sacrifices. He has completed His earthly ministry and can now rest. Therefore, the Father says, "Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Not only is He seated, but He is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. The right hand signifies favor, victory, and authority. The High Priest sitting at the right hand of the Father's throne is a most glorious picture.

The throne is a symbol of authority. The heavenly throne possesses supreme majesty and power; it is so glorious that it evokes reverence and awe, making one hesitant to approach. However, He is a High Priest—full of mercy and compassion—who intercedes for every redeemed saint, ensuring their complete salvation.

Majesty and compassion—two seemingly contradictory attributes—are perfectly united in Jesus Christ, our High Priest. He is the Lamb seated on the throne. His majesty is to judge His enemies, while His compassion is to shepherd those who believe in Him. To be His enemy is utterly terrifying. But to trust in Him is incomparably blessed.

Dear brothers and sisters, may we engrave this picture in our hearts. When we face the attacks of the enemy or fall into weakness and failure, our High Priest has the authority to deal with the enemy, and He also has mercy to uphold us.

Verse 02: "A Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man."

Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, and this throne is in the heavenly sanctuary, the true tabernacle. The earthly tabernacle was built by Moses according to the instructions he received from God on Mount Sinai, after which he led the Israelites to construct it together. Though it was built based on divine revelation, it was still made by human hands, and therefore, it was not the true tabernacle. The tabernacle in heaven was erected by the Lord Himself, without any human craftsmanship—this is the true tabernacle.

The earthly tabernacle had the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, separated by a veil. This veil was torn in two from top to bottom when Jesus Christ was crucified. Therefore, in the heavenly true tabernacle, there is no longer a separation between

the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Jesus Christ, as the High Priest, ministers in the sanctuary of the true tabernacle in heaven.

The word "minister" in Greek is composed of two words: Leitos, meaning "belonging to the people," and Ergon, meaning "work". When combined, it means "a public servant". English translations use the word "minister," and in Chinese, it is translated as deacon or servant. Originally, Jesus Christ, in the heavenly sanctuary, serves as a servant to those who trust in Him.

Today, we are still living on earth, often entangled by earthly matters, becoming overwhelmingly busy. If we examine our hearts, we will admit that much of our busyness is futile or in vain. This is precisely Satan's scheme—he weaves a blueprint for life using the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, to ensnare people. Once trapped, people tirelessly strive to fulfill the desires of the flesh, the cravings of the eyes, and the pride of life, becoming entangled in endless busyness. Perhaps this is also the reason for your busyness today.

Our High Priest ministers in the heavenly sanctuary, supplying us with heavenly blessings and leading us into the heavenly realm. He has personally erected the true tabernacle in heaven, and we are the materials He is using to build it. However, our concept of the church is often limited to earthly perspectives—how many people gather on Sundays, who leads the worship, who preaches, and who organizes the meals.

If we compare today's church life with the service in the Old Testament tabernacle, we may think we are at a higher level since every believer has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Thus, every service may contain some spiritual element. However, we cannot deny that much of it is still of the flesh. This is why every church today has many problems—because the church is not yet fully spiritual, and every believer is still full of the flesh. Your flesh and my flesh cannot easily blend together.

I believe that many believers, like me, are deeply shaken every time we read Ephesians and see the church that Paul describes. Why is it so different from what we experience? Paul was once caught up into the third heaven, and I believe that there he saw the heavenly true tabernacle. That is why he viewed the church from

a heavenly perspective. The true tabernacle in heaven was erected by Jesus Himself—human hands, human work, and human opinions have no place there.

Though the saints are the building materials, each believer is being transformed into living stones, and the Lord Himself places each stone in its proper position. The Lord also personally connects them together, just as Paul says in Ephesians 2:20-22, "Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone, and in Him, all believers are built together into the Lord's holy temple, becoming the dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Let us pray together: Dear Lord Jesus, You have completed Your earthly ministry and are now seated at the right hand of the Father, ministering in the true tabernacle in heaven, serving us who trust in You. Help us to lift our eyes to the hills, not to be entangled by the countless earthly affairs, but to receive Your heavenly supply. Help us truly see the heavenly vision and recognize that in our church life today, we are preparing materials for Your building. Through the nourishment of Your word, transform us into holy vessels—living stones—to be built up into a spiritual house. Bless my daily life. We pray in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ. Amen!