

Web site "nathanolsen.com"

Next Weeks Lesson: "Thou Hast Testified of Me" ([Acts 21-28](#))

Today's Lesson: "The Author and Finisher of Our Faith" ([Hebrews](#))

Throughout his missionary journeys, Paul sought to convince the members of the Church that they should no longer practice the law of Moses. While the Jewish Christians had been taught that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, many of them still believed that obedience to the law of Moses was essential to their salvation. Paul wrote the epistle to the Hebrews to reemphasize that the law of Moses had been fulfilled in Christ.

1. Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of Heavenly Father, is our Savior. ([Hebrews 1-4](#))

- A. What do we learn about Jesus Christ from [Hebrews 1](#)?
- (1) He created the world ([verses 2, 10](#)).
 - (2) He is in the image of God the Father ([verse 3](#)).
 - (3) He atoned for our sins ([verse 3](#)).
 - (4) He is the Firstborn Son of God the Father ([verses 5-6](#)).
 - (5) His glory and power are eternal and unchanging ([verses 8, 12](#)).
- B. Paul said that the Son of God, who was "made so much better than the angels" ([Hebrews 1:4](#)), had also been "made a little lower than the angels" ([Hebrews 2:9](#)). In what way was Jesus "made a little lower than the angels"? ([Mosiah 13:34-35](#)) Why was this necessary? ([Hebrews 2:9-10](#), [Hebrews 2:16-18](#); [Hebrews 4:15-16](#); [Matthew 23:10-11](#))
- C. Paul encouraged the Saints to live righteously so they could enter into God's rest ([Hebrews 3:7-19](#); [Hebrews 4:1-11](#)). What does it mean to enter into God's rest? ([D&C 84:23-24](#); [3 Nephi 27:19](#)) What did Paul explain about why some of the children of Israel in Moses' time were unable to enter into God's rest? ([Hebrews 3:7-11](#), [Hebrews 3:16-19](#); [Hebrews 4:1-2](#).) How can we help each other become worthy to enter into God's rest? ([Hebrews 3:13-14](#); [Hebrews 4:11](#); [Alma 13:12-13](#), [Alma 13:16](#))

2. The Melchizedek Priesthood is part of the fulness of the gospel. ([Hebrews 5](#); [Hebrews 6:20](#); [Hebrews 7](#))

- A. What did Paul teach about how a man must receive and use priesthood authority? ([Hebrews 5:1-4](#)) Why must a priesthood holder be "called of God" rather than "[take] this honour unto himself"?
- B. What priesthood authority accompanied the law of Moses? ([D&C 84:25-27](#)) What priesthood authority does Jesus Christ hold? ([Hebrews 5:5-6](#); [Hebrews 6:20](#)) When Jesus came and fulfilled the law of Moses, he also restored the

Melchizedek Priesthood. Why was this necessary? ([Hebrews 7:11](#))

“Neither the law of Moses nor the priesthood of Aaron which administered it was capable of bringing God’s children unto perfection. The Aaronic Priesthood is a lesser authority, and it administers the preparatory gospel only. The Melchizedek Priesthood, on the other hand, is the higher priesthood, commissioned to minister the gospel ordinances in their fulness and capable of purifying our lives so that we can again enter into the presence of the Lord” (*The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles* [Church Educational System manual, 1979], 385-86; see also [D&C 107:18-20](#)).

C. Why do we call the greater priesthood the Melchizedek Priesthood? ([D&C 107:2-4](#)) How are members of the Church today blessed by having the Melchizedek Priesthood as well as the Aaronic Priesthood? How has the priesthood blessed your life?

3. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the new covenant between God and his children. ([Hebrews 8:1-10:18](#))

Paul reminded the members of the Church that worship under the law of Moses had pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. According to [Hebrews 8:5](#), what did the Lord tell Moses to do while building the tabernacle to be used by the Israelites for worship? (The ceremonies in the tabernacle symbolized “heavenly things,” as outlined below.)

Ordinance in the tabernacle:	What it symbolized:
a. The priests offered animals as sacrifices to God (Hebrews 10:1-4 , Hebrews 10:11).	Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:26-28 ; Hebrews 10:4-12).
b. The priests placed blood from the sacrificed animals on the altar to symbolize the cleansing and purification of the people (Hebrews 9:6-7 , Hebrews 9:19-23).	Jesus’ blood, shed during the Atonement, cleanses and purifies us from sin (Hebrews 9:11-15).
c. The high priest went through the veil into the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 9:1-7).	Jesus, the great high priest, went through the veil into the heaven itself (Hebrews 9:24).

B. Paul explained that the law of Moses was the old covenant between God and his people ([Hebrews 8:9](#); [Galatians 3:24-25](#)). What is the new covenant brought by Jesus Christ? ([Hebrews 8:6-8](#), [Hebrews 8:10-13](#)) The old covenant is described in the Old Testament of the Bible, while the new covenant is described in the

New Testament.

- C. Why was the old covenant unable to make its participants perfect? ([Hebrews 10:1-4](#)) Why does the new covenant give us greater hope for perfection? ([Hebrews 10:9-18](#))

4. Those who exercise faith in Jesus Christ will inherit a place in the kingdom of God. ([Hebrews 10:19-11:40](#))

After Paul explained the ways in which the fulness of the gospel is a higher, more complete law that replaces the law of Moses, he exhorted the Saints to follow this “new and living way” by putting their faith in Jesus Christ ([Hebrews 10:19-22](#)).

- A. What is the first, or most basic, principle of the gospel? ([Articles of Faith 1:4](#)) What is faith? ([Hebrews 11:1](#); [Alma 32:21](#); [Ether 12:6](#)) How is faith more than belief? Why is faith in Jesus Christ essential to our salvation?
- B. Paul gave many examples of people who accomplished great things through faith in Jesus Christ. Whom did he mention? ([Hebrews 11:4-12](#), [Hebrews 11:17-34](#))
- C. Paul also taught that faith can help us during times of adversity or opposition ([Hebrews 11:32-38](#)). How has faith helped you deal with adversity? What other blessings have you (or someone you know) received by exercising faith in Jesus Christ?