

58-08-01.wpd --Trading a Copy for the Original  
priesthood, offering, God's presence, Tabernacle, temple  
Heb 8

The REAL THING has arrived and Jesus brought it!

### **INTRODUCTION: (text for Scripture Reading)**

--[When I was in homiletics class learning about sermons, they told us to be careful in choosing illustrations, because some illustrations capture the attention so well that they overshadow the truth they are meant to illustrate. When this happens, the illustration is remembered, and the message is forgotten.]

--In **v.5a** we see the Jewish priests still serving in a sanctuary that was only a shadow of what was in Heaven. The thing that their ministry was meant to illustrate had now arrived, and the purpose of their illustrating it was complete. It was time for them to let go of their illustration and embrace the original (sermon **title**).

--[When we have a choice between a copy and "the real thing," what do we choose? If someone offered me a choice between the "Mona Lisa" and Terry Brown's reproduction of it, I would choose "the real thing," even if it hurt Terry's feelings.]  
The appeal that the author of Hebrews was making is that the copy has been replaced by the original. **HOM.idea**.

### **I. Copies Are Useful and Important**

- A. The pattern of the OT Tabernacle was carefully shown to Moses during a 40-day fast-- **v.5b**, "*See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*" (an instruction repeated *twice*)
1. The Tabernacle was so important that God gave the artisans who built it supernatural skill to make it properly-- **Exo 35:30-36:1**, Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers--all of them master craftsmen and designers. // So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded."
  2. Why did He want this built exactly as the original? [my sermon series on the Tabernacle: everything in its structure was an illustration of the

character of God or of His salvation.]

3. But the earthly Tabernacle was a temporary illustration, because later disappeared when the city Shiloh where it was kept was destroyed. (Why did God let this happen? -- **Psa 78:58-60**, For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men...)
- B. When the Tabernacle disappeared, a temple was built
1. It too had a heavenly correspondence (a large portion of Ezekiel describes this heavenly temple)
  2. **BUT the temple was also just a temporary illustration**
    - a. At the moment Christ died, the temple veil was ripped apart from top to bottom to show that the way into God's presence was no longer by the OT animal sacrifices, which were only an illustration of the final sacrifice of the Messiah (Isaiah 53).
    - b. Even if they repaired the torn temple veil, Rome destroyed that temple in 70 AD. It has not been rebuilt since then, because its purpose was completed. The original had come!)

**TRANS:** Humans sometimes hesitate to enjoy the original when they are satisfied with a copy. [Why not enjoy Terry's copy of the "Mona Lisa" rather than travel to Europe to see it. Why not watch a documentary on the Grand Canyon rather than take a long, hot donkey ride down into it?] Listen... a photo of Yosemite is nice to look at, but a view of it from Yosemite Valley is breathtaking! To experience "the real thing" we have to go there, BUT in the case of spirituality, **the REAL THING has come to us, and Jesus is the one who brought it.**

### **II. Jesus Brought a New Covenant** (quoted from Jer 31:33-34)

- A. In the OT, the Law of God was external, written on clay tablets, but under the NT (the New Covenant) the Holy Spirit would *internalize God's law in the hearts of believers*-- **v.10a**, *This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.*
- B. In the OT, experiencing God was an educational process, but under the New Covenant, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, knowing God is an ongoing personal experience-- **v.10b-11**, *I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his*

*neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.*

C. In the OT, sins were *passed over by atonement* ["being covered up"] by the blood of sacrificed animals, but under the New Covenant, sins are forgiven and forgotten, because they are taken away by the blood of Christ!-- v.12, *I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.*

1. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him, he said, "*Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29)
2. When we come to God with a sin problem, our sins are not just covered over, but removed entirely-- 1 John 1:7, 9, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### CONCLUSION:

--The last verse of this chapter, v.13, says, "*By calling this covenant 'new,' he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.*"

--There is no more Tabernacle or Temple; they were shadows... copies of the originals. We build earthly temples, or use facilities like this one to enter for worship, but coming to church is not coming to God. Jesus brought a New Covenant. Worship is possible because God has entered into us. Our bodies are now temples for the presence of God, and because of our future physical resurrection, our bodies will never stop being temples. **The REAL THING has arrived and Jesus brought it!**

Heb 8 (NIV) The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, {2} and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. {3} Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. {4} If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. {5} They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." {6} But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. {7} For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. {8} But God found fault with the people and said : "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. {9} It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. {10} This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. {11} No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. {12} For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." {13} By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.