

# Hebrews 8:1-2

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/heb/heb-8/hebrews-81-2/>

*Jesus is the perfect high priest. He sits at the right hand of God. He helps us from Heaven.*

The Pauline Author is now bringing the epistle to a focus. He now summarizes the point of Chapter 7, weaving it into the overarching message of the letter as a whole: *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* (v 1).

All of Chapter 7 describes a priest comparable to Melchizedek, who was a priest as well as a king. The *main point* is that Christ *is this priest*: a high priest of God, eternal, a righteous king, a king of peace, who blesses obedient followers of God.

Jesus is the perfect intercessor on our behalf. He has a *seat at the right hand of the throne of God*. He *is a minister* to us as our High Priest *in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle* (v 2) in heaven, not in a temporary earthly replica like the tabernacle/temple from which the Levite priests ministered.

The Jews knew of the tabernacle that their forefathers had erected in the wilderness, and at the time that the Pauline Author wrote this letter, the Temple was standing in Jerusalem. When he says that Jesus *is a minister* for use *in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man* (v 2), he is speaking of the tabernacle in heaven. This tabernacle is constructed by the Lord and has a true High Priest (Jesus) interceding for us — not the Levitical priests.

The earthly tabernacle was used for many purposes, but the larger idea behind it was that it served as a house for God, tangible evidence that God's presence was always with His people. The tabernacle was moved as the Israelites moved, so that His tangible presence would travel with the Israelites. The Levite priests made regular sacrifices in that tabernacle to atone for the sins of the people.

However, this earthly tabernacle was only a faint copy of the real thing. And the atonement for sins was not permanent, as is the atonement of the perfect sacrifice Jesus became on our behalf. The Pauline Author's *main point* here is that Jesus Himself is the highest of high priests, ministering in the true tabernacle, the true house of God, in heaven.

And in heaven, Jesus can directly act as a High Priest on our behalf before God continually. He is a priest of the order of Melchizedek, a superior priesthood of God serving His office without any end to His "term" in office. Jesus is our great high priest as well as our king.

## Biblical Text

**<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.**