

Hebrews 7:23 – 8:7

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ²³ The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater
2 numbers because they were prevented by death from
3 continuing, ²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because He
4 continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.
5 ²⁵ Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw
6 near to God through Him, since He always lives to make
7 intercession for them. ²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have
8 such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated
9 from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does
10 not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up
11 sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the
12 people, because this He did once for all when He offered
13 up Himself. ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high
14 priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which
15 came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.
16 **8** Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we
17 have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right
18 hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a
19 minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which
20 the Lord pitched, not man. ³ For every high priest is
21 appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is
22 necessary that this *high priest* also have something to
23 offer. ⁴ Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest
24 at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to
25 the Law; ⁵ who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly
26 things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was
27 about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you
28 make all things according to the pattern which was shown
29 you on the mountain.” ⁶ But now He has obtained a more
30 excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator
31 of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better
32 promises. ⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless,
33 there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Mark **X** the deficiencies of the old priesthood.
- Mark **+** the superiority of the new Priest.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What questions come to mind as you read?
- What does the writer say about the relationship between the new Priest and the people (us)?
- How does the superiority of the new Priest compare with the way the old priesthood related to the people?
- Why does he bring up “not being a priest at all” on earth (8:4)?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How often do you think about Jesus as our priest?
- How might thinking of Jesus as our priest affect your worship?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He has done and is doing?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>
For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see
Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.