

In These Last Days: The Message of Hebrews Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant

Lesson #8 for February 19, 2022

Scriptures: Hebrews 7:11-19; 8:1-6,10-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Exodus 24:1-8; Ezekiel 36:26-27.

1. **In order to fully understand the purpose of the life and death of Jesus Christ, we need to have a clear understanding of the great controversy over the character and government of God.** That great controversy: (1) Began in heaven, (2) involves the entire universe, and (3) is the basis on which we have come to understand God. God had stated that sin would lead to death. (Genesis 2:16-17) Satan categorically denied that that was true, claiming that God had lied to Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:1-5) How are we supposed to learn about the death that God talked about in the Garden of Eden? It is through Jesus.
2. By His life and His death, Jesus answered the most important questions about God's character and government: (1) What kind of a person is God? And (2) what is it that causes the death of sinners?

Hebrews 10:5-10: ⁵ For this reason, when Christ was about to come into the world, he said to God:

“You do not want sacrifices and offerings,
but you have prepared a body for me.

⁶ **You are not pleased with animals burnt whole on the altar
or with sacrifices to take away sins.**

⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am,
to do your will, O God,
just as it is written of me in the book of the Law.’ ”

⁸**First he said, “You neither want nor are you pleased with sacrifices and offerings or with animals burnt on the altar and the sacrifices to take away sins.”** He said this even though all these sacrifices are offered according to the Law. [God gave them those laws, and the Israelites followed them.] ⁹Then he said, “Here I am, O God, to do your will.” **So God does away with all the old sacrifices and puts the sacrifice of Christ in their place.** ¹⁰**Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all purified from sin by the offering that he made of his own body once and for all.**—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation** (2nd ed., Hebrews 10:5-10). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].^{††}

3. While they were traveling through the desert, the children of Israel were given the entire sacrificial system based in the sanctuary which was placed in the midst of the camp. **That system was a kind of “sandbox” illustration of the plan of salvation. It certainly was not a complete or detailed explanation of everything that God needed to say to us.**

Hebrews 7:11-19: ¹¹ It was on the basis of the levitical priesthood that the Law was given to the people of Israel. Now, **if the work of the levitical priests had been perfect, there would have been no need for a different kind of priest**

to appear, one who is in the priestly order of Melchizedek, not of Aaron.

¹²For when the priesthood is changed, there also has to be a change in the law. [The law said that only Aaron's descendants could be high priests.] ¹³And our Lord, of whom these things are said, belonged to a different tribe, and no member of his tribe ever served as a priest. ¹⁴It is well known that he was born a member of the tribe of Judah; and Moses did not mention this tribe when he spoke of priests.

¹⁵ The matter becomes even plainer; **a different priest has appeared, who is like Melchizedek.** ¹⁶**He was made a priest, not by human rules and regulations, but through the power of a life which has no end.** ¹⁷For the scripture says, "You will be a priest for ever, [*sic*] in the priestly order of Melchizedek." ¹⁸The old rule, then, is set aside, because it was weak and useless. ¹⁹For the Law of Moses could not make anything perfect. And now a better hope has been provided through which we come near to God.—*Good News Bible*.*†† [Notice that these words were written by Paul who previously described himself as a "Pharisee of the Pharisees," a stickler for the law! What a transformation to what he was writing in Hebrews!]*†

4. After having given the answers to the most important questions and accusations of Satan in the great controversy, Jesus became our Mediator in the courts of heaven. The ancient Levitical priesthood based on genealogy was never able to answer the most important questions in the great controversy, and it did not cause sinning to stop.

5. Notice these words of Paul:

Hebrews 9:13-14: ¹³The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a burnt calf are sprinkled on the people who are ritually unclean, and this purifies them by taking away their ritual impurity. ¹⁴Since this is true, how much more is accomplished by the blood of Christ! Through the eternal Spirit he offered himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. **His blood will purify our consciences from useless rituals, so that we may serve the living God.**—*Good News Bible*.*†

6. In what way does the blood of Jesus purify our consciences from useless rituals? Is it that since the true Sacrifice has been offered and we have had a chance to understand the meaning of the death of Christ, useless rituals have no more meaning?

7. In the old system, the children of Israel were only allowed to approach God at the outer gate of the tabernacle court. Only the priests were able to go further inside and into the holy place; only the high priest could enter into the most holy place and only once a year.

8. On His last night on this earth with His disciples before the crucifixion, Jesus explained to them that a mediator was no longer really needed.

John 16:25-27: ²⁵ [Jesus said:] "I have used figures of speech to tell you these things. But the time will come when **I will not use figures of speech, but will speak to you plainly about the Father.** ²⁶**When that day comes, you will ask him in my name; and I do not say [Notice the word not which many leave out as they read this passage since the word *not* does not match their**

paradigm!] that I will ask him on your behalf, ²⁷for the Father himself loves you. He loves you because you love me and have believed that I came from God.”—*Good News Bible*. *†‡ [Why aren’t these words found in every Gospel?]*‡

9. This is why it was possible for Paul to say in Hebrews 10:19-23:

Hebrews 10:19-23: ¹⁹ **We have, then, my brothers and sisters, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus.** ²⁰He opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain—that is, through his own body. ²¹We have a great priest in charge of the house of God. ²²So **let us come near to God** with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. ²³Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise.—*Good News Bible*. *†

10. Hopefully, now that we have learned the truth about God and the truth about the consequences of sin, there is no need to be afraid of God. **What we need to fear is sin!**

11. **The Old Testament system served day after day to remind people of their sins and that sin leads to death,** even of innocent victims. It was supposed to point forward to the sacrifice of Christ. **Is there any evidence in the books of Moses suggesting that the people understood that the sacrificial system pointed forward to the death of Christ?**

12. One of the few passages in the Old Testament talking about the death of Christ and its consequences is Isaiah 53. Notice especially verses 4-11.

Isaiah 53:4-11: ⁴ “But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne.

All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. [But, it really was not sent by God!]

⁵ But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did.

We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.

⁶ All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way.

But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. [That is, let the punishment that sin causes fall on Jesus.]

⁷ “He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word.

Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

⁸ He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no one cared about his fate.

He was put to death for the sins of our people.

⁹ He was placed in a grave with the wicked,

he was buried with the rich,
even though he had never committed a crime
or ever told a lie.”

¹⁰ The LORD says,
“It was my will that he should suffer;
his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness.
And so he will see his descendants;
he will live a long life,
and through him my purpose will succeed.

¹¹ After a life of suffering, he will again have joy;
he will know that he did not suffer in vain.

**My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased,
will bear the punishment of many
and for his sake I will forgive them.**—*Good News Bible*.^{*†}

13. Does it look like Isaiah 53:4 is in contradiction to Isaiah 53:6-11?

14. Unfortunately, the interpretation that has been put on the life and death of Christ by so many suggests that the punishment that should have been ours was placed on Christ. This seems to be the teaching of verses 6 and 7. However, that seems to be contradicted by verse 4: “All the while we **thought** that his suffering was punishment sent by God.”[†] So, which is it? Did the people in the Old Testament recognize the truth of God’s statement given in the Garden of Eden that sin is what kills? And not God who kills?

15. How do you understand Romans 3:1-4?

Romans 3:1-4: Have the Jews then any advantage over the Gentiles? Or is there any value in being circumcised? ²Much, indeed, in every way! In the first place, God trusted his message to the Jews. ³But what if some of them were not faithful? Does this mean that God will not be faithful? ⁴Certainly not! **God must be true, even though every human being is a liar.** As the scripture says,
“You must be shown to be right when you speak;
you must win your case **when you are being tried.**”—*Good News Bible*.^{*†}

16. Notice, especially verse 4: “God must be true, even though every human being is a liar.” Do you remember Satan’s accusations against God? **We see that God must be shown to be right when He speaks; He must win His case when He is being tried.**

17. And **how is God put on trial? Each one of us votes either for Him or against Him** by the way we live and the way we respond to the truth.

Romans 3:25-26: ²⁵⁻²⁶God offered him, so that by his blood [Footnote: 3:25-26 *by his blood; or by his sacrificial death.*] he should become the means by which people’s sins are forgiven through their faith in him. **God did this in order to demonstrate that he is righteous.** In the past he was patient and overlooked people’s sins; but in the present time he deals with their sins, in order **to demonstrate his righteousness.** In this way God shows that **he himself is righteous** and that **he puts right everyone who believes in Jesus.**—*Good News Bible*.^{*†‡§}

18. Notice that **this passage says three separate times that the purpose of Christ's death was to demonstrate the righteousness of God.** This could only be understood in the larger context of the great controversy. **Jesus died and took our place as a Substitute to demonstrate the truth about God and His character and government. That is, because He died the way He did and if we understand its implications, we do not need to die! He also demonstrated the truth about sin and its deadly results. This is the only passage in Scripture that specifically explains why Jesus had to die!**
19. Nothing in the Old Testament did that. The law may have been holy, and the commandment holy and right and good; (Romans 7:12-14) but, it could not save anyone.
20. So, in light of what we have said so far, notice these very significant words in Hebrews 8 which are repeated from Jeremiah 31:31-34:

Hebrews 8:10-12: ¹⁰ "Now, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel

in the days to come, says 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 None of them will have to teach their fellow-citizens
or say to their fellow-citizens,
'Know the Lord.'

For they will all know me,
from the least to the greatest.

¹² I will forgive their sins
and will no longer remember their wrongs."—*Good News Bible*.^{*†} [Compare
John 17:3.][‡]

21. **Notice that in this context, the solution to the sin problem is for all of us to know God and to know Him well. If that occurs, there is no problem with God forgiving our sins; and He will no longer pay any attention to the record of our wrongs.**
22. Hebrews 1:1 tells us that there are many different ways in which God sought to communicate with people in the Old Testament. Passages like Hebrews 8:8-9; Psalm 37:30-31; 40:8; 119:11; and Isaiah 51:7 suggest that there were some who seemed to understand the issues and sought to follow God in the right way, even in the times of the Old Testament.
23. **So, what is happening in heaven now? Where can we find that answer?**
- Zechariah 3:1-5:** In another vision the LORD showed me the High Priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD. And there **beside Joshua stood Satan, ready to bring an accusation against him.** ²The angel of the LORD said to Satan, "May the LORD condemn you, Satan! May the LORD, who loves Jerusalem, condemn you. This man is like a stick snatched from the fire."
³ Joshua was standing there, wearing filthy clothes. ⁴The angel said to his heavenly attendants, "Take away the filthy clothes this man is wearing." Then

he said to Joshua, “**I have taken away your sin and will give you new clothes to wear.**”

⁵ He commanded the attendants to put a clean turban on Joshua’s head. They did so, and then they put the new clothes on him while the angel of the LORD stood there.—*Good News Bible*.^{*†} [This is the Joshua who was the high priest for the people who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, not the Joshua who followed Moses].[‡]

24. **Let us understand clearly that the accuser of all humans is Satan himself.** This has been true from the very beginning. (Revelation 12: 7-12) These verses make it very clear who is accusing us. It is the Devil, or Satan, that ancient serpent who was there in the Garden of Eden and deceived Eve. He now stands symbolically in the presence of God, accusing us day and night.

25. In contrast to Satan accusing us, on our side are: (1) God the Father, (2) God the Son, and (3) God the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26-31)

26. No descendent of Levi in the Levitical priesthood could ever stand in heaven and refute Satan’s arguments against us. Thus, the ministry of Jesus Christ in the heavenly sanctuary is absolutely essential if we are going to be saved.

27. So, what does Jesus do as our Mediator?

The English term “mediator” is too narrow a translation for *mesitēs* in Hebrews because it focuses only on the first two or three uses of the Greek term. Hebrews, however, emphasizes the fourth function.... Instead, as Hebrews explains, Jesus is the *Guarantor* (or *Surety*) of the new covenant (*Heb. 7:22*). In Hebrews, the term “mediator” is equivalent to “guarantor.” He guarantees that the covenant promises will be fulfilled.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*^{*} for Tuesday, February 15.^{†§}

28. Following the advice given to Moses by God in the Old Testament system:

Hebrews 9:22: According to the Law almost everything is purified by blood, and sins are forgiven only if blood is poured out.—*Good News Bible*.^{*}

29. Does this mean that Jesus is constantly sprinkling blood here and there and everywhere in the heavenly sanctuary? Of course not!

30. The ministry of Jesus Christ is far superior to that offered to Moses and to the Israelites.

Jesus is a greater Mediator than Moses because He ministers in the heavenly sanctuary and has offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us (*Heb. 8:1–5, Heb. 10:5–10*). Moses’ face **reflected** the glory of God (*Exod. 34:29–35*), but Jesus *is* the glory of God (*Heb. 1:3, John 1:14*). Moses **spoke** with God face to face (*Exod. 33:11*), but Jesus *is* God’s Word personified (*Heb. 4:12, 13; John 1:1–3, 14*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*^{*} for Tuesday, February 15.^{†§}

31. Romans 8:26-31 tell us that all three Members of the Godhead are on our side. So, now that we have a Trio of Advocates on our side in heaven refuting Satan’s charges, we recognize that this new covenant has better promises.

We may be tempted to think that the new covenant has “better promises” in the sense that it has greater rewards than the old covenant had (a heavenly homeland, eternal life, etc.). The truth is that God offered the same rewards to Old Testament believers as He has offered us (*read Heb. 11:10, 13–16*). In Hebrews 8:6, the “better promises” refer to *different* kinds of promises—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Wednesday, February 16.[§]

32. In response to the first covenant given to Moses at Sinai, the people promised three times that they would do all that God had asked them to do. (Exodus 19:8; 24:3,7) Israel failed to keep their side of the agreement every time.

33. So, can we be saved by this contract between us and Jesus Christ?

The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been,—just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents,—perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized.—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ** 62.1.

34. So, how does God accomplish this in our lives? Review Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-27.

Jeremiah 31:33: [The LORD said:] “The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”—*Good News Bible.*†*

Ezekiel 36:26-27: [The LORD said:] ²⁶“I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. ²⁷I will put my spirit in you and I will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you.”—*Good News Bible.*†*

35. When we realize the truth about God’s statement to Adam and Eve and the falsehood of Satan’s accusation, it frees us from fearing God and helps us to fear the right thing, sin. When you get to heaven, will you dare to approach God the Father and give Him a hug?

The first covenant document was written by God on tablets of stone and was deposited in the ark of the covenant as an important witness of God’s covenant with His people (*Exod. 31:18, Deut. 10:1–4*). Documents written in stone, however, could be broken; and scrolls, as Jeremiah had experienced, could be cut up and burned (*Jer. 36:23*).

But in the new covenant God now will write His law in the hearts of the people. The heart refers to the mind, the organ of memory and understanding (*Jer. 3:15, Deut. 29:4*), and especially to the place where conscious decisions are made (*Jer. 3:10, Jer. 29:13*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Thursday, February 17.^{†§}**

When Jesus speaks of the new heart, he means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ. To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives. What is the sign of a new heart?—A changed life. There is a daily, hourly dying to selfishness and

pride.—Ellen G. White, *Youth's Instructor*,* September 26, 1901, par. 5.†
4SDABC* 1164.10.¶

36. So, notice the conclusions of what we have studied so far: **The problem was never with God's law; the problem was with us not following God's advice and not living it out in our own lives.** In our day:

True obedience comes from the heart as an expression of love (*Matt. 22:34–40*). This love is the distinguishing mark of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. God pours His love on us through His Spirit (*Rom. 5:5*), the reception of whom is expressed by love (*Gal. 5:22*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, February 17.†§

If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life? When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, “I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” Hebrews 10:16. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? Obedience—the service and allegiance of love—is the true sign of discipleship. Thus the Scripture says, “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 5:3; 2:4. Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience....

The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature. This is evidence that Satan's delusions have lost their power; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you.

No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not realize its own sinfulness. The soul that is transformed by the grace of Christ will admire His divine character; but if we do not see our own moral deformity, it is unmistakable evidence that we have not had a view of the beauty and excellence of Christ.—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ** 60.2-65.1.†

37. Think about these statements. Can we trust God for His salvation and not look to our own failures? The law will point out our sins; but, with the help of the Holy Spirit, those sins can be overcome. The Holy Spirit can change us; we cannot do that by ourselves.
38. In previous lessons, we have discussed the case of Melchizedek. Without reiterating all those details, we notice that Jesus Christ is a Priest in the order of Melchizedek. And the order of Melchizedek is superior to the Levitical priesthood.
39. **What makes the Melchizedek order superior to the Levitical order?** Three things:

First, Melchizedek is “without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life” (*Heb. 7:3, NRSV*). In the Graeco-Roman world, to be without a father meant to be an illegitimate child. To be without a mother meant that the child was from a woman of low social status. In the Jewish world, however, **to be without genealogy meant that the person could not**

qualify for the Levitical priesthood. Was Melchizedek a divine figure, as some people have concluded? No; he appears suddenly on the scene, in Genesis 14, and disappears just as quickly again—but without any mention of his family background. Because the Genesis record does not tell of his father, mother, or genealogy, Paul employs Melchizedek as a perfect example for the eternal nature of Christ. This is supported by the statement “having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever” (*Heb. 7:3, NRSV*)....

Second, Melchizedek is superior to the Levites because he blessed Abraham, the patriarch, who is described as the one who received the promise (*Heb. 6:13, Heb. 7:6*). Thus, “it is beyond dispute that the inferior [Abraham] is blessed by the superior [Melchizedek]” (*Heb. 7:7, NRSV*). **Not only is Melchizedek superior to the Levites because of his continuous priesthood—but he also is superior because he blessed Abraham.**

Third, Melchizedek is superior to the Levites because “even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils” (*Heb. 7:4, NRSV*). The great-grandson Levi and his descendants basically returned tithes through Abraham to this non-Levitical priest of God, Melchizedek (*Heb. 7:9, 10*). **A lack of Levitical genealogy does not prevent Melchizedek from receiving tithes from Abraham. In the same way, a lack of Levitical genealogy cannot prevent Jesus from serving as Priest.... The logic of his argument is obvious. Melchizedek is greater than Abraham; consequently, he must be greater than Levi. By extension, the priesthood of Melchizedek is greater than that of the Levitical priesthood. If that is true, Christ’s priesthood is superior to that of any human priests in the earthly tabernacle or temple. Hence, He is called a Priest “forever, according to the order of Melchizedek” (*Heb. 7:17, NRSV*).—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 108.^{†§} [Note that the brackets and the content in brackets in the paragraph above are in the Bible study guide.][‡]**

40. So, we can conclude that Melchizedek was superior to the Levites because of his continuous priesthood; He blessed Abraham, the ancestor of the Levites, and the Levites returned tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham.

41. So, how is Christ’s priesthood superior to Melchizedek’s and the Levitical priesthood?

First, Christ became a priest by “the power of an indestructible life” and by God’s appointment, as witnessed to by Psalm 110:4; it was not through physical descent based on Aaronic legal requirements (*Heb. 7:16, 17, NRSV*; see *Exodus 29*). Christ’s priesthood is intimately connected to who He is. Yes, Christ died, but He was resurrected (*Heb. 13:20*). He was “exalted above the heavens” (*Heb. 7:26, NRSV*) and is now seated “at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (*Heb. 8:1, NRSV*), where He “is able for all time to save those who approach God through him” (*Heb. 7:25, NRSV*)....

Second, Christ was confirmed as a priest by God through an oath: “ ‘The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever” ’ ” (*Heb. 7:21, NRSV*). Oaths are solemn promises, often evoking a divine Witness. Because God could not swear by a greater divine power when He promised Abraham

descendants, “he swore by himself, saying, ‘I will surely bless you and multiply you’ ” (*Heb. 6:13, 14, NRSV*). To the Exodus generation, God swore, “ ‘They will not enter my rest’ ” (*Heb. 3:11, NRSV*). When God swears an oath, He will faithfully execute it. That is why Jesus has “become the guarantee of a better covenant” (*Heb. 7:22*). **The Levites, on the other hand, were inaugurated into the priesthood by divine command (*Exod. 28:1*), not by an oath. Thus, Christ is superior to them.**

Finally, Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood because He is morally perfect. The priests of Aaron’s line sacrificed daily, although ultimately ineffectively (*Heb. 10:1–4*). They offered sacrifice first for their own sins before they offered sacrifice for others. By contrast, Christ offered Himself as a sinless sacrifice once for all (*Heb. 7:27*). Such a Priest is appropriate for us, for He is “holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens” (*Heb. 7:26, NRSV*). **While these terms are virtually synonymous, they nonetheless have slightly different nuances. Christ was morally separated, innocent, and unstained by sin. Such attributes make Christ superior to the Aaronic line of priests (see *Acts 2:27, Heb. 4:15*).**

In summary, Christ is better than the Levites, because He is immortal, was confirmed by divine oath, and is morally perfect.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide 108-109.†§**

42. How would you like to have to offer a lamb or a bull as an offering every time you sinned? Maybe, in our day, it would be like offering an expensive bike or a new car!
43. **In this lesson, we have seen that the ministry of Jesus Christ following the example of Melchizedek is far superior to the Levitical priesthood because Jesus is in heaven: (1) answering Satan’s accusations against us, (2) securing a true verdict in our case, and (3) making it possible for us to live with Him forever.**

©2022, Kenneth Hart, MD, MA, MPH. Permission is hereby granted for any noncommercial use of these materials. Free distribution of all or of a portion of this material such as to a Bible study class is encouraged. *Electronic version. †Bold type is added. ‡Text in brackets is added. §Italic type is in the source. ¶Compared with the first source, this source has punctuation and/or capitalization differences only. Info@theox.org

Last Modified: January 28, 2022