Introduction: People often remember the past in one of 2 ways, either as everything being great or bad. Both tends to skew what the past really was. The fact is somethings may have been better but overall things are better now. We may be surprised sometimes how much better things really are: automobiles, electronics, frozen dinners, special effects in movies, pollution has gotten better. Religiously speaking people may not realize how blessed they really are, and how much better things really are. In this lesson we are going to look at the Book of Hebrews and see some of the things listed as better things.

**II) Nine better things in Hebrews**

**A) Better messenger(s)**

**Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.**

**Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. 5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

1. Law of Moses

a. The Jews had the prophets, angels, and Moses. This is not to minimize what they did and what they revealed.

b. Prophets – men chosen by God, but they were mere men.

c. Angels- heavenly messengers, with great power

d. Moses – a great law giver, was like all prophets sinned.

e. However the revelation was limited. Moses and the prophets was giving fragments and incomplete revelation.

Law of Christ

a. We have the son of God to reveal to us the will of God.

b. The Son is the express image of the Father

c. Greater power

d. Greater revelation, complete.

**B) A better mediator between man and God**

**1. Law of Moses**

a. The priest was the mediator but he was limited in his duties.

b. Offered sacrifices for the people on the earthly altar.

2. Law of Christ

a. Our mediator is the Man Christ Jesus,

**1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**

**Hebrews 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.**

b. Our mediator is in the very presence of God

c. He is continually pleading our case to our God.

**C) A better covenant**

1. Law of Moses

a. The Law of Moses was ratified by the blood of bulls and goats

**Hebrews 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**

b. Continual sacrifices points out the limitation of those sacrifices

c. Points out the limitation of the Law of Moses the remembrance of sin

2. The Law of Christ

a. Was put into effect by the blood of Christ, offered Himself

b. Establishing a better covenant.

**Hebrews 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.**

**Hebrews 7:22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.**

**D) We have a better High Priest**

**1. Law of Moses**

a. The High Priest was continually changing due to the death of High Priest.

**Hebrews 7:23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.**

b. The high priest had the first offer sacrifice for his own sins.

**Hebrews 7:27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's,**.

2. Now

a. Our High Priest is the Great High Priest

**Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

b. One who is sinless, perfect in every way.

**Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

**Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

c. Unchangeable High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek

**Hebrews 7:17 For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."**

**E) We have better access to God**

**1. Law of Moses**

a. The Jews had to go to the temple call for sacrifice

b. Priesthood and offer the sacrificed

c. The High Priest could only go into the most holy place once a year.

**Hebrews 9:7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;**

2. Law of Christ

a. Our access to God is not limited to one earthly place but the church.

**Hebrews 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.**

b. Jesus is continually before our God

**F) We have a better sacrifice**

1. The Jews were continually offering sacrifices for the sins

**Hebrews 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.**

2. The blood of Christ was offered for sins

a. Which was precious and sufficient to take away our sins

**Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

**Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

**G) We have better promises**

1. Law of Moses

a. The Jews was promised land of Canaan

b. A great nation

c. One who would bless all nations

2. Law of Christ

a. Fulfilled the greatest blessing

b. We are a promise the heavenly land

**Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

**H) Better Resurrection**

**Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**

**1. Law of Moses**

a. Some were raised from the dead- widows son who died.

b. Jews did not know much about the resurrection

2. Law of Christ

a. We know those in Christ we raised in newness of life

**I) We have a better kingdom**

**Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**

**1. Physical kingdom**

a. The physical kingdom in the land of Canaan was never intended to be an eternal kingdom.

b. The Jews entering into the land we’re not able to keep the land due to their unfaithfulness

2. Kingdom of Christ

a. The kingdom of God is unshakable

b. Eternal in the heavens

Conclusion: **Matthew 11:11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** Jesus speaks of the greatness of John the Immerser The point is not our greatness compared to John’s but our place in the Kingdom compared to John’s. John died before the Kingdom of Christ was established. But we are in a better place than John for we are in the kingdom he longed to enter.