

# Hebrews 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

## Analysis

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**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.** This brief yet profound verse declares Christ's absolute immutability—His unchanging nature across all time. Unlike the Levitical priesthood (discussed in previous chapters) which changed with each generation, Christ remains constant. The threefold temporal reference—"yesterday, to day, and for ever"—encompasses all of time: past, present, and future, emphasizing Christ's eternal consistency.

"The same" (ho autos, ὁ αὐτός) indicates complete identity and unchangeableness. Christ's character, power, promises, and purposes remain constant despite changing circumstances. This immutability isn't static inactivity but dynamic consistency—Christ relates personally to each generation while remaining essentially unchanged. His compassion toward sinners, power to save, and faithfulness to His word never diminish.

The context (Hebrews 13:7-9) contrasts Christ's unchanging nature with changing human leaders and diverse false teachings. Believers can anchor their faith in Christ's constancy rather than fluctuating human authorities or novel doctrines. This immutability provides security: the Christ who performed miracles, forgave sins, died, and rose in the first century is the same Christ available today. His promises to the apostles apply equally to modern believers. The Jesus who saves today is identical to the Jesus who saved throughout history and will save throughout eternity.

## Historical Context

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The original readers of Hebrews had witnessed the passing of first-generation apostolic leaders (Hebrews 13:7). By the time of writing (likely AD 60s-80s), many eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry had died or were dying. This transition created anxiety: would the faith remain authentic without original apostolic presence? The author reassures them that while human leaders change and pass away, Christ remains constant.

Additionally, first-century Christianity faced proliferation of strange teachings (Hebrews 13:9)—early forms of Gnosticism, Judaizing tendencies, and syncretistic blending of Christianity with pagan philosophy. In this climate of theological confusion and changing leadership, believers needed an anchor. The declaration of Christ's immutability provided stability amid change.

For Jewish Christians specifically, this verse addressed concerns about abandoning the ancient, venerable Mosaic system for a seemingly new religion. The author demonstrates that Christianity isn't novel but fulfills God's eternal purposes. The Christ they worship is the eternal Yahweh who appeared to Abraham, led Israel through the wilderness, and inspired the prophets. Though priesthood, sacrificial system, and covenant form have changed, Christ remains the same—the eternal God who never changes His essential nature or purposes.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's unchanging nature provide stability in your life when circumstances, relationships, or emotions constantly change?
2. What specific promises or attributes of Christ give you confidence that He will be faithful to you in the future as He has been in the past?

3. How should the immutability of Christ affect your response to new teachings, cultural trends, or theological innovations?
4. In what ways are you tempted to think that God's standards, character, or promises have changed with the times?
5. How does knowing that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever impact your prayer life and expectations of His work in your life?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ σήμερον ὁ αὐτός καὶ εἰς  
 Jesus Christ yesterday and to day the same and for  
 G2424 G5547 G5504 G2532 G4594 G3588 G846 G2532 G1519

τοὺς αἰώνας  
 ever  
 G3588 G165

## Additional Cross-References

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**Malachi 3:6** (Parallel theme): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

**James 1:17** (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**Revelation 1:8** (Parallel theme): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

**Hebrews 1:12** (Parallel theme): And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

**Isaiah 44:6** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

**Psalms 90:2** (Parallel theme): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

**Psalms 103:17** (Parallel theme): But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

**Isaiah 41:4** (Parallel theme): Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

**Psalms 90:4** (Parallel theme): For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

**Revelation 1:4** (Parallel theme): John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

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