

Hebrews: A Bridge from the Old to the New

Hebrews Chapter 7b

Jesus Christ: A Superior Priesthood – A Better Order

Jesus, a Priest Forever, in the Order of Melchizedek (Verses 11-28)

Earlier verses ^{v.1-10} established the Melchizedek priesthood as superior to the Levitical priesthood, and these verses ^{v.11-28} will complete the argument by showing the ultimate superiority of Christ's priesthood.

- 11** The word “perfection” is from a Greek root (*teleō*) used many times in Hebrews and usually translated as either “maturity” ^{Hebrews 5:14} or “perfection”, and refers to complete reconciliation with Jesus ⇒ salvation. The Levitical system and its priesthood, based in the law ^{Hebrews 7:18-19, 10:1} and the Old Covenant ^{Hebrews 8:7}, could not save anyone from sins, so the greater priesthood of Melchizedek ^{Hebrews 5:6, 7:17} was necessary.
- 12-14** Jesus came to change the perspective of the Jews (and all people) concerning the law ^{Matthew 5:17-18} and to become their permanent priest, different from the former priests who were defined by law ^{Leviticus 8:1-9}. Jesus was not from the tribe of Levi, but the tribe of Judah ^{Micah 5:2, Matthew 1:3,16, Luke 3:23,33, Revelation 5:5}.
- 15-17** Jesus came, not to be a temporary priest because of a “regulation” (“physical requirement” ^{Hebrews 9:6-10}) of an ancestry linked to Aaron, but to serve as an eternal priest because of God's anointing on Him. Jesus was designated as the prophetic fulfillment of the priesthood of Melchizedek ^{v.21, Psalm 110:4}. The Greek word translated “another” (*heteros*) refers to “another of a different kind”, but when Jesus said God would send “another Counselor” ^{John 14:16}, the Greek word (*allos*) meant one of the same kind.
- 18-19** The law cannot produce salvation ^{Romans 8:3-4}, but it provides an awareness of sin ^{Romans 3:19-20, 7:7} and leads people to faith in Jesus ^{Galatians 2:15b-16, 3:21-25}. Drawing near to God ^{Ezekiel 40:46, Hebrews 10:19-23} is an attribute of priesthood ^{Exodus 19:22, 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 5:10, 20:6}, but Christianity, compared to the Levitical system, it is a “better hope”, because it is the hope of the Savior ^{Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 6:19a} and not of the law.
- 20-22** The Levites were appointed by God; however, because of the ultimate importance of the role Jesus would fulfill, God gave an oath (quoted in verses 17 & 21 ^{Psalm 110:4}) that the priesthood of Jesus would be eternal and the same as Melchizedek's. God's guaranteed ^{Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29, Malachi 3:6} oath indicated the New Covenant ^{Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, Hebrews 8:6} is “better” than the Old Covenant.
- 23-25** There were many Levitical priests, but all were temporary, because of their human deaths ^{Numbers 20:27-29}, but Jesus is a High Priest whose kingdom reign ^{Isaiah 9:7b} and intercession ^{1 Timothy 2:5} is eternal ^{Romans 8:34}.
- 26** Jesus is the worthy eternal High Priest, because he lived a sinless life ^{2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 Peter 2:22}, allowing Him to be called the lamb without defect ^{1 Peter 1:18-19} and the Holy One ^{Isaiah 41:16, John 6:69, Acts 3:14}.
- 27** A Levitical priest had to continually offer sacrifices ^{Leviticus 4:3, 9:7-8, Hebrews 5:3, 10:25-26a}, first for himself and then for the people. In contrast, Jesus died once to sin for all people for all time ^{Romans 6:10, Hebrews 10:12}.
- 28** God, through the law ^{Leviticus 8:1-13}, defined the Levites as the family of temporary (“weak” ^{Hebrews 5:2}) priests, but His oath declared Jesus would be the Melchizedek-type eternal priest ^{Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 6:19-20}.

Leviticus 9:7-8 Moses said to Aaron, "Come to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; sacrifice the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Isaiah 9:7b He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing & upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Ezekiel 40:46 [The Lord] said to me, "These are the sons of Zadok, who are the only Levites who may draw near to the LORD to minister before him."

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Matthew 5:17-18 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Matthew 27:51a At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Luke 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever –

Acts 3:14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 6:10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Romans 8:3-4 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 2:15b-16 ... a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 8:6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

Revelation 5:5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 20:6 Blessed ... are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God & of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.