

**HEBREWS 7**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Hebrews chapter 7 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Now keep in mind that Paul is showing these Jewish believers who were struggling with their faith, were being drawn back into the legalism of Judaism, that Jesus is superior to all.

To do that Paul shows them that Jesus is superior to the prophets and the angels in Hebrews chapters 1 & 2.

Then in Hebrews chapter 3 he shows them that Jesus is superior to Moses.

As we moved into Hebrews chapter 4, we saw how Jesus is superior to Joshua.

Now, in Hebrews chapters 5-10 Paul will show them how Jesus is superior to the Levitical priesthood, obviously an important issue for these Jewish believers.

We saw last week Paul showing that Jesus is from a better priestly order, the order of Melchizedek.

But before Paul got too deep into this subject, he rebukes them and warns them of the dangerous path they were on. That they should be mature in the faith by now but instead they were like babes in Christ, and they have become dull to the things of God.

And as we saw last time Paul starts this rebuke and warning in Hebrews chapter 5 verse 11 and continues this through chapter 6, just picking back up with Jesus being our Great High Priest from the order of Melchizedek in verse 20.

Paul wants them to move forward, to grow in the Lord and not be stagnant in their growth, just knowing the base principles of their faith, the ABC's, and not maturing.

And, as you can imagine, this was a difficult thing for these Jewish Christians to wrap their minds around.

How in the world can Jesus be a greater High Priest than Aaron and the whole Levitical Priesthood?

In fact, I am sure some of them were thinking, ***“How can Jesus be a High Priest when He is not a descendant of Aaron or of the tribe of Levi? He is from the tribe of Judah and there are no priests that come from the line of Judah!”***

And the answer to that question is simple. Jesus is not a High Priest after the order of Aaron. But He is a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek! And Paul will hit that hard here in this chapter we will be looking at this evening, Hebrews chapter 7.

Now, remember how we closed last time in Hebrews 6:19-20, where Paul said, **“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”**

Now we don’t have a lot of information on Melchizedek and thus, he becomes a puzzle to many who try to figure out who this guy is or was, I should say.

As we will see, Paul is going to shed some light and explain to us about Melchizedek!

In the Old Testament we see him appear in Genesis 14:18-20. That is all we know of him! No further appearance of this man in the Old Testament.

Then, for a thousand years or so nothing is mentioned of him until we get to David and he mentions Melchizedek in Psalm 110:4.

And now, another thousand years or so and he is mentioned here in the Book of Hebrews and now he is a central figure in the theology of Paul and of the New Covenant with Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest!

So with that said, let's begin reading in Hebrews chapter 7, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us this evening as we look at this person named Melchizedek and the relationship of Jesus to him.

## **HEBREWS 7**

### **VERSES 1-3**

As I have said, there is not much information about this man named Melchizedek. In fact, more is spoken about him in the New Testament than the Old Testament, as I have said.

Now this should have been a very familiar story to these Jewish believers. For us, it has been a while since we were in Genesis and Psalms so let me refresh the story of Abraham's encounter with this man.

If you remember, a confederation of four nations rose up and conquered five nations and for twelve years they served them and then these five nations joined forces to rebel, but it didn't work. They lost the battle and Lot and his family who were living in Sodom were taken captive, as well as many others with their possessions.

When Abram or latter known as Abraham found out, he gathered his forces of 318 trained servants, and went on a rescue mission and succeeded in not only rescuing Lot, but bringing back the people who were taken into captivity as well as their possessions.

As he returned from this victory the King of Salem (an ancient name for Jerusalem), came out to meet him with bread and wine.

That should cause us to pay attention because those are the symbols of the New Covenant that Jesus instituted the night before His crucifixion.

The bread symbolizing life, John 6:35, and the wine speaking of joy, Psalm 104:15.

This man, Melchizedek, we are told, **“was the priest of God Most High.”** Genesis 14:18.

And he blessed Abraham. In return Abraham gave this King and priest a tithe or 10% of the spoils of victory.

Now let’s look at this man named Melchizedek a little closer.

The name **“Melchizedek”** means ***“King of Righteousness”*** and **“Salem”** means ***“Peace.”*** So he is also called the ***King of Peace.***

Those are titles of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Jeremiah 33:6, Isaiah 9:6).

Now here is where things get interesting. It says that this man had no father, no mother; there were no genealogies of him, no record of his birth or death. Also, the priestly order of Melchizedek never ends, it is eternal. So what does this mean?

Now, because there were no genealogies of this man, no report of his birth or death, many believe this is none other than Jesus Christ, an Old Testament appearance of Jesus or a Christophany.

I don’t believe that is what the text is saying here. I believe this is a picture or type of Christ, but not an Old Testament appearance of Him.

Let me explain.

In Hebrews 7:3 the Greek word for “**made like**” is APHOMOIOO, (af-om-oy-o’-o) and it speaks of a copy or model.

Also, in Hebrews 7:15 the word “**likeness**” or “**similitude**” is the Greek word, HOMOIOTES, (hom-oy-ot’-ace), which speaks of being similar, a resemblance to but not the person. It is a copy of that person, a picture you might say.

Now some still struggle with this because it says that he had no mother and father and thus, this must be an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ. Again, I think the Holy Spirit just edited this out for us to make the picture fit, the picture of Jesus.

Do we see this in other places?

Yes, we do. Let me show you what I mean.

In Genesis chapter 22 as Abraham takes his son, his only son to offer him as a sacrifice, Isaac, we can see how another Father was going to offer His only begotten Son on that same mountain some 2,000 years later, Jesus.

Now as God spared Isaac, we are told that only Abraham came down from the mountain!

Now here is the question I have for you. Where was Isaac?

Interestingly enough we don’t see Isaac again until the father, Abraham sends out his servant, Eliezer, which means comforter and is a type of the Holy Spirit, to get a bride for his son.

As Eliezer, the comforter gathers a wife for Isaac, we see Isaac once again as the bride is presented to him.

That was a picture for us and the Holy Spirit edited the fact that Isaac did come down from the mountain with his father, Abraham so that it would fit the picture that the Holy Spirit wanted us to see.

And the picture is this. Right now, the Holy Spirit is drawing out a Bride for Christ. And we will see Jesus once again when the Holy Spirit gathers a Bride for Jesus, and we are presented to Him. We call it the Rapture of the Church!

So I believe the Holy Spirit did edit the text or make the text to fit the type, Jesus!

We are also told that this priesthood is different than that of the Levitical priesthood in that it is continual!

And I want you to notice the difference between the two.

God called the tribe of Levi for the religious service for the nation and all priests were from the tribe of Levi, but not all the Levites were priests though. (There were three families of Levites: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. It was Kohath who supplied the actual priests. Other Levites helped as their assistants around the sanctuary. Numbers 3:5)

If you were a priest you not only had to be from the tribe of Levi, but you also had to be a descendent of Aaron, the brother of Moses.

The other Levites helped the priests out, they may have been singers and-so-on. And no Levite could be a King, which is going to be important for us to understand this evening.

The sacrifices they made were not to permanently take away sin, but they covered them for a time and they themselves needed to offer sacrifice for their own sins.

And a priest's position was limited; he could only serve from the age of 25 until the age of 50.

But Jesus, as our Great High Priest, that is an eternal position for Him, it will never end because Jesus never ends, He is eternal!

Now we are going to see how Jesus is from a better priestly order than the Levitical priesthood.

VERSES 4-7

Notice the difference here.

Abraham freely gave his tithes to Melchizedek, he was not forced to, there was no commandment for him to do that.

On the other hand, God gave the commandment to the children of Israel to pay their tithes to the priests and it came to about 23% a year, not just 10%!

The point here is that the order of Melchizedek is greater than the order of the Levites.

And if Melchizedek blessed Abraham it shows that he was greater than Abraham and Abraham did not reject the blessing, but he received it.

Now keep in mind he is just setting the stage to prove his point. By the time Paul is finished there will be no doubt about who is greater and who is lesser.

Since we are on the topic, we should deal with this issue of tithing. You know what they say, ***“Reach deep down into the pocket of the person in front of you and give until it hurts!”*** No, it doesn't say that.

But there is a lot of confusion here in regard to giving and we should not be confused, it should be very clear because the Scriptures tell us how we are to give.

So, as Christians how much are we to give?

Some would say our tithe should be 10%, it is Biblical.

I won't argue with that point, but I don't see the New Testament support that thought.

And again, if you want to follow the Old Testament picture of giving, they gave about 23% yearly to the Lord. I don't think many would go for that!

So, what are we to give to the Lord?

This is important. We are told in II Corinthians 9:6-7, **“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

You see, God does not want us to give because we are forced to give. We are not to give reluctantly but we are to give cheerfully to the Lord.

I know, I still didn't answer the question as to how much we are to give to the Lord.

The answer is really simple. Give with a joyful heart what you feel is right, it is not the amount you give but your heart as you give.

The sad thing to me is that according to the statistics, only 10 to 25% of a normal congregation tithe! That is incredible to me. But it is true. (<https://bit.ly/37QLnaH>)

The thing we need to remember, and many miss out on this, is that what you sow you will also reap.

It is as Proverbs 11:24-25 says, **“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”** You can't out give God!

Also, in Proverbs 3:9-10 we are told, **“Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”**

You see, God is a debtor to no man and what you see in nature in regard to the more seeds you plant the more of a harvest you will have, also applies in the spiritual realm.

But don't use God as a stock market investment, you give to Him because you desire to give to Him and as He blesses, it is not always monetary!



And look at Malachi 3:8-10, the only place where God challenges us in our giving. We are told, **“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, “In what way have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.’”**

This is the only area that God challenges us to prove Him in - our giving!

You see, you can't out give God. Now please, don't misunderstand me. Like I have said, I am not saying that God is like a stock market investment or some kind of lottery.

But God does want to bless us, and it is not always with money. And God is saying to Israel that if you honor Him with your giving you will be so blessed that surrounding nations will stand up and take notice of what God is doing.

Let me share this with you and you will see how important this is. And please understand that I am not trying to lay some heavy guilt trip on you to give, but I am sharing with you what God has said and then it is between you and then Lord, you decide what to do. This truly is a heart issue. Listen carefully.

We are told,

In the Bible, there are over four hundred fifty verses on faith and over five hundred fifty verses on prayer. But there are over 2,100 verses on giving. One of every ten verses in the New Testament deals with giving, money, or possessions. Of the thirty-eight parables Jesus taught, sixteen deal directly with giving, money, or possession. Why is the Lord so emphatic about this? Because Jesus said that wherever a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also (Luke 12:34). He wants us to give to Him - not because He needs our money but because He wants our heart.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary,  
Old Testament, Volume 2, p. 927

Look at how Paul continues this thought of giving and Melchizedek starting in Hebrews 7:8.

#### VERSES 8-10

Now let's play this out. In the Aaronic priesthood the tithes were received by men and thus, they were mortal. They would not continue on forever. And thus, they served as High Priests for a time, then they died, and they were replaced by another and over and over this happened.

But not so with Melchizedek. There is no mention of death and thus, the picture being painted for us is that the priesthood that he represented was far different, it was perpetual, it was eternal and it points us to our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ!

Now what does Paul mean when he says starting in verse 9 here in Hebrews chapter 7, **“Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.”**

Obviously, Levi could not have literally paid tithes to Melchizedek because he was not even born yet.

In fact, there was almost a 500-year time gap between Abraham and the Exodus from Egypt, to the giving of the Law, to the Levitical priesthood.

Notice what Paul says in verse 9, “**so to speak.**”

In other words, it was an allegorical point or symbolic point and not to be taken literally!

The whole idea is this. If the greater ancestor Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, then his descendants did so because of their relationship to Abraham.

Thus, the actions by Abraham affirm the superiority of Melchizedek over the Levitical priesthood.

The tribe of Levi, the lesser, paid tithes to the greater, Melchizedek, through Abraham because the lesser always gives tithes to the greater! Thus, Jesus is greater than the Levitical priesthood!

But what about the Levitical priesthood. Wasn't that needed to be saved? Not at all and Paul is going to respond to that in Hebrews 7:11.

### VERSE 11

This is an amazing point that Paul is making here, something for them to think about, to chew upon.

You see, it would make no sense at all for God to make another priesthood if the Levitical priesthood was sufficient!

But the problem with the Law was that it could not save you. All the Law could do is show you how far short you came to meeting the standard of perfection.

Then why the sacrifices?

I believe they were put in place as a temporary act of obedience until the Messiah would come. The death of the innocent for the sins of the guilty. And it was a powerful picture as sacrifice after sacrifice was being made. And that could never end, because the Law was always there showing you that you fell far short of what God desires!

In fact, when we get to Hebrews 7:19 Paul is going to tell us that **“the law made nothing perfect . . .”**

You see, if the blood of goats and bulls could have cleansed us once and for all from our sins making us perfect before God then the law and the Levitical priesthood would have remained. But it can't as we read that the law can make nothing perfect!

And there are many, many Scriptures that deal with the fact that we are not saved by the Law but by grace and the two do not mix. Let me share just a few with you.

First of all, in Galatians 2:21 Paul wrote, **“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”**

In other words, if we could become righteous by keeping the Law, then there is absolutely no point in Jesus coming. I think that just makes sense.

In Galatians 3:24-25 Paul wrote, **“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”**

The Law is like a mirror, it shows us what is on our face, in a sense, but it can't do anything to remove that blemish or whatever is on your face. It has no power to do that! It never had that kind of power and it will never have that kind of power! Once we see that we are sinners separated from God and we come to Jesus, then the work of the tutor or the Law is finished, we are no longer under it!

In Romans 6:14 Paul wrote, "**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**"

Again, we are saved by grace through faith and not by the Law through works for if we were saved by the Law through works then we would be able to boast about what we have done. But there is no room for boasting, we don't deserve the gift of eternal life, but Jesus has freely given it to us – ***IT IS ALL GRACE!***

And lastly, and there are many more, John tells us in John 1:17, "**For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**"

Now please understand, there is ***NOTHING*** wrong with the Law, it is good, it is perfect, that is not the issue.

Then what is the issue, what is the problem?

We will look at that in a few minutes, but I think you already know. The problem is you and me, we are sinners and we can't keep the Law. Again, the Law shows us we fall far short of perfection.

That means that with the Levitical priesthood, it could never save a person and that is why God made another priestly order, that of Melchizedek.

VERSE 12

Again, their minds must have been blown away by all that Paul was sharing with them.

Paul shows them that if the Levitical priesthood was not sufficient and it must be changed, and this priesthood is associated with the Law, then the Law's status or place is going to need to be changed also.

The Greek word for "**changed**" regarding the priesthood is METATITHEMI, (met-at-ith'-ay-mee) and it carries with it the idea of putting one thing in place of another like Melchizedek in place of the Levitical priesthood.

And the Greek word for "**change**" in regard to the Law is METAHESIS, (met-ath'-es-is) and it comes from the Greek word we just spoke about.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Christianity, in a sense, comes from Judaism. But Christianity is not merely enhanced Judaism; it replaces Judaism. For a Jewish convert, his faith is changed from Judaism to Christianity. The new priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, was not added to Aaron's, but replaced it. Aaron's priesthood now has no validity at all, not even as a picture of salvation or as a temporary covering of sin. It is defunct, totally abrogated [abolished].

- John Macarthur

Again, this was so important for these Jewish believers to understand as they were being drawn back into Judaism, back into the Law. Paul didn't want them to go backwards into the legalism of Judaism but to grow in grace!

Now it is not that God made a mistake in the Old Testament, it is that the Jews took it to the wrong conclusion and then Jesus came to get things back in order and to pay in full the penalty for our sins.

It is as Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders in John 5:39-40, **“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**

They missed Jesus, their Messiah because they searched the Scriptures but came to a faulty conclusion!

Now what about Jesus, he was not from the tribe of Levi but from the tribe of Judah. So how can He be a priest? That is a question that some of them may have had and Paul is going to answer that next.

#### VERSES 13-14

As I have said, Jesus could not be a priest let alone a High Priest according to the Mosaic Law because He was not from the tribe of Levi, He wasn't a descendant of Aaron.

Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, and that was not a priestly tribe.

If Jesus is a priest, our Great High Priest, then it must mean there is another order of priests out there, and there is, of course, as we have seen, the order of Melchizedek.

Warren Wiersbe put it like this. He wrote,

*Since the priests received their authority from the Old Testament Law (Heb. 7:28), and since the priesthood has been changed, there has also been a change in that Law. The President of the United States cannot proclaim himself King of the United States because U.S. law makes no provision for a king. First, the law would have to be changed.*

*The Law of Moses made no provision for a priesthood from the tribe of Judah (Heb. 7:14). Since our High Priest is from the tribe of Judah, according to His human ancestry, then there must have been a change in Moses' Law.*

*There has been! The entire system of Old Testament Law has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ and has been taken out of the way (Col. 2:13–14). The believer has been set free from the Law (Gal. 5:1–6) and is dead to the Law (Rom. 7:1–4).*

- Warren Wiersbe

As we read on Paul is going to drive home that point.

#### VERSES 15-17

First of all, here in Hebrews 7:17 Paul is quoting from Psalm 110:4 and it is interesting because he quotes from this Psalm five times in this letter. (Hebrews 5:6, 5:10; 6:20, 7:17, 7:21)

Obviously, that is central to his claim that Jesus is a greater High Priest than Aaron!

Now, here in Hebrews 7:15 Paul speaks of Jesus being “**another**” priest.

There are two Greek words for “**another**.”

One of them is ALLOS, which means one of the same kind. That is not the word Paul used here.

He used the Greek word HETEROS, (het'-er-os), which means another of a different kind.

Think of it like this. Jesus Christ is not just another priest (ALLOS), who ministered in the Tabernacle and then the Temple.



No, Jesus Christ is of another order, (HETEROS), He is the one Great High Priest, there is no other, He is different than the Aaronic priesthood!

In fact, the word “**arises**” is structured in the Greek in such a way that this verse can be translated, “*another priest arises by Himself.*”

So Jesus stands alone by His power, He is far superior to all the Levitical priesthood, He is in a class all of His own!

And please understand that Jesus didn't come based on the Mosaic Law or His heredity but upon who He is, Almighty God, eternal God and even though the descendants of Aaron tried to put Him to death, (Matthew 27:1), He conquered death!

The Aaronic priesthood is not eternal, and they must be replaced, but Jesus remains, He is eternal and thus, His priesthood never ends!

#### VERSES 18-19

Paul does not pull any punches here. He just lays it all out.

You see, if you are a person who is living under the Law, Paul is telling you that the Law is weak, it is unprofitable, it cannot make anyone perfect.

**“How can you say that?”** you might say.

And you might point to the Scriptures where we are told in Psalm 19:7-11, **“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”**

So how can the Law be weak, be unprofitable to us?

We have talked about this, but I have seen Christians fall into this trap of going back to the Law, just like these Jewish believers were thinking about doing.

Here’s the thing, and it is big. All the Law can do is show God’s standard of entering into Heaven, into His presences, fellowshiping with Him and that standard is perfection.

The Law can’t make you perfect, all it can do is show you what you are like and Paul tells us what we are like in Romans 3:23, **“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

So the Law is perfect and we are not! And that is truly the problem. We need to be saved from our sins and thus, Jesus came to save us!

And if you really think that the Old Testament sacrifices cleansed a person, think about this. Sin separates us from God, even one sin!

You see, the priests and the children of Israel were reminded of this separation as the veil in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple separated man from God because of our sin.

But when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, paying in full the penalty for our sins, that veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom showing us that God has torn down that separation and now we can enter His presence through Jesus Christ.

And make no mistake about it, the problem of sin still exists today. But as Paul said, there is a better hope and that is found in Christ.

Paul put it this way in Hebrews 10:19-23, **“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”**

The Old Covenant could show us our sin, and even cover it for a time, but it could never take away our sins casting them as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

I like the way Guthrie puts it. He wrote,

*Although the law performed a valuable function, its essential weakness was that it could not give life and vitality even to those who kept it, let alone to those who did not. In fact, its function was not to provide strength, but to provide a standard by which man could measure his own moral status. Its uselessness must not be regarded in the sense of being totally worthless, but in the sense of being ineffective in providing constant means of approach to God based on a totally adequate sacrifice.*

- Guthrie

Absolutely!

Paul in Galatians 3:19-25 tells us, **“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”**

You see, the Law was our tutor or schoolmaster that brought us to Christ. It could not save us, but it pointed us to the Savior, to Jesus.

Now, here in Hebrews Paul shows us the Law and the priesthood have been made obsolete by Jesus, who is of a superior priesthood, or as Meyer put it, *“Cease to think of cleansing, and consider the Cleanser, forbear to speculate on deliverance, and deal with the Deliverer.”*

Make no mistake about it, the Law provides expert diagnosis of our sin problem, which is absolutely essential. But the Law does not provide the cure to our sin problem. Only Jesus can save us from our sin problem!

VERSES 20-21

What in the world is Paul talking about here?

Keep in mind that in the Levitical system, the priesthood, there was no swearing in ceremony.

Why is that?

Because you became a priest by being in the tribe of Levi, a descendant of Aaron. It was by heredity, not by an oath!

But God made an oath according to the order of Melchizedek.

What oath did He make?

Paul keeps quoting it, from Psalm 110:4, and it is what we read here in Hebrews 7:21 where the Lord said, “. . . ‘The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”’).”

And here’s the thing we need to remember. When God makes an oath, it is unchanging.

What does this mean to us?

Look at the next verse and we will see.

VERSE 22

It means that Jesus assures us that the New Covenant that was made by God through Jesus is secure; it is better than the Old Covenant because it is eternal!

The Greek word for “surety” is EGGUOS, (eng’-goo-os) and it speaks of someone who gives security.

Think of it like a person who would cosign a loan to guarantee payment.

Here’s the point. Jesus is our guarantee of a better covenant.

You see, the Old Covenant was based on the faithfulness of man to keep it and they failed to do it!

The New Covenant is based on the faithfulness of Jesus and it is a guarantee – our sins have been paid in full, the work is finished and all we must do is receive it by faith!

#### VERSES 23-25

Why did the priesthood under the Law of Moses constantly change?

Because the priests would die off and new ones would come in and they would die and-so-on. And depending on who the priests were, especially the High Priests, it could be good or bad. It seems that many times they were evil, not godly men.

We saw that in the days of Jesus how the High Priest was making a profit off of God as he ripped the people off who came to worship God by charging them high exchange rates for the Temple money, selling the animal sacrifices for high prices.

Many still do that today like these televangelists who profit off of God and are ripping people off who want to worship God!

And we then move from the lesser, the Levitical priesthood, to the greater, Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest.

You see, with Jesus as our Great High Priest, we will never have to worry, He is unchanging, He is eternal, He is perfect, and He will not rip us off!

For those of you who doubt God being able to save you because of where you have been or because of what you are doing now – ***YOU ARE WRONG!***

Jesus is more than able to save us to the ***uttermost***.

Yes, He will bring us out of the mire we are in, but He will also bring us up to heaven, He will lose none of us!

What is the key?

You must come to God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John 14:6, “**... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**”

There is no other way, there is no other truth and there is no other life outside of Him!

Paul also tells us that Jesus “**... He always lives to make intercession for them**” or us and what a comfort that should be to each and every one of us who has asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

Notice what Paul said in Romans 8:31-39 about God’s love for us and who can take it away. He said, “**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

Do you believe that even when you are not walking as you think you should?

You need to because that is what God says. He can't love you anymore than He already loves you and He can't love you any less!

But it doesn't end there, He loves you too much to let you stay where you are at and that just shows His love for you is real. If He didn't love you, He wouldn't care what happens to you, what you are doing, but He does love you and He does care!

Now as Jesus is interceding for us before the Father please understand that He is not trying to placate the Father because He is angry at us but He represents us before the Father as we draw near to God through Jesus.

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 22:31-32, "**And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.'**"

God is not waiting for us to fail and then hammer us, but He is praying for us, that our faith will not fail and as we go through a difficult time we would be able to strengthen others because of it, strengthen them in the Lord! That is what Jesus is doing for us.

#### VERSES 26-28

No priest could compare to Jesus in character.

No priest could be exalted in heaven.

No priest was without sin and thus, he needed to offer sacrifice for himself daily. The priests were weak, but Jesus is not.

He is able to save us.



He is sinless.

His character is flawless.

He has been received up to the right hand of the Father.

And thus, Jesus is far superior to any earthly priest!

Now, because Jesus is a perfect High Priest, He was able to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Peter reminds us in I Peter 1:18-21, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Jesus alone is our Great High Priest who has been perfected forever!

And did you notice that He died once for sins. The sacrifice was complete because it was a perfect sacrifice. And He died for all, all have a choice to make, to accept Jesus or reject Him!

As we have seen and we will continue to see as we go through Hebrews chapters 5-10, Jesus is superior to the Levitical priesthood. And we have just completed a section that deals with Jesus being a better priestly order, the order of Melchizedek, and that covered Hebrews chapters 5-7.

Next time we will be looking at Jesus being a better covenant in Hebrews chapter 8.

And I will close with these words from Hebrews 7:28, as Paul tells us, **“For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.”**