

Lesson10: Hebrews 7:1-28 A Better Priest Forever

I. Introduction

Hebrews 7:1-28 illustrates the supremacy of Christ Jesus' priesthood by drawing a comparison with the Levitical priesthood of Melchizedek, who is known as the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace. He's described as having no recorded father, mother, genealogy, beginning, or end, symbolizing an eternal priesthood. The essential aspect of the Levitical priesthood was its lineage; however, Melchizedek was not a Levite, thereby illustrating that Christ Jesus is a Priest with an ENDLESS LIFE!

Under the Old Covenant, the Levitical Priesthood was both temporary and flawed; however, our Lord has been designated to an unalterable priesthood, or more precisely, "which passeth not from one to another." The priesthood of Jesus is not founded on a legal stipulation of lineage but rather on the "power of an indestructible life" as the Son of God, establishing Him as a priest for all time. The Priesthood of Jesus was established with an oath, as recorded in Psalm 110:4 *The LORD has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek".* Jesus' role as Priest cannot be taken over by a successor; it is non-transferable and uniquely His, as He exists eternally to carry it out in His own person.

In verses 20-25, the overwhelming superiority of Christ Jesus demonstrates that He is the Guarantor of a superior covenant, as He lives eternally to intercede on our behalf. The Lord Jesus Christ, in His everlasting priesthood, exists with the intention of being our advocate, defender, patron, mediator, and intercessor. The eternal Priesthood of Christ Jesus provides us with everlasting salvation; in Him, we find complete assurance of salvation. "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him..." Because our Lord Jesus lives forever, He possesses an unending capacity to save. His power to save is constant and unwavering.

The high priests of the Old Covenant lacked the personal qualities of the Son of God; they were not holy, unblemished, innocent, or separated from sinners. Consequently, they were required to offer sacrifices of bulls and rams daily, first for their own sins and then for the sins of the people. In contrast, Christ Jesus had no such obligation, as He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice once and for all our sins, fully satisfying the Father's wrath. He is completely qualified to act as our perfect High Priest; therefore, Christ Jesus is a superior Priest forever.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Hebrews 7: 1 - 28

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. In verses 1-4, what traits of Melchizedek and his interaction with Abraham make him worthy of the conclusion, "*Consider then how great this Melchizedek was. Even Abraham, the great patriarch of Israel, recognized this by giving him a tenth of what he had taken in battle*" (v.4).
2. What does it mean that Melchizedek was "without father or mother, without genealogy," and how does this mysterious, timeless quality point to Jesus?
3. How does the author of Hebrews use the story of Melchizedek to illustrate the nature of Christ's priesthood? What are the limitations of the Levitical priesthood? Why was there a need for another priest to come in the order of Melchizedek?
4. How does Jesus's priesthood, established by an "oath" and "power of an indestructible life," make Him a better priest than any descendant of Aaron?
5. What is the significance of Jesus being the guarantor of a better covenant?
6. Verses 23-28 summarize essential characteristics or qualities of Jesus that make him unique from any other priest. What are some of these distinct attributes that you find most significant?
7. Due to Abraham's payment of tithes to Melchizedek, the entire future priesthood essentially "contributed" tithes to Melchizedek through him (v.9). In our current lives, what are the "legacy" choices we make that establish a spiritual path for our descendants?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?