

“Superior Priesthood”
Hebrews 7:11-28
2/22/26
Message 14

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Superior Priesthood”

- **Review**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Paul Quotes the OT –
- If you don’t understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don’t quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book

- To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times and help them to endure.

• **Last Time - “Who Is Melchizedek” Hebrews 7:1-10**

- **We Look at who Melchizedek is**

- **A “Type” of the Messiah**

- Many believe he is simply an historical figure about whom little is known
 - Verse 4 - Now Consider How Great this MAN is!
- He is often referred to as a “type” of the Messiah
 - Just Like the first Passover was a Type –

- **Christophany**

- Or Theophany
 - A visible manifestation of God in the OT
 - A pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ
- A Theophany
 - Is an appearance of God in some sort of manifestation like fire, smoke, etc...
- A Christophany
 - Is an appearance of the Messiah before He was born as a baby in Bethlehem

- **Support for Christophany / Theophany**

- 1. King and Priest

- Melchizedek was King and Priest! (Only Jesus hold that office)
- There was no priest in the OT ever called a king
- No one in Jewish history held both offices being a King and Priest made him superior to Aaron
- 2. No Records – (Hebrews 7:3)
 - There was priest in the OT that never had a genealogy (they charted it carefully)
 - No background, no record of parents, birth, death
- 3. Made like Son of God
 - But made like the Son of God
 - Something special - Neb, Shad, Meshack, Abednego - 4th - like Son of God = Jesus!
 - There was no priest who was ever said to be like the Son of God
- 4. Remains Priest continually
 - Priest forever - if he was actual person who died - how could he remain a priest?
 - There was no priest who didn't have a beginning or an end to His life
 - And there was no priest who lived forever
- 5. Now Add John 8
 - (John 8:53–59)
- 6. Bread and Wine

- This is the first time “bread and wine” are mentioned together like this.
- This might simply be a common token of hospitality by Melchizedek, but it is interesting that Jesus set aside “bread and wine” as something special, to be the things that were to remind us of His death for our sins
- 7. Abram Gave a Tithe
 - Why would he give a tithe if this was not Christ
- **Jesus is BETTER than the HP**
 - The Whole Point that Paul is making –
 - Jesus is better than the HP
 - 1. Why Jesus is Superior
 - Melchizedek blessed Abraham (v. 7)
 - If Jesus is connected to Melchizedek, then Melchizedek blessing Abraham is like Jesus blessing the Levitical priests.
 - That makes Jesus “better” than the Levitical priests.
 - 2. Why Jesus is Superior
 - Abraham / Levi tithed to Melchizedek (v. 9)
 - Levi was still inside Abraham when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek.
 - This makes Melchizedek greater than Abraham, and Jesus better Levitical priests.

• **Now this Morning Lets Continue to See - Why Jesus is Superior**

- The INSUFFICIENCY Of The Levitical Priesthood vv. 11-19
- The SUFFICIENCY Of Jesus' Priesthood vv. 20-28

The INSUFFICIENCY Of The Levitical Priesthood vv. 11-19

• 1. The Levitical priesthood NEVER made anything perfect v. 11

Hebrews 7:11 (NKJV)

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

○ 1. If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood – Why the Need for Another

▪ This shows the need for a different order of priesthood

- If perfection could come through the Levitical priesthood
 - There would be no need for another priesthood.

▪ Yet God described another priesthood in Psalm 110:4

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV)

4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

- SO - Keep the timeline in mind.
 - Abraham meets Melchizedek around - 2000 BC.
 - The Law of Moses and Levitical priests are at - 1400 BC.
 - David prophecies about the Messiah being of the "order of Melchizedek" in - 1000 BC.
 - If the Levitical priests were all the priesthood the world ever needed

- Then why did David say there would be another priest after Melchizedek's order 400 years after the Levites started?

- **2. The changing priesthood and the change of the place of Moses' Law v. 12**

Hebrews 7:12 (NKJV)

12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

- **1. The priesthood being changed**
 - The mere mention of the order of Melchizedek (in Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 7:11)
 - Shows that God wanted the priesthood to be changed.
- **2. Of necessity:**
 - The priesthood of Aaron was connected to the Law of Moses.
 - So if the priesthood is changed we should also anticipate some change of the Law's status or place
- **2. Under it the people received the law**
 - The LAW was GREAT
 - In that it showed us GOD'S Righteous Requirements
 - The Sacrificial system was Great
 - It was great in that it helped Israel have a relationship with God
 - BUT they were Temporary
 - The LAW could never save!

- It just showed us a NEED for a Savior
- Sacrificial system was only a temporary solution
 - We need a permanent solution
 - Jesus the Perfect LAMB of God

• **3. Jesus could not be a priest according to the Mosaic Law vv. 13-14**

Hebrews 7:13–14 (NKJV)

13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

- **1. Another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar:**
 - Under the Law of Moses,
 - God strictly commanded that only those from the family of Aaron could serve at the altar in sacrifice
 - From the time of Moses, only descendants of Aaron were allowed to perform the worship and sacrifices that God required.
 - Aaron was from the tribe of Levi, who was a descendant from Abraham.
 - Yet David (from the tribe of Judah)
 - Spoke about Jesus, as a priest, and He was not a descendant of Aaron.
 - If He is our High Priest, it must be under another principle
 - A GREATER Principle

- **4. God's declaration that the Messiah belongs to another order of priesthood in Psalm 110:4 vv. 15-17**

Hebrews 7:15–17 (NKJV)

15 *And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest*

16 *who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.*

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

- **1. Far More Evident**

- As "Evident"

- It was that Jesus came from the tribe of Judah
- It is "way way more evident"

- That Jesus has a connection to Melchizedek.

- It's "captain obvious" evident.

- He cranks up the intensity level of the word "evident".

- **2. Not according to the law of a fleshly commandment:**

- This is speaking of the fact that Levitical priests got their job

- Because of a - Physical, genetic, "flesh" connection with Aaron.

- We've already talked about the connection with Melchizedek "Forever"

- He had no beginning and no end of life (vs. 3), he "lives" (vs.8)

- Jesus qualified for His Melchizedek priest job

- Because of His endless life, not because of His genealogical connection.
- Jesus' priesthood is not based upon law or heredity (a fleshly commandment)
- But upon the power of God's endless life.
- Why Jesus is Superior
 - Jesus lives forever (v. 16)
 - Levitical priests didn't (we'll see more next week on this)

• **5. The law is set aside as the way of establishing our relationship and access to God vv. 18-19**

Hebrews 7:18–19 (NKJV)

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

- **1. Because of its weakness and unprofitableness**
 - The law made Nothing Perfect.
 - Again –
 - The law does a great job of setting God's perfect standard but it does not give the power to keep that standard.
 - BUT The law made nothing perfect:
- **2. On the other hand**
 - Jesus, we have a better hope
 - ONLY JESUS MAKES PERFECT

- The law does not give you a better hope.
- The law does not draw you near to God the way God's grace given in Jesus does.
- Yet many Christians live a legal relationship with God instead of a grace relationship with Him.

Galatians 3:19–25 (NKJV)

19 *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.*

20 *Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.*

21 *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.*

22 *But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

23 *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*

24 *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

25 *But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

The SUFFICIENCY Of Jesus' Priesthood vv. 20-28

1. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due To The Divine Oath vv. 20-22

- **1. Jesus was made High Priest by the direct Oath of God vv. 20-22**

Hebrews 7:20–21 (NKJV)

20 *And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath*

21 *(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' "),*

- **1. He was not made priest without an oath**

- The priesthood of Jesus was established with an oath.
- It is recorded in Psalm 110:4: The LORD has sworn and will not relent

▪ **2. They have become priests without an oath:**

- The high priest of the order of Aaron was appointed by inheritance, not by personal character or an oath of God.
- Not so with Jesus and the priestly order of Melchizedek.
- God even sealed His choice by an oath.

○ **2. Jesus: our guarantee of a better covenant v. 22**

Hebrews 7:22 (NKJV)

22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

▪ **Jesus has become a surety**

- Surety –
 - Greek: Egguos
 - Means: A surety, a sponsor
 - Described someone who gave security
 - Who cosigned a loan to guarantee payment, or put up bail for a prisoner
 - Jesus Himself is the guarantee of a better covenant.

▪ **A BETTER COVENANT**

- The Old Covenant had a mediator (Moses)
 - But no one to guarantee the people's side of the covenant.

- Therefore they continually failed under it.
- But the New Covenant – a better covenant –
 - has a cosigner to guarantee it on our behalf.
 - Therefore, the New Covenant depends on what Jesus did,
 - Not on what we do.
 - He is the surety and we are not.
- The “guarantor” is the one who makes sure the promise is kept.
 - Jesus will guarantee that the New Covenant will work for you.
 - Jesus is Superior
 - God’s binding oath (v. 21)
 - Jesus guarantees your salvation because of God’s oath.

• **2. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due To His Permanence vv. 23-24**

- **1. Also there were MANY priests v. 23**

Hebrews 7:23 (NKJV)

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

- The Levitical priests had what might be called the ultimate disqualification for permanent ministry
 - DEATH!
 - None of them could serve indefinitely

- Each died and had to be succeeded in order for the priesthood to continue
- - Illustration
 - Numbers 20
 - God gave Israel a dramatic and significant demonstration
 - When Aaron, the first high priest was about to die
 - God commanded Moses to bring Aaron & his son & successor, Eleazar, to Mount Hor
 - They were to stand in view of all the people
 - God reminded Moses that He and Aaron would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land
 - The human giver of the law & the first H.P.
 - Would both die before Israel entered the Promised Land.
 - Aaron's high priestly garments were taken from him and placed on Eleazar
 - This would later be repeated in the Book of Joshua when Eleazar would pass on the H.P. robes to His Son Phineas
 - Each time this occurred it stood as a Testimony that this was a dying Priesthood – their ministry was interrupted by Death
- **2. Continues Forever v. 24**

Hebrews 7:24 (NKJV)

24 *But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.*

- He continues –
 - Greek: Meno –
 - Means: To remain, abide
 - Same word used was used to describe Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:3)
- Forever –
 - Greek: Aion
 - Means: Forever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity. Here it is literally, “unto eternity”.
- Unchangeable –
 - Greek: Aparabatos –
 - Means: unviolated, not to be violated, inviolable; unchangeable and therefore not liable to pass to a successor
- Christ Priesthood Unchangeable Priesthood –
 - Because although He died He rose & Lives – His priestly ministry continues FOREVER
 - Jesus never
 - Has a bad Mood
 - Never has bad days
 - He’s never sick

- Never unavailable or busy
- His ministry is Unchanging
- Unchanging – Same Yesterday today & forever
- Application
 - His
 - Grace doesn't run out
 - Patience doesn't run thin
 - Affection for us doesn't change
 - So encouraging
 - Because my affection for Him can Change
 - Some days I am so in love w/ the Lord / Feel so close
 - Other days my heart is distant / I am distracted / Frustrated
 - But His affections for you & me never Change
 - His Love never Changes
 - His goal & Plan for our lives is Constant

• **3. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due To It's Perfection v. 25**

- **1. He is also able to save to the uttermost v. 25a**

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- **The Salvation He gives is**

- **Unchanging, Permanent, and Secure.**

- Those who come to God through Him:
 - This tells us whom Jesus is able to save.
 - It means those who abide in the Son and have fellowship with the Father.
 - It also shows where we have to come for salvation – to God. It is one thing to come to church; it is another thing to come to God.
 - i. This shows the place of abiding in the security of the believer.
 - When we come to God through Him, He saves us to the uttermost. In Jesus there is complete security of salvation.
- Take this to HEART
 - He made a way for the Sinner to be made Righteous
 - Not just covering / cleansing
 - He opened up the door for man to be brought near to God
 - This verse reveals for us the Magnitude of His Salvation – Save to the uttermost
 - Present Blessings
 - Forgiveness
 - Freedom
 - Sonship

- And a whole lot more
- All in CHRIST – DONE
- Also Future Benefits
 - Heaven
 - New Bodies
 - Forever with the Lord
 - All in CHRIST – DONE
- When Jesus saves you –
 - You're saved to the uttermost
 - You're as saved as saved can get!
 - All your sin - past, present, and future – gets blotted out!
 - Jesus' forgiveness is complete, total, permanent
- **2. He ever lives to make intercession for them v. 25**

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- Intercession = Prays
 - How Encouraging is this!
 - Jesus is Praying for you and me RIGHT NOW
- What this looks like

- Advocacy
 - Jesus acts as a mediator or defense lawyer, speaking to the Father on our behalf.
- Atonement
 - While the cross was a one-time sacrifice, intercession is the ongoing process of applying that forgiveness to our daily lives.
- Sympathetic Representation
 - Because He was human, He understands our weaknesses and temptations, acting as a sympathetic High Priest.
- Perseverance and Prayer
 - He helps believers persevere through temptation, provides grace for our needs, and presents our prayers to God.

• **4. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due to His Person v. 26**

Hebrews 7:26 (NKJV)

26 *For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*

- **1. For Such A HP Was Fitting**
 - All the Levitical priests were sinful
 - They had to offer sacrifices for themselves before they could offer them for the people
 - Not JESUS
- **2. Better Qualifications**
 - Fitting

- It was necessary that He is PERFECT
 - Otherwise He, too, would have had to offer sacrifices for Himself first, and He, too, would have had to repeat the sacrifices over and over & over.
 - He could only be the eternal and perfect High Priest if He were completely righteous and sinless

▪ **Holy**

- Refers to his sinlessness / Perfect Character
 - The Old Testament priests were “set apart” for their ministry, so in that sense they were “holy”
 - But they were not always holy in character

▪ **Harmless**

- Means “blameless”
 - Holiness points toward God, harmless toward men.
 - Jesus was blameless before men
 - No Jewish priest could claim this distinction
 - Jesus lived for others. He went about always doing good to others
 - He was Blameless in his Character – No fault

▪ **Undefiled**

- Means “unstained” ...free from any moral or spiritual blemish

- For 33 years Jesus was in the world, mingling continually with sinners and being tempted continually by Satan
- He moved through the world and remained untouched by any of its blemishes.
- **Separate from sinners –**
 - He was of an utterly different class
- **He is exalted higher than the heavens**
 - He is exalted because of all the other things just mentioned
 - Because He is holy, innocent, undefiled, and separated from sinners, He is therefore exalted

• **5. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due To His Sacrifice v. 27**

Hebrews 7:27 (NKJV)

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, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

- **Who Does not need Daily**
 - O.T Priest had to offer up sacrifices – daily their sins & the Peoples
 - JESUS ONCE FOR ALL!!!!!!!!!!
 - It was once and for all – FINAL
 - Once for All – covers everyone

▪ ***Tetelestai – It is FINISHED***

• **6. Jesus Priesthood Is Superior Due To His Strength v. 28**

Hebrews 7:28 (NKJV)

28 *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.*

○ **All the priests of the Old Covenant**

- WEAK even the most dedicated would still fail
- But God Established Jesus
 - Priesthood as eternally strong –
 - Just as it is eternally holy and eternally effective.

○ Check this OUT

- When the O.T. high priest officiated
 - He wore an ephod, an elaborate vest on which were two onyx stones, each Stone was inscribed with the names of six of the tribes of Israel.
 - Attached to the ephod by gold chains was a breastplate, on which were twelve more precious stones representing the twelve tribes
 - So whenever he went into the presence of God, he carried with him all the tribes of Israel.
 - The high priest symbolically bore the children of Israel to God on his heart (his affections) and on his shoulders (his strength)
 - This represented what the priesthood was to be: first, a heart for the people, and secondly, the strength to bring them to God
- Now many of these priests no doubt had a heart for the people

- But none of them was able to bring the people to God.
 - They could not even bring themselves to Him.
- But Our High Priest has no such weakness
 - He carries our names on His heart and on His shoulders.
 - He perfectly loves us & He can perfectly save us.

Closing

- REST IN JESUS – Our Superior HP